



The American Panel Survey

Gun Control

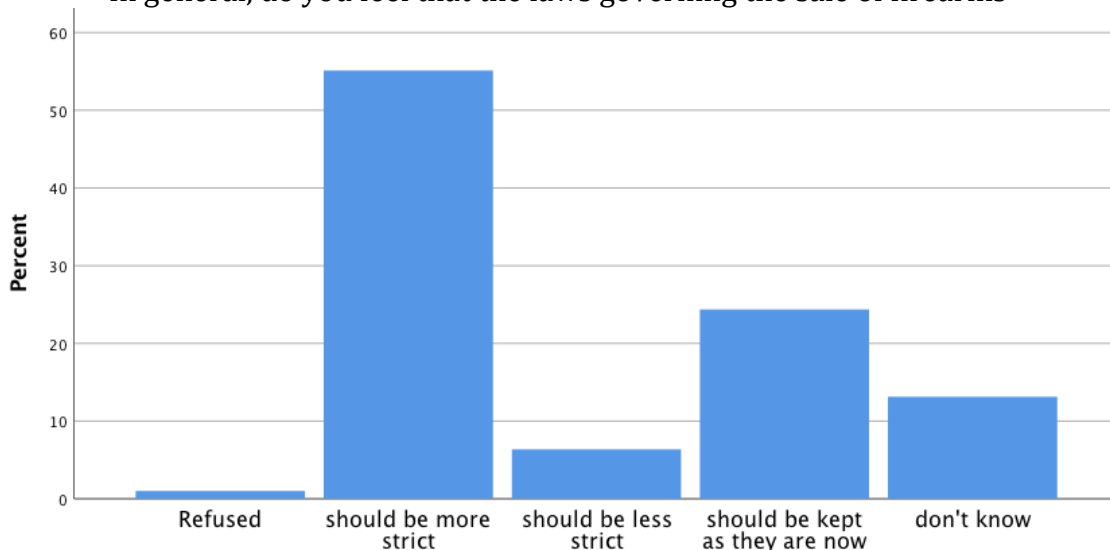
October 4, 2017

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The American public has long favored background checks for gun purchases, according to a wide variety of polls dating to the early 1990s. The American Panel Survey last asked about gun control issues in the summer of 2016. The graphs that follow demonstrate that Americans favor stricter gun laws as a general principle and support bans on assault weapons and large ammunition magazines, but are more divided when we ask about protecting a right to gun ownership. These differences are reflected in how the pro- and anti-gun control advocates frame the issues.

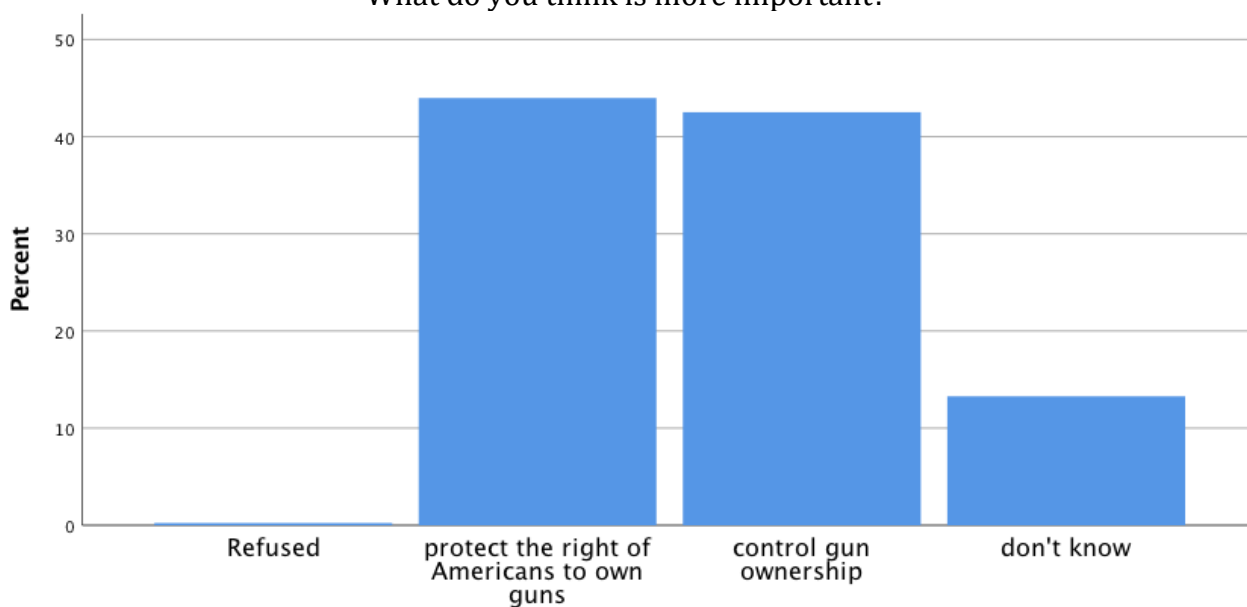
Figure 1

In general, do you feel that the laws governing the sale of firearms



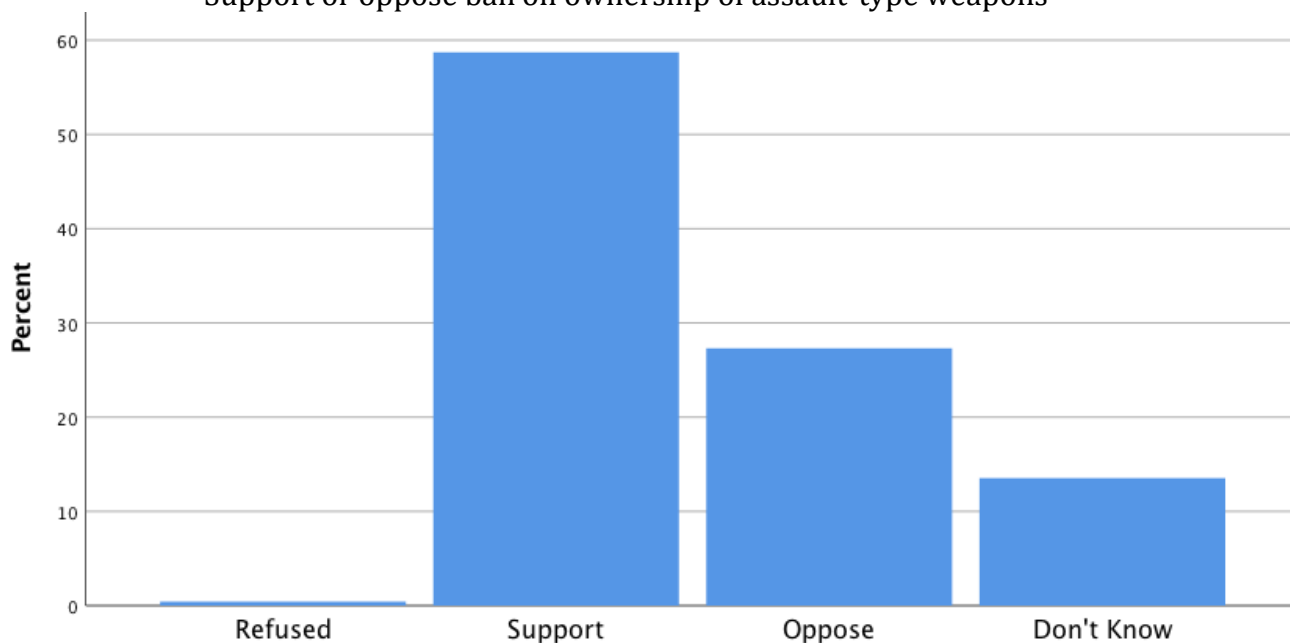
N = 1690; Weighted by CPS; margin of error: +/- 2.0 percent
Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Figure 2
What do you think is more important?



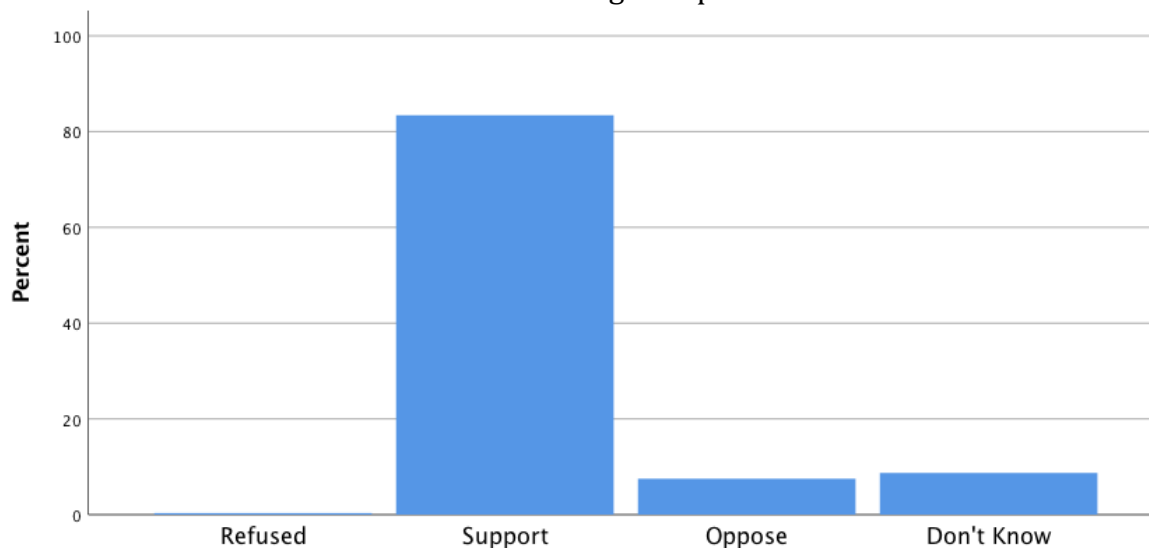
N = 1690; Weighted by CPS; margin of error: +/- 2.0 percent
Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Figure 3
Support or oppose ban on ownership of assault-type weapons



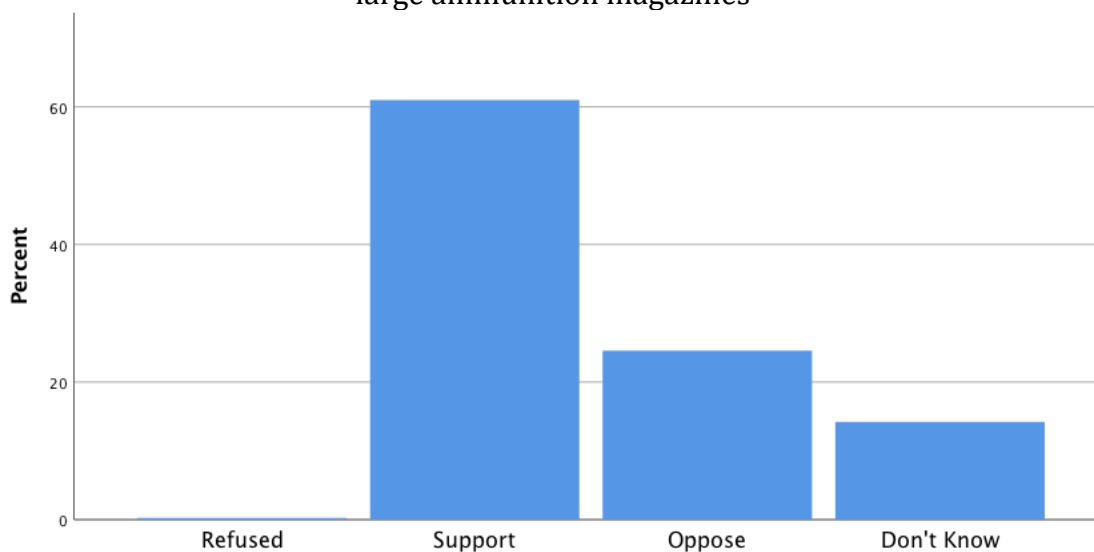
N = 1690; Weighted by CPS; margin of error: +/- 2.0 percent
Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Figure 4
Support or oppose requiring background checks for all gun buyers,
no matter where the gun is purchased



N = 1690; Weighted by CPS; margin of error: +/- 2.0 percent
Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Figure 5
Support or oppose prohibiting the sale of
large ammunition magazines



N = 1690; Weighted by CPS; margin of error: +/- 2.0 percent
Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Table 1
Effect of Gun Ownership on Views about Background Checks

		Gun, rifle, pistol in household?			Total
		Yes	No	Don't Know	
Requiring background checks	Support	84.6%	87.8%	41.5%	83.4%
	Oppose	12.6%	2.6%	14.2%	7.5%
	Don't Know	2.8%	9.6%	44.3%	9.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Table 2
Effect of Gun Ownership on Views about Prohibiting the Sale of Large Ammunition Magazines

		Gun, rifle, pistol in household?			Total
		Yes	No	Don't Know	
Prohibiting the sale of large ammunition magazines	Support	56.3%	69.1%	27.1%	61.0%
	Oppose	36.2%	14.7%	28.0%	24.6%
	Don't Know	7.5%	15.9%	44.9%	14.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

Table 3
Effect of Gun Ownership on Views about Banning the Ownership of Assault Type Weapons

		Gun, rifle, pistol in household?			Total
		Yes	No	Don't Know	
Banning the ownership of assault type weapons	Support	50.3%	69.1%	29.2%	58.7%
	Oppose	42.8%	15.0%	27.4%	27.3%
	Don't Know	7.0%	15.9%	43.4%	14.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: The American Panel Survey, July 2016

About the Authors

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About *The American Panel Survey*

The American Panel Survey (TAPS) is an online panel survey of over 2,200 people, conducted eight times a year. Panelists were recruited as a national probability sample with an addressed-based sampling frame. The survey is conducted by GfK Knowledge Networks for the Weidenbaum Center at Washington University. Individuals without Internet access were provided a laptop and internet service at the expense of the Weidenbaum Center. In a typical month, about 1,800 of the panelists complete the online survey. Analyses in this report use weights based on CPS