

My name is Yacov Margolese. I am a veteran, medically retired federal LEO and a current MD State certified Firearms instructor. I oppose SB-1 for its clear attempt to get around the Bruen decision of the US Supreme court, but even more so, because it does nothing but endanger the lives of Marylanders. The legislature has not provided any data or research that would support SB1. So, let's look at some actual data.

On July 13, 2021 William English, PHD of Georgetown University submitted A summary of the findings of a national survey of firearms ownership and use conducted between February 17th and March 23rd, 2021 by the professional survey firm Centiment. The Survey found that a full 32% of the US population of adults (more than 81million Americans) own firearms. Here is a bullet point list of some of the findings:

- 31.1% of gun owners, or approximately 25.3 million adult Americans, have used a gun in self-defense.
- In most cases (81.9%), the gun is not fired.
- There are approximately 1.67 million defensive uses of firearms per year.
- The majority of defensive gun uses take place outside of the home (74.8%), and many (51.2%) involve more than one assailant.
- Handguns are the firearm most commonly used in defensive incidents (65.9%), followed by shotguns (21.0%) and rifles (13.1%).
- Firearms owners were asked detailed questions regarding each defensive incident they reported.
- Approximately a quarter (25.2%) of defensive incidents took place within the gun owner's home, and approximately half (53.9%) occurred outside their home but on their property.
- About one out of ten (9.1%) of defensive incidents took place in a place of business.
- The estimate is inherently conservative since it assumes that gun owners possessed firearms, or had access to firearms, from the age of 18.

Given the above data it's pretty clear that conceal carry is an effective and common deterrent against crime. SB1 seeks to severely restrict the ability to carry in public and therefore the ability to protect ourselves. I teach new students regularly for their W&CP and the carry community in MD are some of the most educated, well trained, and responsible gun owners in the country. We are not the threat. Just look at the data. I have included a copy of the research below.

