



THE SHORT ANSWER AUGUST 14, 2019

What Percentage of Americans Own Guns?

BY LYDIA SAAD

Editor's Note: This article was updated Nov. 13, 2020, with Gallup's latest data on Americans' gun ownership.

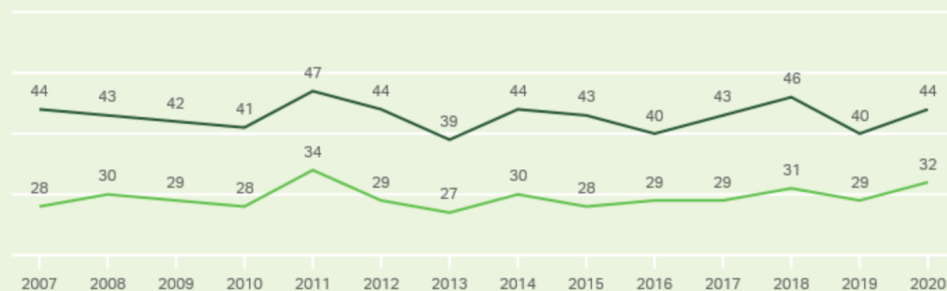
WASHINGTON, D.C. -- **Thirty-two percent** of U.S. adults say they personally own a gun, while a larger percentage, 44%, report living in a gun household. Adults living in gun households include those with a gun in their home or anywhere on their property.

Gallup has tracked both metrics of gun ownership annually since 2007, showing no clear increase or decrease in gun ownership over that time.

Recent Gallup Trends on U.S. Gun Ownership

Results based on surveys conducted in October of each year

■ % Personally own ■ % Live in gun household



Gun households include respondents saying they have a gun in their home combined with those who have a gun elsewhere on their property

GALLUP

See Gallup's [Guns "Topics A to Z" page](#) for the full trend on gun ownership since 1959.

The latest results are from Gallup's annual Crime poll, conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 15, 2020. As is typical, the rate of personal gun ownership varies most by political party and ideology, gender, race/ethnicity, region and urbanicity, with smaller differences seen by household income and marital status.

- Republicans (50%), rural residents (48%), men (45%), self-identified conservatives (45%) and Southerners (40%) are the most likely subgroups to say they personally own a gun.
- Liberals (15%), Democrats (18%), non-White Americans (18%), women (19%) and Eastern residents (21%) are the least likely to report personal gun ownership.

Gun Ownership in the U.S., 2020

	Personally own a gun	Live in gun household	Number of interviews
	%	%	
U.S. adults	32	44	1,035
Gender			
Men	45	51	530
Women	19	35	505
Age			
18-29	22	38	129
30-49	35	45	244
50-64	32	45	291
65+	36	48	357
Education			
Postgraduate	26	36	225
College graduate only	35	50	250
Some college	34	48	329
No college	31	41	219
Household income			
\$100,000+	38	55	296
\$40,000 to <\$100,000	34	51	371
<\$40,000	25	31	270
Race/Ethnicity			
White (non-Hispanic)	38	51	768
Non-White	18	28	246
Region			
East	21	28	212
Midwest	34	50	214
South	40	53	368
West	26	38	241
Type of community			
Big/Small city	23	32	364
Suburb of big/small city	25	41	293
Town/Rural area	48	61	344
Marital status			
Married	38	52	541
Not married	25	36	465
Children			
Have child under 18	36	48	229
No child under 18	30	42	781
Party ID			
Republican	50	64	325
Independent	29	39	370
Democrat	18	31	314
Ideology			
Conservative	45	57	377
Moderate	29	41	364
Liberal	15	30	267

Questions: Do you have a gun in your home? (Asked of those who do not have a gun in their home:) Do you have a gun anywhere else on your property such as in your garage, barn, shed or in your car or truck? (Asked of those who have a gun in their home or on their property:) Do you personally own a gun, or do the gun or

Gallup measures Americans' gun ownership each October as part of its Crime poll -- one of 12 surveys that make up the [Gallup Poll Social Series](#).

Gallup's full trend on U.S. gun ownership is available on the [Guns "Topics A to Z" page](#).

Explore Gallup articles about guns and gun control on the [Guns "Gallup Topics" page](#).

SURVEY METHODS



RELATED TOPICS INCLUDE: [ALL GALLUP HEADLINES](#), [GUNS](#), [POLITICS](#), [SAFETY](#), [SOCIAL AND POLICY ISSUES](#), [THE SHORT ANSWER](#)

Access Crucial Data for Your Research

Search, examine, compare and export nearly a century of primary data.

LEARN MORE

Subscribe to the Gallup News brief and real time alerts.

Stay up to date with our latest insights.

SIGN UP

RECOMMENDED



POLITICS JAN 27, 2020

Americans' Take on the U.S. Is Improved, but Still Mixed

Americans are far from content with the nation's state of affairs, but their average satisfaction with 27 issues tracked since 2001 is the highest in 15 years.



POLLING MATTERS NOV 14, 2019

Analyzing Surveys on Banning Assault Weapons

New research on the effects of question wording supports the conclusion that a majority of about six in 10 Americans support an assault weapons ban.

POLITICS NOV 4, 2019

64% of Americans Want Stricter Laws on Gun Sales

Americans' support for stricter gun laws remains above 60%, similar to recent years. But the views of Republicans and Democrats remain highly polarized.

POLITICS OCT 11, 2019

Americans Equally Worried About Mass Shooting and Terrorism

Americans are about equally worried that they or a member of their family will become a victim of terrorism (46%) or a mass shooting (45%).

GALLUP

Methodology
Center

Senior Scientists

Trends A-Z

George Gallup

About Us

Careers

Locations

News

Store

Media Inquiries

Gallup Speakers

Customer Support

CONTACT US



Subscribe to Our Latest Insights

Your Email Address

SIGN UP