

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crime Protection Main Reason for NC Gun Ownership

Raleigh, N.C. – More than one-half of registered voters in North Carolina keep a gun in their homes, the newest survey from Public Policy Polling finds.

Of these gun owners, 76% keep their firearms to protect themselves or their families from criminals, and 60% have guns for recreational purposes like hunting.

PPP's survey also finds that the presence of young children does not make a difference as to whether North Carolinians keep firearms in their homes. Of the respondents who said they have children under 16 in their homes, 48% reported owning guns.

By community, the highest rate of gun ownership is found in rural areas, with 67% of respondents reporting they keep firearms in their home. However, significantly more gun owners in urban areas – 85% compared to the overall 76% – reported owning them for protection against criminals.

“People living in places with higher crime rates, specifically large cities, have greater concerns about becoming crime victims,” said Katherine Rumbaugh, a spring fellow with Public Policy Polling. “Among African Americans, who are more likely to live in urban areas, 83% of those who own guns said they keep them for protection against crime.”

In comparison, 74% of white gun owners report keeping firearms in their homes as a protective measure.

By political party, nearly two-thirds of Republicans reported owning firearms, while only 41% of Democrats did.

PPP surveyed 1105 North Carolina voters from February 6th to 8th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.95%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Katherine Rumbaugh at (919)-451-2694.

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North Carolina Survey Results

- Q1** Do you have any children under the age of 16 living in your home? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.
- Yes 31%
 - No 69%
- Q2** Are you a member of any pro-gun ownership organizations, such as the National Rifle Association? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.
- Yes 10%
 - No 89%
 - Not Sure 0%
- Q3** Do you keep a handgun, shotgun, or other firearm in your home? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.
- Yes 52%
 - No 48%
- Q4** Do you keep a firearm in your home for protection from criminals? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.
- Yes 76%
 - No 24%
 - Not Sure 0%
- Q5** Do you keep a firearm in your home for recreational purposes, such as hunting? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.
- Yes 60%
 - No 40%
 - Not Sure 0%
- Q6** Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election? If Barack Obama, press 1. If John McCain, press 2. If other, press 3.
- Barack Obama 48%
 - John McCain 45%
 - Other 6%
- Q7** Would you describe the community you live in as urban, suburban, rural, or a small town? If urban, press 1. If suburban, press 2. If rural, press 3. If a small town, press 4.
- Urban 17%
 - Suburban 30%
 - Rural 30%
 - Small Town 24%
- Q8** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.
- Woman 53%
 - Man 47%
- Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.
- Democrat 48%
 - Republican 35%
 - Independent/Other 17%
- Q10** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.
- White 75%
 - African-American 22%
 - Other 3%





Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29.....	12%
30 to 45.....	26%
46 to 65.....	40%
Older than 65.....	22%

Q12

252.....	13%
336.....	21%
704.....	20%
828.....	13%
910.....	13%
919.....	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
Pro-Gun Organizations			
Yes	10%	11%	10%
No	89%	89%	90%
Not Sure	0%	0%	1%

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
Gun in Home			
Yes	52%	48%	54%
No	48%	52%	46%

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
Protection from Criminals			
Yes	76%	73%	77%
No	24%	26%	23%
Not Sure	0%	1%	0%

	Base	Children	
		Yes	No
Recreational Purposes			
Yes	60%	63%	58%
No	40%	36%	42%
Not Sure	0%	1%	0%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
Pro-Gun Organizations				
Yes	10%	4%	16%	18%
No	89%	95%	84%	81%
Not Sure	0%	0%	0%	1%

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
Gun in Home				
Yes	52%	40%	65%	53%
No	48%	60%	35%	47%

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
Protection from Criminals				
Yes	76%	75%	76%	79%
No	24%	25%	23%	21%
Not Sure	0%	0%	1%	-

	Base	2008 Presidential Election		
		Barack Obama	John McCain	Other
Recreational Purposes				
Yes	60%	51%	64%	68%
No	40%	49%	35%	32%
Not Sure	0%	-	1%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
Pro-Gun Organizations					
Yes	10%	7%	7%	16%	9%
No	89%	92%	92%	83%	91%
Not Sure	0%	0%	0%	1%	-

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
Gun in Home					
Yes	52%	48%	41%	67%	50%
No	48%	52%	59%	33%	50%

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
Protection from Criminals					
Yes	76%	85%	72%	79%	69%
No	24%	15%	28%	20%	31%
Not Sure	0%	-	-	1%	1%

	Base	Community			
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	Small Town
Recreational Purposes					
Yes	60%	62%	55%	64%	56%
No	40%	38%	45%	36%	44%
Not Sure	0%	-	-	1%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pro-Gun Organizations			
Yes	10%	8%	13%
No	89%	92%	86%
Not Sure	0%	0%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gun in Home			
Yes	52%	45%	60%
No	48%	55%	40%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Protection from Criminals			
Yes	76%	69%	82%
No	24%	30%	18%
Not Sure	0%	1%	-

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Recreational Purposes			
Yes	60%	53%	65%
No	40%	46%	35%
Not Sure	0%	1%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Pro-Gun Organizations				
Yes	10%	5%	16%	13%
No	89%	95%	83%	87%
Not Sure	0%	1%	0%	-

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gun in Home				
Yes	52%	41%	65%	55%
No	48%	59%	35%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Protection from Criminals				
Yes	76%	76%	75%	78%
No	24%	24%	25%	20%
Not Sure	0%	0%	-	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Recreational Purposes				
Yes	60%	56%	65%	55%
No	40%	44%	35%	43%
Not Sure	0%	-	-	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Pro-Gun Organizations				
Yes	10%	12%	5%	11%
No	89%	88%	93%	89%
Not Sure	0%	0%	1%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gun in Home				
Yes	52%	56%	40%	36%
No	48%	44%	60%	64%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Protection from Criminals				
Yes	76%	74%	83%	74%
No	24%	25%	17%	26%
Not Sure	0%	1%	-	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Recreational Purposes				
Yes	60%	62%	51%	45%
No	40%	38%	49%	55%
Not Sure	0%	0%	-	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pro-Gun Organizations					
Yes	10%	6%	10%	12%	10%
No	89%	92%	90%	88%	90%
Not Sure	0%	2%	-	0%	0%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gun in Home					
Yes	52%	44%	48%	58%	48%
No	48%	56%	52%	42%	52%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Protection from Criminals					
Yes	76%	77%	75%	77%	74%
No	24%	23%	24%	23%	25%
Not Sure	0%	-	1%	-	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Recreational Purposes					
Yes	60%	64%	63%	61%	49%
No	40%	36%	36%	39%	50%
Not Sure	0%	-	1%	-	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Pro-Gun Organizations							
Yes	10%	10%	11%	11%	9%	9%	11%
No	89%	88%	89%	89%	91%	90%	89%
Not Sure	0%	2%	0%	-	-	1%	0%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gun in Home							
Yes	52%	51%	52%	48%	57%	57%	50%
No	48%	49%	48%	52%	43%	43%	50%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Protection from Criminals							
Yes	76%	81%	78%	83%	74%	70%	68%
No	24%	18%	22%	17%	24%	30%	32%
Not Sure	0%	2%	-	-	2%	-	-

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Recreational Purposes							
Yes	60%	62%	65%	50%	58%	62%	59%
No	40%	36%	35%	50%	41%	38%	41%
Not Sure	0%	2%	-	-	1%	-	-

