

Universal Background Checks

Why they have nothing to do with safety and everything to do with furthering gun control.

The following is a transcription of the GunSense VT web page and the analysis of each statement:

http://www.gunsensevt.org/the_need_to_expand_background_checks_in_vt

WHY DOES VERMONT NEED UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS?

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Currently in Vermont, felons, domestic abusers, and convicted drug dealers can buy guns from unlicensed sellers who are not required to conduct background checks. Without a background check, there is no way of knowing if a gun is being sold to a criminal or another dangerous person. Background checks should be required on all gun sales to help protect all the citizens of Vermont.

FACT: Felons, domestic abusers, and convicted drug dealers CANNOT be in possession of firearms NOW under federal law.

FACT: A gun owner cannot legally sell to a known prohibited person, NOW.

FACT: Criminals do not buy their firearms legally, nor will they comply after a Universal Background Check is mandated.

FACT: Criminals who “buy” their weapons, do so from other criminals who have stolen them.

FACT: Criminals do not obey existing law, why does GunSense think they will obey a NEW law?

FACT: The ONLY people affected by a Universal Background Check are law-abiding gun owners. This GunSense understands.

FACT: Failure to follow such law will make law-abiding gun owners into felons. THAT is the intent of this type of law, create a new class of felons to increase the rate of confiscation and prosecution of non-violent crimes.

BACKGROUND CHECKS WORK

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Gun trafficking, gun suicide, and gun murders associated with domestic violence are all less prevalent in the few states that already require background checks for all handgun sales. In states that require background checks on all handgun sales:

Thirty-eight percent fewer women are shot to death by an intimate partner, even though the non-firearm homicide rates of women by their intimate partners are nearly identical.¹

FACT: This data is not available to the public, so how can we verify that the anti-gun groups are telling the truth? Simple, the anti-gun groups do not have access to this data either.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: The firearm suicide rate is 49% lower, even though non-firearm suicide rates are nearly identical.²

FACT: Stop talking “rates” and start talking NUMBERS. Vermont’s total population doesn’t even equal that of some heavily “gun-controlled” cities. It would take hundreds there to equal 1 here.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Gun trafficking is 48% lower.³

FACT: The ATF has shown Vermont has amongst the LOWEST gun trafficking numbers in the Northeast.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Thirty-nine percent fewer law enforcement officers are shot to death with handguns.⁴

FACT: ONLY 6 officers have EVER been shot to death in the line of duty in Vermont! The most recent was in 1972!

SOURCE: <http://www.odmp.org/search/browse/vermont>

Line of Duty Deaths: 22

Gunfire: 6

How can you lower zero in the last 42 years by 39%? We already have the lowest number of Law Enforcement Deaths, PERIOD.

THE PROBLEM WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GUNS IN VERMONT

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Violence against women in America is directly related to our weak gun laws. Women in the U.S. are killed at alarming rates by intimate partners, and firearms play a key role in turning domestic abuse into domestic homicide. Tragically, this is especially true in Vermont.

FACT: This statement is false, there is no proven link to domestic violence and gun laws. Domestic violence against women is directly related to the relationship, not to an inanimate object.

FACT: According to the 2013 state of Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission report, 46% of the victims of domestic violence in the last 19 years are MEN.

FACT: According to the 2013 state of Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission report,

“In 2012, of the 13 homicides of adults, 4 were deemed domestic violence related... Of the 4 adult domestic violence related homicides, 1 was committed with a firearm and 3 involved blunt trauma.”

So, while GunSense attacks guns and gun owners as the major source of death and destruction in Vermont, you are 3 TIMES as likely to be BEATEN TO DEATH by a domestic partner, than you are to be shot!

ONE Domestic Violence fatality by firearm, does NOT warrant the use of fear mongering by GunSense using inflammatory words; directly related, alarming rates, key role, tragically, and especially true, to refer to ONE firearm homicide in 2012.

FACT: If anyone actually looks at the Domestic Violence data, less than 50% of all deaths are related to domestic violence, and half of those are by firearm. Ever few years, the definition of domestic violence also changes to incorporate more and more crimes.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Convicted domestic violence offenders are not allowed to buy or possess guns under federal law. But they can avoid a background check by buying guns from unlicensed sellers—often at gun shows, auctions, or through anonymous online transactions—who are not required by federal law to conduct background checks on potential buyers.

FACT: Felons, domestic abusers, and convicted drug dealers CANNOT be in possession of firearms NOW under federal law.

FACT: A gun owner cannot legally sell to a known prohibited person, NOW.

FACT: Criminals do not buy their firearms legally, nor will they comply after a Universal Background Check is mandated.

FACT: Criminals who “buy” their weapons, do so from other criminals who have stolen them.

FACT: Criminals do not obey existing law, why does GunSense think they will obey a NEW law?

FACT: ALL gunshows in Vermont voluntarily require background checks for show sales already.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%.⁵

FACT: According to the 2013 state of Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission report,

“In 2012, of the 13 homicides of adults, 4 were deemed domestic violence related... Of the 4 adult domestic violence related homicides, 1 was committed with a firearm and 3 involved blunt trauma.”

FACT: According to the state of Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission reports for the last ELEVEN YEARS, only 51% of all homicides were “domestic” and of those, only 56% were by firearm. Therefore, LESS THAN 25% of all homicides in the state of Vermont are by domestic violence by firearm.

With an average of TWO deaths a year.... ONE a year is not an epidemic!

FACT: According to the 2013 state of Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission report 46% of the victims of domestic violence in the last 19 years are MEN. For the 500% stat to be true, there would be more than 150 female victims in the last 19 years. There have been approximately 30.

FACT: The 500% national “statistic” is based on an article from 2003, ELEVEN years ago, on a NATIONAL level, where the original article cannot even be found on the web to review. No data, no truth.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Between 1994-2012 in Vermont, more people were murdered with guns in domestic violence incidents than any other type of homicide.⁶

FACT: The 1994 date was chosen because the total homicide rate was DOUBLE what it is today!

Even then, Vermont homicides by firearm have averaged LESS THAN half of all homicides.

FACT: Since Homicides by firearm account for about 33% of the TOTAL deaths, how can Domestic Abuse deaths by firearms be MORE than 33% of the total?

How can GunSenseVT's claim be true?

Even if more than 50% of gun deaths were considered domestic, 50% of TWO (average 2009-2012), is ONE. Definitely NOT an epidemic. Hype and fear mongering.

Homicides in Vermont 1998-2012

Year	VT Total # Adult Homicides	Total Vermont Firearm Homicides	Domestic Violence Homicides by Firearm	Percentage of Firearm Homicides
1998	12	4	4	33%
1999	18	6	4	33%
2000	16	5	4	31%
2001	13	5	3	38%
2002	10	4	1	40%
2003	15	5	7	33%
2004	10	3	0	30%
2005	12	5	1	42%
2006	16	6	4	38%
2007	11	9	5	82%
2008	15	8	7	53%
2009	4	0 (zero!)	0	0%
2010	9	2	1	22%
2011	8	4	3	50%
2012	13	2	1	15%

2003 Discrepancy between FBI and VCIC reports, even the government can't get the stats right.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Vermont has the highest rate of gun deaths (homicides, suicides, and accidents) in New England - twice that of Massachusetts.⁷

FACT: Again, STOP using rates, this is statistical manipulation at its finest. A rate change from 2 to 4 is a 100% increase. Vermont has such a small population, percentages and rates are not statistically comparable.

FACT: Notice the Domestic Violence percentages are HIGHER than the ACTUAL homicide rate? That's why they use percentages and not VALUES when writing gun control reports.

FACT: Homicide is a CRIME, Suicide is a CHOICE, and Accidents are UNINTENTIONAL. Not a valid comparison, but it drives the numbers WAY up.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: 56% of Vermont's domestic violence related homicides were committed with firearms and 80% of the suicides associated with the homicides & domestic violence are committed with firearms.⁸

FACT: In a state where the anti-gun crowd is attacking the lawful ownership of firearms, the same people have pushed assisted suicide into law. Why does it matter HOW someone ends their life? It is THEIR life.

FACT: Again, the Commission Report goes back 19 years to pull numbers that are TWICE those of the last 10 years.

See Data Table 4 and Graph 2 – Total Homicides vs Domestic Violence Homicides

See Data Table 5 and Graph 3 – Total Domestic Violence Homicides vs DVH with Firearms

(In 2004 and 2009 there were ZERO Domestic Violence Homicides w/ Firearms)

(In 2002, 2010 and 2012 there was ONE Domestic Violence Homicide w/ Firearm)

THE PROBLEM WITH DRUGS AND GUN TRAFFICKING IN VERMONT

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Vermont's easy supply of guns is fueling the guns-for-drugs trade in the state by making it easy for convicted criminals to purchase firearms undetected. Law enforcement officials have described Vermont as a state "where you have drugs going in and guns coming out".⁹

FACT: Criminals do not buy their firearms legally, nor will they comply after a Universal Background Check is mandated. That is why they are called "criminals".

FACT: The ATF reports paint a very different picture (see color printouts and chart, ATF STATISTICS ON FIREARM TRACES).

FACT: Even WCAX printed an article titled:

"Report: Vermont not a major source of guns"

Posted: Jun 10, 2014 12:02 PM EDT

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Vermont has the highest rate of illicit drug use in the country (15% of respondents used in the last month).¹⁰

FACT: Why use the 2010 table, when there are 2011, 2012, and 2013 reports?

Why use this number?

Take a closer look at the 2014 statistics:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/substate2k12/NSDUHsubstateStateTabsVT2012.htm>

**Illicit Drug Use
in the Past Month 14.27**

**Illicit Drug Use Other Than
Marijuana in the Past Month 4.01**

FACT: A full 75% of the drug "epidemic" in Vermont is marijuana, not harder drugs.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: From 2000-2012, Vermont experienced a 771% increase in treated heroin/opiate abuse and in 2013 heroin overdose deaths nearly doubled.¹¹

FACT: Drug abuse is NOT tied to guns, it is tied to availability of drugs, mental health and the economy. If there has been an increase in TREATED herion/opiate addiction, it means that before 2000 ALL of these addicts were not getting the treatment they needed!

GUNSENSE CLAIM: Vermont has one of the highest rates of gun trafficking in the Northeast, with Vermont guns being recovered at out-of-state crime scenes at more than double the rate of other states in the region.¹²

FACT: This is an outright LIE, AGAIN. (See color printouts and chart, ATF STATISTICS ON FIREARM TRACES).

FACT: Even WCAX printed an article titled:

"Report: Vermont not a major source of guns"

Posted: Jun 10, 2014 12:02 PM EDT

GUNSENSE CLAIM: According the the Globe, authorities in Springfield, MA have recovered a dozen guns at crime scenes that they traced to Vermont, more than any other state outside Massachusetts.¹³

FACT: Another LIE. Just looking at ONE other state, NH, we see that the Globe lies in order to push the gun control agenda, and GunSenseVT jumps to use it. Looking at 2011, absolutely NO guns were traced to Vermont.

Year	State	Total Recovered In State	Trace to VT	Trace to NH
2009	Massachusetts	1968	35	105
2010	Massachusetts	2173	27	139
2011	Massachusetts	1737	0	133
2012	Massachusetts	1600	12	129
2013	Massachusetts	1571	29	121

REAL STORIES FROM THE REGION

GUNSENSE CLAIM: In Dummerston, VT in 2011, Frank Caraballo, a **drug dealer** originally from Massachusetts, murdered Melissa Barratt (age 31) of Bellows Falls. The gun used in the murder was acquired by trading drugs for the gun.

FACT: A Massachusetts drug dealer is not legally allowed to be in possession of a firearm in Massachusetts OR Vermont.

FACT: Criminals do not buy their firearms legally. Trading drugs for a gun would not change if there were Universal Background Checks.

FACT: A criminal with a long history who procures a firearm illegally, uses the firearm to commit an execution and GunSenseVT thinks Universal Background Checks will stop this from happening? No, they KNOW it won't, but it WILL stop law-abiding citizens from selling amongst friends and family members.

GUNSENSE CLAIM: In March 2012, Jason Lee Morrill of Portland, ME purchased a 9mm Taurus handgun from a private seller who had advertised his gun in a classified periodical called *Uncle Henry's*. Morrill was **prohibited from purchasing the gun due to a previous felony conviction**, but the private seller was not required to conduct a background check. Morrill immediately resold the gun (illegally in Maine), and two months later it was recovered from a crime scene in the Bronx where a suspect had exchanged fire with a New York City police officer.

FACT: ANOTHER LIE. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN IN VERMONT!

Jason Lee Morrill, bought and sold the handgun IN MAINE, "Moments later, while still in the parking lot where the sale occurred, Morrill sold the firearm to an acquaintance."

<https://www.atf.gov/press/releases/2013/01/011713-bos-portland-man-sentenced-on-federal-firearm-charge.html>

POLLING: VERMONTERS STRONGLY SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS

GUNSENSE CLAIM: 81% of Vermonters support requiring a criminal background check for every gun sale. (Lincoln Park Strategies Poll, April 26, 2014)

GUNSENSE CLAIM: 77% of gun owners in Vermont support requiring a criminal background check for every gun sale. (Lincoln Park Strategies Poll, April 26, 2014)

FACT: The methodology used by the Lincoln Park Strategies (also the earlier Castleton Poll) was based on data from just over **600 phone interviews** (out of 600,000 residents) drawn from a random sample of registered voters in Vermont. Funny, why not just names in the phone directory? Simple, Lincoln Park Strategies (read below) uses the voter records because they can be selected from areas with demographics known to vote in certain ways.

FACT: 50-75% of Vermonters own one or more firearms, how do we know? See below.

FACT: From 1999 to 2013, Vermonters have undergone **349,676 BACKGROUND CHECKS** for firearm purchases. In a state of 600,000 that is almost 350,000 NEW guns for Vermonters. How many Vermonters have Grandad's old shotgun or hunting rifle?

FACT: How accurate is this "random" poll? Would you tell a stranger that calls you that you own guns? How many?

FACT: Seems Castleton and Lincoln Park didn't call any of the nearly 900 gun owners that stood on the Capitol steps this year and ask THEIR opinion. Rest assured that next year, the newest poll will return results EXACTLY like this (see below for why that is*).

GUNSENSE CLAIM: A majority of democrats, republican, and independents alike would be more likely to support a candidate if they were in favor of requiring a criminal background check for every gun sale. (Lincoln Park Strategies Poll, April 26, 2014)

FACT: Lincoln Park Strategies is a self-proclaimed, Left-Leaning, Democrat-Founded company that knows how to target the poll recipients and tailor the questions to obtain a desired result.

Read the article with the president: <http://inthecapital.streetwise.co/all-series/democratic-strategist-stefan-hankin-explains-the-math-behind-a-winning-campaign/>

"You are playing the other players in the game, but you always have the ability to bluff, and make a weak hand appear strong."

* How do the results from Lincoln Park Strategies and Castleton always seem to favor gun control?

ANSWER: "we go back to the same people over and over again. It allows us to get a constant stream of data."

<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/print-edition/2014/08/22/how-i-polled-for-obama-s-first-presidential-bid.html?page=all>

FACT: Polls that count 1 out of every 1,000 do not show anywhere near a representative sample of the population.

By using GunSense's logic, if 682 out of 600,000 residents is a valid sample to say Vermonters want Universal Background Checks, then 900 out of 600,000 is a LARGER representative sample of Vermonters that DO NOT WANT UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS!

FACT: The ONLY way to enforce Universal Background Checks is by Universal Registration of firearms and owners.

FACT: The ONLY thing that Universal Registration will do is single out law abiding citizens, and identify WHAT they have.

FACT: The ONLY thing that Universal Registration will **NOT** do is effect criminals in any way, shape or form!

FACT: Universal Background Checks have nothing to do with safety, and everything to do with CONTROL.

FACT: Look at the chart on the last page. Universal Background Checks make states UNSAFE.

FACT: Don't believe the rhetoric. Don't believe the hype. Don't believe the fear tactics.

FACT: GunSense is NonSense

Universal Background Check States (red) vs Non UBC States (green)
GunSense says states with UBCs are 38% safer than those who don't. Really?

Year	State	Universal Background Checks?	Total murders	Total by firearms
2004	California	UBC	2391	1724
2005	California	UBC	2503	1845
2006	California	UBC	2485	1822
2007	California	UBC	2249	1605
2008	California	UBC	2142	1487
2009	California	UBC	1972	1360
2010	California	UBC	1811	1257
2011	California	UBC	1790	1220
2012	California	UBC	1879	1304
2004	Connecticut	UBC	86	47
2005	Connecticut	UBC	91	47
2006	Connecticut	UBC	100	65
2007	Connecticut	UBC	95	57
2008	Connecticut	UBC	112	71
2009	Connecticut	UBC	107	70
2010	Connecticut	UBC	131	97
2011	Connecticut	UBC	128	94
2012	Connecticut	UBC	146	112
2004	New York	UBC	864	500
2005	New York	UBC	868	500
2006	New York	UBC	921	400
2007	New York	UBC	800	500
2008	New York	UBC	835	475
2009	New York	UBC	779	481
2010	New York	UBC	860	517
2011	New York	UBC	774	445
2012	New York	UBC	682	407
2004	Rhode Island	UBC	26	16
2005	Rhode Island	UBC	34	16
2006	Rhode Island	UBC	28	7
2007	Rhode Island	UBC	19	9
2008	Rhode Island	UBC	29	18
2009	Rhode Island	UBC	31	18
2010	Rhode Island	UBC	29	16
2011	Rhode Island	UBC	14	5
2012	Rhode Island	UBC	34	19

copyright 2014 Gun Owners of Vermont

Year	State	Universal Background Checks?	Total murders	Total by firearms
2004	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	167	97
2005	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	171	94
2006	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	185	111
2007	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	182	114
2008	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	164	89
2009	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	169	93
2010	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	209	118
2011	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	183	122
2012	Massachusetts	UBC + Permit	121	70
2004	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	391	230
2005	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	417	276
2006	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	428	289
2007	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	380	260
2008	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	376	236
2009	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	319	220
2010	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	363	246
2011	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	379	269
2012	New Jersey	UBC + Permit	385	273
2004	New Hampshire	NO UBC	13	4
2005	New Hampshire	NO UBC	16	6
2006	New Hampshire	NO UBC	12	3
2007	New Hampshire	NO UBC	11	7
2008	New Hampshire	NO UBC	12	2
2009	New Hampshire	NO UBC	10	4
2010	New Hampshire	NO UBC	13	5
2011	New Hampshire	NO UBC	16	6
2012	New Hampshire	NO UBC	14	9
2004	Vermont	NO UBC	16	3
2005	Vermont	NO UBC	8	5
2006	Vermont	NO UBC	12	7
2007	Vermont	NO UBC	12	9
2008	Vermont	NO UBC	17	8
2009	Vermont	NO UBC	7	0
2010	Vermont	NO UBC	7	2
2011	Vermont	NO UBC	8	4
2012	Vermont	NO UBC	8	2

copyright 2014 Gun Owners of Vermont