

The Vanderbilt Child Health poll surveyed 1,034 Tennessee parents with children under 18 years old from November 3 — November 28, 2022. All reported percentages have survey weights applied, so their interpretation can be broadened to all parents in Tennessee. For example, “48.9% of Tennessee parents polled in 2022 reported that they keep any guns in their home or garage.”

Unless otherwise noted, all summaries are listed as weighted proportions of Tennessee Parents ± Standard Error. Row-wise percentages are presented.

In this survey we use the word “gun” to refer to any firearm, including pistols, revolvers, shotguns, and rifles. This does not include air guns, BB guns, starter pistols, or paintball guns.

FIREARM OWNERSHIP

Do you happen to keep any guns in your home or garage?

| | Yes | No |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Overall | 48.9% ± 2.2 | 51.1% ± 2.2 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 53.4% ± 2.5 | 46.6% ± 2.5 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 35.2% ± 5.3 | 64.8% ± 5.3 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 39.0% ± 6.4 | 61.0% ± 6.4 |
| TN Region | | |
| West | 48.4% ± 4.5 | 51.6% ± 4.5 |
| Middle | 42.4% ± 3.3 | 57.6% ± 3.3 |
| East | 56.7% ± 3.4 | 43.3% ± 3.4 |

FIREARM SAFETY PERCEPTIONS

A gun should be stored securely in a lock box or safe.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 87.5% ± 1.5 | 9.4% ± 1.3 | 3.1% ± 0.7 | 87.3% ± 2.2 | 8.2% ± 1.8 | 4.5% ± 1.3 | 88.7% ± 1.9 | 9.6% ± 1.8 | 1.6% ± 0.6 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 87.4% ± 1.7 | 9.6% ± 1.6 | 3.0% ± 0.8 | 87.5% ± 2.5 | 8.0% ± 2.1 | 4.6% ± 1.5 | 88.9% ± 2.2 | 10.0% ± 2.2 | 1.1% ± 0.4 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 91.0% ± 2.9 | 7.8% ± 2.8 | 1.2% ± 0.6 | 89.2% ± 5.8 | 9.8% ± 5.8 | 1.0% ± 1.0 | 91.7% ± 3.1 | 6.9% ± 3.0 | 1.4% ± 0.8 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 83.4% ± 5.2 | 10.5% ± 4.4 | 6.2% ± 3.3 | 83.2% ± 7.4 | 8.2% ± 5.2 | 8.6% ± 5.8 | 83.5% ± 7.2 | 11.9% ± 6.4 | 4.7% ± 4.0 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 90.3% ± 3.2 | 8.1% ± 3.1 | 1.6% ± 0.7 | 85.0% ± 5.9 | 12.8% ± 5.9 | 2.2% ± 1.2 | 95.3% ± 2.0 | 3.7% ± 1.8 | 1.0% ± 0.7 |
| Middle | 86.3% ± 2.3 | 10.2% ± 2.1 | 3.5% ± 1.2 | 87.9% ± 3.1 | 6.7% ± 2.2 | 5.4% ± 2.3 | 86.0% ± 3.3 | 11.9% ± 3.1 | 2.1% ± 1.2 |
| East | 87.5% ± 2.3 | 9.2% ± 2.0 | 3.3% ± 1.3 | 87.7% ± 3.4 | 7.4% ± 2.6 | 4.8% ± 2.3 | 88.9% ± 3.0 | 9.8% ± 2.9 | 1.3% ± 0.7 |

Easy access to loaded guns in homes is a major cause of unintentional shootings involving children.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 81.7% ± 1.7 | 12.8% ± 1.5 | 5.6% ± 1.0 | 83.7% ± 2.3 | 8.6% ± 1.5 | 7.7% ± 1.8 | 80.6% ± 2.5 | 16.3% ± 2.5 | 3.1% ± 0.9 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 81.2% ± 2.1 | 12.8% ± 1.8 | 6.1% ± 1.3 | 83.8% ± 2.6 | 7.8% ± 1.6 | 8.4% ± 2.2 | 79.6% ± 3.3 | 17.8% ± 3.2 | 2.6% ± 0.9 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 83.3% ± 3.7 | 13.2% ± 3.4 | 3.5% ± 1.7 | 81.0% ± 6.9 | 17.2% ± 6.8 | 1.8% ± 1.3 | 84.3% ± 4.3 | 11.2% ± 3.6 | 4.5% ± 2.5 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 82.5% ± 4.9 | 12.0% ± 4.3 | 5.6% ± 2.6 | 86.0% ± 5.6 | 4.4% ± 2.8 | 9.6% ± 4.9 | 80.2% ± 7.1 | 16.8% ± 6.7 | 3.0% ± 3.0 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 81.1% ± 3.7 | 9.9% ± 2.3 | 9.0% ± 3.2 | 80.5% ± 6.0 | 7.1% ± 2.7 | 12.4% ± 5.7 | 81.6% ± 4.4 | 12.6% ± 3.7 | 5.8% ± 2.7 |
| Middle | 81.2% ± 2.7 | 15.7% ± 2.6 | 3.1% ± 1.1 | 85.9% ± 3.0 | 10.2% ± 2.5 | 3.9% ± 1.9 | 78.8% ± 4.1 | 19.9% ± 4.0 | 1.3% ± 0.8 |
| East | 82.4% ± 2.8 | 10.8% ± 2.3 | 6.8% ± 1.8 | 83.3% ± 3.6 | 7.9% ± 2.4 | 8.9% ± 2.9 | 82.8% ± 4.3 | 13.0% ± 4.0 | 4.1% ± 1.9 |

A gun should be stored securely with a cable lock or trigger lock.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 78.7% ± 1.8 | 15.0% ± 1.6 | 6.3% ± 1.1 | 78.2% ± 2.6 | 12.6% ± 2.0 | 9.2% ± 1.9 | 79.4% ± 2.6 | 17.0% ± 2.4 | 3.5% ± 1.3 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 77.0% ± 2.2 | 15.5% ± 1.9 | 7.5% ± 1.5 | 76.6% ± 3.1 | 12.8% ± 2.4 | 10.5% ± 2.3 | 78.0% ± 3.2 | 18.1% ± 3.0 | 3.9% ± 1.7 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 84.4% ± 3.6 | 14.2% ± 3.5 | 1.4% ± 0.7 | 82.8% ± 6.4 | 16.0% ± 6.3 | 1.3% ± 1.3 | 85.1% ± 4.4 | 13.4% ± 4.3 | 1.5% ± 0.9 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 81.4% ± 5.2 | 12.9% ± 4.5 | 5.8% ± 3.0 | 86.2% ± 5.5 | 6.3% ± 2.9 | 7.5% ± 4.7 | 78.2% ± 7.6 | 17.1% ± 7.0 | 4.7% ± 4.0 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 80.9% ± 3.9 | 13.3% ± 3.5 | 5.8% ± 2.2 | 73.6% ± 6.5 | 15.1% ± 5.8 | 11.2% ± 4.3 | 87.8% ± 3.9 | 11.5% ± 3.8 | 0.7% ± 0.5 |
| Middle | 76.8% ± 3.0 | 16.0% ± 2.5 | 7.2% ± 2.0 | 76.3% ± 4.2 | 13.6% ± 3.1 | 10.1% ± 3.4 | 77.0% ± 4.2 | 17.9% ± 3.8 | 5.1% ± 2.4 |
| East | 79.7% ± 2.8 | 14.7% ± 2.4 | 5.7% ± 1.6 | 81.8% ± 3.7 | 10.6% ± 2.9 | 7.6% ± 2.6 | 78.2% ± 4.0 | 19.0% ± 3.9 | 2.8% ± 1.3 |

A gun temporarily stored in a vehicle should be kept unloaded in a secure storage device (e.g. lockable gun case, lock box, or safe).

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 76.1% ± 1.8 | 13.1% ± 1.4 | 10.8% ± 1.4 | 77.5% ± 2.5 | 8.2% ± 1.4 | 14.3% ± 2.2 | 75.4% ± 2.7 | 17.0% ± 2.3 | 7.6% ± 1.6 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 77.8% ± 2.0 | 11.4% ± 1.5 | 10.8% ± 1.6 | 78.5% ± 2.9 | 6.6% ± 1.4 | 15.0% ± 2.7 | 77.7% ± 2.9 | 16.4% ± 2.7 | 6.0% ± 1.4 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 70.4% ± 5.0 | 19.8% ± 4.5 | 9.8% ± 3.0 | 67.6% ± 8.4 | 18.7% ± 7.2 | 13.7% ± 5.7 | 73.2% ± 6.2 | 19.0% ± 5.7 | 7.8% ± 3.4 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 73.0% ± 6.3 | 14.1% ± 4.7 | 12.8% ± 5.3 | 81.6% ± 6.3 | 9.7% ± 4.6 | 8.7% ± 4.4 | 67.5% ± 9.2 | 17.1% ± 7.0 | 15.5% ± 8.1 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 75.4% ± 3.9 | 8.4% ± 2.1 | 16.2% ± 3.6 | 67.7% ± 6.5 | 7.6% ± 2.7 | 24.7% ± 6.4 | 82.6% ± 4.3 | 9.2% ± 3.1 | 8.2% ± 3.1 |
| Middle | 78.1% ± 2.9 | 14.1% ± 2.4 | 7.8% ± 1.9 | 86.1% ± 2.9 | 6.4% ± 1.8 | 7.5% ± 2.4 | 72.0% ± 4.4 | 19.9% ± 3.9 | 8.1% ± 2.7 |
| East | 74.2% ± 3.0 | 14.2% ± 2.3 | 11.6% ± 2.3 | 74.3% ± 4.3 | 10.2% ± 2.7 | 15.5% ± 3.7 | 76.2% ± 4.0 | 17.3% ± 3.6 | 6.5% ± 2.2 |

A gun should be stored unloaded.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 75.6% ± 1.9 | 12.9% ± 1.4 | 11.5% ± 1.6 | 78.3% ± 2.6 | 9.7% ± 1.6 | 12.0% ± 2.2 | 74.1% ± 2.8 | 15.2% ± 2.1 | 10.7% ± 2.3 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 78.1% ± 2.1 | 11.2% ± 1.5 | 10.7% ± 1.8 | 80.6% ± 2.7 | 7.4% ± 1.5 | 12.0% ± 2.4 | 76.6% ± 3.2 | 14.8% ± 2.5 | 8.6% ± 2.5 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 62.7% ± 5.6 | 16.9% ± 3.8 | 20.4% ± 5.2 | 60.1% ± 9.3 | 21.3% ± 7.7 | 18.5% ± 7.8 | 65.2% ± 7.0 | 13.0% ± 3.8 | 21.7% ± 6.8 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 77.7% ± 5.7 | 18.0% ± 5.3 | 4.3% ± 2.5 | 81.9% ± 6.8 | 14.2% ± 6.5 | 3.9% ± 2.1 | 75.0% ± 8.1 | 20.4% ± 7.6 | 4.6% ± 3.9 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 75.4% ± 4.0 | 10.3% ± 2.2 | 14.2% ± 3.7 | 69.1% ± 6.5 | 10.9% ± 3.2 | 20.0% ± 6.3 | 81.3% ± 4.6 | 9.8% ± 3.1 | 8.9% ± 3.6 |
| Middle | 74.2% ± 3.1 | 12.7% ± 2.1 | 13.1% ± 2.7 | 79.1% ± 3.9 | 10.4% ± 2.8 | 10.5% ± 3.1 | 71.4% ± 4.5 | 14.5% ± 3.0 | 14.1% ± 4.1 |
| East | 77.3% ± 2.9 | 14.5% ± 2.4 | 8.3% ± 1.9 | 81.7% ± 3.7 | 8.5% ± 2.6 | 9.7% ± 3.0 | 73.7% ± 4.5 | 19.7% ± 4.2 | 6.6% ± 2.3 |

Ammunition should be stored securely and separately from the gun.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 75.5% ± 1.9 | 14.7% ± 1.5 | 9.8% ± 1.4 | 79.6% ± 2.4 | 11.1% ± 1.9 | 9.3% ± 1.7 | 72.8% ± 2.9 | 17.5% ± 2.3 | 9.7% ± 2.3 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 79.4% ± 2.1 | 12.0% ± 1.7 | 8.6% ± 1.5 | 82.3% ± 2.5 | 8.0% ± 1.8 | 9.7% ± 2.0 | 77.4% ± 3.4 | 16.1% ± 2.8 | 6.5% ± 2.4 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 63.3% ± 5.4 | 25.6% ± 4.6 | 11.1% ± 4.2 | 64.5% ± 8.8 | 31.7% ± 8.7 | 3.8% ± 2.6 | 63.7% ± 6.9 | 21.0% ± 4.9 | 15.3% ± 6.2 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 68.0% ± 6.4 | 16.5% ± 5.1 | 15.4% ± 5.0 | 74.4% ± 8.3 | 12.3% ± 6.2 | 13.3% ± 6.3 | 64.0% ± 8.8 | 19.2% ± 7.3 | 16.8% ± 7.2 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 79.0% ± 3.3 | 12.0% ± 2.6 | 8.9% ± 2.3 | 78.6% ± 4.8 | 11.6% ± 3.7 | 9.8% ± 3.2 | 79.5% ± 4.6 | 12.4% ± 3.5 | 8.1% ± 3.3 |
| Middle | 70.1% ± 3.3 | 18.5% ± 2.8 | 11.4% ± 2.5 | 75.5% ± 4.3 | 14.6% ± 3.7 | 9.9% ± 2.8 | 66.8% ± 4.7 | 21.6% ± 4.0 | 11.6% ± 3.7 |
| East | 80.0% ± 2.8 | 11.7% ± 2.1 | 8.3% ± 2.2 | 83.5% ± 3.5 | 7.9% ± 2.4 | 8.6% ± 2.7 | 77.9% ± 4.5 | 14.4% ± 3.3 | 7.7% ± 3.6 |

Easy access to loaded guns in homes is a major cause of gun-related suicide involving youth.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 73.3% ± 1.9 | 18.5% ± 1.6 | 8.2% ± 1.2 | 73.3% ± 2.7 | 15.4% ± 2.1 | 11.3% ± 2.1 | 74.0% ± 2.7 | 20.7% ± 2.4 | 5.3% ± 1.4 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 72.6% ± 2.3 | 18.2% ± 1.9 | 9.2% ± 1.6 | 73.0% ± 3.1 | 14.3% ± 2.2 | 12.7% ± 2.5 | 73.2% ± 3.3 | 21.5% ± 3.1 | 5.4% ± 1.9 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 75.6% ± 4.3 | 21.9% ± 4.2 | 2.5% ± 1.0 | 72.3% ± 8.1 | 27.7% ± 8.1 | 0.0% ± 0.0 | 77.0% ± 5.1 | 19.1% ± 4.8 | 3.9% ± 1.6 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 74.9% ± 5.5 | 15.0% ± 4.7 | 10.1% ± 3.4 | 76.6% ± 7.7 | 9.4% ± 4.7 | 13.9% ± 6.4 | 73.6% ± 7.6 | 18.9% ± 7.1 | 7.4% ± 3.7 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 73.2% ± 4.1 | 18.5% ± 3.3 | 8.3% ± 3.0 | 71.3% ± 6.5 | 16.1% ± 4.5 | 12.6% ± 5.8 | 75.0% ± 4.9 | 20.8% ± 4.8 | 4.2% ± 1.6 |
| Middle | 74.1% ± 2.9 | 19.0% ± 2.5 | 6.9% ± 1.8 | 73.6% ± 4.1 | 15.5% ± 3.1 | 10.9% ± 3.0 | 75.4% ± 4.0 | 20.6% ± 3.6 | 4.0% ± 2.3 |
| East | 72.4% ± 3.1 | 17.9% ± 2.7 | 9.7% ± 2.0 | 73.8% ± 4.2 | 15.0% ± 3.3 | 11.2% ± 3.0 | 71.4% ± 4.7 | 20.7% ± 4.4 | 7.9% ± 2.4 |

It is OK to store a gun at the top of a closet where children can't reach it.

| | All Parents | | | Gun Owners | | | Not Gun Owners | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree |
| Overall | 27.3% ± 1.9 | 19.5% ± 1.8 | 53.2% ± 2.2 | 33.3% ± 2.9 | 18.8% ± 2.6 | 48.0% ± 3.1 | 22.0% ± 2.4 | 19.0% ± 2.5 | 59.0% ± 3.0 |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 25.5% ± 2.1 | 20.1% ± 2.2 | 54.4% ± 2.5 | 32.7% ± 3.3 | 19.5% ± 3.0 | 47.7% ± 3.5 | 17.6% ± 2.4 | 19.4% ± 3.2 | 63.1% ± 3.5 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 30.8% ± 5.2 | 24.7% ± 4.6 | 44.5% ± 5.6 | 34.4% ± 8.6 | 27.2% ± 7.8 | 38.4% ± 9.2 | 29.3% ± 6.6 | 22.1% ± 5.7 | 48.6% ± 7.1 |
| Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic | 34.2% ± 6.3 | 8.3% ± 3.8 | 57.5% ± 6.6 | 36.4% ± 9.8 | 1.6% ± 1.1 | 62.0% ± 9.8 | 32.8% ± 8.2 | 12.6% ± 6.1 | 54.6% ± 8.9 |
| TN Region | | | | | | | | | |
| West | 32.0% ± 3.9 | 20.0% ± 3.7 | 48.0% ± 4.5 | 36.7% ± 6.0 | 21.2% ± 6.2 | 42.1% ± 6.6 | 27.6% ± 5.2 | 19.0% ± 4.2 | 53.5% ± 6.0 |
| Middle | 28.0% ± 3.0 | 20.7% ± 3.1 | 51.3% ± 3.4 | 34.9% ± 4.8 | 18.1% ± 4.0 | 47.1% ± 5.0 | 23.2% ± 3.9 | 21.9% ± 4.4 | 54.9% ± 4.8 |
| East | 24.1% ± 3.0 | 17.8% ± 2.7 | 58.1% ± 3.5 | 30.4% ± 4.6 | 18.3% ± 4.0 | 51.4% ± 5.0 | 16.6% ± 3.2 | 14.6% ± 3.1 | 68.8% ± 4.2 |