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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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Recent studies have concluded that right-to-carry laws are associated with double digit increases in homicides and violent crime.

- A 2022 [Journal of Urban Health study](#) found that permitless concealed carry states saw a 12.9 percent increase in the officer-involved shooting victimization rate or an additional 4 officer-involved victimizations per year, compared to what would have happened had law adoption not occurred. Lax laws regulating civilian carrying of concealed firearms were associated with higher incidence of officer-involved shootings. The increase in concealed gun carrying frequency associated with these laws may influence the perceived threat of danger faced by law enforcement. This could contribute to higher rates of officer-involved shootings.
- A 2022 [National Bureau of Economic Research study](#) found that in cities with an average population of over 250,000 between 1979 and 2019, the introduction of right to carry increased violent crime by 20 percent. Right to carry laws may increase crime if they interfere with or degrade the quality or effectiveness of law enforcement. Police may have fewer resources to fight crime if they are encumbered by processing more complaints about road-rage incidents, gun thefts, accidental discharges, and injuries or deaths.
- A 2019 [Journal of Empirical Legal Studies paper](#) concluded that the adoption of right-to-carry laws were associated with a 13 percent to 15 percent increase in violent crime rates a decade after implementation.
- A 2017 [American Public Health Association study](#) found that right-to-carry laws were significantly associated with 6.5% higher total homicide rates, 8.6% higher firearm homicide rates, and 10.6% higher handgun homicide rates.
- A 2022 [Gun Violence Research analysis](#) found that states with permitless carry laws saw a 22 percent increase in gun homicide for the three years following the law's passage.
- A 2019 [American Public Health Association study](#) found that right-to-carry laws were associated with a 29 percent increase in firearm workplace homicides.
- A 2023 [American Journal of Epidemiology study](#) found that adoption of a shall-issue concealed carry law was associated with a 9.5 percent increase in rates of assault with a firearm during the first 10 years after law adoption and was associated with an 8.8 percent increase in rates of homicide by other means. It also found that the harmful effects of shall-issue laws are most clear when provisions intended to reduce risks associated with civilian gun-carrying are absent.