Bear Arms—But More Regulation

**Question:** Should it be illegal for American adults to own guns?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>76%</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>14%</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by Rasmussen Research, April 29, 1999.

**Question:** Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? There should be no restrictions on owning guns, there should be some restrictions on owning guns, or all guns should be illegal for everyone except police and authorized persons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Some restrictions</th>
<th>72%</th>
<th>Generally, illegal</th>
<th>22%</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
<th>2%</th>
<th>No restrictions</th>
<th>4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, April 26-27, 1999.

**Question:** In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>More strict</th>
<th>Kept as now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Surveys by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, latest that of May 23-24, 1999.

**Question:** What do you think is more important, to protect the right of Americans to own guns or to control gun ownership?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control gun ownership</th>
<th>Protect right to own guns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Don't know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Question:** Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose each of the following proposals which some people have made to reduce the amount of gun violence. How about,...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Favor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impose a mandatory prison sentence for felons who commit crimes with guns</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory background checks before people (including gun dealers) could buy guns at gun shows</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require safety locks or trigger guards to be included with all new hand gun purchases</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise the minimum age for hand gun possession to 21 years of age</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The registration of all firearms</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impose a lifetime ban on gun ownership for any juvenile convicted of a felony</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ban the importing of high capacity ammunition clips</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold parents legally responsible if their children commit crimes with the parents' guns</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, June 11-13, 1999.
Increased Gun Control Not Necessarily A Cure-All

**Question:** Do you think stricter gun control laws would reduce the amount of violent crime in this country a lot, a little, or not at all?

- Reduce a lot: 33%
- Reduce a little: 38%
- Not at all: 26%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*, April 21-22, 1999.

**Question:** Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?

- Yes: 39%
- No: 61%

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, June 10-15, 1999.

**Question:** If there were tougher gun control laws in America, would the killers (in the shootings at the school in Littleton, Colorado)...have been able to get guns to use for the shooting?

- Yes: 55%
- No: 27%
- Not sure: 18%

**Source:** Survey by Rasmussen Research, April 21, 1999.

**Question:** Do you think tougher gun laws can stop acts like the school shooting in Littleton, Colorado from happening, or do you think if people really want to commit these acts that they will find ways around laws?

- People will always find ways: 66%
- Laws help, but people still find ways (vol.): 11%
- Tougher laws can stop acts: 3%
- Not sure: 20%

**Source:** Survey by Opinion Dynamics for Fox News, May 5-6, 1999.

**Question:** Thinking about the shootings last week at a Colorado high school, please tell me which one of these do you think is most to blame...?

- The boys' parents: 39%
- Availability of guns: 24%
- Television and movies: 14%
- The internet: 8%
- School officials: 4%

**Source:** Survey by the Associated Press, April 28-May 7, 1999.

**Question:** Which one of the following do you think is the most effective way to prevent such violent incidents (as the shooting at a school in Littleton, Colorado) from happening again?...

- Paying more attention to kids' antisocial attitudes and behaviors: 49%
- Increasing school security, such as installing metal detectors and hiring more guards: 21%
- Reducing violence in popular entertainment: 14%
- Passing stricter gun control laws: 11%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*, April 21-22, 1999.
Ten Years Later, Still A Resounding No to Flag Burning

**Then**

**Question:** Should burning or destroying the American flag as a form of political protest be legal or should it be against the law?

- Against the law: 83%
- Legal: 14%
- Don't know: 3%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News/New York Times, June 5-8, 1990.

**Now**

**Question:** Do you think it should be legal or illegal to burn the American flag?

- Against the law: 79%
- Legal: 17%
- Don't know: 4%

**Source:** Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, July 9-12, 1998.

**Question:** The Supreme Court ruled this week that burning the American flag, though highly offensive, is protected under the free speech guarantee of the First Amendment to the Constitution. Do you agree or disagree?

- Agree: 28%
- Disagree: 65%
- Don't know: 7%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for Newsweek, June 23, 1989.

**Question:** Do you believe the physical act of burning the US flag is an appropriate expression of freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment, or not?

- Yes: 24%
- No: 74%
- Don't know: 2%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for the Citizen's Flag Alliance, August 1998.

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**But We're Less Emphatic On Amending the Constitution**

**Question:** As you may know, the Supreme Court has ruled that burning the US flag as a political protest is legal under the US Constitution. Do you favor or oppose an amendment to the Constitution to make the destruction or burning of the US flag against the law?

- Oppose: 58%
- Favor: 38%
- Don't know: 4%

**Source:** Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, June 20-24, 1990.

**Question:** As you may know, the Supreme Court has ruled that burning the American flag is a form of free speech that's protected by the US Constitution. Do you think the country should amend the Constitution to make flag-burning illegal or do you think it should leave the Constitution alone, even if that means flag-burning stays legal?

- Amend: 51%
- Leave it: 48%
- Don't know: 1%

**Source:** Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, July 9-12, 1998.