The Responsibility of Gun Ownership
About four-in-ten U.S. adults say they live in a gun-owning household

% of all adults saying they ...

Live in a household with a gun 42%
Currently own a gun 30%
Live in a household with NO guns 57%
Don’t currently own a gun but live with someone who does 11%

% who ...

Grew up in a household with guns 48%
Say at least some of their friends own guns 59%
Have shot a gun 72%

Note: In pie chart, share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer shown but not labeled. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.
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Why Guns?
Most gun owners cite protection as a major reason for owning a gun

% of gun owners saying each is a major reason why they own a gun

- For protection: 67%
- For hunting: 38%
- For sport shooting: 30%
- As part of a gun collection: 13%
- For their job: 8%

“America’s Complex Relationship With Guns”

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Why the Fear?

• Agenda Setting – what the media pay attention to sets the agenda for what we think about

• Cultivation – heavy viewing of TV and overall consumption of media lead us to see the world as it is portrayed in media
Actual Risk?

- Less than 1% chance to be victim of violent crime any given year

- Most likely to be victimized: young men

- Least likely: people over 55
About three-quarters of gun owners say owning a gun is essential to their freedom

% saying each is essential to their own sense of freedom

- **Freedom of speech**: Gun owners 94%, Non-gun owners 92%
- **Right to vote**: Gun owners 89%, Non-gun owners 92
- **Right to privacy**: Gun owners 86%, Non-gun owners 89
- **Freedom of religion**: Gun owners 85%, Non-gun owners 88
- **Right to own guns**: Gun owners 35%, Non-gun owners 74%

“America’s Complex Relationship With Guns”

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Handgun Owners - Guns Close By?

• (38%) say there is a gun that is both loaded and easily accessible to them all of the time when they are at home.
• (26%) say they carry a gun outside of their home all or most of the time.
• Among handgun owners who live in a community they think is unsafe, the share who carry all or most of the time rises to 41%.
• Most people, gun owners and non-gun owners, believe that keeping a gun locked away and unloaded is crucial if there are children in the home.

• Why then, is one child a day killed negligently in the home in this country?
Guns in the home

• Case control studies have examined the association between household gun ownership and homicide victimization.

• Results suggest that a gun in the home increases the likelihood of murder rather than providing protection from being murdered.

  – Hemenway, (2014)
Burglars Love Guns

• Most burglars don’t want to come into your home when you are there.

• They always know where you hid that gun.
Ownership by Gender

Women are more likely than men to say protection is *only* reason they own a gun

% of gun owners saying ...

- Protection is a reason they own a gun:
  - Women: 92
  - Men: 91

- Protection is the *only* reason they own a gun:
  - Women: 27
  - Men: 8


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Higher shares of male than female gun owners keep a loaded gun within easy reach when they're at home

% of gun owners who say there is a gun that is both loaded and easily accessible to them at home ...

- **Men**
  - All of the time: 43
  - Most of the time: 16
  - Only some of the time: 9
  - Never: 32
  - **Net 59%**

- **Women**
  - All of the time: 29
  - Most of the time: 19
  - Only some of the time: 17
  - Never: 35
  - **Net 48%**

% of handgun owners who say they carry their gun outside the home ...

- **Men**
  - All of the time: 12
  - Most of the time: 15
  - Only some of the time: 35
  - Never: 39
  - **Net 26%**

- **Women**
  - All of the time: 10
  - Most of the time: 16
  - Only some of the time: 25
  - Never: 49
  - **Net 26%**

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-27 and April 4-18, 2017.

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Things to Consider if You Own a Handgun or Any Other Firearm
I’m the Good Guy

• Everyone who carries a gun thinks that he/she/they are smart enough, capable enough, calm and collected enough to do the right thing when the time comes.
Do You Practice?

• Police Officers practice, both mentally and physically, on a regular basis.

• Accuracy in police shootings: 1/5

• 95% of officers never fire their weapons
What is your plan?

• Have you thought about what you will do if an armed intruder comes into your home?

• What will you do if a crime occurs in the community and you are armed?
Yes, You Can Stand Your Ground

• TN is a Stand Your Ground state. That means you have no duty to retreat from dangerous situation.

• But, might it be wiser to do so?

• (George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin)
Where do you keep your weapon?

• *Hospital Pediatrics* (2017). 40% of parents who own guns incorrectly believe their kids don’t know where they are stored.

• 1 in 5 parents incorrectly believes children have not handled a gun in the house
Guns are Heavy and Annoying to Carry

• Once the initial novelty of carrying a firearm has worn off, what do you do?

• Handguns are uncomfortable, ruin pants, belts, purses.

• Where do you put it when you need to remove it?
Do you know where your gun is, every minute of every day?

• How does TSA seize so many guns at airport security every year?

• 3,957 in 2017
Are you prepared to KILL another human being?

• Guns are made to do one thing

• Not warn, frightening or threat
You Own That Bullet You Fired

- Wherever the bullet goes, whatever or whomever it hits – your responsibility
Insurance?

• Do you have an insurance policy to cover you if you shoot an intruder in your home or an attacker outside your home?
Do you have an attorney?

- If you shoot another person, you will need to have an attorney present immediately in order to protect your rights. That means one you can call right after you call 911
What to Say to 911

- I am armed
- I have shot an intruder
- I am in _____ room of the home
- I placed my gun __________
- NEVER respond to officers with gun in hand
- Consider yourself a suspect
Angry?

- Are you absolutely certain that you could never take out your weapon in anger or to scare someone?

- Will you never drink alcohol?
Study Results

• Half of homicide victims died from gunshot wounds.
• One-third by intimate
• 12% by another relative
• 31% by friend or acquaintance
• 4% by stranger
• 17% not determined
More data

- *44% during altercation or quarrel*
- *11% romantic triangle or murder-suicide*
- 8% drug related
- 22% during commission of another felony
Tennessee

• Leads the country in murder by intimate partners – usually with gun.