

PULLING the TRIGGER

As Michigan considers loosening gun control, the debate intensifies. Take a look at different approaches on an international scale

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“The argument on one side is that only a good guy with a gun can stop a bad guy with a gun. What happened with this church shooting down in Texas is that the gunman was stopped by a guy across the street who heard the gunfire who was a trained shooting instructor,” Mulso said. “He went over and shot the guy and caused him to leave, so he prevented an already unfortunate event from growing any bigger.”

America’s gun control

Compared to other countries, U.S. gun control laws are at a bare minimum. Quickly after events akin to those in Las Vegas and San Bernardino, the United Kingdom and Australia tightened their regulations on guns.

All of the gun control changes and laws in the U.K. have been prompted by extreme acts of violence, such as the Hungerford Massacre in August 1987 and the Dunblane School Massacre in March 1966, in which all guns were acquired legally.

The Dunblane School Massacre—which resulted in the deaths of 16 school children and one adult before the gunman committed suicide — sparked a public campaign known as the Snowdrop Petition, with the

goal of banning handguns.

Restrictions were tightened further after the Hungerford Massacre in which a lone gunman went on a six-hour killing spree with two semi-automatic rifles and a handgun. Britain introduced the Firearms Act, expanding the list of banned weapons and increasing the registration requirements.

Though not as strict, Australia instituted their own National Agreement on Firearms after the Port Arthur Massacre in 1996. The mainly conservative national government pushed fundamental changes through parliament after 35 people were killed and another 23 were injured by a lone gunman with a semi-automatic rifle.

Australia’s National Agreement on Firearms all but prohibited automatic and semi-automatic assault rifles and stiffened licensing and ownership rules. The government also instituted a temporary gun buyback program which removed nearly 650,000 assault weapons—one-sixth of the national stock — out of public circulation.

Neither the U.K. nor Australia have had any large instances of gun violence since the reforms were instituted.

Similar resolutions have been pushed for in Congress, but have never had any success. Despite the this fact, according

to the Pew Research Center, 85 percent of Americans support background checks on all gun sales. The poll found that laws meant to stop people who are mentally ill from buying guns are supported by 79 percent, and 70 percent support a federal database to track gun sales. Fifty-seven percent of people supported a fourth proposal to ban assault weapons, a slimmer margin compared to the other proposed laws.

Steimer said she doesn’t foresee the U.S. making any moves toward enforcing gun control measures in the near future or at any time at all.

“I think if you do ban guns, it’ll be like Prohibition. They banned alcohol and people did it anyway. It became a badge of honor to drink illegally. I think the same thing will happen with guns. They’ll just go underground,” Steimer said. “And people are always going to have guns, period. And the people that shouldn’t have guns are the people who a lot of times use illegal guns. They generally don’t commit a crime with a registered gun.”

Points of view

For many, gun control is not about guns. It’s about a part of their lives that they’re attached to like paint to a wall.

Gun culture in the U.S., Mulso said, is different than that of any other country. Guns have been here since the colonies and will be here forever, ingrained in the American culture, he said. According to Pew, 48 percent of American adults grew up in a house where guns were present, showing that, to nearly half of the adult population, guns have long been a part of growing up.

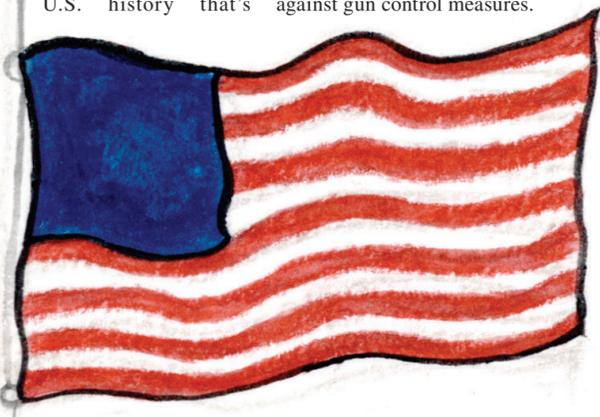
“Guns absolutely have been that one feature throughout U.S. history that’s

always been here. They’ve helped people survive. Literally in what was known as the wilderness, what was Indiana, to live there, it required you to be able to hunt and to protect yourself, ironically enough, from the people we were stealing land from,” Mulso said. “But really, their experience is just different. It’s in our culture. I grew up in a household where there were guns. In fact, all of my family has guns. To us, it’s just a part of our lives and not something we really consider a problem.”

Ultimately, what makes the difference is experience and exposure. If one has lived a life in which guns have been present, and they have been a part of one’s culture, according to Pew, that person is more likely to stand against gun control measures.

Those who have not lived a life in which guns have been present tend to be more of a mixed bag.

“Honestly, I don’t know where I stand,” English teacher Alyssa Sandoval said. “I think that it’s something that is such a passion-based issue for people, and since I’ve never had that passion, it’s hard for me to understand why somebody would want to have (a gun) at all times. But if you were raised with the mentality that guns were a part of your life, if you don’t know anything else, I can understand why you would want to have it with you, because it’s a comfort thing, and it’s something you know and hold dear.”



GUN incidents in the U.S.

- 1 **56,070**
gun related incidents in 2017 in the United States alone.
- 2 **14,149**
total deaths so far in 2017 from gun related incidents.
- 3 **28,758**
total injuries so far in 2017 from gun related incidents.

- 4 **676**
children ages 0-11 killed or injured in gun related incidents.
- 5 **2,976**
teenagers ages 12-17 killed or injured in gun related incidents.
- 6 **323**
mass shootings so far in 2017.

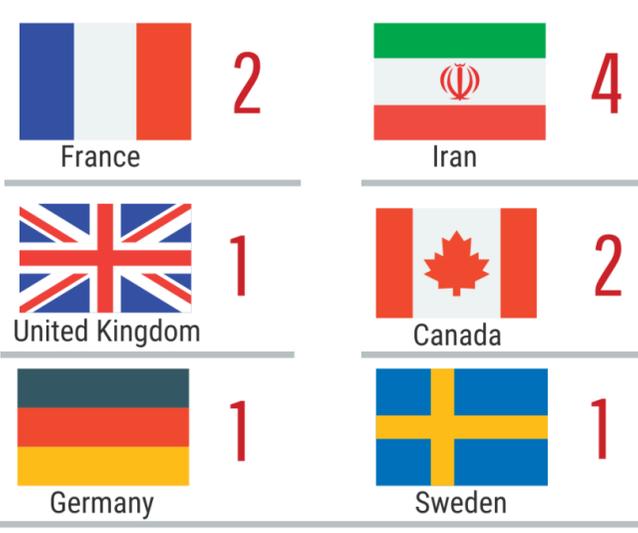
Out of the **56,070** gun related incidents in the U.S in 2017, only **1,842** of them have been defensive uses. **1,851** have been unintentional shootings.

Statistics from the Gun Violence Archive as of Nov. 29, 2017

ZOE GRAVES



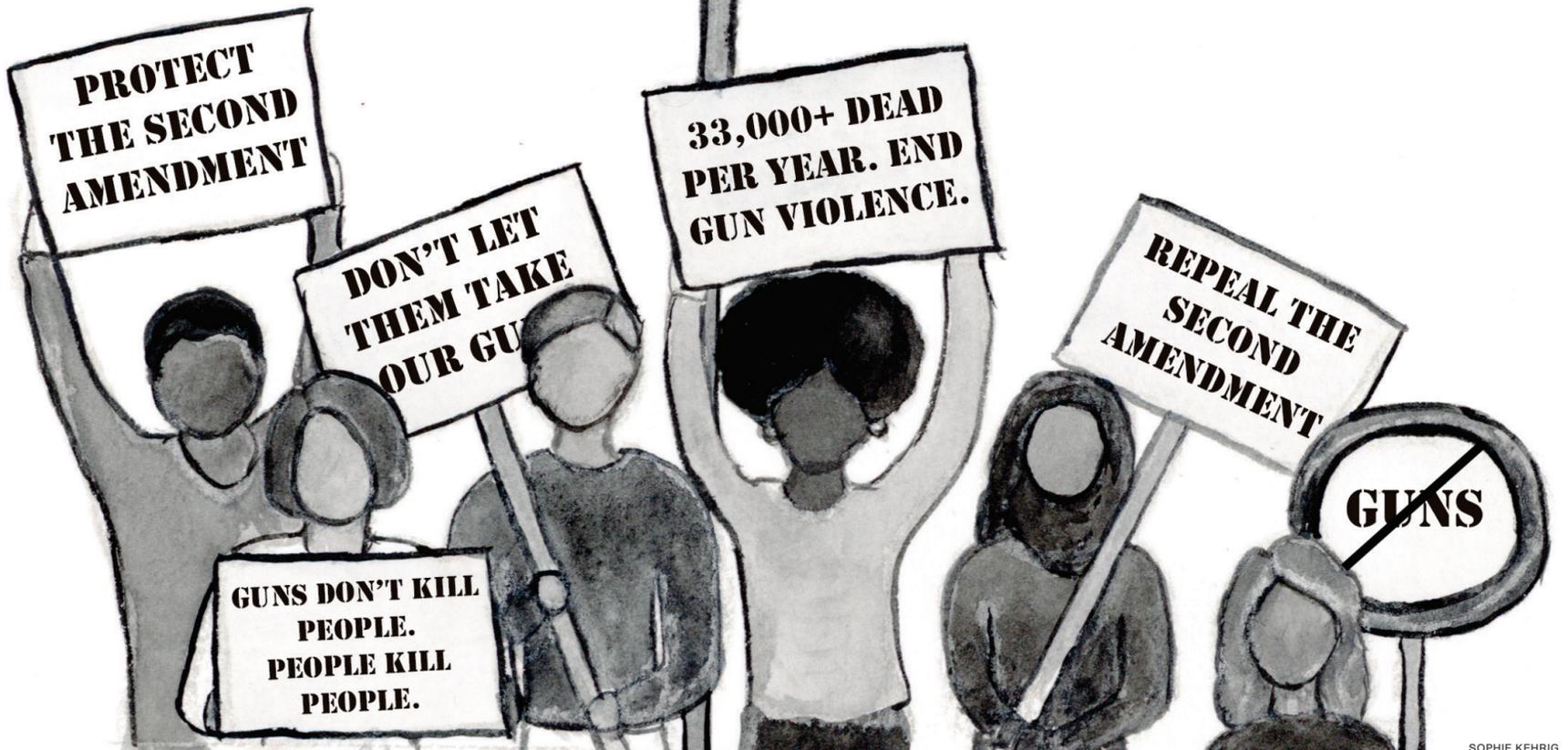
Murder rates around the world (Per 100,000 people)



In the **United States**, that figure is **five.**

Statistics from a World Bank study conducted in 2015

RORY ANGGOT



SOPHIE KEHRIG