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ASSAULT WEAPONS AND GUNS

SOME RELEVANT NUMBERS and FACTS

- From 2005 to 2014, 310,000 Americans lost their lives in or near their homes from gun violence. During the same period 229 Americans were killed by terrorists
 - Since Sandy Hook in 2012, more than 106,000 Americans have lost their lives from gun violence
 - In 2015, there were 13,000 gun killings
 - In 2015, there were 330 mass shootings *4-NyTimes*
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- This year, already, there have been nearly 3,000 gun killings
 - So far in 2016, there have been 56 mass shootings, involving 4 or more people.
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- Each day 88 Americans are killed by guns
 - 1 in every 3 people in the U.S. knows someone who has been shot
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- Nearly 2000 children are killed each year by guns in the U.S., and 9000 children injured
 - 7 children and teens are killed every day of every year by guns
 - More than 342,000 Massachusetts residents own one or more firearms.

- The U.S. ranks number 1 in the world in gun ownership, followed by the Yemen.
 - The U.S. homicide rate from firearms is 20 times higher than the combined rates of twenty-two countries with similar wealth and population.
 - There are 270 million guns in the U.S., the equivalent of 88.9 guns per 100 Americans
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- Assault rifles are the weapon of choice for mass shooters because of their high, rapid rate of fire
 - An assault weapon is a semiautomatic rifle with a detachable magazine and a pistol grip, a folding stock, a grenade launcher, a flash suppressor, and/or a bayonet lug.
 - Assault rifles fire 600-900 bullets a minute *NT*
 - When the Federal government had a law (1994-2004) against assault weapons, it managed to remove military-style weapons from the nation's streets. After the ban expired, mass violence escalated. *NOT TRUE FROM THE STATISTICS*
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- A Justice Department study of the Federal assault weapons ban found that it was responsible for a 6.7% decrease in total gun murders, holding all other factors equal.

less than 1%

- The same study also found that “Assault weapons are disproportionately involved in murders with multiple victims, multiple wounds per victim, and police officers as victims.”
- The use of assault weapons in crime declined by more than two-thirds about nine years after the US 1994 Assault Weapons Ban took effect.
- When Connecticut toughened its laws recently, assault killings went down. When Missouri axed its similar laws, killings went up.