

Revolver vs Semi-Auto Pistol



Size and Capacity Considerations



Carry Options: **Concealed or not?**



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Caliber Selection and Considerations.

- The selection of effective ammunition for a firearm is a critical and complex issue. It is critical because of that which is at stake when an individual is required to use his firearm to protect his own life or that of another. It is complex because of the target, a human being, is amazingly endurable and capable of sustaining phenomenal punishment while persisting in a determined course of action.

– John C. Hall

Unit Chief, FBI Academy.

Caliber Selection and Considerations.

- Shot placement is an important consideration. However, considerations of caliber are equally important and cannot be ignored.

Mechanics of Projectile Wounding

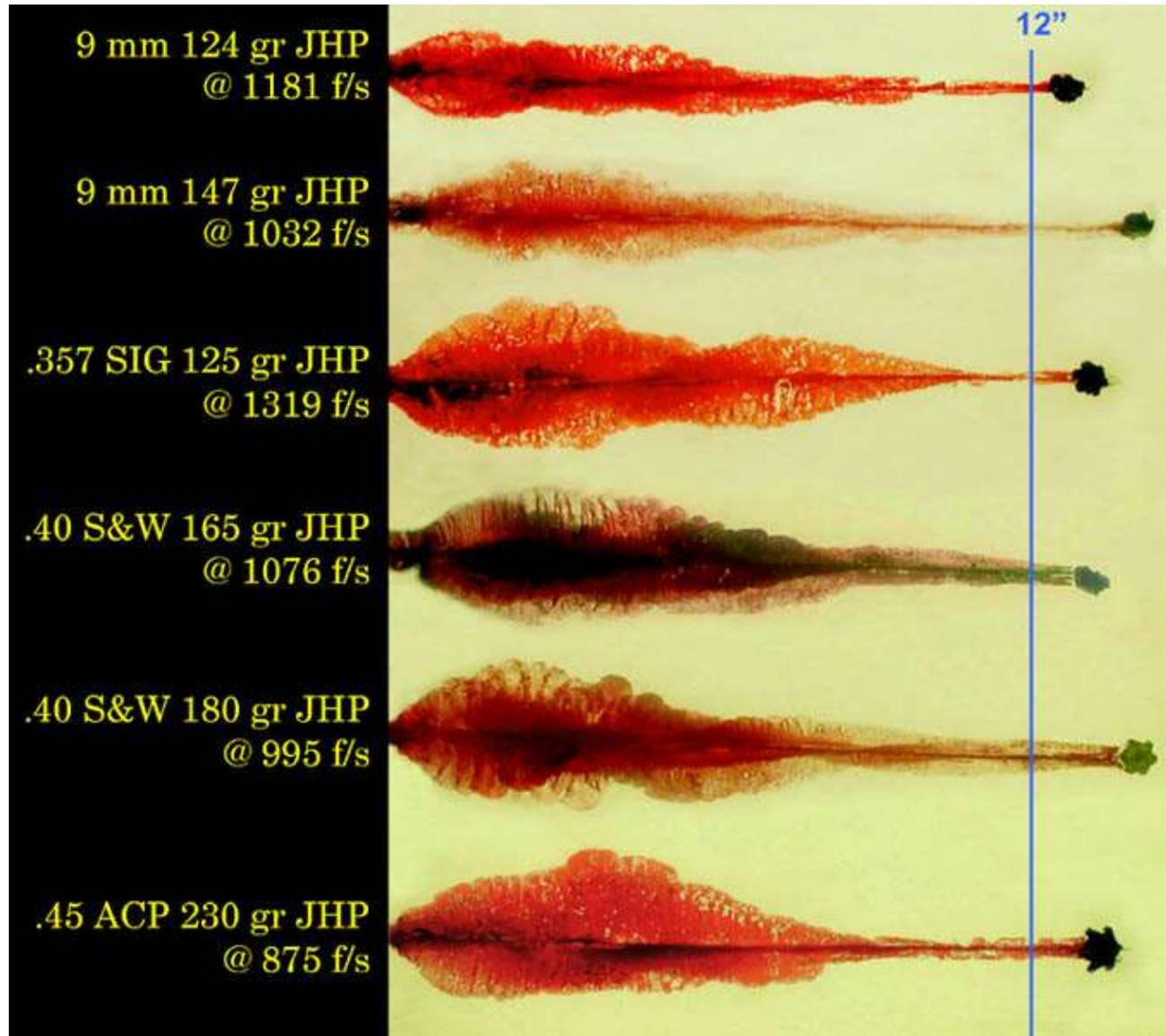
(1) Penetration.

(2) Permanent Wound Cavity. The volume of space once occupied by tissue that has been destroyed by the passage of the projectile.

(3) Temporary Wound Cavity. The expansion of the permanent cavity by stretching due to the projectile's passage.

(4) Fragmentation of the projectile.

Caliber Showdown:



Caliber Showdown:

Background

- Most of what is “common knowledge” with ammunition and its effects on the human target are rooted in myth and folklore.
- Handgun stopping power is simply a myth.
- Contemporary projectiles (since 2007) have dramatically increased the terminal effectiveness of many premium line law enforcement projectiles (emphasis on the 9mm Luger offerings).

– Executive Summary of Justification for Law Enforcement Partners
May 6, 2014

Caliber Showdown:

Background

- 9mm Luger now offers select projectiles which are, under identical testing conditions, outperforming most of the premium line .40 S&W and .45 Auto projectiles tested by the FBI.
- The majority of FBI shooters are both **FASTER** in shot strings fired and more **ACCURATE** with shooting a 9mm Luger vs shooting a .40 S&W (similar sized weapons).

Caliber Showdown:

So what makes a good self-defense load?

- The ammunition should meet the FBI's requirements of:
- At least 12" of penetration in properly prepared ballistic gelatin/soft tissue.
- Expand to the largest diameter possible in order to cause the largest possible wound.

Note: The 12" penetration requirement stems from the fact that not all shots are frontal-torso shots. Many times the bullet must penetrate significantly more tissue, such as when the person being shot has his arms extended in front of him, if the shot is at an oblique angle, etc. You choose ammunition based on a worst-case scenario, not the best.

Shotgun vs. Rifle



Versus



Presumptive Hazards of Over Penetration

- Failures to stop a suspect because of under-penetration, poor bullet placement, and completely missing the target are far more significant problems than over-penetration. With shots to the center of mass, if a handgun or rifle bullet fails to have enough penetration to reach the large blood bearing vessels and organs in the torso, rapid physiological incapacitation is unlikely and an opponent may remain a lethal threat to officers and citizen bystanders. Conversely, if a bullet fired by officers completely penetrates a violent criminal and exits downrange, the bullet will certainly have had enough penetration to reach the large blood bearing vessels or organs in the torso. As a result, it is more likely to have caused sufficient hemorrhage to induce hypovolemic shock--the only reliable method of physiological incapacitation in the absence of CNS trauma.

Unfortunately, according to the available published data, the majority of shots fired in the field by U.S. LE officers miss their intended target. According to published NYPD SOP-9 data, the NYPD hit ratio by officers against perpetrators in 2000 was 12.3% of shots fired and in 2001 13.5% of shots fired. The Miami Metro-Dade County PD had hit ratios ranging between 15.4% and 30% from 1988-1994. Portland PD reported hits with 43% of shots fired at adversaries from 1984-1992, while Baltimore PD reported a 49% average hit ratio from 1989-2002.

Given that the reported averages for LE officers actually hitting the suspect ranges between 12% to 49% of shots fired, more concern should be given to the between 51-88% of shots fired by LE officers which completely MISS the intended target and immediately result in a significant threat to any person down range, rather than excessively worry about the relatively rare instance where one of the 12%-49% of shots fired actually hits the intended target and then exits the perpetrator in a fashion which still poses a hazard.

In short, the consequences of projectile under-penetration are far more likely to get officers and citizens killed than over-penetration issues.

- - Dr. Gary K. Roberts, DDS

Weapons on the move:

Which do you think will draw more attention?

