



2A Mental Health Survey Results

Walk the Talk America conducted this survey online in 2023. We developed this survey to accurately understand what the 2A community thinks. Our goal is simple – we hoped to gather a clear and accurate picture of gun owners regarding mental health and some legislation. This way, we can lightly push back against inaccurate statistics.



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Methodology

This survey was not intended to be a professionally done research effort but rather a curiosity about the gun-owning demographic's views on important topics. We hope the survey results increase interest on this topic and lead to more thorough research.

Walk the Talk America is open to partnering with any formal research entity that would like to explore these areas more.

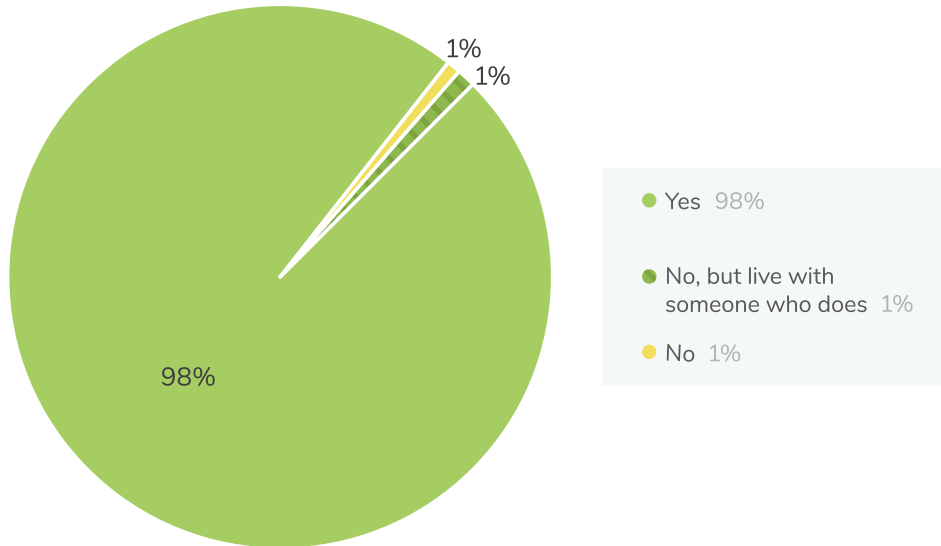
The questionnaire was conducted online via Google Forms and received a total of 366 responses. Respondents were not anonymous and were required to log in to Google to verify a valid email address before proceeding. The survey was distributed via WTTA's social media accounts, the WTTA email newsletter, and corporate partners' distribution efforts. It was open from September 1, 2023, through October 2, 2023. The questionnaire includes a mix of close-ended, multi-select checkboxes, and open-ended questions. The type of question will be noted for each question in this document. Participants were shown questions in the same order they are listed here. Section headings have been added to this document for clarity. Some questions were rephrased for this presentation, and the original wording is noted where applicable.

Behavior

Do you personally own a gun?

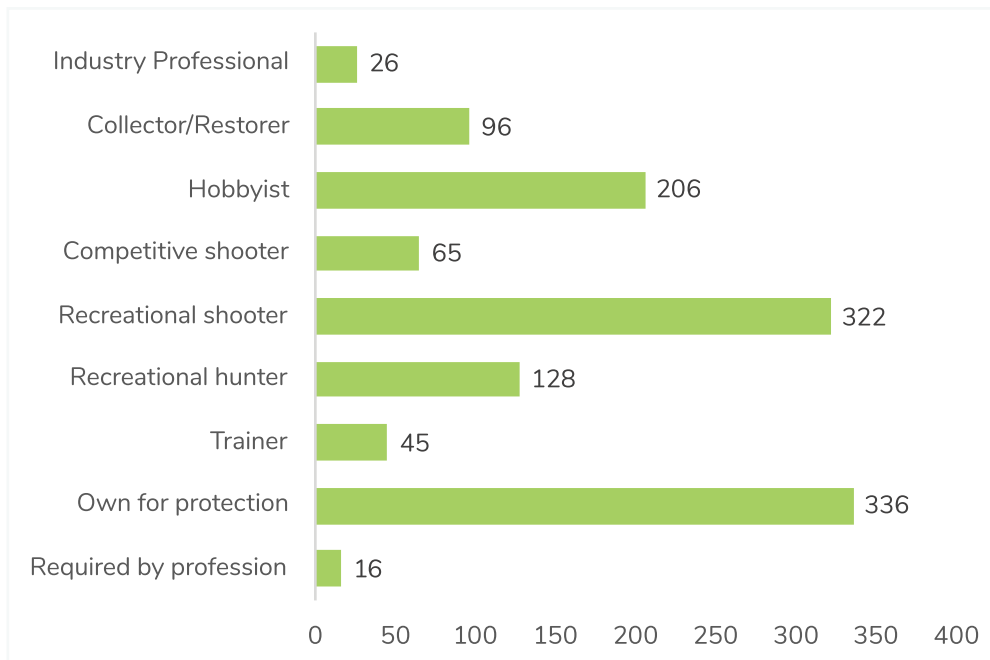
366 responses | Closed question

People that submitted “No” did not proceed with the rest of the survey.



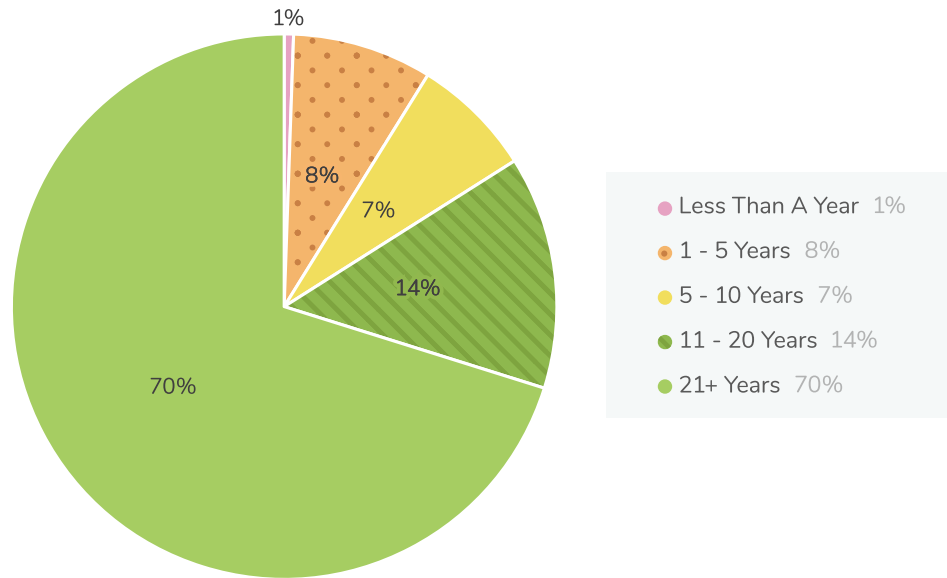
How do you describe yourself as a gun owner? (Check all that apply.)

362 responses | Multi-select question with “Other” open-answer



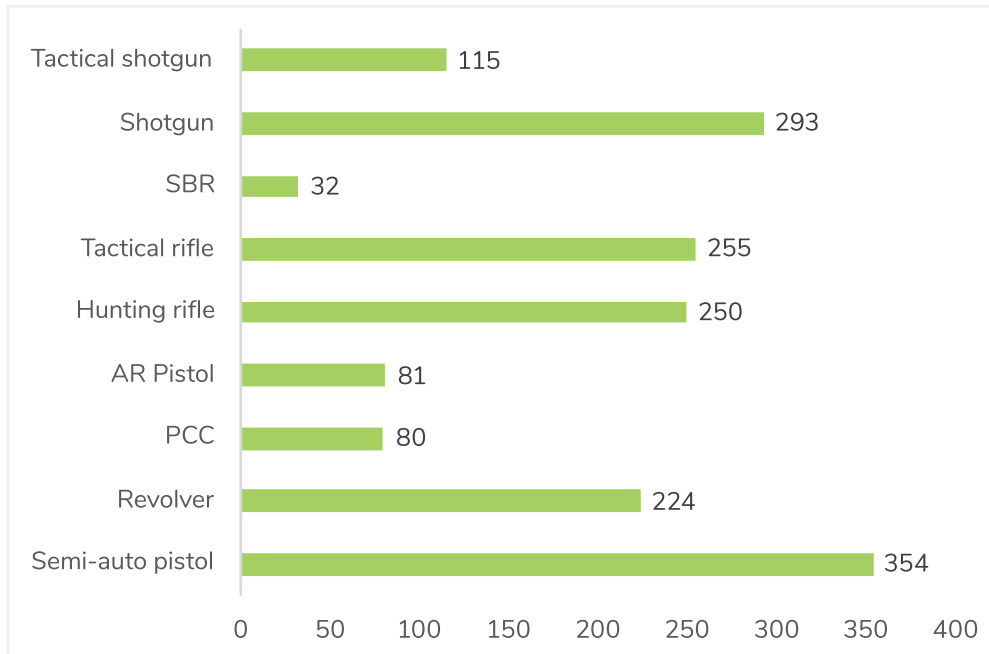
How long have you been a gun owner?

362 responses | Closed question



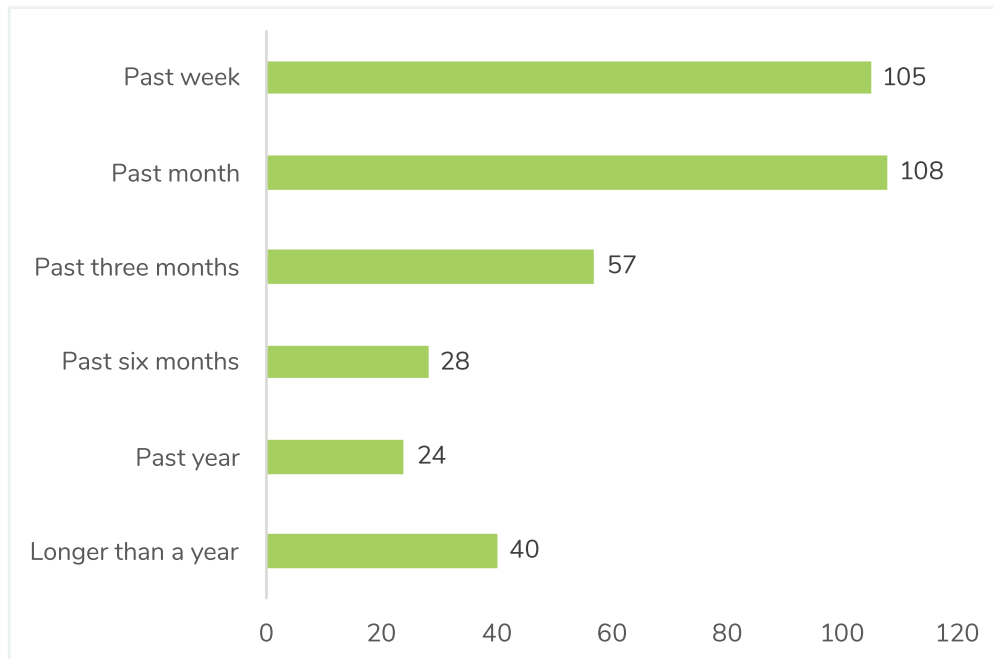
What types of firearms do you own? (Check all that apply.)

362 responses | Multi-select question



When have you last gone to the range?

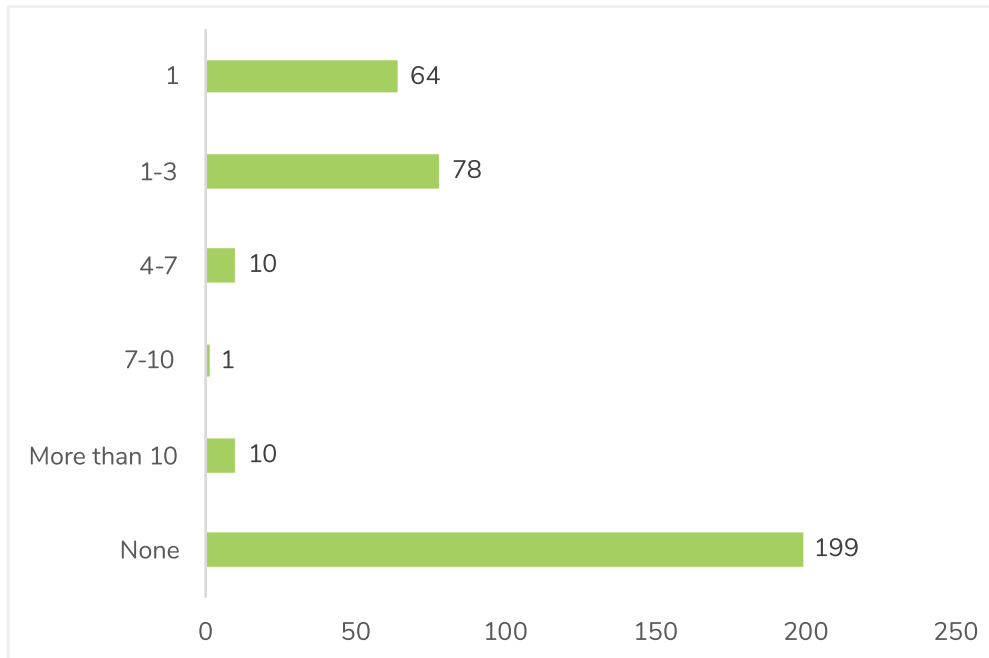
362 responses | Closed question



How many professional trainings have you attended in the past year?

362 responses | Closed question

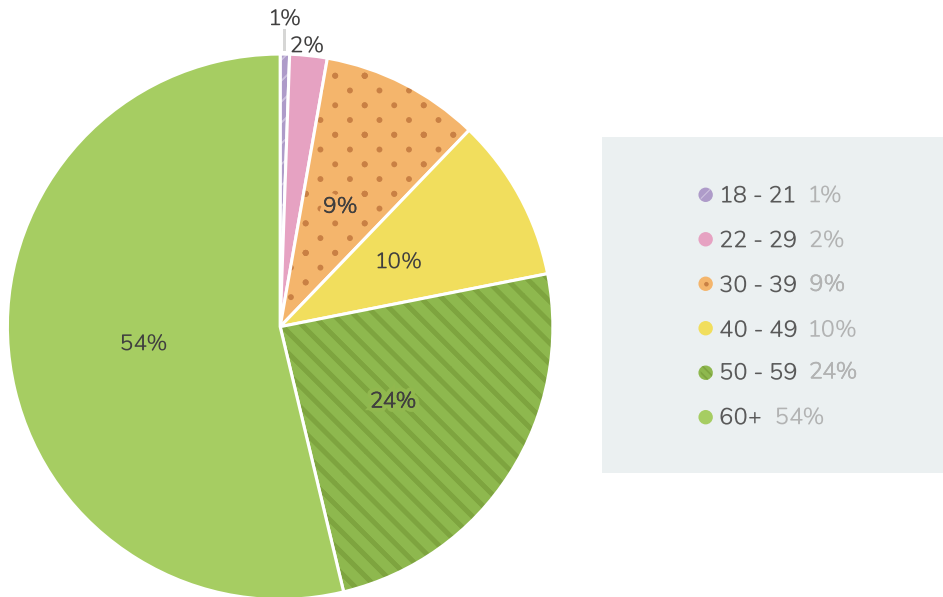
We noticed an error in having two choices both having 1 as an option, we didn't edit the question mid survey to correct this error.



Demographics

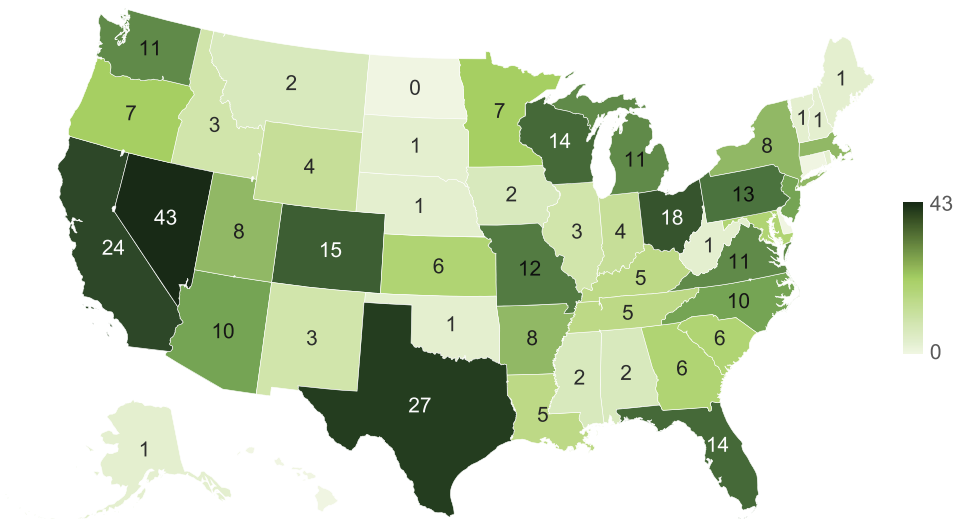
Age?

361 responses | Closed question



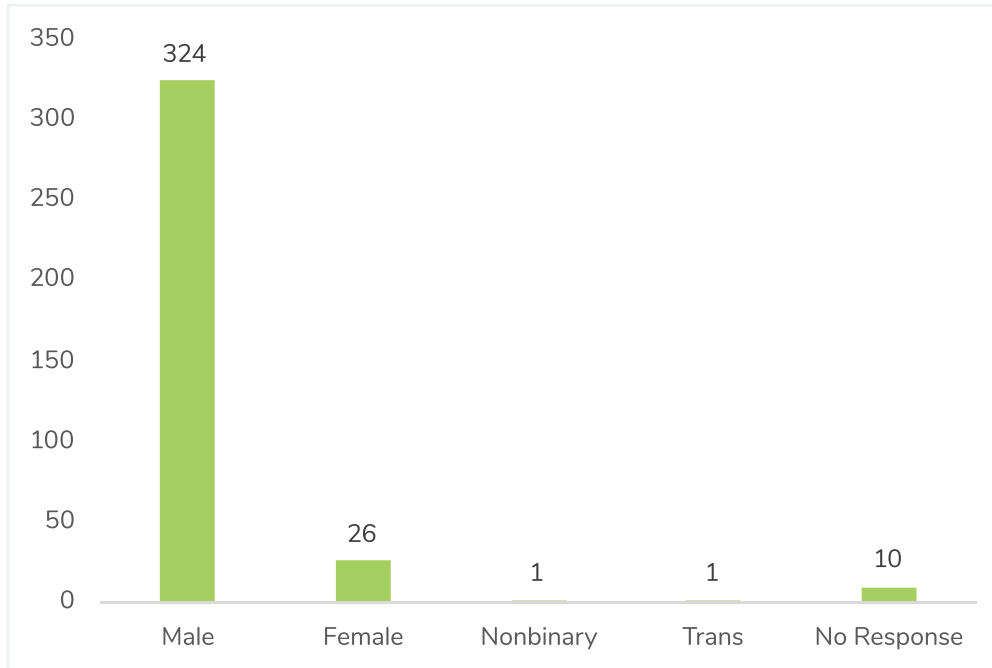
What is your primary residence?

362 responses | Closed question



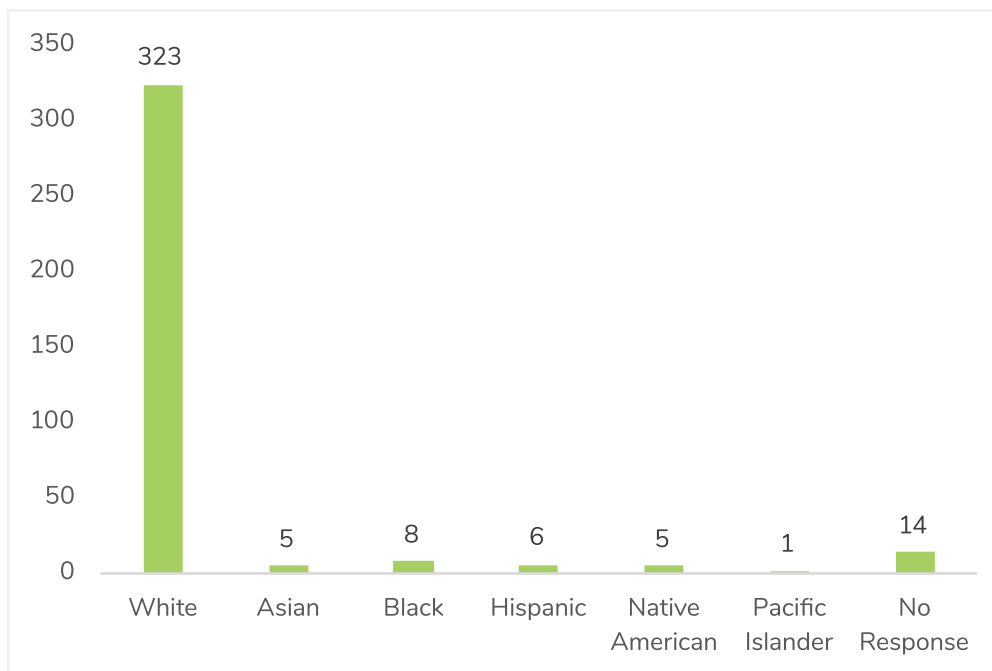
Sex/Gender?

354 responses | Closed question



Race/Ethnicity?

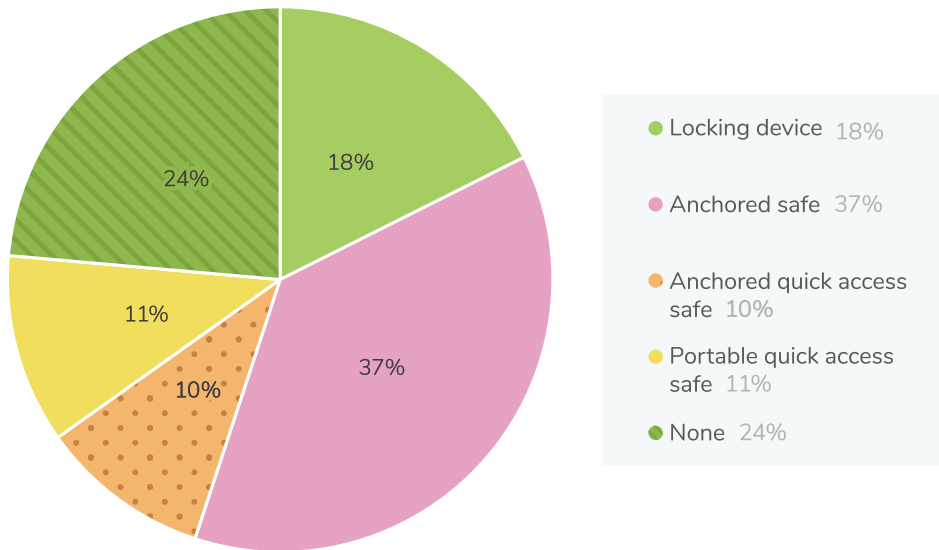
362 responses | Closed question with "Other" open-answer



Firearm Storage

Excluding carrying on your person, where do you store your firearms?

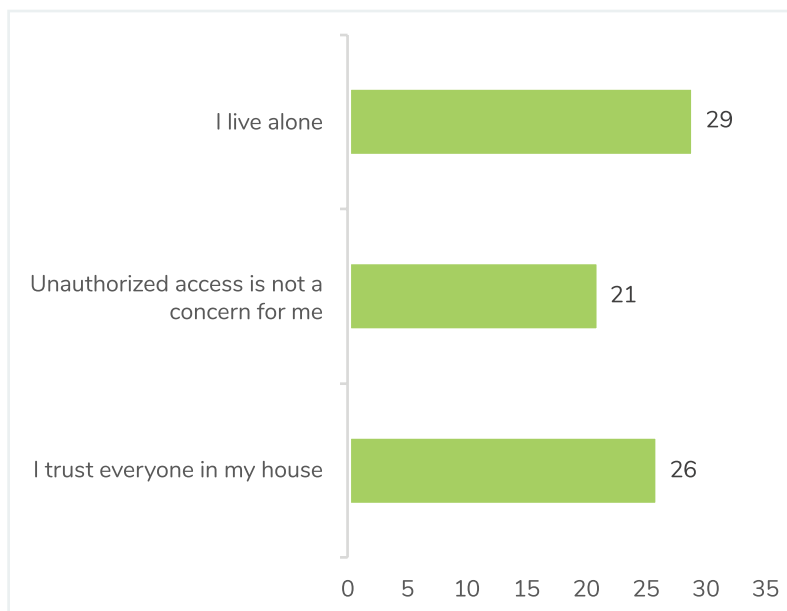
362 responses | Closed question with "Other" open-answer



For those that felt a locking method wasn't necessary, here is why they felt that way.

95 responses | Closed question

In the survey, this question was originally phrased as "If you answered "none," please explain why not."



Any thoughts or comments about responsible storage you would like to provide?

130 responses | Open question

“Responsible storage should be the 5th rule of safe firearm handling. Treat every firearm as if it’s loaded, always keep the muzzle in a safe direction, finger off the trigger until ready to shoot, know your target and what is beyond, Secure your firearm when not in use.”

“I believe responsible storage is the difference between life and death. Guns are something everyone should take seriously and to leave them not guarded by locking equipment/safes/etc.. is leaving things to a potentially serious situation. You might have family members/friends in the household who have never handled guns or may have suicidal thoughts that could use that firearm for lethal means. Responsible storage is also one more step you can take to prevent a suicide from occurring either for yourself or those in your home.”

“People know their own situation, and all require different way of storing their Firearms.”

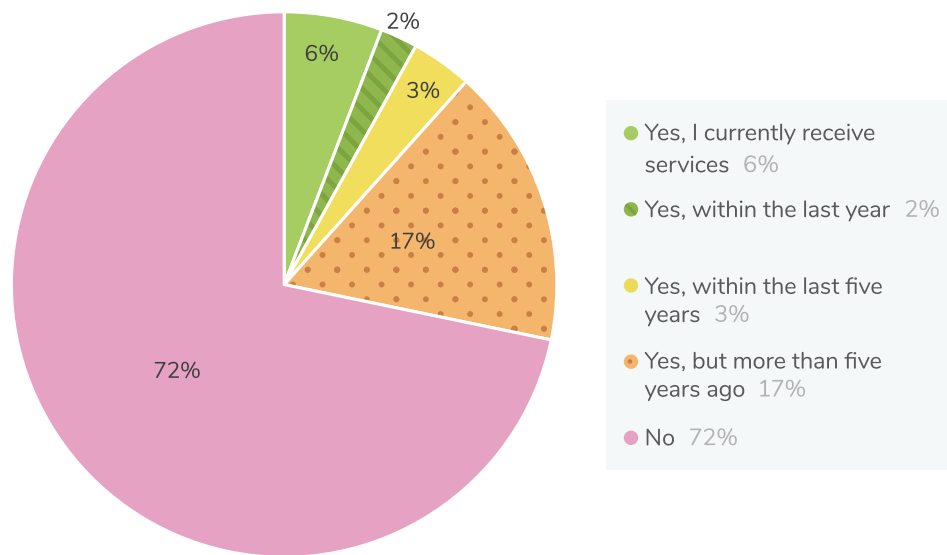
“Responsible storage is part of being a responsible gun owner. Your storage should be adequate for your own situation. Assess your situation and set up accordingly. Safe storage can also be flexible. If your situation is more lax, but you have company coming over, your situation has changed and your storage needs should temporarily change as well.”

“Most of my firearms are stored in the vault. I keep a few handy in case I need one. No one in my house but my wife and I. If I know grandkids are coming I lock those away.”

Mental Health

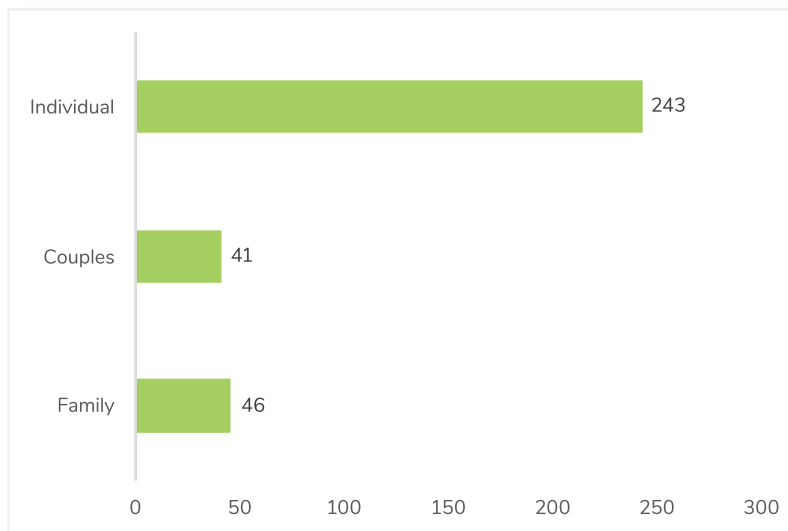
Have you ever received mental health services?

361 responses | Closed question



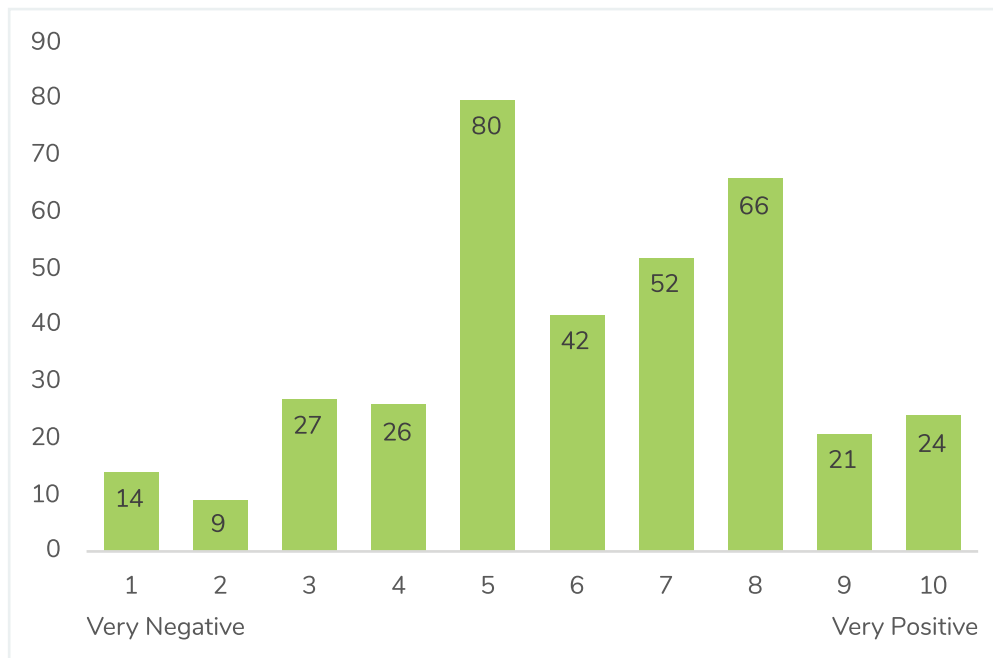
If you have received mental health services, or would receive them in the future, what is your interest?

361 responses | Closed question



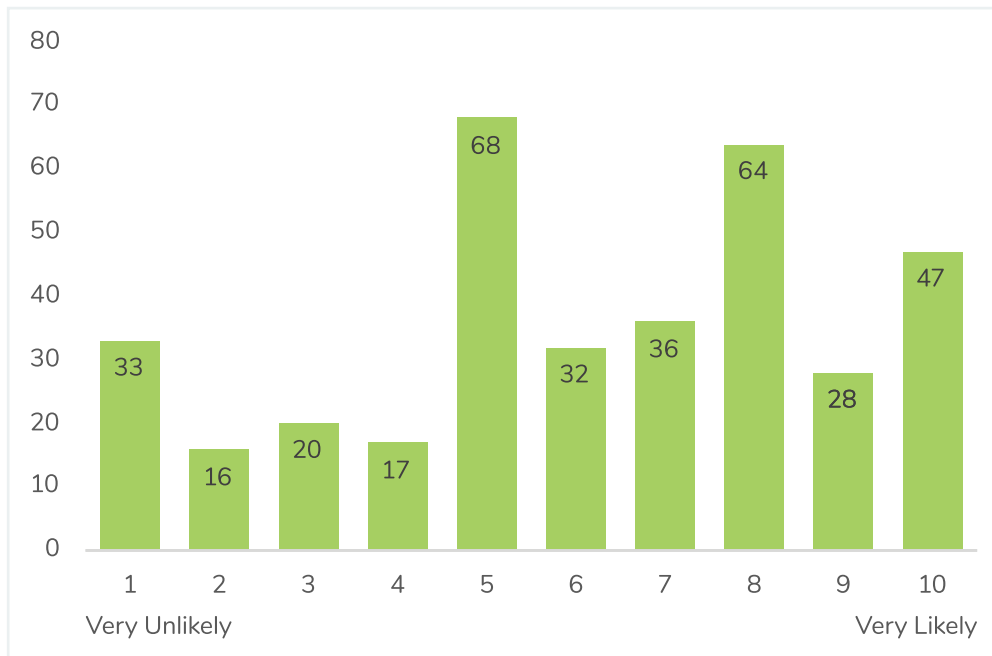
What is your perception of mental health professionals in general?

361 responses | Closed question, scale of 1-10



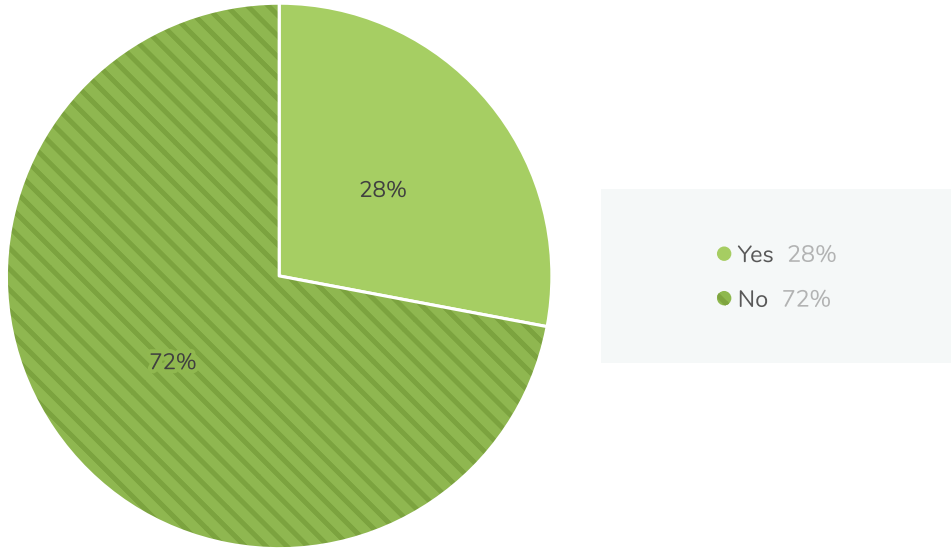
If you took a screening on our website and the results suggested you should consider seeking out professional mental health help, how likely would you seek out a mental health professional?

361 responses | Closed question, scale of 1-10



Have any Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) or Red Flag Laws made you hesitant to seek out professional mental health services?

361 responses | Closed question



Any thoughts or comments about mental health you would like to provide?

129 responses | Open question

“While hesitant and concerned my self defense rights would get taken away some day, I also can’t practically afford the consequences of not getting mental health services. So, if guns were ever forcibly taken from me, I still wouldn’t feel compliant about it.”

“I was diagnosed with postpartum depression by a therapist at 8 months postpartum from my second. I haven’t mentioned firearms ownership to her and I’ve been seeing her about a year.”

“I feel there is no stigma. My wife feels otherwise. It has created friction. I seek help when needed. She declines.”

“I am a combat veteran who fought in Vietnam and served for over 2 decades in the Army. If I had sought mental health, my Army career would have been over. The stigmatization of PTSD and depression leads to soldier suicide. We must stop soldier suicides!”

“It’s ironic that red flag laws have made it LESS likely for people to seek help. As if men (and adults in general) don’t already have enough stigmas to conquer for a healthy life.”

“Wouldn’t consider seeking mental health services for fear of losing gun rights, unless maybe I had thoughts of murder or suicide.”

“As a retired psychologist, I am leery of the liberal bias and general level of competence in the field.”

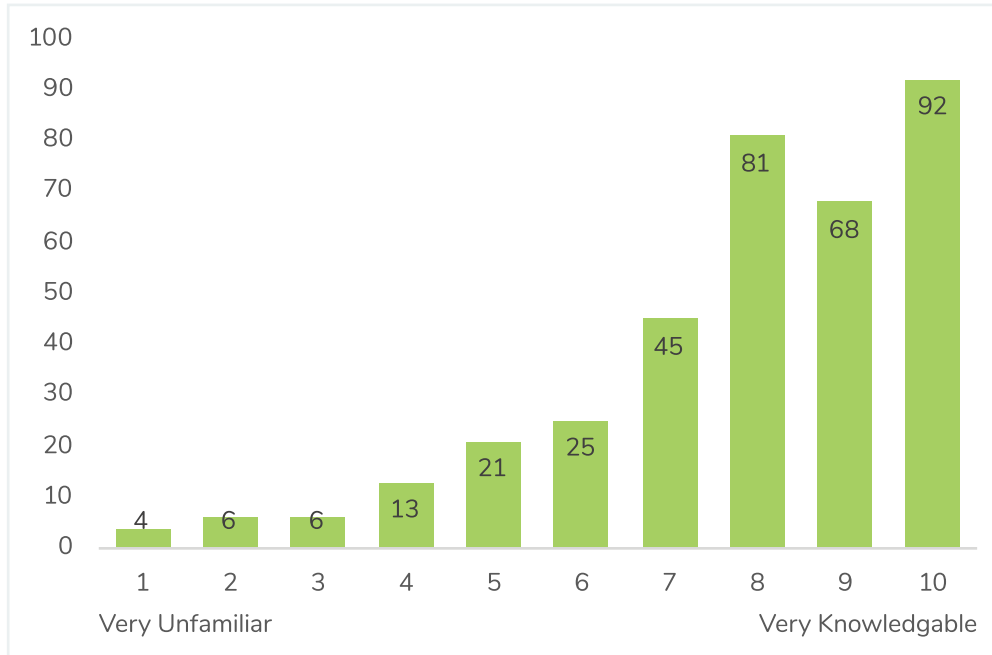
“Being a white, gun owning male, any mental health services I receive would more than likely be used against me.”

“Access to mental health services is very important. No one should be forced to choose between self-care and self-defense.”

Legislation

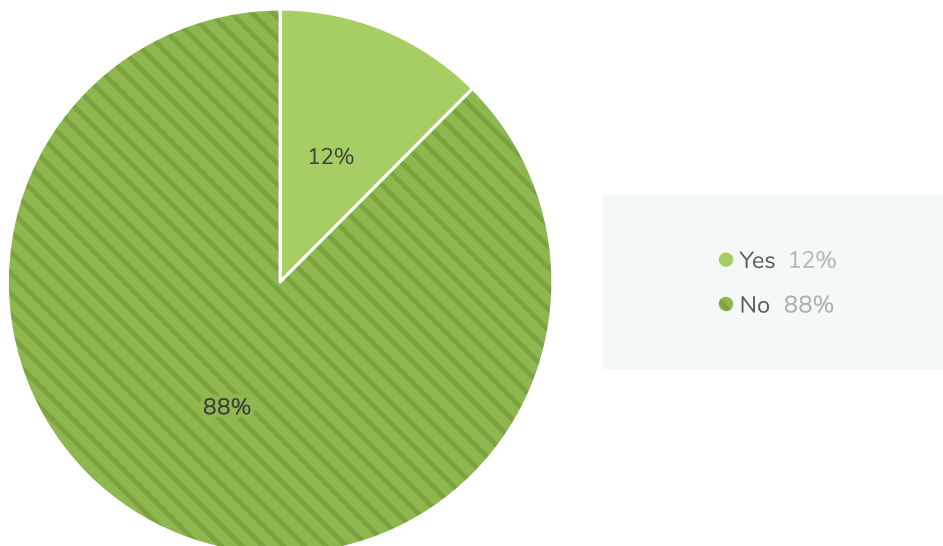
Rate your understanding of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) and Red Flag Laws, generally.

361 responses | Closed question, scale of 1-10



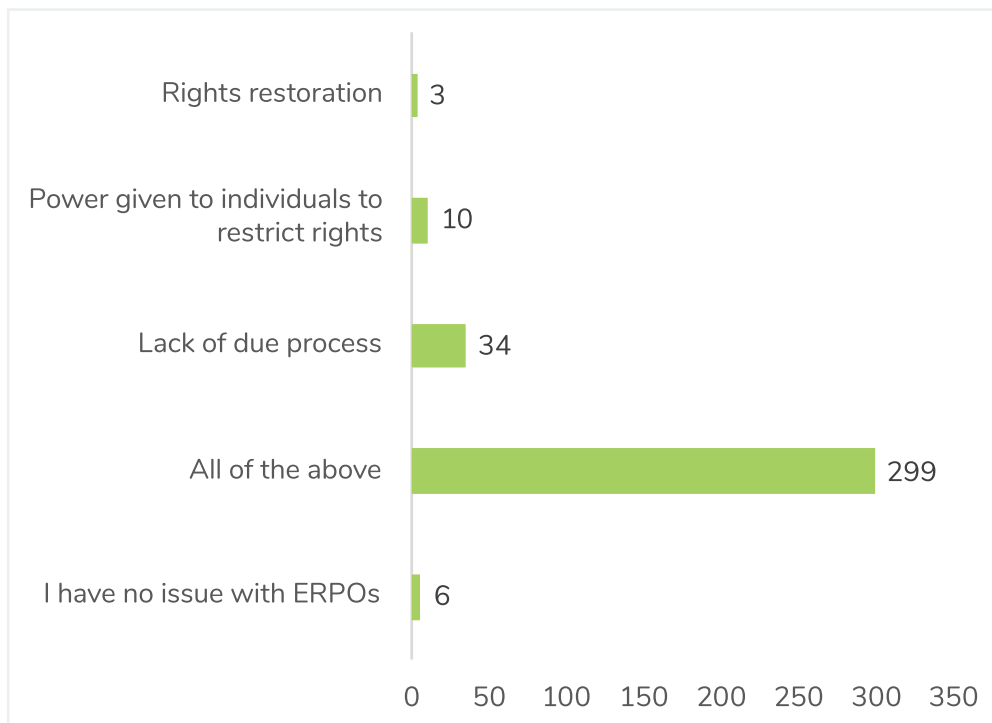
Are you a supporter of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) or Red Flag Laws?

361 responses | Closed question



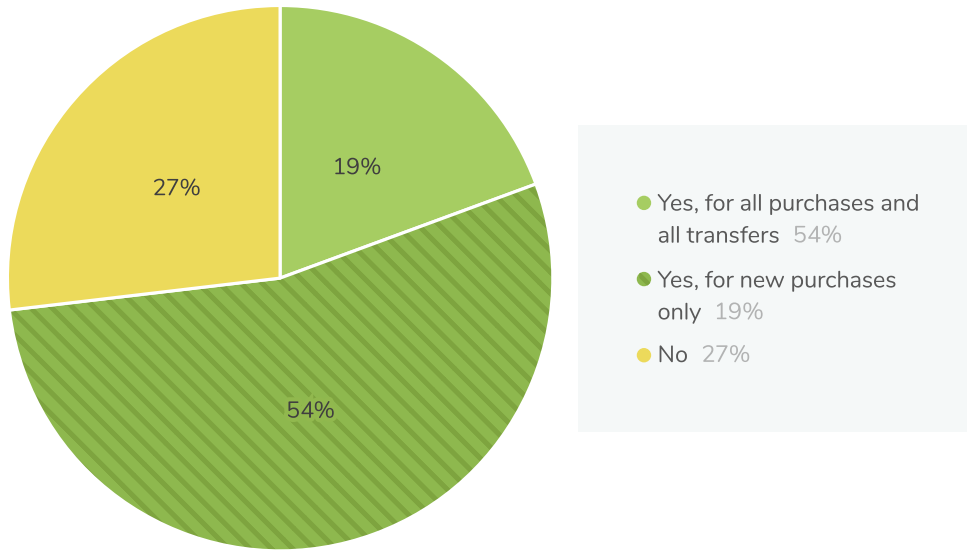
What is the biggest concern you see with Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) or Red Flag Laws?

361 responses | Closed question with “Other” open-answer



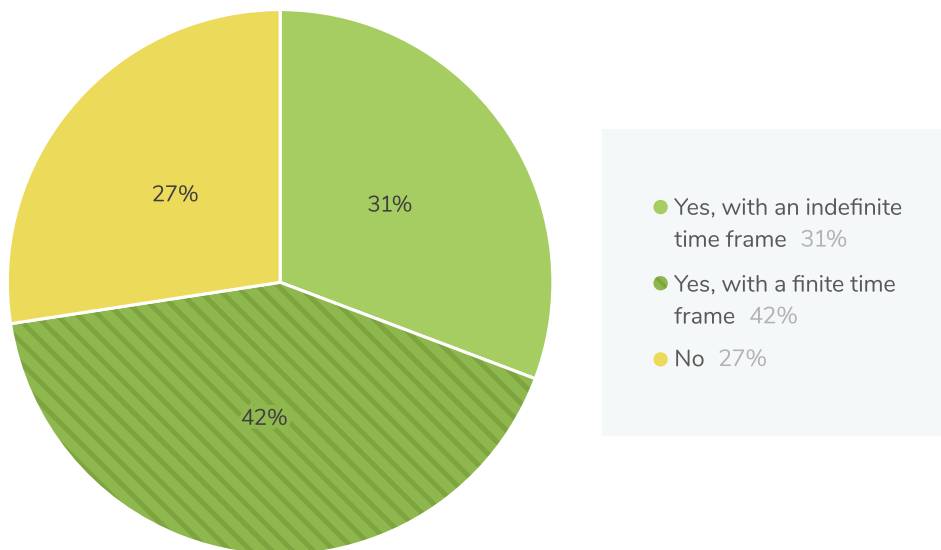
Are you supportive of background checks?

361 responses | Closed question



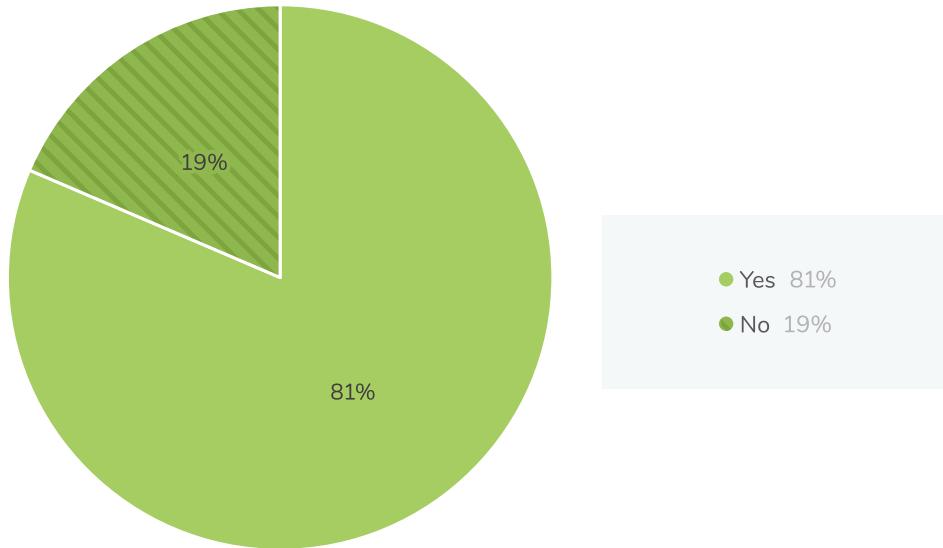
In states with transfer laws, should an exemption be made for transfers without a background check if a personal safety concern exists?

361 responses | Closed question



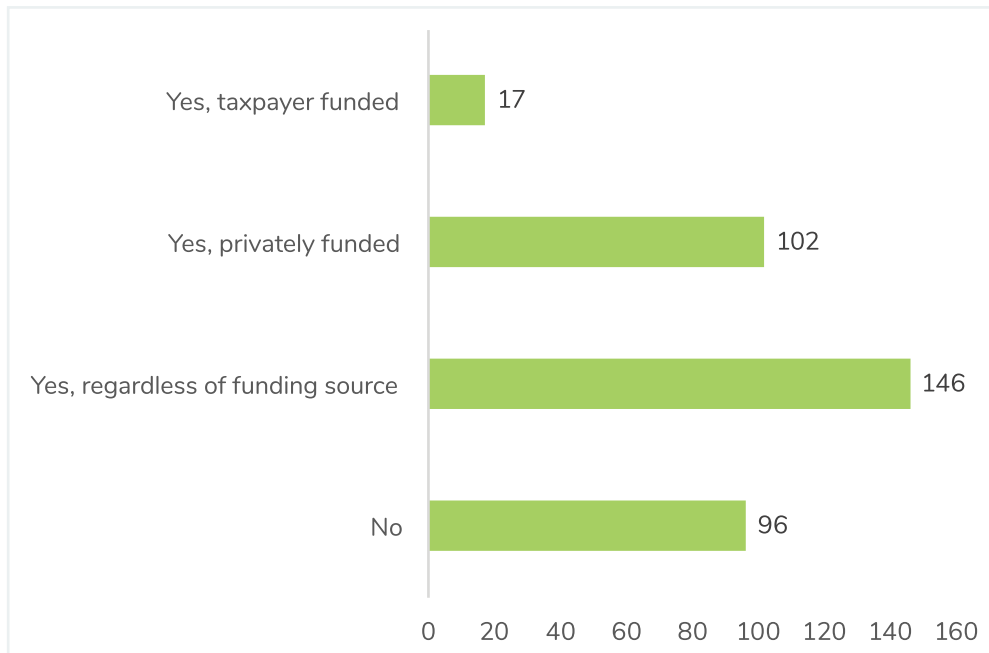
Should guns be allowed to transfer without a background check for recreational use?

361 responses | Closed question



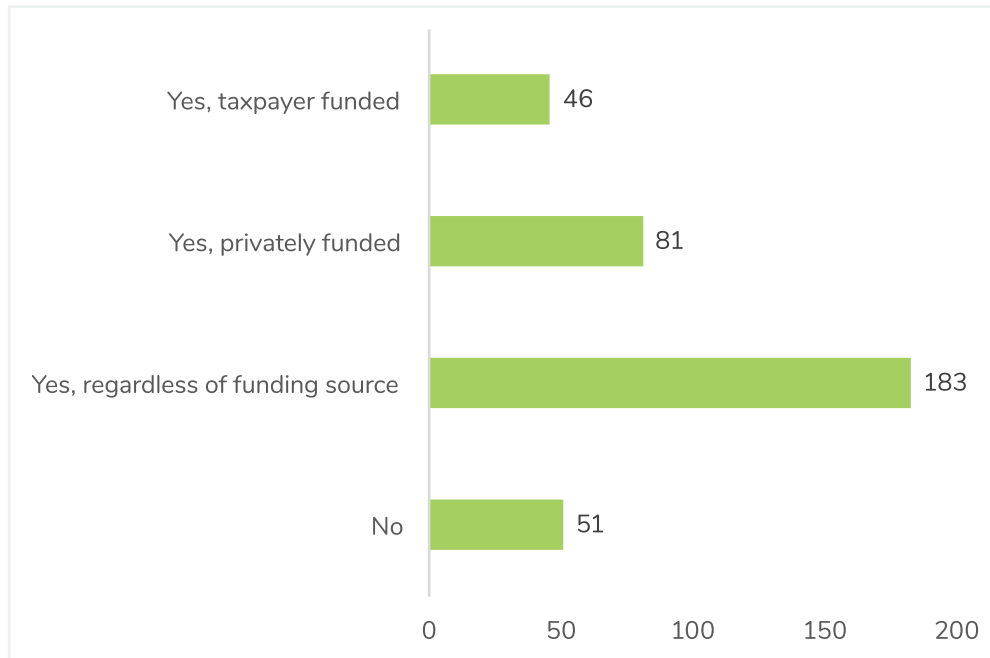
Would you support legislation that offered rebates for purchasing a safe or storage device?

361 responses | Closed question



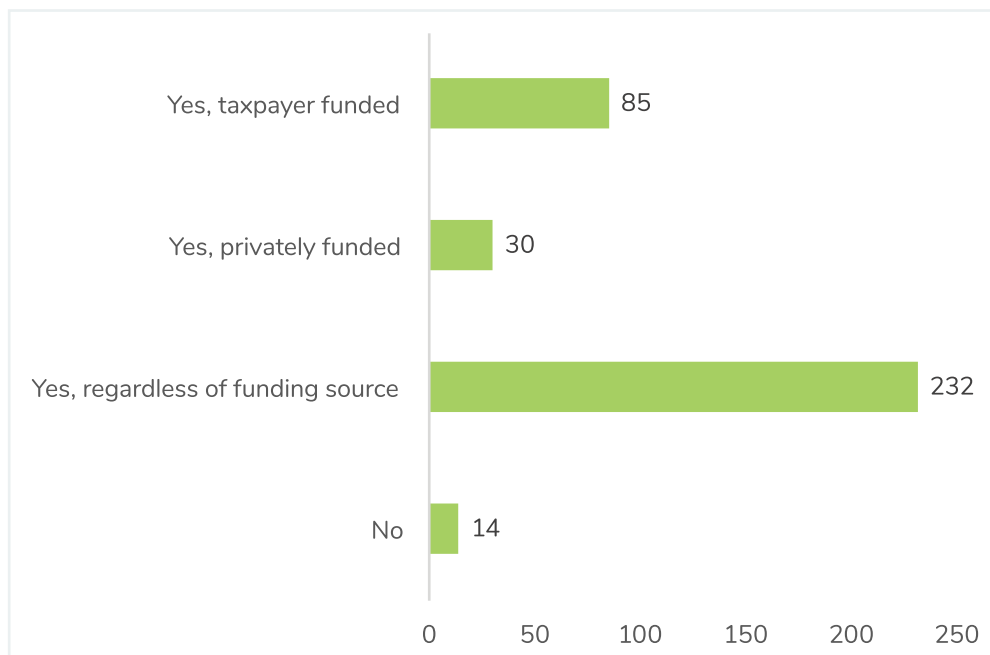
Would you support of legislation that pays for firearm education and training?

361 responses | Closed question



Do you support firearm education in K-12 schools?

361 responses | Closed question



Do you have any concerns with any legislation in your state?

204 responses | Open question

“Here in Maryland, as of October 1 2023, we have to discuss Suicide prevention and anger management as part of our Concealed Carry class, which I feel is a step in the right direction, I also feel there should be some kind of instructor certification for these topics so we can get the right info to our students and not give misleading information.”

“Tennessee does not require a permit to carry a firearm, meaning that no training is required. I support Constitutional carry but feel that an individual should have to complete some form of firearm training, even if it is just on-the-spot familiarization and handling training provided by the gun dealer. (Which is already provided by most gun stores.)”

“Nevada laws respect responsible gun ownership -- particularly in rural areas.”

“Colorado is becoming more restrictive of gun ownership. I think we are on the way to California in terms of gun restrictions.”

“I’m in Colorado - the Legislature keeps putting restrictions on gun ownership (virtue signaling) without any follow-up studies to show the effectiveness of all the laws they keep passing.”

“Our (TN) Constitution. Universal Citation: TN Code § 39-17-1307 (2020) A person commits an offense who carries, with the intent to go armed, a firearm or a club. This verbiage needs to be stricken from our State Constitution.”

“Measure 114 in Oregon, carry prohibited “safe zones” and red flag laws.”

“I think Georgia should require training in order to receive a ccw permit.”

“I live at New Jersey, my concerns are too long to list.”

“Not in my state at the present time. However, I have concerns about firearms legislation in many other states that I would otherwise like to visit.”

Any thoughts or comments about legislation pertaining to firearm ownership that you would like to provide?

164 responses | Open question

“I’m a military spouse. We have limited control over where we move and the jigsaw of state laws makes it more likely for us to end up in violation despite our best efforts.”

“Legal firearm ownership is NOT the cause of cringe in our communities. Criminals are not, by definition, law abiding citizens. Laws that criminalize the ownership of certain types of firearms do not affect criminals who do not obey the law, they only serve to disarm or criminalize good people who have a desire to defend themselves, their families, and, should the need arise, their nation from tyranny.”

“Law makers rarely have experience with firearms and make laws with unintended consequences.”