

**2013 Report on Gun Crime Rates
Since the Passage of the 1998 Gun
Control Act**



Gun Owners' Action League

361 West Main Street Northborough, MA 01532

www.GOAL.org

508-393-5333

Where is the Evidence of Gun Control Success?

Ever since the passage of the gun control laws in 1998 the proponents of the Act have gone around the nation extolling the success. The problem is ... what success? They tell the media that the laws here work because Massachusetts has some of the lowest gun death rates in the nation. The problem for their success argument is when one compares Massachusetts to Massachusetts. When fair comparison is done it is clear that the gun laws laws have been an abject failure.

The Commonwealth has had a system in place to track major injuries and deaths within the state. The program has been in place since the mid-1990s. The State's system has actually provided a long track record of the failure of gun control in Massachusetts.

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/health-stats/injury-surveillance/reports/injuries-to-massachusetts-residents.html>

The charts in this report reflect the most up to date information provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Injury Surveillance Program. Most of the studies lag behind by a couple of years. In all three categories the program demonstrates a tremendous increase in gun related homicides (nearly doubled since 1998) and gun related assaults resulting in injury (more than tripled).

Even looking at accidental gun deaths since 1998, there has been no substantial success, perhaps because they were so rare to begin with. In fact in 1998 there were 2 deaths and there are no records clarifying if those were legally owned guns or not. This is an important one to reflect on since the mandatory storage laws and the Attorney General's regulation on handgun manufacturing and sales were supposedly put in place to reduce accidental gun deaths.

Moving to violent crime in general according the latest FBI reports, the 2011 FBI Violent Crime <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table-4>.

In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes are defined in the UCR Program as those offenses which involve force or threat of force.

The chart reflects a per 100,000 crime rate. According to this report Massachusetts is by far the most violent state in New England. In fact the Commonwealth's violent crime rate is even higher than New York or New Jersey. Massachusetts violent crime rate is more than double our three neighboring states to the north. These are the same states that are often blamed by certain anti-civil rights people for having so-called weak gun laws.

The point is that everywhere we look for evidence for reported success for gun control turns out to be not true. There is no success story for Massachusetts gun laws, only failure.



