

Issues surrounding guns in Pittsburgh

Design, Place & Social Innovation Studio
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COMMUNITY AND PLACE

A photograph of a residential street in Pittsburgh. The street is lined with multi-story row houses in various colors like red, yellow, and white. Some houses have satellite dishes on their sides. A dark SUV is parked on the left side of the street, and a silver car is further down. In the background, the Pittsburgh skyline is visible, including the PPG Place and other skyscrapers. The sky is overcast, and there are bare trees in the foreground.

Pittsburgh

- education/awareness
- connectivity
- geography

We need to know:

- who is specifically affected in the community
- we need key informants
- we need to know what the locals want, what is their perspective

Historical & cultural context

- suburban gun-owners
- urban gun-owners
- white and black communities
- trusting/distrusting authorities and organized programs
- disproportionate gun charges against African Americans

Most dangerous neighborhoods in Pittsburgh:

1. Mt. Oliver
2. East Liberty
3. Hill District
4. Penn Hills

Affordances

- the gun is not a neutral object, when we see the gun we imagine all of the action possibilities that the gun has.
- separatist thought ("guns don't kill people...") doesn't hold.
- phenomena of "gun-with-human" which turns us into some hybrid monster.
- guns have agency because they are waiting for the human to use it.
- objects script our actions
- Guns live in an ecosystem
- Guns as an object have been designed to kill so what constitutes a real "gun accident"?
- "black boxing" of guns which allows for them to become something that is normalized in our culture.
- Firearms live in a continuum of fear, anger, pleasure, and necessity.



PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS

Input



Individual



Perception



Desire



Action

INPUT

patriotism
family values
family tradition
peer influence
individualism
community
location
education
history, past

age
gender
race
class
religion
mental condition
policy
media

PERCEPTION

fear

risk

safety

power

ethics

expectations

DESIRE

power

masculinity

pride

ownership

protection

curiosity

revenge

aggression

individual rights

ACTION

shooter

victim

witness

unintentional

intentional

suicide

non-suicide

lethal

non-lethal



POLICY ENACTMENT

SECOND AMENDMENT

"The second amendment was 'to insure the viability of state militias.'..The federal courts have consistently ruled that the second amendment concerns a well-regulated (or organized) militia - which the courts currently define as the National Guard-and does not guarantee or protect an individual's right to own or possess a firearm."

"Since the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms' applies only to the right of the state to maintain a militia, and not to the individual's right to bear arms, there can be no serious claim to any express constitutional right of an individual to possess a firearm" (stephen v. united states)

Federal and State Power

Shall vs. May Issue

Regulation Laws

Liability Laws

Buyback Programs

Concealed-carry handgun laws

Shall Issue

The authorities do not have discretion to decide whether or not an applicant has a good reason for needing a permit and will normally be required to issue a permit unless there is some disqualifying factor (e.g., an applicant is a convicted felon.)

May Issue

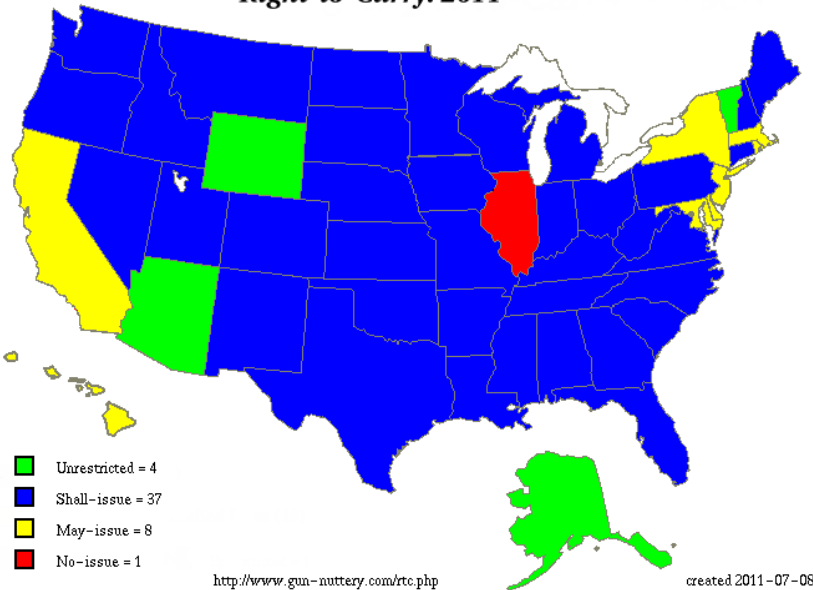
"May issue" allows the issuing authority to require applicants to state a reason for needing to carry a concealed weapon. This means that it is more restrictive than "shall issue."

Defining Felony

49 states have laws against felons owning handguns, there are substantial differences across states as to what constitutes a felony and what category of felon is to be denied a handgun permit, making a simple categorization is difficult.

Shall vs. May Issue

Right-to-Carry: 2011



GRADING STATE GUN LAWS



Top ten states with the lowest gun death rates

Top ten states with the highest gun death rates

Buyback Programs

Trade gift cards or cash for guns

Seem like a good way to get guns off the streets

Trenton, NJ Buyback - January '13

bought back more than 2600 firearms in two days

700 weapons were illegal

Seattle Buyback - January '13

bought back 716 weapons

raised \$118,000 in private donations for the event

criticism: only got back less than 1/10 of 1%

Regulation

There are no federal safety standards for firearms.

1990s - Airbags were shown to have an average of six child deaths per year, it was immediately deemed unacceptable

1990s - six children per year died in bunk bed accidents, the CPSC recalled more than 630,000 bed and created new regulations.

Mid 1990s - CPSC identified seventeen deaths over 10 years from drawstrings on children's clothing getting caught on playground slides, school bus doors, cribs, escalator, a fence, a farm grinder, a turn signal lever, a ski chair lift, and a tri-cycle. They brought the manufacturers together and persuaded them to replace the strings with snaps and velcro, while asking parents to remove them from clothing.

1999 - one child was crushed per year by soccer goals -> quickly after they developed a new standard to reduce tipping

Why don't we have these types of regulations for guns

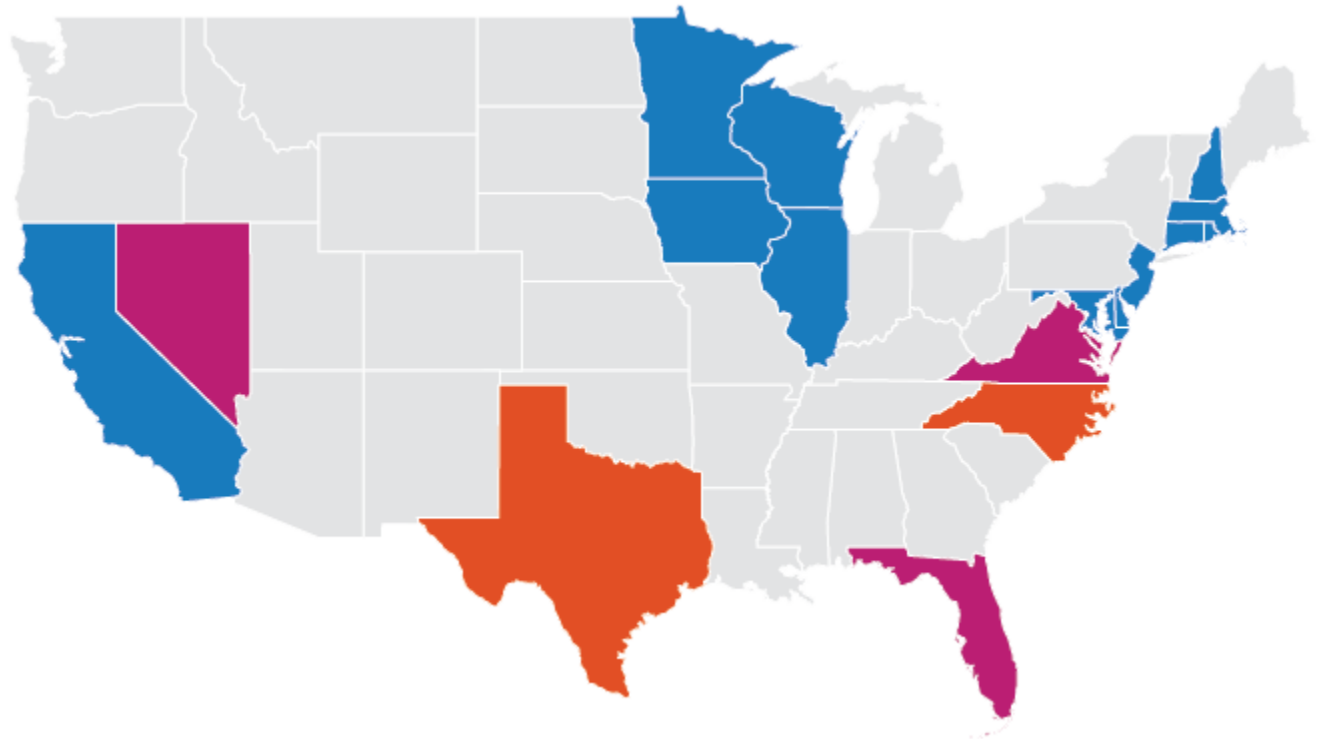
when there are over 13 people shot unintentionally each day?

Liability + Child Access Protection Laws

What we need to know: how other state passed laws Republican + American States

If a child is hurt on a trampoline at someone's house, the owner of the trampoline is liable pays for all the health expenses for that child. If we made guns a liability, guns would become a visible risk, and become more supportive of the Child Access Protection Law.

And Hawaii*



Guns Regulation in Pittsburgh

A Pittsburgh law states that if you lose your handgun or have it stolen, you must report the loss or theft to the police within 24 hours or risk incurring steep fines and possible jail time. As of summer 2010, the National Rifle Association was appealing this law.

If you are not a U.S. citizen but are living in Allegheny County, you will need to apply in person at the Firearms Office with additional documentation.

It is unlawful for any person convicted of a crime of violence (murder, rape, assault, burglary, etc.) to own or possess a handgun in Pennsylvania.

FIREARMS OF DENIAL OF PERMIT

1. an individual whose character and reputation is such that the individual would be likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety;
2. an individual who has been convicted of an offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act;
3. an individual convicted of a crime of violence;
4. an individual who, within the past ten years, has been adjudicated delinquent for a crime of violence or for an offense under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act;
5. an individual who is not of sound mind or who has ever been committed to a mental institution;
6. an individual who is addicted to or is an unlawful user of marijuana or a stimulant, depressant or narcotic drug;
7. an individual who is a habitual drunkard;
8. an individual who is charged with or has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
9. a resident of another state who does not possess a current license issued by the state;
10. an illegal alien;
11. an individual who has been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under dishonorable conditions, and;
12. an individual who is a fugitive from justice.

Complexity of Passing Laws

Personal Agendas + Lobbying

Rhetoric of Laws

Gauging Public Support

Personal Agendas + Lobbying

Congressmen and women will reject a law based on only one piece

Uneven lobbying budgets: NRA vs. anyone else

lobbyists can "buy votes" from congressmen and women

Gauging Public Support

Congressmen will support bills that will keep them in their seat

Public support can be difficult to gauge

Missouri, 1999

- majority of public opposed permissive gun-carrying laws

- governor vetoed the measure

- state lawmakers overrode to make MO a permissive gun-carrying state

Rhetoric of Laws

Rhetoric of laws is difficult for the average person to understand

Laypeople tend to only hear the way their affiliated party interprets a bill

Challenge: How can we inform people that we don't want to take away their guns but still pass protective laws?

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