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Violence Policy Center

Firearm Justifiable Homicides and Non-Fatal Self-Defense Gun Use

**An Analysis of Federal Bureau of Investigation
and National Crime Victimization Survey Data**

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INTRODUCTION

Guns are rarely used to kill criminals or stop crimes.

In 2019, across the nation there were only 316 justifiable homicides¹ involving a private citizen using a firearm reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as detailed in its Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR).² That same year, there were 9,610 criminal gun homicides tallied in the SHR. *In 2019, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 30 criminal homicides.*³ And this ratio, of course, does not take into account the tens of thousands of lives ended in gun suicides or unintentional shootings that year.⁴

This report analyzes, on both the national and state levels, the use of firearms in justifiable homicides. It also details, using the best data available on the national level, the *total* number of times guns are used for self-defense by the victims of both attempted and completed violent crimes and property crimes whether or not the use of the gun by the victim resulted in a fatality.

Key findings of this report, as detailed in its accompanying tables, include the following.

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES WITH A GUN COMPARED TO CRIMINAL GUN HOMICIDES

- In 2019, there were only 316 justifiable homicides involving a gun. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, there were only 1,453 justifiable homicides involving a gun. [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2015-2019.*]

1 The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines "justifiable homicide" as the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.

2 The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects basic information on serious crimes from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). The SHR contains more detailed information not available through published UCR data or elsewhere including: the age, sex, and race of victims and offenders; the types of weapons used; the relationship of victims to offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides. Detailed information (such as weapon used, relationship between the victim and offender, etc.) in the SHR is available *only* for the first victim and/or offender in any justifiable homicide or homicide incident. In 2019, 97.7 percent of firearm justifiable homicide incidents (293 out of 300) had just one victim. Recognizing how the data is presented in the SHR and the fact that virtually all justifiable incidents had just one victim, throughout this report justifiable homicide incidents will be referred to as justifiable homicides.

3 Number of reported justifiable homicides and homicides taken from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) as tabulated by the Violence Policy Center. It is important to note that the coding contained in the SHR data used in this report comes from law enforcement reporting at the local level. The level of information submitted to the SHR system may vary from agency to agency. While this study utilizes the best and most recent data available, it is limited by the degree of detail in the information submitted.

4 In 2019 there were 23,941 firearm suicide deaths and 486 fatal unintentional shootings. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

- In 2019, 17 states⁵ reported no justifiable homicides (Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming). [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2015-2019*.]
- In 2019 for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 30 criminal homicides. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 34 criminal homicides. [For additional information see *Table Two: Circumstances for Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019*.]

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2019, 40.5 percent (128 of 316) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter,⁶ 38.9 percent (123) were strangers, and in 20.6 percent (65) the relationship was unknown. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 37.6 percent (546 of 1,453) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter, 44.0 percent (640) were strangers, and in 18.4 percent (267) the relationship was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Three: Relationship of Person Killed to Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019*.]

SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2019, of the 316 firearm justifiable homicides, 87.0 percent (275) were committed by men, 10.8 percent (34) were committed by women, and in seven cases (2.2 percent) the sex of the shooter was unknown. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, of the 1,453 firearm justifiable homicides, 88.2 percent (1,282) were committed by men, 10.0 percent (145) were committed by women, and in 26 cases (1.8 percent) the sex of the shooter was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Four: Sex of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019*.]

SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2019, of the 316 firearm justifiable homicides, 96.8 percent (306) of the persons shot and killed were men and 3.2 percent (10) were women. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, of the 1,453 firearm justifiable homicides, 97.1 percent (1,411) of the persons shot and killed were men and 2.9 percent (42) were women. [For additional information see *Table Five: Sex of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019*.]

5 Alabama, Florida, and the District of Columbia did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) for the years 2015 through 2019. Data from these jurisdictions was not requested individually because the difference in collection techniques would create a bias in the study results. In addition, according to the FBI, limited SHR data was received from Illinois for the years 2012 through 2015. Beginning in 2016, all Illinois law enforcement agencies are required by state law to report SHR data to the FBI.

6 Relationship categories in which the justifiable homicide victim was known to the shooter are acquaintance, boyfriend, brother, common-law husband, common-law wife, employee, ex-husband, ex-wife, father, friend, girlfriend, homosexual relationship, husband, in-law, neighbor, other family, other known, sister, son, stepfather, stepson, and wife.

- In 2019, 98.2 percent (270) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 1.8 percent (five) were female. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 97.4 percent (1,249) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 2.6 percent (33) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019.*]
- In 2019, 85.3 percent (29) of the persons killed by a female with a gun in a justifiable homicide incident were male and 14.7 percent (five) were female. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 94.5 percent (137) of the persons killed by a female with a gun in a justifiable homicide incident were male and 5.5 percent (eight) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019.*]

RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2019, 48.7 percent (154) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 47.5 percent (150) were Black, 0.6 percent (two) were Asian, and 3.2 percent (10) were of unknown race.⁷ For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 46.5 percent (676) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 48.0 percent (697) were Black, 2.5 percent (37) were Asian, 0.5 percent (seven) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.5 percent (36) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Seven: Race of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019.*]

RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2019, 41.1 percent (130) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 57.6 percent (182) were Black, 0.9 percent (three) were Asian, and 0.3 percent (one) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 37.4 percent (543) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 60.8 percent (884) were Black, 1.0 percent (15) were Asian, 0.6 percent (eight) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.2 percent (three) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Eight: Race of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019.*]
- In 2019, 70.1 percent (108) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a white shooter were white, 28.6 percent (44) were Black, 0.6 percent (one) were Asian, and 0.6 percent (one) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 67.0 percent (453) of the persons killed by white shooters were white, 30.3 percent (205) were Black, 1.5 percent (10) were Asian, 0.7 percent (five) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.4 percent (three) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Nine: Race of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019.*]
- In 2019, 10.7 percent (16) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a Black shooter were white, 88.7 percent (133) were Black, and 0.7 percent (two) were Asian. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, 9.0 percent (63) of the persons killed by Black shooters were white, 90.7 percent (632) were Black, and 0.3 percent (two) were Asian. [For additional information see *Table Nine: Race of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2015-2019.*]

⁷ Detailed information (such as race of offender and victim) in the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report is only available for the first victim and/or offender in the incident. Hispanic ethnicity could not be determined because of the inadequacy of data collection and reporting.

TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES

- In 2019, firearms were used in 86.1 percent of justifiable homicides (316 of 367). Of these: 72.2 percent (228) were handguns; 1.9 percent (six) were shotguns; 4.4 percent (14) were rifles; 21.2 percent (67) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.3 percent (one) were other gun. For the five-year period 2015 through 2019, firearms were used in 84.2 percent of justifiable homicide incidents (1,453 of 1,725). Of these: 74.4 percent (1,081) were handguns; 3.2 percent (47) were shotguns; 2.9 percent (42) were rifles; 19.1 percent (277) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.4 percent (six) were other gun. [For additional information see *Table Ten: Weapon Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2015-2019* and *Table Eleven: Type of Firearms Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2015-2019.*]

HOW OFTEN ARE GUNS USED IN SELF-DEFENSE WHETHER OR NOT A CRIMINAL IS KILLED?

While it is clear that guns are rarely used to justifiably kill criminals, an obvious question remains: How often are guns used in self-defense whether or not a criminal is killed?

Pro-gun advocates – from individual gun owners to organizations like the National Rifle Association – frequently claim that guns are used up to 2.5 million times each year in self-defense in the United States.⁸ According to the 2004 book *Private Guns, Public Health* by Dr. David Hemenway, Professor of Health Policy at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center:

Much discussion about the protective benefits of guns has focused on the incidence of self-defense gun use. Proponents of such putative benefits often claim that 2.5 million Americans use guns in self-defense against criminal attackers each year. This estimate is not plausible and has been nominated as the most outrageous number mentioned in a policy discussion by an elected official.

In his book, Hemenway dissects the 2.5 million figure from a range of angles and, by extension, the NRA's own non-lethal self-defense claims for firearms. He concludes, "It is clear that the claim of 2.5 million annual self-defense gun uses is a vast overestimate" and asks, "But what can account for it?" As he details in his book, the main culprit is the "telescoping and...false positive problem" that derives from the very limited number of respondents claiming a self-defense gun use, "a matter of misclassification that is well known to medical epidemiologists."⁹

8 See, for example: "The Armed Citizen" ("Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection...."), *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, February 2021; and, "Chris Cox's NRA Armed Citizen: True Stories of Your Right to Self Defense in Action," ("While the anti gun media doesn't want to report the truth about Americans using guns for self defense as often as 2.5 million times a year, you can read breaking stories of everyday citizens fending off violent criminals in "CHRIS COX'S ARMED CITIZEN"), *Armed Citizen E-Newsletter* (March 26, 2015). The 2.5 million estimate is the result of a telephone survey conducted by Florida State University criminologist Dr. Gary Kleck, see Hemenway, David, "The Myth of Millions of Annual Self-Defense Gun Uses: A Case Study of Survey Overestimates of Rare Events," *Chance* (American Statistical Association), Volume 10, No. 3, 1997.

9 For a more detailed discussion, please see Hemenway, David, *Private Guns, Public Health* (The University of Michigan Press, 2004), pp. 66-69 and pp. 238-243.

ESTIMATES ON SELF-DEFENSE USE OF FIREARMS FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Hemenway notes, and numerous others agree, that the most accurate survey of self-defense gun use is the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The survey has been ongoing since 1973.¹⁰

VIOLENT CRIME

According to the NCVS, looking at the total number of self-protective behaviors undertaken by victims of nonfatal violence excluding simple assault for the *five-year period 2014 through 2018*, in only 1.7 percent of these instances had the intended victim in resistance to a criminal “threatened/attacked with a firearm.”¹¹ As detailed in the chart on the next page, for the *five-year period 2014 through 2018*, the NCVS estimates that there were 10,032,400 victims of nonfatal violence excluding simple assault. During this same *five-year period*, only 166,900 of the self-protective behaviors involved a firearm. Of this number, it is not known what type of firearm was used or whether it was fired or not. The number may also include off-duty law enforcement officers who use their firearms in self-defense.

10 According to its website, “The Bureau of Justice Statistics’ (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation’s primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 interviews on criminal victimization, involving 160,000 unique persons in about 95,000 households. Persons are interviewed on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (i.e., burglary/trespassing, motor-vehicle theft, and other types of theft) both reported and not reported to police. Survey respondents provide information about themselves (e.g., age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. For each victimization incident, the NCVS collects information about the offender (e.g., age, race and Hispanic origin, sex, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (e.g., time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and victim experiences with the criminal justice system.” (See Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Data Collection: National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS),” <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>.)

11 According to the NCVS, “nonfatal violence excluding simple assault” includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault victimizations of persons age 12 or older.

SELF-PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS, BY TYPE OF CRIME, 2014-2018

	Nonfatal Violence Excluding Simple Assault 2014-2018		Property Victimization 2014-2018	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total Number of Crimes	10,032,400	100	72,557,900	100
“Victim was Present”^a	10,032,400	100	12,782,100	17.6
Self-Protective Behavior				
Took no action or kept still	3,721,300	37.1	9,032,700	12.4
Threatened/attacked with a firearm	166,900	1.7	183,300	0.3
Threatened/attacked with other weapon	184,700	1.8	31,100	~
Threatened/attacked without a weapon	2,477,200	24.7	417,700	0.6
Noncombative tactics ^b	3,129,300	31.2	1,495,700	2.1
Other reaction	336,100	3.4	256,900	0.4
Unknown reaction	16,800*	0.2*	1,364,700*	1.9
Property crime, victim not present ^a	±	±	59,775,800	82.4
<p>a By definition, victims are present during violent crime victimizations. Victims are not necessarily present during property crime victimizations.</p> <p>b Includes yelling, cooperating, running away, arguing or reasoning, calling police, or trying to attract attention or warn others.</p> <p>~ Less than 0.05%</p> <p>* Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50 percent.</p> <p>± Not applicable</p> <p>Source: <i>Trends and Patterns in Firearm Violence, 1993–2018</i>, Bureau of Justice Statistics, April 2022.</p>				

PROPERTY CRIME

According to the NCVS, looking at the total number of self-protective behaviors undertaken by victims of attempted or completed property crime for the *five-year period 2014 through 2018*, in only 0.3 percent of these instances had the intended victim in resistance to a criminal threatened or attacked with a firearm.¹²

12 For “property crime” the NCVS measures household burglary/trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and property theft. Since the survey information is obtained from a sample of households, it does not include property crimes affecting businesses or other commercial establishments. If such crimes are reported to law enforcement, they are included in the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The NCVS includes property crimes affecting victims and household members which were reported and not reported to the police. (See Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Property Crime,” <http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=32>.)

As detailed in the prior table, for the *five-year period 2014 through 2018*, the NCVS estimates that there were 72,557,900 victims of attempted or completed property crime. During this same *five-year period*, only 183,300 of the self-protective behaviors involved a firearm. Of this number, it is not known what type of firearm was used, whether it was fired or not, or whether the use of a gun would even be a legal response to the property crime. And as before, the number may also include off-duty law enforcement officers. In comparison, a 2017 study estimated that there are approximately 250,000 gun theft incidents *per year*, with about 380,000 guns stolen.¹³ Further, according to the NCVS, there were 470,840 firearm victimizations in *2018 alone*.¹⁴

COMPARING NCVS DATA TO CLAIMS THAT GUNS ARE USED IN SELF-DEFENSE 2.5 MILLION TIMES A YEAR

Using the NCVS numbers, for the *five-year period 2014 through 2018* the total number of self-protective behaviors involving a firearm by victims of attempted or completed violent crimes or property crimes totaled only 350,200. In comparison, the gun lobby claims that during the same *five-year period* guns were used 12.5 million times in self-defense (applying to the five-year period the gun lobby's oft-repeated claim, noted earlier, that firearms are used in self-defense 2.5 million times a year).

CONCLUSION

The reality of self-defense gun use bears no resemblance to the exaggerated claims of the gun lobby and firearms industry. Yet, Americans' mistaken belief in the efficacy of firearms for self-defense persists, to the degree that it is the most commonly cited reason for owning a gun in our nation.¹⁵ The myth of the self-defense handgun has been successfully promoted by the gun industry for decades. This includes ongoing campaigns by major manufacturers in addition to individual advertisements. Current examples include Smith & Wesson's "Protection Made Easy" campaign for its M&P (Military and Police) series of pistols and Springfield Armory's "It's a jungle out there" series of ads for its Hellcat pistol (samples of industry self-defense ads can be found in Appendix One).¹⁶ All this occurs against a backdrop of gun lobby rhetoric designed to not only complement, but catalyze the industry's marketing efforts. Despite the false promises made by the gun industry, the number of justifiable homicides that occur in our nation each year pale in comparison to criminal homicides, let alone gun suicides and fatal unintentional shootings. And contrary to the common stereotype promulgated by the gun lobby, those killed in justifiable homicide incidents don't always fit the expected profile of an attack by a stranger: in 40.5 percent of the justifiable homicides that occurred in 2019 the persons shot and killed were known to the shooter.

13 Hemenway, D., Azrael, D., & Miller, M., "Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of Gun theft victims," *Injury Epidemiology*, December 2017, <http://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-017-0109-8>.

14 Morgan, Rachel and Oudekerk, Barbara, "Criminal Victimization, 2018," Table 11, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 2019, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>.

15 For example, a 2017 Pew Research Center survey found that two thirds of gun owners said that self-defense was a "major reason" why they own a firearm. See "7 facts about guns in the U.S.," Pew Research Center, October 22, 2019 (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/10/22/facts-about-guns-in-united-states/>).

16 For additional examples of firearms industry self-defense gun advertisements, specifically ads targeting potential Black, Latino, and Asian-American buyers in response to the shrinking of the traditional white male market, see the January 2021 Violence Policy Center study *How the Firearms Industry and NRA Market Guns to Communities of Color* (<https://vpc.org/how-the-firearms-industry-and-nra-market-guns-to-communities-of-color/>) and the September 2021 Violence Policy Center study *How the Firearms Industry Markets Guns to Asian Americans* (<https://vpc.org/how-the-firearms-industry-markets-guns-to-asian-americans/>).

The devastation guns inflict on our nation each and every year is clear. In 2019, guns killed nearly 40,000 Americans with many more wounded, leaving an untold number of lives traumatized and communities shattered.¹⁷ In 2021, this number reached nearly 49,000.¹⁸ Unexamined claims of the efficacy and frequency of the self-defense use of firearms are the default rationale offered by the gun lobby and gun industry for this unceasing, bloody toll. The idea that firearms are frequently used in self-defense is the primary argument that the gun lobby and firearms industry use to expand the carrying of firearms into an ever-increasing number of public spaces and even to prevent the regulation of military-style semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. Yet this argument is hollow and the assertions false. When analyzing the most reliable data available, what is most striking is that in a nation of hundreds of millions of guns, how rarely firearms are used in self-defense..

TABLE ONE: FIREARM JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY STATE, 2015-2019

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					TOTAL
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Alabama	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alaska	1	1	2	1	1	6
Arizona	15	13	14	10	8	60
Arkansas	1	3	1	5	4	14
California	20	26	26	31	32	135
Colorado	1	1	4	2	0	8
Connecticut	0	0	0	2	0	2
Delaware	0	0	3	1	0	4
Florida	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Georgia	16	20	16	21	19	92
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	1	1	1	3
Illinois	7	4	5	3	12	31
Indiana	6	9	16	15	10	56
Iowa	0	0	5	0	0	5

17 In 2019, 39,707 Americans died from firearms. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

18 In 2021, 48,830 Americans died from firearms. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC WONDER database.

State	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Kansas	2	4	2	7	5	20
Kentucky	13	6	11	6	5	41
Louisiana	7	10	17	21	17	72
Maine	0	0	0	0	1	1
Maryland	7	0	4	6	2	19
Massachusetts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	7	6	15	11	18	57
Minnesota	3	3	0	3	0	9
Mississippi	0	0	2	0	2	4
Missouri	15	12	11	10	8	56
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	1	0	0	1
Nevada	6	8	7	17	17	55
New Hampshire	0	0	1	0	0	1
New Jersey	3	3	3	2	0	11
New Mexico	4	0	3	9	2	18
New York	5	4	1	2	3	15
North Carolina	4	3	9	5	16	37
North Dakota	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ohio	1	2	1	3	1	8
Oklahoma	11	7	6	3	3	30
Oregon	1	4	3	1	1	10
Pennsylvania	6	12	6	3	5	32
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	14	16	12	19	14	75
South Dakota	0	0	1	0	1	2

State	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Tennessee	18	21	22	20	27	108
Texas	61	46	57	38	55	257
Utah	1	1	0	2	3	7
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	2	12	4	9	9	36
Washington	1	5	1	2	0	9
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	6	12	4	9	14	45
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	265	274	298	300	316	1,453

TABLE TWO: CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Circumstance	Number of Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Criminal Homicide	9,027	97.1%	10,341	97.4%	10,380	97.2%	9,746	97.0%	9,610	96.8%	49,104	97.1%
Justifiable Homicide	265	2.9%	274	2.6%	298	2.8%	300	3.0%	316	3.2%	1,453	2.9%
Ratio of Criminal Homicide to Justifiable Homicide	34-1		37-1		35-1		32-1		30-1		34-1	
Total	9,292		10,615		10,678		10,046		9,926		50,557	

TABLE THREE: RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Relationship	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Acquaintance	51	19.2%	37	13.5%	43	14.4%	56	18.7%	53	16.8%	240	16.5%
Boyfriend	6	2.3%	7	2.6%	7	2.3%	9	3.0%	11	3.5%	40	2.8%
Brother	5	1.9%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	2	0.6%	13	0.9%
Common-Law Husband	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Employee	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Ex-Husband	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Ex-Wife	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Father	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	1.3%	5	1.6%	10	0.7%
Friend	7	2.6%	4	1.5%	7	2.3%	1	0.3%	6	1.9%	25	1.7%
Girlfriend	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%	4	1.3%	1	0.3%	7	0.5%
Homosexual Relationship	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Husband	1	0.4%	7	2.6%	8	2.7%	4	1.3%	6	1.9%	26	1.8%
In-Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.9%	4	0.3%
Neighbor	4	1.5%	3	1.1%	9	3.0%	8	2.7%	6	1.9%	30	2.1%
Other Family	3	1.1%	2	0.7%	4	1.3%	5	1.7%	8	2.5%	22	1.5%
Other Known	14	5.3%	25	9.1%	14	4.7%	17	5.7%	17	5.4%	87	6.0%
Sister	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	3	0.2%
Son	2	0.8%	2	0.7%	6	2.0%	5	1.7%	4	1.3%	19	1.3%
Stepfather	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
Stepson	3	1.1%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.9%	7	0.5%
Stranger	131	49.4%	131	47.8%	125	41.9%	130	43.3%	123	38.9%	640	44.0%
Wife	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	4	0.3%
Unknown Relationship	34	12.8%	49	17.9%	70	23.5%	49	16.3%	65	20.6%	267	18.4%
Total	265		274		298		300		316		1,453	

TABLE FOUR: SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Sex of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Male	247	93.2%	241	88.0%	256	85.9%	263	87.7%	275	87.0%	1,282	88.2%
Female	16	6.0%	30	10.9%	33	11.1%	32	10.7%	34	10.8%	145	10.0%
Unknown	2	0.8%	3	1.1%	9	3.0%	5	1.7%	7	2.2%	26	1.8
Total	265		274		298		300		316		1,453	

TABLE FIVE: SEX OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Male	259	97.7%	269	98.2%	293	98.3%	284	94.7%	306	96.8%	1,411	97.1%
Female	6	2.3%	5	1.8%	5	1.7%	16	5.3%	10	3.2%	42	2.9%
Total	265		274		298		300		316		1,453	

TABLE SIX: SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Sex of Shooter	Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Male	Male	241	97.6%	238	98.8%	252	98.4%	248	94.3%	270	98.2%	1,249	97.4%
	Female	6	2.4%	3	1.2%	4	1.6%	15	5.7%	5	1.8%	33	2.6%
Female	Male	16	100.0%	29	96.7%	32	97.0%	31	96.9%	29	85.3%	137	94.5%
	Female	0	0.0%	1	3.3%	1	3.0%	1	3.1%	5	14.7%	8	5.5%
Total		263		271		289		295		309		1,427	

TABLE SEVEN: RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Race of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
White	128	48.3%	123	44.9%	129	43.3%	142	47.3%	154	48.7%	676	46.5%
Black	126	47.5%	130	47.4%	146	49.0%	145	48.3%	150	47.5%	697	48.0%
Asian	5	1.9%	14	5.1%	10	3.4%	6	2.0%	2	0.6%	37	2.5%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2	0.8%	1	0.4%	3	1.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	7	0.5%
Unknown	4	1.5%	6	2.2%	10	3.4%	6	2.0%	10	3.2%	36	2.5%
Total	265		274		298		300		316		1,453	

TABLE EIGHT: RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
White	92	34.7%	98	35.8%	105	35.2%	118	39.3%	130	41.1%	543	37.4%
Black	170	64.2%	168	61.3%	189	63.4%	175	58.3%	182	57.6%	884	60.8%
Asian	1	0.4%	4	1.5%	2	0.7%	5	1.7%	3	0.9%	15	1.0%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2	0.8%	3	1.1%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	8	0.6%
Unknown	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	3	0.2%
Total	265		274		298		300		316		1,453	

TABLE NINE: RACE OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2015-2019

Race of Shooter	Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
White	White	81	63.3%	77	62.6%	87	67.4%	100	70.4%	108	70.1%	453	67.0%
	Black	46	35.9%	39	31.7%	39	30.2%	37	26.1%	44	28.6%	205	30.3%
	Asian	0	0.0%	3	2.4%	2	1.6%	4	2.8%	1	0.6%	10	1.5%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	0.8%	3	2.4%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.7%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	1	0.6%	3	0.4%
Black	White	10	7.9%	14	10.8%	9	6.2%	14	9.7%	16	10.7%	63	9.0%
	Black	116	92.1%	115	88.5%	137	93.8%	131	90.3%	133	88.7%	632	90.7%
	Asian	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	2	0.3%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asian	White	0	0.0%	5	35.7%	6	60.0%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	13	35.1%
	Black	5	100.0%	9	64.3%	4	40.0%	3	50.0%	1	50.0%	22	59.5%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	1	50.0%	2	5.4%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	White	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	3	42.9%
	Black	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	29.6%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	29.6%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total		261		268		288		294		306		1,417	

TABLE TEN: WEAPON USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2015-2019

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Firearm	265	80.8%	274	83.8%	298	85.4%	300	84.7%	316	86.1%	1,453	84.2%
Knife or Cutting Instrument	39	11.9%	32	9.8%	32	9.2%	29	8.2%	29	7.9%	161	9.3%
Blunt Object	5	1.5%	5	1.5%	2	0.6%	7	2.0%	1	0.3%	20	1.2%
Bodily Force	14	4.3%	14	4.3%	11	3.2%	12	3.4%	10	2.7%	61	3.5%
Strangulation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.1%
Asphyxiation	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Unknown	5	1.5%	1	0.3%	6	1.7%	5	1.4%	10	2.7%	27	1.6%
Total	328		327		349		354		367		1,725	

TABLE ELEVEN: TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2015-2019

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL	
Firearm, Type Not Stated	31	11.7%	56	20.4%	58	16.6%	65	21.7%	67	21.2%	277	19.1%
Handgun	214	80.8%	196	71.5%	225	64.5%	218	72.7%	228	72.2%	1,081	74.4%
Rifle	6	2.3%	11	4.0%	6	1.7%	5	1.7%	14	4.4%	42	2.9%
Shotgun	13	4.9%	10	3.6%	8	2.3%	10	3.3%	6	1.9%	47	3.2%
Other Gun	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	6	0.4%
Total	265		274		298		300		316		1,453	

APPENDIX ONE: EXAMPLES OF ADVERTISEMENTS TOUTING GUNS FOR SELF-DEFENSE

Mossberg 590 Shockwave advertisement. The image shows a pump-action shotgun (Mossberg 590 Shockwave) in the foreground, angled upwards. In the background, a person wearing a helmet and tactical gear is holding the same shotgun. The background is dark and textured. The bottom of the advertisement has a yellow background.

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**BAD GUYS
DON'T
RING
DOORBELLS.**

590
Three-barrel
34" Barrel
Clear receiver
Birds-Head Grip

SAFETY TIP
Always handle firearms responsibly. Use proper firearm safety techniques at all times. Read the manual for your firearm. Use common sense and use the firearm only in a safe manner.

SMALL PUMPS THAT MAKE A HUGE STATEMENT.
Lightweight and easy-handling, our Shockwave pump-actions are a great fit for home security duty or a fun day at the range. Available in a variety of finishes and configurations, in 12GA, 20GA, and 410 Bore.
Mossberg - Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more than a century.

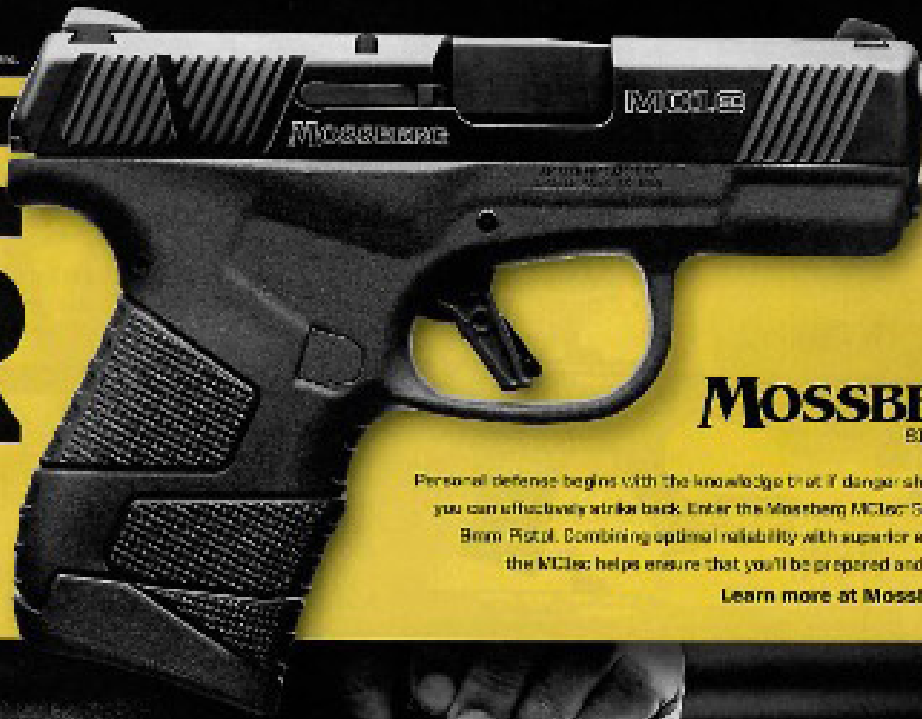
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MOSSBERG
SINCE 1819

Firearms News, February 2021

SEMI-AUTOMATIC
PEACE OF MIND

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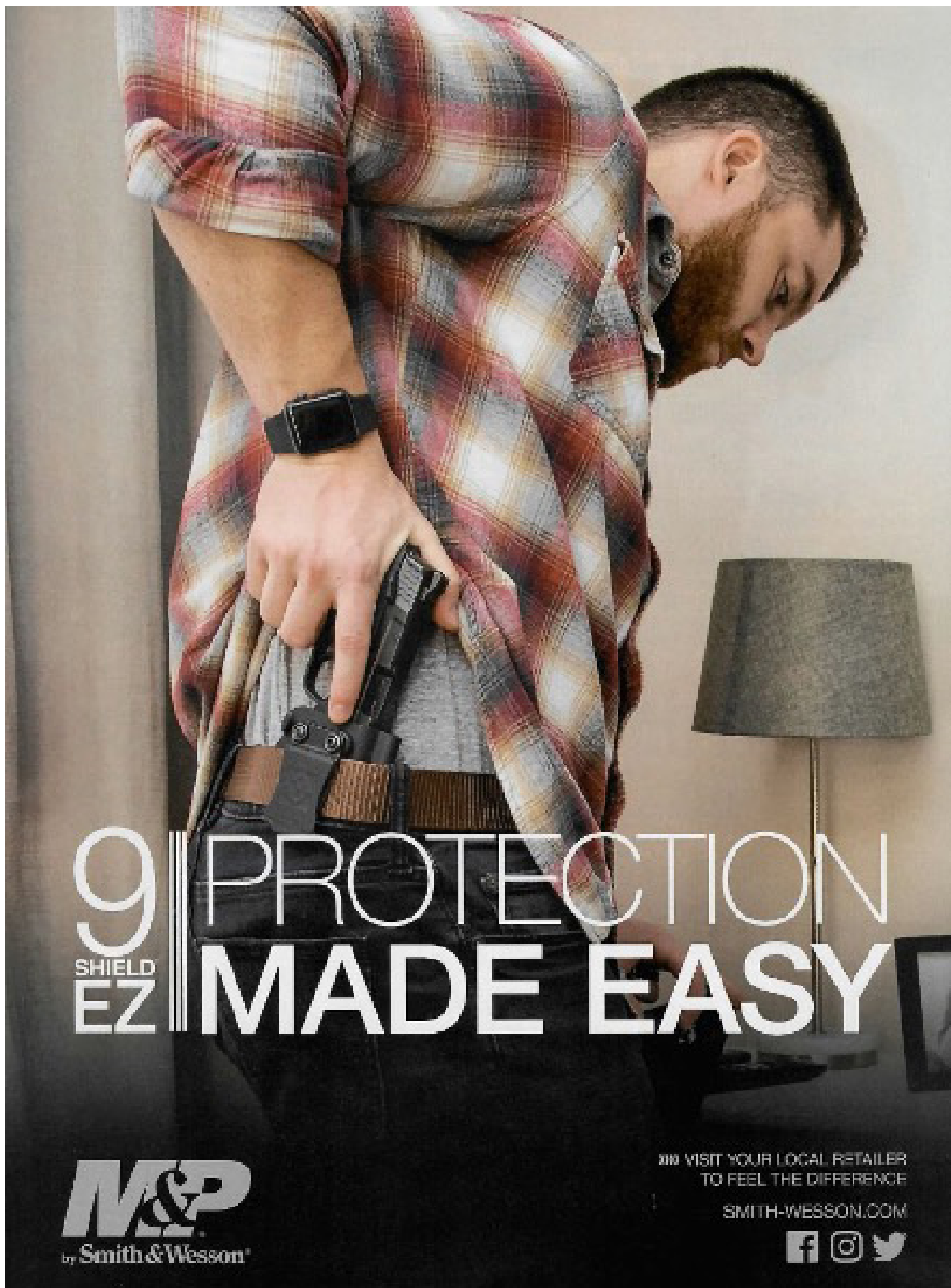
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MOSSBERG
M1916
9mm



 SAFETY TIP: Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

Guns & Ammo, February 2021



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American Rifleman, January 2021

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America's 1st Freedom, July 2020

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

HELLCAT™



HELLCAT OSP™
Optics Ready
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THE NEW 12-ROUND MICRO COMPACT

14 ROUNDS
W/ EXT. MAGAZINE

It's a jungle out there. Protect yourself with the all new 5mm HELLCAT™ from Springfield Armory™. Featuring a patented magazine with best in class capacity of 11+1 and 13+1 with included extended magazine, the HELLCAT is designed specifically for every day carry with Adaptive Grip Texture™ and high visibility sights. Available in standard and optics ready OSP™ configurations, the HELLCAT from Springfield Armory gives you The Capacity to Defend™.



2020 HANDGUN OF THE YEAR

American Rifleman, January 2021

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

HELLCAT™



HELLCAT GSP
00000 (Black)
Cable lock included

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THE NEW 12-ROUND MICRO COMPACT

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AMERICAN FIREARMS
2020 HANDGUN OF THE YEAR

HELLCATS.COM

America's 1st Freedom, July 2020

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

HELLCAT®



HELLCAT 9mm
100% PWB
12+1 (13) ROUNDS

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST CAPACITY MICRO COMPACT



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HELLCAT™

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST CAPACITY MICRO COMPACT

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HELLCAT9.COM

Guns & Ammo, December 2019



MI CASA NO ES SU CASA

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America's 1st Freedom, June/July 2020

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