

YouGov Survey: Mass shootings and guns



Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted May 25 - June 2, 2022
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

1. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	23%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun	16%
No one in the household owns a gun	53%
Not sure	8%

2. How important, if at all, is being a gun owner to your overall identity?

Asked of gun owners

Very important	36%
Somewhat important	21%
Not very important	19%
Not at all important	21%
Not sure	3%

3. Do you think the average American can be trusted with a gun?

Yes	45%
No	35%
Not sure	19%

4. Do you personally know anyone (including yourself, friends, family members, or acquaintances) who...

	Yes	No	Not sure
Owns a gun	70%	22%	8%
Desires to purchase a gun but is restricted from doing so	17%	74%	10%
Has been shot by someone else with a gun	28%	65%	7%
Has been killed intentionally by another person with a gun	23%	71%	6%
Has died as a result of an accidental gunshot wound	17%	77%	6%
Has died by suicide using a gun	31%	63%	6%
Has been present during a mass shooting	10%	83%	7%

5. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	54%
No change	25%
Make gun laws less strict	12%
Not sure	9%

6. Which comes closest to your position on guns — do you think owning a gun in the United States should be...

Legal in all cases	8%
Legal in most cases	53%
Illegal in most cases	20%
Illegal in all cases	8%
Not sure	10%

7. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the National Rifle Association (NRA)?

Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	20%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	31%
Don't know	19%

8. Thinking about the influence the NRA has in U.S. politics, which comes closest to your view?

The NRA has too much influence	42%
The NRA has the right amount of influence	23%
The NRA has too little influence	12%
Not sure	23%

9. Do you think that supporting restrictions on gun ownership is a pro-life stance or a pro-choice stance?

Pro-life	14%
Pro-choice	14%
Both pro-life and pro-choice	22%
Neither	33%
Not sure	18%

10. If more Americans owned guns, do you think there would be...

More gun violence	41%
No difference in gun violence	23%
Less gun violence	23%
Not sure	13%

11. Do you think that mass shootings are something that can be stopped or are just a fact of life in the United States today?

Mass shootings are something that can be stopped	57%
Mass shootings are just a fact of life in the United States today	26%
Not sure	16%

12. Which comes closer to your opinion?

Members of Congress should take action to reduce mass shootings	52%
Mass shootings cannot be reduced through legislation	35%
Not sure	12%

13. Do you think that stricter gun laws would...

Increase the number of mass shootings in the U.S.	12%
Not change the number of mass shootings in the U.S.	32%
Decrease the number of mass shootings in the U.S.	44%
Not sure	13%

14. How often do you think law enforcement successfully prevents mass shootings from happening?

Very often	8%
Somewhat often	22%
Not very often	33%
Not often at all	19%
Not sure	18%

15. Assuming handguns can be sold legally to some Americans, what do you think the minimum age for purchasing a handgun should be?

There should be no age limit	1%
Younger than 16	1%
16	1%
17	0%
18	13%
19	2%
20	2%
21	36%
22	2%
23	2%
24	1%
25	13%
Older than 25	18%
Not sure	8%

16. Assuming rifles can be sold legally to some Americans, what do you think the minimum age for purchasing a rifle should be?

There should be no age limit	2%
Younger than 16	1%
16	2%
17	0%
18	16%
19	2%
20	3%
21	30%
22	3%
23	2%
24	1%
25	11%
Older than 25	20%
Not sure	7%

17. What percentage of school shootings do you think are committed by people under the age of 20?

Around 0%	1%
Around 10%	3%
Around 20%	4%
Around 30%	6%
Around 40%	4%
Around 50%	13%
Around 60%	7%
Around 70%	11%
Around 80%	13%
Around 90%	13%
Around 100%	7%
Not sure	19%

18. How much, if at all, do you blame the following for gun violence in this country?

	Blame a lot	Blame a little	Don't blame at all	Not sure
Number of guns owned	33%	18%	35%	14%
The Second Amendment	22%	18%	45%	15%
Mental illness	53%	29%	8%	9%
Social media	43%	34%	11%	12%
Violence in video games	33%	32%	23%	11%
Weakening of the nuclear family	37%	23%	20%	20%
Decline in morality	47%	25%	12%	16%
Level of funding for police departments	23%	27%	32%	17%
Gangs and organized crime	53%	28%	8%	10%

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Toxic masculinity	31%	25%	24%	20%
Societal division	38%	32%	12%	18%
Gun manufacturers	29%	18%	41%	12%
Republican politicians	36%	18%	31%	15%
Democratic politicians	24%	29%	30%	18%
The gun lobby	37%	16%	29%	18%
Bad parenting	44%	35%	9%	12%
Leniency in the criminal-justice system	43%	26%	16%	14%

19. Would you support or oppose...

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Banning assault-style weapons	46%	14%	9%	22%	9%
Banning high-capacity ammunition clips	44%	14%	12%	18%	11%
Requiring a waiting period before a person is able to purchase a gun	53%	21%	9%	9%	9%
Requiring people to demonstrate their need for the gun before purchasing it	29%	20%	14%	25%	13%
Requiring people to undergo a psychological evaluation before purchasing a gun	40%	23%	12%	13%	12%
Raising the age limit at which people are allowed to purchase guns	50%	16%	10%	13%	11%
Holding gun manufacturers and sellers liable for shootings	22%	16%	15%	35%	12%
Allowing teachers and officials to carry guns in K-12 schools	27%	20%	14%	27%	13%

20. How effective do you think active-shooter drills in K-12 schools are at preventing gun deaths in schools?

Very effective	10%
Somewhat effective	37%
Not very effective	25%
Not at all effective	11%
Not sure	17%

21. When you were in school, did you ever participate in active shooter drills?

Yes	21%
No	73%
Not sure	7%

22. When you were growing up, how worried were you, if at all, that a mass shooting would happen at your school?

Very worried	7%
Somewhat worried	10%
Not too worried	12%
Not at all worried	65%
Not sure	6%

23. About how old were you when the first school shooting you remember took place?

Younger than 6	1%
Between the ages of 6 and 10	4%
Between the ages of 11 and 12	4%
Between the ages of 13 and 15	8%
Between the ages of 16 and 17	7%
Between the ages of 18 and 29	17%
Between the ages of 30 and 44	22%
Between the ages of 45 and 64	16%
65 or older	1%
Not sure	19%

24. Which comes closest to your view on politicians who oppose gun restrictions offering “thoughts and prayers” after a school shooting?

Sincere	23%
Insincere	43%
Neither sincere nor insincere	19%
Not sure	15%

25. How effective do you think the following are at preventing mass school shootings?

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not very effective	Not at all effective	Not sure
Armed security guards	30%	37%	16%	8%	10%
Police officers	26%	36%	21%	9%	9%
Metal detectors	26%	44%	15%	6%	9%
Armed teachers	23%	26%	18%	19%	14%
Unarmed teachers	6%	14%	27%	36%	18%
Mental health counselors	18%	37%	23%	9%	12%

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Interviewing Dates	May 25 - June 2, 2022
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2020 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.19 to 4.78, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.465.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	65 questions not reported.