

Abstract Sample: A

To investigate the associations among handgun regulations, assault and other crimes, and homicide, we studied robberies, burglaries, assaults, and homicides in Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia, from 1980 through 1986.

Although similar to Seattle in many ways, Vancouver has adopted a more restrictive approach to the regulation of handguns. During the study period, both cities had similar rates of burglary and robbery. In Seattle, the annual rate of assault was modestly higher than that in Vancouver (simple assault: relative risk, 1.18; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.15 to 1.20; aggravated assault: relative risk, 1.16; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.12 to 1.19).

However, the rate of assaults involving firearms was seven times higher in Seattle than in Vancouver. Despite similar overall rates of criminal activity and assault, the relative risk of death from homicide, adjusted for age and sex, was significantly higher in Seattle than in Vancouver (relative risk, 1.63; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.28 to 2.08). Virtually all of this excess risk was explained by a 4.8-fold higher risk of being murdered with a handgun in Seattle as compared with Vancouver. Rates of homicide by means other than guns were not substantially different in the two study communities.

We conclude that restricting access to handguns may reduce the rate of homicide in a community. (N Engl J Med 1988; 319:1256–62.)

Abstract Sample: B

Beginning with the U.S.-Mexican War in 1846 and continuing to the most recent combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States' military history has shown the importance of civil affairs operations. During this span, civil affairs operations have evolved from operations only conducted by combat units to those conducted by a dedicated civil affairs force. In addition, the demand for civil affairs has increased significantly since September 11, 2001, and in response to that demand, the Army has attempted to grow the civil affairs force in both the active and reserve components. However, the demand and growth of civil affairs has created a civil affairs force composed of one active duty civil affairs special operations brigade, one active duty civil affairs brigade for conventional forces, and nine reserve civil affairs brigades. The current civil affairs force structure is subordinate to three different commands: the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, U.S. Forces Command, and the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

This thesis analyzes the current civil affairs force structure within the active and reserve components by utilizing three metrics: operational efficiency, organizational efficiency, and training efficiency. It addresses the questions of whether the current civil affairs structure reflects the most efficient design, and if not, what changes are needed to improve efficiency.