

# STALK VICTIMS

BY RICHARD LUTZ

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## ENSURE STALK VICTIMS ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED

Each year dozens of Australian women are murdered and thousands raped despite anti-stalking laws, restraining orders and women's shelters; thus much more needs to be done to help protect women.

The rich can afford to live in high security fortresses and hire armed guards to protect themselves and their property, while government ministers appoint themselves armed guards (at taxpayer's expense)

when they feel threatened; options not available to ordinary stalk victims.

It is important to help victims help themselves, rather than have them become dependant on people who may not be around when needed most.

It is not just themselves these victims have to worry about, as there have been many instances of stalkers killing children.

These women have a right to self-defence and a legal duty to protect people under their care, but Australian governments have made it an offence for stalk victims to carry a stun gun for defensive use, much less a pistol.

Victims like Colleen and Laura Irwin were stabbed to death by a large male stalker (convicted rapist) who was much stronger than them.



Colleen and Laura Irwin.

Research by Prof. John R. Lott Jr. (*More Guns, Less Crime*) found that handgun carry laws reduced the violent crime rate of states that adopted them.

It is not economically feasible to provide every vulnerable person who claims to be a stalk victim with a state funded bodyguard, so all such people (or a vulnerable carer) should be allowed to guard themselves and their loved ones with a restricted defensive weapon if they pass a security guard type course and the relevant weapon training modules (issued with a non-occupational security guard licence).

More information about stalking can be found on the Stalk Victims Information Service website ([www.stalkvictims.info](http://www.stalkvictims.info)).

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Vulnerable stalk victims such as women are at high risk of being raped and murdered.
- Gun defence is by far the safest and most effective form of last resort defence against illegally armed offenders, which is why police officers and security guards use firearms.

### RECOMMENDATION

Let competent law-abiding adults protect themselves and dependants under their care with the same defensive weapons that professional security guards use, if they successfully complete a security guard type course and the relevant weapon training modules.

### PRIMARY SOURCES

*More Guns, Less Crime*, John R. Lott Jr., University of Chicago Press, 1998.

*Armed: New Perspectives on Gun Control*, Gary Kleck & Don B. Kates Jr., Prometheus Books, 2001.

### Attack and Injury Rates in Assault and Robbery Incidents

method of protection	attacked	injured
firearm	23.2%	12.1%
non-violent resistance	40.0%	25.5%
no defence	39.9%	27.3%
knife	46.4%	29.5%
tried to get help or frighten offender	55.2%	40.1%
physical force	82.8%	52.1%

Source: *Point Blank*, Gary Kleck, 1991.

## QUASI-EXPERIMENT

Deterrence effects are inherently elusive and difficult to quantify. If a crime never occurred how can you definitively prove that it was deterred by one or more anti-crime measures?

To see if gun ownership deterred violent crime Prof. Gary Kleck analysed what criminologists such as himself call "natural quasi-experiments." One occurred in the late 1960s in Orlando, Florida.

Women, frightened by a series of brutal assaults, began to buy firearms in record numbers. Fearful this might lead to accidents the local newspaper co-sponsored gun training classes.

As it turned out none of the women who undertook training needed to use their gun as the publicity generated by the program caused a virtual cessation of rape in Orlando. Rape dropped 88.2%.

After the program year rape began to increase, but much less than elsewhere. Five years later the rape rate was still 13% below the level before the program (the national rate had increased 64%).

It is likely many rapists continued to offend, but research indicates they commit fewer rapes before being arrested if they have to travel long distances or take extra care in selecting targets for fear of armed victims or bystanders.

