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### Why do Americans Report a Greater Fear of Government Restrictions on Firearms than in Years Prior?

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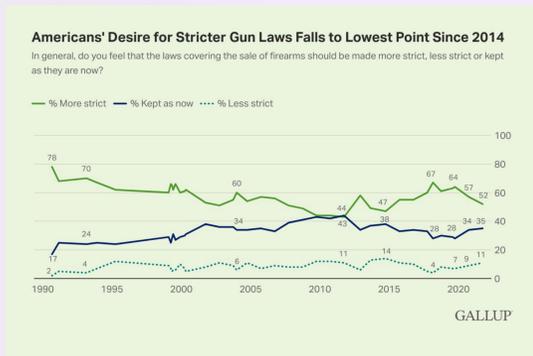
# Why do Americans Report a Greater Fear of Government Restrictions on Firearms than in Years Prior?

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## Introduction

- In recent years, studies have shown that support for increased gun control legislation has decreased to its lowest point in nearly a decade and yearly gun sales have approached record numbers.
  - Americans' support for stricter gun control laws has fallen to 52%, the lowest reading since 2014.
  - This is down 15 points since 2018. The measure reached 67% after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.
  - Gun sales in America reached 22.8 million sales in 2020 and 18.5 million in 2021, the two highest measures on record.



- While it is already known that political affiliation and opinions on gun control are related, racial identity and religious affiliation often go unexamined.
- This study analyzes the recent dramatic shift in sentiments on firearm regulations and identifies the racial, ethnic, and religious demographics which are driving these evolving sentiments on such.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Ann Gordon and the Henley Research Lab.

## Hypotheses and Methods

**H1: Asian Americans and Black Americans are more likely to report a higher fear of government restrictions on firearms in 2021 than in 2019 than White Americans and Hispanic Americans.**

**H2: Jewish Americans are more likely to report a higher fear of government restrictions on firearms in 2021 than in 2019 than all other religious affiliated groups.**

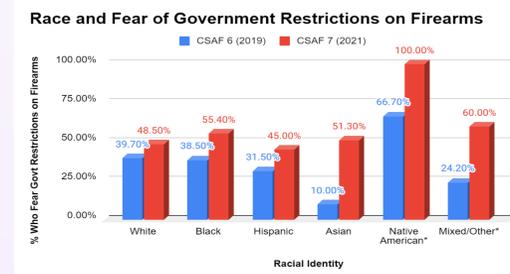
**H3: Asian Americans and Jewish Americans are more likely to purchase a firearm due to their fears than all other racial and religious demographics.**

By analyzing the 2019 and 2021 Chapman Survey on American Fears, this study examines the relationship between both race and religious affiliation and respondents' fear of government restrictions on firearms and ammunition, as well as the relationship between both race and religious affiliation and respondents' likeliness to purchase a gun as a result of their fears. These variables are directly drawn from the survey questions asked to respondents in the 2019 and 2021 CSAF surveys.

The dependent variable regarding fear of government restrictions on firearms and ammunition is recoded into two simple units, combining "Very Afraid" and "Afraid" into simply "Afraid" and combining "Slightly Afraid" and "Not Afraid" into simply "Not Afraid." Similarly, the independent variables are also recoded, with "White Hispanic," "Black Hispanic," and "Unspecified Hispanic" being recoded simply "Hispanic" and "Mixed" and "Other" combined simply into "Mixed/Other." Using correlations and a crosstabs analysis, one can observe significant differences in sentiments on firearm restrictions against racial identity and religious affiliation.

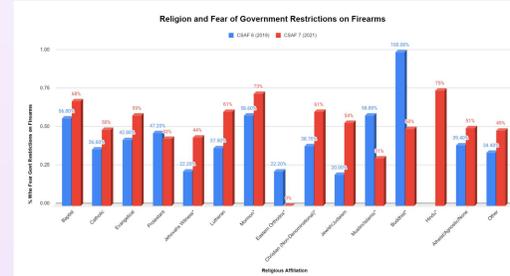
## Results

### Hypothesis 1



Hypothesis 1's crosstab results show a significant increase in fear of government restrictions on firearms among Asian American respondents and a moderate increase among Black Americans.

### Hypothesis 2



Hypothesis 2's crosstab results show a significant increase in fear of government restrictions on firearms among Jewish American respondents that is larger than that of all other religiously affiliated groups.

### Hypothesis 3

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.519	.951		.548	.585
White	-.135	.114	-.173	1.190	.234
Black	.050	.117	.043	.429	.668
Hispanic	-.107	.116	-.105	-.916	.360
Asian	-.153	.120	-.107	-1.277	.202
Baptist	.060	.039	.069	2.041	.042
Catholic	.032	.030	.035	1.063	.228
Lutheran	-.007	.129	-.002	-.056	.955
Protestant	.073	.109	.023	.671	.502
Jewish	-.103	.049	-.067	-2.115	.035

Hypothesis 3's linear regressions demonstrate no conclusive results, yielding incredibly low R Squared values and absolute Beta values of less than 0.2. Further, Asian Americans yielded a statistical significance (P) value greater than 0.05. This suggests that there could be many extraneous variables that explain respondents' likeliness to purchase a gun as a result of their fears.

## Conclusions

### Hypothesis 1

- I can confirm Hypothesis 1 to be accurate, as Asian Americans report a 41.3% higher fear of government restrictions on firearms in 2021 than in 2019 and Black Americans report a 16.9% higher fear in 2021 than in 2019. These increases are greater than that of Hispanic Americans (13.5%) and that of White Americans (8.8%).

### Hypothesis 2

- I can confirm Hypothesis 2 to be accurate, as Jewish Americans report a 33.8% higher fear of government restrictions on firearms in 2021 than in 2019. This increase is greater than that of all other religiously affiliated groups.

### Hypothesis 3

- I reject Hypothesis 3 due to a lack of statistically significant or convincing data. While Jewish Americans yielded a sufficient P value of .035, the variable also yielded an incredibly low Beta value of .067. Likewise, Asian Americans yielded a Beta value of .107 and an insufficient P value of .202. Further, only 1.2% of the variables that predict fear of government restrictions on firearms are taken into account in the model. The insufficient data suggests that there are alternative predictors for purchasing a gun in response to fears rather than race and religion.

While most individuals regard political affiliation as being the dominant indicator of fear of restrictions on firearms, this study proves that racial identity and religious affiliation are at the very least relevant in explaining the evolving sentiments on such restrictions in recent years. The 2019 and 2021 Chapman Survey on American Fears demonstrate a dramatic shift in Black American respondents', Asian American respondents', and Jewish American respondents' fear of government restrictions on firearms that does not appear to be as significant among other racial and religious demographics. The next step going forward will be to research and explain why this is the case and how to proceed with the given data.

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