

Does gun ownership make for a safer society?

Leyla Tunc reports on the pro-gun campaign in America.

In England gun ownership is controlled and monitored, for example, local police can do house visits to check you are being responsible. However, in some countries such as America this situation is very different.

- **For every 100 people there are 90 guns in the US however in Wales and England combined there is only 6 guns per 100 people.**
- In 2019, 297 mass shootings occurred in the USA.
- **US citizens alone account for 393 million (46%) of the worldwide total of civilian held firearms.**
- 31% of public mass shootings occur in the US, although it has only 5% of the world's population.

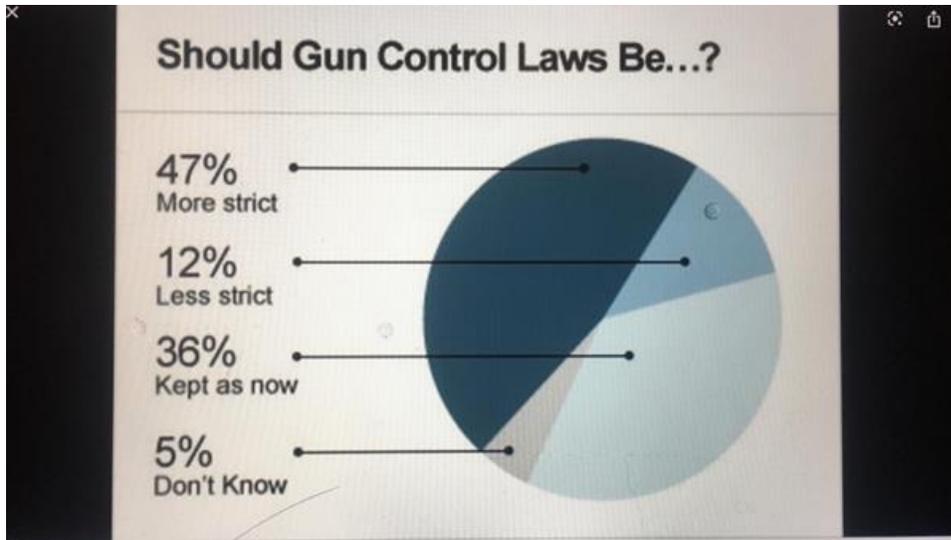
Another key difference is the influence of the National Rifle Association (NRA). The NRA campaign **for** gun ownership and **against** all forms of gun control and argue that more guns make the country safer. Their slogan is “More guns equals more safety”. However, in many people's opinion, more guns do not make the country safer and endanger the lives of US citizens.

Why is the NRA so powerful?

Americans campaign for the NRA because they have been led to believe they have a human right to own a gun. More guns lead to more guns because nobody wants to be the person unarmed - because that would be compromising their safety.

Arguments for and against strict gun laws

Those who think the rules need to be changed say that shootings could be prevented if gun laws were stricter. Many say there should be laws about what types of guns are allowed and background checks should be stricter. However, people who don't want strict gun laws say that it is their right to have one and to be able to protect themselves. Their beliefs also include criminals still having access to guns - and then only the bad have control.



The debate continues...

Every time there is a shooting, the gun law debate starts again. Even the president can't change gun laws, as they would need support from other politicians, who often don't agree. The gun laws in the US are very controversial, as you are either pro or against, there is not an in between. Now that I have given you the facts you can start to form your own opinion on 'does gun ownership make for a safer society'.