

# Q&A: Public, Permitless, and Concealed Carry of Firearms

## Questions

## Answers

**Why should the public carry of firearms be regulated?**

Regulating the public carry of firearms helps ensure the safety of all people in public places. Permissive open and concealed carry laws are promoted as making it easier for individuals to defend themselves against crime, but these laws have been shown to increase firearm violence.

**How does the deregulation of public carry laws lead to more violence?**

Permissive public carry laws can escalate firearm violence by potentially allowing individuals with histories of violence to carry firearms in public. Deregulating public carry creates more opportunities for armed intimidation and shootings during volatile encounters. Shootings by police increased by 12.9% in 10 states that relaxed concealed carry restrictions between 2014-2020.

**What are the consequences of repealing concealed carry laws + permitting requirements?**

Removing concealed carry requirements eliminates crucial safety measures, such as preventing prohibited individuals from carrying firearms and ensuring proper training on use, storage, and safety. When 34 states weakened restrictions on concealed carry, firearm assaults increased by 9.5%

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## Questions

## Answers

**Why do law enforcement tend to support concealed carry licensing?**

Requiring individuals to hold a concealed carry license makes law enforcement officers' jobs easier & less dangerous. With strong laws in place, when law enforcement officers are interacting with the public, they can check if individuals have a license to conceal carry their firearm. Removing the ability to verify permit status could delay necessary action and put people at risk if intervention is needed.

**What is an open carry law? Why should the open carry of firearms be regulated?**

An open carry law governs when and where individuals can publicly carry visible firearms. In most states, no permit is required. Regulating open carry is important in high-risk areas like protests and sports venues, as well as sensitive locations like polling places and government buildings, to prevent intimidation and protect free speech.

**Are public carry laws constitutional?**

Laws regulating public carry are constitutional. The Supreme Court's *New York State Rifle Association v. Bruen* decision struck down the requirement for a "good reason" to carry in public, but upheld licensing based on objective criteria, such as safety training and background checks, as long as licenses are issued to those not legally prohibited.

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