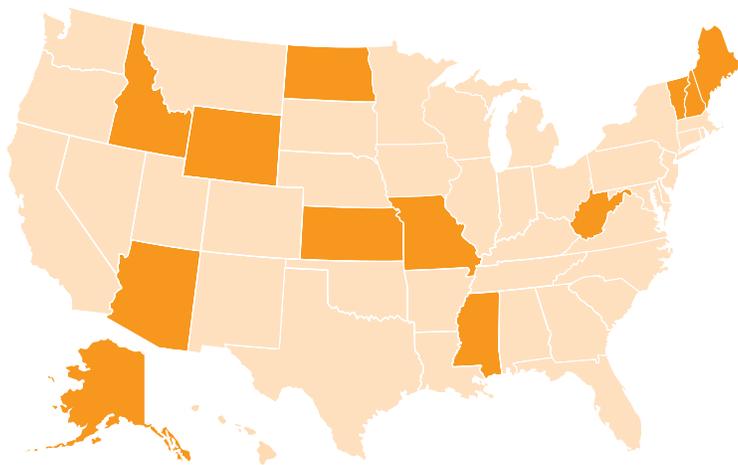


# PERMITLESS CONCEALED CARRY

Historically, nearly every state has enhanced the safety of its residents by requiring people to qualify for a permit in order to carry concealed firearms in public spaces. **The gun lobby has pressured states to eliminate this fundamental safety standard**, allowing people who have never passed a background check or fired a gun in their lives to carry hidden, loaded guns in public crowds as soon as they buy them.

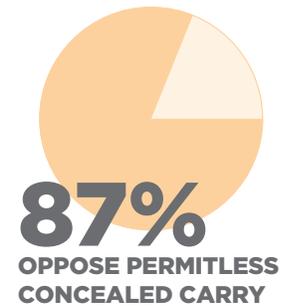
States that allow permitless carry



Twelve states allow unrestricted, permitless concealed carry.

## PERMITLESS CARRY = BACKGROUND CHECKLESS CARRY

None of the twelve permitless carry states require a person to pass a background check or receive any safety training in order to buy a gun.



In a 2015 poll, 87% of American voters said they “opposed allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns in public places if they don’t have a permit.”

## MORE GUNS IN PUBLIC = MORE GUN ASSAULTS

Public carry is dangerous enough even when the people carrying those guns have passed a background check and obtained a permit. Researchers have found that states with lax concealed carry laws have higher rates of aggravated assaults. That risk is likely even higher in states that place no restrictions on who can acquire a gun and carry it in public.

## FEDERAL LAW

No federal concealed carry law exists, requiring individual states to implement strong and responsible permitting laws for individuals who wish to carry weapons in public.

## POLICY BACKGROUND

Historically, almost every state prohibited or strictly limited the carrying of concealed, loaded weapons in public places. These restrictions were among the earliest gun laws adopted in the United States. In the 20th Century, some states began to grant law enforcement discretion to issue concealed carry permits to individuals who passed a background check and received firearm safety training and/or demonstrated a particular need to carry hidden, loaded guns in public. At the behest of the gun lobby, however, many states have weakened those permit requirements in recent years.

Claims that permissive CCW laws lead to decreases in crime – by helping fight off criminals and sending the message to would-be attackers that any potential victim might be packing heat – are simply untrue. No credible statistical evidence exists to show that permissive CCW laws reduce crime. In fact, the evidence suggests that permissive CCW laws may actually increase the frequency of some types of crime, like assault. This research confirms the common sense conclusion that more guns create more opportunities for injury and death, not fewer.

## State Law

Alarming, eleven states have eliminated their CCW permit requirements since 2003 (AK, AZ, ID, KS, ME, MS, MO, NH, ND, WV, WY). A twelfth state, Vermont, is the only state in the country that never placed restrictions on concealed carry.

None of these 12 permitless carry states require a person to pass a background check or receive any safety training in order to buy a gun, meaning that these states take essentially zero steps to prevent demonstrably dangerous and irresponsible people from acquiring and carrying hidden, loaded weapons around public streets, buildings, restaurants, parks, and businesses.

**These changes have significantly weakened law enforcement's ability to protect the public and threaten citizens' rights to safely and peaceably enjoy public spaces in their community.**

For more details and underlying research, visit [smartgunlaws.org/concealed-carry](http://smartgunlaws.org/concealed-carry)

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# 160+

new smart gun laws have been enacted in 43 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

# 114,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

## ABOUT US

*Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.*

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