



Gun Laws, Ownership, and Violence in America

FINDINGS FROM THE OCTOBER 2017 AP-NORC NATIONAL POLL

✓ **In the wake of the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas, most Americans support stricter gun control in the United States.**

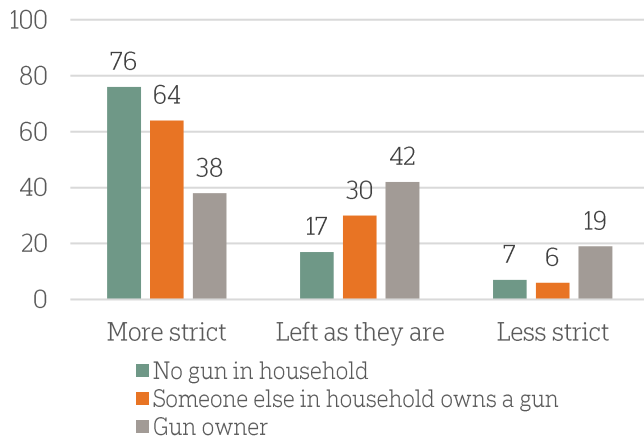
- Sixty-one percent say they want gun laws in the United States to be made stricter, 11 percent would like to see loosening of gun laws, and 27 percent would like to see gun laws left as they are now.
- Earlier this year, fewer Americans supported more stringent gun control according to a telephone poll conducted by CBS News in April. At that time, 54 percent said gun laws should be stricter, 11 percent said less strict, and 33 percent said they should stay as they are now.
- Gun owners are more inclined to oppose stricter gun legislation, while those without firearms in their home tend to support more rigorous gun laws.

✓ **Many Americans question whether stricter gun control laws can prevent all types of gun violence.**

- Fifty-three percent of Americans think increased gun control will reduce the number of accidental shootings, and nearly half say there would be fewer mass shootings (49 percent) and homicides (46 percent).
- Fewer say stricter gun regulations would result in a decrease in suicides (40 percent) or gang violence (36 percent).
- Gun owners have little faith that stricter gun control will reduce the amount of shooting deaths. In comparison, those who do not personally own a firearm—whether there is one in the house or not—tend to think less access to guns would reduce the number of gun-related casualties.

Gun owners are less likely to support stricter gun laws.

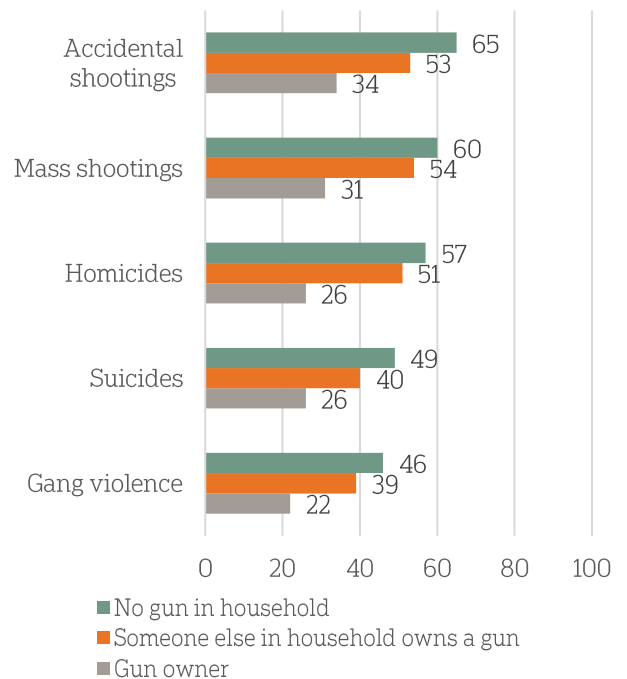
% who say gun laws in America should be...



Questions: Should gun laws in the United States be made more strict, left as they are, or made less strict? Do you or does any other member of your household own a handgun, rifle, shot gun, or any other kind of firearm?

Gun owners are less inclined to think stricter gun control would reduce the incidence of shooting in the United States.

% who say stricter gun laws would lead to a decrease in...



Question: If it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, do you think there would be fewer or more of each of the following, or wouldn't it make a difference?

✓ **Most Americans disapprove of how President Trump is handling gun control.**

- While 54 percent of the public considers the issue of gun control to be extremely or very important, more see the economy, taxes, and North Korea as important issues.
- Six in 10 Americans disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling gun control while 4 in 10 approve.
- The public is closely divided on which party is better at dealing with gun control: 28 percent trust Republicans more than Democrats, while 31 percent trust Democrats more than Republicans. Another 31 percent lack faith in either party.

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Interviews were conducted using AmeriSpeak® with a nationally representative sample of 1,054 adults age 18 and over, including 322 gun owners, 133 people living in a household where someone else owns a gun, and 577 people with no guns in their household. Interviews were conducted online and using landlines and cell phones from Oct. 12-16, 2017. Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.0 percentage points. A full topline is available at www.apnorc.org.