

# Campus Carry: Safety Perceptions and Implications for At-Risk Groups

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## OBJECTIVES

- ❖ This systematic review examined literature on perceived safety surrounding concealed weapon carry (CC) on college and university campuses.
- ❖ Our main objective was to identify how students, faculty, and campus personnel experienced campus safety when considering the legalization of CC in several states.

## INCLUSION & EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- ❖ Inclusion criteria were: (a) empirical studies using qualitative and quantitative methods, (b) participants were students, faculty, and/or campus personnel, and (c) legal campus gun carry.
- ❖ Articles were excluded if they focused on illegal CC, campus shootings, armed guards, or at educational institutions other than colleges (such as high schools).

## METHOD: DATABASES

- ❖ PsycArticles
- ❖ PsycExtra
- ❖ PsycInfo
- ❖ Education Database
- ❖ Psychology Database
- ❖ PTSD Pubs



## METHOD: Procedure

- ❖ Backward and forward search procedures were used with keywords such as “campus carry”, “college campus carry”, “campus gun carry”, and “safety”.
- ❖ Risk of bias was minimized by keeping detailed search records, documenting search results, and cross-comparison of reference sections to ensure no relevant literature was overlooked.
- ❖ Microsoft Excel was used to document and organize the process.
- ❖ A final list was compiled where all literature was reviewed to ensure inclusion and exclusion criteria were met.

## SELECTED STUDIES

- ❖ 19 studies met the review criteria.
- ❖ Participant totals for each study ranged between 12 and 11,390.
- ❖ Of the 19 studies, 13 studies used quantitative methods, five used qualitative methods, and one used mixed methods. Two studies collected data longitudinally.
- ❖ The quantitative studies used online or remote data collection methods, and the qualitative and mixed method studies used structured interviews with open-ended response formats.
- ❖ Most of the data came from universities and colleges in Texas, though some researchers used nationally representative samples or targeted colleges and universities in specific regions of the country.

## RESULTS

- ❖ The main outcomes from the reviewed studies showed that most students, faculty, campus security, and other academic staff believed CC would negatively impact campus safety.
- ❖ In the five qualitative studies, themes on fear of increased victimization, increased campus violence, and concerns about power differentials were expressed by students, faculty, and campus personnel (Drew, 2017; Hernandez, 2021; Lehtonen & Seppala, 2021; Somers et al., 2017; Somers et al., 2020).
- ❖ Among college and university presidents, most participants felt that campus safety would be at risk (Price et al., 2014; Price et al., 2016).
- ❖ Concerns about safety for marginalized groups—such as women, LGBTQIA+ community members, and people of color—were raised due to histories of oppression and victimization perpetrated by armed people in positions of power (Hernandez, 2021; Price et al., 2016; Somers et al., 2017; Somers et al., 2020).
- ❖ Faculty members expressed concern about holding office hours alone, heated class discussions, and disgruntlement over grading or academic procedures due to students being armed on campus (Dahl et al., 2016; Drew, 2017; Hernandez, 2021; Somers et al., 2017; Somers et al., 2020; Thompson et al., 2013).

## CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- ❖ This review suggests that campus communities are concerned about concealed carry on their campuses.
- ❖ Given that many states have allowed CC, the implications for campus safety, particularly among marginalized communities, cannot be overlooked.



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