

Gun Violence and Safety

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Gun safety has been an issue in the U.S, and many other countries for some time now. Many people feel that the age restriction to purchase firearms should be raised; you have to be at the age of 21 to purchase alcohol, so shouldn't it be the same (or higher) for guns and firearms? You can harm more people with guns than with alcohol, depending on which way you look at it. The fact that you can purchase a gun at 18 but not alcohol is a little absurd. "You have to be able to purchase a gun, and you have to be 21 to own a handgun. But you're eligible for military service at the age of 18. I think it's a bit crazy to say that someone at the age of 18 can go fight for their country carrying a gun, but can't own a gun." Says Austin Clarridge, Marysville resident.

Mckenna Fonner, 13, has a different point of view on the matter. "We hear of all these school shootings, but personally, I don't think it's the guns that are doing these things, it's the people that are controlling the guns. The permission of the usage should be at 18 or older 21 or older, because we should not be able to buy guns in high school."

Obviously there are different arguments and points on this subject. People that hunt will most likely disagree with raising the age limit, but teen hunters also bring up a good point. "No, I feel like the age limit is fine how it is, but people that misuse guns should be punished more

harshly than they are. I feel that the majority of people are responsible.” Says an eighth grader, Tayler Andrews.

Gun violence has surged in the past few years. The total number of gun related incidents just this year is 53,218 incidents. The total number of deaths has been (so far) 13,619. Would this number be different if the age restriction was higher? Or would it go up?

Some people think you could find ways to be more responsible with your guns, and that would help. “If you are under the age of 18, you should a take hunter safety course- and it never hurts for adults. And if you are new to firearms, always reading the current rules and regulations, it’s a great idea for anyone.” Andrews says.

“Personally, I’ve been through hunter safety course, so I know about safety with usage of bows and guns, I think you should talk to somebody that has more experience than you and get their opinions and then practice it.” Says Fonner.

Gun safety should be practiced, whether or not the age limit goes up. Some of the teens recommend taking hunting safety courses, as well as adults. We can still do the best we can to practice responsible gun usage.