



# Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence

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HCGV NEWSLETTER, FALL, 2012

## Youth carry guns to gain 'respect,' says prosecutor

**The Indianapolis deputy prosecutor** in charge of gun prosecutions lamented in a panel discussion at the Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence annual meeting that young offenders find it necessary to gain "respect" through carrying guns.

Terrance Tharpe joined another deputy prosecutor, Peter Haughan, and Tim Nation, director of the Peace Learning Center in Indianapolis, Oct. 14 on the panel

at St Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Psychiatrist Dr. Stephen Dunlop represented HCGV and introduced the other panelists.

Tharpe said self-respect is a big issue among teenagers.

Haughan, who is in charge of the youth division in the prosecutor's office, echoed the concern, saying there is a vast difference between 14-16 year-olds and those 17 and

18. Those 17 and 18 are the greater problem.

Nation said that youth violence actually is down and it may be the result of the more choices offered by the magnet schools. He worried that incidences of post traumatic stress are not being addressed.

One of the great problems, said Haughan, is that youngsters will not testify against each other. "Snitching" is considered a no-no.

### COMPUTER CONTACT

Would you be willing to receive your copy of the newsletter by computer only? You may contact David Mason at e-mail [dmason@indyrr.com](mailto:dmason@indyrr.com) if you are willing to receive this letter by e-mail only.



### WOMEN ON BOARD

70% OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF HOOSIERS CONCERNED ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE ARE WOMEN. MORE WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ARE YOU WILLING TO BE ONE OF THOSE? CALL BOB FRIEDLY AT (317) 357-5550.

# CRIME DOWN: FBI

## THE MURDER RATE WAS DOWN IN 2011 BY 1.9%, SAYS FBI

rape, robbery, assault each  
down by 4%

cities sized 50,000 to  
100,000 saw the largest  
decreases in violent crime:  
5.2%

however, cities with  
populations under 10,000  
had murder rates increase  
by 18.3%

the plunge in violent crimes  
in cities sized 50,000 to  
100,000 was led by a plunge  
of 14.4% in the murder rate

all cities showed declines in  
forceable rapes, except in  
the 50,000 to 100,000 area  
which showed a slight in-  
crease of 0.5%

forceable rape rates fell 6.8%  
in metropolitan counties and  
9.0% in nonmetropolitan  
counties.

robbery offenses decreased  
in all city groupings, led by  
7.5% in metropolitan  
counties and 3.6% in non-  
metropolitan counties.

aggravated assaults declined  
in all city groups, by 6.3% in  
metropolitan counties and  
4.2% in nonmetropolitan  
counties.

violent crime decreased  
4.9% in the Midwest, 4.7% in  
the West, 4.5% in the south  
and 0.8% in the Northeast.

## The Latest Dan Carpenter column about guns in the Indianapolis Star (excerpted):

TWELVE PEOPLE KILLED BY A  
SINGLE GUNMAN IN A SINGLE  
NIGHT IN COLORADO. ELEVEN  
PEOPLE KILLED BY FIREARMS IN  
JAPAN IN AN ENTIRE YEAR.

I know. Bad guys don't dare get out of line in Japan because the law-abiding folks are all armed and ready to defend themselves. No? It's hard to get your hands on a deadly weapon in our sister industrialized nation? Folks there aren't at all passionate about the virtues of unbridled gun ownership? Hmph. And they skate by with one tenth the toll Indianapolis alone racks up? Bet they have the silly impression there is something wrong over here. Our political leaders, for the most part, will assure them we are doing just fine, law- and culture-wise. OK, we have more than 11,000 gun-related homicides a year, far and away leading the wealthy world in absolute numbers and per capita rates. Over the past decade we have seen a numbing succession of mass slaughter of the innocent by lone men with no motive aside from hate and virtually no limit to their personal arsenals.

Never mind that assault rifles, once banned by Congress, are commonplace commodities. Never mind that a garrison's supply of ammo can be purchased with a few computer clicks. Never mind that states such as Indiana put no caps on the number of guns that can be bought — and then resold on the street — at one time. Gun laws have actually weakened; gun sales have soared. The president won't touch the issue. Even after Aurora and Oak Creek, no "g" word in his calls for prayer and resolve. He signed off on pistol-packing in national parks. Our governor issued the same pass for state parks. The National Rifle Association does not just wield money, savvy, and pitbull tenacity. It has a constituency. Many are those who believe we stay free by bobbing in an ocean of guns — and liberal tyrants stand ready to drain it the moment vigilance lapses. These fellow Americans follow a philosophy that worked well in an agrarian society of barrel-loading muskets. Because they don't live where I live, for the most part, I could understand why their fear is not my fear. Except we seem to have run out of places that fear passes over.

## FACTS

Percentage of  
Americans who  
think the U.S.  
needs stricter gun  
laws:

All Americans - 52%

Catholics - 62%

Religiously unaffiliated  
60%

White mainline  
Protestants  
42%

White evangelicals  
35%

Percentage of  
Americans who believe  
concealed handguns  
should be allowed in  
churches

All Americans  
24%

Catholics  
14%

Religiously unaffiliated  
18%

White mainline Protestants  
27%

White evangelicals  
33%

(Christian  
Century)

## THE GUN LOBBY

- \* Gun rights advocates protested across the street from a gun "buyback" being offered by Detroit police. The protestors tried to compete with police, offering a better price to those in line for the police program. Few sellers accepted the offers.
- \* Gun Owners of America issued their mid-year report on gun rights. "In the fog of war, it might appear like we are always on the defensive. So, as Congress gets ready to come back into session soon — especially the battle to kill gun control legislation and to get pro-gun candidates elected.

### Wisconsin Police Chief Leads Lonely Fight for Tough Laws

Chief Douglas H. Pettit of Oregon, Wis., works with the National Law Enforcement Partnership in an effort to convince federal lawmakers to mandate background checks on all gun sales.

## A TYPICAL WORST CASE

*From States United to Prevent Gun Violence*

Texas Constable Brian Bachmann served an eviction notice on 35-year-old Thomas Caffall in College Station and was shot to death. Then, Caffall fired more than 65 rounds in a 20-minute standoff with police. He wounded three officers, plus a woman who was helping her daughter move into a house before starting school at Texas A & M. Caffall was killed in the shootout. Said his stepfather: "He was crazy as hell. At one point, we were afraid he was going to come up here and do something to his mother and me."

### Police wound nine bystanders in N.Y.

Gail Collins, op-ed columnist for the N.Y. Times, lamented, after police wounded nine bystanders near the Empire State Building: "And these are people trained for this kind of crisis. The moral is that if a lunatic starts shooting, you will not be made safer if your fellow average citizens are carrying concealed weapons."

### Guns: the Democrats and the Republicans

The Republicans have a gun platform which the National Rifle Association calls the "most pro-Second Amendment position ever included in a major party platform."

The Democrats urge "an honest and open conversation about firearms."

# Is there a subversive way of Jesus?

by the Rev. Bob Sanders

I recently came across a book by Robin Meyers entitled *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*. I was impressed by those who touted it as worth reading: Bill Moyers. Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Marcus Borg. Moyers: "The contents of this book are explosive and could turn the world upside down." Tutu: "A passionate and challenging call to churches to be liberated from cultural captivity." Borg: "This book invites Christians to encounter a radical Jesus, to practice a subversive way of life and to move beyond belief to love!"

High praise indeed! I found the book to live up to its billing. One of the passionate passages: "Most pastors keep what they learned in seminary a secret for fear of offending a big contributor. They avoid controversy, especially on matters of economic justice,

because they are looking directly into the eyes of the parishioners who pay their salary. Besides, in all probability, most people sitting in the pews, see Jesus as an apologist for democracy and free market capitalism."

Meyers asks, "Is it possible to be a Christian and a soldier? Can violence ever be used to produce peace? Do men attach themselves to guns and gun ownership as a right and imperative?" When I was a student at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., I wrote a paper on violence. One source was Hannah Arendt. She wrote: "The practice of violence changes the world. But the most probable change is to a more violent world." It is absolutely essential to continue the HCGV mission to control the sale of guns. Our energy must not slacken.

1. DETROIT
2. MEMPHIS
3. MIAMI
4. FLINT, MI
5. OAKLAND, CA
6. LITTLE ROCK
7. BIRMINGHAM
8. ATLANTA
9. BALTIMORE
10. STOCKTON, CA

## FROM THE EDITORS

The cities listed above are what the FBI calls the most dangerous cities in America. The rating is based on violent crimes, like rape, armed robbery, assault and murder. Much of the violence is attributed to gang activity and the flow of drugs through the Latin American cartels. The fact that no Indiana cities are included may relate more to Hoosiers not being on the normal corridor. 'The Bobs'.

Sanders and Friedly

## MEMBERS

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence has 155 members. A total of 70% of the membership is located in Indianapolis, but there also are members from Anderson, Avon, Bloomington, Carmel, Claypool, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Greencastle, Greenfield, Hobart, Lafayette, Laporte, Lebanon, Muncie, Noblesville, N. Manchester, Schererville, Seymour, South Bend, Zionsville, plus several out-of-state subscribers.

## OFFICERS

President: Steve Dunlop  
Vice Pres: Loring Prosser  
Treasurer: Dave Mason  
Secretary: Bob Friedly

## HOOSIERS CONCERNED

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Annual dues for Hoosiers  
Concerned about Gun  
Violence is \$25