



## AMERICAN SUPPRESSOR ASSOCIATION

LAWFULLY OBTAINED  
SUPPRESSORS IN THE U.S.  
[APRIL 2026]

**6,139,745**

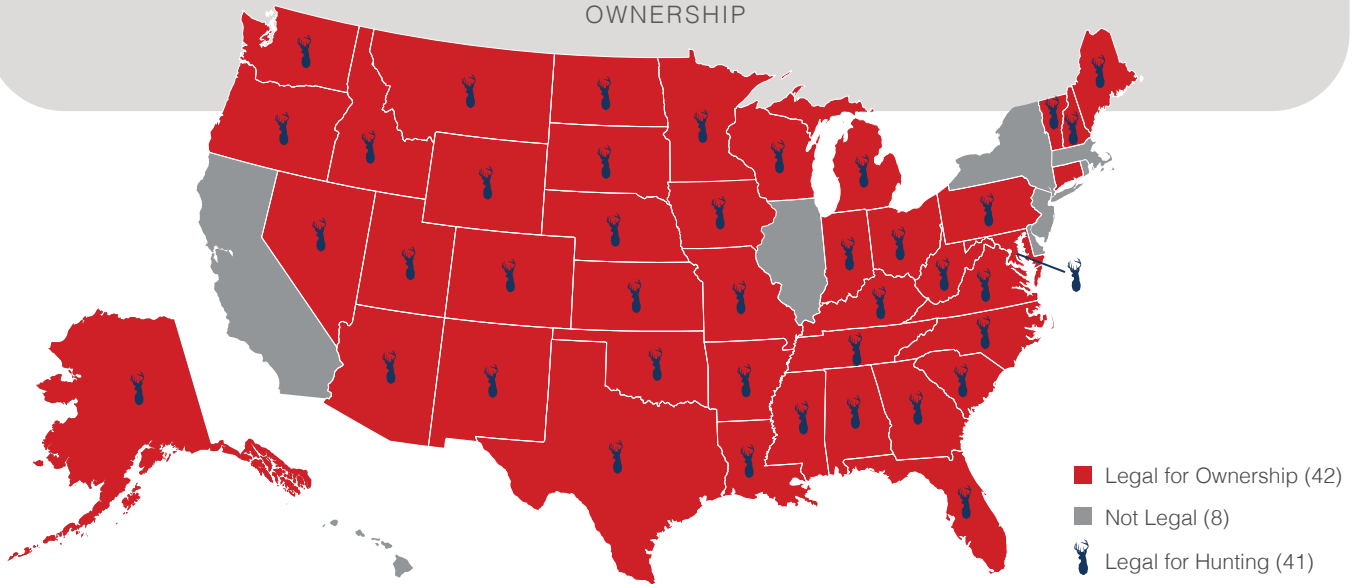
SINCE ASA'S  
FORMATION IN 2011

**19** STATES HAVE LEGALIZED  
SUPPRESSOR HUNTING &

**3** HAVE LEGALIZED SUPPRESSOR  
OWNERSHIP

U.S. SPECIAL  
OCCUPATIONAL TAXPAYERS  
[SOT TAX YEAR 2026]

**18,166**



## There's Nothing Silent About Silencers

No tool can make a gunshot silent. Guns are simply too loud. Silencers, also known as suppressors, simply reduce the dangerously loud noise of a gunshot to safer levels. Suppressed gunshots are still as loud or louder than a jackhammer striking concrete. **Would you trust anyone who told you that a jackhammer is too quiet to hear?**

## Federal Regulations

Suppressors are regulated under the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934 and fall under the purview of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). In order to buy a suppressor, you must send ATF an application including fingerprints, and passport photos, notify your local Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO), and wait for ATF to process the application. Upon approval, ATF will enter your information into a national registry.

Federal regulations carry enhanced penalties for criminal use. Legally obtained suppressors are used so rarely in crime that ATF has publicly stated that suppressors "should not be viewed as a threat to public safety."

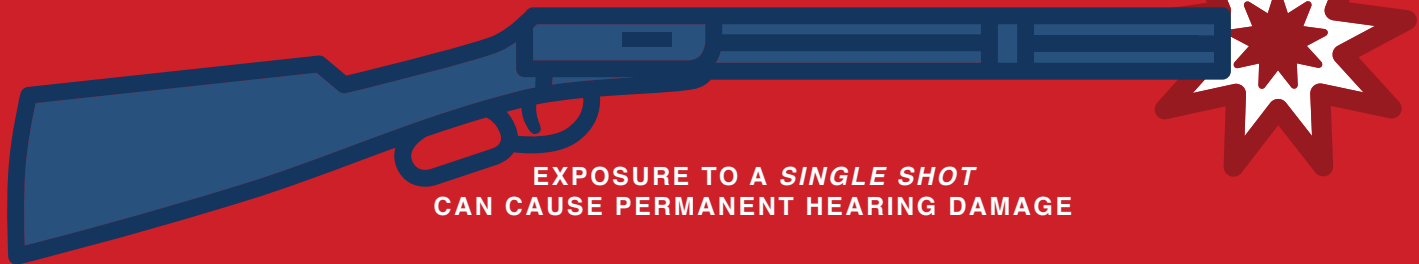
[AmericanSuppressorAssociation.com](http://AmericanSuppressorAssociation.com)

*Suppressor laws are subject to frequent change and interpretation. This map does not constitute legal advice. To ensure full compliance, consult a local attorney for an accurate interpretation prior to usage.*



# SUPPRESSORS = HEARING SAFETY

AN UNSUPPRESSED  
GUNSHOT RANGES FROM  
**140–185dB**



EXPOSURE TO A SINGLE SHOT  
CAN CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING DAMAGE



THE MOST  
**SERIOUS THREAT**  
TO HEARING COMES FROM  
RECREATIONAL HUNTING  
OR TARGET SHOOTING

1



“SILENCED” GUNSHOTS  
ARE STILL AS LOUD AS A  
JACKHAMMER STRIKING  
CONCRETE.

2



**70–80%**  
OF HUNTERS NEVER WEAR  
HEARING PROTECTION

3, 4



“**[SUPPRESSORS]**  
SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED  
AS A THREAT TO PUBLIC  
SAFETY”  
— ATF

5

“Persons wearing conventional hearing protection are **NOT WITHOUT RISK** of [Noise-Induced Hearing Loss] when using firearms.”



“[The National Hearing Conservation Association] **supports the use of firearm noise suppressors** as a form of an engineering noise control to reduce hazardous firearm noise exposures.”

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**AMERICANSUPPRESSORASSOCIATION.COM**

1 Dr. William W. Clark, Director of the Washington university school of medicine's program in audiology  
2 Additional information on noise levels and exposure limits can be found through CDC, NIOSH, 3M, or UF Studies  
3 Wagner A, Stewart M, Lehman ME. (2006) Risk patterns and shooting habits of recreational firearm users. In: Abstracts of the National Hearing Conservation Association Annual Conference 2006, Tampa, Florida. NHCA Spectrum 23(Suppl. 1):28.

4 Stewart M, Foley L, Lehman ME, Gerlach A. (2011) Risks Faced by Recreational Firearm Users. Audiology Today, March-April:38–52.  
5 Turk R. (2017) Options to Reduce or Modify Firearms Regulations. Federal Firearms Regulations: 6-7.  
6 Blank A. (2019) National Hearing Conservation Association. Letter to Knox Williams: 1-2.