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Gun Policy Remains Divisive, But Several Proposals Still Draw Bipartisan Support

More prioritize controlling gun ownership than protecting gun rights

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Gun Policy Remains Divisive, But Several Proposals Still Draw Bipartisan Support

More prioritize controlling gun ownership than protecting gun rights

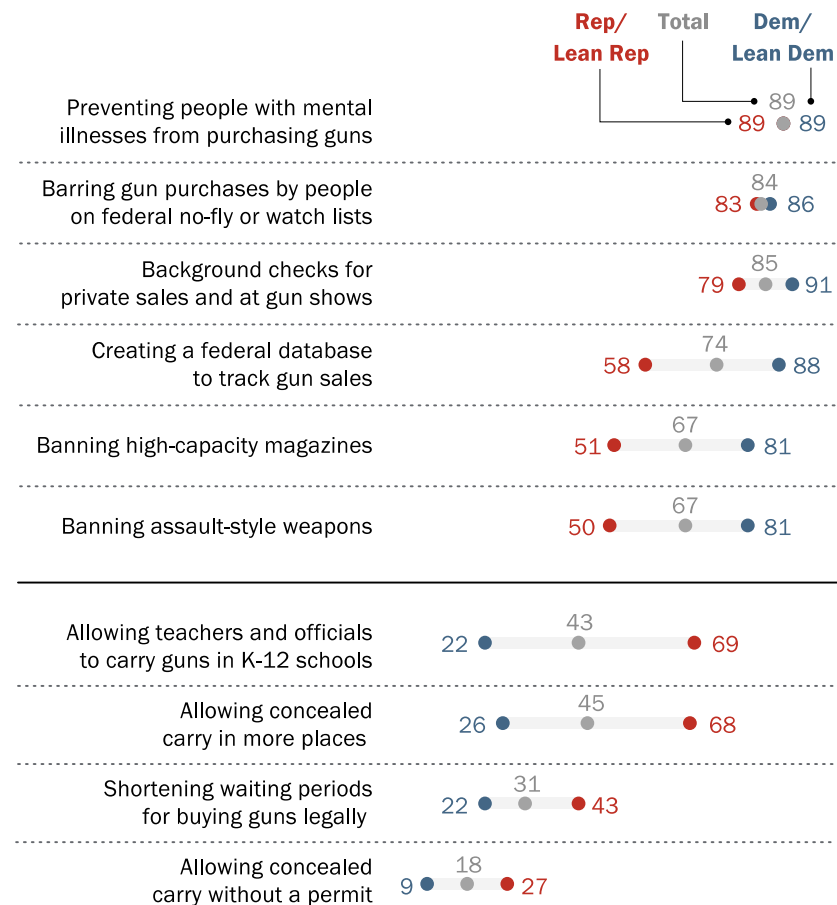
The partisan divide that for years has defined public opinion about the nation's gun policies remains firmly in place. Yet there continue to be several specific policy proposals that draw broad support from both Republicans and Democrats.

An overwhelming share of Americans (89%) favor preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns. About as many (85%) favor making private gun sales subject to background checks and banning people on federal no-fly or watch lists from purchasing guns (84%).

Overwhelming majorities of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents and Democrats and Democratic leaners (89% each) say mentally ill people should be barred from buying guns. Nearly as many in both parties (86% of Democrats, 83% of Republicans) favor barring gun purchases by people on federal watch lists. And sizable majorities also favor making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background

Partisans agree on several gun restrictions, but differ widely on assault weapons ban, 'concealed carry'

% who strongly or somewhat favor ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018.

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Yet there is a 30-percentage-point difference between Democrats and Republicans in support for an assault weapons ban (81% of Democrats, 50% of Republicans) and even wider gaps on two other proposals: arming teachers and school officials in elementary and high schools and allowing people to carry concealed weapons in more places.

Large majorities of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents favor both of these proposals (69% arming school officials, 68% expanded concealed carry), compared with only about a quarter of Democrats and Democratic leaners (22% arming school officials, 26% expanded concealed carry).

Opinions on these and other gun policy proposals have changed little in the year since Pew Research Center conducted a major study of guns in the U.S. (See [“America’s Complex Relationship with Guns.”](#)) Still, the new survey, conducted [Sept. 24-Oct. 7](#), finds modest changes in some public attitudes on gun policy:

A majority of Americans say gun laws should be stricter. The share of Americans who say gun laws in this country should be stricter has increased somewhat since last year. Currently, 57% say gun laws should be more strict than they are currently, compared with 31% who say they are about right, while just 11% say they should be less strict. Last year, 52% supported stricter gun laws.

Stark partisan divisions on impact of more gun limits on frequency of mass shootings. Nearly half of Americans (47%) say there would be fewer mass shootings if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the U.S. Slightly more say making gun ownership more difficult either would make no difference (46%) or this would lead to more mass shootings (6%). Two-thirds of Democrats (67%) say making it harder for people to obtain guns would result in fewer mass shootings; an identical share of Republicans say it would not make a difference.

Modest shift in views of gun rights vs. gun control.

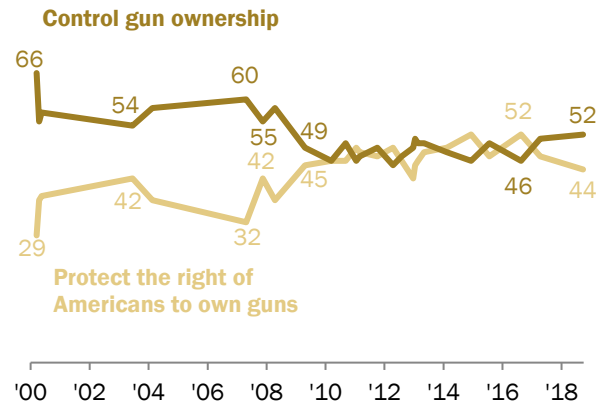
Opinions about whether it is more important to control gun ownership or protect gun rights have been closely divided for several years. Today, somewhat more say it is more important to control gun ownership (52%) than to protect the right of Americans to own guns (44%), according to a separate national survey, conducted Sept. 18-24 among 1,754 adults.

These attitudes, like many related to gun policy, have long been deeply divided along partisan lines. But the partisan gap has widened: In 2010, Barack Obama's second year in office, Republicans were about twice as likely as Democrats to prioritize gun rights rather than gun control (65% vs. 33%). Today, Republicans are four times more likely than Democrats to say gun rights are more important (76% vs. 19%).

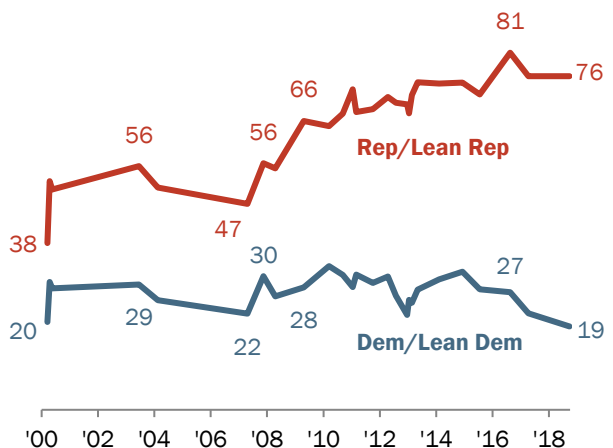
There also is a wide gender divide in these views. By close to two-to-one (62% to 33%), women say it is more important to control gun ownership than to protect the right of Americans to own guns. Men, by a smaller margin (55% to 41%), say it is more important to protect gun ownership.

More now prioritize controlling gun ownership than protecting gun rights

% saying it is more important to ...



% who say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018.

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In views of gun policies, partisanship *and* gun ownership are factors

Like partisanship, gun ownership also impacts views of specific policy proposals. Overall, gun owners are more likely than non-gun owners to support measures that expand access to guns, and less likely to support restrictions on gun use and ownership.

About four-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (41%) say they personally own a gun, compared with 17% of Democrats and Democratic leaners.

These differences in views by gun ownership are evident among members of both parties, though they are more pronounced among Republicans than Democrats.

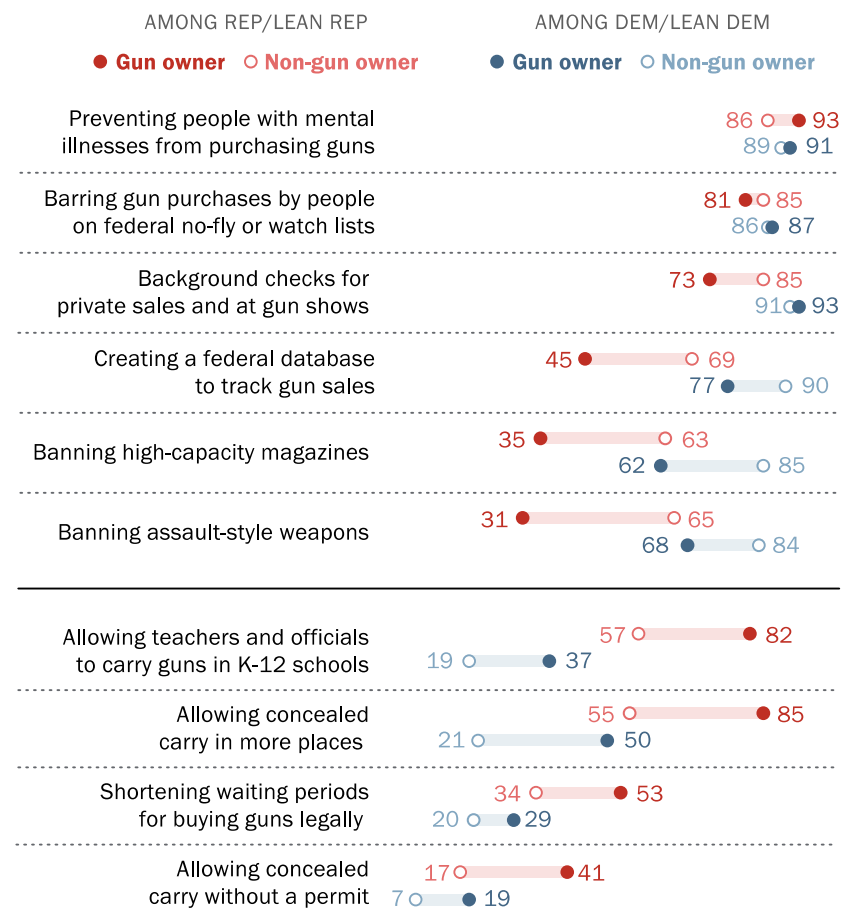
The roughly 50-50 split in views of Republicans overall on banning high-capacity magazines and assault-style weapons reflects sharp differences between Republicans who own guns and those who do not. Among Republicans, non-gun-owners are about 30 percentage points more likely than gun owners to favor each of these proposals.

Yet Democrats also are divided on the basis of gun ownership.

This is particularly evident in opinions about proposals to allow people to carry concealed weapons in more places and arm teachers and other school officials. Half of Democratic gun owners favor

In both parties, divides between gun owners, non-gun owners in views of gun policies

% who somewhat or strongly favor ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018.

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expanded concealed carry, compared with just 21% of Democrats who do not own guns. And Democratic gun-owners are about twice as likely as Democrats who do not own guns to favor arming teachers and other school officials in K-12 schools (37% vs. 19%).

Majority of public supports stricter gun laws

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (57%) say gun laws should be more strict than they are today, 31% say they are about right, and 11% say they should be less strict. Last year, 52% favored stricter laws; 30% said they were about right and 18% said should be less strict.

Democrats are more than twice as likely as Republicans to say gun laws in the U.S. should be stricter than they are today (80% vs. 28%). About half of Republicans say current laws are about right (52%), while 20% say they should be less strict.

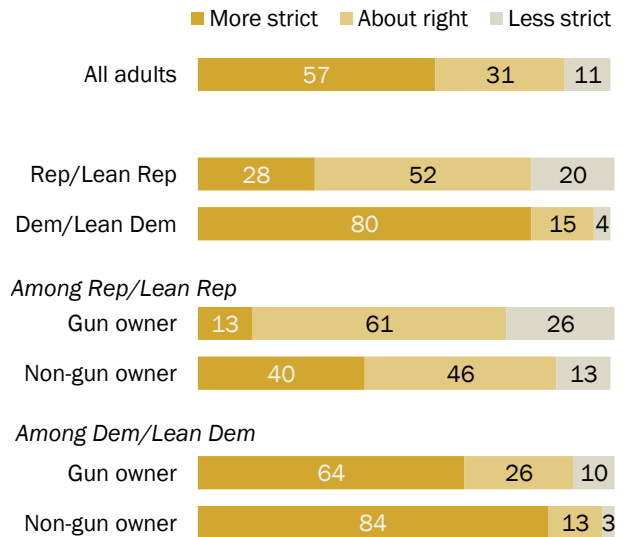
Like attitudes on specific gun proposals, gun ownership also impacts views of the strictness of gun laws. Within each party, non-gun owners were more likely than gun owners to say laws should be more strict.

Democrats – regardless of whether they personally own a gun – overwhelmingly say stricter laws are needed, though fewer Democratic gun owners than non-gun-owners favor making laws stricter (64% vs. 84%).

And while Republicans generally oppose stricter gun laws, support for tougher laws is more widespread among Republican non-gun owners (40%) than gun owners (13%).

Majority of adults say gun laws should be stricter than they are today

% saying gun laws should be ____ than they are today



Note: No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018.

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Impact of changes in access to guns on crime, mass shootings

The public is mixed when it comes to the potential impact that more Americans owning guns would have on crime in the U.S. Comparable shares say that if more Americans owned guns, there would be more crime (37%) or there would be no impact on the amount of crime (33%). About one-in-three say there would be less crime.

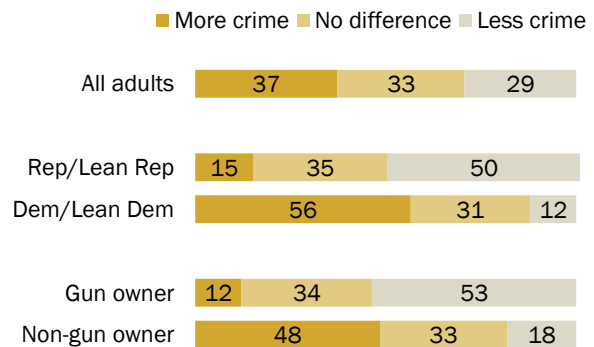
Republicans and Democrats are deeply split on the possible impact of more Americans owning guns. Half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say there would be less crime (50%), while a majority of Democrats say there would be more crime (56%).

Mirroring the gap among partisans, gun-owners and non-gun owners are also deeply divided. A small majority of gun owners say more gun ownership would lead to less crime while nearly half of non-gun owners say there would be more crime.

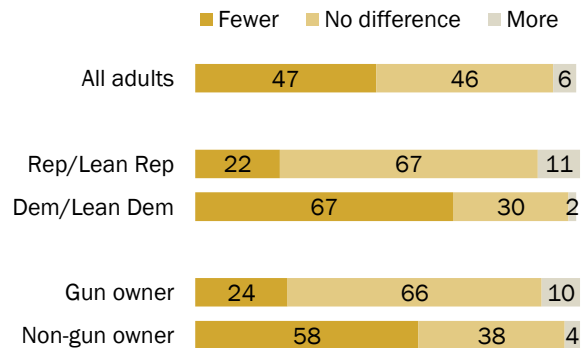
The public also is divided over the impact of making it *harder* to legally own guns on mass shootings in the U.S. Nearly half of adults (47%) say that if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, there would be fewer mass shootings in this country. An equal share (46%) say it would make no difference in the number of these incidents, and 6% say it would result in more mass shootings.

Public split on whether making it harder to own guns would cut mass shootings

% who say *if more Americans owned guns*, there would be ...



% who say *if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns* in the U.S., there would be ____ mass shootings



Note: No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018.

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Overall, public views are little changed since the question was last asked in 2017. However, the share who say there would be more mass shootings if it were harder to own guns is smaller – from 13% in a year ago to 6% today.

Gun policy activism: Modest partisan gaps, except on attending protests

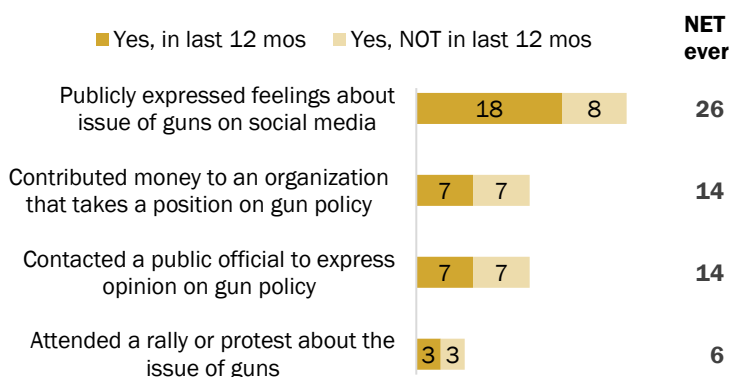
Relatively few Americans say they have ever expressed their feelings about the issue of guns by either posting on social media (26%), contributing money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy (14%), contacting a public official to express an opinion on guns (14%) or attending a rally or protest about the issue of guns (6%).

Even smaller shares say they have done any of these activities in the past year.

On two behaviors surveyed in 2017 and today – contributing money to an organization or contacting a public official – the share who report having done either is little changed. In 2017, 6% of adults said they had contacted a public official in the previous year to express an opinion on gun policy. Today, 7% of adults say they have contacted an official in the past 12 months.

More say they express feelings about gun policy on social media than donate money or contact officials

% who have ever done any of the following ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018.

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Similarly, in 2017, 7% of adults said they had contributed money to an organization in the past year. Today, an equal share (7%) say the same.

There are no significant differences in expressions of views on gun policy by age or gender, but larger differences by gun ownership and partisanship.

Gun owners were more likely than non-gun owners to say they had publicly expressed feelings about the issue of guns on social media (22% vs. 16%) or contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy (13% vs. 5%) in the past 12 months.

Differences between gun owners and non-gun owners are particularly pronounced among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. A quarter of Republican gun-owners said they had posted about guns on social media in the last year (25%), contributed money to an organization (16%) or contacted a public official (9%). Among non-gun owning Republicans, fewer reported engaging in these activities.

In contrast, there are few differences between gun owning and non-gun owning Democrats.

And while Republicans and Democrats overall report similar levels of engagement in expressive activities on guns, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they had attended a rally or protest about the issue of guns in the past 12 months (5% vs 1%, respectively).

Democrats more likely than Republicans to have attended a protest or rally on guns; slight differences on contacting public officials, donating to gun policy groups

% who say they have done the following in the last 12 months ...

	Publicly expressed feelings about issue of guns on social media	Contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy	Contacted a public official to express opinion on gun policy	Attended a rally or protest about the issue of guns
All adults	18	7	7	3
Gun owner	22	13	8	2
Non-gun owner	16	5	7	4
Rep/Lean Rep	18	8	6	1
Gun owner	25	16	9	1
Non-gun owner	12	3	3	1
Dem/Lean Dem	19	7	9	5
Gun owner	18	8	6	4
Non-gun owner	20	6	9	5

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2018.

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Acknowledgements

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Most of the analysis in this report is based on surveys conducted online with Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP). The ATP, created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. The panel is being managed by GfK.

One question was asked on a telephone survey conducted Sept. 18-24, 2018. For more, see [“Voter Enthusiasm at Record High in Nationalized Midterm Environment.”](#)

Data in this report are drawn from the panel wave conducted September 24-October 7, 2018. A total of 10,683 panelists responded out of 13,492 who were sampled, for a response rate of 79%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and

attrition is 3.8%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 10,683 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. The module of questions about gun attitudes was asked of half of respondents (5,307) with a margin of sampling error of 2.1 percentage points.

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to mail recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment Dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,756
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,639
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	1,075
Aug. 8, 2018-Ongoing	ABS/web	8,611	8,023	8,023
	Total	28,329	17,965	13,493

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel. The number of active panelists in this table reflects the state of the panel on Sept. 17, 2018.

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Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a random half-sample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. As of Sept. 17, 2018, a total of 8,611 had been invited to join the panel, and 8,023 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey.

Of the 17,965 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,493 remain active panelists and continue to receive survey invitations.

Weighting

The ATP data were weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original survey selection probability and the fact that in 2014 and 2017 some panelists were subsampled for invitation to the panel. For panelists recruited prior to 2018, an adjustment was made for the fact that the propensity to join the panel and remain an active panelist varied across different groups in the sample. No adjustment was made for new panelists from the 2018 recruitment. The final step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and statistical-significance tests take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish, but the American Trends Panel's Hispanic sample is predominantly native born and English speaking.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Gender	2016 American Community Survey
Age	
Education	
Race/Hispanic origin	
Region x Metropolitan status	2017 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2015 CPS Volunteer Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys.
Internet access	2018 Pew Research Center internet core trends telephone survey

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total US adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	10,683	1.5 percentage points
Half sample	5,307	2.1 percentage points
Half sample Rep/Lean Rep	2,142	3.3 percentage points
Half sample Dem/Lean Dem	2,965	2.9 percentage points
Half sample gun owners	1,536	3.9 percentage points
Half sample non-gun owners	3,598	2.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 38
September 24-October 7, 2018
FINAL TOPLINE
N=10,683

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:

GUNSTRICT Which of the following statements comes closest to your overall view of gun laws in this country? **[REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE]**

Sep 24- Oct 7 2018		Mar 13- Mar 27 2017
57	Gun laws should be MORE strict than they are today	52
31	Gun laws are about right	30
11	Gun laws should be LESS strict than they are today	18
1	No answer	1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2

ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:

GUNPRIORITY1 Please indicate whether you would **[MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES: favor or oppose]** the following proposals about gun policy. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE, USE SAME ORDER AS GUNPRIORITY2]**

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Barring gun purchases by people on the federal no-fly or watch lists					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	67	17	7	8	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	66	17	9	7	1
b. Preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	74	15	5	6	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	73	15	5	6	1
c. Banning assault-style weapons					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	51	15	13	19	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	53	15	14	17	1
d. Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	54	20	11	14	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	50	22	13	15	*
e. Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	50	17	14	18	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	47	17	14	20	1

GUNPRIORITY1 CONTINUED...

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
f. Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	69	16	7	7	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	65	20	8	7	1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2**ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:**

GUNPRIORITY2 Please indicate whether you would **[MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES: favor or oppose]** the following proposals about gun policy. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE, USE SAME ORDER AS GUNPRIORITY1]**

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
g. Allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	20	25	18	37	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	19	28	23	30	*
h. Allowing people to carry concealed guns without a permit					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	8	9	13	69	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	9	9	15	66	1
i. Allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns in K-12 schools					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	20	23	15	42	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	18	26	19	36	*
j. Shortening waiting periods for people who want to buy guns legally					
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	13	18	23	45	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	14	22	25	38	1

ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:

GUNACTIVISM Have you ever done any of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Yes, in the last 12 <u>months</u>	Yes, but not in the last 12 <u>months</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Contacted a public official to express your opinion on gun policy				
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	7	7	86	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	6	9	85	*
b. Contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy				
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	7	7	85	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	7	8	84	*

GUNACTIVISM CONTINUED...

	Yes, in the last 12 <u>months</u>	Yes, but not in the last 12 <u>months</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
c. Attended a rally or protest about the issue of guns Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	3	3	93	1
d. Publicly expressed your feelings about the issue of guns on Facebook, Twitter or other social media Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	18	8	73	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,657]:

MOREGUNIMPACT

If more Americans owned guns, do you think there would be... **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 AND 2 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE; ALWAYS DISPLAY THIRD OPTION LAST]**

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>		Mar 13- Mar 27 <u>2017</u>
37	More crime	35
29	Less crime	33
33	Not make a difference	32
1	No answer	1

ASK FORM 3 ONLY [N=2,650]:

MASSSTRICT

If it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, do you think there would be ... **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 AND 2 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE; ALWAYS DISPLAY THIRD OPTION LAST]** {W25, mod not make a difference}

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>		Mar 13- Mar 27 <u>2017</u>
47	Fewer mass shootings	47
6	More mass shootings	13
46	No difference	39
*	No answer	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
SEPTEMBER 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2018
N=1,754**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 7-8, 11-13, 28, 33, 44-46, 50-51, 58-59, 64-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 9-10, 14-27, 29-32, 34-43, 47-49, 52-57, 60-63, 67-72

Next,

ASK ALL:

Q.73 What do you think is more important – to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

	Protect right of Americans to own guns	Control gun ownership	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Sep 18-24, 2018	44	52	4
Apr 5-11, 2017	47	51	2
Aug 9-16, 2016	52	46	3
Jul 14-20, 2015	47	50	3
Dec 3-7, 2014	52	46	3
Jan 23-Feb 9, 2014	49	48	3
May 1-5, 2013	48	50	2
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	46	50	4
Jan 9-13, 2013	45	51	5
Dec 17-19, 2012	42	49	9
July 26-29, 2012	46	47	6
Apr 4-15, 2012	49	45	6
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	47	49	5
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	47	6
Jan 13-16, 2011	49	46	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	46	50	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	46	7
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	45	49	6
April, 2008	37	58	5
November, 2007	42	55	3
April, 2007	32	60	8
February, 2004	37	58	5
June, 2003	42	54	4
May, 2000	38	57	5
April, 2000	37	55	8
March, 2000	29	66	5
June, 1999	33	62	5
May, 1999	30	65	5
December, 1993	34	57	9

QUESTIONS 74-79, 83-84, 93, 96-101 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 80-82, 85-92, 94-95

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>			
Sep 18-24, 2018	25	32	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jun 5-12, 2018	25	31	38	3	1	2	15	18
Apr 25-May 1, 2018	27	28	38	4	1	2	14	19
Mar 7-14, 2018	26	28	41	3	*	1	17	18
Jan 10-15, 2018	26	33	34	3	1	3	12	18
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	20	32	40	4	1	3	13	19
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	32	41	3	1	2	17	19
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	25	31	39	3	1	2	16	18
Yearly Totals								
2017	23.6	31.4	39.4	3.3	.6	1.7	15.8	18.7
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls