

Myth: Crime will increase after the law goes into effect.
Fact: None of the thirty-one shall-issue states have ever experienced an increase in crime after reforming their laws. In fact, in every case, crime dropped after this type of reform was instituted. While violent crime has dropped in most of the country over the last several years, it has consistently fallen the fastest after this type of reform.

Using data for all 3,054 U.S. counties from 1977 to 1994, University of Chicago Prof. John Lott finds that for each additional year a shall-issue concealed handgun law is in effect, the rate of murder declines by 3%, robbery by over 2%, and rape by 2%.

Myth: Michigan has no experience with shall-issue.
Fact: Macomb County has effectively been shall-issue for the past 5 years. Since they instituted that policy they have led the state in crime reduction. From 1993 to 1997, their crime rate dropped 42% compared to 14% for the state and 21% for neighboring Oakland County.

Myth: Anyone will be able to get a permit to carry a gun, the law is actually "must-issue."
Fact: Michigan will have the most restrictive shall-issue law of any state in the country. No person with a previous criminal history or history of mental illness will be able to get a permit. Under old law most of these restrictions do not apply. In fact, the new law will even restrict persons who have let their vehicle's license plate tags expire. Only truly law-abiding citizens will qualify.

Myth: Traffic accidents and congested freeways will be scenes of armed conflict.
Fact: CCW permit holders are among the most law-abiding people in the country. They have to pass police background checks before being issued a permit, and experience in every other shall-issue state has shown that they are the group least likely to commit crime. Texans who carry firearms are 5.7 times less likely to be arrested for a violent offense than the general public.

State of Texas Criminal Statistics, 1999

Felony	Convicted CCW Holders	Total Offenses
Homicide	2	1,218
Other Violent Crimes	9	111,200

MI pop. 9,863,775 TX pop. 20,044,141
216,240 Texas CCW license holders as of 1999

Myth: Kids will have more access to guns.
Fact: Under the old law, persons eighteen years old are eligible for a permit. The new law raises the minimum age to twenty-one. The new law also prohibits guns in

schools and day care centers. Under the old law any CCW permit holder may carry guns in these places.

Myth: More criminals will carry guns.
Fact: Criminals will not go through the rigorous procedure to get a permit. Anyone with a criminal history will be committing a crime just by applying for one. Instead, they will continue to do exactly what they do today: exclude themselves from the law and carry guns wherever they want to.

Myth: Untrained people will carry guns.
Fact: To qualify for a permit a person must attend a minimum of eight hours' training covering firearm safety, Michigan law, and confrontation avoidance.



Myth: The old law was passed to keep people safer.
Fact: It was passed in 1927 at the insistence of the Ku Klux Klan following the case of Dr. Ossian Sweet. Sweet, an African-American, was found not guilty of murder after killing a Caucasian man while defending his life and family. It was meant to disarm minorities.

Myth: There are almost no concealed carry permit holders today.
Fact: Over 20,000 Michiganders have concealed carry permits. In addition, Indiana has had a similar (but less restrictive) law since 1935. Because Michigan allows any out of state permit holder to carry their guns here, Indiana permit holders are likely to be carrying their firearms while visiting.

Myth: There will be gunfights in bars.
Fact: Guns will now be prohibited from any bar or restaurant where alcohol is served. In addition, if a permit holder is caught with a blood alcohol level of 0.02 or more (about one drink per hour) while carrying a gun, their permit will be revoked.

Myth: Nobody really needs to carry a gun.
Fact: Civilians throughout the country use firearms to stop over two million crimes each year. While everyone wishes that crime would go away, the truth is that eighty-three percent of Americans will be a victim of violent crime in their lifetime. The new law lets people decide for themselves if they need to, and want to, carry the means to defend themselves.

Myth: The law will make people less safe.
Fact: Criminals are well aware of the new law and that it is more likely that anyone they attack may be armed. Prison interviews with street criminals confirm that their greatest fear is encountering an armed citizen. Everyone, whether they have a gun or not, will be safer because criminals won't be able to tell who may be able to defend themselves. Extensive studies of other states that converted to shall-issue permit laws have shown that street crime drops when the law is reformed.

Myth: A gun is 43 times more likely to kill a family member than to kill a home intruder.
Fact: This is one of the most misunderstood and misused statistics in the debate on gun use in self-defense. The study's authors, Arthur Kellermann and Donald Reay, derive the 43:1 claim from a study of firearm-related deaths in homes in King County (Seattle) Washington. Although both researchers warned that this study was not representative of any population, it continues to be quoted by misinformed individuals. To produce this misleading statistic only defensive uses of firearms where would-be victims killed criminals were counted. This ignores the vast majority of situations where citizens frightened away intruders by simply displaying a firearm. This is the most serious of the study's flaws, because fatal shootings of criminals occur in 0.1 to 0.2% of protective firearm uses nationwide.

In addition, the households studied were hardly typical. Fifty-three percent had a history of a member being arrested, 24.8% had alcohol-related problems, 31.3% had a household history of illicit drug abuse, 31.8% had a household member hit or hurt in a family fight (17.3% so severely that medical attention was required).

Gun control advocates would have the public believe that armed citizens often accidentally kill family members, mistaking them for criminals. But such incidents constitute less than 2% of fatal firearm accidents, or about once for every 14,000 lives saved because a gun was used defensively.



American women use guns to deter rapists 416 times a day, 12 times more often than rapists use guns.

As seen by a would-be rapist (for about .2 seconds)

Eighty-three percent of Americans will become victims of serious crime during their lifetime (National Crime Victimization Survey).

A gun is 216 times more likely to be used in home protection than against one's own family. (John Lott , More Guns, Less Crime)

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Success Rates

Defensive Use	Police	Citizens
Stopping a crime	68%	83%
Kill innocent person	11%	2%

Stopping a crime includes making the criminal leave the area or placing them under arrest.

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Since 1930 the US population has doubled and the number of guns has quadrupled, gun accidents are down. Gun ownership went up 69% between 1974 and 1988. Accidents during the same time decreased 27%. (John Lott)

Only 2% of defensive gun uses result in shots fired. (Gary Kleck)

Anti self-defense groups claim that twelve to thirteen kids a day are killed in accidental shootings. True?

No. The "twelve to thirteen" number is derived by adding together the number of murders and accidents among children, adolescents, and young adults. The addition of data for young adults skews the numbers by including deaths often related to drug trafficking or other criminal activities. While still tragic, it is dishonest to include these numbers as "accidents." In reality, firearms-related accidents rank relatively low on the list of dangers to our children.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1998

Gun related Deaths	Assault	Suicide	Other	Total	Avg. / day
Children 0-14	314	154	141	609	1.7
Young adults 15-19	1,870	1,087	195	3,152	8.6

1998 National Safety Council

Number of Accidental Deaths at Age:	0-4	5-14	15-24
All Automobile	800	1,800	9,300
Falls	80	80	240
Poisoning by solids, liquids	30	40	600
Pedestrian, non-automobile	170	410	554
Drowning	500	350	650
Fires, burns	310	260	230
Firearms	30	80	310

In Self Defense

Criminologist Gary Kleck found, "robbery and assault victims who used a gun to resist were less likely to be attacked or to suffer an injury than those who used any other methods of self-protection or those who did not resist at all." (Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America, 1991)

In your time of greatest need,
which will you wait for?



15 minutes



2 seconds

The Facts About the Old versus New Law

Who Can Carry Guns:	Old	New
Teenagers, 18 & 19 Years Old	Yes	No
People With Recent Misdemeanor Convictions	Yes	No
Persons With Mental Health Problems	Yes	No
People Untrained in Firearm Safety	Yes	No
0.02 Blood Alcohol Level is OK While Carrying	Yes	No
Where Guns Can Be Carried:	Old	New
Bars & Restaurants That Serve Alcohol	Yes	No
Schools	Yes	No
University Dorms & Classrooms	Yes	No
Day Care Centers	Yes	No
Churches	Yes	No
Hospitals	Yes	No
Casinos	Yes	No
Stadiums & Arenas	Yes	No
Large Entertainment Facilities	Yes	No

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(517) 484-2746

Additional resources:

www.nra.org

www.guntruths.com

Text of gun bill on state of MI web site:

www.michiganlegislature.org/txt/publicAct/1999-2000/pa038100.htm

Michigan's Concealed Carry Handgun Legislation

You may have heard that a law was passed reforming the way people obtain permits to carry handguns in Michigan. This type of CCW (carry concealed weapon) law, called "shall - issue," recognizes that law abiding Michigan residents may decide for themselves if they want to carry a gun. While a lot has been written about the law, you may not have been told the facts.



"Like you, I've felt the fear of being female in a society where violence against women is commonplace. That's why I decided that I refuse to be a victim, and why I'm active in the NRA."
Susan White, actress, women's issues activist.

An Officer's Experience

"All the horror stories I thought would come to pass didn't happen... I think it's worked out well, and that says good things about the citizens who have permits. I'm a convert."

Glenn White, **president of the Dallas Police Association.**

8 of the 10 safest states are "shall-issue" states (FBI)

A civilian gun is used for self-defense every 13 seconds (J. Neil Schulman, Stopping power).

Michigan Coalition For Responsible Gun Owners

Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state. Article I, Sec. 6 MI Constitution