

NEW RESEARCH: Americans largely support locked gun storage, unaware suicide tops gun-related deaths

Survey finds large Republican, gun owner support for mandated storage policies

ST. PAUL, Minn., Oct. 2, 2019 – New information from an [APM Research Lab](#) survey reveals Americans' opinions on mandated locked gun storage, as well as their awareness of firearm-induced suicides as the most common form of gun-related death.

Conducted two weeks prior to the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, the nationally representative surveys were conducted by APM Research Lab in partnership with the reporting collaboration [Guns & America](#) and [Call to Mind](#), American Public Media's mental health initiative.

Full survey findings and methodology can be found [here](#). Key findings include:

Gun Storage Practices & Policy

Overall, a majority of Americans – regardless of background – support mandating locked gun storage. Eleven percent are “strongly” opposed. The survey also includes rare information on how gun owners store their firearms. According to this survey 79 percent of American adults support a locked gun mandate, including:

- **A two-thirds majority of gun owners supports mandated locked gun storage.**
- Nearly seven in 10 Republicans support a locked gun mandate.

Additionally, the survey asked the 37 percent of American adults who either own a gun or live with someone who does about their gun storage practices:

- Nearly three in five responded that they “always” store their gun locked. **One in five said they “never” store their guns locked.**
- More than a third of rural residents from gun-owning households said they “never” lock their guns while not in use.

Gun-Related Deaths & Suicide

In the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data (2017), suicides accounted for 60 percent of all gun deaths—more than all other gun-related deaths combined

- Asking what they considered to be responsible for the most gun death in the United States, the survey found Americans were **largely unaware that suicide accounts for the most common type of gun-related death** in the country.

- One-third responded that murders (other than mass shootings) were responsible for the most gun-related deaths. One-quarter named mass shootings as the top type. Only a quarter correctly identified suicide as the most common type of gun-related death.
- Gun owners are somewhat more aware of the facts than are others; **30 percent of gun owners correctly indicated that suicide is the leading cause of gun-related death**, compared with 20 percent of those who neither own a gun nor live with someone who does.

Expert alert: Andi Egbert, senior research associate at APM Research Lab, is available to discuss this survey and its findings. Contact [Kelly Reller](#) to schedule an interview.

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