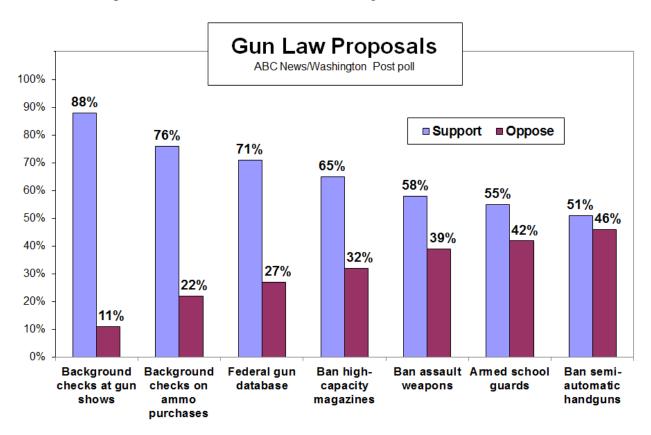
On Eve of Newtown Recommendations, Most Back New Gun Control Measures

Majorities of Americans favor gun control measures from banning assault weapons to expanded background checks on gun and ammunition buyers, with support for one proposal, banning high-capacity ammunition magazines, at a new high in ABC News/Washington Post polls.

With Vice President Joe Biden set to present recommendations prompted by the school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, this poll finds overwhelming support for some moves: Eighty-eight percent favor background checks on firearms buyers at gun shows, 76 percent support checks on buyers of ammunition and 71 percent back a new federal database to track all gun sales.

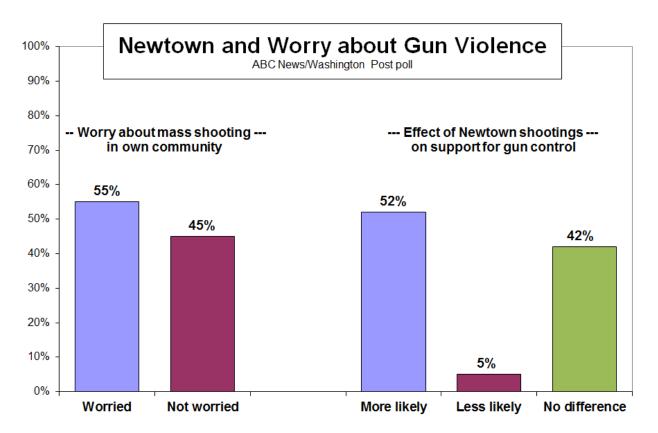
Sixty-five percent also support banning high-capacity ammunition magazines, a high in three ABC/Post polls to test the idea since early 2011, and up by 6 percentage points since just after the Newtown shootings. Among other suggestions, 58 percent favor banning the sale of so-called assault weapons, 55 percent support the National Rifle Association's call for armed guards in schools and 51 percent would ban semi-automatic handguns.



Notably, support for the most popular of these measures – expanded background checks, a gun database and banning high-capacity magazines – includes majorities of people who live in gunowning households, a group that accounts for 44 percent of all adults in this country.

The intensity of support for all of these proposals also is notable; "strong" support for each measure outstrips strong opposition, in most cases by overwhelming margins (save the two less-popular items, armed school guards and a semi-automatic handgun ban). For instance, 50 percent "strongly" favor banning assault weapons, twice the number who strongly oppose it. And 76 percent strongly support background checks at gun shows, while just 8 percent are strongly opposed.

Fifty-five percent in this poll, produced for ABC by <u>Langer Research Associates</u>, express worry about a mass shooting in their own community, and 52 percent say the Newtown shootings have made them more likely to support some forms of gun control.



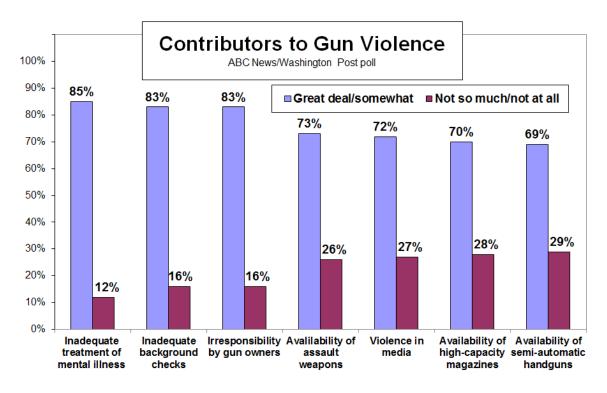
As noted, support for banning high-capacity magazines is at a new high in polling since 2011. But there's no consistent change on other proposals. Support for background checks on gun show buyers is essentially the same as it was in the late 1990s; support for banning assault weapons is numerically up from its low in 2009, but still well below its levels in the mid- to late 1990s; and support for banning semi-automatic handguns has been essentially steady in recent years.

ACTION – Looking ahead to the possibility of legislative action, most Americans give the issue at least a high priority for the president and Congress to address, but not "the highest," and more prioritize "addressing gun violence" (68 percent) than specifically "enacting stricter gun control laws" (59 percent).

While they reach majorities, both of these are lower on the list than other top-shelf issues, including the economy, cutting federal spending, restructuring the tax system and slowing the rate of growth in spending on Social Security and Medicare.

	Priority:					
	High/highest net	Highest				
Economy	96%	68%				
Reducing fed'l spending	88	49				
Restructure tax system	88	40				
Slow spending on Medicare	e/SS 74	29				
Immigration issues	71	21				
Address gun violence	68	28				
Enact stricter gun laws	59	32				
Address global warming	53	18				

The higher priority for "addressing gun violence" vs. "enacting stricter gun control laws" (in a split-sample test) likely reflects some compunctions about whether gun control measures will work. The public, for instance, divides on whether stricter gun laws or armed guards in schools would be more effective (43-41 percent), and as many or more blame gun violence on inadequate treatment of the mentally ill, and on irresponsibility among gun owners, as on other causes.



FACTORS – Many factors receive broad blame for gun crimes. Leading the list, more than eight in 10 see inadequate treatment of the mentally ill, inadequate background checks and lack of individual responsibility by gun owners as contributors to gun violence, and more than half, in each case, say these contribute "a great deal" to the problem.

Sixty-nine to 73 percent also see the availability of semi-automatic handguns, high-capacity ammunition clips and assault weapons as contributors – yet as many say the same about the prevalence of violence in TV programs, movies and video games. The fewest numerically, 38 percent, think violence in the media contributes "a great deal" to gun violence.

There are three items on which more people say the issue contributes to gun violence than favor legislative action: Sixty-nine percent see access to semi-automatic handguns as a contributor, vs. 51 percent who favor banning such weapons; 73 percent say assault weapons are a contributor, vs. 58 percent who favor banning those; and 70 percent see high-capacity magazines as a factor in gun violence, while slightly fewer, 65 percent, would ban them. The gaps apparently exist at least in part because support for action is lower among those who see these as contributing "somewhat," but not a great deal, to gun violence – a group that includes more pro-gun individuals, such as people in gun-owning households, men, and political conservatives.

GROUPS – There are striking differences among groups on some, but not all, gun control issues. Support for gun control measures generally is higher among women than men, with the gap peaking on a ban on semi-automatic handguns, supported by 60 percent of women vs. 40 percent of men.

In addition to the expected partisan and ideological divisions, support for gun control also is higher in several cases among senior citizens vs. the youngest adults, among city dwellers vs. those in suburbs or rural areas, in Democratic-voting blue states vs. more-Republican red states, and in non-gun households vs. those in which someone owns a firearm. There also are regional divisions, with support for gun control typically highest in the Northeast and lowest in the South.

These differences, however, generally fade on the issues on which agreement is most broad – background checks, a gun database and banning high-capacity magazines.

	% Support							
	All	Gun HH Yes-No	Urb-Sub-Rur	Red-Blue	Men-Womn	<30 vs 65+		
Background checks	7111	100 110	OID DUD RUI	ned blue	TICH WOMIT	(30 VB 031		
at gun shows	88%	86-90	90-87-84	85-89	85-90	81-87		
Background checks								
on ammo purchases	76	67-86	85-72-70	73-78	70-82	77-77		
Fed'l gun database	71	62-80	78-70-63	65-74	65-76	76-69		
Ban high-capacity								
magazines	65	55-75	71-63-61	60-67	57-72	55-75		
Ban assault								
weapons	58	45-71	64-55-57	55-60	50-66	46-73		
Armed guards								
in schools	55	62-49	55-53-62	67-49	57-54	58-42		
Ban semi-automatic								
handguns	51	36-64	58-49-42	45-54	40-60	40-60		

Patterns are different in support for armed guards in schools; this idea is more popular with conservatives vs. liberals (63 vs. 44 percent), in red vs. blue states (67 vs. 49 percent) and among Republicans vs. Democrats and independents (65 vs. 52 percent). It also gets more support from parents with minor children, 62 percent, vs. 51 percent among other adults. In the biggest gap, the proposal for armed school guards is nearly 30 points more popular with people who see the NRA's leadership favorably than among those who see it unfavorably, 69 vs. 40 percent.

There are other differences among groups that inform views on gun control. Women, for instance, are 13 points more apt than men to say the Newtown shootings have made them more likely to support some forms of gun control, and 16 points more likely to be worried that a mass shooting could occur in their own area. That worry is a prime factor in support for stricter gun laws.

THE NRA – While recent polls have found the NRA to be popular overall with a majority of Americans, this survey finds a less positive assessment of the association's leadership – more see it unfavorably than favorably by an 8-point margin, 44 vs. 36 percent, although many don't know enough to say.

There's a mixed result on the NRA's influence on gun policy; on one hand more, 38 percent, say it has too much influence, vs. too little (24 percent) or about the right amount (30 percent). At the same time, that makes a majority, netted, saying its influence is too little or about right.

The NRA's leadership, naturally, has far more support among people in gun-owning vs. non-gun households – a 52 percent vs. 22 percent favorable rating. Similarly, 49 percent in non-gun households say the NRA has too much influence over gun laws. In gun households, many fewer, 27 percent, agree.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Jan. 10-13, 2013, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of <u>sampling error</u> of 3.5 points, including design effect. Partisan divisions are 33-24-37 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by <u>Langer Research Associates</u> of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at http://abcnews.com/pollingunit.

Media contacts: David Ford, (212) 456-7243, and Julie Townsend, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

```
*= less than 0.5 percent
1-9, 11-14 held for release.
```

10. For each issue I name, please tell me what kind of priority you think Obama and the Congress should give it - the highest priority, a high priority but not the highest, or a lower priority than that?

1/13/13 - Summary Table*

		· Priority			None	No	
	NET	Highest	High	Lower	(vol.)	opinion	
a. The economy	96	68	28	3	0	1	
b. Reducing federal spending	88	49	39	10	*	2	
c. Restructuring the							
federal tax system	88	40	48	9	*	3	
d. Slowing the rate of growth							
in spending on Medicare							
and Social Security	74	29	45	22	*	3	
e. Enacting stricter gun							
control laws	59	32	27	38	2	1	
f. Addressing global warming,							
also known as climate change	53	18	35	44	1	2	
g. Addressing immigration issues	71	21	50	27	1	2	
h. Addressing gun violence	68	28	40	30	1	2	

^{*}Full sample asked items a and b; half sample asked c-e; other half sample asked f-h.

Trend (2006 and previous, "Bush and the Congress"):

a. The economy

		Priority			None	No
	NET	Highest	High	Lower	(vol.)	opinion
1/13/13	96	68	28	3	0	1
1/16/11	97	72	24	3	0	*
1/16/09	98	76	22	2	*	*
1/26/06	96	52	45	3	*	*
1/16/05	94	43	51	5	0	1
4/30/03	95	56	39	4	*	1

b. Reducing federal spending

		- Priority	Priority			No
	NET	Highest	High	Lower	(vol.)	opinion
1/13/13	88	49	39	10	*	2
1/26/06*	88	43	45	10	*	1
*"governm	ent"	spending				

c. Restructuring the federal tax system

	 NET	Priority Highest	 High	Lower	None (vol.)	No opinion
1/13/13	88	40	48	9	*	3
Compare t	o: Tax	es				
1/16/11	87	31	56	12	*	1
1/16/09	81	23	58	17	1	1
1/26/06	82	27	54	17	*	1
1/16/05	80	19	60	19	*	1
4/30/03	82	30	51	17	*	2

d-e. No trend.

f. Addressing global warming, also known as climate change

		Priorit	у	-	None	No
	NET	Highest	High	n Lower	(vol.)	opinion
1/13/13	53	18	35	44	1	2
1/16/11*	48	16	32	46	4	2
1/16/09	58	17	41	37	4	1
1/26/06	62	26	37	35	1	1
*1/16/11	and pre	vious: "	global	warming"		

g. Addressing immigration issues

		Priority	7		None	No
	NET	Highest	High	Lower	(vol.)	opinion
1/13/13	71	21	50	27	1	2
1/16/11*	69	24	45	29	1	1
1/16/09	69	21	48	29	1	1
1/26/06	69	27	42	29	2	1
1/16/05	68	20	49	28	1	2
*1/16/11	and pre	vious: "]	mmigrat:	ion issue	es"	

h. No trend.

On another subject, thinking about gun ownership in this country,

15. Would you support or oppose a law requiring [ITEM]?

1/13/13 - Summary Table

			Support		Oppose		No	
		NET	Strg.	Smwt.	NET	Smwt.	Strg.	opin.
a.	A nationwide ban on							
	semi-automatic handguns,							
	which automatically re-load							
	every time the trigger							
	is pulled	51	40	10	46	12	34	4
b.	A nationwide ban on							
	high-capacity ammunition clips,							
	meaning those containing more							
	than 10 bullets	65	53	12	32	11	21	3
C.	A nationwide ban on the sale							
	of assault weapons	58	50	9	39	12	26	3
d.	Background checks on people							
	buying guns at gun shows	88	76	12	11	3	8	1
е.	Placing an armed guard in							
	every school in the country	55	39	16	42	14	29	2
f.	The creation of a new federal							
	database to track all gun							
	sales in this country	71	54	17	27	7	19	2
g.	Background checks on anyone							
	buying gun ammunition	76	64	12	22	7	15	2

Trend:

a. A nationwide ban on semi-automatic handguns, which automatically re-load every time the trigger is pulled

	Support				No		
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/13/13	51	40	10	46	12	34	4
12/16/12	52	42	11	44	11	34	3
1/16/11	48	39	9	50	12	37	2
4/22/07	55	46	9	41	9	32	3

b. A nationwide ban on high-capacity ammunition clips, meaning those containing more than 10 bullets

		Support			Oppose			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion	
1/13/13	65	53	12	32	11	21	3	
12/16/12	59	47	12	38	9	29	2	
1/16/11	57	46	11	39	10	29	3	

c. A nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons

	Support				se	No	
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/13/13	58	50	9	39	12	26	3
1/19/11*	63	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	3
4/26/09*	54	"	TI .	41	"	"	5
4/22/07**	67	54	13	30	10	21	3
5/10/00	71	60	11	27	11	16	2
9/2/99	77	68	9	22	8	14	1
5/16/99	79	67	12	19	7	12	2
6/14/94	80	NA	NA	18	NA	NA	2

^{*}CBS/NYT "Do you favor or oppose a nationwide ban on assault weapons" **ABC News

d. Background checks on people buying guns at gun shows

	Support				Oppose			
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion	
1/13/13	88	76	12	11	3	8	1	
5/10/00	92	82	10	6	3	3	2	
9/2/99	90	80	10	9	7	3	1	
5/16/99	89	77	12	11	7	4	*	

e-g. No trend.

16. Which of these do you think would do more to reduce gun violence in schools - having (stricter gun control laws) or (armed guards in schools)?

	Stricter gun	Armed guards	Both equally	Neither	No
	control laws	in schools	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
1/13/13	43	41	6	8	2

17. For each item I name, please tell me how much, if at all, you think it contributes to gun violence in this country - a great deal, somewhat, not so much or not at all.

1/13/13 - Summary Table

		Contributes		- Doesn't contribute -				
			Great			Not	Not	No
		NET	deal	Smwt	NET	so much	at all	opinion
a.	The availability of							
	semi-automatic handguns	69	41	29	29	13	16	1
b.	The availability of assault							
	weapons	73	45	28	26	11	15	1
c.	The availability of							
	high-capacity ammunition							
	clips	70	42	28	28	11	17	2
d.	Inadequate background							
	checks before guns are sold	83	56	27	16	9	7	2
e.	Violence in TV programs,							
	movies and video games	72	38	34	27	13	15	1

- •	Inadequate treatment of							
	mentally ill people	85	56	30	12	7	5	2
_	Lack of individual responsibility by qun							
	responsibility by dan							
	owners	83	53	30	16	7	8	1

18. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the leadership of the National Rifle Association? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

		Favoral	ble	Unfavorable			No	
	NET	Strg.	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strg.	opinion	
1/13/13	36	20	17	44	16	28	20	

Compare to: Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the National Rifle Association? Is that very/somewhat favorable/unfavorable?

		Favora	Favorable		Unfavorable			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion	
12/22/12*	54	21	33	38	20	18	7	
4/7/05*	60	18	42	34	19	15	6	
5/24/00*	52	19	33	39	21	18	9	
5/16/99	48	22	26	39	19	20	13	
5/14/95	44	20	24	46	26	19	11	

*Gallup: What is your opinion of the National Rifle Association, also known as the NRA - is it very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

19. Do you think the National Rifle Association has (too much) influence, (too little) influence, or the right amount of influence over gun control laws in this country?

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	No opinion
1/13/13	38	24	30	8
4/2/00	44	18	32	6
9/2/99	47	17	31	5
12/5/93*	45	15	27	13
*PSRA				

20. Thinking about the elementary school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut last month — would you say this incident has made you more likely to support some forms of gun control, less likely to support some forms of gun control, or made no difference in your opinion on gun control? Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?

		More li	kely		Less Likely	7	No	No
	NET	Much	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Much	difference	opinion
1/13/13	52	35	17	5	2	3	42	1

21. How worried are you, if at all, that a mass shooting could happen in your community — is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not so much or not at all?

	Worried				Not worried			No
	NET	Great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not so	much	Not at all	opinion
1/13/13	55	24	31	45	24		21	*

22. Do you or does anyone in your house own a gun, or not?

	Yes	No	No	opinion
1/13/13	44	56		1

1/16/11	44	55	*
4/24/09	41	58	*
6/15/08	42	58	*
4/22/07	45	55	0
10/8/06	42	58	*
10/20/02	41	59	*
5/10/00	45	55	*
4/2/00	43	56	*
9/2/99	44	56	*
5/16/99	46	53	*

*** END ***