

Comparison and Proposal for an Open Carry Society
September 1, 2009

Information that is displayed here has been compiled and analyzed from the well known and accurate website entitled <http://www.city-data.com> for the sole purpose of reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of an Open Carry policy for firearms in States that fully allow Open Carry to States where it's banned and everything in between.

The purpose of this report and analysis is to determine if the State of Oklahoma would be better off in adopting an Open Carry society or not. The types of crimes measured are across the board and not limited to gun related crimes only. Why? To show that while a crime like Arson isn't necessarily gun related, the fact that setting a house on fire may draw an armed citizenry to the perpetrator can be enough of a deterrent to lower the instances of such crimes, versus States where this condition wouldn't be possible.

The following data will be organized under self explanatory headers, where the crime index is measured against a National average. Then each bracket will have it's own average to show the overall effect of it's type of firearm policy. This data is fully objective and verifiable through <http://www.city-data.com> at anytime by anyone with Internet access.

Not every State is listed, such as Hawaii due to the fact that no crime data tables are available for those cities. Other missing states, such as California, aren't included because the laws aren't consistent in it's intent and enforcement. California isn't an Open Carry society in the cities, but is Open Carry allowed in *rural areas only*. However, most residents there don't know this and the city crime data doesn't accurately show the effects of a law where it's not practiced, as the local authorities don't want it practiced to the point of citing citizens with civil infractions or worse against those who do want to Open Carry their firearms for personal protection in a rural area. Such catch 22 societies don't meet the criteria for this analysis and therefor aren't included for the sake of consistency.

Most States however, are fully represented with the crime rates of their Capital Cities. If the data available has a year in brackets (ie 2005) that means the data for 2006 and 2007 wasn't available at the time of this writing, and may become available at a future date. Only one instance where the Capital City had no crime data where other cities of similar population did, and that is noted in the listing.

- Daniel A Roberts

Banned States: Overall Crime Index Per Capital | US Average: 320.9

District of Columbia	670.3
New York	538.7
South Carolina	625.2
Florida	592.5
Arkansas	909.2
Texas	467.1
Oklahoma	565.8
Maryland	595.8

Overall Crime Bracket Average: 620.6

Unlicensed Open Carry States:

Alaska	337.6
Montana	301.2
Idaho	261.3
Wyoming	276.1
Sough Dakota	265.5
Nevada	220.3 (City of Henderson, crime data on Capital not available.)
Arizona	546.1
New Mexico	496.8 (2005)
Kentucky	310.9 (2005)
Virgina	549.8
Vermont	254.7

Overall Crime Bracket Average: 347.3

Licensed Open Carry:

Washington State	316.5
Oregon	343.4
Nebraska	372.1
Kansas	497.4
Missouri	372.8
Wisconsin	293.9
Louisiana	658.3
Michigan	507.2
Ohio	668.1
Alabama	526.0
New Hampshire	180.4 (License required only for a loaded weapon in vehicle.)
Delaware	443.4
West Virginia	577.6
North Carolina	339.0

Overall Crime Bracket Average: 459.7

Open Carry But With Significant Restrictions
(Hard or Impossible to Open Carry Unless Privileged)

Utah	672.1
Minnesota	471.4
Iowa	537.5
Indiana	702.6
Tennessee	674.7
Mississippi	703.5
Georgia	862.6
Massachusetts	523.9
Connecticut	661.8
Rhode Island	414.0
New Jersey	590.4

Overall Crime Bracket Average: 619.5

Next we're going to chart the best stats and worst stats for each bracket and compare the results. That way we can see from one extreme to the other how the laws reflect the crime rates. The *best*, of course having the lowest crime rate for their bracket, and the *worst* having the highest crime rate. We'll also see the stretch of years from as far back as 1999 in most examples for each year to give an idea of what the crime trend has been like for a long period of time.

Afterwards, we'll look at Oklahoma City and see the unique differences and come to a logical conclusion based on the facts available.

Best and Worst of the Banned States Total Crime Data:

Best: Albany, New York

Crime in Albany by Year								
Type	1999	2000	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	12	15	6	8	10	8	5	3
per 100,000	12.7	15.3	6.3	8.5	10.6	8.5	5.3	3.2
Rapes	46	66	57	33	53	68	50	45
per 100,000	48.7	67.3	59.5	35.1	56.3	72.1	53.3	47.9
Robberies	376	396	432	383	394	439	388	376
per 100,000	398.2	404.0	450.8	407.7	418.7	465.2	413.8	400.4
Assaults	463	637	818	736	674	760	774	704
per 100,000	490.4	649.9	853.6	783.5	716.3	805.4	825.4	749.6
Burglaries	1,826	1,513	1,563	1,302	1,294	1,328	1,058	965
per 100,000	1934.0	1543.5	1630.9	1386.0	1375.1	1407.4	1128.3	1027.5
Thefts	4,324	4,012	3,860	3,274	3,825	3,186	3,521	2,998
per 100,000	4579.7	4093.0	4027.8	3485.3	4064.8	3376.4	3754.8	3192.2
Auto thefts	428	453	546	414	467	369	241	286
per 100,000	453.3	462.1	569.7	440.7	496.3	391.1	257.0	304.5
Arson	49	50	32	44	N/A	N/A	N/A	15
per 100,000	51.9	51.0	33.4	46.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	636.8	644.4	686.9	595.8	633.7	640.1	592.3	538.7

Worst: Little Rock, Arkansas

Crime in Little Rock by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	30	31	34	41	44	40	41	58	51
per 100,000	17.1	16.8	18.4	22.1	23.8	21.5	22.1	31.1	27.6
Rapes	119	132	92	116	129	118	116	151	123
per 100,000	67.7	71.5	49.9	62.5	69.7	63.5	62.4	80.9	66.6
Robberies	660	536	617	884	896	902	860	899	1,022
per 100,000	375.4	290.4	334.6	476.2	484.0	485.3	462.7	481.6	553.6
Assaults	1,036	1,188	1,130	1,370	1,789	1,988	2,276	2,216	1,791
per 100,000	589.2	643.7	612.8	738.0	966.4	1069.6	1224.6	1187.1	970.2
Burglaries	3,490	3,252	3,630	4,826	4,442	3,824	3,803	3,866	3,932
per 100,000	1984.8	1762.0	1968.4	2599.6	2399.6	2057.4	2046.2	2071.0	2130.1
Thefts	10,884	11,116	9,841	11,930	12,743	11,708	11,409	10,611	10,915
per 100,000	6190.0	6023.0	5336.4	6426.2	6883.8	6299.0	6138.7	5684.4	5913.0
Auto thefts	1,173	1,296	1,522	1,513	1,415	950	1,110	1,312	1,265
per 100,000	667.1	702.2	825.3	815.0	764.4	511.1	597.2	702.8	685.3
Arson	107	107	168	148	120	122	134	145	93
per 100,000	60.9	58.0	91.1	79.7	64.8	65.6	72.1	77.7	50.4
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	758.6	727.1	717.0	888.8	946.2	890.2	914.4	937.3	909.2

Best and Worst of the Unlicensed Open Carry States Total Crime Data:

Best: Henderson, Nevada

Crime in Henderson by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	0	8	9	4	10	7	9	5	9
per 100,000	0.0	4.4	4.9	2.1	4.7	3.1	3.9	2.1	3.6
Rapes	113	105	99	104	104	59	40	63	66
per 100,000	71.4	57.1	53.6	54.5	48.9	26.4	17.2	26.3	26.3
Robberies	181	193	195	200	103	128	133	237	227
per 100,000	114.4	105.0	105.5	104.8	48.5	57.2	57.2	98.8	90.3
Assaults	213	159	220	146	212	261	250	283	289
per 100,000	134.7	86.5	119.0	76.5	99.7	116.6	107.5	118.0	115.0
Burglaries	1,279	1,367	1,434	1,470	1,441	1,677	1,556	1,600	1,789
per 100,000	808.6	743.8	775.8	770.6	677.9	749.2	669.1	666.9	712.0
Thefts	2,945	2,949	2,863	2,705	2,884	3,423	3,645	3,614	3,215
per 100,000	1861.9	1604.6	1548.9	1418.0	1356.7	1529.3	1567.5	1506.4	1279.5
Auto thefts	778	806	908	1,152	1,364	1,376	1,453	1,460	1,289
per 100,000	491.9	438.6	491.2	603.9	641.7	614.8	624.8	608.6	513.0
Arson	29	30	31	56	46	82	98	88	65
per 100,000	18.3	16.3	16.8	29.4	21.6	36.6	42.1	36.7	25.9
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	288.9	254.6	263.6	253.5	236.1	230.6	219.7	234.0	220.3

Worst: Richmond, Virginia

Crime in Richmond by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	72	72	72	77	93	93	84	76	51
per 100,000	36.6	36.9	35.8	37.8	46.5	47.3	43.0	38.8	26.6
Rapes	111	110	117	118	98	101	80	76	53
per 100,000	56.5	56.3	58.3	57.9	49.0	51.4	41.0	38.8	27.6
Robberies	1,035	1,117	1,430	1,289	1,174	1,343	1,196	987	973
per 100,000	526.7	571.7	712.0	632.5	587.1	682.9	612.5	504.3	507.3
Assaults	1,026	1,045	1,127	1,122	1,109	1,163	1,025	902	760
per 100,000	522.1	534.9	561.1	550.5	554.6	591.4	524.9	460.9	396.3
Burglaries	2,880	2,829	2,943	2,966	2,816	2,731	2,529	2,284	1,857
per 100,000	1465.6	1448.0	1465.3	1455.4	1408.2	1388.6	1295.1	1167.0	968.3
Thefts	8,339	8,848	9,455	9,926	N/A	7,982	8,168	6,351	5,816
per 100,000	4243.7	4528.7	4707.7	4870.5	N/A	4058.6	4182.9	3245.1	3032.6
Auto thefts	2,101	2,689	3,063	2,504	2,711	2,376	2,201	1,457	1,293
per 100,000	1069.2	1376.3	1525.1	1228.7	1355.7	1208.1	1127.2	744.5	674.2
Arson	235	167	166	191	86	94	83	70	49
per 100,000	119.6	85.5	82.7	93.7	43.0	47.8	42.5	35.8	25.5
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	738.8	789.9	857.0	816.7	N/A	815.0	755.7	623.3	549.8

Best and Worst of the Licensed States Total Crime Data

Best: Concord, New Hampshire

Crime in Concord by Year				
Type	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	1	0	0	0
per 100,000	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rapes	19	18	13	16
per 100,000	45.0	42.2	30.6	37.5
Robberies	11	16	18	18
per 100,000	26.1	37.5	42.4	42.2
Assaults	43	35	31	53
per 100,000	101.9	82.0	72.9	124.3
Burglaries	196	160	171	166
per 100,000	464.4	374.8	402.4	389.3
Thefts	696	747	802	852
per 100,000	1649.0	1750.0	1887.2	1998.2
Auto thefts	44	42	43	30
per 100,000	104.2	98.4	101.2	70.4
Arson	14	14	18	16
per 100,000	33.2	32.8	42.4	37.5
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	175.8	165.5	163.5	180.4

Worst: Columbus, Ohio

Crime in Columbus by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	71	67	81	81	109	88	102	104	79
per 100,000	10.5	9.9	11.4	11.3	15.0	12.1	14.0	14.2	10.7
Rapes	638	578	602	673	615	574	518	586	661
per 100,000	94.7	85.4	84.5	94.0	84.7	78.6	70.9	80.1	89.8
Robberies	3,026	3,098	3,364	3,503	3,332	3,353	3,777	3,646	3,849
per 100,000	449.4	457.8	472.0	489.4	458.9	459.4	517.2	498.4	523.0
Assaults	2,020	2,255	2,349	2,242	2,159	1,910	1,714	1,612	1,680
per 100,000	300.0	333.2	329.6	313.2	297.3	261.7	234.7	220.4	228.3
Burglaries	14,090	13,600	15,740	16,066	14,650	14,695	14,604	14,816	14,370
per 100,000	2092.4	2009.8	2208.4	2244.7	2017.5	2013.3	1999.6	2025.3	1952.5
Thefts	34,625	36,316	38,835	36,063	33,343	33,844	31,724	30,882	30,893
per 100,000	5141.8	5366.6	5448.6	5038.6	4591.7	4636.7	4343.8	4221.5	4197.5
Auto thefts	6,822	7,180	7,576	7,633	8,345	8,397	7,813	6,400	6,228
per 100,000	1013.1	1061.0	1062.9	1066.5	1149.2	1150.4	1069.8	874.9	846.2
Arson	829	606	476	223	N/A	507	465	559	638
per 100,000	123.1	89.6	66.8	31.2	N/A	69.5	63.7	76.4	86.7
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	724.9	732.4	755.4	751.3	711.7	695.6	686.1	666.7	668.1

Best and Worst of the Open Carry But With Significant Restrictions Total Crime Data
 (Note: The restrictions are so severe that these states aren't considered truly open carry.)

Best: Providence, Rhode Island

Crime in Providence by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	26	30	23	23	18	17	20	11	11
per 100,000	17.2	18.9	13.1	13.0	10.2	9.6	11.3	6.3	6.3
Rapes	80	82	111	109	133	94	106	52	43
per 100,000	52.8	51.7	63.3	61.5	75.2	53.1	59.8	29.6	24.8
Robberies	463	552	595	550	515	412	424	379	370
per 100,000	305.8	348.1	339.3	310.5	291.0	232.6	239.0	216.0	213.0
Assaults	572	506	714	620	729	559	657	530	549
per 100,000	377.7	319.1	407.1	350.0	412.0	315.6	370.4	302.1	316.0
Burglaries	2,101	2,289	2,284	2,186	1,682	1,688	1,835	1,746	1,636
per 100,000	1387.4	1443.4	1302.4	1233.9	950.5	953.2	1034.4	995.1	941.8
Thefts	6,637	6,617	7,387	7,515	6,756	6,412	5,025	5,106	5,063
per 100,000	4382.9	4172.5	4212.1	4241.9	3817.8	3620.6	2832.7	2910.2	2914.5
Auto thefts	2,277	2,764	3,071	2,861	2,645	2,300	2,264	1,733	1,563
per 100,000	1503.7	1742.9	1751.1	1614.9	1494.7	1298.7	1276.3	987.7	899.7
Arson	357	365	344	324	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	26
per 100,000	235.8	230.2	196.2	182.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.7	15.0
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	636.6	654.8	659.8	623.6	589.0	510.0	504.0	426.6	414.0

Worst: Atlanta, Georgia

Crime in Atlanta by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	143	134	144	152	149	112	90	110	129
per 100,000	34.8	31.7	33.8	34.9	34.6	26.0	20.9	22.6	25.9
Rapes	321	278	367	276	281	267	223	171	148
per 100,000	78.0	65.8	86.0	63.4	65.2	62.1	51.8	35.2	29.8
Robberies	4,072	4,322	4,341	4,168	3,701	3,116	2,861	2,959	3,577
per 100,000	990.1	1023.5	1017.8	957.1	858.6	724.5	664.3	609.1	719.3
Assaults	6,690	6,849	5,956	5,373	4,360	4,427	4,039	4,308	4,221
per 100,000	1626.6	1622.0	1396.4	1233.8	1011.5	1029.4	937.8	886.8	848.8
Burglaries	8,571	9,256	8,731	8,554	8,065	6,726	6,648	7,401	8,859
per 100,000	2083.9	2192.0	2047.1	1964.2	1871.0	1563.9	1543.7	1523.5	1781.5
Thefts	28,352	27,278	25,721	23,706	22,931	20,703	18,993	18,952	20,353
per 100,000	6893.4	6459.9	6030.6	5443.5	5319.9	4813.9	4410.1	3901.2	4092.8
Auto thefts	7,328	7,351	6,935	7,222	7,235	5,756	5,756	5,878	7,020
per 100,000	1781.7	1740.8	1626.0	1658.3	1678.5	1338.4	1336.5	1210.0	1411.7
Arson	189	196	128	151	165	207	198	175	155
per 100,000	46.0	46.4	30.0	34.7	38.3	48.1	46.0	36.0	31.2
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	1318.5	1298.7	1235.6	1142.3	1059.2	934.1	861.5	793.0	862.6

Summary:

Measuring the statistics of crime and the overall effect of the States in America where you can openly carry a firearm with no restrictions on an American's Rights proves beyond the shadow of doubt that crime is indeed much lower in these areas across the board.

Even in the highest crime statistic for this bracket, Oklahoma is still 16 points higher in the crime statistics, with a whopping 335.5 points higher than the lowest crime rate in the Unrestricted Open Carry bracket of States.

New Hampshire is in the Licensed Open Carry bracket *only for the one exception* in its state law that one must have a license to transport a loaded firearm in their vehicle. Other than that, law abiding Americans in New Hampshire can strap on a firearm and conduct their business in public *without* a license.

In all of the Open Carry brackets, Law Enforcement may only *temporarily* confiscate the gun and run an ID check only to confirm the American is fully law abiding and has no felony convictions or any other disqualification that would separate them from a 'law abiding' status. Once their status is confirmed as legitimate, the firearm is instantly returned to the owner and no further interaction is required or pursued.

While Oklahoma is the second lowest in the crime rate for the Banned Open Carry bracket, it's still 244.9 points over the national average. Oklahoma is also 385.4 points *over the lowest crime rate* in our country's Capitals.

Little Rock, Arkansas is a prime example of what could happen in any city in Oklahoma in the Banned bracket. Crime was lower back in 1999 (although still more than twice the national average), bucking the trend compared to most other states, and *increased* over time to become one of the worst crime rates in the country.

Among *all the trends* that were noticed was the fact that crime was significantly high in 1999 in *most places*, and after 2001, crime traditionally went down in *most places*. How much the role of the terrorist attacks played on crime reduction is not fully known, but here is the trend for Oklahoma City.

Crime in Oklahoma City by Year									
Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murders	56	38	45	38	49	39	54	55	58
per 100,000	11.8	7.8	8.9	7.4	9.4	7.4	10.2	10.3	10.7
Rapes	398	388	405	445	365	374	358	327	326
per 100,000	84.0	79.4	79.8	86.8	70.0	71.2	67.3	61.0	60.1
Robberies	1,064	990	1,090	1,169	1,381	1,173	1,193	1,179	1,397
per 100,000	224.6	202.7	214.8	228.1	264.7	223.4	224.4	220.0	257.7
Assaults	2,553	2,535	2,643	2,562	2,847	2,735	2,933	2,740	2,831
per 100,000	538.9	519.0	520.8	500.0	545.7	520.9	551.6	511.2	522.1
Burglaries	8,038	7,280	8,405	8,314	8,300	8,315	8,925	9,304	8,110
per 100,000	1696.6	1490.5	1656.1	1622.4	1591.0	1583.5	1678.6	1735.8	1495.8
Thefts	28,414	33,012	29,771	33,686	35,367	33,444	28,635	20,169	19,228
per 100,000	5997.4	6758.8	5866.0	6573.5	6779.4	6369.1	5385.7	3762.8	3546.3
Auto thefts	3,630	3,602	3,516	3,715	3,928	3,835	4,585	4,819	4,611
per 100,000	766.2	737.5	692.8	725.0	753.0	730.3	862.3	899.0	850.4
Arson	235	216	222	228	208	193	180	201	173
per 100,000	49.6	44.2	43.7	44.5	39.9	36.8	33.9	37.5	31.9
City-data.com crime index (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	685.9	677.4	656.1	687.2	706.1	667.1	653.7	581.5	565.8

The trend for Oklahoma actually saw an *increase* in crime after 2001 which was against the national norm, then a decline in 2005 and afterwards. This data is not promising, having a ban on an Open Carry society has not had a true, positive outcome for Oklahoma City.

The benefits from an Open Carry society without restrictions or overly thick regulations clearly outweighs the down sides. Every single State and their Capital that has an Open Carry society has a lower crime rate than Oklahoma City.

How Open Carry works is more of a deterrent than anything else. Criminals who want to commit a crime *hide* their weapons until they want to use them, *concealing* the gun up to the point where they finally break the law and endanger lives. Law Abiding citizens should not have to hide their protection with a Concealed Weapons Permit. It puts them on the same level with the criminals to a degree, in which their defenses aren't visible until they are forced to react to save their life or the life of another.

With weapons *visible* on law abiding citizens, it's known to the criminals whom can defend themselves with lethal force when their lives and/or property are physically threatened. An adjusted and adopted society to Open Carry would make crime much more difficult. Any petty criminal who walks into a gas station looking to rob it with his concealed handgun sees the cashier is armed, the guy delivering the bread is armed, the store stock guy is armed, the manager who is reviewing the delivery chart is armed, and 2 out of 3 customers waiting in line are armed, will know that he has little to no chance of surviving a robbery attempt. The crime is *deterred* pretty much anywhere he goes in a State with such laws. Criminals are at heart cowards and only strike when they are desperate, but mostly when they feel the odds are clearly in their favor. By removing the guess work of their odds, we also remove enough crimes of opportunity to lower the crime statistics to below the national average in most of these States.

With a reduction in crime due to an Open Carry society, local police departments will find enforcement a lot easier to deal with. It's a common reaction to have law enforcement not liking the idea of citizens openly walking around visibly armed, and they may feel that it may encourage vigilante style shootings or unwanted civilian help during a crime in progress. If this was to be the case, the States with an unrestricted Open Carry society would be infused with issues of this nature which would result in their legislature taking steps to change the law for the sake of public safety. However, this is not the case. Those Americans seriously take their responsibility for practicing their Rights in a safe, defensive manner. Law enforcement in these states aren't imbued with hordes of vigilantes. What they are imbued with consists of neighborhoods with crime rates well below the national average, something not seen in Oklahoma.

The Open Carry but with Significant Restrictions bracket goes to show what happens when a Right is so regulated and controlled that it may as well *not exist*. The average for that bracket isn't much different than the bracket on the states where Open Carry is banned. Crime is uniformly high in most of those States with only a few exceptions, but with every single State still well above the national average for crime.

Conclusion: After reviewing the evidence and effects of an Unlicensed Open Carry society compared to all others, including Licensed Open Carry which is the second best policy and may seem to make better sense, but somehow fails the standards for being the most effective in crime deterrent, draws the inescapable conclusion that Oklahoma would be *better served* and *well rewarded* by abandoning it's current restrictive regulations and joining in the *better ranks of an armed and trusted citizenry*.