

1 in 5 American adults say they have relative killed by a gun

April 11 2023, by Cara Murez



Nearly 20% of the American population has had a family member killed

by a gun, including by suicide, and 1 in 6 has witnessed a shooting, a new survey found.

The survey also found about 4% have shot a gun in self-defense and 4% have been injured by a gun.

For Black adults, the numbers were even higher, attesting to greater gun violence in [minority communities](#).

About one-third of Black adults had a family member killed by a gun, compared to 17% of white adults and 18% of Hispanic adults.

Black adults were also about twice as likely as white adults to say they witnessed someone being shot, with about 31% of Black adults reporting this compared to 14% of white adults and 22% of Hispanic adults.

KFF, formerly the Kaiser Family Foundation, surveyed 1,271 adults in English and Spanish between March 14 and 23.

Many [survey respondents](#) reported living in fear of gun violence. Many others reported owning guns that are improperly stored.

About a third of both Hispanic and Black adults said they worry daily or almost daily that a family member will become a victim of gun violence. Among white adults, about 10% feel that concern daily.

Parents of children under age 18 are more likely to report this fear, with about 24% of these parents reporting daily worry compared to 15% of other adults.

Among Black adults, 1 in 6 adults does not feel at all safe from guns in their neighborhoods, a far greater segment than the 2% of white people and 9% of Hispanic people who feel that way.

Gun ownership is common, the survey also found.

About 4 in 10 adults, including many with children, say they live in homes that have guns.

Moreover, about three-quarters of people with guns in their homes say they are not stored using common gun-safety practices.

That includes 52% who say their gun is stored near its ammunition and 44% who say the gun is kept unlocked. More than one-third say that a gun in their home is stored loaded.

About one-third of parents in gun-owning households store the weapon in an unlocked location, and approximately the same number store a loaded gun. About 61% admitted storing a gun in the same location as ammunition.

Some have had conversations about guns with [health professionals](#), including their child's pediatrician. About 26% report that their child's doctor has asked about guns in the home and 8% said they've talked about gun safety. A significantly smaller percentage of people without children in the home said they've talked about guns with their doctor.

More information: The American Academy of Pediatrics has more on [gun safety for families](#).

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