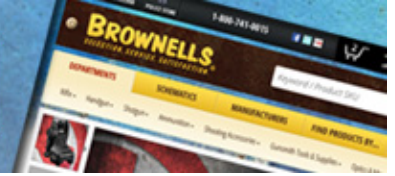


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## Author Paul Barrett Gives NPR Some Inconvenient Truths about Gun Control

10/15/12 | by [S.H. Blannelberry](#)



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360

NPR's news program "All Things Considered" ran a story on gun violence and appearing on the show were two prominent figures from both sides of the issue, Dan Gross, the president of the **Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun violence** and Paul Barrett, the author of "**GLOCK: The Rise of America's Gun.**"

In the interview (which you can listen to [here](#)), Gross delivered many of the standard Brady Campaign talking points.

Gross talked about private gun sales and the gun show 'loophole,' saying that 40 percent of legally sold guns are sold without a background check, which he alleges has an impact on crime.

"Every day in our nation, 32 Americans are killed by guns," Gross told Guy Raz, one of the program's hosts.

For Gross, gun-related violence can be greatly reduced if the U.S. renewed the Clinton-era Assault Weapons Ban and enacted other gun regulations, among them ones requiring tighter background checks for prospective gun buyers.



But Barrett flat out debunked the claim that gun control would have any measurable impact on crime or the homicide rate.

"Criminologists have studied it, and the consensus is that those laws simply did not have a statistically meaningful effect on crime rates," Barrett said.

The equation of "more guns equal more crime" just doesn't add up, he said.

“There’s a relationship between the presence of guns and the lethality of crime, but there is not a cause-and-effect, simple formula that will solve crime problems by simply regulating, in slightly different ways, how easily you can acquire a gun,” he explained.

Barrett also discussed the propensity for gun control advocates to use mass shootings as an impetus for tougher gun laws; something he said was a diversion from the bigger issue.

“We fixate, understandably, on the aberrational mass-shooting events, but they’re actually not our main social problem,” he said. “Our main social problem is the overall gun homicide rate.”

So, with this in mind, how do we address the overall gun homicide rate (which has been declining over the years but still remains disproportionately high when compared to Europe)?

It seems as though there are two choices: destroy the Second Amendment, pass confiscatory gun policies and outright ban gun ownership for all citizens, vis a vis England, or address the real issues that propel crime, i.e. drugs and gangs (perhaps through legalization or decriminalization?).

It’s clear, though, that one of these options is not political feasible.

As NPR pointed out, in 1990, 78 percent of Americans supported tougher restrictions on gun sales according to a Gallup poll. A decade later, that number fell to 44 percent.

Barrett iterated this fact and pointed to Obama’s tepid response to his gun control constituents in the Democratic Party.

“There is just not a lot of popular demand for stricter gun control,” he said. “The public opinion polls tell you that, and I think Barack Obama and his advisers can read those polls.”

Whether it’s the ineffective moderate forms of gun control that Gross supports or it’s draconian measures that ban all firearms, the public, by and large, does not support gun control. Consequently, isn’t it time we redouble our focus on finding solutions for drug and gang-related violence?

**Categories: Gun Laws, Politics & 2nd Amendment**

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"Our main social problem is the overall i  
and obesity were our main social proble

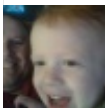
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Well put Joseph. Automobile a  
And I suspect speeding accou

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Really?? Heart disease, diabe  
reading of the comments wou  
health-related issues.

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Any time a Liberal talks gun control, he;s  
Anybody with half a brain should know th  
are going to talk gun control, you should  
those gun control idiots one more time  
Liberals, if you can read, let that sink in.

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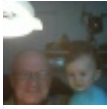
**Clifford R. Titus III**

You can't really make a gener  
being said, I also have a stroi  
legislation concerning gun cor  
rocket scientist to determine  
the world that do restrict the

In this country it needs to be  
TRAIN WITH THEM. A gun is wc  
responsibility for themselves,  
good thing to have. After all, t  
In all of the mass shootings ii

control" zones.

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**Richard W Hutchings** · ★ Top Commenter

Well Sir, you are 12 in a millio  
to the rest of your liberal nut

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**Clifford R. Titus III**

I'm not offended at all, just try  
are plenty of nutcases out the

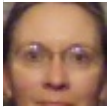
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**Scot C. Taber** · ★ Top Commenter

Stop blaming inanimate objects for the a  
crime change the circumstances that cre  
other option to resolve their problems. A  
completed without background checks th  
individuals all sales involving someone v  
not the gun that is the problem. It is PEC  
killed in violent attacks involving a firear  
Oh wait that is all the banners have is h

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**Cricket Cole** · Kalamazoo Co

I've bought most of mine thro  
number isn't close to accurat

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**Scot C. Taber** · ★ Top Comr

Undoubtedly, Cricket. Are you  
are lay waste to everything ar  
that are gifting guns!!! I think I

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**Dustin Shadle** · ★ Top Commenter · Hi

our main problem is family related. we f  
more animals than people. its that simp  
education are the other two that form th

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**Gene Bosch** · National Intitute of Techn

If only women should talk about abortior  
should be allowed to discuse gun contro

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**Clinton Pirtle** · ★ Top Commenter · Te

What about car violence, baseball bat vic  
sheepdogs teeth and saw off the rams I  
The wolf wants to eat you and your herd  
enemies and tyrants honest. An armed :

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**Adam Myallaked** · Huntington, Massacl

BTW. I'd love to see any of these politici  
"assault weapons."

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**Christian Huerta** · Works at United Sta

What guns are good at controlling are ty

deal with an unarmed protest. Had they government wouldn't have been oppress

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**Adam Myallaked** · Huntington, Massac

Anyone that thinks more guns or "assult time to catch a criminal in your neighbor

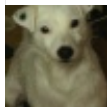
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**Terrence Graham** · Owner at Grahams

Alcohol and drunk driving combined is th vehicles. Or better yet, if I was to think I drunk and kill a bunch of people. So lets do NOT think like them. I live in a high vi bottles, knives, clubs, everything but gui stress. make everyone stay at home an just plain stupid.

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**Brenda Jackson** ·  Top Cor

And isn't that the truth.

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**Kevin Farris** ·  Top Commenter

My observation is that places with more

- 1) Higher percentage of homes without :
- 2) Illegal drug sales/use in the area.

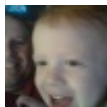
These can contribute to a host of proble have their own firearms laws that differ States like the Dakotas, Wyoming and M low. Crime is not a stranger to any race

Is it a culture difference? An attitude diff

Larry Elder and Bill O'Reilly have both ob abortions and in the prisons.

I don't believe its too late to emphasize 1

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**Paul Hall** ·  Top Commente

Very well said Kevin.

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**Mark Krieg** ·  Top Commenter

Obama has a bigger fish, the United Nat of any Presidents control because it is a

Why Obama wants to circumvent the 2nc should have guns, I'm doubting the milit murdered.

Gun owners had better keep an eye out the lead in ammunition and those no exi

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**Fixed Sight Training**


"isn't it time we redouble our focus on fi The solution is the same as it was in the from drinking and was making gangs ric on drugs. Legalize, regulate and tax the and eliminate most of the gangs easy m

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**Benjamin Garback** ·  Top Commenter

So, No guns equals less homicide and n  
pretty violent to me, either way.

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**Franco Tramble** ·  Top Co

That's not what he said. Place  
no fathers in the home in high  
men that are drunks/thuggs,

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**Tim Lee** ·  Top Commenter · Profess

the 32 killing a day are happening becau  
weapons.....you will need to collect all t

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**Gene Bosch** · National Intitute of Techn

Another reason my taxes shouldn't pay f

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**Scott Heck** ·  Top Commenter · Victor

Barrett is delusional if he thinks Obama  
second term when he has "more flexibili

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**Kurt Schneider** ·  Top Commenter

How many of those 32/day were doing s

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