

## **Gun Control Research- Dr. Gary Kleck- Gun most effective way to resist robbery and assault- up to 2.5 million defensive gun uses per year by U.S. adults**

Dr. Kleck, a professor of criminology at Florida State University is a registered Democrat, a member of the ACLU, does not own guns, and takes no money from anyone on either side in the debate. In 1988, Kleck published an article in the journal, *Social Relations*. This article, the first major research effort that measured defensive gun use, was based on state and national studies.

Dr. Kleck estimated that about 1 million adults per year use a gun for self-defense in the U.S. Kleck's research included studies done for the anti-gun National Alliance Against Violence, and the National Crime Victimization Surveys. Kleck concluded that gun use was the most effective and safest way of resisting a robbery or assault, safer than not resisting, running away, or using another method of resistance.

In 1991, Dr. Kleck published *Point Blank: guns and violence in America*. The book won an award in 1993 from the American Society of Criminology for an "outstanding contribution" to the field.

Not satisfied with the sources for his previous work, Dr. Kleck and his colleague Marc Gertz created a new survey with a sample size of about 5,000 individuals to better measure defensive gun use. With the new survey, Kleck and Gertz estimated between 2.2 to 2.5 million defensive gun uses per year in the U.S. Women were the defenders in about 46% of the cases reported. Less than 25% of the reporting defensive users indicated that they fired a shot during the incident under consideration. There is a less than 1% chance that a defender's gun will be taken from him or her by an assailant, according to Dr. Kleck.

Dr. Marvin Wolfgang was asked to critique the Kleck/Gertz Study. Dr. Wolfgang's review included the following: "I am as strong a gun-control advocate as can be found among... criminologists... they (Kleck and Gertz) have provided an almost clear-cut case of methodologically sound research in support of something I have theoretically opposed for years... the use of a gun in defense against a criminal perpetrator... I do not like their conclusions that having a gun can be useful, but I cannot fault their methodology."

The absolute lowest estimates of about 100,000 defensive gun uses per year in this country come from the Department of Justice, using U.S. Census information. There is no question in the survey that asks about defensive firearms' use. This estimate is probably a serious undercount.

The Clinton Justice Department funded what was supposed to be a counter study debunking the Kleck/Gertz research. In 1996, anti-gun researchers Ludwig and Cook came up with about 3 million defensive gun uses per year. They then decided that it is impossible to measure the true number of persons who use guns in America for self-defense.

The research done by Kleck and Gertz indicates that defensive use of firearms by private citizens is a significant factor in stopping criminal violence. The research also lends itself to the conclusion that in most cases where a gun is used to resist robbery or assault, no shots are fired.

### **Sources:**

Blackman, Paul H., Ph.D., "Armed Citizens and Crime Control,"

<http://www.nraila.org/issues/articles/read.aspx?id=125>.

Kopel, David, Independence Institute, panel discussion on guns and self-defense, Warwick Hotel, Denver, Colorado, July, 2009.

<http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&VideoID=60107462>

"How Often Are Firearms Used in Self-Defense?"

[http://www.guncite.com/gun\\_control\\_gcdguse.html](http://www.guncite.com/gun_control_gcdguse.html).

Stevens, Richard W., "Statistics and 'Gun Control,'" Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Inc, <http://www.jpfo.org/filegen-a-m/data-docs.htm>.

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Gun Control Research-Wright and Rossi Department of Justice Study  
(Deterrent effect of armed citizens upon criminal behavior)

Professors James D. Wright and Peter Rossi of the Social and Demographic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts conducted a study in 1982 and 1983 paid for by the U.S. Department of Justice. (Professor Rossi was a former President of the American Sociological Association.) The researchers interviewed 1,874 imprisoned felons in ten states.

Professors Wright and Rossi initially believed that strict gun control deterred crime. The results of their research led them to the conclusion that armed citizens have a beneficial effect in reducing criminal behavior and that harsh laws, such as handgun bans, could result in criminals using sawed off rifles and shotguns with more deadly results. 88% of the criminals surveyed by Wright and Rossi agreed with the statement that, "A criminal who wants a handgun is going to get one."

A 1986 review of the professors' work, *Armed and Considered Dangerous*, by Raymond G. Kessler of the Department of Criminal Justice of Memphis State University, concluded, "Although *Armed and Considered Dangerous* is not free of methodological problems, it is the best policy-oriented study of criminals and their guns available."

Wright and Rossi reported that:

81% of interviewees agreed that a "smart criminal" will try to determine if a potential victim is armed.

74% indicated that burglars avoided occupied dwellings, because of fear of being shot.

57% said that most criminals feared armed citizens more than the police.

40% of the felons said that they had been deterred from committing a particular crime, because they believed that the potential victim was armed.

57% of the felons who had used guns themselves said that they had encountered potential victims who were armed.

34% of the criminal respondents said that they had been scared off, shot at, wounded, or captured by an armed citizen.

Based on this government-funded research by Wright and Rossi, it would appear that armed citizens do have a deterrent effect on crime.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., Daly, Kathleen, *Under the Gun, Weapons, Crime, and Violence in America*, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, 1983.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., *The Armed Criminal in America*, U.S. Department of Justice, 1985.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., *Armed and Considered Dangerous, a Survey of Felons and their Firearms*, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, 1986.

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## Fitch, Abby

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**From:** redmis6002@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:53 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments in Support of Agenda Item 10 C- Regarding Licensed Concealed Carry  
**Attachments:** Gun Control Research-Wright and Rossi.doc; Gun Control Research- Gary Kleck.doc

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Comments in Support of Agenda Item 10 C, regarding licensed concealed carry on city property.

Westminster Mayor and Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on this matter. My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado, an NRA- affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety. I am a former U.S. Army officer and vocational rehabilitation counselor. I have a master's degree in psychology, counseling, and guidance.

I am writing in support of Councilor DeMott's proposal that would allow licensed concealed carry on city property in accordance with the option available in Colorado State Senate Bill 24-131.

Professors Wright and Rossi, in a landmark government-funded study, concluded that potential criminals are deterred in many cases by the possibility of armed resistance to their illegal acts. The two researchers began their work believing that defensive gun uses were not a factor in criminal behavior. However, after extensive interviews with incarcerated felons, they recognized the beneficial effects of on-site first responders at potential crime scenes.

Professor Gary Kleck also provides critical perspective in his very important study on the estimated number of defensive firearms uses every year in the United States. Using Department of Justice data, Kleck estimated that armed citizens prevent crime about 2.5 million times a year.

Allowing licensed concealed carry would also be consistent with the city's opposition to SB24-131, as introduced in the legislature, as illustrated in the below quotation from the Official City Position, dated 03-25-2024, which is included in the meeting packet. "Moreover, there's concern that the prohibition will only deter law-abiding citizens from carrying firearms, leaving them defenseless, while 2 criminals may still carry firearms into these areas without consequence. Overall, the bill's restrictions on firearm possession in various public locations could have unintended consequences and fail to address the underlying issues of public safety and crime prevention."

(Please see the attachment on research done by Wright and Rossi).

(Please see the attachment on research done by Gary Kleck.)

We urge a "Yes" vote on the Proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Edmiston

Volunteer Lobbyist

The Firearms Coalition of Colorado

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