



## Polling: Attitudes Among Likely Voters Toward Gun Violence & Solutions

# Contents

1

### Press Release

New Poll: Voters Say Congress Should Pass More Gun Safety Laws

5

### Data for Progress Blog Post

Voters Want Increased Gun Safety and Community Violence Intervention

13

### Crosstabs

Attitudes among likely voters toward gun violence and solutions

## POLLING: ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

### **New Poll: Voters Say Congress Should Pass More Gun Safety Laws**

*Over 80% Of Likely Voters Say We Can Reduce Gun Violence if We Really Want To, While Only 11% Say We Have to Accept Gun Violence as a Reality*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Gun violence is more prevalent in the United States than in [any other developed nation](#) and has now become the [leading cause of death](#) for children in this country. New [polling](#) from Data for Progress shows American voters differ greatly along lines of racial identity and political parties in how they feel about gun violence and solutions.

Surprisingly, over 81% of likely American voters polled view gun violence as an issue our nation can reduce “if we really want to,” while only 11% of voters polled believe that “we have to accept gun violence as a reality.”

Among all likely voters, 61% report feeling “very concerned” about gun violence across the nation. When asked about their concern about gun violence “in their community,” a third of all likely voters say they are “very” concerned. However, voters of color are significantly more likely to report being very concerned about violence in their own communities. Fifty-one percent of Black voters and 53% of Hispanic voters feel “very” concerned about gun violence in their communities, while just 29% of white voters say they are “very” concerned about gun violence in their communities.

Read the full results of the poll [here](#).

Regarding solutions to gun violence, a clear majority of voters (57%) think Congress should pass more gun safety laws. After being informed about [community violence intervention](#) (CVI) and asked if they believe Congress should provide more or less funding for those programs or if there has already been enough funding, 64% of voters said they want Congress to provide more funding for community violence intervention.

“Cities across the US have seen significant increases in violence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in communities of color, and are looking for public investment in effective solutions,” says Fatimah Loren Dreier, Executive Director of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (the HAVI), a national organization working in 85 cities across the country to build a network of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) and serves as one of the lead technical assistance providers for [the White House Community Violence Intervention Collaborative](#) (CVIC), an initiative which supports a cohort of 16 jurisdictions committed to using public funding to scale and strengthen their community violence intervention infrastructure.

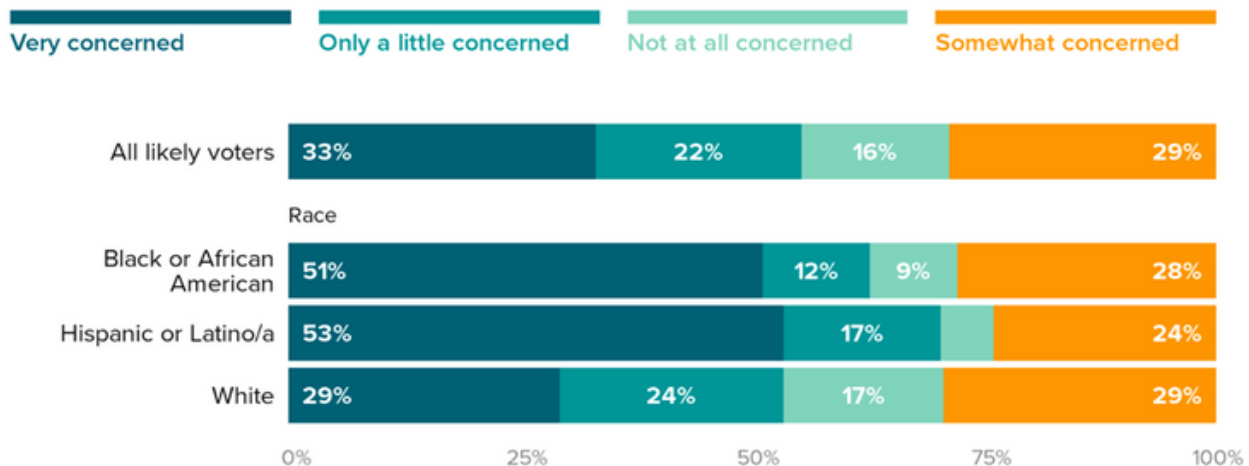
## ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

“It is clear that the public is beginning to recognize community violence intervention strategies, including HVIPs, as critical elements of public safety. By implementing these public health strategies as a complement to accountable law enforcement, cities can create an ecosystem of data-driven practices that can drive down violence and address violence at its root,” added Dreier, whose organization will bring hundreds of health care professionals, frontline violence intervention workers, government officials, and policy experts together in November for its [13th annual conference](#), Going Further, Together: Building the CVI Ecosystem.

Read the full results of the poll [here](#).

### Voters of Color Are 'Very' Concerned About Gun Violence in Their Own Communities

How concerned or not concerned are you about gun violence in your community?



July 8–10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

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We also asked voters what they believe is responsible for the prevalence of gun violence in America. Forty-six percent say gun violence is due to a failure to address the root causes of it — poverty, trauma, and mental health — meanwhile, 39% say it is due to the availability of guns, and 10% say it is due to weak policing.

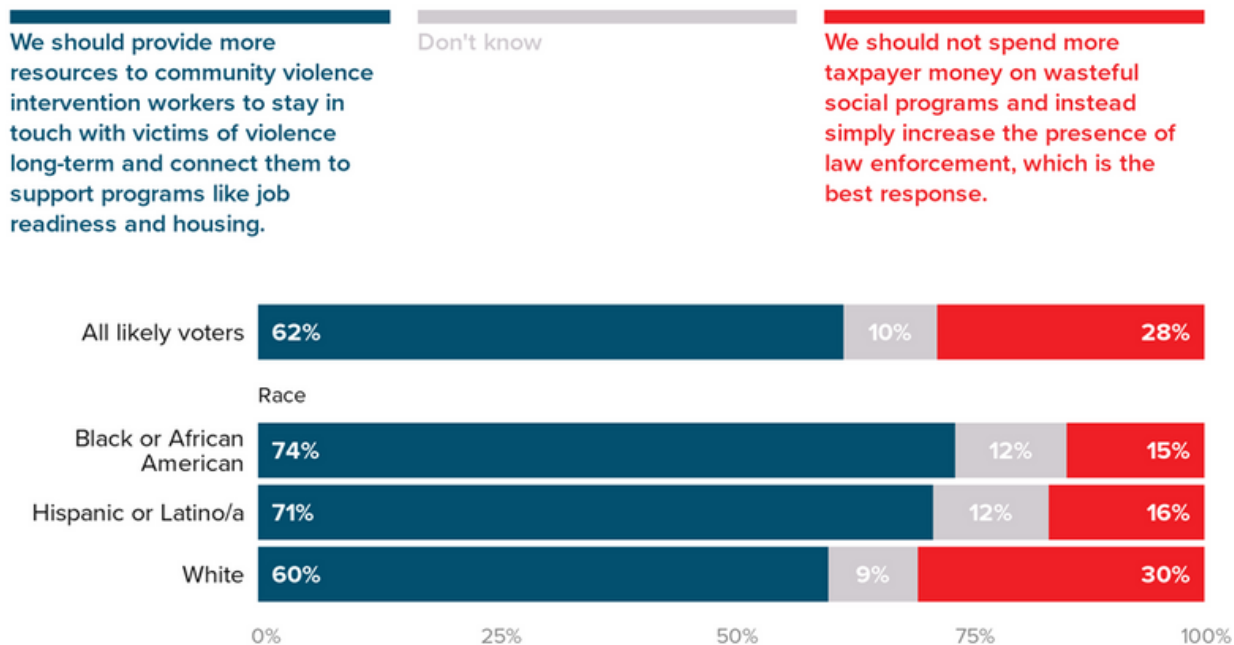
## ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

Additionally, we asked if voters prefer increasing resources for community violence intervention or increasing the presence of law enforcement to address gun violence in communities, and a majority responded that they prefer the former. Also, 62% of voters agree that we should provide more resources to community violence intervention workers to stay in touch with victims of violence long-term and connect them to support programs like job readiness and housing.

Read the full results of the poll [here](#).

### A Majority of Voters Prefer Community Intervention Over Increasing Law Enforcement to Prevent Violence

When thinking about responses to gun violence in communities, which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?



July 8–10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

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## ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

### About Data for Progress

Data for Progress is a progressive think tank and polling firm, which arms movements with data-driven tools to fight for a more equitable future. DFP provides polling, data-based messaging, and policy generation for the progressive movement and advises campaigns and candidates with the tools they need to win. DFP polling is regularly cited by the New York Times, the Washington Post, and hundreds of other trusted news organizations.

Learn more at [dataforprogress.org](https://dataforprogress.org) and follow DFP on Twitter at [@dataprogress](https://twitter.com/dataprogress).

### About The HAVI

The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) is a national organization working to build a network of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPS), a component of the community violence intervention ecosystem that provides wraparound services to victims of violent crime while they are recovering from their injuries to reduce the likelihood that they commit gun violence or are victimized in the future. Currently, the HAVI works in over 85 cities across the country, as well as in the UK and El Salvador, to develop and implement HVIPS. The organization also works with its members to advance policy and research that address violence as a public health emergency.

Find out more about the HAVI at [thehavi.org](https://thehavi.org) and follow [@theHavi](https://twitter.com/theHavi) on Twitter.

###

# VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

By Anika Dandekar and Tenneth Fairclough II

Gun violence is more prevalent in the United States than in any other developed nation and has now become the leading cause of death for children in this country.

Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,311 likely voters nationally from July 8-10, 2022, testing voters' attitudes on gun violence and solutions. We find that a majority of voters think Congress should pass more gun safety laws and invest in community violence intervention.

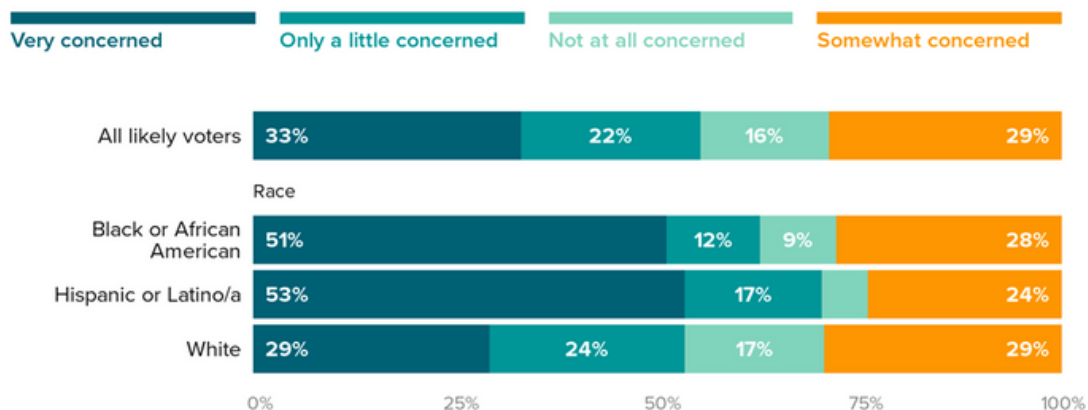


## Voters' Attitudes Toward Gun Violence

We asked voters how concerned they are about gun violence in their own communities. Among all likely voters, a third report feeling “very” concerned about gun violence in their community. Voters of color are significantly more likely to report feelings of concern than white voters. Fifty-one percent of Black voters and 53 percent of Hispanic voters feel “very” concerned about gun violence in their communities, while just 29 percent of white voters say they are “very” concerned about gun violence in their communities.

## Voters of Color Are 'Very' Concerned About Gun Violence in Their Own Communities

How concerned or not concerned are you about gun violence in your community?



July 8-10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

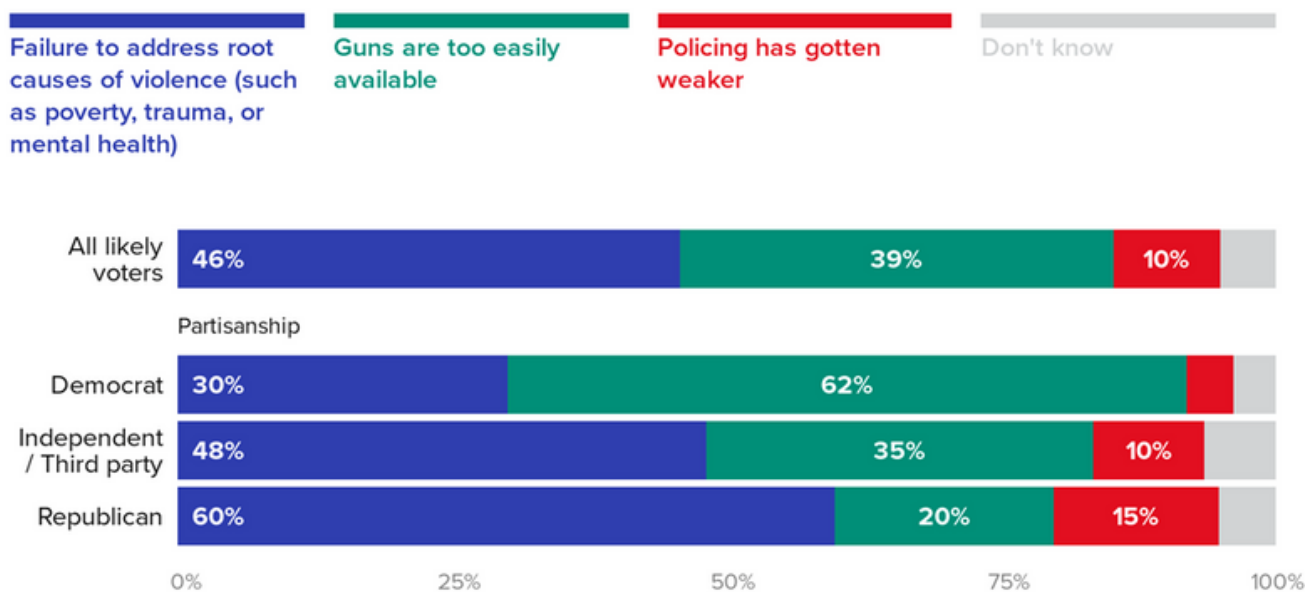
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## VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

When asked what they believe is responsible for the prevalence of gun violence in America, a plurality of voters (46 percent) say gun violence is due to a failure to address the root causes of it — poverty, trauma, and mental health. Meanwhile, 39 percent say it is due to the availability of guns, and 10 percent say it is due to weak policing. Nearly two thirds of Democrats (62 percent) attribute widespread gun violence to easily available guns, while 30 percent attribute it to failure to address root causes. A plurality of Independents (48 percent) say gun violence is widespread because of failure to address root causes, 35 percent say it is because guns are easily available, and 10 percent say it is because of weak policing. Sixty percent of Republicans believe gun violence is due to failures to address poverty, trauma, and mental health; 20 percent believe it is due to the availability of guns; and only 15 percent believe gun violence is widespread due to weak policing.

### Plurality of Voters Say Failures to Address Root Causes Reason for Widespread Gun Violence in Nation

Which of the following do you think is most responsible for widespread gun violence in America?



July 8–10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

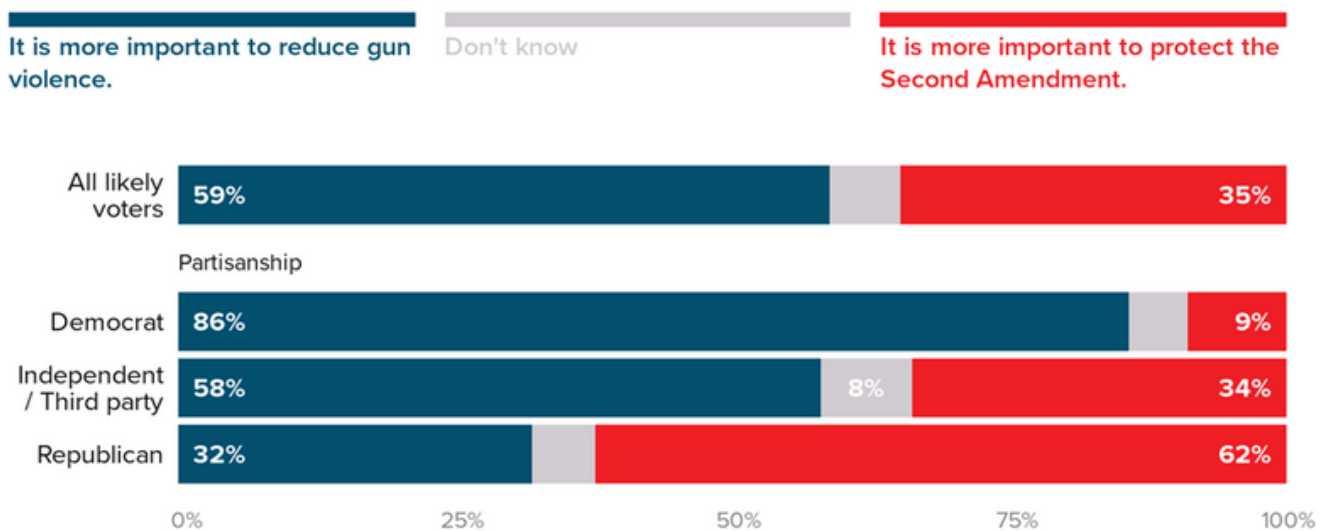
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## VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

When asked which is more important to them, reducing gun violence or protecting the Second Amendment, 59 percent of voters say it is more important to reduce gun violence. This is true among Democrats and Independents as well, with 86 percent and 58 percent, respectively, believing that reducing gun violence is more important than protecting the Second Amendment. Nearly one-third of Republicans believe that it is more important to reduce gun violence.

### Majority of Voters Believe It Is More Important to Prevent Gun Violence Than Protect the Second Amendment

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?



July 8–10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

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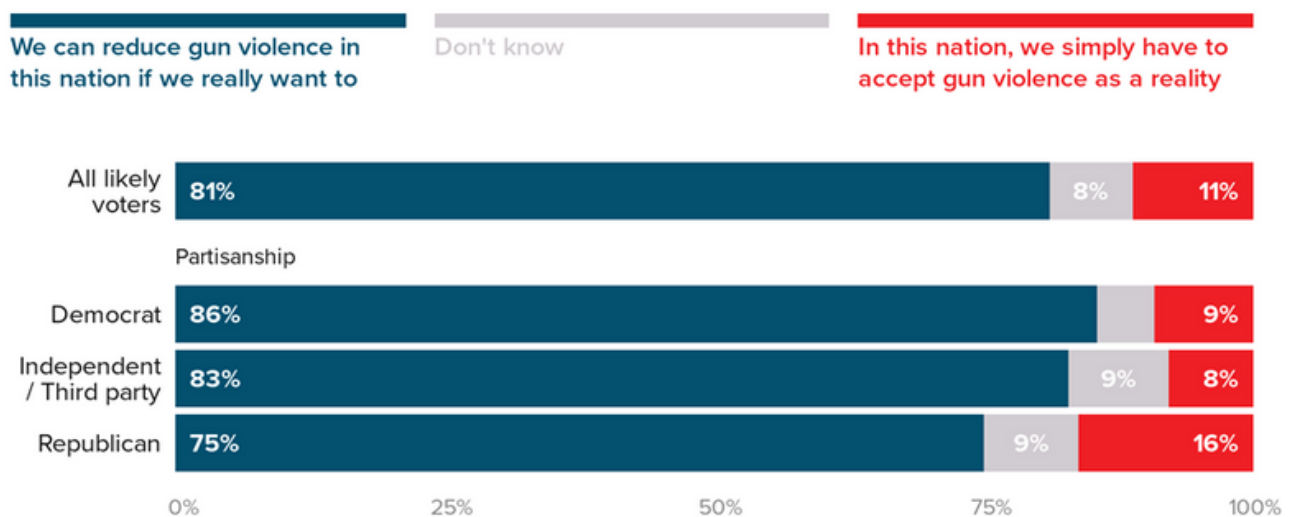


## VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Then, we asked voters whether they believe that it is possible to reduce gun violence or if it is a reality we just have to accept. Eighty-one percent of voters believe that gun violence can be reduced. At least three-quarters of voters across partisanship hold this view, with 86 percent of Democrats, 83 percent of Independents, and 75 percent of Republicans saying it is possible to reduce gun violence “if we really want to.”

### Over Three-Quarters of Voters Believe Reducing Gun Violence Is Possible

When thinking about gun violence, which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?



July 8–10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

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### Voters' Attitudes Toward Policy Solutions to Gun Violence

Next, we informed voters about community violence intervention, which are programs that develop relationships in communities and help deliver services that are needed for individuals at risk, and asked respondents if they believe Congress should provide more or less funding toward those programs, or if there has already been enough funding.

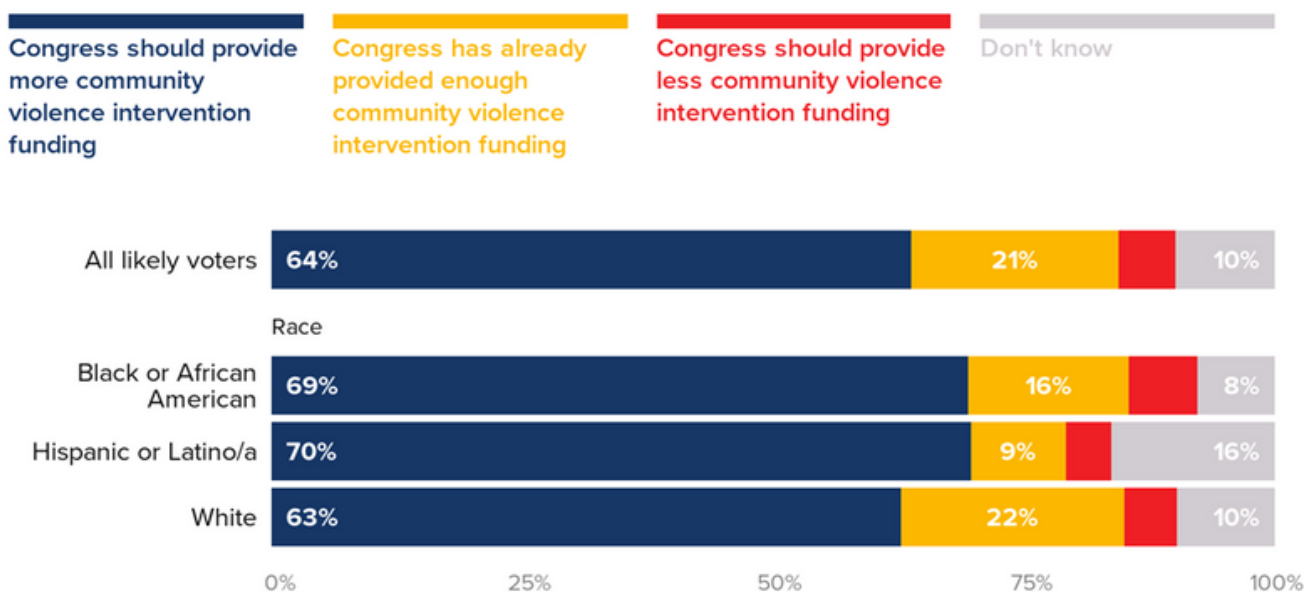
## VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

We find close to two-thirds of voters (64 percent) want Congress to provide more funding toward community violence intervention. We also find that over three-quarters of Democrats (82 percent) and close to two-thirds of Independents (62 percent) believe Congress should provide more funding for community violence intervention, and that a plurality of Republicans (47 percent) support funding these interventions as well.

### Close to Two-Thirds of Voters Want Congress to Provide More Funding for Community Violence Intervention

Community violence interventions develop relationships in the community and help in delivering services to address trauma, providing opportunities, and improving the physical, social, and economic conditions of individuals at risk.

Do you think members of Congress should provide more or less community violence intervention funding for programs or are there already enough?



July 8 to 10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

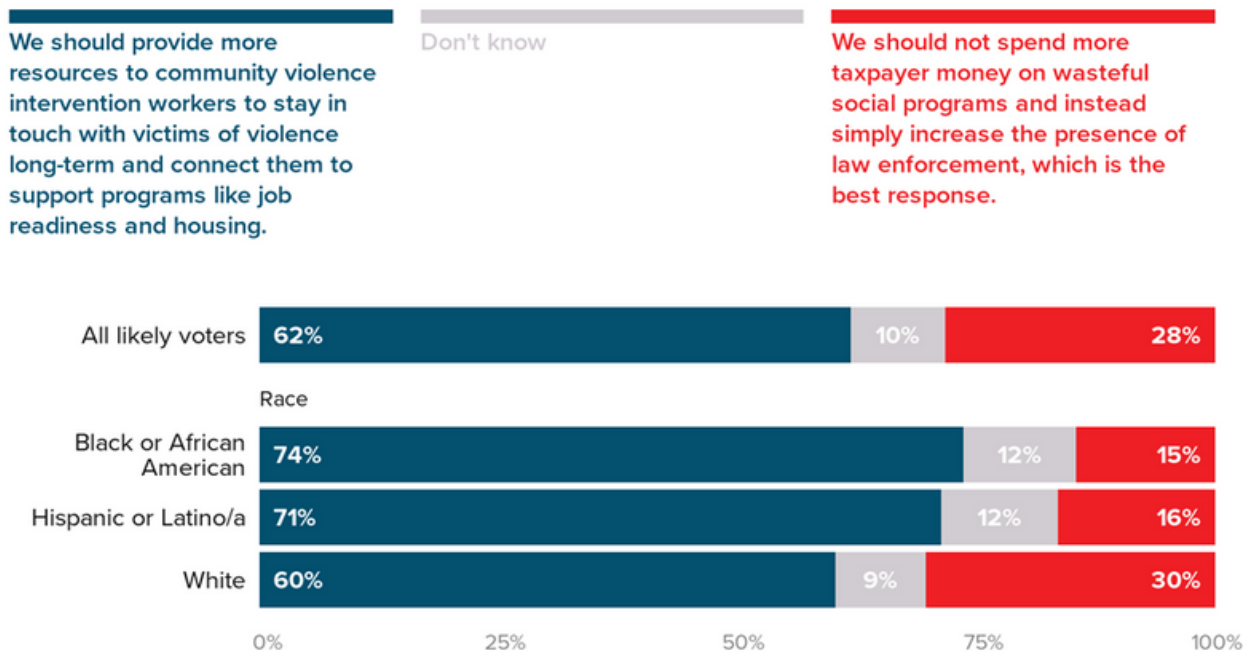
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## VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

We then tested if voters prefer increasing resources for community violence intervention or if they prefer increasing the presence of law enforcement to address gun violence in communities. Voters prefer increasing resources for community violence intervention over increasing the presence of law enforcement by a 2-to-1 margin. Eighty percent of Democrats and 59 percent of Independents prefer increasing resources for community violence intervention, while Republicans are evenly split on which policy solution they prefer to address gun violence in communities.

### A Majority of Voters Prefer Community Intervention Over Increasing Law Enforcement to Prevent Violence

When thinking about responses to gun violence in communities, which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?



July 8–10, 2022 survey of 1,311 likely voters

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## VOTERS WANT INCREASED GUN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

### Conclusion

Despite the passage of a few bipartisan measures to reduce gun violence, voters are very concerned about gun violence in the United States. Voters are looking to Congress to provide increased resources and pass more gun laws to address it. Community violence intervention aim to break cycles of violence and trauma, and have been [proven](#) to decrease gun violence. Elected officials at all levels of government should note their voters' opinions: Building a community violence intervention ecosystem, not increased policing, is preferred in reducing gun violence.

Crosstabs for this survey can be found [here](#).

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*Anika Dandekar (@anikadandekar) and Tenneth Fairclough II (@tenten\_wins) are polling analysts at Data for Progress.*

### Survey Methodology

From July 8 to 10, 2022, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,311 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is 33 percentage points.

## CROSTABS: ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

### DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

From July 8 to 10, 2022, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,311 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is  $\pm 3$  percentage points.

NB: subgroups with a n-size less than 50 (<50) are not shown on these cross-tabs. We choose not to display N<50 subgroups because the sample is too small to have statistical significance. We did, however, take samples of these subgroups for representational and weighting purposes to accurately reflect the electorate makeup. Some values may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

N=1,311 unless otherwise specified.

#### [1] How concerned or not concerned are you about gun violence in **your community**?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Very concerned	33	46	29	23	35	31	30	35	34	32	51	53	29
Somewhat concerned	29	29	29	29	31	26	32	27	26	33	28	24	29
Only a little concerned	22	17	24	26	21	24	21	22	22	22	12	17	24
Not at all concerned	16	8	18	23	13	19	17	15	17	14	9	6	17
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

#### [2] How concerned or not concerned are you about gun violence in **across the nation**?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Very concerned	61	78	60	45	67	55	59	62	59	65	71	70	60
Somewhat concerned	24	16	25	32	22	27	22	25	25	22	15	14	26
Only a little concerned	10	4	9	16	8	12	13	8	10	9	8	10	10
Not at all concerned	5	2	5	7	3	6	5	4	5	4	5	5	4
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

## CROSSTABS: ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

**[3]** Do you think members of Congress should create more or less gun safety laws, or are there already enough?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Congress should create more gun safety laws	57	81	57	34	62	53	58	57	55	62	63	71	56
Congress has already created enough gun safety laws	30	12	30	49	28	33	26	32	32	27	25	14	33
Congress should create fewer gun safety laws	6	2	5	12	4	9	5	7	6	6	5	3	6
Don't know	6	6	8	6	7	5	11	4	7	5	7	12	6
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

**[4]** Community violence interventions develop relationships in the community and help in delivering services to address trauma, providing opportunities, and improving the physical, social, and economic conditions of individuals at risk.

Do you think members of Congress should provide more or less community violence intervention funding for programs or are there already enough?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Congress should provide more community violence intervention funding	64	82	62	47	67	60	64	64	63	65	69	70	63
Congress has already provided enough community violence intervention funding	21	9	21	33	18	24	19	21	21	20	16	9	22
Congress should provide less community violence intervention funding	6	2	6	9	3	8	5	6	5	7	7	5	5
Don't know	10	7	12	11	12	7	13	9	11	8	8	16	10
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

## CROSTABS: ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

[5] Which of the following do you think is **most** responsible for widespread gun violence in America?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
Guns are too easily available	39	62	35	20	38	41	33	43	38	42	53	44	38
Policing has gotten weaker	10	4	10	15	7	13	8	10	10	9	10	5	10
Failure to address root causes of violence (such as poverty, trauma, or mental health)	46	30	48	60	49	42	52	43	46	46	31	40	48
Don't know	5	4	6	5	6	4	7	4	6	4	7	10	4
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

[6] Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
It is more important to reduce gun violence.	59	86	58	32	62	55	57	60	56	63	71	68	56
It is more important to protect the second amendment.	35	9	34	62	30	41	33	36	37	32	20	20	38
Don't know	6	5	8	6	8	4	10	5	7	5	9	12	6
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

[7] When thinking about gun violence, which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
In this nation, we simply have to accept gun violence as a reality	11	9	8	16	11	11	15	9	12	10	17	11	10
We can reduce gun violence in this nation if we really want to	81	86	83	75	79	83	75	84	79	84	73	76	83
Don't know	8	5	9	9	9	6	10	6	9	6	10	13	7
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022

## CROSSTABS: ATTITUDES AMONG LIKELY VOTERS TOWARD GUN VIOLENCE & SOLUTIONS

[8] When thinking about responses to gun violence in communities, which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is completely right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a	White
We should provide more resources to community violence intervention workers to stay in touch with victims of violence long-term and connect them to support programs like job readiness and housing.	62	80	59	45	66	57	68	59	59	68	74	71	60
We should not spend more taxpayer money on wasteful social programs and instead simply increase the presence of law enforcement, which is the best response	28	12	28	45	22	35	19	33	31	24	15	16	30
Don't know	10	7	13	10	12	8	13	8	11	8	12	12	9
Weighted N	1,311	468	386	457	697	614	428	883	831	480	125	95	1,022