

How Access to Firearms Varies by Education and Race

Research Question

- How does access to firearms vary by education levels?
- Does the relationship between gun access and education vary across racial groups?

Significance

- There has been a large increase in mass shooting in the United States over the last several years.
- Government is considering changes to gun policy.
- The United States has the highest rate of civilian gun ownership.

Background

- In 2010, 44 out of 76,000 convicted criminals were able to buy a gun through dealers by providing false information about themselves (Bloomberg, 2013).
- Each year in the U. S., more than 30,000 individuals are killed by guns (homicides, suicides, and unintentional fatalities)—85 deaths per day plus many hundreds of nonfatal injuries (Hoyert, 2012).

Data and Sample

- 2018 General Social Survey
- Collected by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago
- American adults living in households, aged 18+

Dependent Measure

- Do you happen to have in your home (IF HOUSE: or garage) any guns or revolvers?

Yes – 35.1%
No – 64.9%

Independent Measure

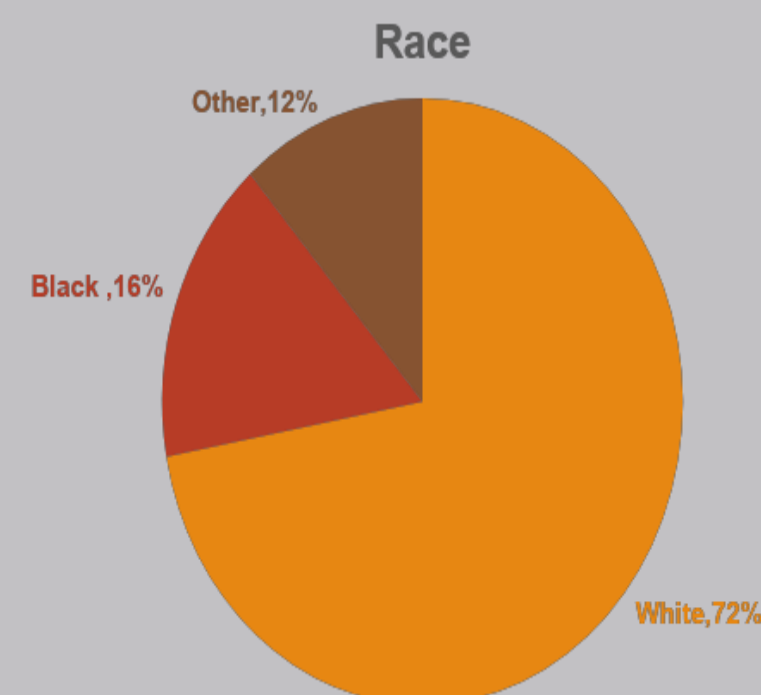
Education

What is the highest grade in school that you finished and got credit for?

- Did not finish high school
- Finished high school
- Some college
- Graduated college
- College plus

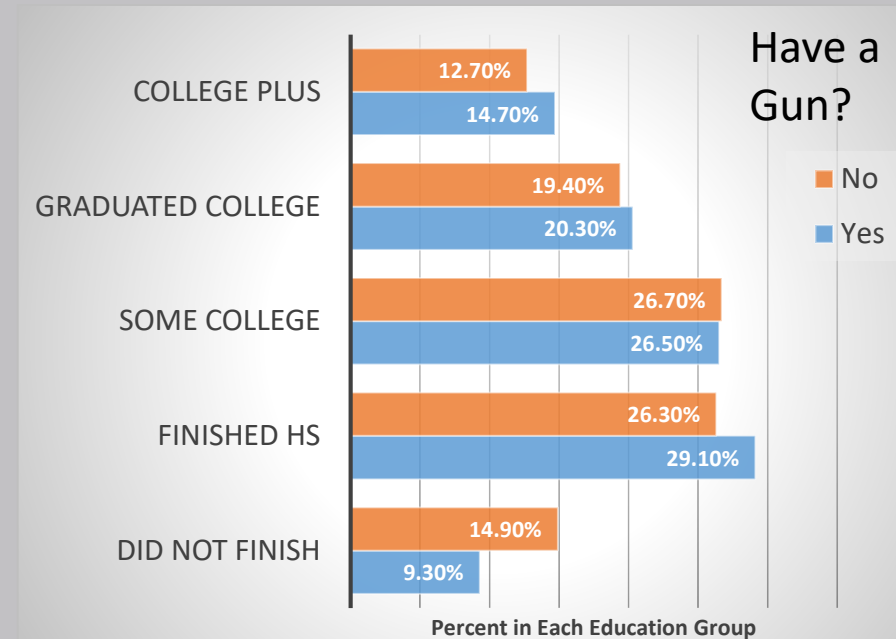
Control Measure

- What race do you consider yourself?

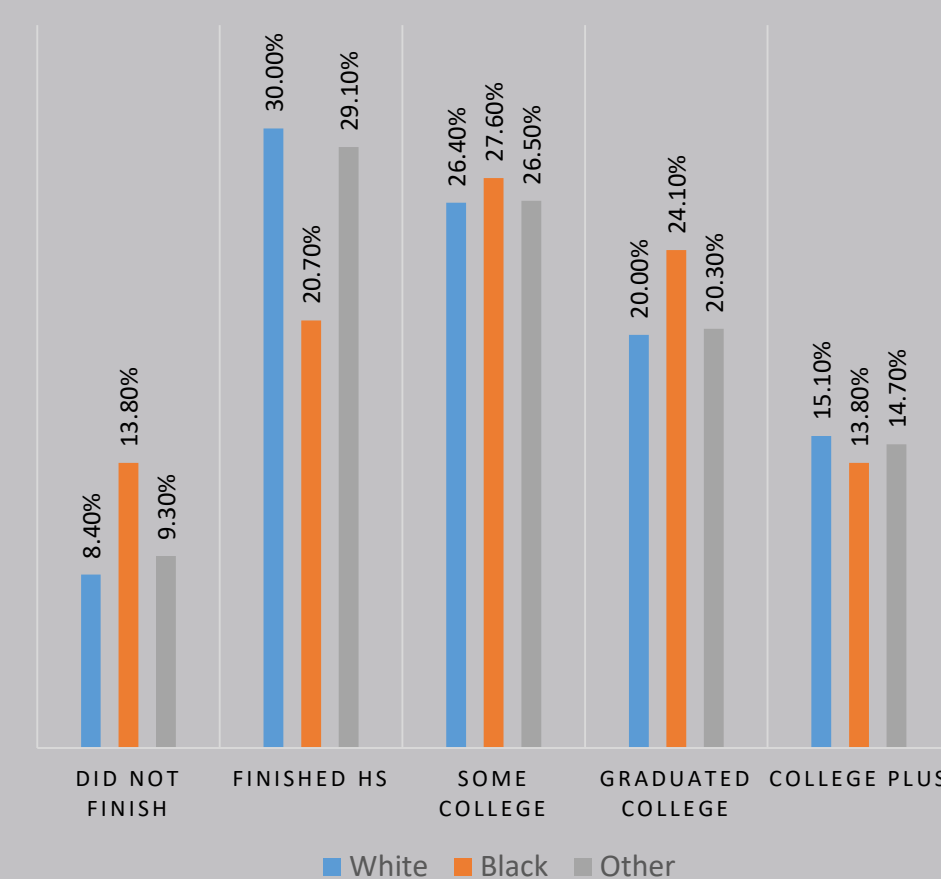


Results

Distribution of Education by Having a Gun in the Home



Percentage with Gun in the Home by Education and Race



Summary and Conclusion

- There is a curvilinear relationship between education and gun access, with lowest access at both high and low levels of education.
- Race does not strongly moderate the relationship between education and gun access.

Future Research and Limitations

- Future research might examine geographic variation in gun access.
- Would the figures be more accurate if they were broken down by specific grade levels?
- Government apportioned funds cannot be used to advocate for gun control, but can be used to conduct research into gun violence.

References

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