



ROGER

Use of Gun Safes and Other Safe Storage Practices in the United States

Stop Soldier Suicide partnered with Ipsos to explore the behaviors of firearm owners in the United States. We aimed to more deeply understand the approaches participants are currently taking to secure their weapons, what new methods of gun safety they may be willing to utilize, and what might motivate them to change their current behaviors. We included questions in the February Omnibus¹ survey of the Ipsos KnowledgePanel. A total of 1,017 respondents, with representation from all 50 states, completed the survey. For this analysis, we restricted our sample to all participants who own or have access to a firearm (n=363, or 34.3% of all respondents).

WHO IS USING A GUN SAFE, CASE, OR LOCK BOX?

Among all participants who had access to a firearm, 59.1% reported use of a gun case, safe, or lockbox.

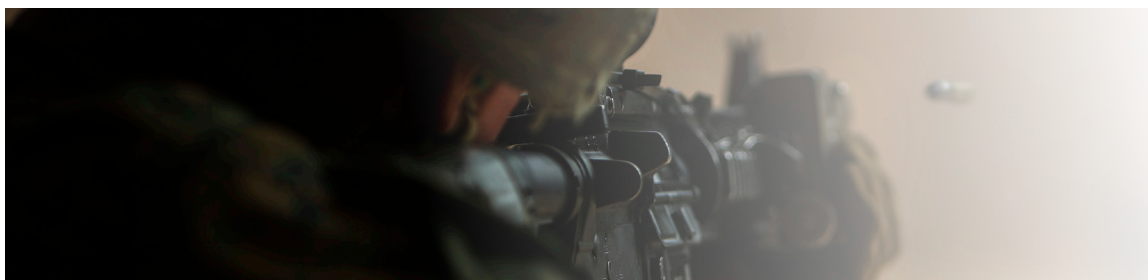
Those that were statistically **most** likely to practice safe storage using a gun safe, case, or lockbox were:

- Those with a Bachelor's or Master's degree
- Those with children under the age of 18 at home

Those that were statistically **least** likely to practice safe storage using a gun safe, case, or lockbox were:

- Those over the age of 60
- Those in buildings with 2+ apartments
- Those who are widowed
- Those who report being currently unemployed

However, we did find that the likelihood of utilizing this storage method does not vary by sex, political affiliation, urbanicity, race/ethnicity, income level, or geographical region.



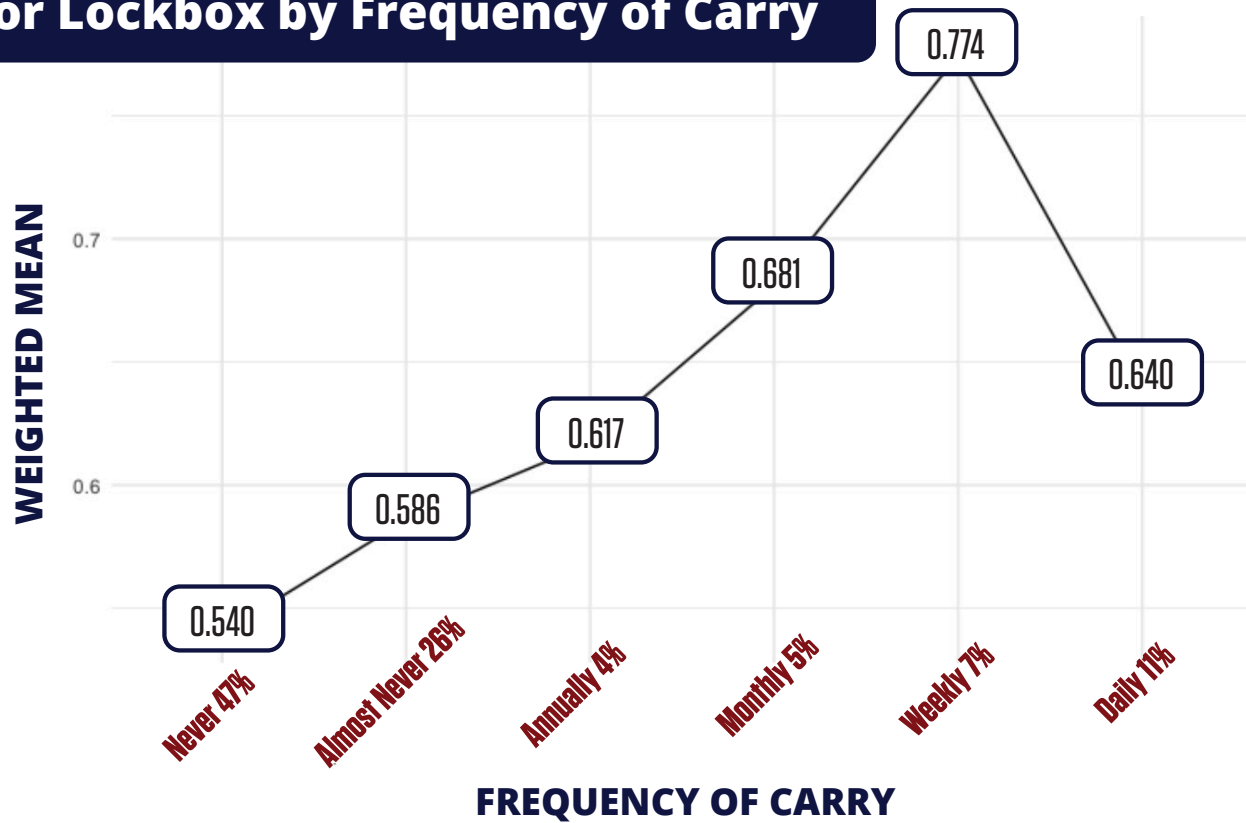
GROUPING	CATEGORY (% of Participants)	% USING GUN SAFE, CASE, OR LOCKBOX	STATISTICAL COMPARISON (ESTIMATE, 95% CONFIDENT INTERVAL)
SEX	Male (60%)	59.1%	Reference
	Female (40%)	59.0%	-0.001, 95% CI [-0.454, 0.451]
AGE	18-25 (7%)	73.7%	Reference
	26-40 (23%)	66.1%	-0.359, 95% CI [-1.344, 0.627]
	41-60 (35%)	60.1%	-0.618, 95% CI [-1.551, 0.315]
	> 60 (35%)	50.5%	-1.007, 95% CI [-1.953, -0.060]*
POLITICAL PARTY	Republican (40%)	61.6%	Reference
	Independent (34%)	57.2%	-0.183, 95% CI [-0.698, 0.331]
	Democrat (17%)	56.7%	-0.201, 95% CI [-0.859, 0.456]
	Something else (9%)	59.7%	-0.081, 95% CI [-0.899, 0.738]
URBANICITY	Urban (27%)	58.0%	Reference
	Suburban (47%)	59.9%	0.079, 95% CI [-0.468, 0.627]
	Rural (27%)	58.7%	0.032, 95% CI [-0.574, 0.637]
EDUCATION	No high school diploma or GED (6%)	33.2%	Reference
	High school grad (31%)	56.9%	0.979, 95% CI [-0.133, 2.091]
	Some college or associates (31%)	56.2%	0.949, 95% CI [-0.158, 2.056]
	Bachelor's (19%)	64.1%	1.281, 95% CI [0.139, 2.423]*
RACE/ETHNICITY	Single Family Home (85%)	61.1%	Reference
	Other (mobile home, boat, etc) (3%)	49.0%	-0.489, 95% CI [-1.620, 0.641]
	One Family Condo or Townhouse (7%)	56.1%	-0.205, 95% CI [-1.196, 0.785]
	Building with 2+ Apartments (6%)	39.0%	-0.898, 95% CI [-1.779, -0.017]*
HOUSING TYPE	Single Family Home (85%)	61.1%	Reference
	Other (mobile home, boat, etc) (3%)	49.0%	-0.489, 95% CI [-1.620, 0.641]
	One Family Condo or Townhouse (7%)	56.1%	-0.205, 95% CI [-1.196, 0.785]
	Building with 2+ Apartments (6%)	39.0%	-0.898, 95% CI [-1.779, -0.017]*
INCOME	< \$10,000 (2%)	56.8%	Reference
	\$10,000 - \$24,999 (7%)	40.2%	-0.674, 95% CI [-2.421, 1.073]
	\$25,000 - \$49,999 (12%)	45.0%	-0.476, 95% CI [-2.133, 1.182]
	\$50,000 - \$74,999 (16%)	52.2%	-0.187, 95% CI [-1.806, 1.431]
	\$75,000 - \$99,999 (15%)	54.8%	-0.082, 95% CI [-1.727, 1.562]
	\$100,000 - \$149,999 (22%)	67.8%	0.471, 95% CI [-1.140, 2.081]
	> \$150,000 (26%)	70.2%	0.581, 95% CI [-1.021, 2.182]
MARITAL STATUS	Married (62%)	63.1%	Reference
	Widowed (5%)	35.2%	-1.144, 95% CI [-2.221, -0.067]*
	Never Married (21%)	54.9%	-0.337, 95% CI [-0.896, 0.221]
	Divorced (10%)	56.4%	-0.277, 95% CI [-0.992, 0.437]
	Separated (2%)	57.3%	-0.239, 95% CI [-2.110, 1.631]
REGION	Northeast (12%)	54.0%	Reference
	West (19%)	59.1%	-0.261, 95% CI [-1.098, 0.575]
	Midwest (24%)	65.8%	0.025, 95% CI [-0.777, 0.827]
	South (46%)	65.3%	-0.468, 95% CI [-1.195, 0.258]
EMPLOYMENT	Working full-time (53%)	63.3%	Reference
	Working part-time (10%)	66.4%	0.138, 95% CI [-0.618, 0.893]
	Not working (37%)	51.1%	-0.500, 95% CI [-0.978, -0.021]*
KIDS UNDER 18	No (70%)	54.6%	Reference
	Yes (30%)	69.7%	0.649, 95% CI [0.140, 1.160]*

Note: Percentages and estimates are weighted to be nationally representative. Negative values in the "Statistical Comparison" column indicate that category is less likely than the reference group to use a gun safe, case, or lockbox. Statistical significance was calculated using generalized linear models. Level of significance is indicated with an asterisk (* $p < 0.05$).

HOW DOES FREQUENCY OF CARRYING A FIREARM RELATE TO THE USE OF A GUN SAFE, CASE, OR LOCKBOX?

We do see a general trend that as the frequency of carrying increases, so does the likelihood of using a gun safe, case, or lockbox. Those who do not carry report use of a gun safe, case or lockbox at a rate of 54%. That increases as carrying frequency increases from almost never, to yearly, monthly and weekly (58.6%, 61.7%, 68.1% and 77.4% respectively). The exception to that trend is when participants indicate they carry daily, where we see the likelihood of gun safe, case or lockbox use decrease back to 64%.

Proportion of Owners Using a Gun Case, Safe, or Lockbox by Frequency of Carry



WHAT OTHER SAFE STORAGE MEANS DO YOU USE, AND WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO USE?

Particularly for those participants that do not report using gun safes, cases, and lockboxes; we explored what alternatives they are currently using or they may be willing to consider.

- The most commonly reported secondary safety measures were keeping all firearms unloaded, locking up ammunition separate from firearms, and the use of a trigger or cable lock.
- While motion alarms for gun access are not currently easily found on the market, between 12 and 17% of participants indicate a willingness to use one. The instances of sensors for self-aiming or close range were less commonly accepted (between 5 and 7%).
- Participants were least willing to disassemble firearms and store parts separately and to entrust keys or firearm parts to a trusted person or organization.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

	Those who DO NOT use gun safes, cases, or lockboxes		All participants	
	Currently Using	Willing to use	Currently Using	Willing to use
Keeping all firearms unloaded	44.5%	27.1%	51.2%	23.5%
Locking up ammunition separate from firearms	27.1%	13.7%	38.1%	15.4%
A cable or trigger lock	17.2%	15.5%	22.1%	17.2%
Disassembling firearms and storing parts separately	5.8%	2.1%	6.5%	2.8%
Entrusting keys or firearm parts to a trusted person or organization	1.9%	2.6%	5.7%	3.1%
Firearm sensor for close range or self-aiming	0.8%	5.7%	1.1%	7.8%
Motion alarm or notifications for firearm access	0.6%	12.4%	2.8%	17.6%
Using other safety measures not listed here	4.6%	2.6%	3.1%	3.7%

WHAT WOULD MOTIVATE YOU TO LOCK UP YOUR FIREARMS?

50% of participants who own firearms somewhat or strongly agreed that they plan to always keep at least one firearm unlocked, and none of the listed options were motivations for changes in gun safety behavior.

Of participants who do not currently report the use of a gun safe, case, or lockbox, the most likely scenarios to influence a change in behavior were if someone in the home was struggling with mental or physical health (~95% somewhat or strongly agree) and if they had kids at home (~93% somewhat or strongly agree).

