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Massachusetts  
Lowell

Center for Public Opinion

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Dr. Joshua J. Dyck and Dr. Francis Talty, Co-Directors  
<http://www.uml.edu/polls>

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## Attitudes towards Gun Violence and Gun Control

Survey Written by Nowell Sheinwald, Brendan Thompson and Makayle Washington,  
Students in 46-319 Survey Research (Fall 2013), an undergraduate research seminar at UMass Lowell

Analysis by Professor Joshua J. Dyck, Ph.D.

Poll Conducted by YouGov  
4/21/14-4/28/14

N=1,000 American Adults  
Margin of Error: +/-3.7% (+/- 3% adjusted for weights)  
National Internet Panel Survey matched to 2010 ACS

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### Methodology

YouGov interviewed 1172 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 1000 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, party identification, ideology, and political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November 2010 Current Population Survey. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey. The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and ideology. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

**Q1 First, how concerned are you about the level of gun violence and gun-related crimes in the United States in the past few years? Choose the option that best suits your view.**

- 47% Very concerned
- 37% Somewhat concerned
- 13% Not very concerned
- 4% Not at all concerned

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Very Concerned	55	44	41	49	42	70	47	48
Somewhat Concerned	32	44	42	28	39	22	35	41
Not Very Concerned	9	9	14	18	14	6	12	8
Not at all Concerned	4	3	4	5	5	2	3	4

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Very Concerned	70	54	43	22	36	50	21
Somewhat Concerned	23	33	38	52	43	35	48
Not Very Concerned	4	10	14	21	16	11	24
Not at all Concerned	2	4	5	6	5	4	7

**Q2 Now, thinking specifically about the place or places that you live and work, how concerned are you about the level of gun violence in your local community? Choose the option that best suits your view.**

- 19% Very concerned
- 34% Somewhat concerned
- 34% Not very concerned
- 13% Not at all concerned

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Very Concerned	29	13	17	9	15	47	20	12
Somewhat Concerned	25	30	39	26	35	31	34	31
Not Very Concerned	30	36	33	45	36	20	31	38
Not at all Concerned	7	20	11	20	14	2	15	18

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Very Concerned	33	21	18	8	11	20	10
Somewhat Concerned	36	33	37	29	36	35	24
Not Very Concerned	26	31	33	45	33	33	41
Not at all Concerned	5	15	12	18	20	12	26

**Q3 Do you believe that school shootings over the past 10 years have become a more of a problem in our society, less of a problem, or is it about the same?**

69% More of a Problem  
6% Less of a problem  
25% About the same

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
More of a Problem	70	68	73	61	69	77	60	72
Less of a Problem	6	3	4	7	4	6	16	5
About the Same	25	29	23	32	27	17	24	23

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
More of a Problem	76	74	63	62	66	72	48
Less of a Problem	4	5	9	4	6	5	10
About the Same	19	21	28	33	28	23	42

**Q4 Do you believe that gang violence in our society is a major problem, minor problem, or is it not much of a problem?**

- 72% Gang violence is a major problem
- 26% Gang violence is a minor problem
- 3% Gang violence is not a problem

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Major Problem	72	74	73	77	75	71	59	77
Minor Problem	27	25	25	22	24	27	38	22
Not a Problem	1	1	2	0	1	1	3	1

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Major Problem	73	58	66	75	89	72	79
Minor Problem	26	31	31	24	11	27	18
Not a Problem	1	1	3	2	0	1	4

*Now, we'd like to ask about your opinions about the policies that have been proposed to deal with gun violence and gun-related crime.*

**Q5 Do you [ROTATE OPTIONS] strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly banning the sale of assault weapons?**

- 40% Strongly support
- 20% Somewhat support
- 20% Somewhat oppose
- 20% Strongly oppose

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Strongly Support	49	43	37	34	39	49	46	42
Somewhat Support	18	18	23	15	18	22	26	22
Somewhat Oppose	18	21	18	23	21	18	16	25
Strongly Oppose	15	18	22	28	22	11	22	11

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Strongly Support	70	50	33	18	13	45	7
Somewhat Support	15	21	20	18	29	21	11
Somewhat Oppose	8	18	25	26	28	18	37
Strongly Oppose	7	10	22	38	29	17	45

**Q6 Do you [ROTATE OPTIONS ]strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose requiring more thorough background checks, such as more in depth psychological evaluations, for anyone who is attempting to purchase firearms?**

- 54% Strongly support
- 24% Somewhat support
- 14% Somewhat oppose
- 8% Strongly oppose

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Strongly Support	57	58	52	44	52	64	60	46
Somewhat Support	24	25	24	18	26	22	16	22
Somewhat Oppose	12	9	14	27	13	11	17	16
Strongly Oppose	7	8	10	11	9	3	6	17

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Strongly Support	75	64	51	33	36	59	17
Somewhat Support	17	19	18	37	34	23	32
Somewhat Oppose	4	13	20	17	19	11	33
Strongly Oppose	3	5	12	14	11	7	18

**Q7 Do you [ROTATE OPTIONS] strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the idea that the same regulations should be put in place on the sale of firearms at gun shows that are already in place for the sale of firearms at normal retailers?**

53% Strongly support  
 27% Somewhat support  
 10% Somewhat oppose  
 10% Strongly oppose

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Strongly Support	56	58	51	43	56	44	47	51
Somewhat Support	24	27	30	33	29	25	21	33
Somewhat Oppose	8	8	9	12	8	16	16	3
Strongly Oppose	11	7	10	12	7	16	16	13

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Strongly Support	73	64	45	37	34	58	20
Somewhat Support	14	20	29	40	43	25	45
Somewhat Oppose	4	10	13	10	13	9	15
Strongly Oppose	9	6	12	13	10	9	20

**Q8 Do you [ROTATE OPTIONS] strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose allowing and training teachers to carry firearms in schools in order for them to defend students against an assailant if necessary?**

20% Strongly support  
 32% Somewhat support  
 21% Somewhat oppose  
 27% Strongly oppose

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Strongly Support	18	19	20	24	21	17	16	17
Somewhat Support	26	30	34	40	33	20	33	34
Somewhat Oppose	25	23	22	11	19	30	26	19
Strongly Oppose	32	28	24	26	26	33	24	30

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Strongly Support	8	13	21	30	37	16	46
Somewhat Support	21	24	37	47	33	31	35
Somewhat Oppose	26	28	22	12	15	23	13
Strongly Oppose	46	35	20	11	15	30	6

Finally, we would like to ask you some questions about your own gun ownership.

**Q9 Presently, do you own a gun or are there any guns in your household? Choose from the answers below:**

- 26% Yes, I own a gun or guns
- 12% Yes, but I am not the gun owner
- 62% There are no guns in my household

	Geographic Area				Race/Ethnicity			
	Large Metro Area	Metro Suburbs	Small or Medium Metro	Non-Metro	White	Black	Latino	Other
Yes, Owner	15	25	30	45	31	14	9	32
Yes, Not Owner	12	14	10	11	11	14	19	9
No Guns	73	62	60	44	59	72	72	59

	Party ID					Tea Party Member?	
	Strong Dem.	Weak-Leaning Dem.	Ind.	Weak-Leaning Rep.	Strong Rep.	No	Yes
Yes, Owner	18	16	21	44	38	23	47
Yes, Not Owner	13	15	15	5	12	13	6
No Guns	69	68	64	52	50	64	47

[ASKED IF Q9=1 (Yes, I own a gun or guns)]

**Q10 For what purpose do you own a gun? (Choose all that apply).**

- 37% Hunting
- 80% Personal Protection
- 6% Work-Related
- 45% Hobby
- 1% No guns in household

Additional cross-tabs may be requested by sending an e-mail to [joshua\\_dyck@uml.edu](mailto:joshua_dyck@uml.edu)