Ipsos Public Affairs

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Interview dates: April 9-12, 2012
Base: 1,922 Americans

Ipsos Poll conducted for Reuters, April 2012
Gun Rights/Regulations Poll
NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from April 9th – 12th, 2012. For the survey, a sample of 1,922 Americans was interviewed online, including 650 Republicans, 752 Democrats, 520 Independents, 1289 Caucasians, 219 African Americans and 267 Hispanics. The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points for all respondents. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, ethnicity and a political values scale. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Figures marked by an asterisk (*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of a per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

FAVORABILITY TOWARDS ORGANIZATIONS

Q1. Thinking about several prominent organization in the United States, is your opinion of each of these organizations generally favorable or unfavorable?

National Rifle Association (NRA)

	Total	*Repub*	*Dem*	*Indep*	*White*	*Black*	*Hisp*
Very favorable	27	38	18	26	30	19	22
Somewhat favorable	17	23	15	13	17	19	18
Lean towards favorable	24	21	22	29	23	20	30
Lean towards unfavorable	15	13	17	16	14	17	16
Somewhat unfavorable	7	3	9	8	6	7	7
Very unfavorable	10	2	19	7	10	18	6
Total favorable	**68**	**82**	**55**	**68**	**70**	**58**	**70**
Total unfavorable	**32**	**18**	**45**	**32**	**30**	**42**	**29**

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

	Total	*Repub*	*Dem*	*Indep*	*White*	*Black*	*Hisp*
Very favorable	19	5	34	15	11	65	23
Somewhat favorable	18	11	24	17	16	21	25
Lean towards favorable	27	27	26	30	29	10	31
Lean towards unfavorable	18	25	11	19	22	1	12
Somewhat unfavorable	8	14	2	7	9	2	5
Very unfavorable	10	19	3	11	13	2	5
Total favorable	**64**	**43**	**84**	**62**	**56**	**96**	**79**
Total unfavorable	**36**	**58**	**16**	**37**	**44**	**5**	**22**

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Very favorable	17	5	31	14	13	42	17
Somewhat favorable	17	11	22	17	14	23	28
Lean towards favorable	30	21	31	39	30	24	35
Lean towards unfavorable	15	19	11	16	17	9	13
Somewhat unfavorable	7	13	3	4	9	1	--
Very unfavorable	15	32	2	11	18	2	8
Total favorable	**64**	**37**	**84**	**70**	**57**	**89**	**80**
Total unfavorable	**36**	**64**	**16**	**31**	**44**	**12**	**21**

AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons)

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Very favorable	28	17	41	24	25	55	23
Somewhat favorable	25	24	28	23	25	25	28
Lean towards favorable	27	27	22	34	27	17	33
Lean towards unfavorable	9	13	6	9	10	1	11
Somewhat unfavorable	4	7	2	2	5	1	1
Very unfavorable	7	12	2	7	9	1	3
Total favorable	**81**	**68**	**91**	**81**	**77**	**97**	**84**
Total unfavorable	**19**	**32**	**10**	**18**	**24**	**3**	**15**

GUN RIGHTS

Q2. When thinking about gun ownership rights and gun laws, which of the following comes closest to your personal opinion?

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Gun ownership should have strong regulations or restrictions	42	27	57	39	38	57	48
Gun ownership should have moderate regulations or restrictions	21	20	21	22	20	19	31
Gun ownership should have basic regulations or restrictions	27	40	17	26	31	19	16
Gun ownership should have no or very few restrictions	6	11	2	7	8	--	3
Unsure	4	3	4	7	4	5	2
More regulation	**63**	**47**	**78**	**61**	**58**	**76**	**79**
Less regulation	**23**	**51**	**19**	**33**	**39**	**19**	**19**

Q3. Do you support or oppose the following laws or regulations?

Laws allowing law-abiding citizens to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	49	57	46	46	51	47	46
Somewhat support	56	25	26	26	25	28	29
Somewhat oppose	12	9	14	12	11	12	15
Strongly oppose	8	7	11	6	8	5	5
Unsure	5	3	4	10	4	8	5
Total support	**75**	**82**	**72**	**72**	**76**	**75**	**75**
Total oppose	**13**	**16**	**25**	**18**	**19**	**17**	**20**

Laws allowing citizens to use deadly force to protect themselves from danger in their own home

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	62	74	53	59	65	48	60
Somewhat support	26	19	32	25	26	31	23
Somewhat oppose	6	2	8	6	4	11	5
Strongly oppose	3	3	4	1	2	6	7
Unsure	4	2	2	9	4	5	5
Total support	**87**	**93**	**85**	**84**	**91**	**79**	**83**
Total oppose	**9**	**5**	**12**	**7**	**6**	**17**	**12**

Laws allowing citizens to use deadly force to protect themselves from danger in public places

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	33	42	27	32	34	19	43
Somewhat support	34	34	32	34	35	37	26
Somewhat oppose	17	12	22	17	18	24	9
Strongly oppose	10	8	14	6	8	15	14
Unsure	7	5	5	11	6	6	9
Total support	**67**	**76**	**59**	**66**	**69**	**56**	**69**
Total oppose	**27**	**20**	**36**	**23**	**26**	**39**	**23**

Laws limiting the sale of automatic weapons (i.e. machine guns)

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	54	42	66	49	54	51	52
Somewhat support	20	27	14	19	20	25	19
Somewhat oppose	11	13	9	11	11	9	15
Strongly oppose	11	13	9	10	10	10	11
Unsure	5	4	2	11	5	5	3
Total support	**74**	**69**	**80**	**68**	**74**	**76**	**71**
Total oppose	**22**	**26**	**18**	**21**	**21**	**19**	**26**

Laws allowing law-abiding citizen to bring a firearm into a church, workplace or retail establishment

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	16	19	15	13	15	15	21
Somewhat support	17	22	13	16	18	15	13
Somewhat oppose	21	23	16	24	23	20	11
Strongly oppose	41	31	52	37	39	44	49
Unsure	6	5	5	10	6	7	6
Total support	**32**	**41**	**28**	**29**	**33**	**30**	**34**
Total oppose	**62**	**54**	**68**	**61**	**62**	**64**	**60**

Laws requiring background checks before allowing the sale of a firearm

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	77	77	81	70	80	74	68
Somewhat support	15	17	12	15	13	16	21
Somewhat oppose	4	3	3	6	3	3	9
Strongly oppose	2	1	1	2	2	3	--
Unsure	3	2	2	7	3	5	2
Total support	**91**	**94**	**93**	**85**	**93**	**90**	**89**
Total oppose	**6**	**4**	**4**	**8**	**5**	**6**	**9**

Laws limiting the number of guns one person can purchase in a particular time frame

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly support	48	34	62	42	43	63	55
Somewhat support	21	26	17	23	21	24	23
Somewhat oppose	12	16	8	12	14	7	6
Strongly oppose	15	21	9	15	17	1	14
Unsure	5	4	4	8	5	6	2
Total support	**69**	**60**	**79**	**65**	**64**	**87**	**78**
Total oppose	**16**	**37**	**17**	**27**	**31**	**8**	**20**

Q4. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Select one per row)

Crime rates are going up in my community

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly agree	19	18	17	21	16	24	31
Somewhat agree	28	28	30	25	28	22	32
Neither agree nor disagree	33	30	33	37	35	32	23
Somewhat disagree	15	18	15	12	16	14	13
Strongly disagree	5	6	5	4	5	9	1
Total agree	**47**	**46**	**47**	**46**	**44**	**46**	**63**
Total disagree	**20**	**24**	**20**	**16**	**21**	**23**	**14**

Police cannot stop all crime from happening

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly agree	51	51	49	54	52	54	44
Somewhat agree	35	38	38	26	36	30	31
Neither agree nor disagree	11	9	10	16	9	14	20
Somewhat disagree	3	2	3	3	3	1	3
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	2	1	1	2
Total agree	**85**	**89**	**87**	**80**	**88**	**84**	**75**
Total disagree	**4**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**2**	**5**

Regular people need to step up to help prevent crime from happening

	Total	Repub	Dem	Indep	White	Black	Hisp
Strongly agree	35	41	31	35	34	37	41
Somewhat agree	41	43	42	39	44	35	33
Neither agree nor disagree	19	14	22	22	18	21	23
Somewhat disagree	3	2	5	1	3	5	2
Strongly disagree	1	1	*	3	1	2	1
Total agree	**77**	**84**	**73**	**74**	**78**	**72**	**74**
Total disagree	**4**	**3**	**5**	**4**	**4**	**7**	**3**

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility

natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian[1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ($\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on   . Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that a=1 and b=1 and   . Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

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For the poll published on March 30th, 2012, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Analysis Domain	Sample size	Credibility intervals
All Americans	1,922	2.6%
Republicans	650	4.5%
Democrats	752	4.2%
Independents	520	5.0%
Caucasians (non-Hispanic)	1,289	3.2%
African Americans	219	7.7%
Hispanics	267	7.0%

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[1] *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003*

[2] *Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi . Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.*