

Gun-Free Zones: A Second Look

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SAMPLE

- Participants recruited via personal Facebook pages.
- Data collected using an online survey via Qualtrics.
- Anonymous participation.
- Age 18+
- Varying degrees of education and income levels.

RESEARCH QUESTION & HYPOTHESES

- Is there a relationship between criminal gun violence and gun-free zones?
- People who believe that gun-free zones increases the risk of criminal gun violence will be more likely to favor lifting gun-free bans than people who do not believe that gun-free zones increases the risk of criminal gun violence.
- Gun owners will be more likely to say that gun-free zones increase the likelihood of criminal gun violence than non-gun owners.

MEASURES

- Age (years)
- Gender (male/female)
- Marital Status (single/married/divorced)
- Do you have personal defense firearms for protection? (yes/no)
- Are you a Conceal Carry Weapon Permit Holder? (yes/no)
- Opinions about gun-free zones (level of agreement; 0-10, with 0=strongly disagree and 10=strongly agree); see figure for questions



GUN-FREE ZONE

Attention Criminals

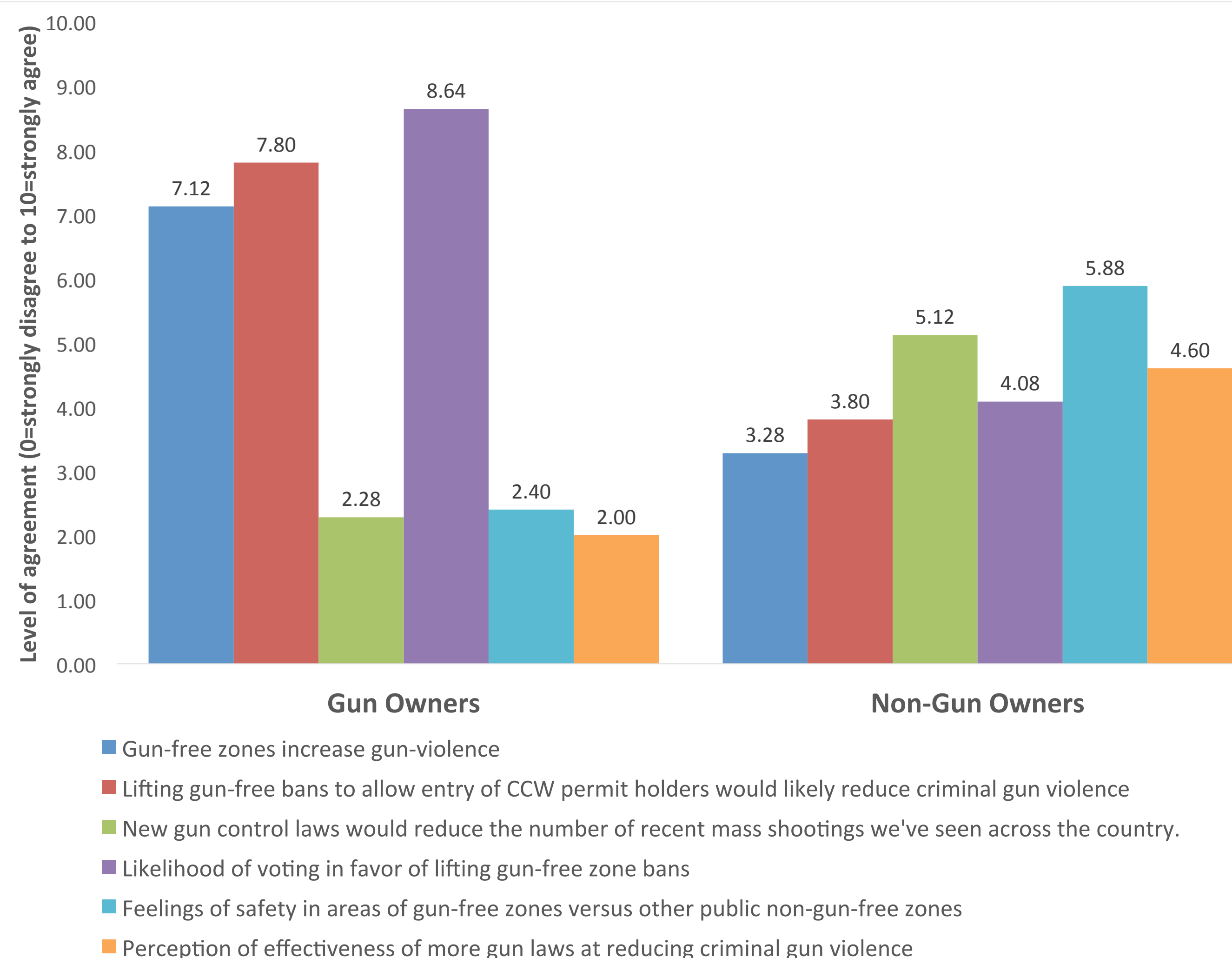
This is a personal defense-free zone

All law-abiding citizens at this establishment have been disarmed for your convenience

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

MEASURES	M (SD) or N (%)
Age	40.44 (12.59)
Gender	
Male	22 (56.0%)
Female	28 (44.0%)
Gun Owner	25 (50.0%)
CCW Permit Holder	17 (34.0%)
Marital Status	
Single	15 (30.0%)
Married	31 (62.0%)
Divorced	4 (8.0%)

GUNOWNERS VS. NON-GUNOWNERS



RESULTS

- People who have personal firearms for defense have higher mean level of agreement with the statement that "gun-free zones increase the likelihood of criminal gun violence ($M=7.12$, $SD=3.50$), compared to people who do not have a personal defense firearm ($M=3.28$, $SD=3.43$), $t(48) = 3.91$, $p<.01$.
- There is a strong positive correlation between agreeing that gun-free zones increase the likelihood of criminal gun violence and likelihood of voting in favor of eliminating gun free zones, $r = .743$, $p<.01$.



DISCUSSION

- Mixed levels of support for lifting gun-free zones or adding more gun control laws.
- Both sides of the issue want the mass shootings to subside but have differing ideas of how to get it done.
- Future research is needed to look at alternative ways of securing schools and protecting children from violent offenders.
- Findings from Arnold (2015), states that Utah does not have gun free zones and have never had issues with mass shootings in their schools throughout the state.

References

Arnold, Grant. Brigham Young University Education & Law Journal. 2015, Issue 2, P481-506. 26p.