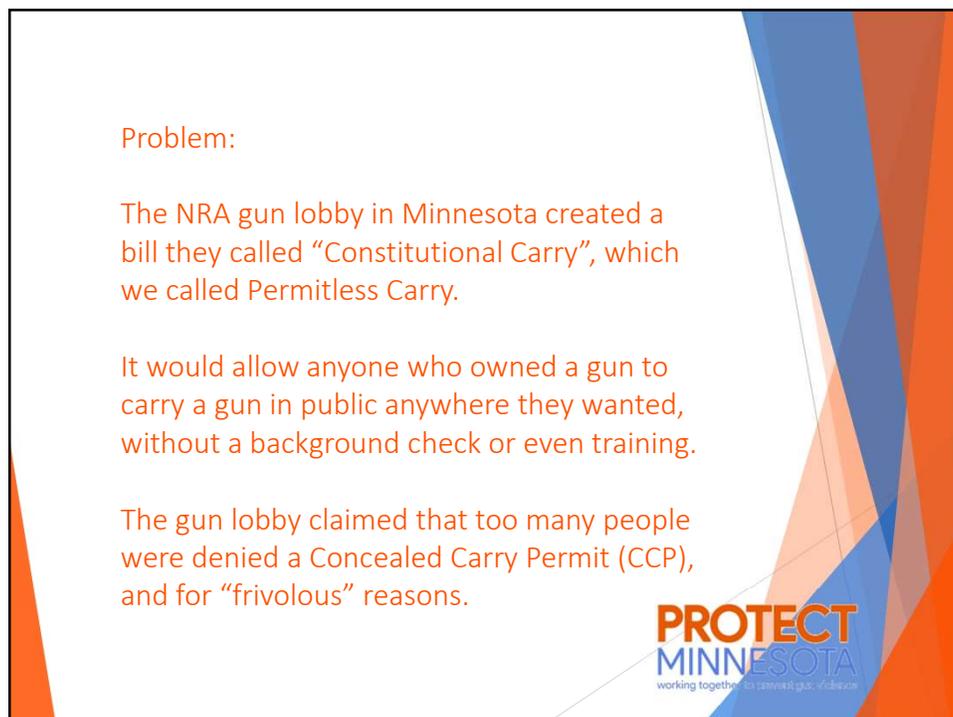




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**Finding Data and
Telling Its Story –
Concealed Weapons Permits**

Presented by Jeffrey Gigler, Director of Research



Problem:

The NRA gun lobby in Minnesota created a bill they called “Constitutional Carry”, which we called Permitless Carry.

It would allow anyone who owned a gun to carry a gun in public anywhere they wanted, without a background check or even training.

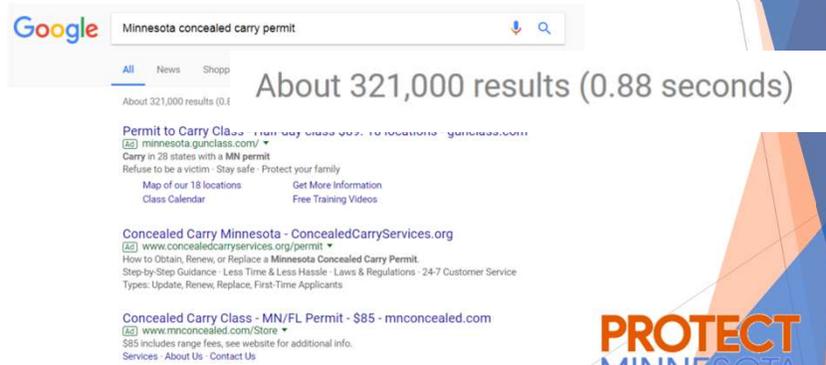
The gun lobby claimed that too many people were denied a Concealed Carry Permit (CCP), and for “frivolous” reasons.



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We started with Google searches, of course – what kind of information was available on Concealed Carry Permits (CCP) in Minnesota?

Too much noise-to-signal ratio.....



Luckily, one of the links on the first page of the Google search led us to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension – the BCA



The BCA produced a yearly report called the "Permit To Carry Report"



When we first opened the first report, our eyes glazed over.

408 pages. 334 pages of CCP status numbers by zip code and county. Gripping stuff. Pure, unrefined, unpersuasive data.

Permit To Carry Valid Permits Report

From 12/01/2010 to 12/31/2015

Total Valid Permits: 207045*

Report of valid permits for applications received from 12/01/2010 to 12/31/2015 and valid 12/31/2015 for all the counties.

*Due to a database coding error which existed in the BCA's Permit Tracking System, the 1 of Total Valid Permits for some past years may be over-reported. This error has been add 2015 Total Valid Permits number is correct. This issue does not affect the data in the syst

County	Count
Aitkin	1015
Anoka	15744
Becker	1729
Beltrami	1607
Benton	2143
Big Stone	206
Blue Earth	1977
Brown	750
Carlton	1742
Carver	3725



The numbers don't lie, and they already revealed that...

The NRA Gun Lobby was lying.

Only 0.9%...less than one percent....of Concealed Carry Permits were denied/suspended/revoked/cancelled



Good researchers keep digging



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We could show the NRA Gun Lobby was not telling the truth that “too many” people were being denied a Concealed Carry Permit....

Could we also show their claim that people were being denied for “frivolous” reasons?

That it would be perfectly safe to let anyone with a gun carry it anywhere they wanted to in Minnesota?

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Then we found (for our Quest)

The Holy Grail.....

**Permit Tracking System
Denials Explanation Report**
From 01/01/2015 to 12/31/2015

The number of Denials occurring from 01/01/2015 to 12/31/2015 based on the grounds that the applicant or permit holder is a Danger to Self or Public [624.714, Subd. 6 (a) (3)], the factual basis for each denial, and the result of any appeal.

Denials Explanation Report



Background on the BCA Permit To Carry Report

When the Minnesota Legislature changed the laws in 2003 from a “may” issue a concealed carry permit to a “shall” issue, a section of the law was written into the bill to REQUIRE county Sheriffs to collect data on permit applications and results, and submit the data to the Department of Public Safety.



Minnesota State Law 624.714 subd 20 requires
The following information be collected and reported

- (1) the number of permits applied for, issued, suspended, revoked, and denied, further categorized by the age, sex, and zip code of the applicant or permit holder, since the previous submission, and in total;
- (2) the number of permits currently valid;
- (3) the specific reasons for each suspension, revocation, and denial and the number of reversed, canceled, or corrected actions;
- (4) without expressly identifying an applicant, the number of denials or revocations based on the grounds under subdivision 6, paragraph (a), clause (3), the factual basis for each denial or revocation, and the result of an appeal, if any, including the court's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order;
- (5) the number of convictions and types of crimes committed since the previous submission, and in total, by individuals with permits including data as to whether a firearm lawfully carried solely by virtue of a permit was actually used in furtherance of the crime;



There are only seven states in the US which collect this amount of data on concealed weapons permits (some very surprising):

- Hawaii
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Wisconsin

Four states require no permit whatsoever to Carry a concealed gun in public



The 2015 BCA Permit to Carry report had 15 pages of specific reasons why permit applicants were denied concealed weapon permits.

The top five reasons:

Suicidal threats towards self and/or others

Criminal Assault

Violence against Law Enforcement Officers

Domestic Abuse

Firearm Violations



The data was telling us a story that only a few people were being denied a Concealed Carry Permit.....

....and those that WERE being denied, had shown good reason for being denied a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public.

We needed more data to support this.

We decided to process ten years of BCA reports, going back to 2006 through to 2016



Problems:

Ten years of BCA reporting was over 4,000 pages of material

All of the reports were published as PDF's, and none of the data was available in spreadsheet format

BCA was unable to provide the information in other formats

Just one employee to do the research and analysis

Denial reasons needed to be categorized for every data point



Solutions:

Use volunteers for data conversion and entry

Make a steady effort to review all the reports, one at a time

Use keyword searches to and statute numbers to help categorize the denial reasons



Results:

An Excel spreadsheet with 2,300 rows of permit denial records, with permit denial reasons categorized in six different areas.

In that ten-year time period (2006-2016) 4,300 people were actually denied permits. The difference between the numbers is due to the fact that some reasons provided by County Sheriffs were missing data to make a judgement call...but by no means invalidated the denial decision.



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Over the 10-year period, 2006-2016

Total permit to carry applications in the State of Minnesota — 364,171

Total Approved — 359,830 (98.8%)

Total Denied, Suspended, Revoked, Voided, or Cancelled — 4,341 (1.2%)

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Analysis of Reasons for Denials

Of the total number of denials in this time period (4,341), Sheriff departments provided the BCA with specific reasons for 2,323.

Those reasons break down into the following categories:

<u>Denial Reason</u>	<u>% of total</u>
Suicide/Suicidal Threats	32.82%
Criminal Assault	24.32%
Conflict with Law Enforcement	14.45%
Firearms Violations	11.42%
Domestic Abuse	10.89%
Terroristic Threats	2.12%
Predatory/Stalking/Sex Crimes	2.02%
Child Abuse	1.96%



Now we had data. Data that told a story in numbers and percentages.

We also had data that told stories....in human terms. In words and descriptions.

We had stories that invoked empathy and understanding: the reasons for denials in the Sheriffs' own words.



Adjudicated of stalking, convicted of animal torture resulting in death, convicted of misdemeanor assault

Numerous suicide threats, required to an evaluation facility under court order for chemical dependence

14 plus domestic related charges to residence. Three arrests for domestic assault,

Documented eight year history of drinking (heavy) and getting into fights and/or disputes that either became violent or came close to violence

4 arrests for Domestic Assault. Two reduced to domestic related DOC and two dismissed. Arrests for Wrongfully Obtaining Assistance - Theft (dismissed), Misdemeanor conviction for Violation of an Order for Protection, and 152 Violation (dismissed).

Denied for Danger to Self or Others and Federal Title 18 - Crime of Domestic Violence.



3 counts felony Burglary, 5th degree Assault and Criminal Damage to Property. Convicted of Misd. 5th Degree Assault and Criminal Damage to Property. Arrested for GM Assault. Arrested for Domestic Assault.

is a Registered Predatory Offender having been convicted in 2007. He is required to register as a Predatory Offender until 2018.

MADE THREATS TO KILL SELF, FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY RESPONDING POLICE OFFICERS.

Incidents in 2009 and 2011 where statements were made about killing along with suicidal statements. Incident in 2013 where was involved in a physical domestic situation.

THREATENED TO COMMIT SUICIDE WITH A SHOTGUN



Who are we going to tell the story to?

Most people are shocked when they read the denial reasons.

But the people we wanted to convince were Minnesota Legislators.

We needed to bring the data and stories to where they lived.

We further processed the data points and denial reasons from counties into Legislative districts



Uses of the Permit Denial Data

On one of our Lobby Days at the Minnesota Capitol, we had Protect Minnesota deliver each Minnesota Senator and Representative a copy of the summary report and lists of all concealed carry permit denials for their districts.



The Result:

“Constitutional Carry”, or
permitless carry...

....never even made it out of
Legislative committee. It
was never voted on.

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After reviewing the Carry Permit Report analysis by
Protect Minnesota, one of the Public Safety
Committee members asked the author of the
Constitutional Carry bill:

“What problem does this bill try to solve?”

The Representative could not answer that question.



More questions left to ask:

Carry permit denial data is available by age, sex, and zip code – we want to provide Minnesota Legislators with lists of denial reasons right down to the town they are from and they live in.

We want to compare the number of permits issued by county and the historical violent crime rate and property crime rate. The NRA gun lobby claims that more guns equals less crime. We would like to see what the data says.

Because they have been wrong before.



Even the absence of data tells a story

It is required by law that all Minnesota county Sheriffs provide concealed carry permit application data to the Department of Public Safety.

There are 12 counties, that in TEN YEARS, do not have any data. What does THAT mean? No one applied? No one is denied a permit to carry?



Find the data.

Listen to the story that the data is telling you.

Then go out and tell that story to the people you think will listen to you

and be moved by the story you tell.



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The Analysis of MN BCA Permit To Carry Reports 2006-2016 can be found on the Protect Minnesota website:

<https://protectmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Permit-Denial-Handouts-Cover-page.pdf>

