



# Owning guns shapes views on new gun laws

To learn about firearm ownership and opinions about firearm policies in Ohio, Interact for Health, formerly The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, asked several questions about firearms on the latest **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)**.

## Fewer than 4 in 10 report firearm around the house

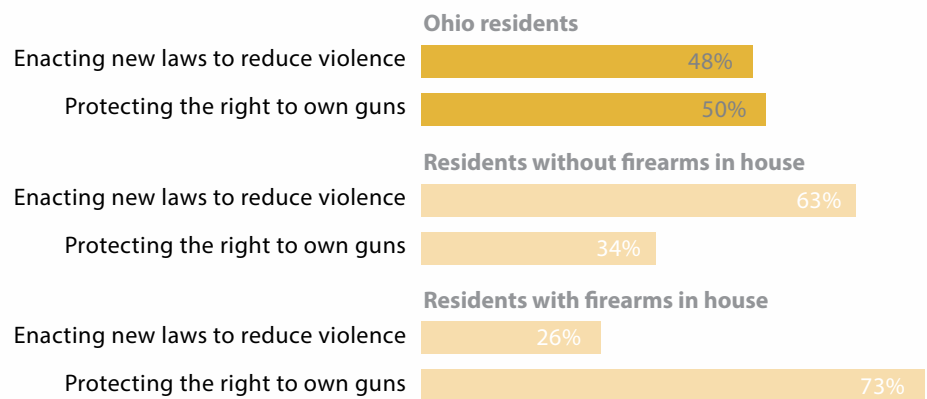
Overall, fewer than 4 in 10 Ohio adults (36%) report having a firearm in or around their home.<sup>1</sup> Urban county residents report the presence of firearms at a lower rate (26%) than residents of rural counties/small cities (49%).

## Even split on new gun laws vs. protecting gun rights

OHIP asked, “Which do you think should be a higher priority right now, enacting new laws to try to reduce gun violence or protecting the right to own guns?” Ohio adults are nearly evenly split: 48% favor enacting new gun laws while 50% favor protecting the right to own guns.

The presence of a firearm in the home affects the response to this question, however. More than 7 in 10 Ohio adults (73%) who report having a firearm around the home think protecting the right to own guns should

**Which do you think should be a higher priority right now, enacting new laws to try to reduce gun violence or protecting the right to own guns?** (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response don't know was not included.)



be a higher priority. On the other hand, more than 6 in 10 Ohio adults (63%) who did not report a firearm around the home think enacting new laws should be a higher priority.

There is also a gender gap on this issue. While a majority of women (57%) think a higher priority should be placed on enacting new laws to reduce gun violence, a majority of men (62%) think a higher priority should be placed on protecting the right to own guns.

## Ohioans think better mental health screening and treatment would help prevent gun violence

Overall, nearly 8 in 10 (78%) Ohio

adults think better mental health screening and treatment would help prevent gun violence.<sup>2</sup> Majorities of residents reporting firearms around the home (74%) and those reporting no firearms around the home (80%) think that better mental health screening and treatment would help prevent gun violence some or a lot.

<sup>1</sup> The exact question wording was “The next questions are about firearms. In your answers, please include weapons such as pistols, shotguns and rifles; but not BB guns, starter pistols or guns that cannot fire. Include those kept in a garage, outdoor storage area or motor vehicle. Are any firearms kept in or around your home?”

<sup>2</sup> OHIP asked, “How much do you think better mental health screening and treatment would do to help prevent gun violence? Would better mental health screening and treatment help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?”