

Annotated Bibliography 1

- Oceguera, Rita. “Why Is It Easier to Get Access to a Gun than It Is to Healthcare?” *The Trace*, 27 Sept. 2024, www.thetrace.org/newsletter/why-is-it-easier-to-get-access-to-a-gun-than-it-is-to-healthcare/

Abstract

Rita Oceguera, a reporter for The Trace with a M.S. with a concentration in social justice and investigative reporting, in her article “Why is it Easier to Get Access to a Gun Than it is to Healthcare?” claims that over the years, a lot more younger people have begun to carry firearms, not only because they want to, but for protection as many of them have a fear of being shot themselves. Oceguera is able to support her claim by discussing certain conversations she has had with some students. How many of them have been shot or just overall have a distorted sense of reality when it comes to fire, and how guns have become more and more normalized among the younger population. Her purpose is to highlight the fact that because of how easy it is to get a gun, it has made society a more and more dangerous place for everyone to include children, and how it should not be easier to get something that takes life than it is to get insurance that can save lives. She is able to establish a tone of assertiveness and compassion with her audience of people who want their children safe and understand how and why gun violence has been increasing.

Personal View

When reading this text I learned that people are not only buying firearms for violence, but are getting them as a way of protecting and defending themselves as they too fear one day being shot. I like that she speaks with people who conduct research into gun violence such as the VP of violence intervention and prevention services at UCAN Chicago, showing the points she is discussing. One thing that is weak when it comes to this article is the length of it, it is a short one that hits its points quickly, as well as the article only discusses the trends happening in Chicago. What I would like to learn more about is whether or not this trend is the same across all 50 states or whether this trend is more related to Chicago.

- Miller, Matthew, et al. “Firearm acquisition without background checks.” *Annals of Internal Medicine*, vol. 166, no. 4, 21 Feb. 2017, pp. 233–239, <https://doi.org/10.7326/m16-1590>

Abstract

Matthew Miller, an epidemiologist and physician with an MPH and Sc. D from the Harvard School of Public Health in his article “Firearm Acquisition Without Background Checks: Results of a National Survey” claims how many Americans are able to have access to and are able to purchase firearms without a background check. Miller is able to support this claim by using data collected from a survey issued to gun owners who have purchased a firearm recently and whether or not they had to go through a background check in order to complete the purchase of said firearm. He illustrates the exact method the survey was worded and how they chose whose answer to the survey they would use for the data collection. His purpose is to inform his audience that while some background check laws are in place there are still many firearms being sold privately which are not conducting background checks.

Personal Review

When reading this text, I was able to learn more about how individuals are able to acquire firearms without getting background checks. I was also able to learn more about how many states already have laws in place when it comes to these private sales of firearms. What I found interesting was the way in which they were able to collect the data and how they were able to correlate them so there was no bias or misrepresented data and described the processes they went through in order to determine which answers were reliable. What I personally would want to learn a bit more about is how these numbers hold up in the present day. These data points were collected in 2015 and presented in 2017. I would like to know if the percentage of individuals acquiring firearms without a proper background check has increased, decreased or stagnated.

- “Firearm Background Checks: Explained.” *USAFacts*, USAFacts, 14 May 2023, usafacts.org/articles/firearm-background-checks-explained/

Abstract

USAFacts, a website dedicated to unbiased, contextual and comprehensive reporting on government data, in their article “Firearm Background Checks: Explained” claims there are gaps in the system of firearm background checks that still allow those that should not have access to firearms acquire them. USAFacts supports this claim by narrating ways the system currently fails and how laws are able to be circumvented. Their purpose for this is to allow readers to understand that while some laws may be in place to potentially stop the sale of firearms, they are not strict enough to actually prevent people who shouldn’t have firearms from actually getting them. They bring this up in order to make people aware that the laws are loose and are able to be circumvented in more than one way. They establish a very formal tone as they don’t shift their view left or right and report on the facts and go in depth as to how these loopholes work and how the law is not foolproof.

Personal Review

Reading this text I was able to learn about the multiple ways in which background checks fail and allow those that shouldn’t have them, to get them. What I found really valuable is the three different ways in which background checks have loopholes are explained, such as the boyfriend gap, or the default proceed. They are able to explain in a way that someone like me who has just begun research on this kind of thing is able to understand with a single read over. This helps because it gives a basic way of getting the idea and point across to audiences who will also read this paper. What I would want more of specifically, is maybe a study or poll of gun owners who have received weapons like this, no one will admit to the boyfriend gap or the misdemeanor stalking gap, but to at least get a survey out to see if anyone has received a firearm without a background check due to the default proceed, to show how the most basic loophole still has the ability to allow weapons in the hands of dangerous individuals.