

This Washington Post-Ipsos poll was conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2022, among a random national sample of 2,104 gun owners, including 399 AR-15-style rifle owners. The sample was drawn through Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Results among gun owners overall have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points; the error margin is 5.5 points for the sample of AR-15-style rifle owners. Sampling, field work and data processing were conducted by Ipsos of Washington, D.C.

(Full methodological details appended at the end.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. (AMONG GUN OWNERS) What types of firearms do you own? *Please select all that apply.*

	Handguns, such as pistols or revolvers	Hunting rifles or shotguns	AR-15-style rifles, including any semi-automatic weapon built on a common AR-15 platform	Antique firearms	Other
10/11/22	80	62	20	16	2
AR-15 owners	95	79	100	33	2

2. (AMONG AR-15 OWNERS) In a few words, what are the main reasons you own an AR-15-style rifle?

	10/11/22
Self defense/Protect home/self/family	33
Fun/Recreation/Sport or hobby shooting	15
Target shooting/Take to range/Competition	15
Second Amendment/It's my right/Because I can	12
Hunting	12
Like the way it looks/Like it/Because I want to	9
Easy to use/Simple/Accurate	6
Used one in the military/ as a police officer/Use for work	4
Customizable/Platform/Versatile	4
In case of chaos/Government tyranny	3
Was a gift/Inherited it	2
Collection/Collector	2
Angers liberals/Because people want to ban them/ Because they make other people afraid	2
Other	5
No answer	2

3. (AMONG AR-15 OWNERS) Is each of the following a major reason, minor reason or not a reason why you own an AR-15-style rifle?

10/11/22 - Summary table among AR-15-style rifle owners

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	No opinion
a. Target shooting	60	30	10	0
b. Hunting	18	30	52	0
c. Ease of customizing or modifying the rifle	25	30	45	0
d. Protect self, family and property	65	26	8	*
e. Potential for new laws restricting AR-15 sales	22	28	49	0
f. In case law and order				

breaks down	42	32	26	0
g. It is fun to shoot	63	27	10	*
h. It is important to who I am as an American	36	24	40	*

4. (AMONG AR-15 OWNERS) How often do you fire your AR-15-style rifle(s)?

	Less than once a year	Once or twice a year	A few times a year	About once a month	More than once a month	No op.
10/11/22	22	16	42	10	10	0

5. (AMONG GUN OWNERS) As far as you know, how many of your friends, if any, own an AR-15-style rifle?

	All or most	Some	Only a few	None	No opinion
10/11/22	9	26	27	37	1
AR-15 owners	30	45	20	5	*

6. (AMONG AR-15 OWNERS) In a few words, what do you think are the biggest misunderstandings about AR-15-style rifles in the general public or media?

RESULTS FORTHCOMING WHEN CODING IS COMPLETE

7. (AMONG GUN OWNERS) Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard?

	Never served in military	NET	----- Served in military ----- On active duty for training in Reserves or National Guard	Now on active duty	Active duty in the past but not now	No op.
10/11/22	80	20	1	*	17	*
AR-15 owners	72	28	5	0	23	0

8. (AMONG PEOPLE WHO WERE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY NOW OR IN THE PAST) In military training or combat, did you ever fire an M4 or M16?

	Yes	No	No opinion
10/11/22	81	19	*
AR-15 owners	89	11	0

NET 7/8 among AR-15 owners

	NET	----- Served in military ----- Fired M4 or M16	Didn't fire M4 or M16	No opinion	Never served in military	No opinion
10/11/22	28	25	3	0	72	0

9. (AMONG AR-15 OWNERS WHO USED M4 OR M16 IN MILITARY TRAINING OR COMBAT) Did familiarity with the M4 or M16 increase your interest in owning an AR-15-style rifle?

	Yes	No	No opinion
10/11/22	55	45	0

NET 7/9 among AR-15 owners

	--- Fired M4 or M16 in military --- Increased	Didn't
--	--	--------

		interest	increase	No	Didn't fire	Never served	No
	NET	in AR-15	interest	opinion	M4 or M16	in military	opinion
10/11/22	25	14	11	0	3	72	0

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and Ipsos. It was conducted among a random sample of 2,104 U.S. adults 18 and older who reported they own a gun, of which 399 own an AR-15-style rifle. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. A sample of adults aged 18 years and older were screened for gun ownership and gun owners were asked if they own an AR-15.

The questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked.

Ipsos conducted sampling, interviewing and tabulation for the survey using the KnowledgePanel, a representative panel of adults aged 18 years and over living in the United States. The survey was conducted online among a sample from the KnowledgePanel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households through address-based sampling. Panel members who do not have internet access are provided with a tablet and internet service.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples. The general population adult sample was weighted to match the makeup of the population geodemographics to the sources below. The gun owner weight was then scaled to the number of respondents.

Source	Benchmarks
U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey (ACS)	Sex, region, metropolitan status, age, education, household income
U.S. Census Bureau's March 2022 Current Population Survey supplement (CPS)	Metropolitan status
Washington Post-ABC News telephone polls	Political party affiliation

The margin of sampling error for the sample of AR-15-style rifle owners, including the design effect is plus or minus 5.5 percentage points. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.2. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

