
FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by cephran - 2008/02/08 13:00

This thread discusses the Content article: FACTS TO PONDER

Brilliant!

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by ekparsons - 2008/02/08 20:28

Can you spot the logical fallacy in this argument?

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by punruh - 2008/02/08 21:28

Guess I picked the wrong profession! Any ideas for a midlife career change?

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by rcstowell - 2008/02/09 02:00

A good starting point would be to read "Freakonomics" by Levitt and Dubner.

Aren't statistics wonderful, that they can be used to support just about any theory.....no matter how farcical, or be twisted to promote any agenda.

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by atvJim - 2008/02/09 05:04

The gun facts stated have been floating around the net since....well....there has been a net. The sample below is from a collection of stats which I have always found revealing and more damning to anti-gunners.

* Armed citizens kill more crooks than do the police. Citizens shoot and kill at least twice as many criminals as police do every year (1,527 to 606).6 And readers of Newsweek learned that "only 2 percent of civilian shootings involved an innocent person mistakenly identified as a criminal. The 'error rate' for the police, however, was 11 percent, more than five times as high."

From....<http://www.gunowners.org/sk0802.htm>
Just For Skeptics: Fact Sheet: Guns Save Lives

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by vanntk3 - 2008/02/09 16:26

Please explain the logical fallacy to us.

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by ella - 2008/02/09 17:12

Out of concern for the public at large, we have withheld the statistics on Lawyers for fear the shock would cause people to panic and seek medical attention.

Ain't that the truth.

We don't need folks to go to the hospitals there are killer germs in those places....people die like flies in hospitals.

:dry:

DOWN WITH THE FDA while we're at it.:P

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by chay - 2008/02/10 16:16

Where's the stat on how many people have been killed by Left wing legislation, like withdrawal from Viet Nam, banning of DDT, and so on. I know they're in the TTP archives somewhere. Didn't Pol Pot kill around 2 million? That's John Kerry's real legacy.

Now I see ads to send nets to Africa to keep people from dying from Malaria. Nets? How many millions have environmentalists killed by banning some pesticides? So now the best solution we are left with are nets. Nets? That's the environmentalists legacy.

How many people have died in the name of Clintopia?

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by ekparsons - 2008/02/12 05:58

Essentially this is a modern version of a joke attributed to Mark Twain, that since most people died in bed rather than on trains, beds should be banned.

It is a false analogy. The crux is that the risks can not be compared 1 to 1.

A doctor's accident is called malpractice, which is a legal definition and is subject to interpretation by lawyers. There is an enormous financial incentive to classify an unsuccessful procedure as malpractice.

Doctor's in different specialties have different risks. OB/GYNs have greater risks than dermatologists.

Each doctor would have to kill one person about every 6 years for the math to work.

Doctors see more than one patient every 6 years who then dies from malpractice. Most people in the US see a doctor during that period at least once. $300,000,000 \text{ people} / 6 = 50,000,000$ a year who visit a doctor.

$50,000,000 / 120,000 =$ or 1 in 417, not lottery odds but not so great either. *But*

Doctors treat people who are sick, very few of the 120,000 die during a routine checkup.

Most who die from the alleged malpractice are already on death's door, so there is a selection bias.

Physicians add to the average lifespan of the population more than they subtract from it. This is partly through early detection, better treatment modalities and greater understanding of the medical research.

Most gun deaths are not accidents, many of the accidents are suicides.

80,000,000 guns does not translate into 80,000,000 gun owners.

Gun accidents tend to cluster in "risk groups", those with prior criminal records/drug problems/etc and are not uniform in their distribution.

Therefore, if you are having chest pains, see a physician not a gun store owner.

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by jsnape - 2008/02/12 07:09

I'm trying to figure out if it be better or worse if the doctor has a gun?

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by vanntk3 - 2008/02/12 09:07

I think the point of "Facts to Ponder" is to show the absurdity of the anti-gun movement's use of gun safety statistics to justify restrictions on guns. In that respect there is no logical fallacy.

If, as the article says, there are 80 million gun owners, then the number of guns in the US is probably in the neighborhood 300 to 500 million guns, or more. Most gun owners that I know still have every gun they ever acquired - 5, 10 or 20 guns.

As for 1,500 accidental gun deaths per year, I doubt that statistic. As you said, most are probably from suicide. Hunting accidents do happen, but not anywhere near the rate of 1,500 per year.

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by johnwss - 2008/02/12 10:57

Two points, folks:

1. I, for one, certainly hope the number of gun owners cited in the article is true, or close to true! An armed society is a polite society!

2. I welcome - no, I actually embrace - dissenting views from orthodox conventional wisdom. I'd be a hypocrite to do otherwise, with my own unabashed support of this season's #1 iconoclast (and champion of the 2nd Amendment), Rep. Ron Paul! I'm completely put off, though, by the arrogant, self-righteous attitude that's displayed by a TTP poster whose diarrhea of the keyboard has polluted these pages. I won't mention his name; that would only give him an excuse to launch into another screed. He need only look at his rapidly plunging negative karma score to figure out who he is!

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by atvJim - 2008/02/12 11:21

tranquilo johnwss tranquilo

I offer you life's problem solver ENJOY!....

<http://blogs.abcnews.com/photos/uncategorized/muffin.jpg>

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by johnwss - 2008/02/12 13:49

"Tranquilo!" is always good advice, Jim - thanks!

The muffin reminds me what an aerobics instructor used to say years ago, "If it looks like a cupcake, it will affect your body like a cupcake!" That advice was to folks who celebrated completion of each workout with a trip to the coffee shop next door for a muffin and a latte, and then wondered why they were gaining weight after working out so faithfully! Kind of like the liberals who prescribe more of the same tired old prescriptions for our economy and then wonder why it keeps getting worse.

=====

Re:FACTS TO PONDER

Posted by ekparsons - 2008/02/12 20:43

By the logic of the article, 12 guys with guns should kill one doctor each and we would save 120,000 people a year forever.

Can't think of anything bad that would happen.

My first thought when hearing about the "Butterfly Effect" was that I should go buy a whole lot of insecticide.
