



The March 2019 AP-NORC Center Poll

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago

Interviews: 3/14-18/2019

1,063 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

GUN1. Should gun laws in the United States be made more strict, left as they are, or made less strict?

	Much/ Somewhat more strict NET	Much more strict	Somewhat more strict	Left as they are	Much/ Somewhat less strict NET	Somewhat less strict	Much less strict	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063)	67	39	28	22	10	8	2	*	1
AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)	69	45	24	22	9	5	4	-	1
AP-NORC 10/12-16/2017 (N=1,054)	61	36	25	27	11	7	5	*	1
AP-GfK 7/7-11/2016 (N=1,009)	64	34	30	23	11	7	5	-	2
AP-GfK 12/3-7/2015 (N=1,007)	58	33	26	25	14	7	7	-	3
AP-GfK 10/15-19/2015 (N=1,027)	58	36	23	27	12	8	5	-	3
AP-GfK 12/5-9/2013 (N=1,367)	52	29	23	31	15	8	7	-	2
AP-GfK 10/3-7/2013 (N=1,227)	55	34	21	28	14	8	6	-	3

GUN3. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following policies?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019	Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
A nationwide ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons	60	47	13	15	24	8	16	*	1
A federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers, including private sales and gun shows	83	71	13	8	7	4	3	*	1
A federal law preventing mentally ill people from purchasing guns	84	67	17	8	6	3	3	1	1
Allowing courts to prevent people who are considered a danger to themselves or others, but have not been convicted of a crime, from owning a gun	76	55	21	12	11	6	6	*	1
Making 21 the minimum legal age to buy any gun nationwide	71	56	15	11	17	8	9	*	1

N=1,063

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AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
A nationwide ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons	58	47	11	12	29	8	21	*	1
A nationwide ban on devices that convert semi-automatic guns to function like automatic guns, also known as “bump stocks”	70	55	14	12	17	6	10	*	1
A federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers, including private sales and gun shows	84	69	15	8	7	3	5	*	1
A federal law preventing mentally ill people from purchasing guns	85	69	16	8	7	3	3	*	1
Increased funding for mental health screening and treatment	85	64	20	11	4	2	1	*	1
Allowing courts to prevent people who are considered a danger to themselves or others, but have not been convicted of a crime, from owning a gun	78	57	21	9	11	6	5	1	1

N=1,122

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AP-GfK 7/7-11/2016	Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
A nationwide ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons	57	43	14	15	25	9	17	-	3

N=1,009

GUN5. 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?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019 ¹	Many/ somewhat fewer NET	Many fewer	Somewhat fewer	No difference	Many/ Somewhat more NET	Somewhat more	Many more	DK	SKP/ REF
Mass shootings	58	33	26	34	7	3	4	*	1
Suicides	45	16	29	50	5	2	3	*	1
Murders	54	23	30	38	7	3	4	-	1
Robberies	44	17	27	45	10	4	6	-	1

N=1,063

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Many/ somewhat fewer NET	Many fewer	Somewhat fewer	No difference	Many/ Somewhat more NET	Somewhat more	Many more	DK	SKP/ REF
Mass shootings	60	35	25	30	9	3	6	*	1
Suicides	45	16	29	47	7	4	3	1	1
Homicides	51	21	31	38	9	5	5	*	1
Accidental shootings	60	28	32	31	8	5	4	*	1

N=1,122

¹ Modified response options to "Murders" instead of "Homicides" and "Robberies" instead of "Accidental shootings" in 2019

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AP-NORC 10/12-16/2017	Many/ somewhat fewer NET	Many fewer	Somewhat fewer	No difference	Many/ Somewhat more NET	Somewhat more	Many more	DK	SKP/ REF
Mass shootings	49	24	25	43	7	4	3	*	*
Suicides	40	14	26	55	4	3	1	*	1
Homicides	46	18	28	45	9	5	4	*	1
Accidental shootings	53	23	30	41	5	3	2	*	1

N= 1,054

SAFE1. Compared to 20 years ago, do you think each of the following places have become more safe, less safe or are they about as safe as they were?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED AND HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019	More safe	Less safe	About as safe	DK	SKP/ REF
Schools	13	67	20	*	1
Colleges and universities	13	57	28	*	1
Churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship	6	61	32	*	1
Bars and restaurants	8	45	46	*	1
Airports	37	36	25	*	1
Public transportation systems	15	45	38	*	1
Workplaces and office buildings	14	43	42	*	1
Concerts	20	47	32	*	2
Sporting events	23	36	40	*	1

N=1,063

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Democrat	35
Republican	27
Independent	22
None of these	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	1,063

If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/Refused in PID1

PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

[PID1, PIDA, PIDB, AND PIDI COMBINED]

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Democrat NET	45
Strong Democrat	15
Moderate Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	9
Independent/None – Don't lean	16
Republican NET	37
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	16
Strong Republican	11
Unknown	2
N=	1,063

G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Liberal	22
Conservative	31
Moderate	42
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	4
<i>N=</i>	1,063

GUN6. Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Yes	35	38
No	62	59
DON'T KNOW	*	-
SKIP/REFUSED	3	3
<i>N=</i>	1,063	1,122

If yes in GUN6

GUN6A. Do any of these guns personally belong to you?

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Yes	76	79
No	24	21
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-	-
<i>N=</i>	359	403

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Urban area	26
Suburban area	49
Rural area	24
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

AGE

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
18-24	12
25-34	19
35-44	16
45-54	17
55-64	17
65-74	14
75+	7
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

GENDER

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Married	51
Widowed	4
Divorced	12
Separated	2
Never married	24
Living with partner	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Employed	58
Not employed	42
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	28
College graduate or above	32
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,063</i>

INCOME

	AP-NORC 3/14-18/2019
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	8

N=

1,063

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between March 14 and 18, 2019, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,063 completed the survey—946 via the web and 117 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 19.8 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 34.2 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 85.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 5.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2018 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias

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in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.