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But Handgun Ban Opposed
PUBLIC BACKS CLINTON ON GUN CONTROL

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As concern about crime has supplanted the recession as the public's single greatest worry, Americans express strong support for Bill Clinton's efforts to control the use of handguns. Most also say they would like to see the President challenge the National Rifle Association, which a growing number of Americans feel has too much an influence on gun control laws in this country.

In a nationwide *Times Mirror* survey taken last weekend, 57% approved of Clinton's efforts to curb the use of handguns, while 29% disapproved. Clinton's promise to take on the NRA was applauded in the survey by an even bigger, 61% to 28% margin. The poll found 45% of its' respondents thinking that the NRA had too much to say about gun control laws in this country, up from 39% who expressed that view in an August 1993, *Time Magazine* survey. In the current poll only 15% thought the NRA had too little influence on gun control laws, and 27% believed they have the right amount of influence.

A majority of respondents opposed proposals to ban handguns, while at the same time thinking it is more important to control gun ownership than to protect Americans' rights to own guns. By a 51% to 45% margin, Times Mirror's poll participants opposed a law that would "ban the sale of handguns". An even larger 60% majority expressed opposition to a "law that would make it illegal for ordinary citizens to own handguns, except in special circumstances". Yet, 57% said controlling guns is more important than protecting the right to own guns.

Men and women and blacks and whites have very different views about gun control generally, and about banning handguns, specifically. Women feel overwhelmingly that it is more important to control guns than to protect the right of gun ownership and are divided on banning handguns. Men are overwhelming opposed to banning handguns and divided on the general issue. A greater percentage of blacks than whites think gun control is important and a plurality favored banning handguns.

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
<i>More important to:</i>				
Protect gun owner rights	44	26	37	18
Control Guns	49	64	54	74
DK	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Ban Handguns</i> ¹				
Favor	32	47	38	52
Oppose	65	47	57	46
DK	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
N =	(738)	(741)	(1253)	(141)

Even though most Americans favor greater gun control efforts generally, only 41% think that stricter gun control laws will reduce violent crime a lot. More respondents in the survey (63%) thought that longer jail terms for criminals convicted of violent crimes would be effective. Larger percentages also thought that job programs for inner cities (55%), more police on the streets (53%) and restricting violence on tv (48%) would reduce crime a lot.

¹ Results based on both forms of handgun ban question combined.

Majorities of women, blacks, and Democrats thought that stricter gun control laws would be an effective way of reducing violent crime. Most men, whites and Republicans disagreed with this view. (See Table)

VIEWES ON HOW TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME

(% Saying "A Lot")

	<i>Stricter</i>	<i>More</i>	<i>Jobs Programs</i>	<i>Restrict</i>	
<i>Longer</i>	<i>Gun Control</i>	<i>Police On</i>	<i>For Inner</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Jail Terms</i>
	<i>Laws</i>	<i>Streets</i>	<i>Cities</i>	<i>On TV</i>	<i>For Criminals</i>
<i>Total</i>	41	53	55	48	63
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	29	51	51	38	62
Female	52	55	59	58	65
<i>Race</i>					
White	39	53	53	49	65
Non-white	52	54	65	46	56
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	39	51	58	36	58
30-49	40	52	53	45	62
50+	44	56	55	61	68
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	43	51	52	42	58
Some College	34	51	58	47	64
High School Grad.	44	56	55	51	66
< H.S. grad.	43	53	54	54	65
<i>Family Income</i>					
\$50,000+	39	50	55	43	65
\$30,000-\$49,999	36	56	54	43	64
\$20,000-\$29,999	39	51	48	47	62
< \$20,000	46	53	59	52	63
<i>Region</i>					
East	50	56	52	47	58
Midwest	39	53	56	51	64
South	38	52	56	49	68
West	38	52	55	45	61
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	32	53	50	50	71
Democrat	51	59	61	49	60
Independent	37	49	53	45	60
<i>1992 Vote</i>					
Bush	31	55	48	52	73
Clinton	49	56	64	48	61
Perot	28	45	55	42	62

<i>Longer</i>	<i>Stricter</i>	<i>More</i>	<i>Jobs Programs</i>	<i>Restrict</i>	
	<i>Gun Control</i>	<i>Police On</i>	<i>For Inner</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Jail Terms</i>
	<i>Laws</i>	<i>Streets</i>	<i>Cities</i>	<i>On TV</i>	<i>For Criminals</i>
<i>Political Vocalization</i>					
Regular Listener					
To Talk Radio	33	58	57	47	65
Contacted Washington					
In Past 12 Months	34	49	53	50	64
Both	25	54	54	49	68
Neither	44	53	54	48	63
<i>Gun Ownership</i>					
Owens Gun	28	52	53	47	67
Owens Handgun	27	54	55	49	70

Question: I am going to read some things that might be done to reduce violent crime in this country. For each tell me if you think this would reduce the amount of violent crime a lot, a little or not at all?

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,479 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period December 2-5, 1993. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone households in the U.S. Estimates of the number of telephone households within each county are derived from 1990 Census data on residential telephone incidence that have been updated with state-level information on new telephone installations and county-level projections of the number of households. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample.

At least three attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home". If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who lives in the household". This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 1992). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters. After an optimum sample balancing solution is reached, the weights were constrained to fall within the range of 1 to 5. This constraint is useful to ensure that individual respondents do not exert an inordinate effect on the survey's overall results.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

TIMES MIRROR CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
NEWS INTEREST INDEX
December 2-5, 1993
N=1,479

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I am _____ calling from the Princeton Survey Research Associates from Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and tv stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home (IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?)

MY FIRST QUESTION IS...

Q.17 I am going to read some things that might be done to reduce violent crime in this country. For each tell me if you think this would reduce the amount of violent crime a lot, a little or not at all? Do you think [ROTATE ITEMS] would reduce the amount of violent crime a lot, a little, or not at all?

	<u>A</u> <u>Lot</u>	<u>A</u> <u>Little</u>	Not at <u>All</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Stricter gun control laws =100	41	32	26	1
b. More police on the streets =100	53	38	7	2
c. Jobs programs for inner city areas =100	55	36	6	3
d. Restrictions on the amount of violence shown on TV =100	49	36	14	1
e. Longer jail terms for those convicted of violent crimes =100	63	23	11	3

Q.18 Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Clinton has handled efforts to control the use of handguns?

- 57 Approve
- 29 Disapprove
- 14 Don't know/Refused
- 100

FORM 1:

Q. 19f1 Would you favor or oppose a law that banned the sale of handguns?

45 Favor

51 Oppose

$\frac{4}{100}$ Not sure
(N=750)

FORM 2:

Q. 19f2 Would you favor or oppose a law that would make it illegal for ordinary citizens to own handguns, except in special circumstances?

35 Favor

60 Oppose

$\frac{5}{100}$ Not sure
(N=729)

ASK ALL:

Q. 19B What do you think is more important: to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR, to control gun ownership?

34 Protect American right to own guns

57 Control guns

$\frac{9}{100}$ Not sure

Q. 19C Do you think the National Rifle Association has too much influence, too little influence or, the right amount of influence over gun control laws in this country?

Time/CNN
Aug
1993

45 Too much 39

15 Too little 15

27 Right amount 33

$\frac{13}{100}$ Can't say $\frac{13}{100}$
(N=500)

Q. 19D President Clinton has said he's going to challenge the National Rifle Association on the question of gun control. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

61 Good idea

28 Bad idea

$\frac{11}{100}$ No answer

Q. 32a Do you have any guns in this household?

Q. 32b Is it, or are they, handguns, rifles, shotguns, or what? **[ENTER ALL THAT APPLY]**

45 Yes

% BASED ON TOTAL SAMPLE

24 Handgun

31 Rifle

27 Shotgun

3 Other

2 Don't know/Refused/NO MORE APPLY

53 No - **SKIP TO Q. 33**

$\frac{2}{100}$ Don't know/Refused - **SKIP TO Q. 33**