

# **Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey 2000: Final Report**

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Sponsored by:  
Indiana Partnership to Prevent Firearm Violence

## **Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey 2000: Executive Summary**

The Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey was conducted in the fall of 2000 by the Indiana University Center for Survey Research in cooperation with the Indiana Partnership to Prevent Firearm Violence (IPPFV). The IPPFV is a three-year project funded by The Joyce Foundation and the Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics to implement strategies to reduce the rate of firearm injury and death in Indiana. The survey is one of many activities in which the IPPFV will be involved over the next few years that will focus on reducing injury and deaths from firearms.

The primary goals of the Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey was to examine the attitudes of Hoosiers regarding firearm injury prevention efforts, and compare those responses to household responses nationwide. Efforts were taken to ensure a random sample of households, thus representing the state's population. The survey was a telephone survey of 1019 households conducted over a 5-week period. The study revealed that the types of households that own guns in Indiana are very similar to gun-owning homes across the country in terms of marital status, education, and political affiliation. However, about half of the homes in Indiana own firearms compared to about 40 percent of American households. Of the Hoosier homes with guns, 30% are handguns, eight percent higher than the national average.

Results of the survey indicate strong, broad-based support for laws regulating the sale of firearms in Indiana. On average, from 60 to 85 percent of adults in Indiana support background checks on individuals purchasing a gun at a gun show or through a private sale, prohibition of gun sales to those convicted of domestic violence or assault, waiting periods between the purchase and delivery of handguns, mandatory training for new gun owners, and raising the legal age to purchase a gun from 18 to 21 years of age. Support for these regulations is highest among people who do not have guns in their homes; however, at least half of those who do have guns in their homes also support these initiatives.

There is also enthusiastic support for laws requiring safe storage of guns. Between 70 and 80 percent of Indiana adults support measures that would require gun owners to unload and lock up firearms if children live in the home, mandatory use of trigger locks on stored guns, and penalties for parents of children who misuse guns.

In addition, most Hoosiers support the idea that gun manufacturers be required to make guns that are "childproofed," meaning that a young child would be physically unable to shoot the gun. Moreover, all new handguns sold in Indiana would have to meet this requirement. There is also widespread support for laws that would require gun manufacturers to equip handguns with built-in safety devices that would "recognize" the owner, and not fire for anyone else. There was much less support among gun-owners and nongun-owners for allowing the government to sue gun makers.

In regards to concealed weapons, there was almost unanimous support for raising the age to obtain a concealed weapon permit from 18 to 21 years of age. About half of the respondents favored measures that would allow concealed weapon permits for only those individuals involved in law enforcement, not for the general public.

In summary, results of the survey indicate that a great majority of Indiana adults support tighter regulations related to purchasing guns including background checks, waiting periods, and raising the minimum age for purchase of a gun. There is also widespread support for laws related to safe storage of guns. In addition, most Hoosiers feel that gun manufactures should be required to make guns that are "childproofed" and that contain built-in safety devices. Overall, households throughout the country, as well as Hoosiers favor prevention efforts that focus on reducing injury and death from firearms. This information should prove valuable for civic and community leaders involved in designing and implementing policy and prevention programs focusing on firearm injury prevention.

## **Introduction**

Firearm injury prevention is a critical public health issue in the United States as well as for Hoosiers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 1997 there were 79 Indiana children and teenagers who died from gunshots. During this same year, Indiana had the highest rate of firearm-related deaths of all the central states. Nationwide, unintentional firearm deaths among five to nine year olds in 1998 increased 21 percent from the previous year.

The Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey was conducted in the fall of 2000 by the Indiana University Center for Survey Research in Bloomington, Indiana in cooperation with the Indiana Partnership to Prevent Firearm Violence (IPPFV). The IPPFV is a three-year project funded by The Joyce Foundation and the Indiana School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, to reduce the rates of firearm injury and death in Indiana. An advisory board of civic leaders and professionals who represent government, academic, and private domains across the state oversee projects and provide counsel to the IPPFV. This survey is one of many activities the IPPFV will use in its strategic plans to reduce gun-related injuries and deaths.

The purpose of the survey was to provide an accurate measurement of the opinions of Indiana residents regarding purchase of guns, safe storage of guns, and other firearm injury prevention initiatives, and to compare the responses from Hoosiers to household responses nationwide. The results will be shared with Indiana residents as well as civic and community leaders involved in policy and prevention programs.

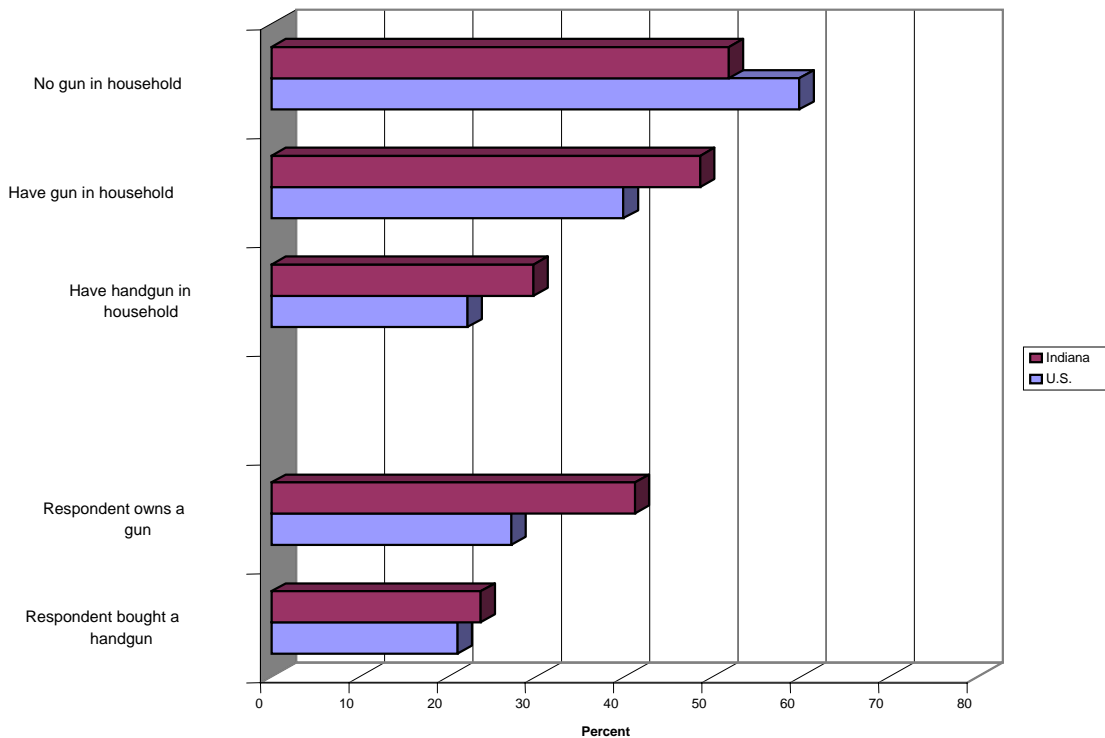
Development and pretesting of the survey was completed in late August 2000. Interviewing began on Monday, September 11 and was completed on Sunday, October 22, 2000. A total of 1019 random telephone interviews were completed with an average interview length of 14.7 minutes. The response rate was 43 percent. A complete description of the study methodology appears in Appendix A. The questionnaire used in the interview appears in Appendix B. The complete text of all verbal comments recorded by interviewers appears in Appendix C. All appendices are available from IPPFV upon request.

## A. Firearms in the Home

Figure 1 below compares gun ownership in Indiana to the United States as reported in the 1999 National Gun Policy Survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC)<sup>1</sup>. The proportion of homes with guns in Indiana is about 10 percent higher than the national average of 40 percent. In addition there are more handgun owners in Indiana as compared to the nation.

**Fig. 1: Gun Ownership Rates in Indiana and United States**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000) and  
The 1999 National Gun Policy Survey (NORC, 2000)



About 40 percent of the Indiana survey respondents reported that they personally had owned a gun at some point; a much higher proportion than the 27 percent reported in the NORC survey. The number of respondents who had personally purchased a handgun was almost identical for Indiana and the United States.

<sup>1</sup> Tom W. Smith, *1999 National Gun Policy Survey of the National Opinion Research Center: Research Findings*, NORC-University of Chicago, April 2000.

## ***B. Characteristics of Gun Owners***

With some exceptions, the demographic distributions of homes with guns in Indiana reflect that of the nation as a whole. (See Figures 2a and 2b.) There are far more male than female gun owners. While 58 percent of married couples have guns in the home, additional analysis reveals that about half of single men in Indiana have a gun in their home compared to only about 20 percent of single women.

About two-thirds of homes in rural areas of Indiana as well as the nation contain guns. However, there are a significantly higher proportion of guns in the homes of Indiana city and suburb dwellers than in average U.S. urban areas.

Neither the amount of education received by the respondent nor the age of the respondent was a strong determinant of whether there was a gun in the home. However, political affiliation and ideologies were significantly related. Indiana Republicans are much more likely to have guns in their home than Democrats or Independents. These results reflect national trends as well. However, Indiana respondents who described themselves as “politically conservative” were far more likely to have guns in their homes than their peers throughout the country.

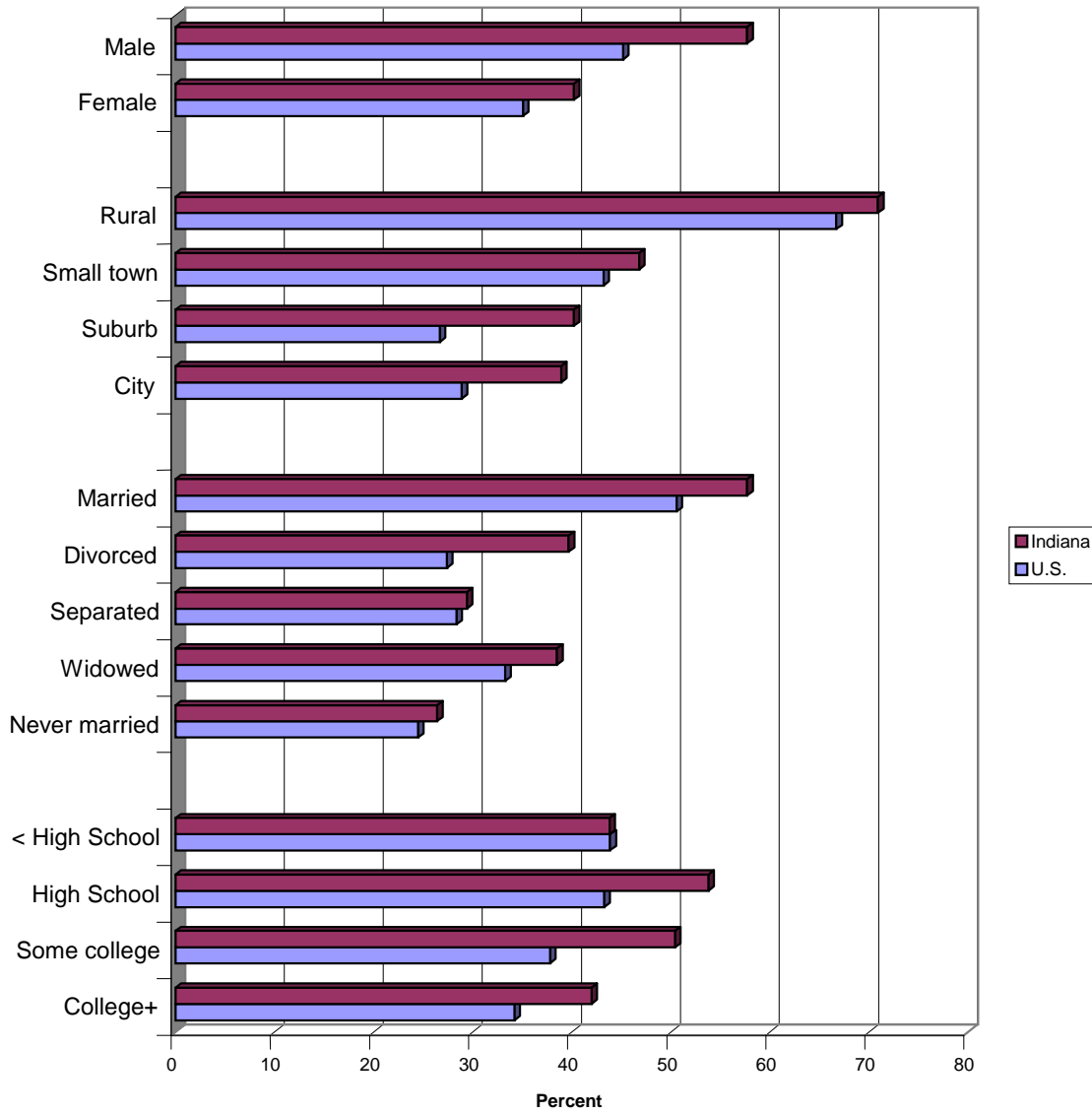
It is also interesting to note that the proportion of guns in the home is directly proportional to household income in Indiana. The rates range from 30 percent for household incomes under \$25,000 to almost 60 percent for those making over \$75,000. Nationally, the rate of guns in the home drops significantly in the highest income category.

## ***C. Characteristics of Handgun Owners***

Throughout the U.S., half of the households that have guns also have a handgun in the home. In Indiana, about 60% of homes with guns also have a handgun. Despite the higher rate of handguns in Hoosier homes, the demographic patterns of these homes very closely reflect those discussed in the previous section. Indiana citizens with a handgun in the house are most often high income, conservative Republicans who are married and living in rural areas. (See Figures 3a and 3b.)

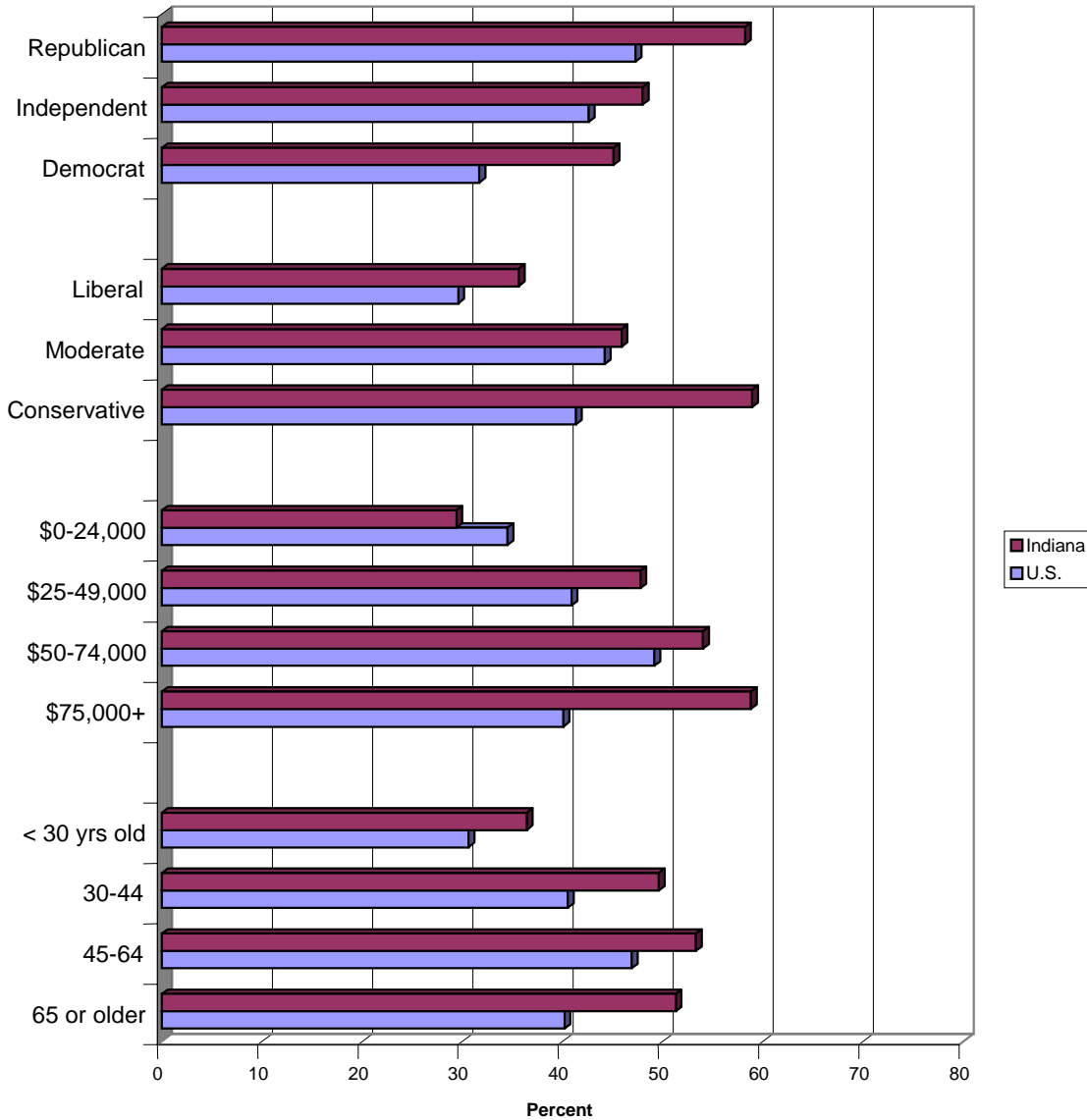
**Fig. 2a: Demographics of Respondents with Gun in Household: Indiana and U.S.**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000) and The 1999 National Gun Policy Survey (NORC, 2000)



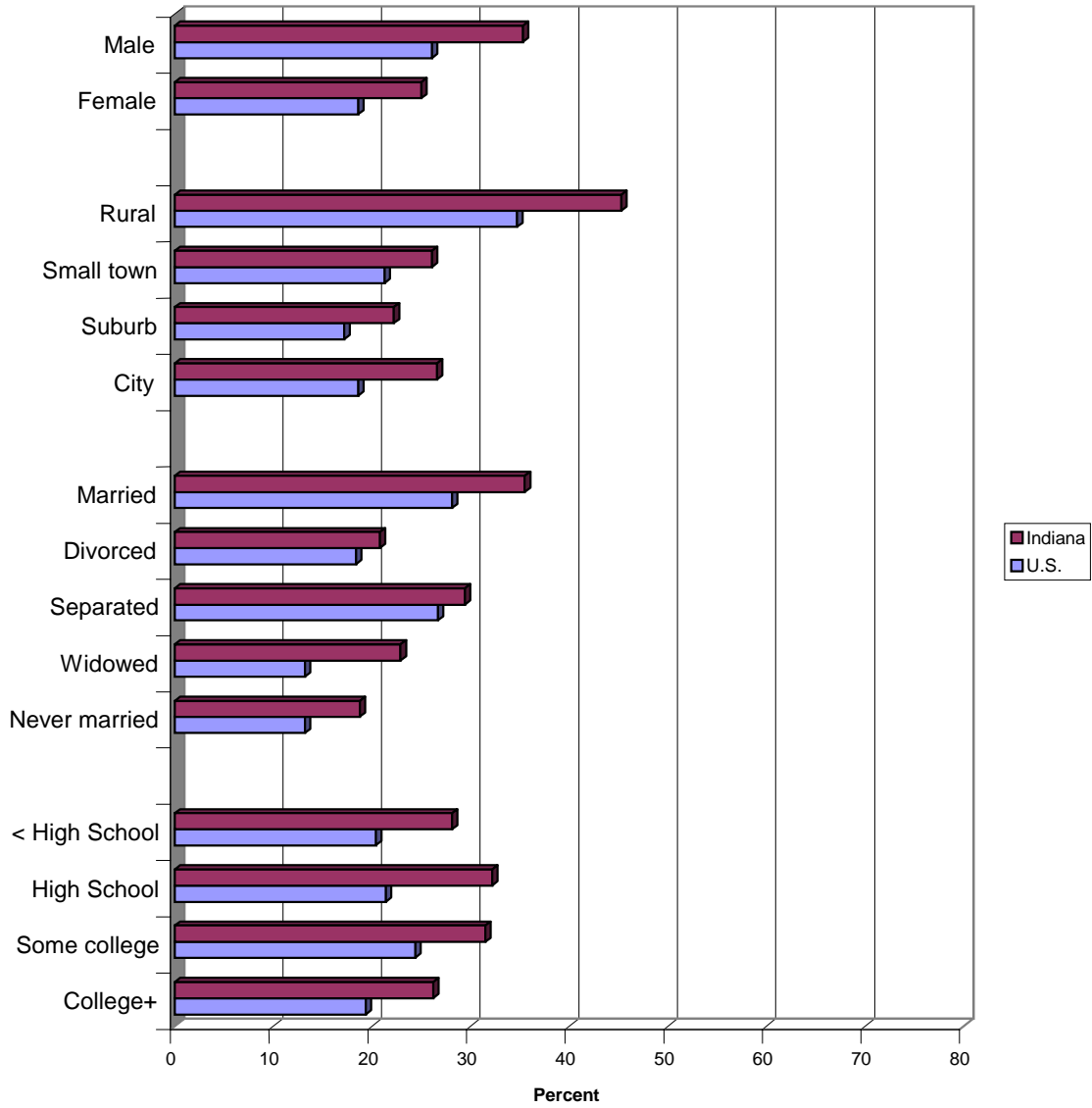
**Fig 2b: Demographics of Respondents with Gun in Household:  
Indiana and U.S. (cont'd)**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000) and  
The 1999 National Gun Policy Survey (NORC, 2000)



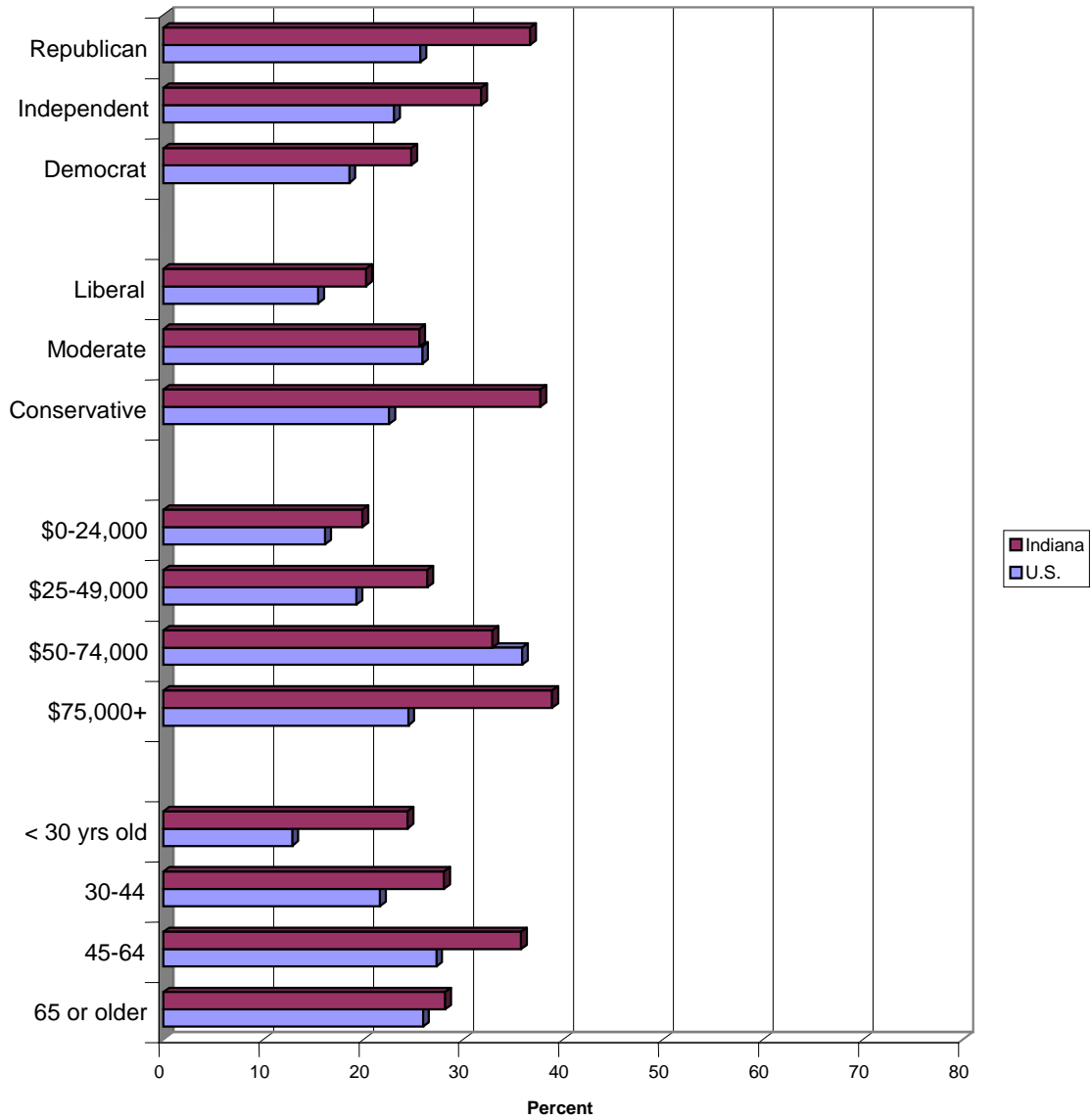
**Fig. 3a: Demographics of Respondents with Handgun in Household: Indiana and U.S. (cont'd)**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000) and The 1999 National Gun Policy Survey (NORC, 2000)



**Fig. 3b: Demographics of Respondents with Handgun in Household:  
Indiana and U.S. (cont'd)**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000) and  
The 1999 National Gun Policy Survey (NORC, 2000)



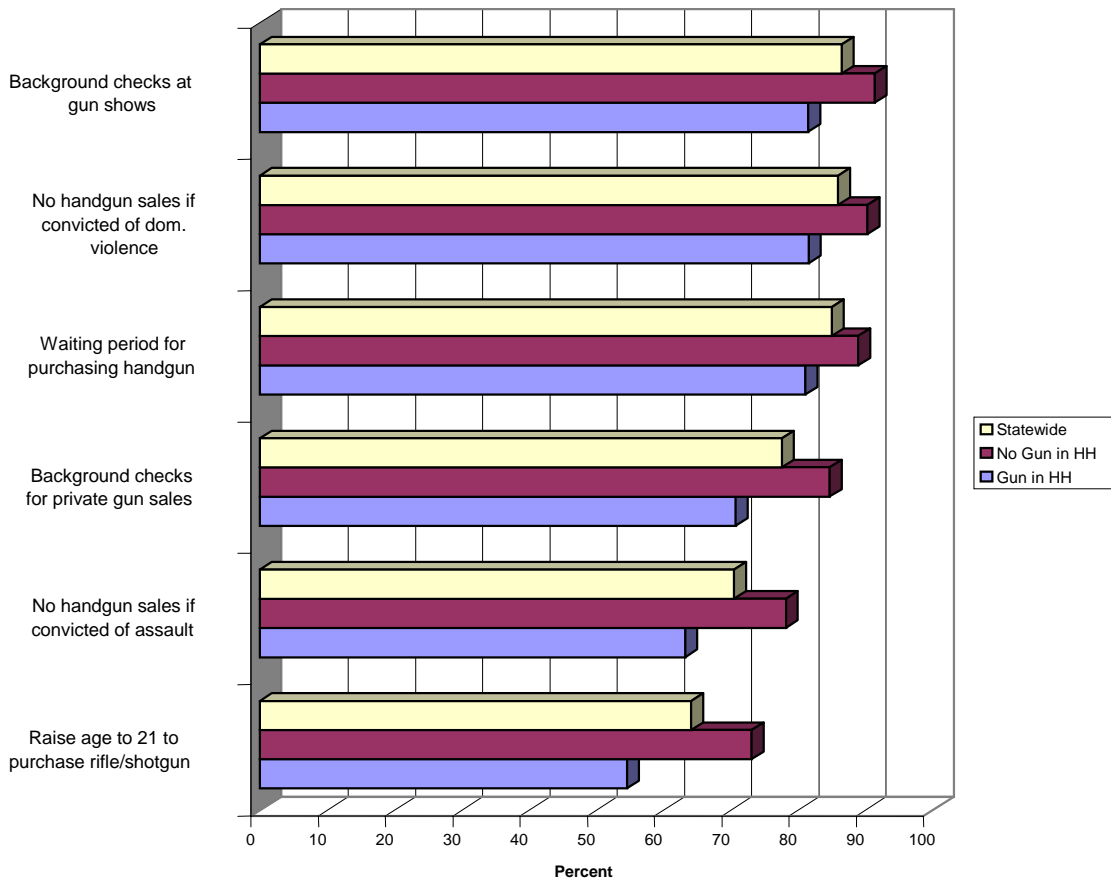
### D. Regulation of Firearm Sales

In Indiana, the majority of citizens support a variety of new measures that would focus on making the sale of firearms more selective. This is true even for the majority of those who have guns in their home, though such regulation is more strongly supported by those who do not have guns in their homes. (See Figure 4.)

Currently it is possible for individuals to purchase guns at gun shows without the same background checks required when a gun is purchased at a retail store. The most popular legislation, supported by over 80 percent of Hoosiers, would be to require background checks before firearms are sold at gun shows. Equally popular would be a law prohibiting the sale of handguns to those convicted of domestic violence and a law requiring a mandatory waiting or “cooling-off” period between the purchase and delivery of a handgun.

**Fig. 4: Indiana Support for Firearm Sales Legislation:  
With and Without Gun in Household**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000)



In Indiana, as in other states, a private gun owner may legally sell a gun without proof that the buyer has passed a criminal history check. Approximately three-fourths of Indiana citizens support laws that would require private gun sales in Indiana to be subject to the same background check requirements as sales by licensed dealers. About 70 percent of Hoosiers also felt that individuals convicted of misdemeanor assault and battery should not be able to purchase handguns in Indiana, even if there had been no serious injury or lethal weapon involved.

The legal age in Indiana for purchasing a rifle or shotgun is currently 18 years of age. Over half of the respondents who had a gun in their home favored raising the legal age of purchase to 21 years of age.

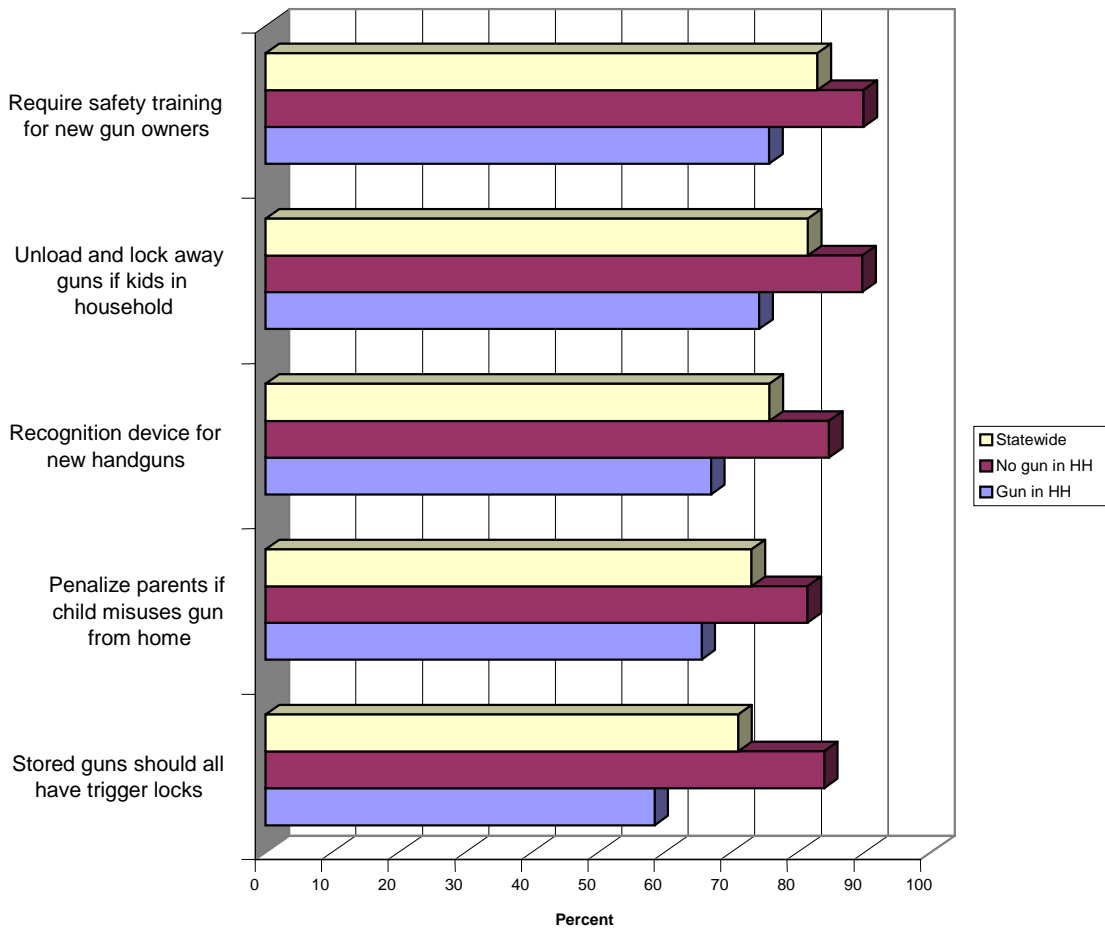
### *E. Gun Safety Devices and Safe Storage*

Most adults in Indiana, including those with guns in their homes, support legislative proposals promoting gun safety devices and procedures that would require safer use and storage of firearms. (See Figure 5.) Of the respondents, 80% supported laws requiring safety training for new gun owners and also for laws requiring gun owners to store their firearms unloaded and locked away if there are children in the home.

Gun manufactures have the ability to make handguns with built in safety devices that recognize the gun owner and cannot be fired by anyone else. For example, a gun may have a mechanism that prevents it from firing unless it comes into contact with a special ring that the shooter must wear. Such guns reduce the risk of a child or teenager shooting themselves or someone else. They also protect the gun owner if an attacker takes the gun away. Approximately three-fourths of the population supports the required use of such recognition devices. Some respondents expressed concern over the cost of such devices as well as the practical application of such new technology.

**Fig. 5: Indiana Support for Legislation on Safety Devices and Safe Storage:  
With and Without Gun in Household**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000)



Some states have Child Access Prevention laws that subject adults to criminal or civil penalties if they fail to store their firearms to prevent access by children under the age of 18. These laws may also make the parent liable for any injury or death resulting from their child's use of a firearm that was not properly secured. Approximately three-fourths of the population supports enacting similar Child Access Prevention laws in Indiana.

A trigger lock is an attachment that prevents a gun from being fired until the device around the trigger is unlocked and removed. Most Hoosiers favor laws requiring all guns to be stored with a trigger lock attachment. However, there was a large difference in

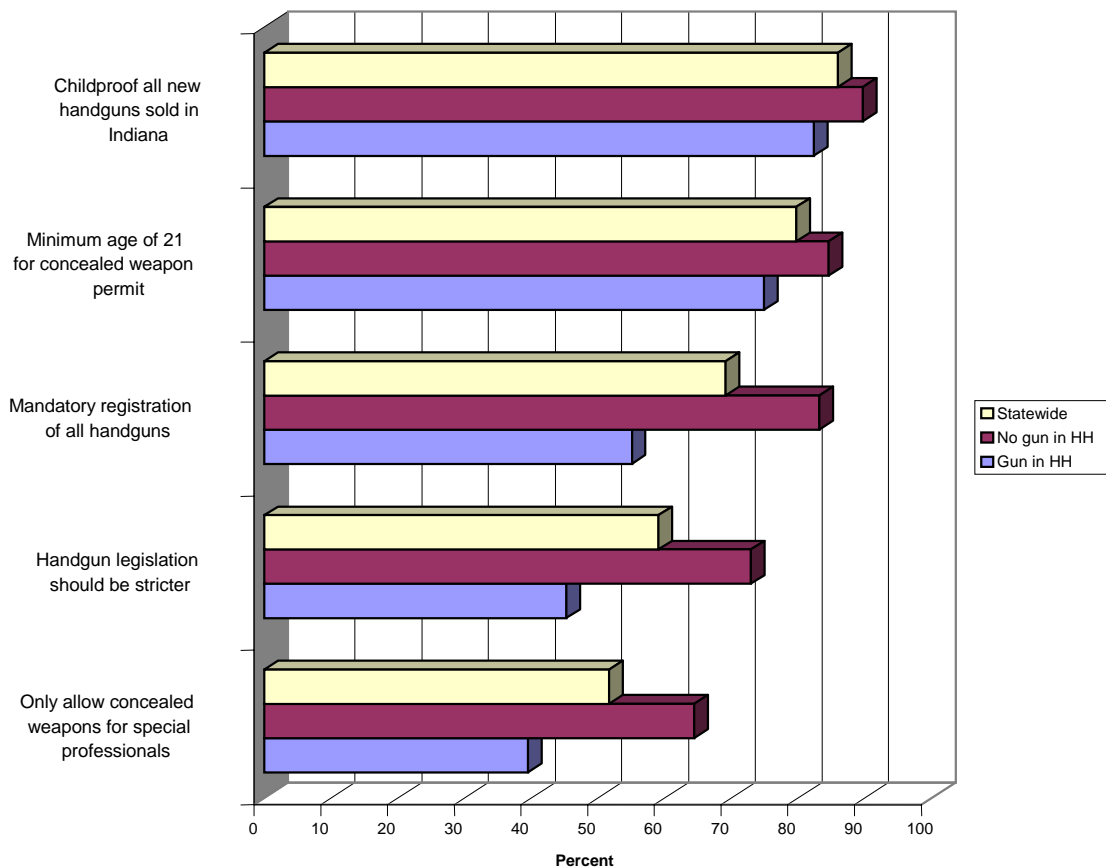
attitudes between those with guns in the home and those who did not have guns in the home. Whereas over 80 percent of those without guns in their home supported trigger lock legislation, only a little more than half of those with guns in the home supported such a requirement. Concerns were expressed that trigger locks would interfere when guns are needed for protection and also may not be effective in preventing children from using the gun.

### *F. Support for Other Firearm Injury Prevention Legislation*

There is fairly strong support for other initiatives that are specific to handguns. (See Figure 6.) However, opinions on these types of measures are widely diverse when comparing the attitudes of those with guns in their home to those who do not have a gun in the house.

**Fig. 6: Indiana Opinions on Handgun Legislation:  
With and Without Gun in Household**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000)



Manufacturers can make handguns that are “childproofed” and cannot be fired by the small hands of a young child. Over 80 percent of Hoosiers support legislation requiring all new handguns sold in Indiana be childproofed, regardless of whether they have guns in the home or not.

Under federal law, those under age 21 may not purchase handguns. However, under Indiana law, they can get a permit to carry a concealed handgun at age 18 in this state. Three out of four respondents with guns in their homes supported increasing the minimum age to carry a concealed handgun to 21 years of age. However only about 40 percent supported passage of laws that would allow only people with a special need, such as police or private detectives, to carry a concealed weapon.

There were also significant differences in attitudes toward mandatory registration of all handguns and stricter handgun legislation in general. The support by those with no guns in their homes for these types of laws is about 25 percent higher than those who have guns at home. Those opposed to mandatory handgun registration feel that such legislation would be unconstitutional and could result in government confiscation of registered firearms.

### *G. Attitudes About Guns and Society*

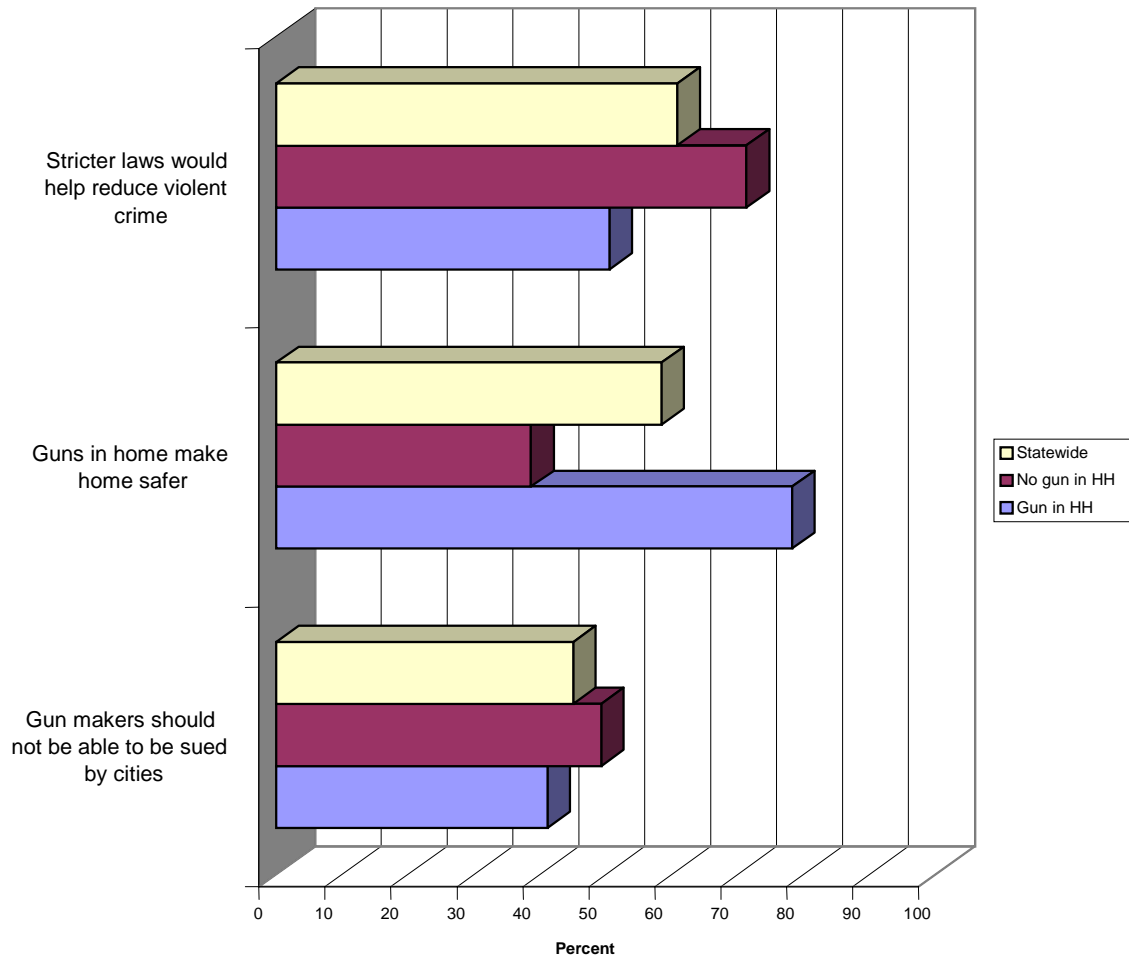
In general, most Hoosiers feel that stricter gun laws would be at least somewhat helpful in reducing violent crime. (See Figure 7.) However, this is mostly a view of people who do not have a gun in their home. Most of those who do have a gun in their home feel stricter gun control measures would have little or no effect on violent crime. These respondents feel that more energy should be spent on enforcing existing laws rather than creating new laws.

Perhaps the largest disagreement between those with guns in their home and those without has to do with whether the presence of a gun makes the home safer. Three-fourths of those with a gun in the home felt that having a gun in the house made the home safer. Only one-third of those without a gun in the home felt this way.

There was much greater agreement on the issue of municipalities suing firearm companies. Some states have passed laws prohibiting city and county governments from suing gun manufacturers for death and injuries caused by firearms. Most adults in Indiana, regardless of whether there is a gun in their home, are not in favor of passing such a law.

**Fig. 7: Indiana Opinions on Guns and Legislation:  
With and Without Gun in Household**

Source: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (IU-CSR, 2000)



## CONCLUSIONS

Guns are quite pervasive in Indiana. In fact, roughly half of the households in the State contain at least one gun, most of which include a handgun. These rates are significantly higher than national averages. The types of families that have guns in their homes generally reflect national characteristics except that Indiana households with guns tend to be more conservative and have higher income compared to the average homeowners with guns in the United States.

Whether there is a gun in the home or not seems to matter little when it comes to support for laws related to firearms sales. The great majority support background checks before sales at gun shows are completed and also support waiting periods between the purchase and delivery of the handgun. The majority of Hoosiers also support prohibiting sales to those convicted of domestic violence. There is also a great deal of support among those who do not have guns in their home to require background checks before gun sales can be completed between private parties and also to prevent those convicted of assault from purchasing handguns.

There are a variety of safety devices, storage techniques and mandatory procedures that would reduce unintentional and criminal violence resulting from firearms. Most Hoosiers, regardless of whether there is a gun in their home, support these proposals.

There is a diversity of opinion on legislative efforts directed specifically at handguns. Most adults in Indiana express support for requiring that all new handguns sold in the state be childproofed, and that the minimum age for a concealed weapons permit be increased from 18 to 21 years of age. However, most Hoosiers who have guns at home do not support legislation that would limit concealed weapons permits to special professionals, nor do they feel that stricter legislation is needed to regulate handgun ownership and use.

With the exception of these last two issues, it has been shown that the majority of adults in Indiana would support a wide variety of legislative efforts to improve firearms safety and reduce gun violence. This report shows there is strong support from both gun owners and non-gun owners for legislation related to firearm sales, gun safety devices, and safe storage.

## Appendix A: Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey Methods

Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR)  
August – October 2000

### **Study Overview**

The Indiana Partnership to Prevent Firearm Violence (IPPFV) sponsored the Indiana Firearm Injury Prevention Survey, a telephone interview of adult Indiana residents. The survey was developed in cooperation with the IPPFV and conducted by the Center for Survey Research (CSR) in Bloomington, Indiana. The purpose of the survey was to provide an accurate measurement of the opinions of Indiana residents regarding firearm issues such as safe storage, registration of firearms, and other firearm injury prevention measures. The results will be used to inform Indiana citizens, and civic and community leaders in various domains.

CSR pretested the survey on Tuesday, August 29, and Thursday, August 31, 2000. Changes were made to the questionnaire after pretest, and telephone interviews began on Monday, September 11, 2000. The survey was completed on Sunday, October 22, 2000 after completing 1,019 interviews. The average interview length was 14.7 minutes.

### **CSR Interviewing Facilities and Procedures**

Data were collected by telephone using the University of California Computer-Assisted Survey Methods software (CASES). Interviews were conducted from:

9:00 AM - 10:00 PM, Monday - Friday;  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Saturday;  
1:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Sunday.

The data collection staff included 6 supervisors, and 39 interviewers. All interviewers received at least 15 hours of training in interviewing techniques before production interviewing. Interviewers received 2 hours of training specific to the survey. Interviewers were instructed to read questions and response categories at a two-words-per-second pace. Interviewers were also instructed to use neutral probes and feedback phrases.

Audio and visual monitoring was regularly conducted by the telephone survey supervisors using the CSR facilities, which do not allow the interviewers to know they are being monitored. Monitoring was conducted randomly, with each interviewer being monitored at least once during each 3-hour shift.

All cases with confirmed valid telephone numbers were called up to 12 times, unless the household refused or there was insufficient time before the end of the study. Cases with unknown validity (persistent no answers or answering devices) were called a minimum of 8 times, with calls made during the morning, afternoon, evening, late evening (after 9 pm) and weekend. The CSR attempts to convert each "refusal" twice. When possible, a

conversion attempt is made at the first instance of refusal and a second attempt is usually made after a few days.

### **Some Characteristics of the Sample**

Marketing Systems Group using the Genesys list-assisted method randomly generated the telephone numbers. The sample was a random selection encompassing the entire state of Indiana. This method allows for unpublished numbers and new listings to be included in the sample. For each residential telephone number, an adult household member was randomly selected for the interview.

### **Information Regarding Sources of Sample Survey Error**

As with all sample surveys, there is the possibility of sampling error. The sampling error for this survey is not yet determined. Sampling error does not take into account other possible sources of error that can occur in any study of public opinion. For example, findings may be influenced by events, which take place while the survey is in the field. Events occurring since the time the interviews were conducted could have changed the opinions reported here. Changing the wording of questions and the sequence in which they are asked can produce different results. Sometimes questions are inadvertently biased or misleading. People who responded to the survey may not necessarily replicate the views of those who refused to be interviewed or who could not be found at home during the time the survey was conducted. Moreover, while every precaution has been taken to make these findings completely accurate, other errors may have resulted from the various practical difficulties associated with taking any survey of public opinion.

### **CSR Staff Contacts**

Heather Terhune was the Project Manager for the Indiana Firearms Injury Prevention Survey. John Kennedy is the CSR Director, Nancy Bannister is the Associate Director, and Kevin Tharp is the Field Director for the telephone interviewing facility. Further information regarding this study is available by writing to the Center for Survey Research, 1022 East Third Street, Bloomington, IN 47405, or by calling (812) 855-2506. This report conforms to the standards of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls and the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

## Final Disposition Summary

The following table classifies every case in the sample according to its final disposition. These dispositions are based on the guidelines for Final Disposition Codes for RDD Surveys established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Standard Definitions for Final Dispositions of Case Codes, 1998.

<b>Interview</b>	
Complete	1017
Partial (break-off during demographics)	2
<b>Total interviews</b>	<b>1019</b>
<b>Eligible, Non-Interview</b>	
Refusal	673
Break-off	41
Respondent never available	276
Respondent away duration of the survey	10
Physically or mentally unable/incompetent	29
Language problem	24
Miscellaneous (faked interview)	4
<b>Total eligible, non-interviews</b>	<b>1057</b>
<b>Unknown Eligibility, Non-Interview</b>	
Always busy	43
No answer	272
Telephone answering device	116
Barrier to dialing (privacy manager)	1
Technical phone problems	67
<b>Total unknown eligibility, non-interviews</b>	<b>499</b>
<b>Not Eligible</b>	
Fax/data line	172
Non-working/disconnected number	613
Temporarily non-working/disconnected number	24
Number changed	27
Cell phone	1
Call forwarded to different household	1
Business, government office, other organization	272
Institution	7
Group quarters	3
No eligible respondent (no one over 18 in household, etc)	4
<b>Duplicate household</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total not eligible cases</b>	<b>1125</b>
<b>Total Sample</b>	<b>3700</b>

Appendix B: The Survey Questionnaire

\*\*\*\*\*  
FIREARMS  
Indiana Firearm Violence Prevention Survey  
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>**communit**<

First, how would you describe the community where you live? Would you say it is:

- <1> a city
- <2> a suburban area
- <3> a small town, or
- <4> a rural area

- <8> DK
- <9> RF

>**born**<

In what year were you born?

<1900-1982>

- <9998> DK
- <9999> RF

>**age**< (re-coded from "born")

- <1> 18 - 29
- <2> 30 - 44
- <3> 45 - 64
- <4> 65 or older

- <8> DK
- <9> RF

>**people**<

How many people, including yourself and any children, live in your household?

<1> 1 person [goto introduc]  
<2-9>  
<10> 10 or more people

<98> DK  
<99> RF[goto introduc]

>**child**<

How many children, age 18 or younger, live in your household?

<0> none  
<1> 1 child  
<2-9>  
<10> 10 or more children

<98> DK  
<99> RF

>**introduc**<

Throughout this interview, we will be asking questions about firearms, gun control, and the regulation of firearms. We realize the issues are complex and many people have strong feelings about them. However, to accurately present the variety of opinions among Indiana residents to policymakers, it is important that we ask some difficult questions.

<1> PROCEED

>**gun1**<

Do you (or anyone else in your household) currently have any guns in your home, car, or garage?

(DEFINE IF NEEDED: By gun we mean handguns, pistols, rifles or shotguns. Please do not include BB or pellet guns. Collector's guns, whether they are in working order or not, should be included.)

<1> yes [goto gun2]  
<5> no

**VOLUNTEERED**

<7> have one at work, in lock box, storage off home property

<8> DK  
<9> RF

[goto gun4]

>**gun2**<

How many guns, total, do you have in your home, car, or garage?

<1-29>

<30> 30 or more

<98> DK

<99> RF

>**gun3**<

Are any of them handguns? (Is it a handgun?)

(DEFINE IF NEEDED: A handgun is a gun with a relatively short barrel and grip, designed to be held with one hand. Some handguns are referred to as pistols or revolvers.)

<1> yes

<5> no

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**gun4**<

Have you ever owned a gun, that is had a gun that belonged to you personally?

(CLARIFY IF NEEDED: This does not include merely living in a household with a gun, you had to have been the personal owner of a gun.)

<1> yes

<5> no

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**gun5**<

Have you, personally, ever purchased a handgun?

<1> yes

<5> no

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**children**<

Next, we will ask about your opinion on issues involving firearms and children.

<1> PROCEED

>**child1**<

Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statement.

Gun owners with children under 18 living in their home should be required by law to store all guns unloaded and locked away.

Do you:

- <1> strongly agree
- <2> somewhat agree
- <3> somewhat disagree, or
- <4> strongly disagree

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**child2a**<

Some states have Child Access Prevention laws that subject adults to criminal or civil penalties if they fail to store their firearms to prevent access by children under 18. These laws may also make the parent liable for any injury or death resulting from their child's use of a firearm that was not properly secured.

<1> PROCEED

>**child2**<

How much do you favor or oppose a similar Child Access Prevention law in Indiana?

Do you:

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**child3**<

Currently, the minimum age for purchasing a rifle or shotgun in Indiana is 18.

How much do you favor or oppose raising the minimum age to 21?

Do you:

<1> strongly favor

<2> somewhat favor

<3> somewhat oppose, or

<4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**views**<

Currently, Indiana does not require a license for purchasing or owning a handgun. However, Indiana does require that a person pass a criminal history background check, performed immediately on site, before purchasing a handgun from a licensed dealer.

<1> PROCEED

>**views1**<

Do you think the legal restrictions on the sale and ownership of handguns in Indiana should be:

<1> more strict

<3> less strict, or

<5> stay the same

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**views2**<

How much do you favor or oppose having a mandatory waiting period for all people wanting to purchase a handgun in Indiana?

(Do you:)

(CLARIFY IF NEEDED: Currently, Indiana does not have a mandatory waiting period for those wanting to purchase a handgun.)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

- <8> DK
- <9> RF

**>views3<**

In most states, including Indiana, a private gun owner may legally sell his or her gun without proof that the buyer has passed a criminal history check.

How much do you favor or oppose a law that would require private gun sales in Indiana to be subject to the same background check requirements as sales by licensed dealers?

(Do you:)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

- <8> DK
- <9> RF

**>views4<**

How much do you favor or oppose a law in Indiana that would require mandatory background checks of all people who buy guns at gun shows?

(Do you:)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

- <8> DK
- <9> RF

**>views5<**

In most states, including Indiana, persons convicted of assault and battery where there was no serious injury or lethal weapon involved, are still able to purchase handguns.

Do you think persons convicted of such crimes should or should not be able to purchase handguns in Indiana?

(CLARIFY IF NEEDED: We're asking about misdemeanor assault and battery, where there was no serious injury or lethal weapon involved. We're not asking about felony assault and battery.)

<1> should  
<5> should not

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>views6<

Do you think persons convicted of domestic violence should or should not be able to purchase handguns in Indiana?

<1> should  
<5> should not

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>views7<

In Indiana, any adult, age 18 and older, can get a permit to carry a concealed weapon after passing a criminal background check.

How much do you favor or oppose a law that would allow only people with a special need, such as police or private detectives, to carry a concealed weapon?

(Do you:)

<1> strongly favor  
<2> somewhat favor  
<3> somewhat oppose, or  
<4> strongly oppose

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>**child4**<

Under federal law, those under age 21 may not purchase handguns. However, under Indiana law they can get a permit to carry a concealed handgun at age 18.

How much do you favor or oppose raising the minimum age to carry a concealed handgun to 21?

(Do you:)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**reglat1a**<

Handguns can have devices which recognize the gun owner and not fire for anyone else. For example, a gun may have a mechanism that prevents it from firing unless it comes into contact with a special ring that the shooter must wear. Such guns reduce the risk of a child or teenager shooting themselves or someone else. In addition, they protect a gun owner if an attacker takes the gun away.

<1> PROCEED

>**reglat1b**<

How much do you favor or oppose a law requiring all new handguns sold in Indiana be equipped with such a recognition device?

(Do you:)

(CLARIFY IF NEEDED: This type of recognition handgun is currently being manufactured and sold.)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

**>regulat2<**

Handguns can be made so that they cannot be fired by a young child's small hands. This is referred to as childproofing.

How much do you favor or oppose legislation requiring all new handguns sold in Indiana be childproof?

(Do you:)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

**>control1<**

Currently in Indiana, gun owners do not have to register the guns they own with the state.

How much do you favor or oppose a law in Indiana that would require the mandatory registration of handguns?

(Do you:)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor
- <3> somewhat oppose, or
- <4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

**>control2<**

A trigger lock is an attachment that prevents a gun from being fired until the device around the trigger is unlocked and removed.

How much do you favor or oppose a law requiring that all guns be stored with a trigger lock attachment?

(Do you:)

- <1> strongly favor
- <2> somewhat favor

<3> somewhat oppose, or  
<4> strongly oppose

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>**control3**<

Do you think that mandatory safety training on handling and storing firearms should or should not be required by law in Indiana for all first time gun buyers?

<1> should  
<5> should not

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>**general**<

Next, I have some questions about your opinions on guns and gun control in general.

<1> PROCEED

>**general1**<

Do you think that a gun usually makes a home:

<1> a lot safer (a lot more safe)  
<2> a little safer (a little more safe)  
<3> a little more dangerous, or  
<4> a lot more dangerous

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>**general2**<

How helpful do you think stricter gun control measures would be in reducing violent crime?

Would they be:

<1> very helpful  
<2> somewhat helpful  
<3> not too helpful, or  
<4> not at all helpful

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**general3**<

Some states have passed laws prohibiting city and county governments from suing gun manufacturers for deaths and injuries caused by firearms.

How much do you favor or oppose such a law being passed in Indiana?

(Do you:)

<1> strongly favor

<2> somewhat favor

<3> somewhat oppose, or

<4> strongly oppose

<8> DK

<9> RF

>**demo**<

Finally, we have a few questions about you.

<1> PROCEED

>**gend**<

RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER.

IF NEEDED:

I am required to ask, are you:

<1> male, or

<5> female

<9> RF

>**marital**<

Are you:

<1> married

<2> living with a partner

<3> widowed

<4> separated  
<5> divorced, or  
<6> never married

<8> DK  
<9> RF

**>party<**

Do you consider yourself a:

<1> Democrat  
<2> Republican  
<3> Independent, or  
<4> something else (ENTER TEXT)

**VOLUNTEERED**

<6> don't vote/not into politics  
<7> no party identity/vote for person not party

<8> DK  
<9> RF

**>politic<**

Regardless of the political party you might favor, when it comes to political views that people hold, do you think of yourself as liberal, moderate, conservative, or do you not think in those terms?

<1> liberal  
<2> moderate  
<3> conservative  
<4> don't think in those terms

<8> DK  
<9> RF

**>grade<**

What is the highest grade of school or level of education you have completed?

<0> no school/kindergarten [goto ged]  
<1-11> grades 1 to 11 [goto ged]  
<12> 12th grade/high school/diploma/GED  
<13> some college but no degree  
<14> associate/community college/nursing

degree (AA/AS)  
<15> bachelor's degree (BA/BS/AB)  
<16> master's degree  
<17> medical, law (J.D.) or other doctorate  
degree  
<18> vocational or technical school beyond  
high school

<98> DK  
<99> RF

[goto employ]

>**ged**<

Do you have a GED or other high school equivalency?

<1> yes  
<5> no

<8> DK  
<9> RF

[goto employ]

>**educat**<

(computer re-coded respondent education)

<1> 0 - 11 years  
<2> 12 years  
<3> some college  
<4> college degree or higher

<8> DK  
<9> RF

>**employ**<

Currently, are you working for pay, temporarily unemployed, retired, keeping house, a student, or doing something else?

<1> working for pay/employed/self-employed  
<2> temporarily unemployed  
<3> retired  
<4> keeping house  
<5> a student  
<6> doing something else (ENTER TEXT)

**VOLUNTEERED**

<7> not working because of disability

<8> DK

<9> RF

**>ethnic<**

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

<1> yes

<5> no

<8> DK

<9> RF

**>race<**

Now, I'm going to read a list of race categories. Please select one or more categories that describe your background. As I read each category, please answer with a yes or no.

Are you White?

Black or African American?

American Indian or Alaska Native?

Asian or Pacific Islander?

Are you another race I have not mentioned? (ENTER TEXT)

RESPONSE CODES: 1=YES

5=NO

8=DK

9=RF

[goto income1]

**>racecode<**

Respondent's racial background.

<1> White or Caucasian

<2> Black or African American

<3> American Indian or Alaska Native

<4> Asian or Pacific Islander

<5> Another race

<12> White and Black/Afr Amer

<13> White and Amer Indian/Alaska Native

<14> White and Asian/Pac Islander

<15> White and Another race

<23> Black/Afr Amer and Amer Indian/Alaska Native

<24> Black/Afr Amer and Asian/Pac Islander

<25> Black/Afr Amer and Another race

<34> Amer Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pac Islander

<35> Amer Indian/Alaska Native and Another race

<45> Asian/Pac Islander and another race

<90> three or more races

<98> DK

<99> RF

>**income1**<

Considering all sources of income and all salaries, was your household's total annual income in 1999 before taxes and other deductions, less than \$50,000, or was it \$50,000 or more?

<1> less than \$50,000 [goto income3]

<5> \$50,000 or more [goto income2]

<8> DK

<9> RF

[goto ENDQ]

>**income2**<

IF NEEDED:

Was it more than \$75,000?

(Considering all sources of income and all salaries, was your household's total annual income in 1999 before taxes and other deductions, more than \$75,000?)

<1> yes (more than \$75,000)

<5> no (\$50,000 - \$74,999)

<8> DK

<9> RF

[goto ENDQ]

>income3<

IF NEEDED:

Was it less than \$35,000?

(Considering all sources of income and all salaries, was your household's total annual income in 1999 before taxes and other deductions, less than \$35,000?)

<1> yes (\$34,999 or less) [goto income4]

<5> no (\$35,000 to 49,999)

<8> DK

<9> RF

[goto ENDQ]

>income4<

IF NEEDED:

Was it less than \$25,000?

(Considering all sources of income and all salaries, was your household's total annual income in 1999 before taxes and other deductions, more less \$25,000?)

<1> yes (less than \$25,000) [goto income5]

<5> no (\$25,000 to 34,999)

<8> DK

<9> RF

[goto ENDQ]

>income5<

IF NEEDED:

Finally, was it less than \$15,000?

(Considering all sources of income and all salaries, was your household's total annual income in 1999 before taxes and other deductions, more less \$15,000?)

<1> yes (less than \$15,000)

<5> no (\$15,000 to 24,999)

<8> DK

<9> RF

[goto ENDQ]

>INCCODE< (Household Income, Re-coded)

Considering all sources of income and all salaries, what was your household's total annual income in 1999 before taxes and other deductions?

<1> 0 - 14,999

<2> 15,000 - 24,999

<3> 25,000 - 34,999

<4> 35,000 - 49,999

<5> 50,000 - 74,999

<6> 75,000 +

<8> DK

<9> RF



## Appendix C: The Comments of the Respondents

Indiana University Center for Survey Research

Open and Miscellaneous Text Responses

### How to Read Text Files

How the Text File is Arranged:

The text file is arranged by item name, according to the order in which it was asked on the questionnaire. For each item, the text of the question is provided.

Words that are bracketed and separated by a slash, "[/]", indicate where the question wording was different for different situations. For instance, if a respondent is asked her/his marital status and a later question is asked about the spouse for those who are married, the question would be tailored to read "And what does your husband think about this particular plan...?" for female respondents. For male respondents, the word "wife" would be substituted for "husband." The question text in the text file would then read "And what does your [husband/wife] think about this particular plan...?"

Brackets ([ ]'s) are also used in question wording for follow-up questions where the text of the previous question is bracketed and provided for context.

Text for each item is the listing (by respondent case number) of each respondent who provided an answer or comment for that item.

Text is provided under a number of different conditions. One of the main reasons text is generated occurs for items where the question was open-ended, meaning that the item asked for a response and did not have precoded response categories.

Other sources of text include instances where the respondent provides a response that falls within a precoded response category, but seeks to qualify that response. The respondent's precoded numerical response gets entered in the data file and is tabulated in the codebook frequency distributions and the respondent's text response gets entered into the text file for the client to see.

The text provided to clients is exactly what the interviewer typed in during the interview. The CSR makes no spelling or grammar changes, in order to avoid unintentionally altering the meaning of the respondent's comments.

To adhere to its confidentiality policy, the CSR reserves the right to delete any identifying information about a respondent. The term "[IRD]" is used where this occurs, for "identifying reference deleted."

To facilitate interviewer administration of the survey as well as provide accurate, verbatim portrayal of respondent answers, interviewers generally type text in lower case. Upper case may be used to convey respondent emphasis on a word or phrase, or to mark a text correction. The

text also includes interviewer abbreviation of functions, to convey what occurred in the respondent-interviewer interaction.

For example, "sp" means that the interviewer asked the respondent "Could you be more specific [about your response]?" And, "ao" means that the interviewer asked "Is there anything else you can think of?" The latter is generally asked as a follow-up to an open-ended item. Abbreviations may also be used to identify respondents. For example, "MR" refers to a male respondent.

**Text for gun2**

11943f more than you can count with two hands

**Text for child1**

10725f I was taught by my parents and I taught my children that guns were for protection and hunting and I was taught the value of life.

12959f MR said that he strongly agrees in principle, but he is hesitant to say so because he does not want legislation requiring this

**Text for child3**

12562f if you can serve in the military and shoot a gun, I think you ought to be able to own your own gun at 18

**Text for views2**

12375f mr thinks that there is one

13176f I think they should have a 7-10 day waiting period, that gives the federal bureau and local employees ample time to screen the applicants that way if they have any problem, they have no one to fault but themselves

**Text for views3**

13176f MR wouldn't sell a firearm to a stranger, but would to someone he knows or would give a firearm to his family members who are educated about guns

**Text for views4**

10120f Indiana has a law that if you do not have a gun permit, you are not allowed to take the gun with you, you have to run the background check you can pick it up at a dealer, or if you are local, you can pick it up after the background check. it's a seven day waiting period for that background check for handguns

13176f handguns yes, rifles no

**Text for views6**

11843f first offense, that's not a reason necessarily to keep them from purchasing a handgun, second offense or any other crimes in that nature, then they should no longer be able to purchase a handgun

11922f depending on their crime.

**Text for views7**

10143f MR says you have to be 21

11302f fr took this in regard to hunting.

11692f If they passed a background check they should be able to buy a gun.

### **Text for reglat1b**

- 10725f I have arthritis in my shoulder, I can't wear a ring.  
11840f in theory a good idea possible too expensive  
12784f If the devise is not cumbersome in any way, and the gun owners can still readily have use of the gun, than I would somewhat agree with that.

### **Text for regulat2**

- 13077f in some cases the child may need to fire the weapon, ie, if someone came into the house and I couldn't get to the weapon but the child could

### **Text for control1**

- 10120f guns do have to be registered when they are purchased, they list the serial number and send it to the city, state and federal gov't.  
10725f not the governments business to decide whether we have guns, I wouldn't want the government knowing how many guns I have. If they decide to take them away I wouldn't be able to protect myself.  
11369f mr thinks the law is in place  
11843f it's against the constitution

### **Text for control2**

- 12506f I disagree with the question as it is being asked right now.  
If a person owns a home protection firearm, Id disagree with people who think there should be a trigger lock on that gun, on the other hand if the gun or guns are kept as heirlooms or as a collection, I believe they should be locked up in a gun safe. If they cannot afford or if a gun safe will not be allowed where they are renting I think they should be required to have locks on the guns.  
13077f there is sometimes a problem, many times the children can get the lock off easier than the adults can, ao

### **Text for control3**

- 10081f I think there should be training but other than a law.  
10725f someone that has broken into my home is not going to wait. I'll be dead

### **Text for general1**

- 12506f somewhat safer: I believe a handgun or shotgun makes a home safer against intrusion on the other hand if the firearm is not given respect it deserves it makes the home extremely dangerous.  
12589f I don't think they make me feel safe at all.

### **Text for general2**

11855f my answer is if they would enforce the laws that are on the books now  
we would be fine, prosecute those who commit crimes with guns  
12562f I think they ought to apply the laws they have  
13176f we have the laws right now that would eliminate crime, we've got to  
make the laws mandatory right now, use them.

### **Text for general3**

11369f mr is opposed to manufacturers being sued but answered contrary to  
that. I asked question again and he answered the same way  
11725f R says strongly favor law to allow to sue, can't get her to see what  
question asks  
12208f don't think that a gun co. should be sued for someones personal negligence  
12459f I think that they shouldn't be able to sue them.  
12614f FR said she didn't think gun manufacturers should be sued, and then a  
answered strongly opposed. I asked the question a second time  
and she answered the same way  
12784f excluding manufacturer defects, than I don't think they should  
be able to sue the manufacturers  
13414f Gun manufacturers are not responsible not reasonable, it's the people.  
13417f R mentioned that don't think gun manufacturers should be blamed.

### **Text for marital**

10293f married living with a partner

### **Text for party**

10143f sp no  
10154f I have no idea  
10198f vote for the man  
10271f I just vote for whoever I feel should be in there.  
10317f sp neutral  
10332f I don't know I'm not really a voter generation x  
10344f never really voted, so I cant say that I'm any of them.  
10376f I don't go by the party. I go by their position.  
10388f New Liberal  
10409f Whichever way one or the other  
10483f I just don't really conform tot one of the parties. well, to any of  
the parties really  
10655f split ticket  
10696f don't agree with anything the government does, not anything but most thin  
10724f don't know what is  
10725f registered as Democrat but vote independent  
10728f Don't matter. SP: Neutral  
10743f I don't consider myself any  
10749f no idea  
10842f registered Democrat but don't always vote that way.  
10893f sp independent  
10974f sp no  
11020f I refuse to answer.

11035f split ticket  
 11039f I just try and vote for the one I think will do the best job, I don't f  
 follow a party  
 11077f don't what he is  
 11133f American  
 11169f just for my kids basically, do what is best for them  
 11187f I haven't really formed a lot of political opinions, no particular  
 political affiliation  
 11196f been a republican all my life but not this year.  
 11226f I don't claim to stand for a specific party. I vote for an individual  
 and what they stand for  
 11301f Non-Partisan  
 11302f it all depends on who the person is  
 11314f democrat  
 11321f both democrat and rep.  
 11355f don't vote and you don't believe in it.  
 11365f no; just vote for whatever I want, I guess I'm undeclared  
 11395f sp no  
 11518f there all the same  
 11546f it depends on the issues  
 11687f constitutionalist, freeman  
 11755f Libertarian, conservative  
 11816f sp I don't know I guess I'm democratic  
 11821f not even registered to vote  
 11910f Libertarian  
 11922f In between Democrat and Republican.  
 11937f don't really claim to be anything  
 11953f don't vote for the party, I vote for the man  
 12031f None of the above.  
 12041f anyone of those that will do the job  
 12099f not registered  
 12232f libertarian  
 12237f No name  
 12242f I'm just, I just go with life as it is, I don't make the decisions  
 I don't really care about that stuff  
 12364f I would say I'm independent, but not aligned with the independent  
 party  
 12410f I vote republican and democrat.  
 12434f just go for the person with the best ideas, doesn't matter if what polit-  
 tical party  
 I think there are people out there with guns that should be taken away  
 from them.  
 12455f Somewhere in between a democrat and a republican.  
 12476f I vote for person.  
 12483f don't do a whole of voting  
 Ao- they move a lot, don't know what's going on in local politics  
 12565f independent  
 12627f I have never voted  
 12645f non voter  
 12773f not affiliated  
 12833f too personal of a question

12955f Liberal  
12966f I go with my belief not a party  
12973f don't follow anyone  
13066f haven't voted for a long time  
13077f I will never vote, and neither will my husband  
13081f Well, I've voted for republicans, democrats, and independents. Politics do not make the person, I vote for the person, not the party  
13160f politically neutral.  
13176f I'm a third party  
13179f redneck  
13370f neutral in all of it  
13410f liberal  
13426f hard worker  
13442f I don't have any opinion on it  
13450f I tend to vote mostly Democratic but I'm more supportive of the Green Party  
13470f stay away from politics  
13481f Libertarian  
13583f just something else.  
13636f I vote for the person that I think the best; if I had to chose, I'd be a democrat

### **Text for grade**

10495f foreign university (5-year program)  
10847f PHD  
10865f two masters.  
11667f R said he's completed a couple years of college w/no degree, but also has gone to tech school. He wouldn't choose just one.  
11713f 12th grade diploma, 13 mo. school in army, taught voc.ed., sub teacher  
12589f college getting a certificate, going for degree  
asked "what type of degree" fr said something to the extent of an ongoing certification.  
13414f Real estate license

### **Text for employ**

10434f caregiver for mother 24-7  
10443f disabled  
10759f drawing disability  
10974f sp  
11035f I work a job and do some farming.  
11107f laid off, hopefully going back soon  
11133f disabled  
11302f I work and I take care of a child, they are both primary to me  
11304f course to become full time  
11453f an investor  
11644f I am disabled.  
11704f full time student and worker  
11737f I work for a mobile clinic  
11826f working for commission as well.

11915f disabled  
11966f disabled  
12011f Part time worker and full time student.  
12310f clean the house  
12514f maternity leave  
12636f minister  
12721f sp social security  
12753f disabled  
12931f Home schooling and keeping house  
13070f self-employed in the catering business  
13094f self employed  
13213f temporarily laid off  
13309f I'm a lawyer but I'm not practicing.  
13496f disabled

**Text for race 1**

12784f I really don't think there is any profound reason to state or claim a race. When there are so many individuals i.e. adoptees who are legally prevented from knowing their racial background.

**Text for race 5**

10006f Probably English and German and a little Scotch-Irish.  
10105f Part German. ao  
10213f European  
10369f german  
10444f german...American  
10463f German Scottish, English background  
10556f not real sure  
10679f Swiss  
SP None  
10766f I'm half mexican.  
10789f I'm from Middle East.  
10980f Scandinavian  
10989f german descent  
11226f I'm English, Dutch, german, Indian  
11548f mexican  
11626f Indian  
11654f American?  
11749f I'm Irish german  
11755f northern European decent.  
11785f Hispanic  
11816f English  
11840f hillbilly  
11873f White European  
11965f American Mexican  
11990f german  
12138f American  
12160f Irish and English with a little French thrown in  
12297f Puerto Rican

12374f German  
12429f part German, part Irish, and part Scotch  
12476f German.  
12516f Hispanic  
12618f Bolivian  
12668f German  
12837f East Indian  
12889f I have German in me, and I've got Irish in me.  
12974f Irish American  
13024f Scandinavian  
13056f Hispanic  
13210f Swedish background  
13232f little bit of Indian  
13307f German  
13386f Latino.  
13393f German  
13426f Cherokee Indian  
13580f European.  
13583f Hispanic.  
13610f I'm Yugoslavian

**Text for income5**

12889f R said it was right at 15,000.

**Text for client**

10340f guns do not kill people, people kill people  
10648f I think that you  
should include questions about automatic weapons. automatic  
weapons are not used for target practice, but for putting holes  
into people. there is no reason they should be sold to the  
general public/  
12237f Does someone under a protective order can have access to a firearm  
with permit even though they have a pending court case against them  
involving that firearm in a harmful harassing way, against the person  
who obtained the protective order.  
12506f mr had a lot to say after the interview: to very  
roughly paraphrase him--he thinks gun education is very important in  
reducing firearm violence.  
12521f I do not believe that any 2nd amendment rights should be infringed on,  
and if the government has complete control over all gun rights, we would  
be like Nazi Germany, and we don't want that. The only thing keeping  
Americans from being oppressed by our government is the right to have  
ownership of firearms.  
12589f with regards to the first general question, fr said her feeling of  
safety was not related to firearms  
13072f Children get a hold of guns and that's our biggest issue to provide  
their safety.