

FIREARMS CONTROL HAS WIDE BACKING

Gallup Surveys Find 67% Favor Gun Registration

The Gallup Poll said yesterday that 67 per cent of the Americans it had polled favored the registration of all firearms and that this finding was consistent with its surveys over the last three decades showing similar majorities supporting such legislation.

All major segments of the population—among gun owners as well as non-gunowners—were found to support registration of shotguns, rifles and handguns, the polling organization said.

The Gallup organization said that a majority of persons living in high crime areas—large cities and in the East—favored banning the possession of handguns by anyone except the police or other authorized persons.

However, the poll found that persons living outside the East and in smaller communities opposed such a ban. Nationally, it was said, 55 per cent thought there should not be a law forbidding the possession of handguns by private citizens, while 41 per cent said they would favor such a law.

The findings showed support for such handgun legislation highest among women, persons with a college background, Easterners and persons living in largest cities of the country.

The following question was asked in the survey: "Do you

favor or oppose the registration of all firearms?" Following are the results nationwide, by key groups and by gunowners and non-gunowners:

	Favor Registration	Oppose Registration	No Opinion
Nationwide	67%	27%	6%
Men	61	33	6
Women	72	22	6
College Background	73	22	5
High School	68	27	5
Grade School	57	33	10
East	74	20	6
Midwest	64	31	5
South	66	28	6
West	63	33	4
City size:			
1 million & over	81	15	4
500,000-999,999	77	17	6
50,000-499,999	71	25	4
2,500-49,999	64	30	6
Under 2,500	50	42	8
Gunowners	55	39	6
Non-gunowners	76	18	6

The police said that analysis of the findings had shown that outside the high-crime areas—the East and the nation's largest cities—all major groups opposed the banning of handguns, with two exceptions. Among women and persons with a college background, opinion was closely divided.

The findings follow:

	Should Be Law Forbidding Possession	Should Not Be	No Opinion
Nationwide	41%	55%	4%
East	58	37	5
Midwest	44	53	3
South	27	69	4
West	29	65	6
City size:			
1 million & over	66	29	5
500,000-999,999	44	53	3
50,000-499,999	40	55	5
2,500-49,999	36	58	6
Under 2,500	28	69	3
Men	35	62	3
Women	46	49	5
College background	49	47	4
High school	39	57	4
Grade school	39	57	4
Gunowners	24	74	2
Non-gunowners	54	40	6

More than four in 10 households in the United States (44 per cent) were found to have at least one gun. The highest proportion of households had a shotgun (26 per cent) or rifle (also 26 per cent), followed by pistol or handgun (18 per cent).

Gun ownership was highest in the nation's smaller commu-

nities and in the South, where a majority of residents (58 per cent) said there was some kind of gun in their homes.

The results reported yesterday were based on two nationwide surveys of adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities in the nation. The first survey was conducted March 7-10 with 1,542 persons; the second was conducted March 28-31 with 1,566 persons.

Police Benefit Recipients