



Evidence You that Handgun Purchaser Licensing and Bans of High-Capacity Magazines Saves Lives

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How does licensing strengthen comprehensive background checks?

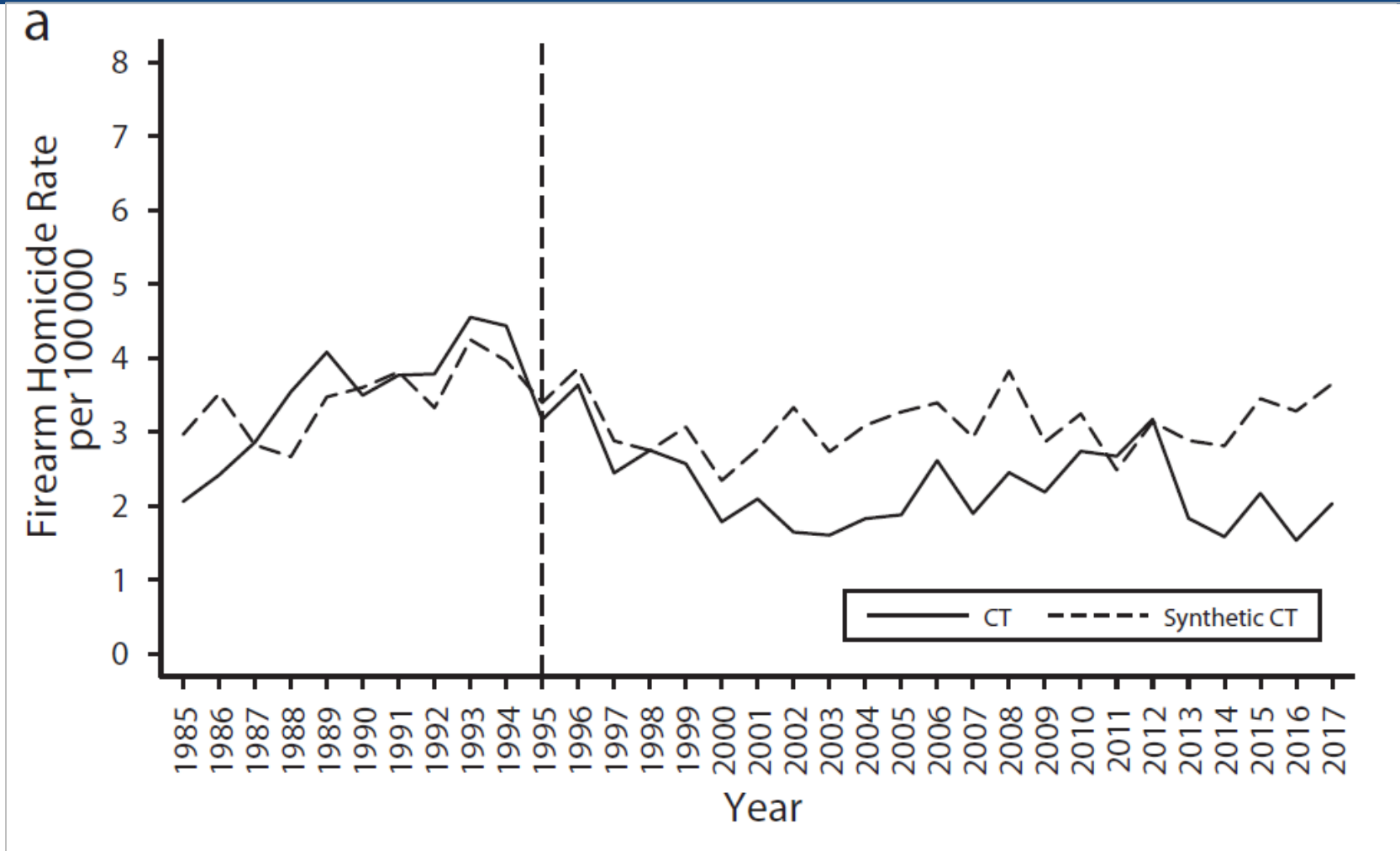


- ▶ Comprehensive background check laws require point of sale applications at licensed firearms dealers. There is no direct contact with law enforcement or fingerprinting to verify identity or deter straw purchases.
- ▶ Purchaser Licensing: Issued by a law enforcement agency that does background checks, usually with fingerprinting. Often requires safety training. Process often takes many days longer than what is often an “instant” when gun dealers submit applications to the FBI. Upstream policy to reduce gun availability to prohibited persons.

Contrasting Effects of Handgun Purchaser Licensing Laws vs. Comprehensive Background Check Laws on Homicides and Suicides

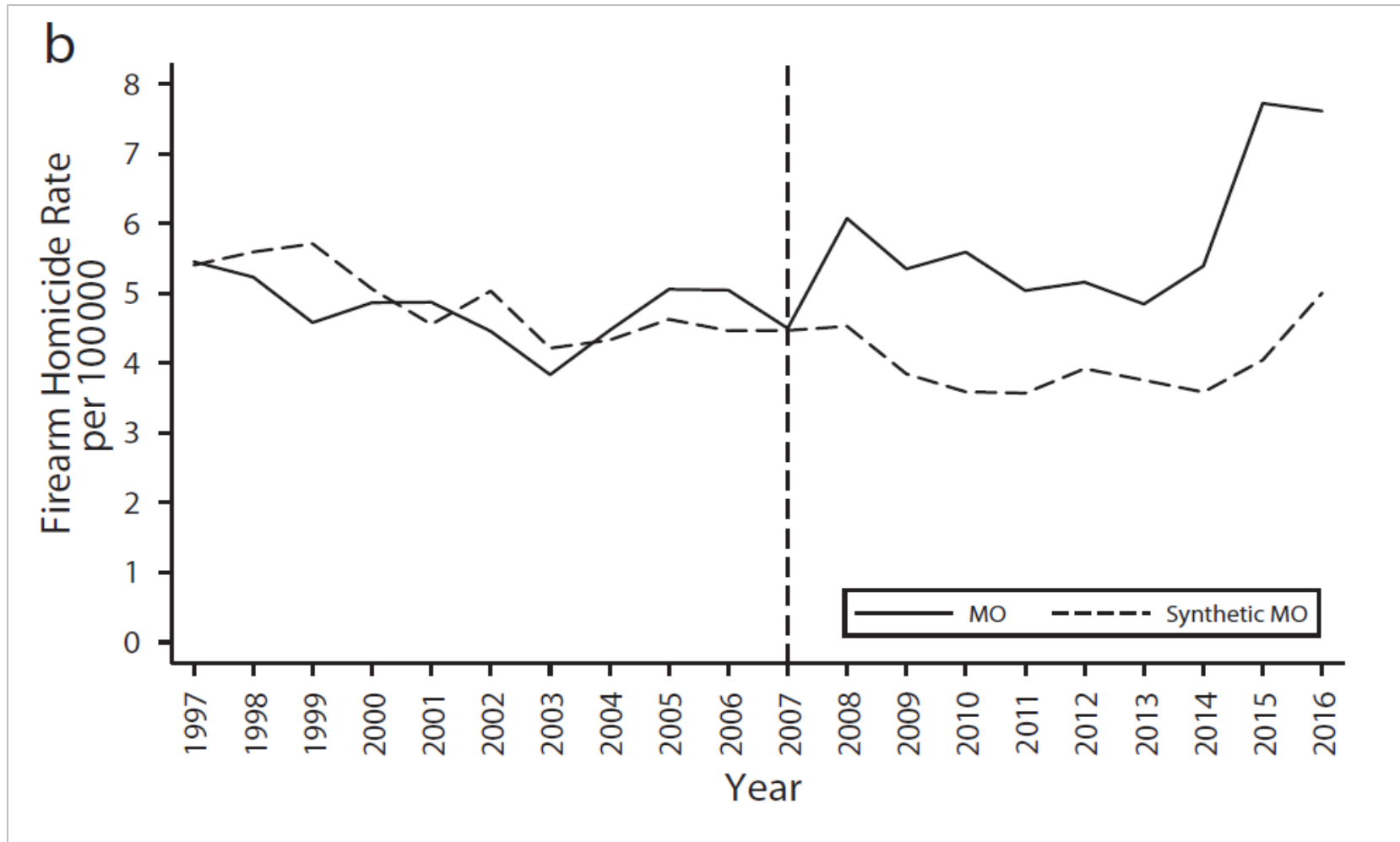
- ▶ Connecticut – enacted handgun purchaser licensing law in October 1995
 - ▶ Mandated license for all handgun transfers
 - ▶ In-person application with fingerprint-based background check
 - ▶ 8-hours of Safety training
 - ▶ License good for 5 years, revoked if holder becomes disqualified
- ▶ Missouri – repealed licensing law in August 2007
 - ▶ Required license for all handgun transfers
 - ▶ In-person application with local sheriff and background check
 - ▶ License good for 30 days
- ▶ Pennsylvania (1995) and Maryland (1996) adopted laws requiring background checks for all handgun transfers. Applications through licensed gun dealers.

Firearm homicide rates 28% lower than counterfactual over 22 years after Connecticut's handgun purchaser licensing law. (McCourt et al. 2020)

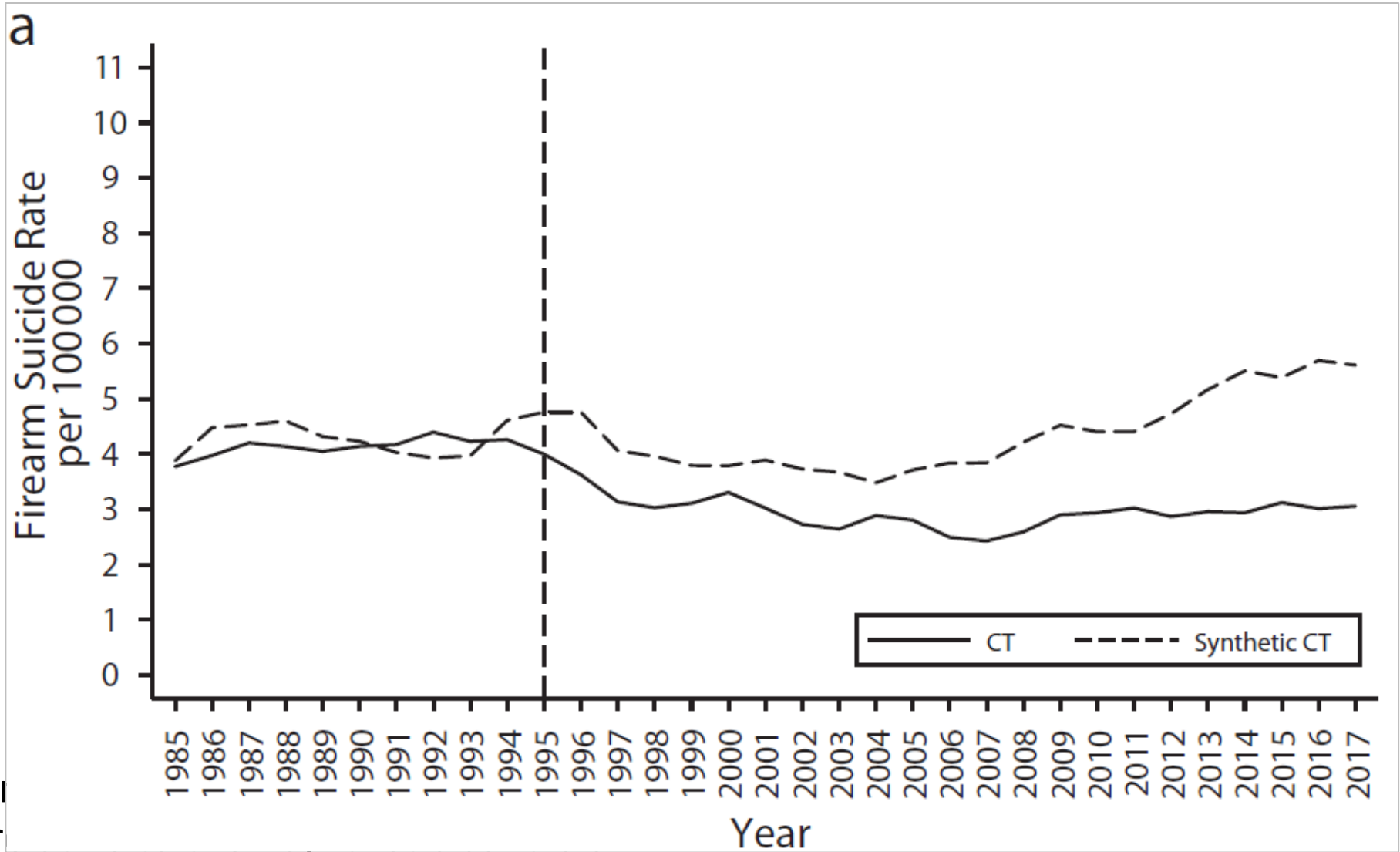


None of 32 comparison states had larger declines over this period relative to their synthetic controls.

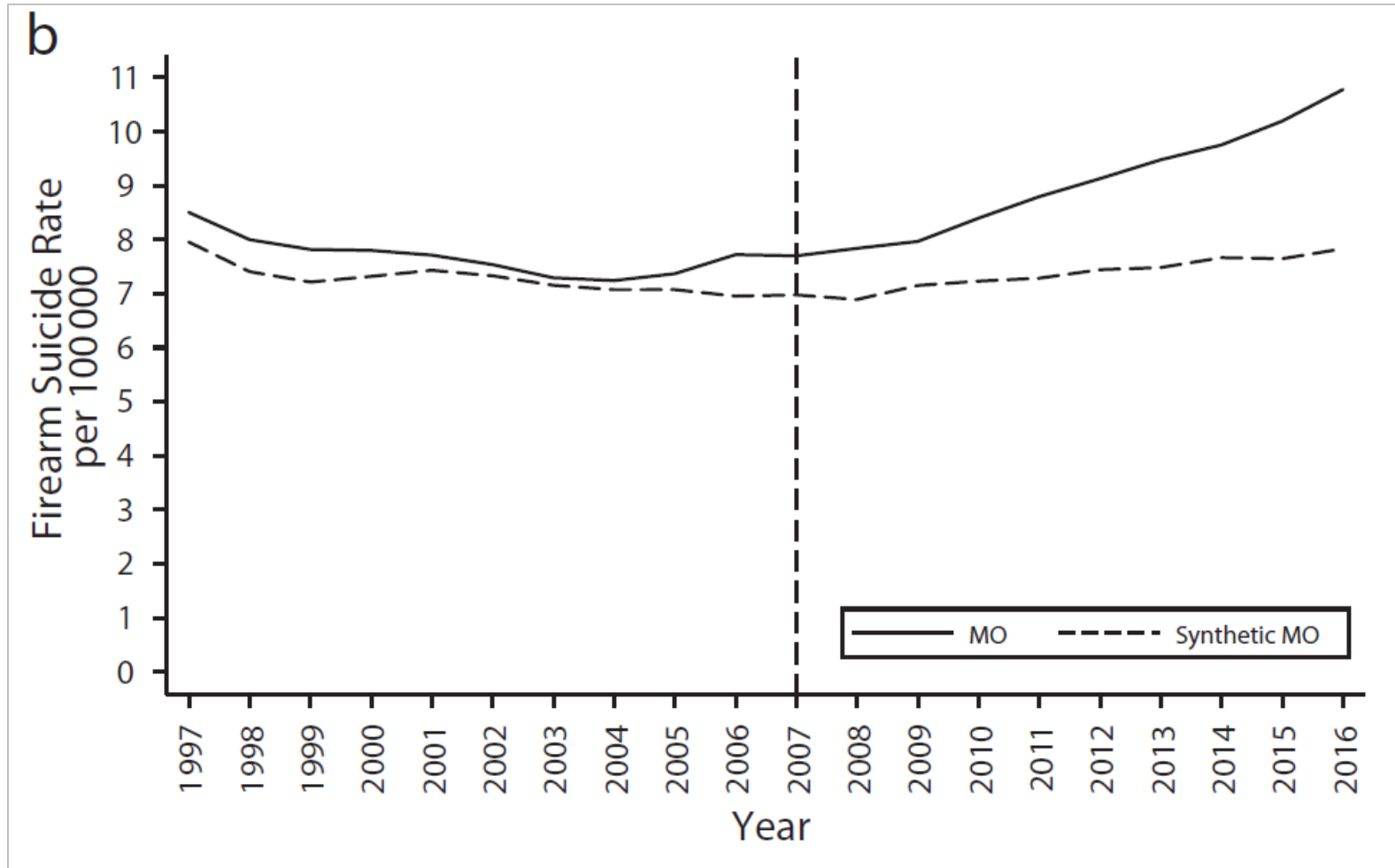
Firearm homicide rates 47% higher than counterfactual in Missouri after handgun purchaser licensing law repealed, 2008-2016.



Firearm suicide rates 33% lower than counterfactual over 22 years in Connecticut after handgun purchaser licensing law. McCourt et al., 2020



Firearm suicide rates 24% higher than counterfactual in Missouri after handgun purchaser licensing law repealed, 2008-2017.



Other key findings from McCourt et al. 2020

- ▶ Missouri's repeal also linked to 18% increase in nonfirearm homicide rates. Study using different statistical methods estimated 27% increase in firearm homicide rates. Hasegawa, Webster & Smart, 2019
- ▶ Adoption of comprehensive background checks without licensing in MD and PA were not associated with reductions in firearm homicides or suicides.

Other studies showing handgun purchaser licensing laws are associated with lower rates of gun violence.

- ▶ 11% lower rate of firearm homicides in urban counties (Crifasi et al., 2018)
- ▶ Lower rates of firearm homicide in large cities, suburban counties, and rural counties (Siegel et al., 2020) and for both Black and White victims (Knopov et al., 2019)
- ▶ 54% lower rate of fatal mass shootings (Webster et al., 2020; Siegel et al., 2020)
- ▶ Fewer police shot in line of duty with handguns (Crifasi, Pollack, & Webster, 2015)
- ▶ Rates of shootings by police are far lower in states with purchaser licensing than in states with CBC only or neither licensing or CBC. (Crifasi et al., under review)

Key Mechanism for Purchaser Licensing's Effects on Gun Violence – Deterring Illegal Transfers

- ▶ Crime guns with < 12 mo. sale-to-crime increased 2-fold after Missouri licensing law repeal while the share of crime guns from in-state increased.¹
- ▶ After Maryland licensing law, gun diverted to crime < 12 mo. after retail sale in MD declined 76% while the share of crime guns from MD dealers declined.²
- ▶ 40% of persons on parole or probation in Baltimore said law made it harder to get a gun.²

Share of Missouri-recovered Guns with Short Time-to-Crime

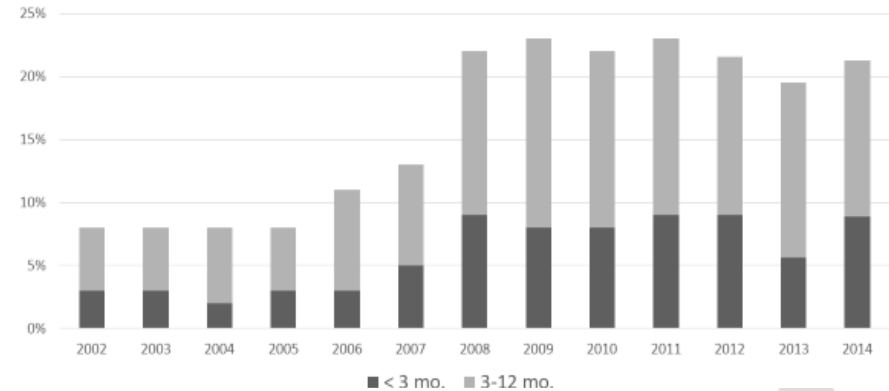
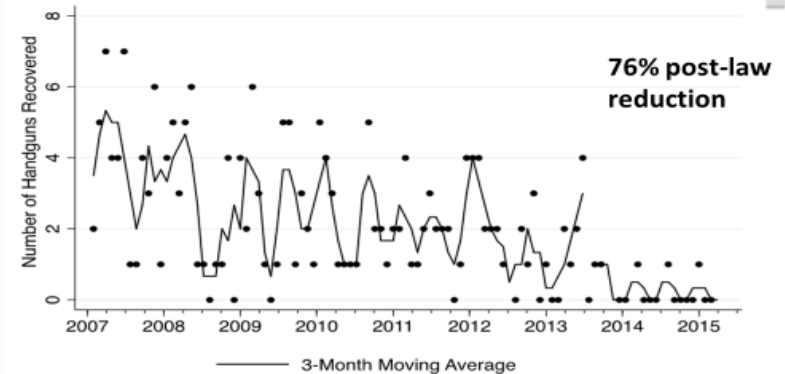


Figure 2. Three-month moving average of handguns originally sold in Maryland and recovered within 1 year of retail sale; purchaser different from possessor.



Widespread support for handgun purchaser licensing in states with the policy

Crifasi et al., 2020

- ▶ Pooled data from National Gun Policy Surveys in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- ▶ 75% of gun owners in states with handgun purchaser licensing approved of the policy.
- ▶ Courts have long upheld licensing requirements including the recent SCOTUS decision on *Bruen*.

Crifasi CK, Stone EM, McGinty B, Vernick JS, Barry CL, Webster DW. Differences in public support for handgun purchaser licensing. *Injury Prevention* 2019 Sep 6. pii:

injuryprev-2019-043405. doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2019-043405

Abelow H, Crifasi C, Webster DW. The legal and empirical case for firearm purchaser licensing. *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 2020; 48(S2):17-24. doi:

10.1177/1073110520979397.

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DOI: 10.1111/1745-9133.12485

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SPECIAL ISSUE ARTICLE

COUNTERING MASS VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

Assessing the potential to reduce deaths and injuries from mass shootings through restrictions on assault weapons and other high-capacity semiautomatic firearms

Christopher S. Koper 

Use of LCMs in fatal mass shootings Koper 2020

Study	Estimate % LCM use
Everytown for Gun Safety (2018) all shootings involving 4 or more victims murdered 2009-2017	20% (min.) – 58% (max)
Koper (2018) all shootings involving 4 or more victims murdered 2009-2015	19% (min.) – 57% (max)
Klarevas (2016) all shootings involving 6 or more victims murdered 1966-2015	47% (all years) 67% (2006-2015)
Mother Jones (2019) murders with 4+ victims in public places unrelated to other crimes	At least 61%

Study of the association between gun laws and fatal mass shootings in the U.S., 1984-2017


DOI: 10.1111/1745-9133.12487

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SPECIAL ISSUE ARTICLE

COUNTERING MASS VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

Evidence concerning the regulation of firearms design, sale, and carrying on fatal mass shootings in the United States

Daniel W. Webster | **Alexander D. McCourt**  | **Cassandra K. Crifasi** |
Marisa D. Booty | **Elizabeth A. Stuart**

Association between state bans of LCMs and fatal mass shootings

- ▶ Supplemented FBI Supplemental Homicide Report data with additional data on widely-reported fatal mass shootings that were missing in the data.
- ▶ LCM bans associated with a 48% lower rate of fatal mass shootings. 95% confidence interval: -2% to -73%
- ▶ Stronger estimated effects for shootings killing 5 or more victims.