

Two in three Americans favor stricter gun laws

New USA Today/Ipsos poll shows views on gun laws haven't changed significantly over time, and partisan divisions remain

Washington, DC, June 7, 2022 — In the wake of a number of mass shootings, including at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, a new USA Today/Ipsos poll examines whether attitudes toward gun laws have changed over time and what steps, if any, Americans are taking to protect themselves. The poll finds that:

- 1. A strong majority of Americans believe gun laws should be stricter than they are today, consistent with views over the past five years. Though significant partisan divisions remain, some Republicans have moved back toward favoring stricter gun laws compared to last year.
 - Currently, 69% believe gun laws should be more strict than they are today, with 44% saying they should be *a lot* more strict. This is similar to public opinion last year (65% strict, including 41% *a lot* more strict, in March 2021).
 - Looking at the longer-term trend, support for stricter gun laws has been in the 65%-75% range over the last five years, with a plurality consistently in favor of making gun laws *a lot* more strict.
 - Partisans remain far apart on this issue: 88% of Democrats favor stricter gun laws, compared to 50% of Republicans. Independents are in the middle of the two (67%).
 - Though they are far apart, Democrats and Republicans are closer on the issue than they were last year. In 2021, 35% of Republicans said that gun laws should be more strict. At 50%, this year's data marks a move back toward where Republican attitudes were in 2017 (55%) and 2019 (54%). Over time, Democrats' views on gun laws have held constant.
- 2. Americans hold a number of groups or factors responsible for gun violence, namely the mental health system (76%), loose gun laws (64%), and racism and white nationalism (61%).
 - Compared to March 2021, when these questions were last asked, more Americans hold loose gun laws responsible (64% now, up from 57%). This shift marks a point of return to views from nearly three years ago (67% in August 2019).
 - Slightly more Americans hold Republicans in Congress responsible than they do Democrats (49% vs. 44%, respectively), similar to patterns in past years.
 - Two in five (42%) say President Joe Biden bears some responsibility, up from 27% in early 2021. This shift mirrors the weakening of Biden's job approval and overall standing from the beginning of his presidency to now.
 - A bare majority hold gun manufacturers and the NRA responsible (52%), and the same is true for violent video games (53%).
- 3. Most Americans are not altering their behavior as a result of mass shootings.
 - Nearly three in five (57%) say they have <u>not</u> talked with their family about what to do if there was a shooting, avoided shopping or attending public events in crowded places, or contacted public officials.

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• Eight in ten (81%) report feeling safe in public spaces over the last few weeks, up from 67% last March but in line with public opinion from August 2019 (80%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between June 3-6, 2022. For this survey, a sample of 1,117 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:







Full Annotated Questionnaire:

1. When in public spaces over the last few weeks, how safe or unsafe have you felt?

	6/3-6, 2022 (N=1,117)	3/23-24, 2021 (N=1,005)	8/5-6, 2019 (N=1,004)
Very safe	25%	15%	28%
Mostly safe	56%	51%	52%
Mostly unsafe	11%	17%	11%
Very unsafe	4%	5%	4%
Don't know	3%	3%	5%
I am not going out in public due to COVID-19	2%	8%	-
Safe (Net)	81%	67%	80%
Unsafe (Net)	14%	23%	15%

	Democrat	Democrat	Democrat	Republican	Republican	Republican	Independent	Independent	Independent
	6/3-6,	3/23-24,	8/5-6,	6/3-6,	3/23-24,	8/5-6,	6/3-6,	3/23-24,	8/5-6,
	2022	2021	2019	2022	2021	2019	2022	2021	2019
	(N=488)	(N=460)	(N=446)	(N=416)	(N=368)	(N=392)	(N=149)	(N=111)	(N=100)
Very safe	22%	9%	26%	32%	24%	33%	21%	14%	29%
Mostly safe	57%	50%	52%	55%	56%	50%	57%	43%	53%
Mostly unsafe	14%	23%	9%	7%	10%	10%	11%	22%	15%
Very unsafe	3%	7%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	-
Don't know	2%	2%	7%	2%	2%	4%	2%	5%	3%
I am not going out in public due to COVID-19	2%	9%	-	1%	4%	-	4%	14%	-
Safe (Net)	79%	60%	79%	86%	80%	82%	78%	57%	82%
Unsafe (Net)	18%	30%	14%	11%	14%	14%	16%	25%	15%

2. Have you done any of the following as a result of the mass shootings that have taken place in the United States over the last several years? Select all that apply.

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Talked with your family about what to do if a shooting happened in your area	25%	16%	25%
Avoided shopping in crowded places	20%	24%	18%
Skipped public events where there would be a lot of people	18%	22%	21%
Contacted public officials asking for new laws to prevent mass shootings	7%	5%	7%
None of these	57%	57%	52%





2. Have you done any of the following as a result of the mass shootings that have taken place in the United States over the last several years? Select all that apply.

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Talked with your family about what to do if a shooting happened in your area	34%	32%	21%	21%	14%	18%	18%	22%	8%
Avoided shopping in crowded places	25%	27%	22%	16%	16%	20%	21%	20%	17%
Skipped public events where there would be a lot of people	21%	21%	30%	16%	14%	21%	17%	10%	18%
Contacted public officials asking for new laws to prevent mass shootings	10%	9%	11%	5%	2%	6%	6%	3%	*
None of these	43%	45%	47%	64%	68%	55%	64%	64%	64%







3. How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?

Total Responsible Summary

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
The mental health system	76%	73%	73%
Loose gun laws	64%	57%	67%
Racism and white nationalism	61%	61%	69%
Violent video games	53%	42%	51%
Gun manufacturers and the NRA	52%	49%	55%
Republicans in Congress	49%	40%	47%
Democrats in Congress	44%	36%	40%
President Joe Biden	42%	27%	-
Donald Trump	41%	43%	50%

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
The mental health system	77%	81%	74%	80%	71%	77%	70%	66%	59%
Loose gun laws	86%	86%	84%	43%	33%	57%	64%	62%	54%
Racism and white nationalism	80%	85%	83%	42%	27%	51%	60%	55%	59%
Violent video games	55%	76%	72%	57%	20%	37%	50%	48%	54%
Gun manufacturers and the NRA	77%	75%	74%	28%	14%	23%	54%	39%	41%
Republicans in Congress	74%	43%	47%	28%	48%	60%	49%	33%	41%
Democrats in Congress	40%	63%	66%	53%	16%	29%	43%	41%	36%
President Joe Biden	33%	28%	34%	56%	50%	51%	37%	34%	37%
Donald Trump	67%	20%	-	17%	40%	-	39%	21%	-





 How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?
a Donald Trump

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	22%	29%	34%
Somewhat responsible	18%	14%	17%
Not very responsible	15%	11%	12%
Not at all responsible	33%	33%	28%
Don't know	11%	13%	10%
Responsible (Net)	41%	43%	50%
Not responsible (Net)	48%	44%	40%

Republican Democrat Democrat Democrat Republican Republican Independent Independent Independent 6/3-6, 6/3-6, 8/5-6, 3/23-24, 8/5-6, 6/3-6, 8/5-6, 3/23-24, 3/23-24, 2022 2021 2019 2022 2021 2019 2022 2021 2019 Very 43% 53% 52% 7% 7% 12% 16% 25% 27% responsible Somewhat 24% 22% 22% 10% 6% 12% 23% 14% 14% responsible Not very 13% 9% 8% 17% 12% 19% 20% 12% 12% responsible Not at all 9% 60% 69% 53% 24% 28% 34% 13% 6% responsible Don't know 7% 10% 9% 5% 6% 6% 17% 21% 13% Responsible 74% 39% 41% 67% 75% 41% 14% 23% 39% (Net) Not responsible 26% 16% 17% 48% 81% 71% 44% 40% 46% (Net)







2. How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	33%	34%	36%
Somewhat responsible	43%	39%	37%
Not very responsible	13%	13%	11%
Not at all responsible	6%	6%	8%
Don't know	5%	8%	8%
Responsible (Net)	76%	73%	73%
Not responsible (Net)	19%	18%	19%

b. The mental health system

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	31%	39%	35%	37%	32%	42%	31%	33%	32%
Somewhat responsible	47%	42%	39%	43%	39%	35%	40%	33%	27%
Not very responsible	14%	13%	12%	9%	12%	9%	17%	13%	17%
Not at all responsible	5%	2%	8%	6%	9%	6%	7%	7%	13%
Don't know	3%	5%	7%	4%	8%	8%	6%	13%	11%
Responsible (Net)	77%	81%	74%	80%	71%	77%	70%	66%	59%
Not responsible (Net)	20%	15%	19%	16%	20%	15%	23%	21%	30%







 How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?
c. Violent video games

c. violent video games			
	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	20%	15%	22%
Somewhat responsible	34%	28%	29%
Not very responsible	20%	23%	21%
Not at all responsible	20%	23%	20%
Don't know	7%	11%	9%
Responsible (Net)	53%	42%	51%
Not responsible (Net)	39%	47%	40%

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	2022	12%	19%	23%	21%	27%	18%	13%	14%
Somewhat responsible	34%	32%	28%	34%	27%	33%	32%	19%	27%
Not very responsible	21%	26%	23%	20%	19%	16%	23%	28%	26%
Not at all responsible	18%	21%	24%	18%	24%	15%	20%	30%	21%
Don't know	6%	10%	6%	5%	8%	9%	7%	9%	11%
Responsible (Net)	55%	43%	47%	57%	48%	60%	50%	33%	41%
Not responsible (Net)	40%	47%	47%	38%	43%	31%	43%	58%	48%







3. How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	30%	30%	35%
Somewhat responsible	22%	18%	20%
Not very responsible	17%	15%	14%
Not at all responsible	23%	28%	22%
Don't know	8%	9%	9%
Responsible (Net)	52%	49%	55%
Not responsible (Net)	40%	43%	36%

d. Gun manufacturers and the NRA

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	54%	52%	49%	11%	8%	17%	28%	34%	35%
Somewhat responsible	22%	24%	22%	17%	12%	19%	26%	14%	19%
Not very responsible	12%	10%	11%	24%	15%	18%	16%	24%	9%
Not at all responsible	7%	6%	11%	44%	58%	38%	18%	23%	28%
Don't know	4%	8%	7%	5%	7%	7%	11%	5%	9%
Responsible (Net)	77%	76%	72%	28%	20%	37%	54%	48%	54%
Not responsible (Net)	19%	16%	22%	67%	74%	56%	35%	46%	37%







 How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?
e Democrats in Congress

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	16%	15%	17%
Somewhat responsible	28%	20%	23%
Not very responsible	23%	22%	21%
Not at all responsible	19%	26%	23%
Don't know	14%	17%	17%
Responsible (Net)	44%	36%	40%
Not responsible (Net)	42%	47%	43%

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	11%	9%	11%	25%	28%	26%	10%	9%	17%
Somewhat responsible	29%	19%	22%	28%	22%	25%	33%	25%	20%
Not very responsible	30%	26%	26%	23%	20%	19%	19%	17%	18%
Not at all responsible	24%	31%	26%	17%	22%	20%	15%	25%	25%
Don't know	7%	14%	14%	8%	8%	11%	22%	23%	20%
Responsible (Net)	40%	28%	34%	53%	50%	51%	43%	34%	37%
Not responsible (Net)	54%	57%	52%	39%	42%	38%	35%	43%	43%







 How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?
f Republicans in Congress

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	25%	21%	29%
Somewhat responsible	24%	19%	19%
Not very responsible	17%	18%	16%
Not at all responsible	21%	26%	21%
Don't know	14%	16%	16%
Responsible (Net)	49%	40%	47%
Not responsible (Net)	37%	44%	37%

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	46%	38%	44%	8%	5%	13%	19%	21%	24%
Somewhat responsible	28%	25%	22%	19%	11%	16%	30%	20%	12%
Not very responsible	9%	14%	12%	28%	25%	22%	14%	16%	18%
Not at all responsible	9%	10%	9%	37%	50%	38%	16%	22%	23%
Don't know	7%	14%	13%	7%	9%	12%	21%	22%	23%
Responsible (Net)	74%	63%	66%	28%	16%	29%	49%	41%	36%
Not responsible (Net)	19%	23%	21%	65%	75%	59%	30%	38%	41%







3. How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	31%	34%	44%
Somewhat responsible	30%	27%	25%
Not very responsible	14%	12%	9%
Not at all responsible	16%	18%	12%
Don't know	9%	10%	10%
Responsible (Net)	61%	61%	69%
Not responsible (Net)	30%	29%	21%

g.	Racism	and white	nationalism	

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	53%	55%	61%	13%	9%	27%	22%	37%	33%
Somewhat responsible	27%	32%	23%	29%	24%	29%	37%	25%	21%
Not very responsible	10%	5%	6%	20%	20%	14%	17%	13%	10%
Not at all responsible	5%	4%	5%	28%	37%	20%	13%	13%	19%
Don't know	5%	5%	6%	10%	9%	10%	11%	12%	18%
Responsible (Net)	80%	86%	84%	42%	33%	57%	60%	62%	54%
Not responsible (Net)	15%	9%	11%	48%	57%	34%	30%	26%	29%





3. How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021	8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	41%	36%	43%
Somewhat responsible	23%	21%	24%
Not very responsible	15%	16%	10%
Not at all responsible	16%	19%	15%
Don't know	6%	8%	8%
Responsible (Net)	64%	57%	67%
Not responsible (Net)	30%	35%	24%

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Democrat 8/5-6, 2019	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 8/5-6, 2019	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 8/5-6, 2019
Very responsible	66%	66%	59%	21%	12%	28%	35%	29%	31%
Somewhat responsible	19%	19%	25%	22%	15%	23%	29%	26%	28%
Not very responsible	7%	8%	6%	25%	22%	15%	15%	21%	8%
Not at all responsible	5%	3%	5%	29%	43%	27%	11%	12%	20%
Don't know	3%	4%	6%	3%	7%	7%	10%	12%	14%
Responsible (Net)	86%	85%	83%	43%	27%	51%	64%	55%	59%
Not responsible (Net)	12%	11%	11%	54%	66%	42%	27%	33%	28%

i. President Joe Biden

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021
Very responsible	18%	13%
Somewhat responsible	25%	14%
Not very responsible	21%	23%
Not at all responsible	26%	36%
Don't know	11%	15%
Responsible (Net)	42%	27%
Not responsible (Net)	47%	59%







3. How much responsibility do you believe the following hold for mass shootings in the United States?

	Democrat 6/3-6, 2022	Democrat 3/23-24, 2021	Republican 6/3-6, 2022	Republican 3/23-24, 2021	Independent 6/3-6, 2022	Independent 3/23-24, 2021
Very responsible	12%	10%	28%	20%	11%	9%
Somewhat responsible	21%	10%	28%	20%	26%	12%
Not very responsible	25%	24%	19%	20%	22%	28%
Not at all responsible	37%	45%	19%	29%	21%	33%
Don't know	5%	10%	6%	10%	21%	18%
Responsible (Net)	33%	20%	56%	40%	37%	21%
Not responsible (Net)	62%	69%	38%	50%	43%	61%

i. President Joe Biden

4. Which of the following statements comes closest to your overall view of gun laws in this country?

	6/3-6, 2022	3/23-24, 2021 (N=1,005)	8/5-6, 2019 (N=1,004)	2/28/18 (N=1,005)	10/17/17 (N=1,006)
Gun laws should be a lot more strict than they are today	44%	41%	50%	44%	45%
Gun laws should be somewhat more strict than they are today	25%	24%	22%	31%	23%
Gun laws are about right	21%	23%	17%	17%	20%
Gun laws should be somewhat less strict than they are today	5%	5%	4%	4%	7%
Gun laws should be a lot less strict than they are today	5%	7%	7%	4%	4%
More strict (Net)	69%	65%	72%	75%	68%
Less strict (Net)	10%	12%	11%	8%	11%







4. Which of the following statements comes closest to your overall view of gun laws in this country?

	Democrat					Republican					Independent					
	6/3-6, 2022	3/23- 24, 2021 (N=460)	8/5-6, 2019 (N=446)	2/28, 2018 (N=351)	10/17, 2017 (N=340)	6/3-6, 2022	3/23- 24, 2021 (N=368)	8/5-6, 2019 (N=392)	2/28, 2018 (N=341)	10/17, 2017 (N=370)	6/3-6, 2022	3/23- 24, 2021 (N=111)	8/5-6, 2019 (N=100)	2/28, 2018 (N=203)	10/17, 2017 (N=186)	
Gun laws should be a lot more strict than they are today	68%	67%	65%	68%	65%	23%	12%	32%	22%	29%	43%	40%	44%	37%	32%	
Gun laws should be somewhat more strict than they are today	20%	23%	22%	24%	19%	27%	23%	22%	38%	26%	24%	26%	20%	31%	29%	
Gun laws are about right	3%	5%	6%	5%	9%	37%	44%	28%	27%	33%	26%	21%	27%	23%	23%	
Gun laws should be somewhat less strict than they are today	3%	2%	2%	1%	6%	7%	9%	6%	8%	6%	4%	3%	7%	5%	10%	
Gun laws should be a lot less strict than they are today	6%	3%	5%	1%	1%	6%	12%	12%	6%	6%	3%	9%	2%	4%	6%	
More strict (Net)	88%	90%	87%	92%	84%	50%	35%	54%	59%	55%	67%	66%	64%	68%	61%	
Less strict (Net)	9%	5%	7%	3%	7%	13%	21%	18%	14%	12%	7%	12%	9%	9%	16%	







About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between June 3-6, 2022 on behalf of USA Today. For this survey, a sample of roughly 1,117 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 488 Democrats, 416 Republicans, and 149 Independents.

The sample was randomly drawn from <u>Ipsos' online panel</u>, <u>partner online panel sources</u>, and "river" <u>sampling</u> and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,117, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.1 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.4 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.9 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 9.8 percentage points for Independents.

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