

From: Dahlberg, Linda L. (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP)
Sent: Tue, 31 Aug 2021 18:31:19 +0000
To: Reimels, Elizabeth (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP)
Subject: Estimates vary

Hi Beth,

We stand behind our fact sheet, which essentially points out that estimates of defensive gun use vary depending on the data source, questions asked, populations studied, timeframes, and other factors related to the design of studies. Estimates from the Gun Violence Archive represent another source and estimates based on that source will also vary from other estimates, especially from population-based surveys that gather information that may not ever be reported to official sources like law enforcement.

Examples of studies conducted over the years:

- Cook, Philip J. and Jens Ludwig, "Defensive Gun Uses: New Evidence from a National Survey," *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 1998, pp. 111–131.
- Cramer, Clayton E., "Why the FBI's Justifiable Homicide Statistics Are a Misleading Measure of Defensive Gun Use," *University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Vol. 27, 2016, pp. 505–514.
- Duncan, Otis D., "As Compared to What? Offensive and Defensive Gun Use Surveys, 1973–1994", Rockville, Md.: National Institute of Justice, working paper 185056, 2000a.
- Hemenway, David and Deborah Azrael, "The Relative Frequency of Offensive and Defensive Gun Uses: Results from a National Survey," *Violence and Victims*, Vol. 15, No. 3, 2000, pp. 257–272.
- Hemenway, David, "Survey Research and Self-Defense Gun Use: An Explanation of Extreme Overestimates," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 87, No. 4, 1997, pp. 1430–1445.
- Hemenway, David, and Sara J. Solnick, "The Epidemiology of Self-Defense Gun Use: Evidence from the National Crime Victimization Surveys 2007–2011," *Preventive Medicine*, Vol. 79, 2015b, pp. 22–27.
- Ikeda RM, Dahlberg LL, Sacks JJ, Mercy JA, Powell KE. "Estimating intruder-related firearm retrievals in US households, 1994". *Violence and Victims* 1997; 12(4):363–372.
- Kleck, Gary, "Response Errors in Surveys of Defensive Gun Use: A National Internet Survey Experiment," *Crime and Delinquency*, Vol. 64, No. 9, 2018, pp. 1119–1142.
- Kleck G and Gertz M. "Armed resistance to crime: the prevalence and nature of self-defense with a gun." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 1995; 86:143–86.
- Ludwig, Jens, "Gun Self-Defense and Deterrence," *Crime and Justice: A Review of Research*, Vol. 27, 2000, pp. 363–417.
- McDowall, D. and B. Wiersema, "The Incidence of Defensive Firearm Use by U.S. Crime Victims, 1987 Through 1990," *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 84, No. 12, 1994, pp. 1982–1984.
- Schnebly, Stephen M., "An Examination of the Impact of Victim, Offender, and Situational Attributes on the Deterrent Effect of Defensive Gun Use: A Research Note," *Justice Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 2002, pp. 377–398.
- Violence Policy Center, "Firearm Justifiable Homicides and Non-Fatal Self-Defense Gun Use: An Analysis of Federal Bureau of Investigation and National Crime Victimization Survey Data", Washington, D.C., September 2018.