

Support for Gun Control Is High, but No Higher

Support for tougher gun control legislation remains high in the aftermath of the summer's shootings – but no higher than it's been for several years.

Sixty-three percent of Americans favor stricter gun control laws in the latest ABC News poll, right about where it's been, on average, in polls the past decade. The number peaked at 67 percent in May, a month after the Columbine High School shootings.

	Stricter Gun Control Laws	
	Favor	Oppose
8/15/99	63%	34
5/16/99	67	31
10/13/93	64	33
6/8/89	60	34

STRENGTH – Intensity of support also remains high; 46 percent of Americans "strongly" support tougher gun control, twice as many as "strongly" oppose it. Strong support peaked at 55 percent in May; it was much lower, 28 percent, 10 years ago.

GROUPS – There's a partisan tint to these views: While 52 percent of Republicans favor tougher gun laws, that rises to 81 percent of Democrats. Nonetheless, tougher laws get majority support in all age, income, race and education groups. And support remains much higher among women (73 percent) than men (51 percent).

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Aug. 11-15, 1999, among a random national sample of 1,023 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Field work by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Daniel Merkle.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

7. Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in this country? Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opin.
8/15/99	63	46	16	34	22	12	3
5/16/99	67	55	12	31	21	10	1
10/13/93*	64	40	24	33	20	13	3
6/8/89*	60	28	32	34	23	11	6

*Gallup: "Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose enacting tougher gun control laws?"