

RE: Large is Relative

Dear Editor,

Several recent letters have noted the high number of gun related deaths in cities. These observations are indeed quite accurate. In fact there are a large number of gun deaths in cities. You know what else we find in large numbers in cities? People.

So if we want to truly understand the actual risk to life from guns, we need to look at the *rate* of gun related deaths, that is per population. After all, would you rather live in an area with a 1 in a thousand chance of being killed by a gun, or a 1 in a million chance? So I googled "gun related death statistics" and found the CDC (Center for Disease Control) page for gun related deaths for 2014 (the most recent year I could find): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm.htm>, and found the following data.

The states with the highest rates of gun related deaths (per 100,000 people) were: Louisiana (the worst), followed by Alaska, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Missouri. And the states with the lowest rates of gun related deaths? Those were: Hawaii (the lowest), followed by Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Minnesota, Iowa and California.

I don't know anything about the differences in state gun laws, so I'll let the reader draw their own conclusions.

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