

FOR RELEASE APRIL 20, 2021

Amid a Series of Mass Shootings in the U.S., Gun Policy Remains Deeply Divisive

Declining support among Republicans for ban on assault-style weapons, national gun registry

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, April, 2021, "Amid a Series of Mass Shootings in the U.S., Gun Policy Remains Deeply Divisive "

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand Americans' views on gun policy and how those views have changed over time. For this analysis, we surveyed 5,109 U.S. adults in April 2021. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for the report](#), along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

Amid a Series of Mass Shootings in the U.S., Gun Policy Remains Deeply Divisive

Declining support among Republicans for ban on assault-style weapons, national gun registry

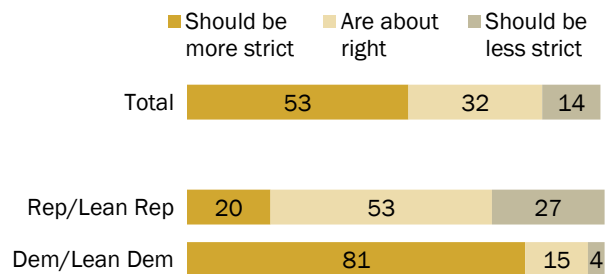
In an era marked by deep divisions between Republicans and Democrats, few issues are as politically polarizing as gun policy. While a few specific policy proposals continue to garner bipartisan support, the partisan divisions on other proposals – and even on whether gun violence is a serious national problem – have grown wider over the last few years.

Today, just over half of Americans (53%) say gun laws should be stricter than they currently are, a view held by 81% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents but just 20% of Republicans and Republican leaners. Similarly, while nearly three-quarters of Democrats (73%) say making it harder to legally obtain guns would lead to fewer mass shootings, only 20% of Republicans say this, with most (65%) saying this would have no effect.

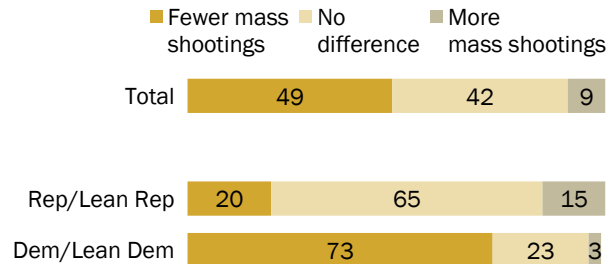
The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted from April 5-11, 2021 among 5,109 adults, finds that 73% of Democrats consider gun violence to be a very big problem for the country today, compared with just 18% of Republicans who say the same. The current partisan gap on this question is 11-percentage-points wider than in 2018 and 19 points wider than in 2016.

Narrow majority favors stricter gun laws, but deep partisan divisions persist

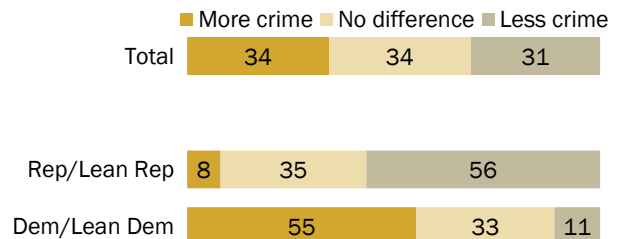
% who say gun laws ...



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



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



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Note: This survey was conducted after [eight people were killed in the Atlanta area](#) on March 16 and [10 people were killed in Boulder, Colorado](#) on March 22. It was fielded before a shooting in which [eight people were killed in Indianapolis](#) on April 15.

Overall, several gun policy proposals continue to draw broad support from Americans. Nearly nine-in-ten (87%) favor preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns, while 81% favor subjecting private gun sales and sales at gun shows to background checks.

Smaller though still sizeable majorities of Americans support the creation of a federal database tracking all gun sales (66%) and bans on high capacity magazines (64%) and assault-style weapons (63%).

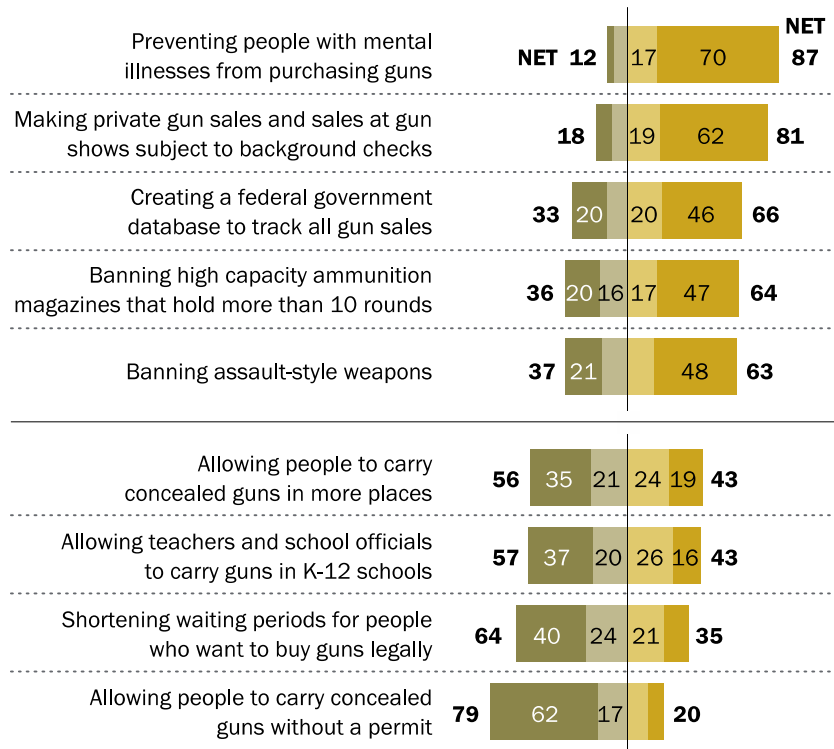
Meanwhile, four policies aimed at easing gun restrictions – allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places, allowing K-12 teachers and school officials to carry guns in schools,

shortening waiting periods for purchasing guns, and allowing people to carry concealed guns without a permit – all face more opposition than support in the public.

Broad support for barring people with mental illnesses from obtaining guns, expanded background checks

% who ...

■ Strongly oppose ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Somewhat favor ■ Strongly favor



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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But there are very few areas of bipartisan agreement across the nine proposals asked about in the survey.

Two policies that would restrict access to guns garner clear majority support from both Republicans and Democrats: preventing those with mental illnesses from purchasing guns (supported by 85% of Republicans and 90% of Democrats) and subjecting private gun sales and gun show sales to background checks (70% of Republicans, 92% of Democrats).

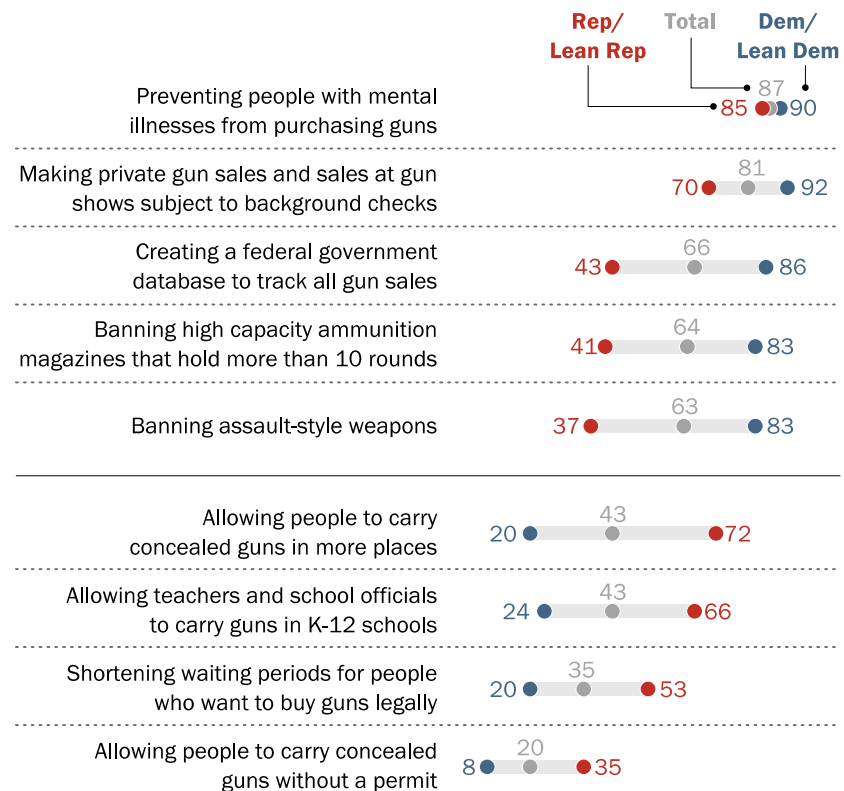
And there is widespread opposition in both parties to allowing people to carry concealed firearms without a permit.

But while 80% or more Democrats favor creating a federal database to track gun sales and banning both assault-style weapons and high capacity magazines, these proposals are each favored by roughly 40% of Republicans, with majorities of Republicans in opposition.

Conversely, while wide majorities of Republicans support allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places (72%) and allowing primary and secondary teachers and officials to be armed in K-12 schools (66%), these proposals are overwhelmingly opposed by Democrats (only about 20% favor either).

Bipartisan support for preventing the mentally ill from buying guns, expanded background checks; wide partisan differences on many other gun policies

% who strongly or somewhat favor ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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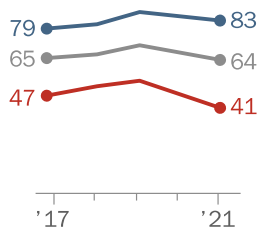
Several of these partisan gaps also are now wider than they have been in recent years. Although Democratic opinion is little changed since 2017, GOP support for an assault-style weapons ban has dropped substantially, from 54% in 2017 and 50% in 2019 to 37% today.

Declining GOP support for assault-style weapons ban, national gun registry

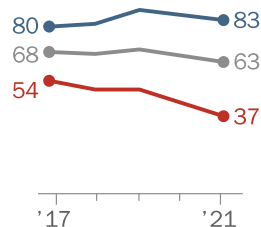
% who strongly or somewhat favor ...

— Total — Rep/Lean Rep — Dem/Lean Dem

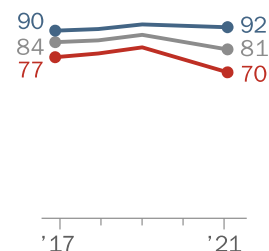
Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds



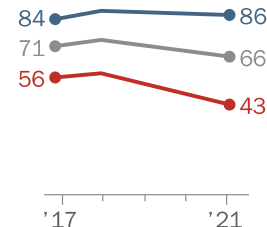
Banning assault-style weapons



Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks



Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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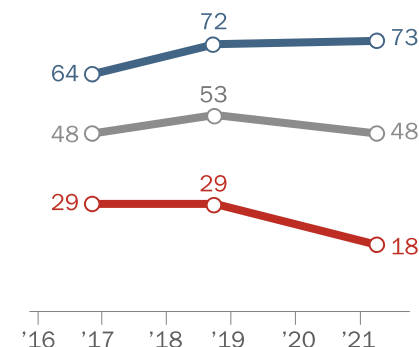
Similarly, Republican support for a federal gun sale database is 13 percentage points lower than it was in 2017. There have been more modest Republican shifts away from support for ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines and background checks for private and gun show sales.

And while gun violence ranks as one of the [top problems facing the nation](#) among Democrats – with 73% saying it is a “very big problem” for the country – it ranks far lower for Republicans, with just 18% saying this.

Democrats have long been more likely than Republicans to characterize gun violence this way, but the share of Democrats viewing gun violence as a very big problem has risen over the last several years, while the share of Republicans saying this has declined.

GOP share saying gun violence is very big problem for the country declines

% who say gun violence is a ‘very big’ problem in the country today



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Share of Americans who favor stricter gun laws has declined since 2019

A narrow majority of U.S. adults (53%) say that gun laws should be stricter than they are today. About a third (32%) say that gun laws are currently about right, and 14% say they should be less strict than they are today.

The share who say gun laws should be stricter has decreased since September 2019, when six-in-ten Americans said this. Current views are essentially the same as they were four years ago, when 52% of adults said guns laws should be stricter, 30% said they were about right and 18% said they should be less strict.

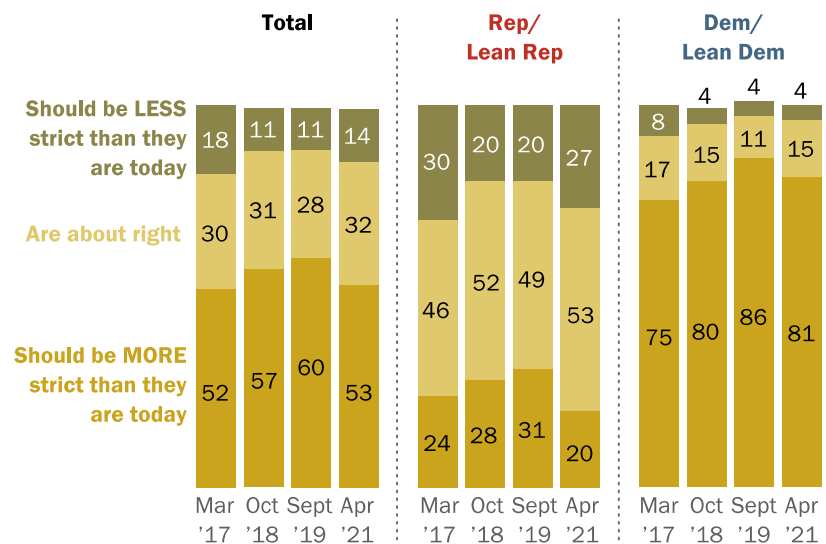
About half of Republicans and Republican leaners (53%) say that gun laws are currently about right. Republicans are now more likely to say that gun laws should be less strict (27%) than they are to say they should be more strict (20%).

This is a reversal since 2019, when a larger share of Republicans favored stricter gun laws than less strict laws (31% vs. 20%). Since then, the share of Republicans favoring stricter gun laws has declined 11 percentage points.

A large majority of Democrats and Democratic leaners (81%) say gun laws should be stricter than they are today, though the share who say this has declined slightly since 2019 (from 86%).

Support for stricter gun laws has fluctuated in recent years; fewer back stricter laws now than in 2019

% who say gun laws ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Within the political parties, there are ideological differences in views of gun laws. Liberal Democrats are 10 percentage points more likely than conservative or moderate Democrats to say that gun laws should be more strict, though large majorities of both groups say this.

Among Republicans, most conservatives (58%) say that gun laws today are about right. Conservatives are much more likely to say that gun laws should be less strict (30%) than they are to say they should be stricter (12%). By comparison, slightly fewer than half of moderate and liberal Republicans (45%) say that gun laws are currently about right. And unlike conservative Republicans, moderate and liberal Republicans are more likely to say gun laws should be stricter (34%) than to say they should be less strict (21%).

There also are substantial demographic differences in support for stricter gun laws. For example, a majority of women (58%) say that gun laws should be more strict, compared with about half of men (48%).

Majorities of Black adults (75%), Asian adults (72%) and Hispanic adults (65%) say that gun laws should be stricter, compared with 45% of White adults. About four-in-ten White adults (38%) say that gun laws are about right; 17% say they should be made less strict.

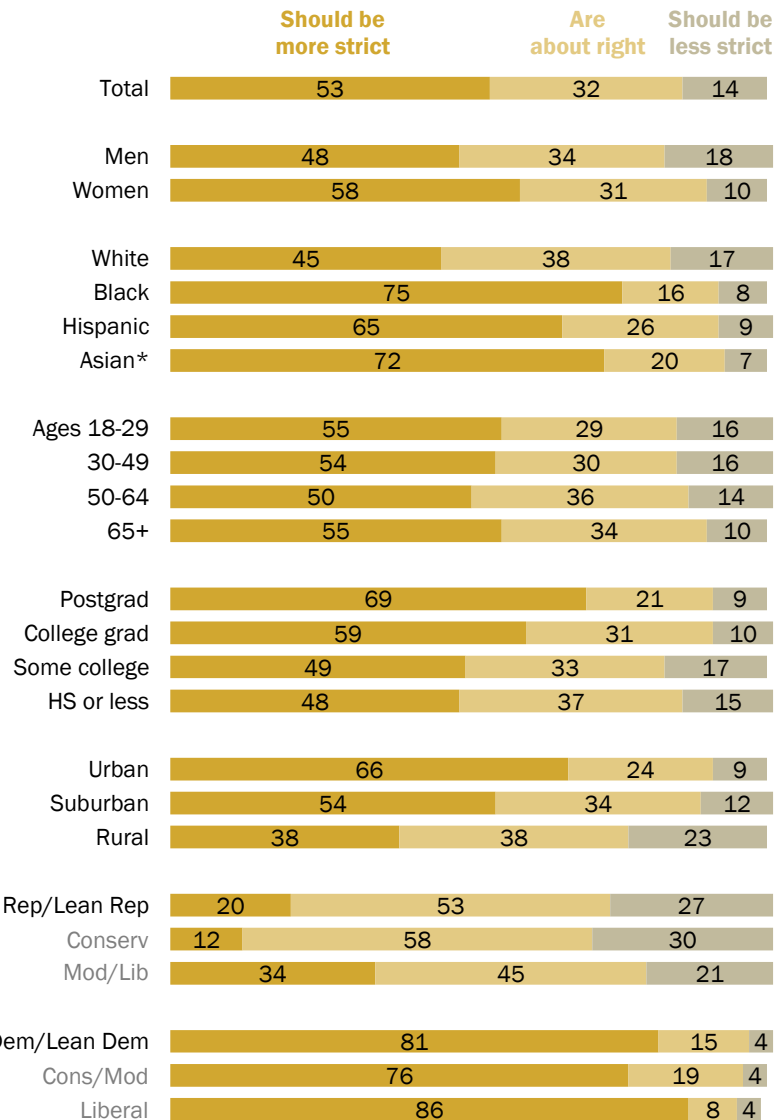
Adults with college degrees are much more likely than those without college degrees to support stricter gun laws. Nearly seven-in-ten adults with postgraduate experience (69%) and nearly six-in-ten who have a college degree but no postgraduate experience (59%) say gun laws should be more strict, compared with about half of those with some or no college experience (48%).

Americans are also divided based on the types of communities they live in.

About two-thirds of those who say they live in urban areas (66%) say gun laws should be stricter, while 24% say they are about right and just 9% say they should be less strict. Among those who

Wide differences in support for stricter gun laws by race, gender, education and community type

% who say gun laws ...



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: White, Black, and Asian adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

describe their communities as suburban, a slim majority (54%) favor stricter gun laws. And those who say they live in rural communities are equally likely to say gun laws should be more strict or that they are currently about right (38% each). About a quarter (23%) say they should be less strict.

Age differences on this question are relatively modest. Nearly identical shares of adults ages 50 and over (52%) and those under 50 (54%) say that gun laws should be stricter than they are today. However, those over 50 are slightly more likely to say current gun laws are about right (35%) than younger adults (30%).

Public divided over impact of gun availability on crime

The public is divided on whether an increase in the number of Americans who own guns would result in more – or less – crime. And there is a division of opinion on the possible impact of making guns *harder* to legally obtain on the number of mass shootings in the U.S.

On crime, 34% say if more people owned guns, there would be more crime. Nearly as many (31%) say this would lead to less crime. Another 34% say increasing the number of people who own guns would make no difference for crime levels.

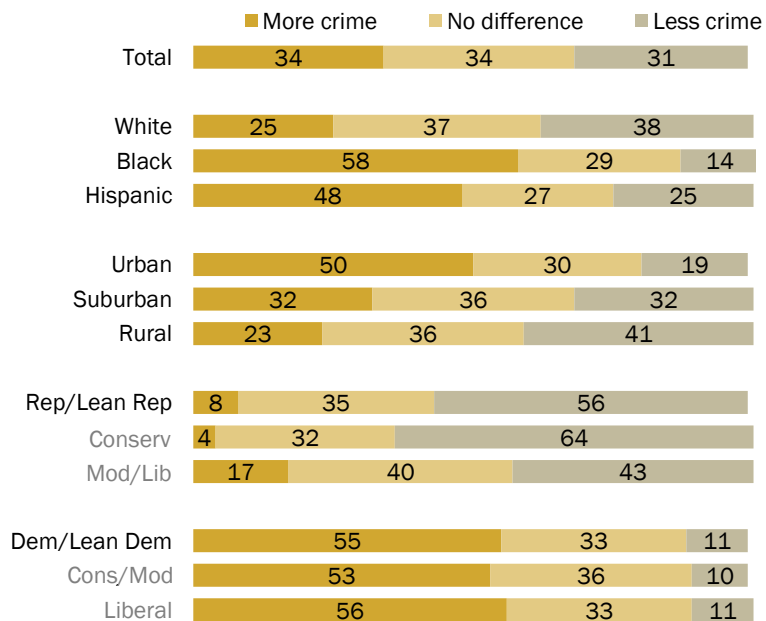
Black and Hispanic adults are more likely than White adults to say that if more Americans owned guns there would be more crime. A majority of Black adults (58%) and about half of Hispanic adults (48%) say this, compared with only a quarter of White adults.

Republicans and Democrats differ starkly on this question. A 55% majority of Democrats say there would be more crime if more people owned guns, while a similar majority of Republicans (56%) say there would be *less* crime.

While there are no substantial ideological differences among Democrats in these views, there are differences within the GOP. A majority of conservative Republicans (64%) say if more Americans owned guns there would be less crime. Among moderate Republicans, about as many say that there would be less crime (43%) or no difference in crime (40%) if more Americans owned guns.

Black adults far more likely than White adults to say crime would go up if more people had guns

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



Notes: White and Black adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Americans' views on this question also vary by geography. Half of those living in urban areas say if more Americans owned guns there would be more crime. Adults in suburban and rural areas are less likely to say this (32% and 23% respectively). About four-in-ten adults who live in rural areas say that if more Americans owned guns there would be *less* crime, compared with 32% of those in suburban areas and just 19% of adults living in urban areas.

About half say making it harder to legally obtain guns would result in fewer mass shootings

Nearly half of Americans (49%) say there would be fewer mass shootings if guns were more difficult to obtain legally; about as many say either this would have no difference on the number or mass shootings (42%), or that they would increase (9%).

About six-in-ten of Black (63%) and Hispanic (62%) adults say that if it was harder to obtain guns, there would be fewer mass shootings.

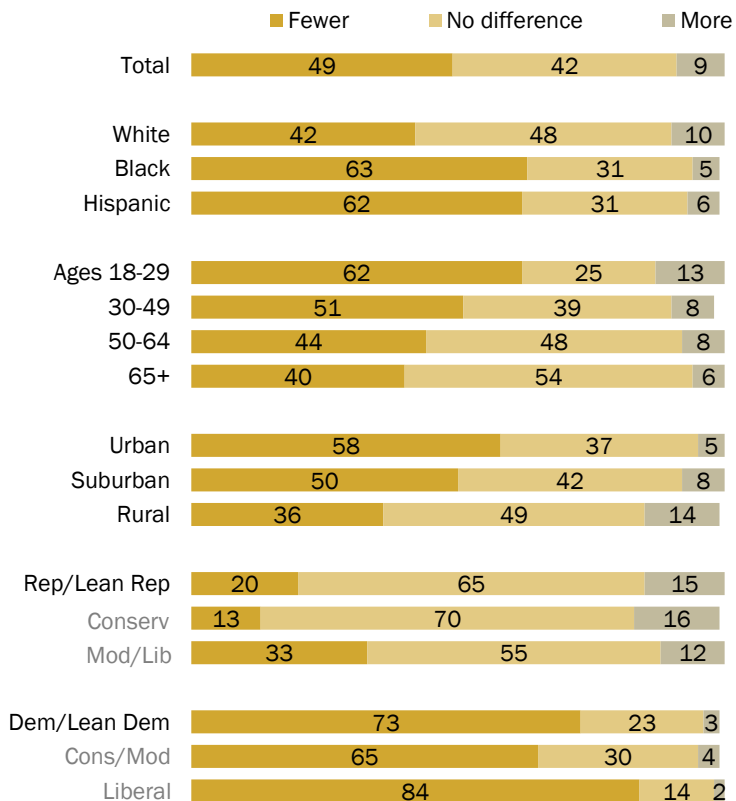
By comparison, White adults are roughly as likely to say there would be fewer mass shootings (42%) if it was harder to obtain guns as they are to say there would be no difference (48%).

Adults under 30 are most likely to say making it harder to obtain guns would lead to fewer mass shootings: About six-in-ten adults ages 18-29 (62%) say this, compared with 51% of those ages 30-49, 44% of those 50-64 years of age and 40% of those over the age of 65.

There are deep partisan divides on the possible impact of making it harder to legally obtain guns on the frequency of mass shootings. While a large majority of Democrats (73%) say that if it were harder to legally obtain guns there would be fewer mass shootings, only 20% of Republicans say

Young adults far more likely than older people to say mass shootings would be less frequent if guns were harder to obtain legally

% who say if it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, there would be ___ mass shootings



Notes: White and Black adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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the same. Nearly two thirds of Republicans (65%) say there would be no difference if it were harder to obtain guns.

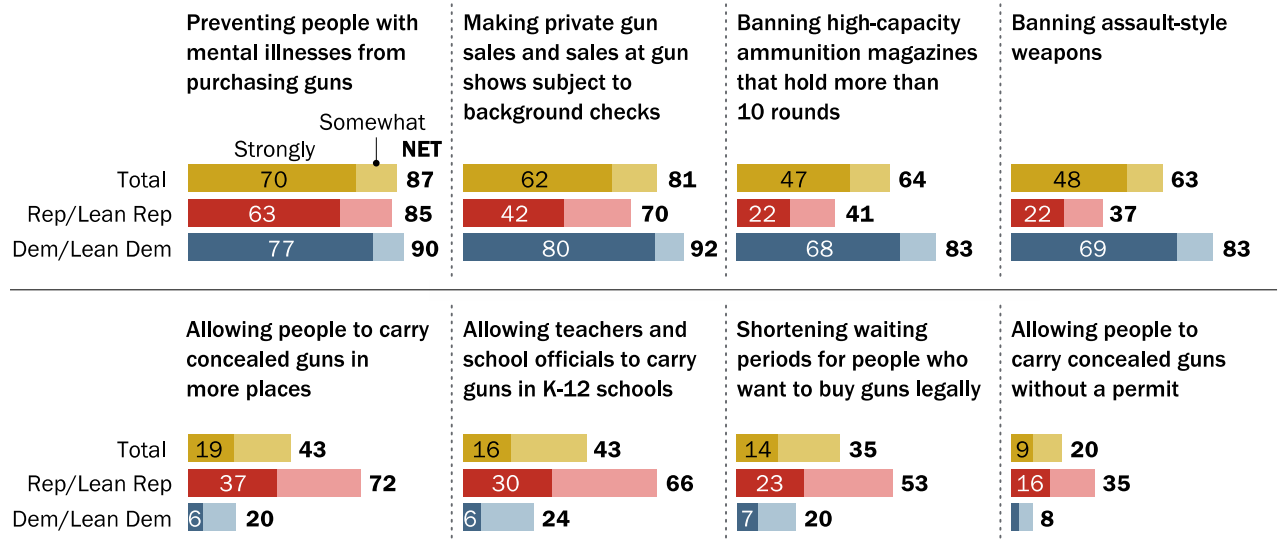
Among adults living in urban areas, a 58% majority say that making guns harder to legally obtain would lead to fewer mass shootings. Half of adults living in suburban areas and 36% living in rural areas say the same.

Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to strongly favor limits on gun availability

Support for several gun policy proposals – including expanded gun background checks and an assault weapons ban – is much greater among Democrats than Republicans. And for the most part, the share of Democrats who *strongly* favor these proposals far exceeds the share of Republicans who do so.

Large shares of Democrats *strongly* favor gun policies that would restrict purchases, ownership of certain weapons; Republicans express more lukewarm support

% who strongly or somewhat favor ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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This is evident in opinions about making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks. An overwhelming share of Democrats (92%) favor this proposal, as do a substantial but smaller majority of Republicans (70%). Yet while 80% of Democrats say they strongly favor expanded background checks on gun sales, only 42% of Republicans say the same.

A far smaller share of Republicans (37%) than Democrats (83%) favors banning assault-style weapons. Among the Democrats who support such a ban, most favor it strongly; 69% of Democrats say they *strongly* favor a ban on assault weapons, while just 15% *somewhat* favor it. By contrast, just 22% of Republicans strongly favor an assault weapons ban, while 16% somewhat favor it.

Even on a broadly popular proposal – preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns, which is supported by 90% of Democrats and 85% of Republicans – Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be strongly in favor (77% vs. 63%).

Republicans express far more support for allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places (72%), allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns in K-12 schools (66%), and shortening waiting periods for people who want to buy guns legally (53%). But compared with Democrats' strong support for more restrictive gun policies, Republicans express more tepid support for any of these. Just 37% of Republicans say they strongly support concealed carry in more places, while three-in-ten say they strongly support allowing teachers and officials to carry guns in schools.

In contrast, Democrats *strongly* oppose these same measures. For example, 56% say they strongly oppose allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places, while 54% strongly oppose allowing K-12 teachers and officials to carry guns in schools.

Views on gun policies vary by partisanship and community type

While partisan differences are far and away the biggest factor in attitudes about guns, views of several gun policies also vary substantially by geography. In part, this is itself due to differences in the [partisan complexion of urban, suburban and rural places in the United States](#), with urban areas trending more Democratic in recent years and rural areas trending more toward the GOP. But even within each party – and particularly within the Republican Party – attitudes toward gun policies vary by geography. Those living in rural places typically favor more expansive access to guns, while those in urban places favor more restrictive policies.

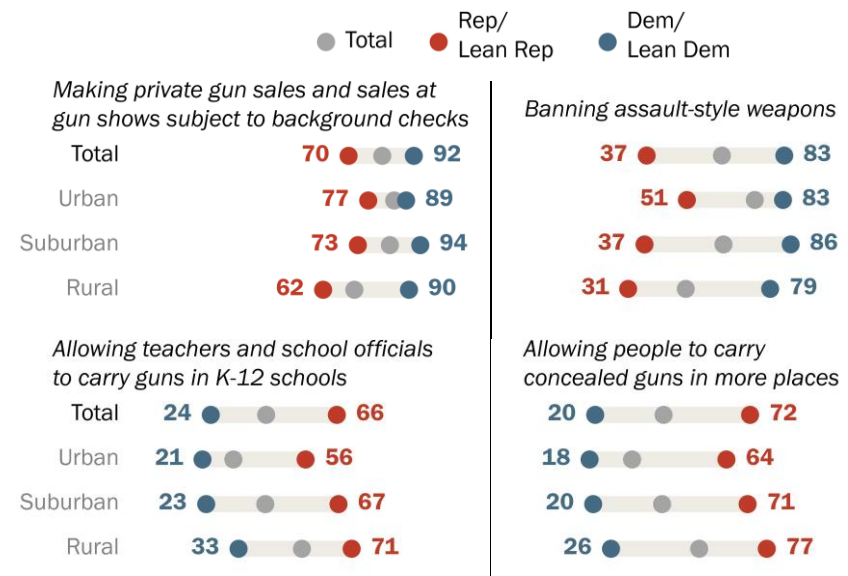
For example, about half (51%) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who describe their communities as urban favor bans on assault-style weapons, compared with 31% of Republicans living in rural areas. Rural Republicans are also substantially more likely than their urban counterparts to favor allowing teachers and other school officials to carry guns in K-12 schools (71% of rural Republicans compared with 56% of those living in urban places).

Democrats and Democratic leaners living in rural places are also somewhat more likely than those living in urban

places to support expansive gun policies (or less likely to favor restrictive ones). For example, about a third (33%) of rural Democrats support allowing teachers and other school officials to carry guns, compared with 21% of those in urban areas.

Less support for expanded gun background checks among Republicans in rural areas than those living in urban, suburban communities

% who strongly or somewhat favor ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Americans living in urban areas are much more likely than rural Americans to say gun violence is a very big problem in the country

About half of adults (48%) say that gun violence is a very big problem in the country today, though the shares who say this are much higher among Democrats, Black adults and adults who describe their communities as urban.

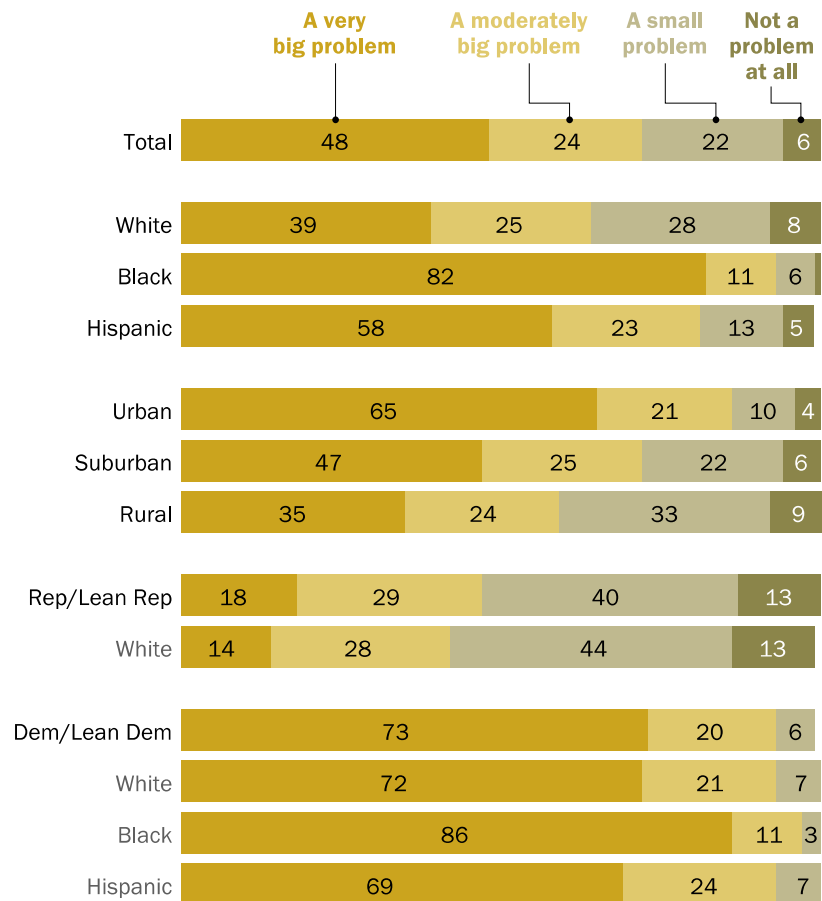
About eight-in-ten Black adults (82%) say that gun violence is a very big problem, compared with nearly six-in-ten Hispanic adults (58%) and about four-in-ten White adults (39%). Democrats are much more likely than

Republicans to identify gun violence as a very big problem (73% of Democrats vs. 18% of Republicans). However, racial differences persist among Democrats. Though clear majorities of Black (86%), White (72%), and Hispanic Democrats see gun violence as a very big problem for the country today, Black Democrats are more likely than White and Hispanic Democrats to say this.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans who report living in urban areas say that gun violence is a very big problem, compared with about half of suburbanites (47%) and only about a third of those who live in rural areas (35%). Majorities of all three groups say that gun violence is either a very big problem or a moderately big problem.

Black Democrats more likely than White, Hispanic Democrats to say gun violence is a very big problem

% who say gun violence is ___ in the country today



Notes: White and Black adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Acknowledgments

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

Overview

The American Trends Panel (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. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted April 5 to April 11, 2021 and included oversamples of Asian, Black and Hispanic Americans. A total of 5,109 panelists responded out of 5,970 who were sampled, for a response rate of 86%. This does not include two panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 2%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,109 respondents is plus or minus 2.1 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

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 whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment.

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	2,183
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,243
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	620
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,895
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,327
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,269
	Total	36,879	25,076	13,537

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.

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Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. 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. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,537 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service’s Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

This study featured a stratified random sample from the ATP. The sample was allocated according to the following strata, in order: Asian Americans (including those who identify as Asian in combination with another race), Black Americans (including those who identify as Black in combination with another race), U.S.-born Hispanics, foreign-born Hispanics, tablet households, high school education or less, not registered to vote, people ages 18 to 34, uses internet weekly or less, nonvolunteers and all other categories not already falling into any of the above.

[The Asian, Black, U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanic strata were oversampled relative to their share of the U.S. adult population.](#) The remaining strata were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. [“AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.”](#)

test data which was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was April 5 to April 11, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on April 5, 2021.

On April 5 and April 6, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on April 5, 2021. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on April 6, 2021.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	April 5, 2021	April 6, 2021
First reminder	April 8, 2021	April 8, 2021
Final reminder	April 10, 2021	April 10, 2021

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of

this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,109		2.1 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,545		3.0 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,706	43	3.4 percentage points
Half sample	At least 824		4.8 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	3,253	52	2.8 percentage points
Half sample	At least 1,612		3.9 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Asian, Black and Hispanic respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,109
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	85
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	38
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	736
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
Total panelists in the survey		5,970
Completed interviews	I	5,109
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	859
Non-contact	NC	2
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		5,970
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		86%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	72%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 87	57%
Response rate to Wave 87 survey	86%
Cumulative response rate	4%

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**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 87 APRIL 2021
FINAL TOPLINE
APRIL 5-11, 2021
N=5,109**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

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]

Apr 5-11 2021		Sep 3-15 2019	Sep 24- Oct 7 2018	Mar 13- Mar 27 2017
53	Gun laws should be MORE strict than they are today	60	57	52
32	Gun laws are about right	28	31	30
14	Gun laws should be LESS strict than they are today	11	11	18
*	No answer	1	1	1

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2]**ASK ALL:**

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 OF RESPONSES FOR GUNPRIORITY2]**

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
NO ITEM A					
b. Preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns					
Apr 5-11, 2021	70	17	8	4	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	76	15	5	3	1
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					
Apr 5-11, 2021	48	15	15	21	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	56	14	14	16	1
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					
Apr 5-11, 2021	46	20	12	20	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	54	20	11	14	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	50	22	13	15	*

GUNPRIORITY1 CONTINUED...	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
e. Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds					
Apr 5-11, 2021	47	17	16	20	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	54	17	13	15	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	50	17	14	18	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	47	17	14	20	1
f. Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks					
Apr 5-11, 2021	62	19	9	9	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	71	16	6	5	1
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 ALL:

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 OF RESPONSES FOR GUNPRIORITY1]**

	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
g. Allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places					
Apr 5-11, 2021	19	24	21	35	1
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					
Apr 5-11, 2021	9	12	17	62	1
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					
Apr 5-11, 2021	16	26	20	37	*
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					
Apr 5-11, 2021	14	21	24	40	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	13	18	23	45	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	14	22	25	38	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,545]:

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]**

Apr 5-11 <u>2021</u>		Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	Mar 13- Mar 27 <u>2017</u>
34	More crime	37	35
31	Less crime	29	33
34	No difference	33	32
1	No answer	1	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,564]:

MASSTRIC 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]**

Apr 5-11 <u>2021</u>		Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	Mar 13- Mar 27 <u>2017²</u>
49	Fewer mass shootings	47	47
9	More mass shootings	6	13
42	No difference	46	39
*	No answer	*	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=2,016]:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...³

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
24	32	27	16	1	19	20

² In March 2017, third answer option read "Not make a difference"

³ Party and PartyIn asked in a prior survey.