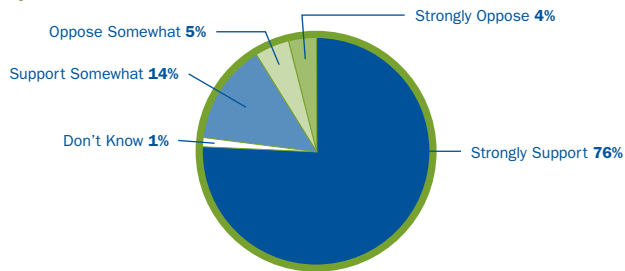


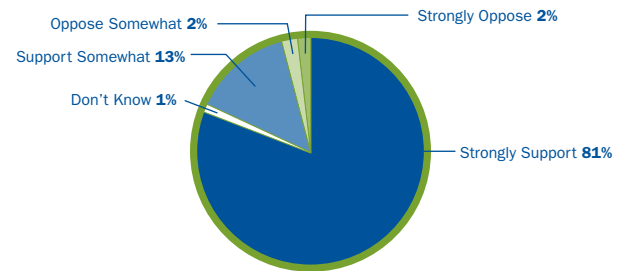
DO VOTERS SUPPORT NEW LAWS TO KEEP GUNS OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS?

Should the state require every gun purchaser to undergo a background check, whether bought from a licensed gun dealer or private seller?



Nine out of 10 Illinois voters across the state support closing the “private sale loophole” by requiring background checks for all gun sales, with 86% of Illinois voters outside of Chicago and the Collar Counties supporting such a measure. Support for universal background checks was strong among Republicans (85%), gun owners (79%), and NRA members (70%).

Should the state require gun owners to inform law enforcement if any of their guns are lost or stolen?



Nearly all Illinois voters (95%) support requiring gun owners to inform law enforcement if any of their guns are lost or stolen and most voters (81%) strongly support such a measure. Moreover, nine out of 10 gun owners and NRA members support this increased responsibility for gun owners.

METHODOLOGY

Overbrook Research (R) and Lake Research Partners (D) completed 612 telephone surveys with Illinois registered voters from a random sample of Illinois residential phone numbers. The resulting sample matches the regional distribution of the electorate and has the following demographics: 48% male, 52% female; 76% Caucasian, 13% African American, 3% Hispanic, 1% Asian, 1% Native American, 4% Other and 2% Not known; 50% Democrats, 37% Republicans and 14% Independents or Other.

In addition to the statewide phone survey, over 300 voters were interviewed in each of three Illinois State Senate districts (23, 24, and 46), which included six Illinois State House districts (45, 46, 47, 48, 91, and 92).

The sampling error for the statewide survey is +/-3.96%, at a confidence level of 95% and the sampling error for the Senate district interviews is +/-5.6% and +/-7.9% for the House districts. The surveys and interviews were conducted between February 5-13, 2009.

For an analysis of the polling results by Overbrook Research and Lake Research Partners for both the statewide survey and individual Senate responses, visit www.icpgv.org.

KEY FINDINGS

- Voters across the state overwhelmingly support new measures that will help prevent dangerous guns from getting into the wrong hands.
- A consensus of Illinois voters – in rural, urban, and suburban areas and across party lines – strongly support requiring background checks for all gun purchases, including private sales.
- Nearly all Illinois voters think that gun owners should be required to report their lost or stolen guns to law enforcement.
- A strong majority of gun owners and NRA members support requiring background checks on all gun purchases and lost or stolen reporting.
- Voters in all three separately surveyed Senate districts that include the Peoria metropolitan area and Western Collar Counties show strong support for requiring background checks on all gun purchases and lost or stolen reporting.

ILLINOIS CAMPAIGN to prevent GUN VIOLENCE



a project of Legal Community Against Violence

GET INVOLVED

- Call 773-209-1002 or email info@icpgv.org.
- Sign up for email alerts for updates on the campaign at www.icpgv.org.
- Contact your state legislators.
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper.

ABOUT ICPGV

Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (ICPGV), a project of Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV), is a research-based public education campaign to promote meaningful gun policy reform in Illinois. Working with a statewide advisory group representing law enforcement, the medical and public health communities, faith-based organizations, local and state policymakers, victims, youth, and advocacy groups, ICPGV informs the public and the media on the facts about gun violence and prevention policies.

GOAL OF ICPGV

The goal of ICPGV is to achieve effective policies to reduce gun violence. ICPGV supports common sense measures that will:

- Keep illegal guns off our streets
- Increase responsibility among gun owners
- Reduce the lethality of firearms

DID YOU KNOW?

- Background checks are a vital tool in helping protect the public. In 2007, 859 prohibited persons were stopped from buying guns from licensed dealers and gun shows in Illinois through background checks. Currently, Illinois does not require background checks for the private sale of guns.
- It is estimated that 40% of gun transactions nationwide occur through unlicensed sellers and no-questions-asked private deals that require no background checks.
- Surveys of U.S. gun owners suggest that approximately 500,000 guns are stolen each year from private citizens.
- Roughly 20% of gun trafficking investigations in the U.S. involve transfers by unlicensed sellers who are not required to conduct a background check. Nationwide unlicensed sellers were associated with nearly 23,000 illegal guns.
- About one in four gun trafficking investigations in the U.S. involves guns that were lost or stolen. Nationwide, investigations involving guns stolen from residences and licensed firearms dealers were associated with over 9,000 trafficked firearms.

FACTS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

- About 1,000 people die from gun violence every year in Illinois.
- From 1999 to 2005, 3,000 children and young people ages 0-25 have been killed by guns in Illinois.
- Guns were used in 3,098 suicides in Illinois from 1999 to 2005.
- A gun in the home makes a woman seven times more likely to be killed by her husband, partner or relative.
- For every person who is killed by gun violence, two more are injured and survive.

SOURCES

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005*, at: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/WISQARS/

James E. Bailey et. al., *Risk Factors for Violence Death of Women in the Home*, *Archives of Internal Medicine* 157, no. 7, 777-782 (April 1997).

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. *Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2007 – Statistical Tables*, at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/bcft/2007/bcft07st.htm.

Philip Cook and Jens Ludwig. *Guns in America: National Survey on Private Ownership and Use of Firearms*, National Institute of Justice Research in Brief (May 1997), at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/165476.htm.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Department of the Treasury, *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearm Traffickers*, xi (June 2000), at: www.atf.gov/pub/fire-explo_pub/pdf/followingthegun_internet.pdf.

Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV) is a public interest law center dedicated to preventing gun violence. LCAV focuses on policy reform at the state and local levels and serves public officials and activists working to prevent gun violence. Founded by lawyers in response to the tragic shooting at 101 California Street in San Francisco in 1993, LCAV is the country's only organization devoted exclusively to providing legal assistance in support of gun violence prevention. For more information, please visit www.lcav.org.