

# About firearms

Many lawmakers favor stricter gun control laws as a method of curbing crime. Americans now own \_\_\_\_\_ pistols and revolvers, \_\_\_\_\_ handguns for every \_\_\_\_\_ households. Even sophisticated rapid-fire combat weapons are available. An FBI report revealed that firearms were involved in more than \_\_\_\_\_ of the murders in the United States in \_\_\_\_\_.

A; three

B; 1984

C; 65 million

D; half

E; two

**Proponents** of gun control are **pressing** the government to at least **require** registration of all handguns and to require background checks on all **potential** handgun buyers to ensure that they do not have a criminal record. Some opponents of handguns **favor** a **complete ban on** their sale and possession. While 70 percent of all Americans **surveyed** in 1985 favored registration of handguns, only 4 **percent** favored having a law to ban sale and **possession**. All the same, the **lobbies against** gun control are very **influential**. Congress **passed a bill** in 1985 to loosen **restrictions** on firearms, **despite protest** from **law enforcers**. Many Americans fear that gun control laws will **prevent law-abiding citizens** from being able to **protect** their homes.



Lacking confidence in the ability of the courts, the police, and \_\_\_\_\_ (legislate) to deal \_\_\_\_\_ (swift) with the problem of crime, many Americans look for ways to protect themselves from attacks and \_\_\_\_\_ (burglar). Refusing to be \_\_\_\_\_ (victim), some people are willing to break the law in order to defend \_\_\_\_\_ (they). When New York subway passenger Bernhard Goetz took the law into his own hands to avoid being the victim of another crime, he was hailed as a hero by most New Yorkers. The incident \_\_\_\_\_ (occurrence) in 1984 on a subway train when four \_\_\_\_\_ (young) demanded five dollars from him. Goetz, a man with no \_\_\_\_\_ (crime) record who had already been mugged and \_\_\_\_\_ (severe) beaten several months earlier, \_\_\_\_\_ (act) by pulling out a gun and shooting the four youths, all of whom had criminal records, including convictions for armed \_\_\_\_\_ (rob) and \_\_\_\_\_ (burglar). In a three-month trial in 1987 Goetz was finally acquitted of all but the relatively minor charge of \_\_\_\_\_ (legal) possessing a gun.



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Lacking confidence in the ability of the courts, the police, and legislators to deal swiftly with the problem of crime, many Americans look for ways to protect themselves from attacks and burglaries. Refusing to be victimized, some people are willing to break the law in order to defend themselves. When New York subway passenger Bernhard Goetz took the law into his own hands to avoid being the victim of another crime, he was hailed as a hero by most New Yorkers. The incident occurred in 1984 on a subway train when four youths demanded five dollars from him. Goetz, a man with no criminal record who had already been mugged and severely beaten several months earlier, reacted by pulling out a gun and shooting the four youths, all of whom had criminal records, including convictions for armed robbery and burglary. In a three-month trial in 1987 Goetz was finally acquitted of all but the relatively minor charge of illegally possessing a gun.