

Global Gun Deaths

Nobody asked but ...

Recently the Appeal to Authority Logic Fallacy has been foisted off on readers of publications, on the Web and off. Google “global gun deaths.” This looks like an annual proclamation — global gun deaths at 250,000. The latest flurry of stories stem from a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). Through some sleight of mind, the compilers leave out direct explication of war-related deaths.

As flawed as the study itself is (read the methodology), its focus is a distraction as well. Do a Google search for the latest global traffic fatalities — 5 times greater. Do another for worldwide death by heart disease — over 70 times greater; by alcohol — 13 times greater; and by cancer — more than 35 times greater. Shall we ban vehicles, internal organs, booze, and carcinogens?

There is a reason for the proverbial ranking of statistics as worse than damned lies. They are, by definition, cherry-picked to make a case for a pre-conceived notion.

There are no gunshot death statistics, of any real use. If there are X number of gunshot deaths, then there are X number of heartbreaking and tragic stories. X is too big whatever it is.

That’s the perspective we need. And while you are at it, check out the Wikipedia article, “Modern wars with greater than 25,000 deaths”

Our problem is not guns, it is people believing they should kill one another.

— Kilgore Forelle