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Contributing Factors to Perspectives on Gun Regulations

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Contributing Factors to Perspectives on Gun Control

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Introduction to Research

This study explores how ideology, location, and gender shapes if one supports stricter gun regulations within the United States.

Gender

- When a possessive individualism is heavily emphasized in society, the society is then typically gendered, which allows gender stereotypes to form.
 - Associations between masculinity and gun violence can form.
 - Men are more likely to want the same or less gun regulations.
 - Associations between femininity and peace can form.
 - Women are more likely to want the same or greater gun regulations.

Ideology

- Depending on how liberal or conservative one self-identified, this affected their beliefs surrounding gun regulations.
 - Liberal beliefs include that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation.
 - American citizen's Second Amendment right will be preserved but the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation (2012 Democratic Party Platform).
 - Self identified liberals are more likely to want the same or more gun regulations.
 - Conservative beliefs include that citizens have the right to obtain and store ammunition without registration.
 - The Second Amendment is a right of self-defense, and should the exercise of that right expand to allow state-issued carry permits to carry firearm become policy, this will be supported (2012 Republican Party Platform).
 - Self identified conservatives are more likely to want less gun regulations.

Location

- Comparisons between already set gun policies and gun violence in cities and rural towns are very different.
 - In rural areas, both gun violence and gun regulations are rare, while the gun culture is strong.
 - In urban areas, both gun violence and gun regulations are high, and recreational gun usage is very small.
- Gender and ideology can affect whether a person in a rural or urban area supports or doesn't support gun regulations.
 - Women who are residents of large cities and identify as liberal, are more likely to support gun regulations.
 - Men who are residents of rural areas and identify as conservative, are less likely to support gun regulations.

Hypotheses

- Women are more likely to support stricter gun regulations in comparison to men.
- Self-identified liberals are more likely to support stricter gun regulations in comparison to self-identified conservatives.
- People who live in an urban area are more likely to support stricter gun regulations in comparison to those in rural areas.

Data

Hypothesis 1: Gender vs. Gun Control

Cross Tabulation Results:

The federal government should make it more difficult to buy a gun.

- Women: 29.8%
- Men: 19.4%

The federal government should keep the regulations the same to buy a gun.

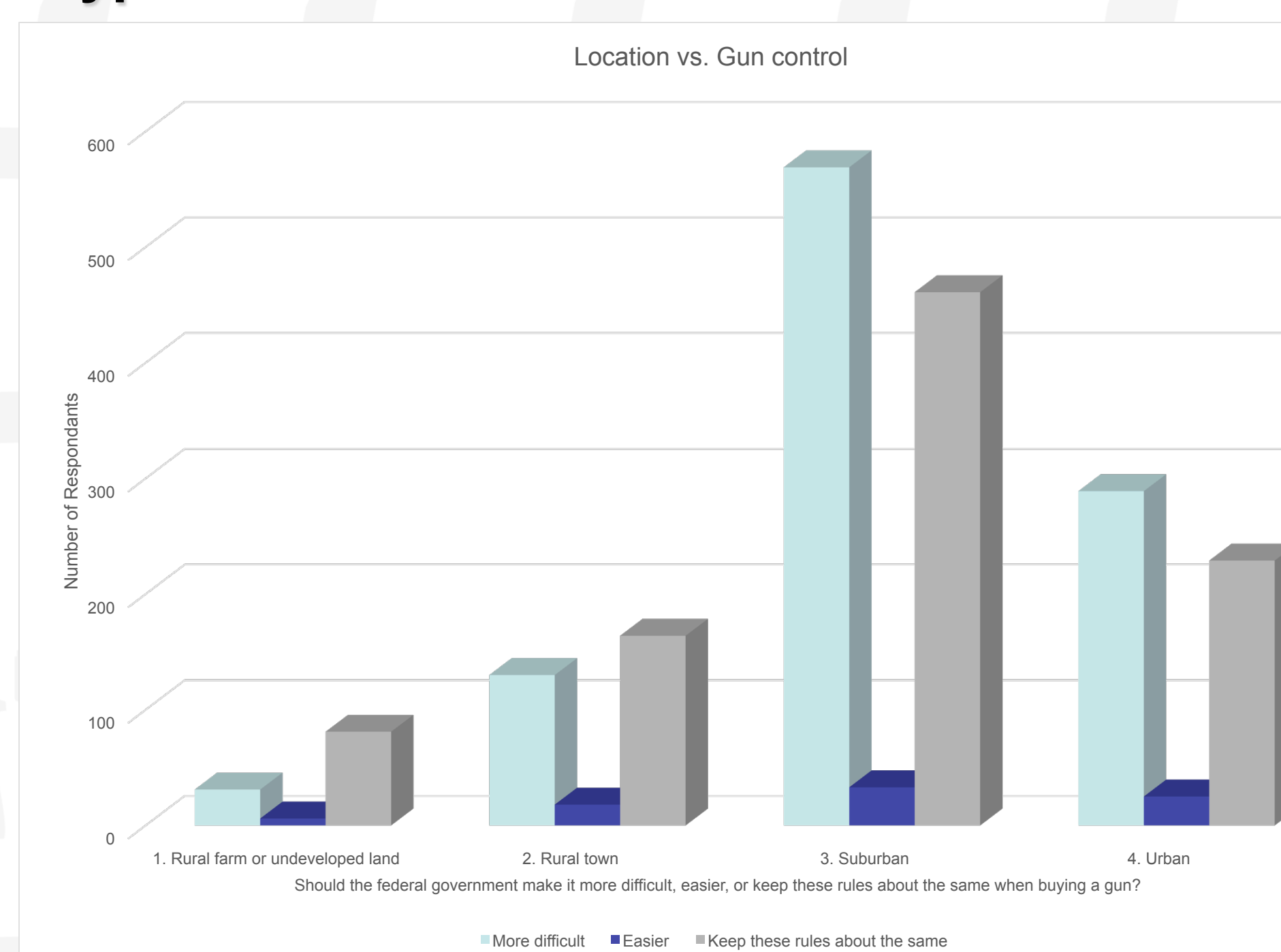
- Women: 20.5%
- Men: 24.8%

The federal government should make it easier to buy a gun.

- Women: 1.5%
- Men: 3.9%

*The percent shown represents the total number of respondents to the overall question excluding those who either refused or said "Don't know": Should the federal government make it more difficult easier, or the same to buy a gun?

Hypothesis 3: Location



Hypothesis 2: Ideology

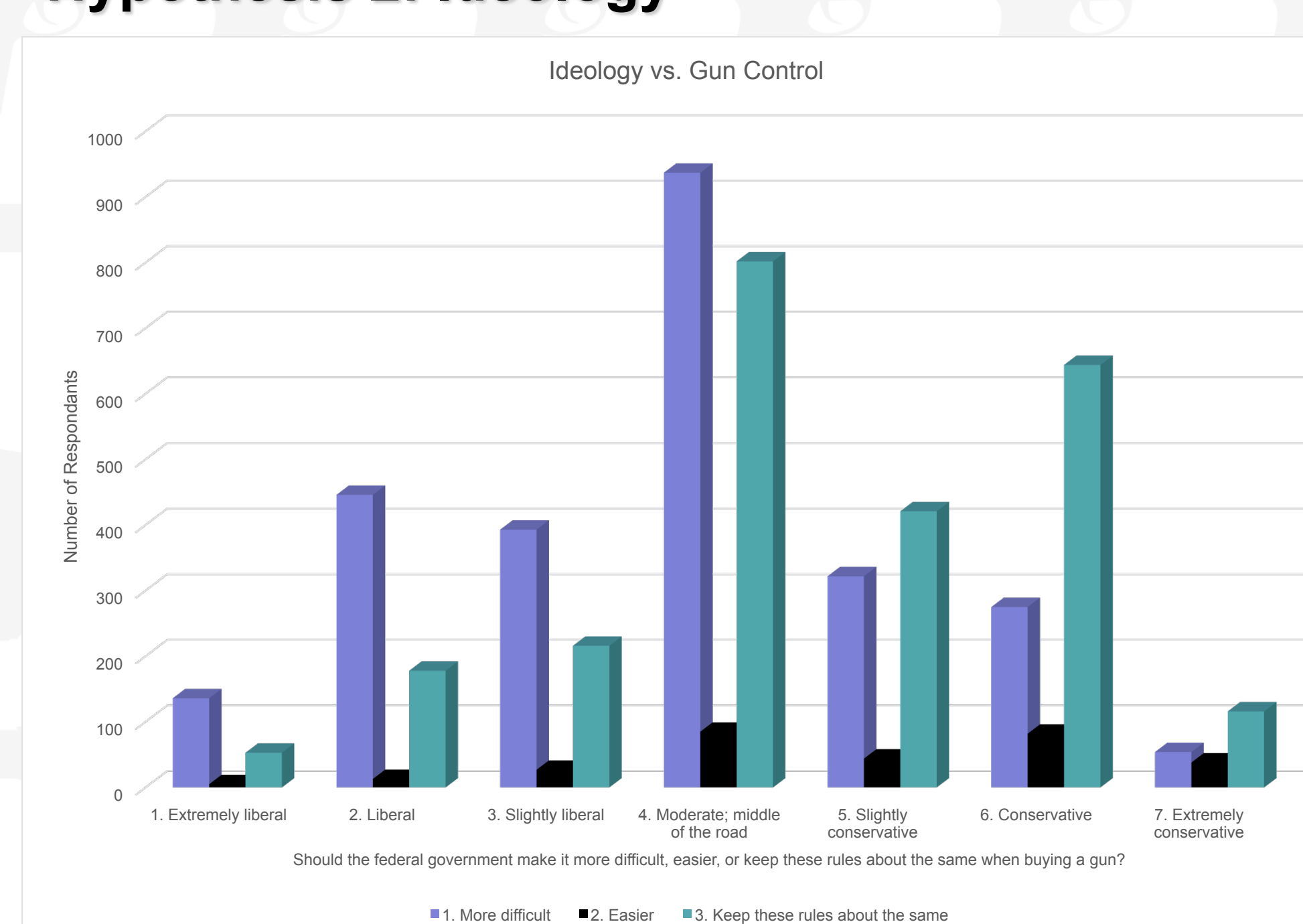


Table 1: Correlation and Statistical Significance

Independent Variable	Coefficient (B)	R value	Significance
Gender	-0.307	0.130	0.000
Ideology	0.093	0.203	0.000
Location	-0.027	0.045	0.000

*Statistically Significant at <.05

Table Interpretation

- The table measures gender, ideology, and location, in reference to the respondent's answer to whether guns should be easier, harder, or the same difficulty to purchase.
- All of the independent variables are statistically significant.
- Ideology has the greatest impact on the response to the question as the R value is 0.203.
- Both gender and location contribute to the overall cause to how the respondent answered the question.

Findings

Gender

The results showed that women were consistently more likely to support stricter gun regulations in comparison to men. A much higher percentage of women support stricter gun regulations by making it more difficult to buy a firearm in comparison to males. While respondents of both genders said the government should make it easier to purchase a gun, of both genders, males responded this in a higher percentage.

Ideology

The relationship between self-placing ideology and gun regulations is statistically significant. This was seen as $P=0.000$, which means that the relationship is not random. The correlation is 0.203. Because the data is statistically significant, there is a correlation between ideology and gun regulations.

Location

84% of respondents living in a suburban or urban area supported federal regulations that would make it more difficult to purchase a gun. However, rather than respondents living in rural areas wanting to make guns more accessible, they responded that they would like to keep the regulations the same.

Conclusions

All three hypotheses were correct. Women did support stricter gun regulations in comparison to men. Self-identified liberals supported making guns either the same difficulty or harder to purchase, while self-identified conservatives supported keeping federal regulations either the same or easier. People who live in suburban or urban areas were more likely to support stricter gun regulations in comparison to those who live in rural or undeveloped farm areas. Overall, the correlations between gender, ideology, and location are all statistically significant, and all contribute as reasons to why people responded how they did.

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