

Halting the Crime Rate Political Party Affiliation & Having a Gun in the Home

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Abstract

This sociological research initiative involves the use of quantitative data outputs stemming from the General Social Survey which will be used in conjunction with sources that include The Pew Research Center for Social and Demographic Trends and Col. Jeff Cooper which will be used to explain, highlight and provide potential ideas on how to not only halt the rising crime rate (*dependent variable*) but, it also seeks to touch upon how one political party affiliation (*independent variable*) has the power to influence the ordinary citizen in whether or not they will decide to have a gun in the home (*independent variable*).

Key Words: Crime, Crime Rates, Political Party Affiliation, Gun Control, Guns in the Home, NRA, Jeff Cooper.

Introduction

The purpose of this research is to obtaining an understanding in regards to one of the many ways in which people often attempt to deal with halting the rising crime rate on both the micro and macro levels. Hence, this research revolves around the issue of crime. The main reason why I decided to embark on this research is because I wanted to explore the possible reasons as to how political party affiliation and having a gun in the home play role in whether or not these two variables displayed a correlation as far as halting the crime rate.

For some of reading audience, the positions within this research may seem controversial. Furthermore, some of the topics and positions projected here may be considered “emotionally tough” for some to come to terms with because the statistics presented here may contradict their current belief system. Within the United States of America, we are bombarded and reminded every day of all the various types of violent crime that occurs in which many often result in a homicide. Case in point, look no farther than the City of Chicago. Last year in 2014, we had over 500 plus homicides within the City of Chicago alone. Expounding from that small instance, let us take a look at homicide rates on a national level. Out of the thousands of homicides that occur every year due to violent crime in this country, hundreds of those violent crimes lead to what detectives and crime scene investigators refer to as a “cold case”, in which the perpetrator of the violent crime is never found – and justice for the victim and their families is never served. The question remains: “Is one’s political party affiliation and having a gun in the home to blame?”

I hope to articulate through sets of data that there may be a direct correlation between political party affiliation, having a gun in the home and halting the crime rate. Secondly, I also hope to achieve, the opportunity through this research to capture the interest of people who either contemplated legally obtaining a firearm or finding themselves hesitant in legally possessing a firearm because of some perceived uncertainty. Lastly, I also hope to accumulate data that provides new insight necessary in educating people who are strong opponents to firearm ownership because they in some way, shape and form have either brought into one of the many negative stereotypes concerning gun owners or them, themselves have been negatively impacted by the gun.

Literature Review

This literature review goes into detail of the literature that was selected to appear in this body of work in order to provide not only insight into how to halt the crime rate, but how the rate

in which violent crime occurs has influenced or at the very least have had a direct correlation with one's political party affiliation and having a gun in the home. The reading selection consists of "Principals of Self-Defense" authored by Col. Jeff Cooper, then we shall review various articles published by the Pew Center for Research Social and Demographic Trends, and then we shall explore the statistical analysis portion provided by the General Social Survey. The surveys and supplemental reading material will be used in conjunction to illustrate how and why having a gun in the home and political party affiliation has a direct effect on halting the crime rate.

It should be understood that the goal of the research is not to persuade the reading audience to pick or reconsider their political affiliations nor is it to promote the ownership of firearms in the home. Instead, it is the sole responsibility of the work presented to only make clear of the direct correlation of how and why political party affiliation, and having a gun in the home more often than not leads to the halting of crime.

Principals of Defense

In this work authored by Col. Jeff Cooper, we find that it is mostly centered on the use of firearms for self-defense. Although he does make mention of hand to hand combat for the law abiding citizen who doesn't or cannot deploy a firearm, we should make no mistake that this reading is one that is built around the idea that a firearm is referenced for self-defense. However, Col. Cooper touches on the notion that the mind of the criminal can be considered a preditorial mind. What this means is that the criminal tends to actively seek out the easiest opportunity or path of least resistance that requires the least amount of effort to illegally obtain which he or she desires. In addition, the author takes the time to articulate why and how the law abiding citizen should go about proactively protecting him or herself from becoming a victim in the first place by a predator (criminal). What makes this position valid is that the author articulates out that: *"violent crime is feasible only if the victims are cowards"* (Cooper, pg. 2. 1989). This notion is consistent with the idea that criminals are predators and predators again, tend to seek out the easiest opportunity that requires the least amount of effort to obtain which they in this case he or she desires.

Another interesting idea that the author conveys in his Preface is that the Principals of Self-Defense he promotes does not change *"according to geography, history, or sociological whim"* (Cooper. pg. vii. 1989). This position is profound – why, because his position espouses two things. One, it accentuates the point that the author's methods for self-defense are resilient in that they

resist changes regardless of location, history and social philosophy, thus these principals can be deployed anywhere in the world regardless of location, history and social philosophy. Secondly, the predatory mindset of the criminal remains consistent regardless of location, history and social philosophy. Clearly this is a classic example of empirical evidence based on socio-scientific observation.

Furthermore I would also like to point out that Col. Cooper puts forth seven principles that all non-successful violent crimes had in common that aided the ordinary citizen to prevail over the criminal and they are as follows: Alertness, Decisiveness, Aggressiveness, Speed, Coolness, Ruthlessness and Surprise. It is these principals of fighting back used in conjunction with the understanding of the criminal mind which builds a correlation between how violent crimes occur in the first place and how violent crime can be prevent and overcome in accordance to the very simple reason that Col. Cooper stated in his work: *"If violent crime is to be curbed, it is only the intended victim who can do it. The felon does not fear the police, and he fears neither judge nor jury. Therefore what he must be taught to fear is his victim"* (Cooper. pg. 37. 1989). Cooper continues: *"If a felon attacks you and lives, he will reasonably conclude that he can do it again By submitting to him, you not only imperil your own life, but you jeopardize the lives of others.."* (Cooper. pg. 37. 1989). Again, this validates two things: one, the ownership of guns can and are one of the most effective ways to reduce the crime rate, and secondly, the idea that the criminal mind is a predatory one indeed.

So legally having a gun in the home (preferably on one's person) is the most cost effective and efficient means for halting the crime rate, especially in terms of violent crime. When this position is used in conjunction with one being aware of the environment one occupies, being decisive in having the willingness to react violently towards a violent criminal, incorporating speed of firearm deployment, being level headed during the violent engagement, and being ruthless through conveying explosive symbolic violent actions putting them on the defensive sends a strong message to the criminal that their violent actions are not be tolerated. In doing so, this ultimately decreases the crime rate.

The Pew Research Center Research Social and Demographic Trends

The literature under review stemming from the Pew Research Center is highly quantitative in nature. As you well know, there is no possible way in which every citizen of the United States

of America can be contacted so that they may participate in the conglomerate of research display within this work. With that said, the Pew Research Center utilized the process of random interviewing of individuals by the calling of cell phones and land line phones and getting the willing respondents to participate in the surveys put forth. The only exception to this rule was the article entitled “*5 Facts About The NRA and Guns in America*”. The reason for this is because this article was performed simply by the researcher doing research on his part and taking that information and conveying it back to the reading audience. The data points utilized by the researcher consisted of information stemming from four pre-existing Pew Research articles and 1 joint ABC News and Washington Post survey conducted on May 23, 2013. It should be noted that the surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center generally consisted of population sizes ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 subjects.

The first article entitled: “*Why Own a Gun? Protection Is Now Top Reason*”, was a well written article that articulates the notion that most people own a firearm because it makes them generally feel safer. Moreover, the article centered roughly around unveiling the statistical data resulting from their findings on this issue. In short, the Pew Research Center provided various tables and synthesizes them so that the reading audience could understand the numerical facts and figures presented. Another thing that is interesting to note is that they took the time out to acknowledge the prevalence of political party affiliation and provide numerical data on how Democrats and Republicans viewed the use of firearms for personal protection. Other variables that were compared and contrasted were the thoughts and feelings of males and females alike, their ethnicity, age, education and family orientation.

Moreover, this article also compared and contrasted the thoughts and feelings of gun owners to non-gun owners. Although it may sound prudish, there is one slight issue I had with the wording within the article which I suspect was actually a survey question. The article states the following: “*About a quarter of Americans (24%) say they personally own a gun, rifle or pistol; another 13% say another person in their household has a gun*” (Pew Research Center, pg 3, 2013). The correct inquiry should be: About a quarter of Americans (24%) say they personally own a firearm, 13% say another person in their household has a firearm. I point out this fact because this statement questions the uses of semantics to establish an idea thus; it may stifle the research at hand.

The term firearm in general encompasses all weapons system that utilize combustion to expel a projectile. This article in contrast because of word specificity may exclude the most common of all weapon systems utilized for personal defense the shotgun. However, prudish this point must be made. This flaw is utilized again within the article and possible during the administering of the survey when the subjects were asked: “Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?” The best way to inquire and achieve the optimum response no matter how miniscule would be: “Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any fire arms?” Why because the question proposed by the Pew Research Center is one that leads the subject to take mental shortcuts to answer the question by picturing semi-automatic pistols and revolvers and excluding the idea that AK-47/74, AR-15/10 and shotguns are to be fitted into the equation. Why, because many people are ill informed into the reference of use pertaining to AK-47/74, AR-15/10 and shotguns: “That’s not a gun, those are rifles” or “Those are shotguns”.

The next article of reference written by the Pew Research Center entitled: “*In Gun Control Debate, Several Options Draw Majority Support*”, contributes to this research initiative in that it specifically highlight how and why political party affiliation tends to a vital role in whether or not an individual may or may not utilize a gun in the home to halt the crime rate. Again, this article refers back to the methods mentioned above in which telephone surveys were utilize and the population of subjects ranged from 1,000 to 1,500.

This article also highlights the variables of ethnicity, gender and educational difference and how they play a role in whether or not they should be an armed officer in various academic intuitions so that a firearm may be used to halt violent crime. The article indicates that 33%, exactly a third of American citizens claim that they have some sort of firearm in the home and that two times the amount of firearm owners (65%) when compared to the non-firearm owners (30%) state that it is more important conserve gun rights and to control gun ownership. This statement alone gives the inclination that owners of firearms are twice as likely then non owners to vote for a political party that protects their gun rights – and in today’s political climate that political platform is the Republican Party (GOP). To support that string of logic the article does observe the fact that people who own firearms and support the right to use firearms see the Republican Party as “more in line with their thinking.” This correlates with my research in the following sense: Political ideologies can be linked to what Adam Smith dubbed “The Hidden Hand”, only in this case, instead of guiding economics its plays the role as the guiding force in whether or not an individual

chooses to utilize a gun to halt the crime rate in their area of influence.

This article is a well written one with only possible flaws in selection. One, I wonder about the geographical location of the subjects. Were there more subjects identified in the northern states than in the southern or western states or vice versa? If so, one should take into consideration that the northern states tend to be Democratic “Blue States” whereas the southern states tend to be Republican “Red states”, while the western states tend to almost have an equal mixture of both. So for instance by some chance if they were to contact more northern or even southern states than it could be said that the findings could be slightly skewed indeed. Now in good faith I don’t think that actions such as these are done on purpose but one cannot help but wonder about the geographical percentages when it comes to the area codes in which the phones calls are distributed. The only other possible flaw that I can perceive is and it is somewhat a minor one is that there was no way to accurately confirm that the landline and especially the cell phone callers where over the age 18. However I say again it is a minor flaw.

In the article written by the Pew Research Center entitled “*Public Divided Over State, Local Laws Banning Handguns*”, pointed out that from 2008 to 2009 there was an increase specifically in high school educated Caucasian males, politically independent and residing in the southern and Midwestern states. I suspect that this is due in part of executive branch (Supreme Court) pushed legislation that required that states, especially Illinois allow room for the conceal carry of pistols. This is due to the many lawsuits that have been raised because of anti-gun democratic legislation that has been the staple of Midwestern states for so many decades. Likewise, in the Southern United States although they are less likely to politically push anti-gun legislation, they have in fact felt the “heat” of the Great Recession. This entails a general lost or high lack of unemployment, thus these conditions promote a spike in crime rates – which severely affects males with a lower tier education (G.E.D. and high school diplomas) to seek defensive measures from criminals that occupy the same environment and share the same socio-economic conditions.

This article utilizes various tables and line graphs surrounded by the variables of gender, ethnicity, educational attainment, political party affiliation and geographical location. These factors are relevant because within this research, in order for us to understand the possible correlation of political party affiliation and the possible role it plays in crime. We must first seek to understand which ethnicities are more or less likely to be a part of which political party that advocates or lacks the avocation for gun ownership may or may not. Hence, then we can shed

some light on how and why gun ownership negatively or positively affects the crime rate.

Again, the technique used to gather the information was the same as before 1,000 to 1,500 subjects, contacted interviewed through landline and cell phone. In this necessary redundancy, the minor flaw of age is something we should again consider. The most interesting thing about this article is the fact that the Pew Research Center has engaged in trend tracking. Which is a great thing, because it allows the reading audience to see the history of a variable, where the variable is now and it also allows the reading audience to make small predictions regarding the future state of a variable. For instance what the trends shows when one observers the line graph entitled: “Long-Term Trend on Gun Control”, when synthesizing all four line graphs we can see that from 1993 until 2010 southern Caucasian men from the Republican Party have valued protecting the right to own guns more than any other demographic considered. We can predict from that data alone that this trend we be one that is like to persist in the future.

While reviewing material from *“Gun Control and the Media”* I came to the conclusion that it too qualifies as a great read. I say this for two reasons: one, this article places the topic if gun control and the arguments that stem forth from the realm of social media – Twitter to be exact. Secondly, because of the handy and generous use of graphs which are not only a delight to the eye but easily sums up the point of what the project staff is trying to convey. This article takes place around the time of the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, and what the research found was that pro-gun control arguments were up 64% in contrast their opponents which registered at 21%.

Now this may seem counterproductive to my position in this research, but however there is more to this article being used as a reference that meets the eye. Even though the Pew Research staff is only examining the conversational feeds – what they are failing to take into consideration is that the conversations that have taken place on Twitter are highly opinion based. Which begs the question can the opinions of the subjects be manipulated and manufactured through other forms of media news outlets– and the answer to that is yes. What’s is even more interesting enough is that that the staff writers for the Pew Research Center further examined the fore mentioned notion in that they sought to find out how media may have play a role in swaying public opinion by seeking to find the following variables in various media outlets around the country: “gun control”, “second amendment”, “gun rights” and “Newtown”. The authors of the article did a fantastic job of tracking the gun related arguments from not only Twitter but from various other media outlets overtime.

From reading the article it seemed as if the more people were exposed to these above terms the more the pro-gun control argument prevailed in contrast to the pro-gun rights activist such the NRA. Another highlight from this article was the fact that they also examined the political role president Obama plays in passing gun control legislation. In all, this article did a great job in highlighting public opinion and how it plays a part in political party affiliation. This article is relevant to my research in that, it highlights how the media affects the public thought – and so we can safely concluded that if the media plays such a vital role in shaping the minds of the public on a daily basis, then surely, it should have a profound polarizing effect on the political outlook of the masses watching during times of the presidential elections in this country.

Building upon the previous article, the next article entitled, “*Views On Gun Laws Unchanged After Aurora Shooting*”, published by the Pew Research Center is one that goes back to 2012 and how the Aurora mass shooting may have or may not have served as a catalysis for gun control legislation and where or not people are more apt to own firearms. The variables that this research includes are political party affiliation, gender, ethnicity, and public opinions. Again with this article we can observe exactly how public opinion may play a vital role in the realm of politics and how the political arena then plays a role in firearm ownership. The use of tables and graphs to illustrate findings are conducive to visually aiding the reading audience in understanding the results of the staff’s findings. However, it [the article] yields a perpetual finding; which is that the Republican and Democrat Parties hold true to their perspective positions on gun rights, with the majority of Republicans being for and the majority of Democrats being against. The question that comes to mind after reading this article is fundamentally “why?” For the uninformed reader this could be a seriously challenging question that lingers and cannot avoid the pitfalls of interjecting personal opinion. Hence, this is the only flaw this is inclusive to an article of this theme – it simply fails to not only even address this issue but offer up some small explanation as to why this phenomena is of social fact.

However, there is a contrasting article written by the Pew Research Center that displays a panoramic view on gun homicides. Although it was nicely articulated, it was the conglomerate of tables, charts and graphs that made this reading interesting to read. Entitled “*Gun Homicide Rate Down 49% since 1993 Peak, Public Unaware*”, provided an insight that it rarely talked about in public media, the fact that violent crime involving the use of firearms is actually going down – specifically from 49% to 43%. This may not seem like much, however, it is. The reason we can

say this is because of we can easily observe a trend. Now this may seem out of touch with the idea of the research study at hand which states “halting the crime rate”. But, it begs the researcher to ask a fundamental question – who does the crime rate specifically represent? Apparently it cannot be everyone – for if it did then the result yielded by the Pew Research Center would reflect that. It should be noted that the statistical data for this research article was gathered by the center for disease National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS).

The variables to be observed in this article were: ethnicity, age, gender, and poverty. The article also provided detail statistics stemming from the early 1980 until 2011. In doing so this is how the Pew Research Center provided the reading audience with a panoramic view of how violent crime has slightly decreased over the years. Again, these results run contrast to the very the title of my work but, this article is still useful because it forces me to ask two questions: one, if violent crime by gun has in fact been decreasing since 1993 then why do people feel that they need a gun to protect them in 2015? Secondly, if the data shows that violent crime involving a gun is decreasing then why has the trend of the Negro being disproportionately negatively affected by violent gun crime continue to persist? It is questions like these that warrant more research into how we can halt the crime rate possibly by influencing the political arena and investigating the possible benefit of having a gun in the home to protect the individual.

Lastly, the supporting article *“Gun Homicide Rate Down 49% Since 1993 Peak; Public Unaware – Pace of Decline Slows in Past Decades”* is an article that by its very title may seem to run contrary to the title and position of this work. However, upon further review the reading audience shall find that not only does this article highlight the fact that gun homicides have actually been reduced by 49% but this article supports the fact that some researchers have concluded that firearm violence elevates the rates of gun ownership not the other way around – a position that contradicts the position of anti-gunners. Another interesting feature in this article is that the Pew Research Center does make room to allow for other determining factors that might play a role in the sharp decrease in gun related homicides such as, a decrease in illegal narcotic usage specifically crack cocaine, the high number of younger people being able to acquire employment in the early 1990’s, stricter laws on illegal narcotic usage and illegal gun usage, the legalization of abortion, to even the reduction or elimination of lead in consumer products. Moreover, despite this, the Pew Research Center could not ignore the fact that one of the most efficient ways to curb the increasing

crime rate was to arm the ordinary man specifically law abiding citizens, through making it easier for them to acquire firearms which requires that legislation be passed on the political front so that more firearms be present in the home. For a classic example of this I would suggest you take a look at how the issuance of state conceal carry permits have had a major impact on the decline in violent crime thus, halting the crime rate.

Methods

The data sets presented here are obtained from the General Social Survey which consist of many variables, narrow them down to three and combine them with the facts and findings of the supplemental reading material discussed earlier. In addition, I also utilized the data sets that stem forth from the General Social Survey to construct tables and graphs that serve as visual aids to help articulate the data projected by my findings so that the reading audience may have a better idea of how the data presented relates to each other. The method for obtaining and articulating the data is of the explanatory kind in conjunction with the use of existing statistical research.

This social survey is a survey that is provided for free by the National Opinion Research Center located at the University of Chicago. The surveys that are conducted here feature responses in the form of datasets from a vast array of respondents in the manner of a face to face interviews of adults 18 years and older and it takes at least 90 minutes for the respondents to complete. The General Social Survey literally stock piles demographic data regarding how people feel about various social topics to include firearms and political affiliation. The General Social Survey conducts its survey every other year to ensure that they are compiling the most accurate data on people's opinions, systems of belief and actions in relation to the environment around them. The General Social Survey has been engaged in providing data on public opinion data since 1972.

The reasoning for this is because this research relies on the most precise quantitative data, surveys and statistics. That coupled with deductive logic is used as an end to not only confirm but place the reading audience in somewhat of position to predict general patterns of social trends concerning the one of the most effective ways in which to halt the crime rate. Bottom line, this research initiative relies on pre-collected data and articulates it in a fashion that supports the hypothesis so that the reading audience can better understand the logic behind the argument at hand.

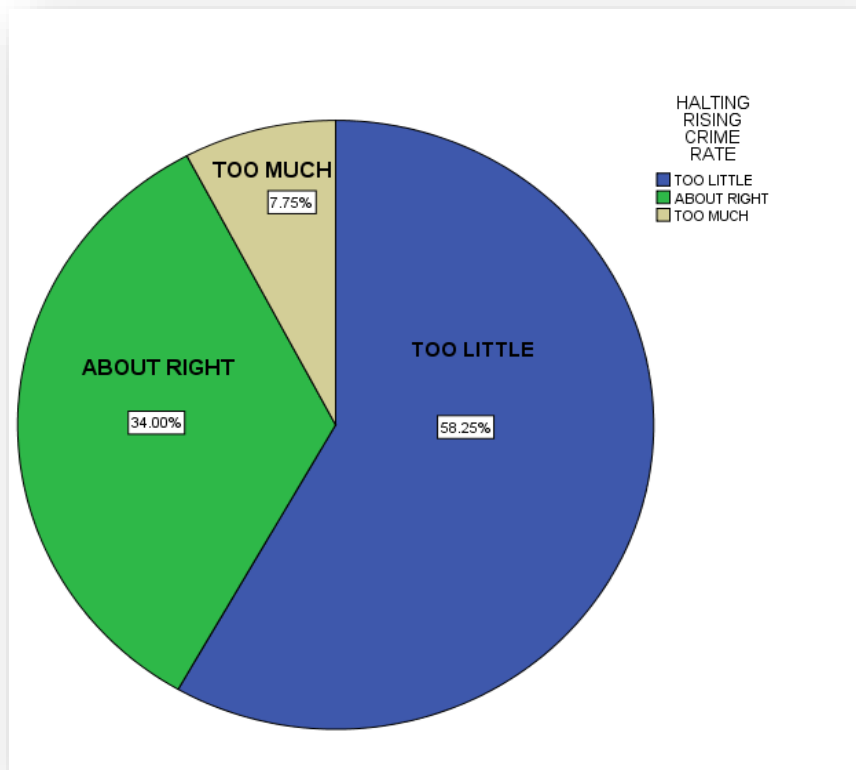
The data collected by the General Social Survey organization is then selected by me and consisted of the following demographical data: Whether or not subjects had a gun in the home, the subject's political party affiliation, and how they felt when it came to halting the crime rate. All numerical data is be processed through the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) which is a proprietary software that was developed by the IBM Corporation. The functions that were used within the system to manipulate the data were "Frequencies", which provided us with the frequency tables and "Descriptives" which generated tables under the same name, "Cross-tabulation" which provided us with multivariate analysis.

The procedure for collecting the data also relies on me simply downloading the data set from G.S.S., selecting the variables that are to be used in the research to validate or invalidate the research hypothesis, and provide descriptive and explanative answers to articulate the charts, graphs, and tables generated from the research. Moreover, the sample size which was used for the detail tables, charts and graphs presented here were obtained through the General Social Survey and consisted of a sum total of 1,500 participants who gave their opinion on how they felt in regards to the several categories relevant to the three variables at hand, which are: "whether or not they have a gun in the home", "political party affiliation", and "halting the crime rate".

Variables and Descriptives

The variables and datasets selected from G.S.S. were "Having a Gun in the Home", "Political Party Affiliation", and "Halting the Crime Rate". In reference to the first variable "Having a Gun in the Home" it is surveyed by evaluating the respondent's opinion of how effective having a gun in the home halts the crime rate. The respondents were to simply select "Too Little", "About Right", or "Too Much". The second set of bivariate variables set that were surveyed was "Political Party Affiliation" in relation to "Halting the Crime Rate". Again the respondents expressed their feelings of how this halts the crime rate by simply selecting "Too Little", "About Right", or "Too Much".

TABLE 1.



The sample provided the General Social Survey (G.S.S.) shows that when it comes to Halting the Crime Rate 34% percent of the subjects say it's about right, 7.75% percent say it's too much and 58.25% percent claim that it's too little. In addition, the sample yields to the assumption that people generally do not have the faith in the two dominant political intuitions (Democrat and Republican) to halt the crime rate – in short they rather deal with the crime rate on their own, so they tend to claim to be a part of an Independent Party. When this pie chart is viewed in conjunction with the Cross-tabulation chart it also projects the notion that Republicans and Independents are more far more likely to own guns to protect themselves and their homes than Democrats, despite not having faith in the most dominate political parties.

TABLE 2.

HAVE GUN IN HOME		
	Percent	Frequency
Yes	33.4%	304
No	66.6%	606
Total	100.0 %	910
POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Percent	Frequency
Democrat	34.4%	512
Independent	40.8%	607
Republican	22.1%	329
Other party	2.8%	41
Total	100.0%	1,489
HALTING RISING CRIME RATE		
	Percent	Frequency
Too little	58.2%	406
About Right	34.0%	237
Too Much	7.7%	54
Total	100.0%	697
	Mean / Std. Deviation	Frequency
HAVE GUN IN HOME	1.67 / .472	910
POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	1.93 / .819	1489
HALTING RISING CRIME RATE	1.49 / .637	697

Out of 910 subjects we can see that 33.4% claimed to have a gun in the home and 66.6%, nearly double claimed to not have a gun in the home. 1,489 subjects when asked their political affiliation 34.4% claimed to be of the Democratic Party. 40.8% claimed to be of Independent political affiliation, 22.1% selected that they were of the Republican Party and oddly, 2.8 % respondent or selected that they were of affiliated with an “Other Party”. In response to the question of “Do you feel enough is being done to halt the crime rate?”, 58.2% of the respondents feel that too little was being done, 34.0% felt that what was being done was about right and 7.7% people felt as if too much was being done.

Findings

TABLE 3.

			POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION				
			DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT	REPUBLICAN	OTHER PARTY	TOTAL
HAVE GUN IN THE HOME	YES	COUNT % WITHIN HOME	61 20.3%	133 44.2%	104 34.6%	3 1.0	301 100.0%
	NO	COUNT % WITHIN HOME	238 39.7%	234 39.1%	107 17.9%	20 3.3%	599 100.0%
		TOTAL					900 100.0%

In this bi-variant cross tabulation of 900 respondents, I wanted to see if there was any correlation between having a gun in the home and political party affiliation. It turns out that there just may be, when processed through S.P.S.S. out of 900 subjects who said they had a gun in the home 61 (20.3%) were Democrat, a whopping 44.2% (133) were Independent, not surprisingly 104 (34.6%) were Republican and only 1.0% (3) identified with “Other Party”. In contrast, those who claimed they didn’t have a gun in the home as expected 39.7% (238) were Democrat, 234 (39.1%) were Independent, 107 (17.9) were Republican and 3.3% (20) considered themselves of “Other Party”.

TABLE 4.

			HALTING RISING CRIME RATE		
			TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
HAVE GUN IN HOME	YES	Count % within HAVE GUN IN HOME	84 56.8%	51 34.5%	13 8.8%
	NO	Count % within HAVE GUN IN HOME	158 59.2%	90 33.7%	19 7.1%
Total		Count % within HAVE GUN IN HOME	242 58.3%	141 34.0%	32 7.7%
TOTAL					415

The above bi-variant tables were generated through SPSS and when cross examined in comparison with other sources of data collected for this research. Be advised that the highlighted portions of these tables are the significant values under analysis; this was done for purposes of ease and simplicity. Out of a sum total of 415 cases classified into: "HAVE GUN IN HOME * HALTING CRIME RATE" in which 56.8% percent (84) expressed the opinion that having a gun in the home does too little, 51 or 34.5% percent believe that having a gun does about right, and 8.85 (13) believe that it does too much. In contrast, out of 158 respondents that responded to not having a gun in the home (59.2%) believe that it does too little, 33.7% or 90 respondents say it does about the right, and 7.1% percent or 32 subjects expressed the opinion that it does too much.

In contrast, of the respondents that reported "NO" to not having a gun in the home. 158 or 59.2% percent feel that having a gun in the home does too little to halt the crime rate. 65.3% percent of them also feel that having a gun in the home does not help in halting the rising crime rate. Moreover, 90 of the respondents that reported not having a gun in the home 33.7% percent says having one does about the right job of halting the crime rate. Lastly in this series, 19 respondents responded that they did not have a gun in the home (7.1% percent) and 59.4% percent of respondents feel that having a gun in the home does not halt the crime rate.

In summary, we had a sum total of 148 (35.7% percent) respondents that claimed that they had a gun in the home and 267 (64.3% percent) of the respondent claimed that they did not have a gun in the home. Out of 242 subjects 58.3% percent of the respondent that reported they have a gun in the home says having a gun in the home does too little to halt the crime rate. Respectively 141 respondents or 34.0% percent say it does about right in halting the crime rate and 32 or 7.7% percent says it does too much.

TABLE 5. Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.455^a	2	.797
Likelihood Ratio	.449	2	.799
Linear-by-Linear Association	.393	1	.531
N of Valid Cases	415		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.41.

When we look at the Chi-Square Test we can see that out of 415 cases the p-value (.797) is greater than the α -value (.445), with that said we may be inclined to reject the hypothesis (H_0) in that there is no statistically significant association between “Halting the Crime Rate Political Party Affiliation & Having a Gun in the Home”.

TABLE 6. Symmetric Measures

	Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal Phi	.033	.797
Cramer's V	.033	.797
N of Valid Cases	415	

When we examine the value of the Phi and Cramer's V we can see that out of 415 cases the strength of association between them is weak, there is no relationship.

TABLE 7.

			HALTING RISING CRIME RATE			
			TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH	Total
POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	DEMOCRAT	Count	135	76	15	226
		% within POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	59.7%	33.6%	6.6%	100.0%
	INDEPENDENT	Count	155	106	25	286
		% within POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	54.2%	37.1%	8.7%	100.0%
REPUBLICAN		Count	103	50	9	162
		% within POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	63.6%	30.9%	5.6%	100.0%
OTHER PARTY		Count	12	4	5	21
		% within POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	57.1%	19.0%	23.8%	100.0%
Total		Count	405	236	54	695
		% within POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	58.3%	34.0%	7.8%	100.0%

When analyzing the bi-variant cross-tabulation between “POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION * HALTING CRIME RATE” we can see that out of 226 respondents who stated they were “Democrat”, 59.7% percent say too little is being done to halt the crime rate. For the 33.6% percent of democratic respondents, 76 subjects reported political party affiliation does about the right job of halting the crime rate. Lastly in this series 15 or 6.6% percent subjects claimed that political party affiliation already does too much projecting the connotation that political party affiliation does an alright job in halting the crime rate.

When it come to the subjects the identified themselves as being “Independent”, out of 286 respondents, 155 or 54.2% percent say too little is being done to halt the crime rate. 106 or 37.1% percent of Independent respondents, subjects reported political party affiliation does about the right

job of halting the crime rate. Lastly in this series 25 or 8.7% percent subjects claimed that political party affiliation already does too much projecting the connotation that political party affiliation does an alright job in halting the crime rate.

Consequently, the subjects that identified themselves as being “Republican”, out of 162 respondents, 103 or 63.3% percent say too little is being done to halt the crime rate. 50 or 30.9% percent of Republican respondents, subjects reported political party affiliation does about the right job of halting the crime rate. Lastly in this series 9 or 5.6% percent subjects claimed that political party affiliation already does too much projecting the connotation that political party affiliation does an alright job in halting the crime rate.

In addition, the respondents that claim “Other Party”, out of 21 respondents, 12 or 57.1% percent say too little is being done to halt the rising the rising crime rate. 4 or 19.0% percent of Other Party respondents, subjects reported political party affiliation does about the right job of halting the rising crime rate. Lastly in this series 5 or 23.8% percent subjects claimed political party affiliation already does too much projecting the connotation that political party affiliation does an alright job in halting the crime rate

TABLE 8. Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	13.033^a	6	.043
Likelihood Ratio	10.911	6	.091
Linear-by-Linear Association	.004	1	.949
N of Valid Cases	695		

a. 1 cells (8.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.63.

When we look at the Chi-Square Test we can see that out of 695 cases the p-value (.043) or 4.3 percent is less than the alpha value of 8.3% percent which mean that there is a statistically significant correlation between political party affiliation and halting the crime rate. This means that political party affiliation is not independent of halting the crime rate, it is in fact dependent on halting the crime rate. The Chi-Square test is significant for comparing and contrasting the data we have gather to a hypothesis we have initially constructed.

TABLE 9.
Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.137	.043
	Cramer's V	.097	.043
N of Valid Cases		695	

When we examine the value of the Phi and Cramer's V we can see that strength of association between the variables is moderate.

Descriptives

TABLE 10. **Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
HAVE GUN IN HOME	910	1	2	1.67	.472
POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	1489	1	4	1.93	.819
HALTING RISING CRIME RATE	697	1	3	1.49	.637
Valid N (listwise)	413				

This section of this research simply describes or provides us with a “summary” of the entirety of our subjects, their responses and out points of methods of measure. As you can see the table yields the rows (left to right) “N” or the number of valid variables under observation, “Valid N” which is the number of non-missing values, minimum (smallest) value of the variable, the maximum (largest) value of the variable, the mean and the standard deviation. Starting with column (top to bottom) “N”, we have 910, 1,489,697 and 413 respectively. This is nothing more than the number of cases or respondents that participated in the research. The minimum and the maximum can be considered trivial in this case because they do nothing more than yield the numerical number value that is less than or greater than any number value in the data set being presented. In other words it simply aids us in calculating the range of the variables being present – again this is not the “meat” of the data set.

However, the Mean and the Standard Deviation are, because these are the central tendencies of the data set. The Mean or average is very sensitive to any fluctuations within the data set. What we are looking for here is how often does the responses fluctuate between each other, in this case the responses seem to remain constant or pretty consistent with each other not only in

respect to their category but in respect to each other. The Standard Deviation which is used for comparative purposes. In this case, the difference between responses given by the subjects and the variable (HAVE GUN IN HOME, POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION and HALTING CRIME RATE) are again very similar – as their (numbers: .472, .819, .637) do not shift into any whole numbers (i.e. 6.515).

The variable “POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION” is however a little on the border line, because of the value .819. This can be possibly explained because of the fluctuations in choice regarding the variable political party as the respondents were able to choose unconventional parties, however this is not a clear cut explanation. For most people they consider themselves to be either of Democratic Party or the Republican Party – but in this case they could also choose the variables “OTHER PARTY” (41 FRQ.) 2.7% percent and “INDEPENDENT” (607) or 40.5% percent of the respondents.

TABLE 11.

		POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION				
		DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT	REPUBLICAN	OTHER PARTY	TOTAL
HAVE GUN IN HOME	YES	61 20.3%	133 44.2%	104 34.6%	3 1.0%	301 100.0%
	NO	238 39.7%	234 39.1%	107 17.9%	20 3.3%	599 100.0%
		299	367	211	23	900

Going back to the above bi-variant cross-tabulation within the SPSS software between political party affiliation and whether or not the respondents have a gun in the home, we find that 34.6% of the respondents that revealed that they were Republican (104) were almost twice more likely than the 61 respondents that claimed to be of the Democrat political party 20.3% to own a gun. Again, for the respondents that claim that they were Independent, that number was exceed that of both the Democrats and the Republicans 44.2%. Either way we can now say that out of 900 respondents' the subjects were far more likely TO own a gun in the home despite the rate in which crime occurred. This adds validity that at least a third of the citizens in the United States have a gun in the home (301 out a total of 900 participants). As a side note, could the higher amount of respondents claiming to be of INDEPENDENT political status be on the rise because of a lack of faith in the ability of the political arena to halt the crime rate? This argument is one that involves thought provoking discussions and heated gun debates.

Discussion

The purpose of this research is to understand the relationship between one halting the crime rate, having a gun in the home and political affiliation. This result of this research yielded that of the population of subjects under observation more than half of them feel as if too little is being done to halt the crime rate. Moreover, even though slightly half of the respondents reported having a gun in the home, I found that the reason as to why they do so has more to do with the ideas embraced by their political party affiliation than it does them having the means to halt the crime rates. With that being said, it can be concluded that the subjects that reported being of the Republican Party and those that claimed to be politically Independent were far more likely to have a gun in the home than those that claimed to be of the Democratic Party and those that claim to be of some “Other Party”. This is not to say that halting the crime rate wasn’t a factor, it just wasn’t the primary or dominate factor, as it did play a noticeable role in whether or not people had a gun in the home across all party lines. As a Social Scientist I would recommend that additional research be conducted to see if one political party actually affects patterns in gun ownership and how those patterns positively and or negatively halt the crime rate across the country (United States).

Conclusion

This research is relevant because it projects the quantifiable findings of multiple research surveys. Although many people may find that having a gun in the home is an idea or action that only begets more violence. It should be understood that, that ideological position is one that is the farthest from the truth. What many people regardless of the political party affiliation fail to understand is that society will always have someone that will go against the norms and value of their society – displaying acts of deviance; hence society will always have crime, especially violent crime. This research initiative provided proof positive that not only is there a definite correlation between one’s political party affiliation and gun ownership but the combination of the two does in fact reduce crime. Not for the sake of simply believing that one political party platform is superior to another, but we must understand that one’s political platform does play a vital role in the reduction of crime by gun ownership because of the founding ideas, principals and core values that are espoused by a political party.

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