

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	List for Invites (partial) (3 pages)	05/05/99	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 20364

FOLDER TITLE:

Crime/Guns/Stats

2012-0565-S

ry1245

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Andrew and Kae McGuire, San Leandro CA

Andrew and Kae have devoted over 26 years to working with survivors to prevent traumatic injuries through policy change. They served on the national board of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Other Victims Representing The Bell Campaign**Lynn Dix, Berkeley, CA**

Lynn's son, Kenzo, was shot and killed by accident when his friend showed him his father's gun. Lynn sued the gun-maker, Berretta, for failing to design the gun with a device to prominently indicate that a round is loaded in the chamber.

***Don Lacey, Oakland, CA**

(510) 663-5683 ext. 5#

(510) 594-4085

Don's daughter, Loesha, was shot and killed while sitting in a van parked outside her school. Don has founded the Love Life Foundation in memory of his daughter and works to reduce gun trauma in his community.

Kimberly Rowland, Pleasanton, CA

(925) 485-9956

Kimberly lost a dear friend in the 101 California massacre. She has organized memorial marches on the anniversary of 101 California and two local ballot initiatives to reduce access to guns.

P. 02

The Bell Campaign Founders - Background Information

Mary Leigh and Charlie Blek, Laguna Hills, CA

Their 21-year-old son, Matthew, was shot and killed in New York City by a teen with a junk gun. The Bleks founded Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence in 1995, and are leading advocates for responsible gun laws in California.

Beckie Brown, New Point Richey, FL

Her son, Michael, shot and killed himself with his own handgun in 1987. A past national President of MADD, Beckie has over eighteen years experience advocating for policy change.

Tony Hernandez, San José, CA

His 22-year-old son, Joshua, was shot and killed in San José by a teen with a junk gun. Tony has been an outspoken community activist for several years.

Katina Johnstone, Staten Island, NY

***Ian Johnstone, Staten Island, NY (16 year-old son of David)**
(718) 442-3484

Her 43-year-old husband, David, was shot and killed in San Francisco by a teen. She founded New Yorkers Against Gun Violence in 1993, and has organized a three national Silent Marches. She was a plaintiff in *Hamilton v. Accutek*, a successful lawsuit against the gun industry.

Bernadette Leite, Atlanta, GA

Her 17-year-old son, Khalil, was shot and killed in Atlanta while sitting in a car. She established Kids Alive and Loved in 1994 to offer compassion and counseling to young victims and survivors of gun violence.

Mike Robbins, Chicago, IL

A veteran of the Chicago Police Force, Mike was shot 11 times in the line of duty by an assailant with an assault weapon. Mike directs HELP For Survivors, a victim support and advocacy group based in Chicago.

Tom Vanden Berk, Chicago IL

His 15-year-old-son, Tommy, was shot and killed by a teen in Chicago. Tom is executive director of the Uhlich Childrens' Home in Chicago, and a founder of HELP For Survivors.

Alfredo Valentin, New York City, NY

His 17-year-old son, Derek, was shot and killed by a teen in New York City. Alfredo is an active member of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.

Steve Young, Evanston, IL

Steve's 19-year-old son, Andrew, was shot and killed in Evanston by a teen with a junk gun. Steve works with Mike and Tom at HELP for Survivors, and has filed a groundbreaking lawsuit against the gun industry.

Please note: Andrew's birthday is today, May 8. Steve usually spends this day with his family and visits Andrew's grave.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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write whole page

TO: Tina Johnstone 718-442-3480

1 page

List for invites

Cathy Merlino's son Shawn, was 16 when shot by accident by 15 year old friend 914-267-7400 work-(Rockland County ARC)-- Home [001]

Linda White's only son Donald, 17 years old, was shot on the street on his way to do the family laundry, by another teenager who had just purchased a semi automatic handgun and wanted to try it out. 718-802-0238

Veronica T... lost her 17 year old son--no one was ever convicted. home [redacted]

Freddie Hamilton lost her youngest child, a son, 17 years old--she is founder and ex-director of "Child Development Corporation" in Brooklyn. W718-230-0056 ex 8004 Home [redacted]

Jean Jamato's 19 year old daughter, Michelle, shot and killed herself. H. [redacted] P6(b)(6)--W2 449-8634

Yvonne P... 20 year old son was shot and killed on the basketball court by an 18 year old [redacted] O-718-399-8802

Ann Cargill's son was shot by a car load of kids armed with an assault weapon. 914-631-3800 [redacted] home and office

Francis D... has lost all three of her sons during different shootings 718-636-3860

Alice McEnaney's son has survived however, with permanent damage, from a shooting at the State University of NY @ Albany when he tried to disarm a fellow student 518-481-0547.

Patrice D... 41 June St. -Endicott NY --her 14 year old son went to his friend's house where there was a loaded gun in the friend's room.

Chris Vaccaro's son was shot and killed--he was in his early 30's --she works as a high school counselor. [redacted] home--impossible to reach at school

Geraldine L... lost her 17 year old son - [redacted] home--works at a school

Andrea Slater-Lewis lost her son. home [redacted]

Caron Brock lost her 19 year old son--an exceptional basketball player with many awards.

05/05/99 WED 21:57 FAX

12034 62878

001

10:00 PM
from: Tina Johnstone
 List for invites: 10-3484

* Cathy Metichecchia, son Shawn, was 16 when shot by accident by 15 year old friend
 914-267-2500-work- (Rockland County ARC)-- Home P6(b)(6)

* Linda White, her only son Donald, 17 years old, was shot on the street on his way to
 do the family laundry, by another teenager who had just purchased a semi-automatic
 handgun and wanted to try it out. 718-802-0238

* Veronica Trott lost her 17 year old son--no one was ever convicted. WNYT P6(b)(6)
 P6(b)(6)

* Freddie Hamilton, lost her youngest child, a son, 17 years old--she is mother and ex-
 director of "Child Development Corporation" in Brooklyn W718-230-0056 x 8004
 Home P6(b)(6)

* Jean Jamate, her 19 year old daughter, Michelle, shot and killed herself. P6(b)(6)
 P6(b)(6) --W212-449-8634

* Yvonne Pope--20 year old son was shot and killed on the basketball court by a 18
 year old H. P6(b)(6) O-718-399-8802

* Ann Cargill her son was shot by a car load of kids armed with an assault weapon
 914-631-3870-- P6(b)(6) --home and office

* Francis Davis has lost all three of her sons during different shootings 718-636-3860

* Alice McEnaney's son has survived however, with permanent damage from
 shooting at the State University of NY @ Albany when he tried to disarm a fellow
 student 516-681-0547.

* Patricia Daly - 641 June St. Endicott NY --her 14 year old son went to a friend's
 house where there was a loaded gun in the friend's room.

* Chris Vaccarino's son was shot and killed--he was in his early 30's --she works as a
 high school counselor. P6(b)(6) home--impossible to reach at school

* Geraldine Rodriguez lost her 17 year old son - P6(b)(6) home--work at a
 school

* Andrea Slade-Lewis lost her son. home P6(b)(6)

* Caron Brock--lost her 19 year old son--an exceptional basketball player with many
 awards.

10.10.10
From: Tina Johnstone 718-3489
List for Invites:

Cathy Metichchia, son Shawn, was 16 when shot by accident by 15 year old friend
914-267-2500-work-(Rockland County ARC)-- Home P6(b)(6)

Linda White, her only son Donald, 17 years old, was shot on the street on his way to
do the family laundry, by another teenager who had just purchased a semi automatic
handgun and wanted to try it out. 718-802-0238

Veronica Trott lost her 17 year old son--no one was ever convicted. WMD P6(b)(6)

Freddie Hamilton, lost her youngest child, a son, 17 years old--she is teacher and ex-
director of "Child Development Corporation" in Brooklyn. W718-230-0056 x 8004
Home P6(b)(6)

Jean Jamate, her 19 year old daughter, Michelle, shot and killed herself. P6(b)(6)

P6(b)(6)--W212-449-8634

Yvonne Pope-20 year old son was shot and killed on the basketball court by a 18
year old. P6(b)(6) O-718-399-8802

Ann Cargill her son was shot by a car load of kids armed with an assault weapon
914-631-3870-- P6(b)(6) home and office

Francis Davis has lost all three of her sons during different shootings. 718-636-3860

Alice McEnaney's son has survived however, with permanent damage from
shooting at the State University of NY @ Albany when he tried to disarm a fellow
student 516-681-0547.

Patrice Daly - 641 June St. -Endicott NY --her 14 year old son went to a friend's
house where there was a loaded gun in the friend's room.

Chris Vaccarino's son was shot and killed--he was in his early 30's --she works as a
high school counselor. P6(b)(6) --home--impossible to reach at school

Geraldine Rodriguez lost her 17 year old son - P6(b)(6) home--work at a
school

Andrea Slade-Lewis lost her son. home P6(b)(6)

Caron Brock--lost her 19 year old son--an exceptional basketball player with many
awards.

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(ENFORCEMENT POLICY)

Phone: (202) 622-0300

Fax: (202) 622-7301

Date:

Page 1 of

TO:

Ruby Shamir

FAX:

456-2878

FROM:

Susan Ginsburg
622-1496

SUBJECT:

MESSAGE:

Please do not hesitate
to call for anything
further.

GUNS IN AMERICA

Results of a Comprehensive National Survey on Firearms Ownership and Use

Summary Report

**Philip J. Cook
Jens Ludwig**



The Police Foundation is a privately funded, independent, nonprofit organization established by The Ford Foundation in 1970 and dedicated to supporting innovation and improvement in policing. The Police Foundation's research findings are published as an information service.

The research findings in this publication were supported under award number 93-IJ-CX-0017 from the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Points of view in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Police Foundation.

This is a summary report of The National Survey of Private Ownership of Firearms in the United States. The full technical report is available from the Police Foundation, 1001 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, telephone (202) 833-1460.

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ISBN 1-884614-14-0

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 97-66573

FOREWORD

The reality of policing in America includes dealing with citizens who possess firearms: there are about 200 million guns in private hands, according to this survey and others. So huge is the domestic arsenal that American police must be aware that a firearm may be at hand in any situation they encounter. Tragically, in thousands of situations each year, the potential for injury or death by firearms is realized.

The National Survey of Private Ownership of Firearms in the United States (NSPOF) provides the most comprehensive information to-date on America's private stock of firearms. Topics covered in the NSPOF include: the size, composition, and ownership of the gun stock; how and why firearms are acquired; gun storage and carrying; the defensive use of firearms

against criminal attackers; and attitudes toward gun control regulation.

Among other things, the survey found that handgun owners most often gave self-protection as their primary reason for gun ownership, whereas owners of long guns cited hunting or target shooting as their main reason for owning a gun. Furthermore, handguns are much more likely than long guns to be carried in public, and to be kept unlocked and loaded in households.

While there are enough guns in private hands to provide every adult in America with one, only 25 percent actually own one and those who do usually own several. Middle-aged, college-educated residents of rural areas and small towns are most likely to own guns, according to this survey.

*
By the year 2003, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the leading cause of death by injury in the U.S. will be from gunshots. The prevalence of firearm ownership and use is of concern to law enforcement personnel, health officials, educators, policymakers, families, and communities all across America. The impact that guns have on our lives continues to generate passionate debate. Americans are ambivalent about guns: they fear them and at the same time they feel safer possessing them, as reflected by the growing number of states that have or are considering concealed weapons—"right-to-carry"—laws.

For the nation's police, the nexus of drugs and guns creates daily and deadly challenges to their ability to control crime and ensure public safety. Civil debate and rational policy about guns require that we arm ourselves with the facts about the extent and nature of gun ownership and use in America. As with all of the work which the Police Foundation has conducted for over a quarter century, the results of The National Survey of Private Ownership of Firearms presented in this report are an effort toward informing the debate.

Hubert Williams
President
February 1997

I

INTRODUCTION

The United States is unique among wealthy nations in its vast private arsenal of firearms. The 200 million guns in private hands provide a sense of security for many of their owners. Yet they also make a lethal contribution to another uniquely lavish feature of American life, criminal violence. In the debate over the proper regulation of gun commerce and use, it is concern about crime that holds center stage. One side touts guns as an important deterrent and source of protection; the other denounces them for the damage they do. It is clear that America's vast stock of firearms has impact on our lives in a variety of ways and that it behooves us to learn what we can about it.

The 1994 National Survey of the Private Ownership of Firearms (NSPOF) was designed and implemented with

these concerns in mind. This nationally representative telephone survey was conducted by Chilton Research Services during November and December 1994 for the Police Foundation under the sponsorship of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). It consisted of telephone interviews with a probability sample of over 2,500 adults, who were asked questions about gun ownership, training, transactions, uses, and related attitudes. To an extent the NSPOF visits familiar territory, well mapped by previous surveys; this redundancy helps provide a check on its validity. But the NSPOF surpasses other surveys in its comprehensiveness. As a result, we now have a statistical description of the private gun stock by size, caliber, value, how the firearms were obtained, and when and how they are stored and used.

*...we now
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***...handgun
ownership
follows pretty
much the
same pattern
as long gun
ownership
despite the
weapons' very
different uses:
handguns are
predominantly
kept for self-
defense, and
long guns for
sport.***

The NSPOF does less well in providing reliable information on two vital events involving guns: defense against crime and accidental wounding. Both of these are rare occurrences, at least proportionately, but figure prominently in the public debate over the costs and benefits of gun ownership. As we shall discuss in this report, the estimated incidence of these occurrences from this and similar surveys is subject to a large positive bias and should not be taken seriously.

This summary report is presented in chapters, beginning with an assessment of the quality of the survey. The NSPOF was conducted in a fashion that meets the norms for an academic-quality, random-digit-dial telephone survey. Initially we were concerned that the NSPOF-based estimate of household gun prevalence was just 35 percent, when the conventional wisdom suggests that something closer to 50 percent is correct. But the conventional wisdom may be out of date; our estimate is not far out of line with other recent surveys. And the NSPOF estimate of 192 million guns in private hands is close to other careful estimates. In our investigation, a new version of the gender gap became evident: married women are considerably less likely to report a gun in the household than married men. Apparently, wives are either ignorant of the firearms' presence or uncomfortable in discussing them. We solved this problem by restricting most of our analysis to the data on self-ownership.

Chapter 3 presents results that are unique to the NSPOF. Thanks to detailed inquir-

ies about each respondent's gun collection, this survey provides the basis for a detailed portrait of the U.S. gun stock. This report includes information not just on the types of guns, but also on how they were acquired. Previous speculation on the importance of the "secondary" market in gun transactions may have been exaggerated; we find that a majority of transactions involve federally licensed dealers. Our analysis of how guns are stored documents an all-too-prevalent practice of keeping at least one gun loaded and unlocked. Strangely, training does not appear to promote safer storage. However, when we disaggregate formal training by source we find that some training programs (such as those offered by the National Safety Council) are effective in reducing the prevalence of unsafe storage practices.

Chapter 4 switches focus from the guns to their owners, documenting the patterns and motivations for gun ownership. The most evident division is between the sexes: men own most of the guns. About two-thirds of adult men have owned a gun at some time in their lives, and over 40 percent do so currently. The corresponding numbers for women are far smaller. In other respects as well, gun ownership follows patterns of military service and rural sporting traditions. One interesting feature is that handgun ownership follows pretty much the same pattern as long gun ownership despite the weapons' very different uses: handguns are predominantly kept for self-defense, and long guns for sport. The women who

do own guns are far more likely than male owners to report protection as their primary motive. Adults who have been arrested for nontraffic offenses are more likely to own firearms than others.

Chapter 5 analyzes the uses of guns, beginning with the extent to which the public (gun owning or not) has been trained in the proper handling of guns. The primary sporting uses of guns are hunting and target shooting, with about 15 million people involved in each. We estimate that 4 million people carry guns for protection on the job and another 10 million people carry guns, at least occasionally, for protection outside of their work. All of this activity produces some accidental shootings, but so rarely as to preclude accurate estimation in this type of survey.

The dangers of relying upon telephone surveys to estimate rare events are also highlighted in our attempts to estimate the number of defensive gun uses (DGUs), reported at some length in chapter 6. The NSPOF data offer the first opportunity to replicate the recent well-publicized survey finding that 2.5 million citizens use a gun defensively each year. Since many defensive gun uses may go unreported to law enforcement, these estimates cannot be verified by official records.

However, the DGU estimate from the NSPOF—which is not inconsistent with the 2.5 million figure—can be compared to well-known facts about the number of firearms injuries, homicides, and vio-

lent crimes in the United States. These comparisons reveal gross inconsistencies. The fundamental problem here is inherent to the task of estimating a rare event; false positives tend to outnumber false negatives, producing a positive bias. Consistent with this explanation, a substantial proportion of the defensive gun use reports are in some way internally inconsistent, or otherwise don't make sense. We also note that respondents' descriptions of their "defensive" gun uses do not allow us to properly determine whether the incident, if accurately reported, was legal or appropriate, nor can we determine the respondent's culpability, if any, in the incident.

Finally, in chapter 7 we explore the views of the respondents with respect to handgun regulation. As has been the case since pollsters started asking the question, the great majority of the American public would like to see somewhat more stringent controls on gun commerce and use than currently exist in most jurisdictions. On the other hand, only a minority is willing to express support for actually banning handgun possession. The gender gap is again much in evidence on these matters and so is the respondents' concern about crime.

This collection of findings does not add up to any specific conclusion about appropriate regulation of guns, but policy concerns influence our choice of topics throughout. The result, we hope, is better understanding of the causes and consequences of America's extensive involvement with guns.

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II

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The NSPOF is a nationally representative telephone survey. The methods employed by Chilton generally follow the norms of good practice for telephone surveys (Frey 1989). The main cause for concern is the low response rate—more than 40 percent of the contacts with “eligible” telephone numbers could not be completed, or resulted in a refusal. Hence the completed sample may be somewhat unrepresentative of the U.S. population. However, for better or worse this response rate is not *unusually* low for surveys of this sort.

Survey Method

The NSPOF employs a list-assisted random-digit-dial sampling method, as discussed in Brick et al. (1995). Households with unlisted telephone numbers

are eligible under this method, and each telephone household in the U.S. essentially has equal likelihood of being selected. Each selected household was scheduled for an original call and up to five follow-ups (Chilton 1995, 2–4). When a call was completed, the Chilton interviewer asked to speak with the adult in the household who had the most recent birthday. Since this method randomizes the choice of respondent from the adults living in the household, the NSPOF is able to produce a probability sample of English- or Spanish-speaking adults in the United States (Waksberg 1978).

Response Rates

The survey response rate¹ is relevant to judging the accuracy of survey estimates. The sample of completed inter-

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...own a gun,
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views will be somewhat unrepresentative if those who refuse to cooperate tend to be different in relevant ways than those who are successfully interviewed. While we do not know whether those who refused to participate in the NSPOF are more or less likely than the national average to, say, own a gun, we cannot rule out that possibility. The larger the group of refusers in comparison with cooperators, the larger is the likely magnitude of "nonresponse bias." The response rate was quite low in the NSPOF, and hence a matter of concern.

The final sample disposition is presented in Table 2.1. Of the 29,917 telephone numbers that were randomly selected, 32 percent were ineligible (not working or not residential). Of the 20,302 telephone numbers in the sampling frame, 6,333 contacts were terminated by Chilton before conducting the interview because the initial responses indicated that the household was not needed to complete pre-established sampling quotas. These quotas were defined for the NSPOF with respect to race and gun-ownership status (Chilton 1995, 16). What remains after netting out these cases is 13,969 telephone numbers of households that are either known to be eligible for inclusion or at least *not* known to be *ineligible*. Of these, 2,568 interviews were completed.

There is no single definition for "response rate" (Frey 1989). The appropriate numerator (given our concern

about the representativeness of the completed sample) is the number of households that provided interviews or were willing to do so—that is, completed interviews plus those terminated because the sample quota had been filled. Response-rate measures differ with respect to what is included in the denominator. At a minimum, the denominator includes, in addition to the count of willing participants (the numerator), the count of refusals (3,618 in the case of NSPOF). We believe it appropriate to include also the count of telephone numbers in which a call was never completed (4,724), since this form of nonresponse may also produce an unrepresentative sample.

Less clear-cut is what to do about the other type of nonresponse—those cases (3,059 in all) in which some member of the household had been contacted and been cooperative, but no interview had actually been completed by the time the survey ended despite one or more follow up calls. These cases can be viewed as "cooperators" (because the fact that there was a successful initial contact suggests at least the willingness to cooperate), in which case they would be included in both the numerator and the denominator. Or they could be viewed as non-respondents, since the chosen adult in the household proved somewhat difficult to contact, in which case they should be included in the denominator but not the numerator. We designate them as "initial cooperators," and calculate the response rate in two

Final NSPOF Sample Disposition

Table 2.1

Total phone numbers in sample	29,917
Phone numbers eliminated from sample:	
Non-operational	6,043
Not a household	1,775
Language barrier (Don't speak English or Spanish)	251
Other ineligible	1,546
Total	9,615
Phone numbers in sampling frame	20,302
Phone numbers eliminated from sampling sample	
Interviews not completed:	
Terminated (quota filled)	6,333
One or more callbacks, no interview	3,059
Unable to complete call	4,724
Refusals	3,618
Total	17,734
Total numbers eliminated	27,349
Total completed interviews	2,568

Source: Chilton Research Services (June 1995), *The 1994 National Study of Private Ownership of Firearms in the United States: Methodology Report*. (p. 7).

Note: "Unable to complete call" includes "no answer/busy" and "answering machine." Of the callbacks that did not lead to an interview, 173 were determined to be eligible for the study, while eligibility status was not known for 2,888. Of the refusals, 527 were determined to be eligible.

ways, one with them included as "co-operators" and one with them included as nonrespondents.

If we include the "initial cooperators" in the numerator, the response rate is 59 percent; if we exclude them, the response rate is just 44 percent. In either case, there is clearly a possibility of nonresponse bias in estimates of population parameters. Those who

refuse to be interviewed or who are unavailable to be interviewed may be different from the population as a whole in relevant ways. Hence we urge caution in the interpretation of results based on NSPOF data. On the other hand, there is no reason to believe that this survey has a less representative sample than other commercial telephone surveys. For example, Kleck and Gertz (1995) report a response rate of

Table 2.2

Two Definitions of Response Rate

$$1. \quad \frac{(\# \text{ Cooperators}) + (\# \text{ Initial Cooperators})}{(\# \text{ Cooperators} + \# \text{ Initial Cooperators} + \# \text{ Refusers} + \# \text{ Nonrespondents})}$$

$$2. \quad \frac{(\# \text{ Cooperators})}{(\# \text{ Cooperators} + \# \text{ Initial Cooperators} + \# \text{ Refusers} + \# \text{ Nonrespondents})}$$

where:

# Cooperators	count of completed interviews + count of interviews terminated by Chilton
# Initial Cooperators	count of initial cooperators
# Refusers	count of those who refused to give an interview
# Nonrespondents	count of those telephone numbers where a call was never completed + count of initial cooperators

61 percent for their national survey of gun ownership and use, defined as the number of households willing to participate divided by the number of completed calls. If we followed this procedure, our response rate would be at least as high as theirs.

Characteristics of the NSPOF Population

For various reasons, some households were more likely than others to be selected into the final sample of completed interviews. For example, the sampling procedure had the effect of including a disproportionate number of gun-owning households. To account for differences in the probability of selection in the NSPOF, Chilton calcu-

lated population projection weights² for both households and persons. Household weights reflect the sampling quotas for gun ownership and race, and include household income as a control variable. Person weights use age, race, sex, education, number of adults in the household, and household income as control variables.

While Chilton's weights did not account for the number of working telephone lines in each contacted household, NSPOF includes data on that item. In the NSPOF sample, 351 respondents (13.7 percent) reported the existence of more than one telephone line. (Responses to this item were missing for an additional 80 survey participants.) In order to account for the greater like-

likelihood that a household with two or more telephone lines would be selected to participate, we adjusted the Chilton weights by dividing through by the number of working telephone lines in the respondent's household. Thus, a household with two working telephone numbers would receive one-half the weight of an equivalent household that had one telephone line, as suggested by Sudman (1976). We made an additional modification to ensure that the sample projects to the entire U.S. adult population.

Gun Ownership Rates

Estimates for Household Gun Ownership

The December 1993 Gallup Poll estimated that 49 percent of households possess a gun, a result that affirms one of the seeming constants in American life: the fraction of American households owning a gun has remained at about half since polling on the subject began in 1959 (Kleck 1991). Given this conventional wisdom, it is of considerable concern that the NSPOF data indicate that just 35 percent (plus or minus 1.3 percent) of households owned a (working) gun in 1994. We believe that this estimate may be somewhat off the mark, but not by much. The conventional wisdom appears out of date.

The best of the available series on gun ownership is the General Social Survey (GSS), conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. Its estimates have been in the range of 40-43 per-

cent during the 1990s, several points lower than during the 1970s and much lower than the Gallup Poll estimate. In particular, the GSS estimate for 1994 was just 41 percent. The Kleck-Gertz survey, conducted in 1993, produced a still-lower estimate of gun ownership, 38 percent of households. Our best guess, then, is that the NSPOF estimate understates the "truth," but only by about five percentage points, rather than the 15-point deficit implied by the conventional wisdom.

What is the cause of this apparent underestimation? One possibility is that the net effect of the various distortions in the NSPOF sample is to underrepresent gun owners. Alternatively, we offer three observations concerning the specifics of how gun ownership is determined in the NSPOF, any one of which *may* lead to a small negative bias in the gun ownership estimate:

- The NSPOF focuses on guns owned by household members aged 18 and older. A household that includes a gun-owning adolescent but no gun-owning adult is counted as a "no gun" household. However, such households are apparently very rare. An NSPOF follow-up of 200 households in which the first-round respondent had indicated that no adult owned a gun found *no* cases in which a minor in the household owned a gun. Hence we doubt that the focus on adults accounts for the low estimate of gun ownership.

NSPOF data indicate that just 35 percent... of households owned a... gun in 1994.

The individual who actually owns the gun appears more willing (or able) than other adults in the household to report that the household includes a gun.

■ The NSPOF was conducted by telephone, whereas in the GSS respondents are interviewed face-to-face. The 6 percent of U.S. households that lack telephone service will be excluded from the NSPOF sampling frame; that only matters if phoneless households are more likely to own a gun, which we doubt. More important may be the effect of the interview mode (telephone versus face-to-face) on the tendency for the respondent to report gun ownership. While there might be some difference in this regard, we can only speculate as to what it would be.

■ The gun ownership question is more complex in the NSPOF than in the GSS. The GSS asks, "Do you happen to have in your home (IF HOUSE: or garage) any guns or revolvers?" The NSPOF asks respondents, "Do you or any members of your household 18 years of age or older *currently* have any firearms in your home, car, or elsewhere around your home? Do not include airguns, toys, models, or starter pistols." Some NSPOF respondents may become confused by the complexity of this question, and end up giving the wrong answer.

We have more direct evidence on yet another possible explanation for the NSPOF "undercount." Whether a household is reported to have a working gun depends in part on which adult

in the household is chosen as the respondent. The individual who actually owns the gun appears more willing (or able) than other adults in the household to report that the household includes a gun. We document that interesting phenomenon below, and provide evidence that using the data on individual, rather than household, ownership has the effect of reducing the negative bias.

Self-Ownership Versus Household Ownership

Surveys typically interview only one randomly selected adult from each sample household in order to minimize surveying costs. As Smith (1985, 2) notes:

Interviewing each adult in a household is usually considered unnecessary when the information being sought is either 1) household level information accessible to any adult family member...2) a joint behavior shared with the informant...or 3) a basic demographic or observed behavior that is commonly known by household members.

But gun ownership is typically not a "joint behavior" and in some households it may not even be "commonly known" or "accessible."

Evidence on this issue comes from comparing responses by men and women. Given the NSPOF's method for selecting respondents, husbands and wives should be equally likely to re-

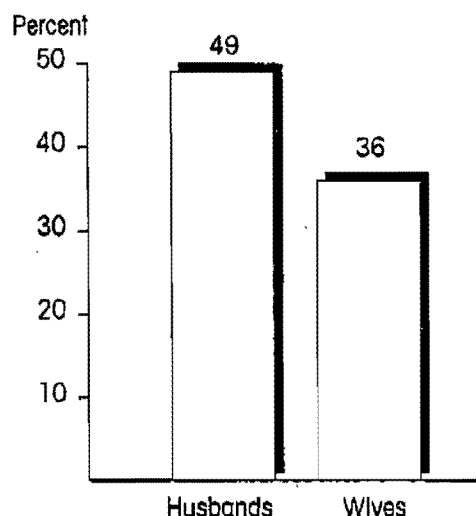
port a gun in the home because they are both describing the same event (gun ownership in households with a married couple). Yet for households headed by a married couple, 49 percent of the husbands report a gun in the home, compared with just 36 percent of the wives. Since this difference is far larger than can be explained by chance, *it appears that many wives either do not know about their husband's gun or are reluctant to discuss it with a stranger.* Smith (1985) found the same pattern in the GSS, though in that case the difference was only three percentage points (57.2 percent of the husbands versus 54.5 percent of the wives).

This result suggests that reports of self-ownership may be more complete in the NSPOF than reports on household ownership. Population estimates based on self-ownership are much larger than estimates based on household questions. The NSPOF estimates based on a respondent's report of all guns in the household is 107.2 million working firearms. The NSPOF estimate based on a respondent's report of his or her own firearms is 192.1 million working firearms.

Estimates for Individual Gun Ownership

Respondents who indicated that a firearm was present in the home were asked the follow-up questions, "How many of the firearms in your household are currently in working order—

Differences Between Spouses in Reporting a Gun in the Household



that is, they can be fired?" and "Does the gun/do any of these guns belong to you personally?"

Table 2.3 presents self-ownership rates from three surveys: the NSPOF, Kleck and Gertz (1995), and the GSS. The self-ownership estimates from the NSPOF are quite similar to those found by Kleck and Gertz, but about four percentage points lower than in the GSS. That difference could be due to the focus on working firearms in the NSPOF: three percent of respondents who report a firearm in the household indicate that none of these guns are in working order. Overall, we conclude that the NSPOF estimates of individual gun ownership are credible.

In what follows in subsequent chapters, we make far greater use of data on self-ownership than on household ownership.

Table 2.3

Comparison of Personal Gun-Ownership Rates by Survey

	Kleck and Gertz	General Social Survey for 1994	NSPOF
	Percent		
Total	25.5	28.7	24.6
Male	N/A	47.0	41.8
Female	N/A	12.7	9.0

NA = Not available.

Notes: GSS figures taken from Smith and Smith (1995, 147), from 1994 General Social Survey data. The survey by Kleck and Gertz (1995) was conducted in 1993.

Endnotes

1. For a fuller explanation of how the response rate was calculated, please refer to the technical report of the study available from the Police Foundation.
2. For a thorough discussion of the population projection weights employed, please refer to the technical report.

III

STOCKS AND FLOWS OF GUNS IN PRIVATE HANDS

Introduction

The NSPOF was designed to gather detailed information on the stock of privately held guns in the United States, including:

- what types of guns are in circulation,
- who owns them,
- how they were acquired, and
- how they are stored.

This information helps fill a major gap in our knowledge.

Distribution and Characteristics of the Private Gun Stock

Concentration of Ownership

The NSPOF-based estimate for the total number of privately owned firearms is 192 million, of which 65 million

(about one third) are handguns, 70 million are rifles, and 49 million are shotguns (Table 3.1). About 40 percent of handguns and long guns are semi-automatics. These estimates are reasonably close to other survey-based estimates and only about 15 percent less than the cumulative total of known additions (imports and domestic manufactures minus exports) since 1899 (Zawitz 1995). While that is not much attrition over nearly a century, the explanation is not so much the durability of guns as in the great upsurge of gun sales in recent decades: NSPOF estimates suggest that 80 percent of all firearms in private hands were acquired since 1974.

While there are enough guns to provide every adult in the United States with one, only one-quarter of adults

***NSPOF
estimates
suggest that
80 percent of
all firearms
in private
hands were
acquired
since 1974.***

Table 3.1

Privately Owned Firearms

	NSPOF Estimate	Guns Entering Circulation, 1899-1993*
Millions		
Total**	192	223
Handguns	65	77
Revolvers	31	
Semi-automatics	26	
Other	8	
Rifles	70	79
Semi-automatics	28	
Other	42	
Shotguns	49	66

*From Zawitz (1995)

** Includes 'other long gun' and 'other gun' categories not included above.

*...the owners
of four or
more guns
(about 10
percent of
the nation's
adults) are in
possession of
77 percent of
the total stock
of firearms.*

actually own a gun. Those who have one gun usually have several. Seventy-four percent have two or more. As shown in Table 3.2, the owners of four or more guns (about 10 percent of the nation's adults) are in possession of 77 percent of the total stock of firearms.

It is also of interest to consider the concentration of ownership among households, since some households include more than one gun owner. According to the NSPOF results, 35 percent of households include at least one gun, and the relative distribution of guns across households is very similar to the distribution among individuals.

Gun ownership is quite concentrated, but not more so than for other durable goods. In marketing circles, the "80/20 rule" suggests that the top fifth of all consumers of a product typically account for four-fifths of all purchases by value (Clotfelter and Cook 1989, 93, 279). NSPOF data indicate that the top 20 percent of gun owners have just 55 percent of the total quantity. (It is possible that if we could adjust for the value of guns, the degree of concentration would be still greater and would better fit the rule.) The bottom line is this: 9.7 million individuals own 105.5 million guns, while the remaining 86.6 million guns are dispersed among 34.4 million individuals.

Gun Ownership Across Individuals and Households for Those Who Report Owning at Least One Gun

Table 3.2

	Individuals Who Own Guns (N=789)	Households That Own Guns (N=1,158)	Gun Stock: Individuals (N=789)	Gun Stock: Households (N=1,158)
Percent Distribution				
1 gun	23.5	30.1	5.9	6.0
2 guns	19.6	22.3	9.1	10.7
3 guns	12.4	13.4	8.6	10.1
4 or more guns	42.1	34.3	76.5	73.1

Note: 35 percent of NSPOF households and 25 percent of individuals report owning at least one gun.

Gun owners who have several guns tend to have a varied collection, including rifles, shotguns, and handguns. Fifty-five percent of individuals who own four guns or more have at least one of each of these three categories. But not everyone who buys a gun is so deeply involved. Of particular concern is the novice who, without having any experience or know-how with guns, buys a pistol for self-protection. While there are such people, we note that two-thirds (68 percent) of handgun owners also own at least one rifle or shotgun, suggesting some experience and interest in the sporting uses of guns. Table 3.3 provides the details.

Design Characteristics

The 200 million guns in private hands include everything from cheap .22-caliber "snubbies" to finely made high-powered rifles worth thousands of dollars. The variety of firearm designs reflects the multiplicity of uses for which they are intended. For example, a gun designed to be carried in a pocket or handbag is usually light and short-barreled, while a gun designed with the primary purpose of shooting accurately over long distances will be larger and heavier. The design characteristics of firearms have figured importantly in legislation regulating commerce in firearms. Guns capable of firing continuously

*...two-thirds
(68 percent)
of handgun
owners also
own at least
one rifle or
shotgun, sug-
gesting some
experience
and interest in
the sporting
uses of guns.*

Table 3.3

Individual Gun Collections

Composition of Gun Collection	Millions	Percent Distribution
1 handgun	5.5	12.4
1 long gun	5.8	13.1
2+ guns, hand only	3.6	8.1
2+ guns, long only	10.0	22.5
2+ guns, both hand and long	19.2	43.5
Total	44.3*	100.0

*Total differs from sum of column entries due to rounding.

The NSPOF includes...design characteristics of respondents' guns. With these data we develop a description of the private gun stock.

with one pull of the trigger are banned from commerce, as are sawed-off shotguns and other "weapons of mass destruction." Handguns are regulated more closely than rifles and shotguns. Small, cheaply made handguns are banned from importation, as are some foreign-made "assault weapons."

The NSPOF includes several items on the design characteristics of respondents' guns. With these data we develop a description of the private gun stock. Among other things, these data may be relevant for evaluating the impact of proposed regulations that distinguish among different types of guns.

Respondents who reported personally owning a firearm were asked a series of questions about the characteristics of one gun that was randomly selected from the owner's gun collection. The estimates presented in this chapter are computed by use of the respondent weights multiplied by the number of guns in the respondents' collection.¹ These estimates should provide a valid representation of the national stock of guns in private hands. In the discussion below, we focus on the barrel length, caliber, and the number of rounds of ammunition included when the gun is fully loaded.

Table 3.4 provides details on magazine capacity. Owners were asked to

Magazine Capacity of Private Gun Stock			
	All Guns (N=789)	Handguns (N=347)	Long Guns (N=442)
Percent Distribution			
Number of rounds:			
1-5 rounds	45.9	12.9	63.1
6 rounds	20.2	38.4	10.6
7-9 rounds	15.6	27.7	9.2
10-15 rounds	13.0	14.6	12.1
16 or more rounds	5.4	6.3	4.9
Average magazine capacity	6.6 rounds	8.1 rounds	5.8 rounds

indicate how many rounds of ammunition were included when the gun was fully loaded. (Some guns were equipped with more than one magazine, in which case the owner was asked to provide information for the magazine he used most commonly.) The modal handgun holds six rounds, reflecting the prevalence of revolvers in the handgun stock. But these days most handguns sold are pistols (Zawitz 1995), which typically have larger capacity. Almost half of all handguns hold seven or more rounds. By comparison, only about one-quarter of long guns hold that many rounds.

In 1994 Congress enacted a ban on the sale of magazines holding more than

10 rounds. According to NSPOF results, such magazines were used with 25 million guns in that year.

Questions concerning barrel length and caliber were asked only of those respondents for whom a handgun was randomly selected. The most common caliber is .38 (28 percent) and another 19 percent of guns are close at 9 or 10 millimeters. At the smaller end of the spectrum, the .22 caliber handgun constitutes 23 percent of the stock, and 11.5 percent are .25 or .32. At the larger end, only 8 percent are .44 caliber or larger.

Table 3.5 reports the distribution of handguns by length of barrel. This

Almost half of all handguns hold seven or more rounds. By comparison, only about one-quarter of long guns hold that many rounds.

Table 3.5

Size of Handguns in Private Gun Stock

Length of Barrel	Percent with Small Caliber	Percent Distribution of Handgun Stock
1-3 inches (N=86)	36.9	17.5
4-5 inches (N=129)	30.7	37.6
6 or more inches (N=132)	37.5	44.9
Total	34.5	100.0

Note: "Small Caliber" is defined here as .32 or less.

...the majority of short handguns have fairly large caliber, in excess of .32.

characteristic of handguns has been particularly important in the debate over appropriate regulation, because short-barreled handguns are well adapted to street crime in the sense that they are conveniently carried concealed. This, however, is the only advantage of a short barrel; since a short barrel reduces the accuracy and power of the gun, someone who did not want to carry it concealed would ordinarily prefer a longer gun. (In most states carrying a concealed firearm is banned outright or is restricted to those who have a special license.) The 1968 Gun Control Act restricted the importation of short-barreled guns, and there have been recurrent

legislative efforts to extend the ban to domestic manufacture.

As shown in Table 3.5, only about one in six handguns have a barrel length of three inches or less—11 million guns in all. The median length of the handgun stock is five inches. In this table we also report the percentage of handguns in each of the length categories that have small caliber (.32 or less).

The important news here is that the majority of short handguns have fairly large caliber, in excess of .32. One implication is that definitions of "Saturday night specials" specifying small caliber do not apply to the majority of short-barreled handguns in the nation's

Years Since Acquisition of Private Gun Stock

	All Guns (N=789)	Handguns (N=352)	Long Guns (N=437)
Percent Distribution			
0-1 year	10.4	11.5	9.7
2 years	12.4	16.8	9.9
3-5 years	14.6	18.0	12.7
6 or more years	62.7	53.7	67.6
Average years since gun was acquired	12.8	10.9	13.9

Table 3.6

firearms stock. It should be kept in mind that caliber has no effect on one of the problematic dimensions of these guns, their concealability (Cook 1981, 1740). Indeed, it appears from other studies that felons have a preference for handguns with short barrels and large caliber (Wright and Rossi 1986; Zawitz 1995). Based on the NSPOF data, we conclude that this preference for larger caliber is shared by nonfelons who own small handguns.

Finally, Table 3.6 lists the years in which respondents' randomly selected guns were acquired. The average gun was acquired about 13 years ago by its current owner. Twenty-two percent of all guns, and 27 percent of handguns,

were acquired by their current owners within the past two years.

Storage

In 1993, there were 1,740 accidental deaths caused by firearms, including 170 involving children fourteen years old and younger. Moreover, for every fatal gunshot accident there are a number of accidental shootings that cause serious injury. Guns were also the means of destruction in 19,590 suicides, 210 involving a child fourteen or younger (National Center for Health Statistics 1994). For these reasons, the safe handling and storage of firearms has attracted the attention of the public health community.

The average gun was acquired about 13 years ago by its current owner. Twenty-two percent of all guns, and 27 percent of handguns, were acquired by their current owners within the past two years.

Table 3.7

Storage Methods of Private Gun Stock

	All Guns (N=789)	Handguns (N=352)	Long Guns (N=437)
	Percent		
Gun locked up, secured with trigger lock etc.	45.6	43.2	46.9
Gun loaded	26.2	54.7	11.0
Gun loaded and unlocked	16.4	34.0	7.3

**...20 percent
of all
gun-owning
households
had a loaded
and unlocked
gun in the
home...**

Despite exhortations by almost every leading gun-related organization that firearms be stored unloaded and under lock and key, a considerable minority of gun owners are in violation of this stricture (Weil and Hemenway 1992, 3035; Cook and Moore 1995, 269). The obvious solution, training, does not appear effective. One recent study found that those who have received formal training in the use of firearms are no more likely than other gun owners to store firearms safely (Weil and Hemenway 1992).

The NSPOF presents two separate opportunities for examining how firearms are stored. First, each respondent who reported having an operable firearm in the household was asked either "Is the

gun in your home currently loaded and unlocked?" (if there is just one gun) or "How many of the guns in your home currently are loaded and unlocked?" (if there are several). Second, as part of the sequence of questions concerning the randomly selected firearm, each respondent was asked "Where do you usually keep this gun?" followed by "Is this gun currently locked up or secured with a trigger lock or some other kind of locking device?" and "Is this gun currently loaded?"

We found that 20 percent of all gun-owning households had a loaded and unlocked gun in the home at the time of the NSPOF. This figure was significantly higher among households that had a handgun than among households

Storage Location of Private Gun Stock

Table 3.8

	All Guns (N=789)	Handguns (N=352)	Long Guns (N=437)
Percent Distribution			
Bedroom	23.7	37.1	16.7
Gun closet	44.1	26.5	53.3
Other closet	16.6	11.5	19.2
With or on respondent	3.3	8.7	0.5
In car or truck	2.6	7.7	0.1
Other	9.7	8.5	10.2

with long guns only (30 versus 7 percent). In Table 3.7 we present the results for the other questionnaire items on storage, those concerning how the randomly selected firearm was stored. We found that 53 percent of long guns and 57 percent of handguns are usually kept unlocked. Further, 26 percent of all guns, and 55 percent of all handguns, are usually kept loaded. Loaded guns of either type are a bit more likely to be unlocked than are unloaded guns. The result is that one in three handguns, and one in six long guns, is kept loaded and unlocked.

As shown in Table 3.8, over half (53 percent) of all long guns are kept in a gun closet, while 17 percent are kept in the owner's bedroom and 19 per-

cent are kept in some other type of closet. In contrast, just over one-quarter of all handguns are kept in gun closets, while 37 percent are kept in the owner's bedroom. Nine percent of handguns are regularly stored on the owner's person, with an additional 8 percent regularly stored in a motor vehicle.

Storage and Training

Each gun owner in the NSPOF was asked "Have you ever had any instruction or training on how to use guns?" and, if so, "From whom have you received training?" Up to three different sources of training were recorded for respondents. Table 3.9 reports the results. The five categories—military, law

*...one
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six long guns,
is kept
loaded and
unlocked.*

Table 3.9

Training Received by Gun Owners

	All Gun Owners	Handgun Owners
	Percent Distribution	
One or more sources of formal training	58.1	56.7
Informal sources of training only	29.0	30.6
No training	12.7	12.8
Sources of formal training:		
Military	25.0	24.0
Law enforcement	11.9	19.2
National Rifle Association	6.6	4.4
Gun club	1.0	2.0
National Safety Council and other sources	26.0	18.7

...adults in gun-owning homes who have received formal training are as likely as those without training to keep a gun unlocked and loaded.

enforcement, National Rifle Association, gun club, and National Safety Council and other sources—constitute what we designate to be “formal training.” In all, 58 percent of gun owners have received formal training from at least one of the sources listed. The rest have received either “informal” training (from friends, family, or the person from whom the respondent purchased the firearm) or no training at all.

In Table 3.10, we present results on how training relates to the likelihood of unsafe gun storage. As it turns out, there is little difference among the various training categories in the percentages of respondents who keep a gun unlocked and loaded. Given the standard errors on our estimates, we accept the “null hypoth-

esis” that formal training in the use of firearms does not affect the likelihood of unsafe gun storage.

Multivariate Analysis for Storage and Training

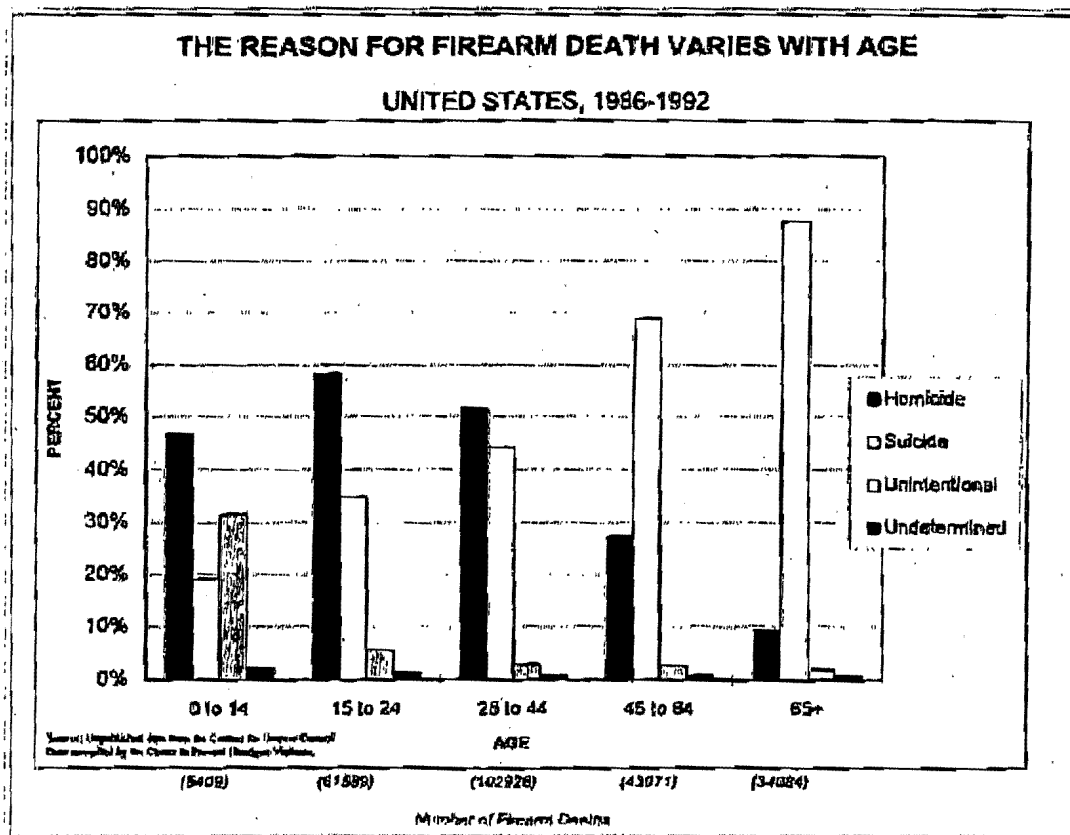
To further explore this surprising result, we conducted a multivariate logit analysis² of data on storage practices by gun owners. The results of this and related analyses confirm that adults in gun-owning homes who have received formal training are as likely as those without training to keep a gun unlocked and loaded. Other control variables made a difference. Not surprisingly, ownership of a handgun, or any sort of gun for protection, was associated with an increased likelihood of

Graph:

<http://www.handguncontrol.org/protecting/D3/d3fdage.htm>

Graph: THE REASON FOR FIREARM DEATH VARIES WITH AGE

UNITED STATES, 1986-1992



This graph represents the distribution, by age and intent, of firearm deaths in the U.S. for the seven-year period, 1986-1992. The highest number of firearm deaths occurs in the 25-44 year-old age range. Across the life-span, there are more firearm suicides than firearm homicides and unintended shootings.

As this graph illustrates, the primary reason behind the firearm-related death changes as person ages. Gun violence isn't someone else's problem. Gun violence can affect all members of the family—from infants to the elderly.

When a child is very young -- 0-14 - the highest percentage of firearm deaths are homicides and unintended shootings.

STATS: 0-14 year old category, of the 5,409 firearm deaths of our youngsters, 47% were homicides -- or 2,533; 19% were suicides -- or 1,034; and 32% were unintended death. -- or 1,710.

For 15-24 year olds, the majority of firearm deaths are homicides, with suicides increasing

STATS: 15-24 year old category, of the 61,589 firearm deaths, 58% were homicides -- or 35,896; 35% were suicides -- 21,397; and 6% were unintended shootings -- or 3,419

For 25-44 year olds, the majority of firearm deaths are still homicides, but the percentage of suicides is not far behind.

CHILDREN & GUNS: A LETHAL COMBINATION

Every day in America, 13 young people aged 19 and under are killed in gun homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings.¹ Many more are wounded. The scourge of gun violence frequently attacks the most helpless members of our society – our children. Consider these facts...

In 1996, 2,866 children and teenagers were murdered with guns, 1,309 committed suicide with guns, and 468 died in unintentional shootings. A total of 4,643 young people were killed by firearms.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 1998²

In 1996, 84% of murder victims aged 13 to 19 years old were killed with a firearm.

Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997³

During 1996, 55% of all murders of those under age 18 involved firearms. Ten years earlier, guns were involved in one-quarter of such offenses.

Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1998⁴

Two in 25 high school students, that is 7.9 percent, reported having carried a gun in the last 30 days.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1995⁵

Gun violence plagues our youth...it is the epidemic of the 1990's...

Gunshot wounds are the *second leading cause of death* for all people aged 10-34.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 1993⁶

Firearm homicide is the leading cause of death for black men aged 15-34.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 1993⁷

According to a February 1997 report by the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of firearm death of children 0 to 14 years old is nearly twelve times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1997⁸

For every child killed by a gun, four are wounded.

Annest JL, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995⁹

From 1984 to 1994, the firearm homicide death rate for 15 - 19 year olds increased 222 percent while the non-firearm homicide death rate decreased 12.8 percent.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistic, 1997¹⁰

"The firearm injury epidemic, due largely to handgun injuries, is *ten times larger* than the polio epidemic of the first half of this century."

Christoffel K. Kaufer, Children's Environments, 1995¹¹

Visit our Website at <http://www.cphv.org>

Updated 11/98

Graph:

STATS: 25-44 year old category, of the 102,926 people who died by firearms, 52% were homicides -- or 53,159; 44% were suicides -- or 45,585; and 3% were unintended shootings -- or 3,074.

For older adults, 45-64, suicide becomes the primary reason people are dying by firearms, and greatly outweighs the percentage of firearm murders.

STATS: 45-64 year old category, of the 43,971 people who died by firearms, 27% were homicides -- or 12,068; 69% were suicides -- or 30,266; and 3% were unintended shootings -- or 1,230.

And for people 65 and older, we see that almost 90% of firearm deaths are suicides.

STATS: 65 and older age category, of the 34,084 people who died by firearms, 9% were homicides -- or 3,211; 88% were suicides -- or 29,906; and 2% were unintended shootings -- or 703.

GUNS IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS

According to Metropolitan Life's "Survey of the American Teacher," 22 percent of boys have carried weapons to school; only 4 percent of girls claim to have done so.

Metropolitan Life, 1993

In a nationwide profile of juvenile gun possession and use, 70 percent of students who said they carried a gun, said they did so for protection.

McCarthy N, *California Bar Journal*, 1995

A 1993 survey of public high school students in a suburban area found that 18 percent possessed a handgun.

Sheley JF, *Public Health Reports*, 1995

In a 1991 survey of 11th grade students, handguns were perceived to be easily accessible by more than 50 percent of male youths in all social classes except the highest class, in which 36 percent reported easy access (social class measured by occupation and highest grade of education of household wage earners).

Callahan CM, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1992

In a 1993 national survey of students in grades 6 to 12, 59 percent indicated that they knew where to get a gun if they wanted one, and two-thirds of these said they could get a gun within 24 hours.

LH Research, Inc., 1993

In a nationwide profile of juvenile gun possession and use, 53 percent of students who said they carried a gun, said they obtained the gun from family and 37 percent obtained the gun "off the street."

McCarthy N, *California Bar Journal*, July 1995

According to the Virginia Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform, 59 guns were taken from seventh-graders in 1993-1994, nearly double the number from the previous year.

Virginia Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform, 1995

In the 1993-94 school year, Virginia school officials discovered 373 guns.

Virginia Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform, 1995

In a 1992 survey of 9th-12th graders in New York City, 7 percent reported carrying a handgun.

Ginsberg, C, *Journal of School Health*, 1993

Five percent of secondary school students say they have threatened someone, in or around school, with a knife or gun.

Metropolitan Life, 1993

In 1992, among Massachusetts male teens responding to a statewide survey, nearly one in 20 teenage boys reported carrying a handgun or other gun in the last 30 days.

Massachusetts Department of Education, 1993

The major reasons students believe weapons are carried is to impress friends/be accepted (66%), for self-esteem/to feel important (56%), and for self-defense to and from school (49%).

Metropolitan Life, 1993

Middle school students possessed 853 of the 1,249 weapons found in public schools statewide in Virginia during the 1991-92 school year.

Virginia State Department of Education

A survey of 11th graders in the Seattle public schools during the winter of 1990-91 found six percent of males had carried a handgun to school; one-third of students reported easy access to handguns; and 6.4 percent reported owning handguns. One-third of handgun owners had fired at someone.

Callahan CM, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 10, 1992

In a survey of students attending high schools in high crime areas, 35 percent reported carrying firearms regularly.

US Department of Justice, December 1993

Updated 4/96

Children & Guns: A Lethal Combination

Every day in America, 14 young people ages 19 and under are killed in gun homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings. Many more are wounded. The scourge of gun violence frequently attacks the most helpless members of our society -- our children. Consider these facts...

→ In 1995, 3,280 children and teenagers were murdered with guns, 1,450 committed suicide with guns, and 440 died in unintentional shootings. A total of 5,285 of our young people were killed by firearms. *in murders, suicides, & unintentional shootings*

National Center for Health Statistics, 1997

In 1994, about 70 percent of the murder victims aged 15 to 17 years old were killed with a handgun.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996

During 1994, almost *one-half* of all the murders of those under age 18 involved handguns. Ten years earlier, handguns were involved in *one-quarter* of such offenses.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996

Two in 25 high school students, that is 7.9 percent, reported having carried a gun in the last 30 days.

Centers for Disease Control, 1995

Gun violence plagues our youth...it is the epidemic of the 1990's...

→ Gunshot wounds are the *second leading cause of death* for all people aged 10-34.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1993

Firearm homicide is the leading cause of death for black men aged 15-34.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1993

→ According to a February 1997 report by the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of firearm deaths among children 0 to 14 years old is nearly twelve times higher in the US than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

Centers for Disease Control, 1997

For every child killed by a gun, four are wounded.

Annest JL, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995

From 1979 to 1989, the firearm homicide death rate for 15-19 year olds increased *61 percent* while the non-firearm homicide death rate decreased 29 percent.

US Department of Justice, 1995

→ "The firearm injury epidemic, due largely to handgun injuries, is *ten times larger* than the polio epidemic of the first half of this century."

Christoffel K, Children's Environments, 1995

Updated 3/98