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Most New Jerseyans Concerned About Gun Violence and Want Stricter Federal Gun Laws; About Half Say Gun Control More Important Than Right to Own a Gun

A quarter cite mental health as primary cause of gun violence; residents believe background checks, increased mental health funding and banning AR-15s are most helpful in preventing mass shootings such as Uvalde

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (September 22, 2022) – Majorities of New Jersey residents are concerned about mass shootings and want stricter gun laws, but residents are split when it comes to gun control versus Second Amendment rights, according to a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll partnered with the New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center.

In the aftermath of numerous mass shootings this summer, 72 percent of New Jerseyans are “very concerned” and another 20 percent are “somewhat concerned” about the amount of gun violence in the United States. Just one in 10 are “not very concerned” (5 percent) or “not concerned at all” (3 percent). Democrats, independents, and Republicans alike express high levels of concern when it comes to guns.

Fifty-nine percent of New Jerseyans think federal laws on firearm ownership should be stricter, 12 percent say federal laws should be less strict, 13 percent say they are about right and 15 percent don’t know enough about the current laws to give an opinion.

Republicans have mixed feelings on federal firearm ownership laws; 28 percent believe the laws should be stricter, 26 percent say they are about right, and 27 percent feel they should be less strict. On the other hand, eight in 10 (82 percent) Democrats and six in 10 (57 percent) independents say federal laws should be stricter.

New Jerseyans as a whole are more split, however, when it comes to weighing the importance of protecting the rights of Americans to own guns versus controlling gun ownership. While nearly half (46 percent) say controlling gun ownership is more important, three in 10 (30 percent) side with the former, and one in five say they are both equally important (21 percent).

Yet when gun control is rephrased as “policies that limit who can access certain types of firearms or require firearms to be stored in certain ways,” preference for this option slightly increases (to 50 percent), while preference for firearm-owning rights (27 percent) and the belief that both are equally important (18 percent) slightly decrease.

“New Jerseyans’ high concern over gun violence in the United States has remained relatively stable over the past decade, but residents’ once overwhelming preference for control over ownership has eroded,” said Ashley Koning, an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling \(ECPIP\)](#) at [Rutgers University–New Brunswick](#). “Yet reframing the politically charged language of ‘gun control’ narrows the initially stark partisan divide and actually more than doubles the preference for limitations on gun access among Republicans.”

“The words we use in discussing these issues matter, so we need to be thoughtful in how we frame solutions and work toward a shared goal of preventing injury and death,” said Michael Anestis, associate professor in urban-global public health at the Rutgers School of Public Health and executive director of the New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center.

New Jerseyans are again split as to whether more Americans owning firearms would mean more crime: 37 percent believe there would be more crime, 27 percent believe there would be less, 28 percent feel there would be no difference, and 8 percent are unsure.

Slightly more than half (54 percent) believe there would be fewer mass shootings if it was more difficult for people to legally obtain firearms in the U.S. Thirty-five percent say there would be no difference, 7 percent say there would be more shootings, and 4 percent are unsure.

“Gun laws and gun violence are important issues for voters in the upcoming midterm elections,” Koning said. “While concern over gun violence is widespread, Democrats, women, and younger adults are all more likely than their counterparts to weigh firearm limitations and requirements as more important than firearm rights and to take negative stances on firearm-related issues, in general.”

When probed about their thoughts on the primary cause of gun violence in the nation, the most common response is something about mental health-related issues and a lack of investment in care and treatment (24 percent). Mentions of the availability and the number of firearms out there comes in second (19 percent) and firearms being in the wrong hands comes in third (7 percent). Six percent point to social issues like poverty, inequality, unemployment, and racism and five percent blame lax or weak firearm laws. Twenty-nine percent mention some other cause.

When it comes to mass school shootings, such as the incident in Uvalde, Texas, background checks for all firearm sales (64 percent “extremely helpful,” 16 percent “substantially helpful”) and more detailed background checks (55 percent, 19 percent), as well as increased funding for

mental health initiatives (54 percent, 14 percent), are seen as most helpful.

New Jerseyans have similar feelings when it comes to banning assault-style weapons such as AR-15s (53 percent “extremely helpful,” 10 percent “substantially helpful”) and high-capacity magazines (49 percent, 14 percent) as well as requiring individuals to obtain a license to purchase a firearm (49 percent, 14 percent).

Residents also find each of the following helpful to some degree: increasing the age limit for purchase to 21 (37 percent “extremely helpful,” 13 percent “substantially helpful”); staffing schools with a greater number of armed security personnel (33 percent, 11 percent); requiring firearms be stored, locked and separated from ammunition (32 percent, 11 percent); increasing the number of metal detectors in schools (30 percent, 14 percent). Fewer find reducing the number of entrances at schools helpful (22 percent “extremely helpful,” 9 percent “substantially helpful”).

“We need to make sure that results from scientific studies are communicated effectively to New Jerseyans so that communities are equipped to throw their support behind policies that have been shown to work,” said Anestis.

As for what New Jerseyans don’t find helpful for preventing mass school shootings, a plurality say allowing prayer in schools (49 percent) and providing teachers and other school personnel with firearms (48 percent) wouldn’t be helpful at all.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,018 adults contacted by live interviewers on landlines and cell phones from July 18 to July 27, 2022. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.8 percentage points.

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Broadcast interviews: Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality television and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact John Cramer at john.cramer@rutgers.edu.

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ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING

Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based statewide polling operations in the United States. Now in its 50th year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP's mission is to provide scientifically sound, non-partisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases, published research, and data archive, please visit our website: eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve, and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit eagleton.rutgers.edu.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey adults; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

G2A Which do you think is more important – [ROTATE: to protect the right of Americans to own guns, or to control gun ownership]?

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received G2A and half received G2B.

Protect right to own guns	30%
Control gun ownership	46%
Equally important	21%
Don't know	2%
Unweighted N=	505

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Protect right	11%	30%	62%	36%	26%	30%	31%	22%	32%	37%	31%
Control ownership	67%	45%	14%	40%	52%	48%	46%	57%	36%	39%	54%
Equally important	18%	22%	23%	22%	20%	21%	20%	22%	26%	21%	14%
DK	4%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%	3%	0%	7%	2%	1%
Unwt N=	172	231	97	233	265	306	192	106	129	181	87

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Protect right	32%	33%	34%	26%
Control ownership	43%	47%	42%	52%
Equally important	22%	19%	21%	21%
DK	3%	2%	3%	1%
Unwt N=	226	225	211	293

G2B Which do you think is more important – [ROTATE: to protect the right of Americans to own firearms, or to create policies that limit who can access certain types of firearms or require firearms to be stored in certain ways]?

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received G2A and half received G2B.

Protect right to own firearms	27%
Create policies	50%
Equally important	18%
Don't know	5%
Unweighted N=	507

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Protect right	10%	33%	49%	37%	18%	31%	21%	18%	18%	40%	33%
Create policies	71%	41%	33%	42%	59%	49%	52%	63%	38%	46%	54%
Equally important	11%	23%	17%	17%	18%	15%	21%	15%	37%	13%	3%
DK	9%	3%	1%	4%	6%	4%	6%	4%	6%	1%	10%
Unwt N=	206	210	84	237	265	322	176	103	158	138	106

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Protect right	24%	28%	29%	25%
Create policies	51%	54%	48%	53%
Equally important	18%	17%	16%	20%
DK	6%	1%	7%	1%
Unwt N=	235	214	185	320

G3 Do you think that the federal laws on firearm ownership should be [ROTATE: stricter] than they are now, [less strict], are they about right, or do you not know enough about the current firearm laws to give an opinion?

Stricter	59%
Less strict	12%
About right	13%
Don't know enough	15%
Unweighted N=	1011

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Stricter	82%	57%	28%	50%	68%	55%	69%	64%	61%	68%	57%	55%	56%
Less strict	4%	12%	27%	18%	7%	13%	10%	12%	10%	9%	17%	16%	6%
About right	4%	14%	26%	18%	9%	15%	3%	14%	14%	9%	14%	16%	14%
DK enough	10%	17%	19%	13%	17%	17%	18%	10%	15%	14%	13%	13%	23%
Unwt N=	376	438	184	472	527	628	138	124	104	210	287	316	193

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Stricter	56%	58%	62%	66%	68%	62%	58%	57%	49%	57%	56%	62%	65%
Less strict	8%	16%	15%	9%	7%	9%	12%	16%	23%	14%	13%	13%	7%
About right	12%	11%	15%	15%	11%	10%	22%	15%	14%	9%	16%	14%	14%
DK enough	24%	16%	8%	10%	14%	20%	7%	13%	14%	20%	15%	11%	14%
Unwt N=	154	304	198	241	145	328	167	185	186	122	270	335	281

G4 If more Americans owned firearms, do you think there would be...

More crime	37%
Less crime	27%
No difference	28%
Don't know	8%
Unweighted N=	1015

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
More crime	58%	30%	17%	29%	44%	36%	41%	35%	38%	46%	34%	30%	38%
Less crime	10%	28%	55%	32%	23%	30%	16%	28%	26%	21%	30%	33%	25%
No difference	24%	33%	23%	33%	24%	26%	36%	25%	29%	26%	24%	30%	32%
DK	8%	9%	5%	7%	9%	8%	6%	11%	6%	7%	12%	7%	6%
Unwt N=	377	442	183	473	529	632	138	124	104	210	287	319	194

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
More crime	41%	37%	41%	33%	44%	40%	34%	36%	25%	34%	32%	41%	43%
Less crime	23%	30%	25%	26%	20%	24%	33%	25%	40%	28%	29%	26%	24%
No difference	26%	27%	25%	34%	29%	27%	24%	31%	28%	31%	29%	24%	26%
DK	10%	7%	9%	7%	7%	9%	9%	8%	7%	7%	9%	9%	7%
Unwt N=	155	306	199	242	145	329	168	186	187	124	270	336	282

G5 If it was harder for people to legally obtain firearms in the United States, do you think there would be...

Fewer mass shootings	54%
More mass shootings	7%
No difference	35%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	1014

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Fewer	77%	51%	20%	46%	61%	50%	56%	62%	56%	64%	52%	52%	45%
More	5%	6%	12%	9%	5%	9%	8%	4%	3%	9%	8%	6%	5%
No difference	13%	40%	64%	44%	27%	37%	33%	28%	35%	24%	35%	38%	46%
DK	5%	3%	4%	1%	7%	3%	3%	7%	5%	3%	6%	4%	4%
Unwt N=	378	441	183	472	529	631	138	124	104	210	287	317	195

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Fewer	53%	51%	59%	59%	63%	56%	53%	53%	41%	47%	50%	58%	63%
More	6%	7%	7%	5%	10%	6%	5%	3%	13%	7%	6%	9%	7%
No difference	33%	39%	31%	35%	24%	34%	39%	38%	42%	41%	39%	29%	27%
DK	8%	2%	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%
Unwt N=	155	305	199	242	145	328	167	187	187	124	269	336	282

G7 In just a few words, what do you think is the *primary* cause of gun violence in the United States?

Mental health/lack of investment in mental health care	24%
Availability/amount of firearms out there (including ability to obtain illegally, high-grade weapons)	19%
People/firearms in the hands of the wrong people	7%
Social issues (including poverty, inequality, unemployment, racism)	6%
Lax/weak firearm laws (including background checks)	5%
Other	29%
Don't know	9%
Unweighted N=	1016

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Mental health	19%	28%	26%	26%	23%	28%	12%	24%	20%	23%	30%	28%	14%
Availability	28%	17%	12%	19%	20%	20%	17%	20%	22%	19%	16%	18%	26%
Wrong ppl	4%	7%	15%	7%	8%	6%	17%	4%	6%	4%	8%	7%	10%
Social issues	7%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	12%	4%	7%	6%	6%	4%	6%
Lax laws	9%	3%	4%	3%	8%	4%	7%	6%	10%	9%	5%	4%	3%
Other	25%	31%	30%	35%	23%	30%	24%	32%	24%	30%	24%	32%	29%
DK	9%	9%	9%	6%	12%	8%	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%	7%	11%
Unwt N=	378	442	183	472	531	632	139	124	104	210	286	319	196

Firearms 2022
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Mental health	19%	25%	30%	22%	25%	20%	23%	27%	29%	24%	26%	22%	24%
Availability	16%	21%	17%	21%	20%	17%	24%	21%	18%	16%	18%	20%	26%
Wrong ppl	11%	5%	10%	8%	5%	9%	10%	7%	4%	12%	5%	7%	4%
Social issues	6%	6%	3%	5%	6%	5%	3%	3%	11%	5%	5%	5%	8%
Lax laws	4%	6%	5%	8%	7%	6%	6%	3%	5%	4%	3%	10%	8%
Other	29%	29%	28%	29%	28%	30%	28%	31%	27%	26%	34%	30%	24%
DK	15%	8%	7%	6%	9%	14%	5%	7%	6%	14%	9%	6%	5%
Unwt N=	155	307	199	241	145	329	168	186	188	125	272	335	281

G6 How helpful do you think the following policies are or would be for preventing mass school shootings like the recent tragedy in Uvalde, Texas:

Note: This question was asked as a split sample. Half of respondents received the first six items and half received the second seven items.

Requiring background checks for all firearm sales

Not at all helpful	4%
Slightly helpful	6%
Moderately helpful	10%
Substantially helpful	16%
Extremely helpful	64%
Don't know	1%
Unweighted N=	486

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	0%	3%	9%	7%	1%	5%	2%	4%	4%	5%	1%
Slightly	2%	8%	6%	9%	2%	5%	7%	1%	7%	9%	4%
Moderately	6%	14%	8%	11%	9%	11%	9%	10%	10%	14%	6%
Substantially	11%	16%	24%	18%	14%	17%	13%	14%	18%	12%	19%
Extremely	81%	55%	53%	51%	75%	62%	66%	67%	61%	58%	69%
DK	0%	3%	0%	3%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%	2%	0%
Unwt N=	178	225	79	216	266	312	166	83	151	153	97

Firearms 2022
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	3%	4%	2%	6%
Slightly	5%	8%	5%	6%
Moderately	8%	12%	10%	11%
Substantially	15%	17%	16%	14%
Extremely	68%	58%	65%	62%
DK	2%	0%	1%	1%
Unwt N=	206	233	180	303

Requiring background checks to ask more detailed background information about potential firearm purchasers

Not at all helpful	8%
Slightly helpful	7%
Moderately helpful	12%
Substantially helpful	19%
Extremely helpful	55%
Don't know	0%
Unweighted N=	486

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	2%	10%	14%	12%	4%	7%	9%	6%	7%	12%	5%
Slightly	1%	11%	2%	11%	3%	6%	7%	4%	10%	10%	1%
Moderately	5%	15%	17%	13%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	16%	11%
Substantially	17%	18%	28%	23%	15%	19%	19%	22%	22%	13%	20%
Extremely	74%	46%	39%	41%	67%	55%	54%	58%	52%	48%	61%
DK	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	178	224	80	217	265	312	166	84	150	153	97

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	6%	10%	7%	9%
Slightly	5%	8%	6%	7%
Moderately	9%	14%	11%	13%
Substantially	21%	18%	20%	17%
Extremely	59%	50%	55%	54%
DK	0%	1%	0%	0%
Unwt N=	206	233	179	304

Reducing the number of entrances at schools

Not at all helpful	27%
Slightly helpful	17%
Moderately helpful	21%
Substantially helpful	9%
Extremely helpful	22%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	481

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	30%	31%	12%	29%	26%	26%	29%	29%	30%	24%	26%
Slightly	17%	17%	17%	18%	16%	13%	22%	24%	12%	20%	9%
Moderately	23%	19%	22%	18%	23%	24%	16%	21%	17%	22%	23%
Substantially	4%	10%	16%	11%	8%	9%	10%	7%	13%	10%	7%
Extremely	21%	18%	31%	21%	23%	24%	19%	16%	24%	18%	32%
DK	5%	4%	2%	3%	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%	6%	2%
Unwt N=	175	224	78	214	263	309	164	83	150	152	94

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	27%	26%	24%	31%
Slightly	16%	17%	17%	17%
Moderately	19%	24%	22%	18%
Substantially	8%	11%	10%	9%
Extremely	26%	17%	24%	18%
DK	4%	3%	3%	5%
Unwt N=	203	230	177	301

Providing teachers and other school personnel with firearms

Not at all helpful	48%
Slightly helpful	15%
Moderately helpful	11%
Substantially helpful	6%
Extremely helpful	16%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	485

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	67%	47%	20%	44%	52%	45%	53%	53%	47%	43%	50%
Slightly	10%	18%	14%	16%	14%	17%	13%	13%	13%	16%	19%
Moderately	11%	13%	9%	12%	10%	11%	12%	11%	16%	7%	10%
Substantially	1%	7%	11%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	4%	9%
Extremely	8%	12%	41%	18%	13%	17%	14%	15%	16%	21%	9%
DK	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%	8%	3%
Unwt N=	178	226	77	217	264	310	167	84	149	153	97

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	46%	54%	42%	58%
Slightly	11%	16%	17%	12%
Moderately	11%	11%	10%	12%
Substantially	7%	5%	6%	7%
Extremely	21%	11%	21%	8%
DK	4%	3%	4%	3%
Unwt N=	206	231	180	302

Banning AR-15s and similar “assault”-style weapons

Not at all helpful	20%
Slightly helpful	5%
Moderately helpful	10%
Substantially helpful	10%
Extremely helpful	53%
Don't know	3%
Unweighted N=	483

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	4%	22%	41%	31%	9%	22%	17%	21%	20%	25%	11%
Slightly	1%	9%	4%	9%	2%	4%	7%	3%	9%	7%	2%
Moderately	5%	14%	9%	12%	7%	12%	7%	11%	15%	6%	7%
Substantially	11%	9%	9%	9%	11%	11%	8%	6%	9%	11%	14%
Extremely	77%	42%	33%	39%	66%	49%	59%	58%	44%	47%	64%
DK	2%	3%	4%	0%	5%	2%	2%	0%	4%	4%	2%
Unwt N=	178	224	77	214	265	310	165	84	150	151	96

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	19%	19%	21%	19%
Slightly	4%	8%	5%	6%
Moderately	8%	12%	10%	10%
Substantially	10%	9%	10%	9%
Extremely	55%	49%	52%	55%
DK	3%	2%	3%	2%
Unwt N=	204	231	177	303

Banning the use of high-capacity magazines that enable an individual to fire a larger amount of ammunition before needing to reload

Not at all helpful	17%
Slightly helpful	8%
Moderately helpful	8%
Substantially helpful	14%
Extremely helpful	49%
Don't know	3%
Unweighted N=	481

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	7%	18%	32%	29%	6%	16%	18%	20%	18%	22%	6%
Slightly	3%	11%	13%	12%	5%	6%	12%	5%	13%	13%	2%
Moderately	4%	8%	15%	8%	8%	10%	6%	13%	10%	4%	4%
Substantially	16%	16%	10%	11%	18%	15%	13%	16%	8%	15%	21%
Extremely	68%	43%	29%	37%	60%	51%	49%	44%	49%	46%	60%
DK	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%	7%
Unwt N=	175	225	77	216	261	308	165	83	147	153	96

Firearms 2022
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	17%	17%	18%	16%
Slightly	8%	9%	9%	8%
Moderately	8%	10%	7%	9%
Substantially	14%	13%	16%	13%
Extremely	49%	49%	48%	51%
DK	4%	2%	3%	3%
Unwt N=	203	229	178	300

Increasing funding for mental health care

Not at all helpful	5%
Slightly helpful	7%
Moderately helpful	17%
Substantially helpful	14%
Extremely helpful	54%
Don't know	3%
Unweighted N=	497

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	1%	7%	10%	7%	4%	6%	5%	2%	7%	3%	12%
Slightly	7%	7%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%	7%
Moderately	12%	19%	20%	21%	13%	20%	12%	15%	11%	21%	21%
Substantially	16%	13%	15%	15%	13%	16%	13%	14%	14%	13%	15%
Extremely	63%	52%	46%	47%	62%	51%	60%	60%	58%	58%	41%
DK	2%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	0%	4%
Unwt N=	186	205	99	245	244	310	178	124	127	148	95

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	6%	4%	6%	4%
Slightly	6%	9%	5%	8%
Moderately	16%	18%	16%	18%
Substantially	13%	20%	12%	18%
Extremely	58%	47%	57%	50%
DK	2%	1%	3%	1%
Unwt N=	234	201	198	299

Staffing schools with a greater number of armed security personnel

Not at all helpful	20%
Slightly helpful	13%
Moderately helpful	19%
Substantially helpful	11%
Extremely helpful	33%
Don't know	3%
Unweighted N=	489

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	27%	19%	11%	23%	15%	23%	16%	25%	14%	16%	25%
Slightly	17%	11%	12%	14%	12%	14%	11%	18%	14%	9%	11%
Moderately	17%	22%	16%	17%	22%	20%	19%	15%	20%	24%	19%
Substantially	9%	12%	11%	11%	12%	14%	8%	9%	16%	11%	10%
Extremely	30%	29%	49%	33%	35%	27%	41%	28%	34%	39%	31%
DK	0%	6%	0%	1%	3%	1%	5%	5%	2%	1%	3%
Unwt N=	182	202	98	244	237	305	175	122	126	145	93

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	19%	21%	18%	23%
Slightly	14%	13%	12%	14%
Moderately	15%	25%	19%	20%
Substantially	11%	13%	10%	14%
Extremely	39%	28%	37%	27%
DK	2%	0%	4%	1%
Unwt N=	230	200	193	296

Requiring individuals to obtain a license to purchase a firearm

Not at all helpful	12%
Slightly helpful	6%
Moderately helpful	14%
Substantially helpful	14%
Extremely helpful	49%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	492

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	7%	16%	15%	15%	10%	12%	12%	7%	16%	15%	11%
Slightly	3%	3%	18%	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%	6%	5%	8%
Moderately	12%	14%	18%	15%	13%	16%	11%	14%	15%	16%	10%
Substantially	11%	19%	9%	15%	13%	16%	11%	17%	14%	15%	10%
Extremely	65%	45%	33%	44%	54%	44%	58%	49%	46%	48%	56%
DK	2%	3%	8%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%	2%	5%
Unwt N=	184	203	98	244	240	307	176	123	126	145	95

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	11%	17%	12%	13%
Slightly	6%	7%	6%	7%
Moderately	15%	15%	14%	14%
Substantially	12%	14%	14%	15%
Extremely	51%	45%	51%	47%
DK	4%	2%	4%	3%
Unwt N=	230	202	195	297

Increasing the age limit for purchasing a firearm to 21

Not at all helpful	18%
Slightly helpful	12%
Moderately helpful	16%
Substantially helpful	13%
Extremely helpful	37%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	494

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	8%	22%	24%	20%	14%	19%	16%	15%	19%	23%	15%
Slightly	10%	16%	10%	13%	12%	11%	14%	17%	17%	8%	7%
Moderately	15%	14%	23%	17%	16%	17%	15%	18%	15%	12%	19%
Substantially	15%	12%	10%	11%	13%	16%	9%	13%	11%	12%	15%
Extremely	51%	29%	32%	35%	41%	35%	41%	33%	32%	41%	43%
DK	1%	7%	2%	3%	4%	2%	6%	4%	6%	4%	0%
Unwt N=	184	203	100	244	242	310	175	124	126	146	95

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	17%	20%	17%	19%
Slightly	13%	13%	13%	12%
Moderately	15%	18%	14%	19%
Substantially	11%	14%	11%	15%
Extremely	40%	33%	40%	33%
DK	3%	2%	5%	1%
Unwt N=	233	201	197	297

Increasing the number of metal detectors in schools

Not at all helpful	16%
Slightly helpful	19%
Moderately helpful	19%
Substantially helpful	14%
Extremely helpful	30%
Don't know	2%
Unweighted N=	495

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	15%	20%	10%	21%	9%	15%	16%	21%	17%	14%	10%
Slightly	19%	19%	19%	23%	16%	22%	16%	24%	19%	19%	14%
Moderately	18%	18%	24%	16%	22%	21%	15%	23%	18%	18%	15%
Substantially	16%	15%	10%	12%	17%	13%	16%	12%	14%	12%	20%
Extremely	31%	26%	35%	27%	34%	28%	33%	18%	29%	35%	40%
DK	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	2%	0%
Unwt N=	186	203	99	245	242	309	177	123	126	148	95

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	15%	18%	14%	18%
Slightly	17%	27%	21%	17%
Moderately	20%	17%	14%	26%
Substantially	14%	13%	14%	15%
Extremely	34%	24%	35%	22%
DK	0%	1%	3%	1%
Unwt N=	233	201	197	298

Allowing prayer in schools

Not at all helpful	49%
Slightly helpful	6%
Moderately helpful	10%
Substantially helpful	6%
Extremely helpful	20%
Don't know	9%
Unweighted N=	493

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	56%	51%	32%	49%	48%	56%	38%	59%	57%	45%	32%
Slightly	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	8%	4%	6%	8%
Moderately	11%	9%	9%	10%	10%	9%	10%	7%	5%	12%	15%
Substantially	4%	6%	6%	7%	4%	5%	7%	1%	8%	7%	6%
Extremely	17%	17%	33%	19%	21%	16%	27%	13%	17%	22%	32%
DK	6%	10%	12%	9%	10%	7%	11%	12%	9%	8%	7%
Unwt N=	186	201	99	244	241	307	177	122	126	147	95

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	45%	60%	41%	61%
Slightly	6%	6%	7%	6%
Moderately	13%	6%	10%	8%
Substantially	3%	7%	6%	5%
Extremely	25%	11%	26%	12%
DK	9%	9%	10%	8%
Unwt N=	233	201	195	298

Requiring firearms be stored, locked, and separated from ammunition

Not at all helpful	27%
Slightly helpful	12%
Moderately helpful	13%
Substantially helpful	11%
Extremely helpful	32%
Don't know	5%
Unweighted N=	493

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Not at all	13%	30%	45%	35%	18%	30%	24%	15%	39%	29%	27%
Slightly	12%	12%	11%	13%	11%	13%	11%	12%	15%	13%	7%
Moderately	9%	16%	13%	13%	12%	14%	11%	21%	11%	9%	10%
Substantially	12%	14%	6%	9%	14%	10%	12%	16%	8%	13%	7%
Extremely	50%	23%	20%	25%	40%	29%	36%	31%	23%	31%	44%
DK	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Unwt N=	185	202	99	245	240	308	176	123	126	146	95

	Income		Education	
	<\$100K	\$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Not at all	24%	36%	30%	23%
Slightly	9%	18%	8%	17%
Moderately	13%	12%	11%	16%
Substantially	9%	12%	10%	13%
Extremely	40%	20%	34%	28%
DK	4%	2%	6%	3%
Unwt N=	232	201	196	297

G1 How concerned are you about the amount of gun violence in the U.S. today? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	72%
Somewhat concerned	20%
Not very concerned	5%
Not at all concerned	3%
Don't know	0%
Unweighted N=	1014

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very	89%	65%	59%	62%	81%	70%	84%	77%	62%	68%	67%	72%	81%
Somewhat	10%	25%	26%	25%	16%	21%	13%	18%	24%	21%	21%	23%	13%
Not very	1%	6%	8%	9%	1%	6%	1%	5%	5%	8%	6%	2%	3%
Not at all	0%	3%	7%	4%	2%	3%	1%	0%	7%	3%	4%	3%	2%
DK	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	377	441	183	474	527	631	139	123	104	210	287	318	194

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very	76%	71%	69%	74%	76%	73%	67%	73%	68%	76%	71%	68%	71%
Somewhat	14%	21%	26%	20%	16%	20%	22%	17%	24%	17%	20%	21%	23%
Not very	6%	5%	4%	2%	5%	4%	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	4%
Not at all	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%	5%	2%
DK	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Unwt N=	156	305	198	241	145	327	168	186	188	124	271	335	281

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live interviewers July 18 to 27, 2022, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,018 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process. Respondents within a household are selected by asking randomly for the youngest adult male or female currently available. If the named gender is not available, the youngest adult of the other gender is interviewed. This poll included 240 adults reached on a landline phone and 778 adults reached on a cell phone, all acquired through random digit dialing; 505 of the cell phone completes were acquired through one-to-one SMS text messaging by live interviewers that led respondents to an online version of the survey. Distribution of phone use in this sample is:

Cell	27%
Text to Web	50%
Landline	24%

The data were weighted to be representative of the residential adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balances sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced, by form and overall, to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and phone use. The sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, and region parameters were derived from 2019 American Community Survey PUMS data. The phone use parameter was derived from estimates provided by the National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program.¹

Weighting was done in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection across the telephone samples associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns. This adjustment also accounts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample.²

The final stage of weighting balances sample demographics, overall and by form, to match target population benchmarks. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey estimates. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,018 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95

¹ NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2017–2019; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2019.

² Buskirk, T. D., & Best, J. (2012). Venn Diagrams, Probability 101 and Sampling Weights Computed for Dual Frame Telephone RDD Designs. *Journal of Statistics and Mathematics*, 15, 3696-3710.

percent confidence interval. The design effect³ is 1.57, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.8 percentage points. Thus, if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.2 and 53.8 percent (50 +/- 3.8) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error does not consider other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Jessica Roman assisted with analysis and preparation of this report. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request and can also be accessed through our archives at eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. For more information, please contact poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu.

Weighted Demographics
1,018 New Jersey adults 18+
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 3.8 percentage points

Please note: Totals may equal slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding.

		deff	MOE			deff	MOE
Man	48%	1.56	+/- 5.6%	White	56%	1.59	+/- 4.9%
Woman	52%	1.59	+/- 5.4%	Black	12%	1.67	+/- 10.7%
				Hispanic	19%	1.35	+/- 10.2%
18-34	26%	1.40	+/- 8.0%	Other	12%	1.37	+/- 11.3%
35-49	24%	1.59	+/- 7.3%				
50-64	28%	1.61	+/- 6.9%	<50K	22%	1.50	+/- 9.6%
65+	21%	1.58	+/- 8.8%	50K-<100K	38%	1.51	+/- 6.9%
				100K-<150K	19%	1.55	+/- 8.6%
Democrat	35%	1.67	+/- 4.7%	150K+	21%	1.52	+/- 7.8%
Independent	45%	1.62	+/- 4.2%				
Republican	20%	1.56	+/- 6.6%	Urban	16%	1.53	+/- 10.1%
				Suburb	35%	1.55	+/- 6.7%
HS or Less	29%	1.15	+/- 9.4%	Exurban	14%	1.59	+/- 9.5%
Some College	31%	1.30	+/- 6.8%	Phil/South	18%	1.52	+/- 8.8%
College Grad	22%	1.22	+/- 5.9%	Shore	17%	1.57	+/- 9.0%
Grad Work	18%	1.22	+/- 6.5%				

³ Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.