

Table 2.75

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent reporting having any firearms)

	1973	1974	1976	1977	1980	1982	1984	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1996
National	47%	46%	47%	51%	48%	45%	45%	44%	46%	40%	46%	43%	40%	42%	41%	40%
Sex																
Male	53	51	52	55	56	54	53	54	51	50	55	53	50	53	50	47
Female	43	42	43	47	41	39	40	36	43	33	39	34	32	34	33	34
Race																
White	49	48	58	53	50	48	48	46	49	43	50	45	42	45	44	44
Black/other	38	32	37	34	29	30	30	29	33	28	23	29	29	26	24	24
Age																
18 to 20 years	50	34	38	54	48	51	44	39	43	33	35	40	22	48	42	35
21 to 29 years	43	48	45	45	48	41	37	40	35	34	33	34	36	38	34	32
30 to 49 years	51	49	52	55	50	51	48	48	51	42	48	46	40	44	41	39
50 years and older	46	44	44	49	46	44	49	44	47	42	50	42	42	42	43	47
Education^a																
College	45	42	44	45	41	39	42	40	43	37	41	37	34	38	38	38
High school graduate	50	48	50	54	51	51	48	49	50	43	51	47	46	46	44	46
Less than high school graduate	44	49	42	51	51	41	43	38	44	39	46	47	39	47	37	38
Income																
\$50,000 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	49	52	49
\$30,000 to \$49,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	48	50	44
\$20,000 to \$29,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	44	38	44
Under \$20,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	32	28	26
Occupation																
Professional/business	48	45	46	48	45	42	42	40	45	39	46	38	35	38	38	39
Clerical	42	43	40	49	45	39	41	40	45	37	37	38	35	36	36	40
Manual	48	48	48	52	48	49	48	48	46	41	52	50	47	51	45	43
Farmer	83	79	62	66	81	77	84	78	75	82	87	83	56	68	67	67
Region																
Northeast	22	27	29	32	27	32	32	28	31	25	32	30	28	29	26	24
Midwest	51	49	48	53	52	48	44	48	46	41	46	44	42	41	46	42
South	62	59	60	62	59	52	52	53	55	47	53	52	50	52	48	48
West	47	42	44	46	44	47	49	40	47	42	48	39	32	39	35	39
Religion																
Protestant	56	52	53	57	56	52	52	50	52	46	53	48	46	47	46	46
Catholic	35	37	36	39	36	36	34	35	36	31	36	36	30	36	34	34
Jewish	14	7	26	17	6	11	22	9	25	0	18	6	10	9	18	11
None	32	40	43	50	39	37	36	44	39	41	36	34	31	37	32	35
Politics																
Republican	53	49	50	56	53	50	56	47	51	46	50	48	42	51	49	49
Democrat	44	45	45	49	46	44	42	47	44	39	43	40	41	35	37	35
Independent	49	47	48	50	47	44	40	39	44	36	46	42	37	42	39	38

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.