



Community Survey

# Gun Violence Prevention in Leon County

August 2023



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# Executive Summary

This report contains our findings from a multi-method research study of community insights and recommendations to curb gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

## Goal

This research was conducted to meet three goals: 1.) document Leon County residents' perception of safety in relation to local gun violence and homicides; 2.) receive feedback on key issues and contributing factors related to the gun violence and homicides occurring in Leon County and 3.) receive input from residents on strategies and initiatives to address the issue of gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

## Methods

This research included three data collection methods 1.) an online survey with community members; 2.) five listening sessions with influential groups and organizations and 3.) in-depth interviews with seven young men between the ages of 12-16.



## Goal 1: Perception of Safety

### Survey Key Findings

- The majority of respondents felt safe in their neighborhoods during the day (92%) and night (73%)
- Nearly half (45%) of respondents were “somewhat concerned,” “moderately concerned,” or “extremely concerned” about losing a close friend or family member to gun violence
- 38% of respondents were “somewhat concerned,” “moderately concerned,” or “extremely concerned” about getting shot

- More than half (57%) of respondents have avoided certain areas during the night due to their concern about crime and gun violence in or near the area

### In-Depth Interviews Key Findings

- All respondents felt safe or very safe in their neighborhoods during the day and night
- Three of the seven respondents (43%) shared that they or someone close to them had been threatened, injured, or killed by a gun in the past year



## Goal 2: Main Causes

### Survey Key Findings

- The majority of respondents selected drug activity (58%), gang activity (51%) and mental health and behavioral issues (50%) as the main causes of local gun violence and homicides

### Listening Sessions Key Findings

- The most popular response category references family, home life and parents (12%) as a main cause of gun violence
- Values, education and spirituality (11%) were also highly referenced

### In-Depth Interviews Key Findings

- The majority of respondents agreed that gang activity (86%), anger and retaliation between individuals (86%), drug activity (72%), and impairment caused by drugs or alcohol (72%) were the main causes of gun violence

## Goal 3: Potential Solutions

### Survey Key Findings

- When asked in a free response, survey respondents suggested some form of gun control (28%), such as restricting access, reducing the number of guns, changing the process for obtaining guns as the best solution
- When provided with potential solutions, survey respondents overwhelmingly selected increased community-based youth organized activities (72%)
- Decreasing gang activity (75%) and drug activity (73%) were also popular solutions to curb gun violence and homicides

### Listening Sessions Key Findings

- The most popular response category for solutions involved references to social/emotional education, including conflict resolution training, general education and educational programs related to other specific skills or values (15%)

### In-Depth Interviews Key Findings

- The majority of participants agreed that increased access to and funding of social workers and training (71%) and increased gun law education (71%) were solutions for reducing gun violence



# Summary

Some themes emerged throughout this research study. When identifying the main causes of local gun violence and homicides, common themes across the three data collection methods included drug, gang, and other criminal activity, conflict resolution and poverty, unemployment and economic disparity. As for potential solutions of local gun violence and homicides, the overwhelming theme that developed involved programs, education, interventions and/or support for youth, families, and the community at large.

# Research Campaign Overview

In 2023, SalterMitchell PR (SMPR) conducted research on behalf of the Council on the Status of Men and Boys to gather community insights and recommendations to curb gun violence and homicides in Leon County.



## **The goals of this research were to:**

- Document Leon County residents' perception of safety in relation to local gun violence and homicides.
- Receive feedback on key issues and contributing factors related to the gun violence and homicides occurring in Leon County.
- Receive input from residents on strategies and initiatives to address the issue of gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

## **The data collection methods utilized to implement this research included:**

- One (1) online survey with community members
- Five (5) listening sessions with influential groups and organizations
- Seven (7) in-depth interviews with young men ages 12-16 years old

The research campaign was open to all Leon County residents for participation. However, SMPR placed a special focus on residents in target zip codes 32301, 32304 and 32310. These were identified in the Leon County Sheriff's Office "Anatomy of a Homicide" report as areas where gun violence and homicides predominantly occur.

# Online Survey



# Online Survey

**668**

**online survey  
responses**

In May 2023, an online survey was distributed to Tallahassee/Leon County residents aged 18 years or older via online promotion, television promotion, radio promotion, word of mouth, and community outreach.

The survey was anonymous and included 19 questions grouped into four sections. Three sections addressed the goals of the research campaign and the fourth section addressed user demographic information. Survey participation was incentivized by a giveaway of five gift cards to randomly selected respondents.

In total, the online survey received 1,445 responses. SMPR combed through each response to vet it for authenticity and removed fake or spam responses from the survey data. This left 668 responses for analysis.

SMPR calculated the goal survey sample size (the number of people who took the survey), confidence level and margin of error based on Tallahassee's 18+ population size of 236,320. This population was pulled from the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles.

Confidence level represents the probability that a sample size accurately represents the attitudes of a population. The industry standard is 95 percent. Margin of error measures the effectiveness of a survey. The smaller the margin of error, the more confidence one may have in the results. The industry standard is 5 percent.

**Based on a sample size of 668, the survey achieved a confidence level of 99 percent with a margin of error of 5 percent.**

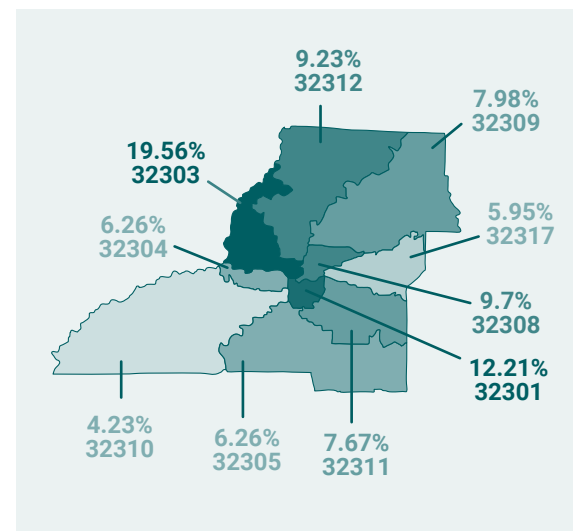


The majority of zip codes in Tallahassee were represented by the survey data. Approximately 58 respondents resided in the neighborhoods identified by the Leon County Sheriff's Office "Anatomy of a Homicide"<sup>1</sup> report as areas with the highest density per square mile of homicide incidents.

These neighborhoods <sup>2</sup> are:

**Apalachee Ridge**  
**Bond & Providence**  
**Chapel Ridge**  
**Frenchtown**  
**Griffin Heights**  
**Jake Gaither**  
**Seminole Manor**  
**South City**

Furthermore, 22 percent of survey respondents represented the target zip codes of 32301, 32304 and 32310. These zip code areas account for 34 percent of Tallahassee's 18+ population (236,320). SMPR met its goal of achieving a 20-30 percent sample size of individuals located in these zip codes to proportionally represent the greater population of these areas.



Leon County Zip Codes

<sup>1</sup> The Leon County Sheriff's Office "Anatomy of a Homicide" report is an exploratory review of the homicides reported in Leon County between 2015-2020.

<sup>2</sup> The "Anatomy of a Homicide" review analyzed density by neighborhood represented by the number of incidents per square mile. This mapping style only recognizes homicides that happened within certain neighborhood borders. Incidents that occurred in surrounding areas (outside the neighborhood boundaries) were not captured in the density calculations.

# Perceptions of Safety

The first section of the survey addressed the following research goal: Document Leon County residents' perception of safety in relation to local gun violence and homicides.

**92%**

**feel safe during the day**

To establish an understanding of residents' overall sense of safety, the survey began by asking questions about how safe or unsafe they feel in the area where they live.

**73%**

**feel safe during the night**

- When asked how safe or unsafe they feel during the day, 92 percent said "safe"
- When asked how safe or unsafe they feel at night, 73 percent said "safe" while 27 percent said "unsafe"
- The majority of respondents (68 percent) felt the area where they live has "stayed the same" in the past year in regards to safety. However, 28 percent felt the area where they live has become less safe

Using a Likert scale format, respondents were then asked how concerned they are that they will experience gun violence or criminal offenses in or near the area where they live. Respondents graded each statement from "not at all concerned" to "extremely concerned."

This included:

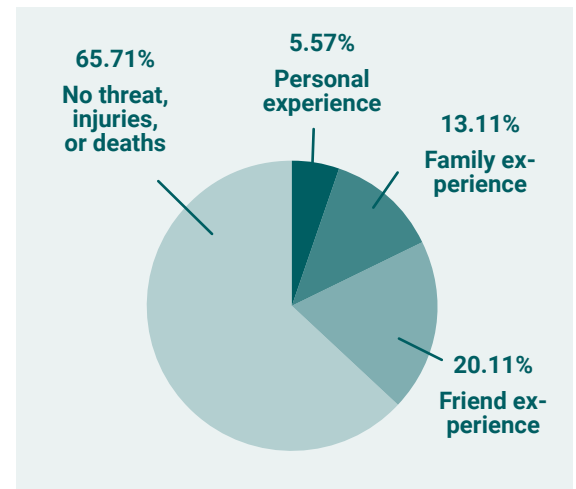
- Being arrested
- A close friend or family member being arrested
- Going to jail or prison
- A close friend or family member going to jail or prison
- Getting shot
- Losing a close friend or family member to gun violence

Overall, the majority of respondents were “not at all concerned” about experiencing most of these incidents.

**However, in regards to “losing a close friend or family member to gun violence,” 45 percent of respondents were “somewhat concerned,” “moderately concerned” or “extremely concerned.” In regards to “getting shot,” 38 percent of respondents were “somewhat concerned,” “moderately concerned” or “extremely concerned.”**

Additionally, 28 percent were “somewhat concerned,” “moderately concerned” or “extremely concerned” of “a close friend or family member being arrested.”

Although 66 percent of respondents indicated that they or someone close to them have not been threatened, injured or killed by a gun in the past year, 20 percent have had a friend experience this, 13 percent have had someone in their family experience this. Six percent of respondents have personally experienced this. Furthermore, 33 percent of respondents indicated that gun violence in the area where they live has increased in the past year. Approximately 35 percent indicated gun violence has stayed the same, 4 percent indicated gun violence has decreased, and 29 percent indicated they do not experience gun violence where they live.

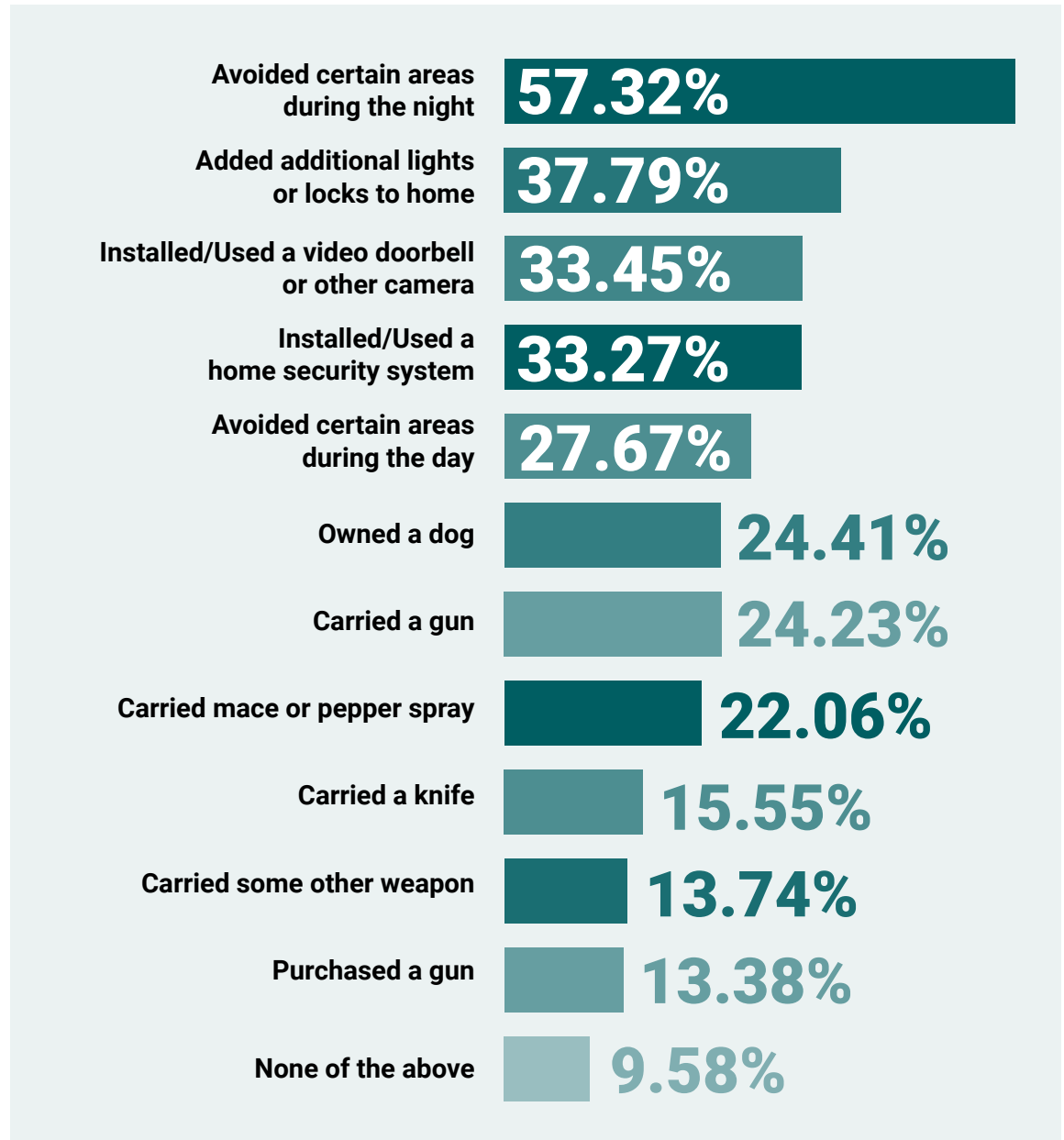


Percentage of Responses out of 557

Respondents were then asked what safety measures they have taken because they were concerned about crime and gun violence in or near the area where they live.

The majority of respondents (57 percent) have “avoided certain areas during the night.” This was followed by “added additional lights or locks to home” (38 percent), “installed/used a video doorbell or other camera” (33 percent) and “installed/used a home security system” (33 percent).

**Answer choices included:**



# Main Causes of Gun Violence

The second section of the survey addressed the following research goal: Receive feedback on key issues and contributing factors related to the gun violence and homicides occurring in Leon County.

**58%**

**selected drug activity**

To uncover some of the main causes of gun violence in Leon County, users were asked to select their **top three** contributing factors.

**51%**

**selected gang activity**

Answer choices included:

- Gang activity
- Drug activity
- Vandalism and property crime (e.g., robbery, theft, mugging)
- Unemployment
- Housing insecurity (e.g., housing costs, rent costs, homelessness)
- Mental health and behavioral issues (e.g., mental illnesses, irrational thinking)
- Anger and retaliation between individuals
- Arguments and fights between individuals

**50%**

**selected mental health and behavioral issues**

- Impairment caused by drugs or alcohol
- Money and/or debt
- Labor and/or sex trafficking (human trafficking)
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above

The majority of respondents (58 percent) selected “drug activity,” “gang activity” (51 percent) and “mental health and behavioral issues (e.g., mental illnesses, irrational thinking)” (50 percent). This was followed by “anger and retaliation between individuals” (47 percent), “arguments and fights between individuals” (37 percent), and “unemployment” (25 percent).

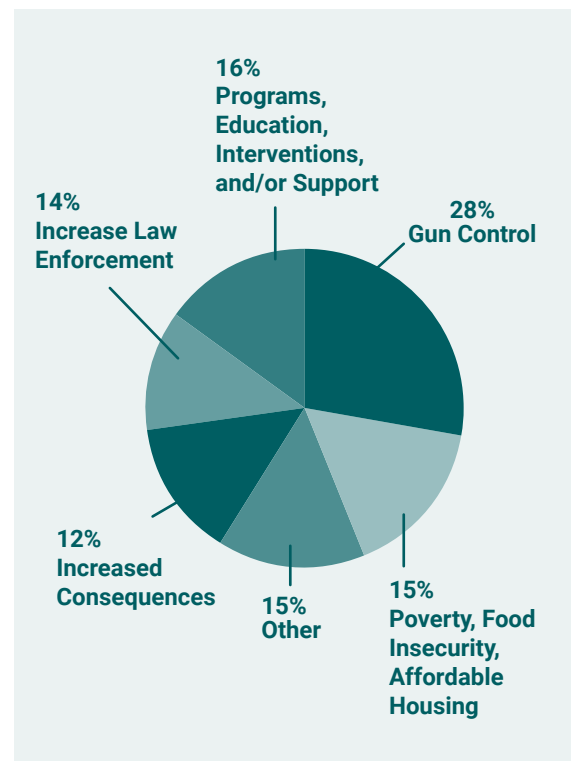
# Potential Solutions

The third section of the survey addressed the following research goal: Receive input from residents on strategies and initiatives to address the issue of gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

In an open-ended response format, respondents were asked to describe what they feel would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County. In total, this question received 420 responses. After removing unusable responses (e.g., “N/A”, “I don’t have a good answer really”), 409 responses were left for analysis and grouped into 15 categories to reveal response themes and trends.

Below are the top five most popular response categories with comments provided by survey participants.

- Gun Control
- Programs, Education, Interventions, and/or Support
- Poverty, Food Insecurity, Affordable Housing
- Increase Law Enforcement
- Increased Consequences



Grouped responses out of 409



## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 1: Gun Control

Approximately 28 percent of responses mention some form of gun control, such as restricting access to guns, reducing the number of guns, banning guns, or suggested changes to the process for obtaining a gun (e.g., legislation, background checks, mandatory gun safety education, etc.). This was the most popular response category.

*“Enhanced gun control and restrictions, including completion of required background checks, communication, and enforcement, can reduce the illegal use, sale, and possession of firearms.”*

*“Make it harder to purchase guns, ban personal ownership of military-grade weapons, have more amnesty days for turning guns into the Sheriff’s Office and Police Department.”*

*“ADVOCATE FOR BETTER GUN LAWS.”*

*“Make guns less available!”*

**“Guns are too readily available to our youth and too easily stolen. There needs to be more firearm safety training required in order to purchase a gun and assault type weapons need to be banned. Firearm safety must include responsible gun ownership including unloading and locking your gun(s) up in the house and not leaving any kind of firearm in a vehicle overnight when it is parked. This should be a law!”**

# Q

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 2: Programs, Education, Interventions, and/or Support

The second most popular response category centered around youth intervention, education, programs and services (16 percent).

*“There needs to be more after school activities for students and the youth to attend that involve them showing teamwork and supporting one another so we can teach the new generations to love one another over fighting each other when we are upset”*

*“Our youth need early opportunities to develop skills that offer purpose, a positive identity, and a career path.”*

*“Bridging the gap between law enforcement and community. Provide various resources for families. Creating programs for teens. Provide counseling services to youth, teens and families.”*

*“I think that it is very important to teach kids and adolescents at a young age the importance of safety. Many times these kids grow up in a bad environment and learn from their parents. By creating educational opportunities and by offering recreational activities, hopefully people can learn and spend their time in a productive way.”*

**“ There aren’t enough consistent programs for young people to participate in that might help interrupt the trajectory of violence. We need more programs that help young people learn to communicate more effectively. ”**





## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 3: Poverty, Food Insecurity, Affordable Housing

The third most popular response category focused on addressing issues of economic inequality through employment, housing, healthcare and other resources (15 percent).

*“Safe, decent & affordable housing, healthy food options, accessible health care, a living wage, affordable & accessible culturally competent behavioral health services.”*

**“ Address inequality in education, finance, job opportunities, housing, and credit worthiness. These conditions have and are still causing inequality, insecurity and unstable actions and reactions. ”**

*“Economic empowerment in poor communities.”*

*“Reducing poverty. If people have homes, food, and decent paying jobs, they will be less likely to turn to crime or join gangs. Then, address the idea that respect comes at the point of a gun or through brute strength. Perhaps if they can feel respected in other ways, they will not resort to guns and violence to prove themselves.”*

*“Direct engagement with at risk individuals/families/neighborhoods and genuinely work towards improving their wellbeing. From food securities, to health, education and employment opportunities.”*

# Q

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 4: Increase Law Enforcement

The fourth most popular response category mentioned law enforcement or policing as part of the solution to reducing gun violence (14 percent). The majority of these responses mention an increase in policing or law enforcement targeted toward specific areas or groups.

*“Keep the police in high visibility in the high crime area. They should have a 3 minute response because of close proximity.”*

*“Place friendly police in the neighborhood to establish trust of law enforcement.”*

*“Hiring more cops so they can proactively police instead of being reactive.”*

*“Law enforcement should Increase night time patrols... and civilians should be allowed to contact law enforcement in case they suspect something is not right and the law enforcement agencies should be ready to disclose his or her identity.”*

**“ Most incidents seem to be youth between 17 and 21 and related to drugs or fights. So maybe a special police unit focused on getting to know and advising those youth (i.e., the gun violence prevention unit they had in Portland, OR). ”**

# Q

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 5: Increased Consequences

The fifth most popular response category centered on sentencing, punishment or some other form of consequences for offenders (12 percent).

*“Actually punish those who commit gun crimes. Make the penalty harsh enough to where people do not want to commit gun violence.”*

*“Remove offenders from the streets - and keep them off; increasingly lengthy sentences for repeaters.”*

*“Harsher punishment for breaking laws that lead up to major crime. Stop the cycle before it gets extreme.”*

*“Train law enforcement to better deal with/handle people with mental health issues. Also, gang activity has moved into Tallahassee and must be cracked down on by more officers patrolling areas. Once someone is arrested they shouldn’t be released back into the population but should have to serve a sentence. We have officers arrest people for burglary but they get slapped on the wrist and released by the justice system. Repeat offenders should be treated more harshly. Justice system must punish gang members, drug dealers and gun violence people instead of going easy on them and releasing them back into the general population. Law enforcement arrests offenders but the legal system gives lighter sentences and multiple chances. Criminals need to know they will be dealt with more harshly.”*

**“ Enact penalties for gun owners that do not property secure their weapons and have them stolen out of unlocked cars. ”**

# Q

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Additional response categories

The following categories received less than nine (9) percent of responses. These categories are in no specific order.

#### Family Intervention/Education

*“Ending broken homes. Having 2 loving parents that are fully engaged in all aspects of their children’s lives and that will lovingly discipline them and teach them to respect authority, I think solves 90% of gun violence problems. I believe gangs have become de facto parents for young men without 2 traditional loving parents.”*

#### Gun/Firearm Education

*“Rather than fear guns or spend time vilifying those who use them, sponsor events or opportunities for more people to learn gun safety, gun laws, responsible ownership techniques and methods. Continue to support our rights to carry and practice safe ownership while refraining from thinking the gun itself is bad.”*

#### Addressing Other Illegal Activity

*“Tougher law enforcement of basic issues, starting with speed enforcement, homelessness, reducing/eliminating the car break ins.”*

#### Addressing Mental Health

*“Increase access to and funding of mental health and substance abuse resources and counseling.”*

#### Community Based Interventions

*“More community based services specifically targeting those areas that are most likely affected by gun violence.”*

#### Research and Funding

*“Funding the right agencies to help.”*

#### General Education/Values/Spirituality

*“Attending church and having a sense of right and wrong.”*

#### Physical Environment/Curfew

*“Increasing the number of pedestrians outside, such as by widening/ installing sidewalks, relaxing zoning requirements and promoting mixed-use neighborhoods, and incentivizing outdoor recreation for people of all ages (especially young adults).”*

#### Conceal/Open Carry/More Firearms

*“Encourage more people to conceal/open carry. Make training and gun safety available more. Open carry you walk into a store and you see 60 people that are open carry do you rob the store no why because you know you will not make it out with anything in the store so what is the point.”*

#### Other

Approximately 22 responses (5.4 percent) do not fit neatly into any of the above categories.

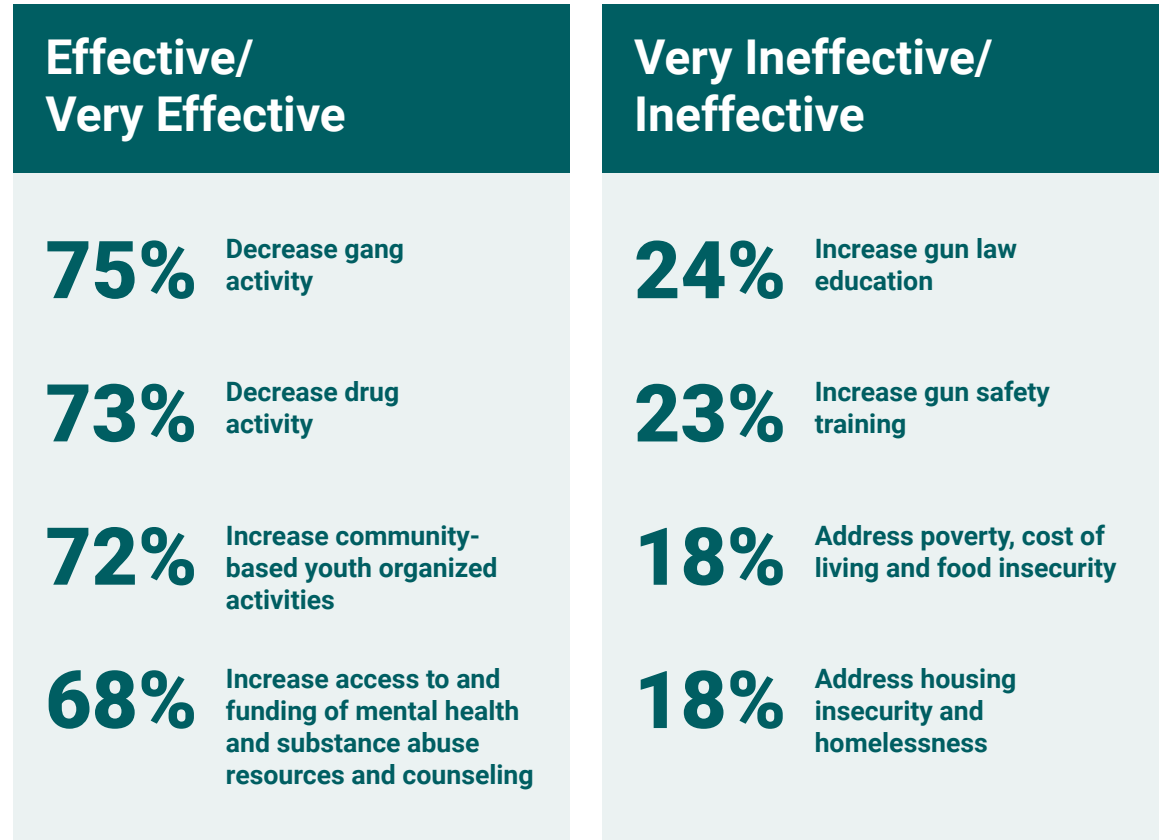
# Potential Solutions Cont.

Respondents were then asked a Likert scale question, which listed **examples of initiatives or measures that could be taken to reduce gun violence in Leon County.** The question asked respondents to grade the effectiveness of each item from “very ineffective” to “very effective.” This included:

- Address poverty, cost of living and food insecurity
- Address housing insecurity and homelessness
- Decrease unemployment
- Increase access to and funding of mental health and substance abuse resources and counseling
- Increase access to and funding of social workers and training
- Increase access to local resources (jobs and career counseling, household goods and tools for rent, etc.)
- Provide alternatives to student suspension and expulsion in Leon County schools
- Increase gun safety training
- Increase gun law education
- Increased law enforcement officers presence and patrol of areas with high gun violence and deaths caused by guns
- Increase community-based youth organized activities
- Increase access to supervised childcare
- Decrease gang activity
- Decrease drug activity
- Decrease vandalism and property crime (robbery, theft, mugging)

The vast majority of respondents felt all of the initiatives/measures listed would be “somewhat effective,” “effective” or “very effective.”

The initiatives/measures that were graded “very ineffective” and “ineffective” by the most respondents were:



**The last question of the survey sought to uncover potential barriers in reducing gun violence in Leon County.**

Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

Answer choices included:



# Respondent Demographics

The fourth section of the survey addressed respondent demographic information. The majority of respondents (59 percent) indicated that their household includes 2-3 people (including the respondent), and most respondents hold a Bachelor or Graduate degree (71 percent).

Forty percent of respondents were male while 58 percent were female. The majority of respondents were White (56 percent) or Black or African American (41 percent). Seven percent of respondents were Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino, and Native American or American Indian.

All age ranges from 18-60+ years old were represented. The majority of respondents were 30-60+ years old (86 percent). The remaining 14 percent of respondents were 18-29 years old.



**59%**  
household includes  
2-3 people



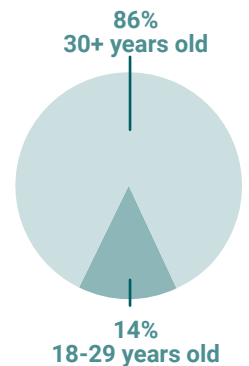
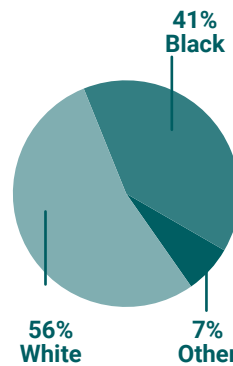
**71%**  
hold a Bachelor or  
Graduate degree



**58%**  
female



**40%**  
male





# Listening Sessions



# Listening Sessions

From May-June 2023, **five listening sessions** were conducted to engage a wide range of community members and gather their feedback about local gun violence and homicides.

In collaboration with the Council on the Status of Men and Boys, SMPR coordinated and/or facilitated small group discussions about this topic during pre-existing meetings organized by community partners. Four of the five community listening sessions were incorporated into the organization's meeting agenda. These were:

- Council on the Status of Men and Boys "1,000 Men" community meeting (adult and youth participants)
- Leon County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy meeting (adult participants)
- Omega Lamplighters meeting (youth participants)
- PACE Center for Girls meeting (youth participants)

One listening session was a standalone meeting with members of Tallahassee's business community (adult participants). SMPR recruited six (6) local business leaders representing the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, the Capital City Chamber of Commerce, and the Network of Entrepreneurs and Business Advocates (NEBA).

During all listening sessions, two questions were asked; **1) to gain additional insight on key issues and contributing factors related to gun violence and homicides and; 2) receive input on strategies and initiatives to address the issue of gun violence and homicides in Leon County.**

Participants shared their answers and further discussed the topics presented by others in the group. A summary of the responses and discussion were written to document the causes and solutions shared in the sessions.

# Main Causes of Gun Violence

The first question addressed the following research goal:  
Receive feedback on key issues and contributing factors related to the gun violence and homicides occurring in Leon County.

Respondents were asked: **“In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?”**

Across all five listening sessions, this question received 236 responses. These responses were grouped into 19 categories. Twelve responses (5 percent) were categorized in two or more codes. These responses were broken up into multiple items as they contained suggestions that fit into multiple categories. A total of 254 items were categorized.



# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 1: Parenting/Family

The most popular response category references family, home life and parenting (12 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen's Academy, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*"Stressful family dynamics"*

*"Single parent homes/ no parent/family structure"*

*"Change of parenting styles ... generational cycles ... people stuck in a cycle of the kids are behaving this way because that's what the parents did... The parents don't know any better, so they can't teach the kids what they don't know."*

**" Lack of parenting + generational trauma "**

### Response Category 2: Values, Education, Spirituality

The second most popular response category references values, education and spirituality (11 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen's Academy, Omega Lamplighters and business leaders listening sessions.

*"Lack of life skill (how to present yourself) / knowledge of apprentice programs, career days in schools"*

**" Lack of coping skills, emotional management "**

*"When there is a minor problem and that leads to violence, that comes from toxic masculinity."*

*"The push for hyper-masculinity in culture for men to be impenetrable, prideful, and lacking emotion."*

# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 3: Poverty, Unemployment, Economic Disparity

The third most popular response category references poverty, unemployment and other issues related to economic inequality (9 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen's Academy, and business leaders listening sessions.

*"Lack of employment"*

**" A lack of economic opportunity creates a lack of hope. A lack of hope creates desperation. Got nothing to lose. "**

*"Not the same opportunities as those that are above poverty"*

*"Schools not equal"*

### Response Category 4: Access to Guns

The fourth most popular response category references access to guns (9 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen's Academy, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*"Accessibility of guns is a big issue."*

**" Cars not being locked, gun owners not keeping their guns safe. "**

# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 5: Drugs, Gangs, Other Criminal Activity

The fifth most popular response category references drugs, gangs and other illegal activities (7.5 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, Omega Lamplighters, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*“Crime with homeless teens”*

*“Guns used for drug deals”*

*“Drugs [are] a nexus to almost all of our gun violence cases we are investigating.”*



### Response Category 6: Community Culture

The sixth most popular response category references factors related to the community, including exposure to violence (7 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“Code of the street” + reputations”*

*“It takes a village to raise a child, and not for them to be isolated and think they can just do whatever they want.”*

*“Gun culture in Urban America”*

**“ A lack of community space is one of the reasons that the teens are headed to the streets. They don’t have enough places to do recreational activities. They don’t have a safe space in the community. ”**

# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 7: Media (e.g., social media, music, video games, etc.) and Bullying

The seventh most popular response category references social media, cyberbullying/bullying, and other media such as music and video games (6 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, Omega Lamplighters, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*“Teaching our children in the community the difference between entertainment and reality. Because a lot of children are looking at this music and this violence and thinking that that’s reality. When in reality it’s entertainment.”*

*“Social media has a massive influence on gun violence. For example, if everyone in your school sees a social media recording of you losing a fight, then everyone knows you got beat up, and the revenge is ‘necessary’ and will be more severe than if they had not been recorded.”*

### Response Category 8: Conflict Resolution

The eighth most popular response category references conflict resolution (5 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Omega Lamplighters, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“Lack of communication + conflict resolution”*

**“ Let’s sit down, talk to the kids, let them know that there are different ways of handling things instead of just getting enraged. ”**

*“Getting back, revenge, retaliation”*

*“Fights gone wrong”*

# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 9: Mentorship/Positive Examples/Roles Models

The ninth most popular response category references lack of mentorship, role models and positive engagement with youth (5 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, and business leaders listening sessions.

“**Resources given to mentors make a difference**”

*“Lack of male presence (positive examples)”*

*“Lack of structure/guidance/role models (successful people who look like you)”*

### Response Category 10: Youth Engagement

The tenth most popular response category references lack of youth engagement (4 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men listening session.

*“Youth with idle time - no positive activities”*

*“Lack of adequate supervision”*

*“Need for programs to occupy our children’s time. Start programs early”*

“**Disconnected youth. ... They are kicked out of school, they come from broken homes, they get kicked out of school because they act out, and when they get kicked out of school, where do they go? They have free range to do whatever they want to do. And those are the ones we are dealing with. The ones who are disconnected.**”



# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 11: Desensitization to Violence, Disregard for Life

The eleventh most popular response category references attitudes towards violence and life, including desensitization to violence and disregard for life (4 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen's Academy, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*"They have no problem killing people because subconsciously they have been doing it all their life playing [video] games. They don't recognize the value of life."*

*"When you see so many things on social media, that leads to desensitization. ... Being killed out in the street is not something that should be normalized."*

*"Violent tendencies"*

### Response Category 12: Lack of Resources

The twelfth most popular response category references lack of resources (3 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and the Citizen's Academy listening sessions.

*"Lack of resources, or better yet, lack of the knowledge of the resources that are out there."*

*"The resources that are not there for the people who genuinely have, you know, pulling in these streets and the communities with these kids, and they're not able to do this stuff without the lack of funding."*

*"You have to start putting money where it really counts."*

# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 13: Mental Health

The thirteenth most popular response category references mental health (3 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and Omega Lamplighters listening sessions.

*“A lack of mental health resources”*

*“Mental health (adults as well as youth)”*

**“ Disruptive home, broken homes, broken family unit, mental illness, complex PTSD from seeing trauma after trauma after trauma after trauma. ”**

### Additional response categories

The following categories received less than two (2) percent of responses. These categories are in no specific order.

#### Law Enforcement

These responses reference issues related to the police (2 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“Relationship with police”*

*“Use of force (law enforcement)”*

*“You can literally at night be on the northeast side of town and you don’t see no police. As soon as you hit ... the south side, you’ll see three or four of them. You can see the difference of the police seen in the areas. It makes a difference how people react.”*

# Q1

## In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County?

### **Leadership/Government/Policies**

These responses reference factors related to leadership and policy (2 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 men listening session.

*“City uninvolvement”*

*“Wrong leaders have the platform”*

### **Protection/Fear**

These responses reference fear and protection (2 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*“Some feel safer in the jail than at home.”*

### **Discipline/Consequences**

These responses reference consequences or discipline as contributing to gun violence (2 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and Citizen’s Academy listening sessions.

*“Inconsistency in discipline”*

*“Lack of harder consequences”*

*“Parents need to value education and the lack of consequences when they do something incorrect.”*

### **Peer Pressure**

The responses reference peer pressure (1 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, and Omega Lamplighters listening sessions.

*“Peer pressure to use or carry guns”*

*“Peer pressure, lack of respect and discipline.”*

### **Other**

Approximately 7 percent of responses did not fit neatly into the categories listed above (e.g. “redefining human trafficking?”) or lacked information or context to clearly interpret and categorize the respondent’s meaning (e.g., “Disconnect from reality”, “transportation”, “unclear expectations”).

# Potential Solutions

The second question of the community listening session addressed the following research goal: Receive input from residents on strategies and initiatives to address the issue of gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

Respondents were asked: **“In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County? In other words, what ideas do you have to stop this from happening in our community?”**

Across all five listening sessions, this question received 217 responses. Six (3 percent) responses were categorized in two or more codes. These responses were broken up into multiple items as they contained suggestions that fit into multiple categories. A total of 227 items were categorized <sup>3</sup>.



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<sup>3</sup> The number of items coded (227) is higher than the number of responses (217). Six (6) responses were categorized into two (2) or more codes.

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 1: Social-Emotional Education, General Education, Values

The most popular response category references social/emotional education, including conflict resolution training, general education, and education or programs related to other specific skills or values (15 percent). These responses come from all of the listening sessions.

*“Spaces for men to learn that masculinity can exist in a non-toxic way. For example, that men can be vulnerable, emotional, etc., and masculine.”*

*“Implementing education on consequences. A lot of the younger crowd don’t really know the consequences of gun crimes.”*

*“Teaching kids that not only will their criminal record follow them, understanding what a misdemeanor is, understanding how a felony is gonna impact you for jobs you get, and jobs you may not even know that you’re not gonna get.”*

**“ COVID made people feel helpless and lost and unhelpful. So bringing back hope, inspiring faith, bringing back community and educating people on mental health, potentially their family, emotional management, dealing with problems they have that could lead them to pick up a gun. ”**

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 2: Community-Level Programs and Interventions

The second most popular response category references community-targeted programs and interventions, including suggestions related to policing (12 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“There is a lack of community in a lot of these communities. And again, when you don’t have a community, the communities that are open to you are the ones that accept anyone, which are gangs.”*

*“Getting law enforcement into schools. It’s not just law enforcement. This is a community wide effort.”*

*“Village mentality - unity”*

*“Positive presence in specific communities”*

### Response Category 3: Youth-targeted programs, education, interventions, and/or support

The third most popular response category references youth, including suggestions for programs, education, interventions and/or support (12 percent). These responses come from all of the listening sessions.

*“At-risk youth. ... We know who they are, there needs to be intervention into their lives, through the schools, through the community leaders, through the mentors, through law enforcement, through all of us as a community.”*

*“Reaching out to our kids young with early childhood intervention, taking them on field trips, showing them more to the world, taking them on career fairs ... taking them to schools and college campuses, and telling them that you can be here one day.”*

*“I was never home before six o’clock. I was always in some type of afterschool program. So not a lot of opportunities for me to get in trouble.”*

*“More support (mentors, family, school) - middle and high school boys”*

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 4: Family-targeted programs, education, interventions, and/or support

The fourth most popular response category references parents and families, including suggestions for programs, education, interventions and/or support (8 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

*“Healthy respect for the parents and the parents having healthy respect for the child.”*

*“Single moms need help”*

**“ Parenting education  
- more training,  
accountability,  
legalities, classroom  
connection ”**

### Response Category 5: Mentorship/Positive Role Models

The fifth most popular response category references a need for mentorship and positive role models (7 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“Finding right mentorship”*

*“Volunteers/mentors/positive influence”*

*“There’s a lack of positive role models, male role models, in these individuals’ lives who we deal with on a consistent basis”*

*“I don’t care if you are a doorstep or a porch mentor, if you got time to talk to a kid and tell a kid to do a good thing, please do it.”*

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 6: Job Skills, Apprenticeship, Job Training

The sixth most popular response category references education related to job training, job skills and apprenticeship (5 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and Citizen’s Academy listening sessions.

*“Opportunities to make money. Education, mentors, resources for the parents.”*

*“Young black male is going through trouble or impoverished. He can’t even walk a block to a computer lab to have access to trade or anything else. When I say trade I mean like trade school. He can’t do anything. He doesn’t have access to it. But he does have access to a drug dealer one block away saying ‘Hey, if you sold this you can make a hundred bucks.’”*

*“Better jobs, better pay in those jobs and training, but they gotta be able to get the training.”*

*“Apprentice programs would be very helpful.”*

### Response Category 7: Communication

The seventh most popular response category refers broadly to communication (5 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and Citizen’s Academy listening sessions.

*“Providing feedback, recommendations to government officials”*

*“A call center so that we can know where the neighborhood meeting would be, who our neighborhood support system is, who is the neighborhood president? ... Let these kids know that there are leaders to reach out to.”*

*“Roundtables/talks”*

**“ Use “younger” mediums (social media) to improve communication ”**



# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 8: Funding/Money/Resources

The eighth response category references funding, money or other resources (5 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“Funding for neighborhood resources”*

*“Leverage community resources - combine nonprofits, businesses, chambers, nonprofits that compete for funding”*

**“As I drive through the Killearn community, we can see city workers fixing flowers, cleaning up the community. But when we drive to Griffin Heights and Frenchtown and the community over here next to the fairgrounds, we don’t see that.”**

### Response Category 9: Poverty, Food Insecurity, Affordable Housing

The ninth response category references poverty, food insecurity and/or affordable housing (4 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and the Citizen’s Academy listening sessions.

**“Poverty leads to gun violence. It’s a lot easier to do something that’s right there and being offered to them than to go do the right thing.”**

*“Affordable housing. We need more of that here.”*

*“[Transportation] You can’t go pick up food at a giveaway if you don’t have a car to get there.”*

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 10: Mental Health

The tenth response category references mental health (4 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and Citizen’s Academy listening sessions.

*“Improve mental health outlets”*

*“Therapy/counseling services”*

*“Affordable mental health”*



### Response Category 11: Gun Control

The eleventh response category references restricting access to guns or decreasing the number of guns (3 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen’s Academy, Omega Lamplighters, and PACE Center for Girls listening sessions.

**“ Stronger background checks; more obstacles to gun ownership ”**

*“Be responsible with personal guns, lock your doors, put guns away.”*

*“Gun buyback program (buy working guns only!)”*

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 12: No Solution, No One Solution

The twelfth response category characterizes the issue of gun violence as either inevitable or multifaceted (3 percent). These responses do not provide solutions to address gun violence, but rather characterizations of potential solutions. These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men, Citizen's Academy, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*"Multifaceted approach"*

*"There's no one solution."*

**"We've got a lot of different organizations that if you brought them together, the synergy of that could be phenomenal."**

### Response Category 13: Spirituality/Religion

The thirteenth most popular response category references church, religion, spirituality, etc (3 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and business leaders listening sessions.

*"Pulpit messages/developing a church ministry dedicated to gun violence/harm prevention"*

*"P.U.S.H. - Pray until something happens. And I'm gonna throw my own twists in there. Get up and make something happen if you see the vision."*

*"We need more God. God is love and love is God."*

# Q2

## In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?

### Response Category 14: Effectiveness, Attrition, Awareness of Existing Programs

The fourteenth most popular response category references improving existing programs (2 percent). These responses came from the Citizen’s Academy, PACE Center for Girls, and business leaders listening sessions.

*“Find out why kids leave programs”*

*“Resources are there, but many don’t know or have other barriers between them and it (shame, sport)”*

*“There’s a cause, an event, a prevention program that already exists for a lot of these things but people don’t know about them or where to find them.”*

### Response Category 15: Gun Education

The fifteenth most popular response category references gun education (2 percent). These responses came from the CSMB 1000 Men and Citizen’s Academy listening sessions.

*“Implement education on the consequences of poor choices + gun violence”*

*“My dad had guns lined up and down the wall, but I knew not to mess with them ... And I knew not to mess with that gun anymore because he taught me to respect. And he taught, he educated me. He taught me about how to respect the power of that mechanism.”*

### Other

Approximately 12 percent of responses (excluding responses gathered during the Omega Lamplighters session) do not fit neatly into the categories listed above (e.g., “Visual goals (number of days without a shooting,” “restorative justice”) or lacked information or context to clearly interpret and categorize the respondent’s meaning (e.g., “accountability,” “stop snitching,” “relationships,” “enrichment,” “toys”).

# In-Depth Interviews



# In-Depth Interviews

In June 2023, in-depth interviews were conducted with seven (7) young men at the Ghazvini Learning Center. The in-depth interviews included nine (9) questions grouped into four (4) sections. Three sections addressed the goals of the research campaign and the fourth section addressed user demographic information.



# Participant Demographics

The first section addressed participant demographic information. Participant ages ranged from 12-16 years old. Six (6) participants reported their race/ethnicity as Black or African-American and one (1) as white.



# Perception of Safety

The second section of the in-depth interviews addressed the following research goal: Document Leon County residents' perception of safety in relation to local gun violence and homicides.

**100%**  
feel safe in their  
neighborhood

**100%**  
feel safe during  
the day and night

To establish an understanding of residents' overall sense of safety, the in-depth interview began by asking questions about how safe or unsafe participants feel in the area where they live.

- All participants reported feeling safe or very safe in their neighborhood

Participants were then asked a follow-up question, pertaining to whether their sense of safety is different during the day versus at night.

- All participants shared that their sense of safety was not different during the day versus the night

To discover whether this sense of safety has changed in the past year, participants were asked whether they felt the area where they lived had become less safe, more safe, or stayed the same.

- All participants reported that their neighborhood has remained at the same level of safety (i.e., it has not become less or more safe)





Participants were then asked about their experience with gun violence and deaths caused by guns in Leon County, specifically whether they or someone close to them has been threatened, injured, or killed by a gun in the past year.

- Four (4) participants reported that no one close to them has been threatened, injured, or killed by a gun.
- **One (1) participant reported that a family member has been killed by a gun, one (1) reported a family member was injured by another family member two years ago, and one (1) reported that they have been threatened with a gun.**

Participants were then asked whether they felt the level of gun violence in their neighborhood has increased, decreased or stayed the same where you live in the past year.

- Five (5) participants reported that they felt the level of gun violence in their neighborhood has stayed the same and two (2) reported that they felt the level of gun violence has decreased.

Participants were then asked what safety measures they have taken because they were concerned about crime and gun violence in or near the area where they live.

- Four (4) participants mentioned that they have not taken safety precautions out of concern for violence and one (1) participant reported that they have taken safety measures
- One (1) participant has a gun possession charge but stated that they were not carrying a gun for their safety, and one (1) participant's response to this question was unclear.

# Main Causes of Gun Violence

The third section of the in-depth interviews addressed the following research goal: Receive feedback on key issues and contributing factors related to the gun violence and homicides occurring in Leon County.

Participants were asked what they perceived as the main causes of gun violence in Leon County. Participants were given the following examples of causes:

- Gang activity
- Drug activity
- Vandalism and property crime (e.g., robbery, theft, mugging)
- Unemployment
- Housing insecurity (e.g., housing costs, rent costs, homelessness)
- Mental health and behavioral issues (e.g., mental illnesses, irrational thinking)
- Anger and retaliation between individuals
- Arguments and fights between individuals
- Impairment caused by drugs or alcohol
- Money and/or debt
- Labor and/or sex trafficking (human trafficking)

**The majority of participants agreed that “gang activity” (86 percent), “anger and retaliation between individuals” (86 percent), “drug activity” (72 percent), “impairment caused by drugs and alcohol” (72 percent), and “arguments and fights between individuals” (57 percent) contributed to gun violence in Leon County.**

These examples received the fewest responses: “vandalism and property crime” (29 percent), “housing insecurity” (29 percent), “unemployment” (14 percent), “mental health and behavioral issues” (14 percent).

None of the participants agreed that “money and/or debt” or “labor and/or sex trafficking” contributed to gun violence in Leon County.



# Potential Solutions

The fourth section of the in-depth interviews addressed the following research goal: Receive input from residents on strategies and initiatives to address the issue of gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

Participants were asked what they perceived as the most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County. Participants were given the following examples:

- Address poverty, cost of living, and food insecurity
- Address housing insecurity and homelessness
- Decrease unemployment
- Increase access to and funding of mental health and substance abuse resources and counseling
- Increase access to and funding of social workers and training
- Increase access to local resources (jobs and career counseling, household goods and tools for rent, etc.)
- Provide alternatives to student suspension and expulsion in Leon County schools
- Increase gun safety training
- Increase gun law education
- Increased law enforcement officers' presence and patrol of areas with high gun violence and deaths caused by guns
- Increase community-based youth-organized activities
- Increase access to supervised childcare
- Decrease gang activity
- Decrease drug activity
- Decrease vandalism and property crime (robbery, theft, mugging)



**71%**  
favored  
increasing access  
to and funding of  
social workers  
and training

**71%**  
favored  
increasing gun  
law education

The majority of participants agreed that “increased access to and funding of social workers and training” (71 percent), “increased gun law education” (71 percent), “increased access to local resources” (57 percent), “increased gun safety training” (57 percent), “increased community-based, youth-focused organized activities” (57 percent), and “decreasing drug activity” (57 percent), are solutions for reducing gun violence.

These examples received moderate responses: “providing alternatives to student suspension and expulsion in Leon County schools” (43 percent), “decreasing gang activity” (43 percent), “decreasing unemployment” (29 percent), “decreasing vandalism and property crime” (29 percent).

These examples received the fewest responses: “address poverty, cost of living, and food insecurity” (14 percent), “increase law enforcement officers’ presence and patrol of areas with high gun violence and deaths caused by guns” (14 percent), “increase access to supervised, licensed child care” (14 percent).

None of the participants agreed that “addressing housing insecurity and homelessness” or “increased access to and funding of mental health and substance abuse resources and counseling” were solutions to gun violence in Leon County.

Participants were also asked what they thought might be standing in the way of reducing gun violence in Leon County, including potential barriers or challenges. Participants were promoted with the following examples:

- Guns are too easily purchased and/or stolen
- Crime is becoming more common and more accepted
- There is a lack of confidence in law enforcement and city officials
- People don't like to follow the rules and laws
- People will find other ways to commit crimes and violence
- It will take too long to implement improvements and change
- People have a lack of basic resources (housing, food, jobs, transportation)
- There is a lack of understanding. The City and County officials implementing change don't live in my community or understand issues concerning my neighborhood.
- People don't fully understand the impact of gun violence

**The majority of participants agreed that: “guns are too easily purchased and/or stolen” (86 percent), “there is a lack of confidence in law enforcement and city officials” (86 percent), “there is a lack of understanding because city and county officials implementing change don't live in or understand the communities and environments in which gun violence occurs” (86 percent).**

**57%**

**believe people don't like to follow the rules and laws**

These examples received moderate responses: “people don’t like to follow the rules and laws” (57 percent), “it will take too long to implement improvements and change” (57 percent), and “people have a lack of basic resources” (57 percent).

**57%**

**believe it will take to long to implement improvements and change**

These examples received the fewest responses: “people will find other ways to commit crimes and violence” (43 percent), “crime is becoming more common and accepted” (29 percent).

None of the participants agreed that “people don’t fully understand the impact of gun violence.”

When asked for any closing thoughts at the end of the interview, one participant shared that “music, name/ reputation, personal choices are the most significant reason for gun violence in Leon County.”

None of the other six (6) participants provided final thoughts.

**57%**

**believe people have a lack of basic resources**



# Conclusion





# Conclusion

This research was conducted on behalf of the Council on the Status of Men and Boys to gather community insights and recommendations to curb gun violence and homicides in Leon County. Through the three data collection methods some common themes emerged regarding the main causes and potential solutions to gun violence. When identifying the main causes of local gun violence and homicides, common themes included drug, gang, and other criminal activity, conflict resolution and poverty, unemployment and economic disparity. As for potential solutions of local gun violence and homicides, the overwhelming theme that developed involved programs, education, interventions and/or support for youth, families, and the community at large. The results of this research will guide the development of a community action plan to reduce gun violence and homicides in Leon County.

# Appendix

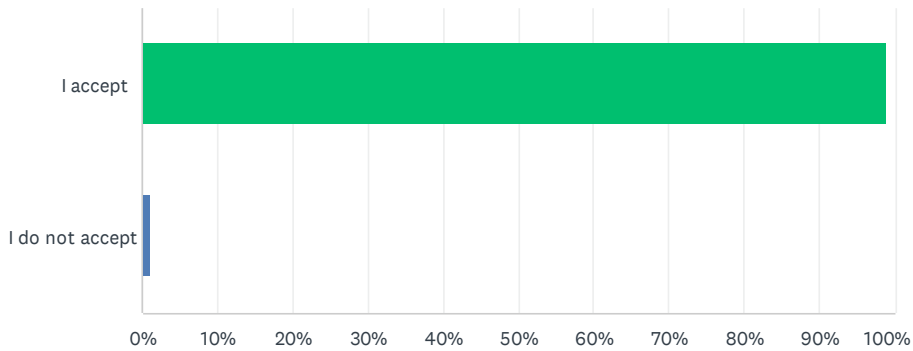


The following pages include a compilation of the online community survey results.

## Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

**Q1 Participation in this survey is voluntary. By submitting this survey, you are consenting to the results being analyzed by a team of researchers and confirming that you are at least 18 years of age.**

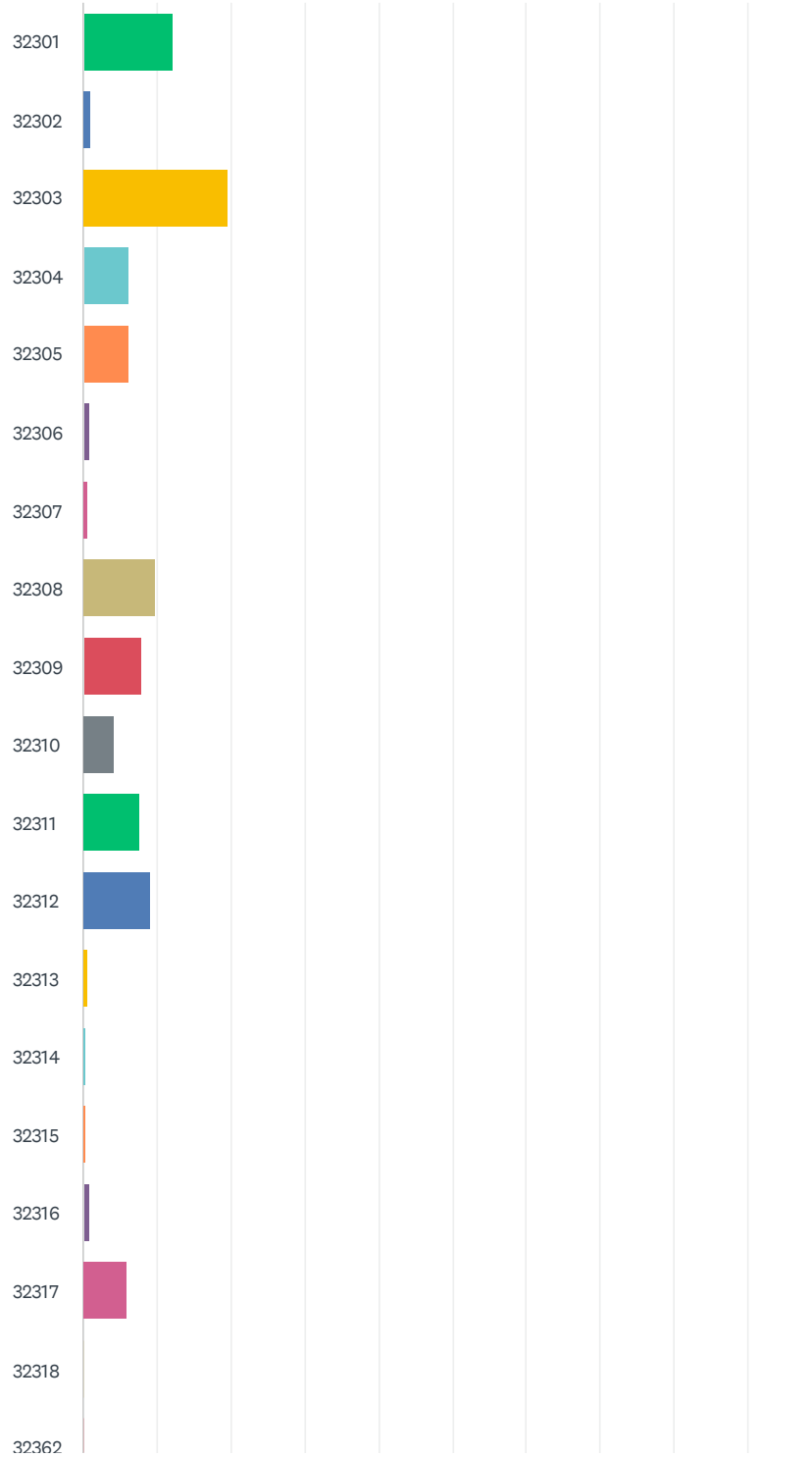
Answered: 668 Skipped: 0



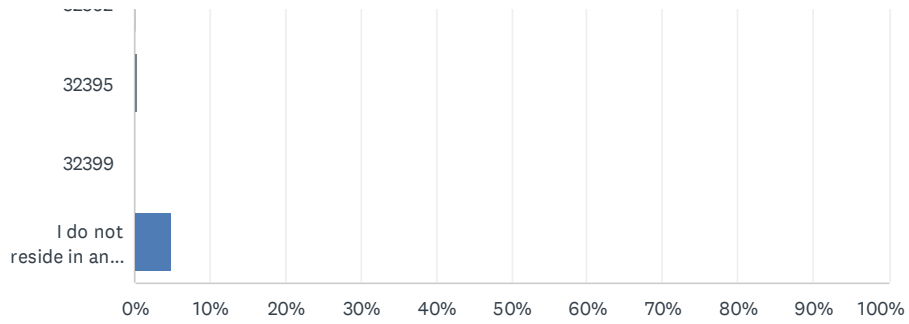
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I accept	98.95%	661
I do not accept	1.05%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>668</b>

## Q2 What zip code do you currently reside in?

Answered: 639 Skipped: 29



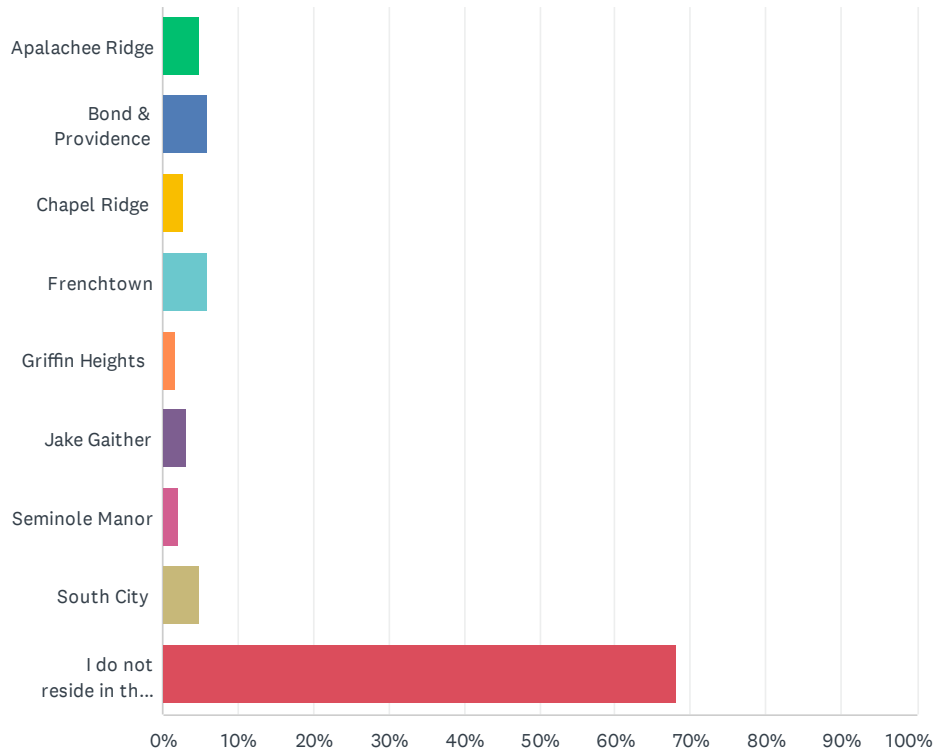
### Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
32301	12.21%	78
32302	1.10%	7
32303	19.56%	125
32304	6.26%	40
32305	6.26%	40
32306	0.78%	5
32307	0.63%	4
32308	9.70%	62
32309	7.98%	51
32310	4.23%	27
32311	7.67%	49
32312	9.23%	59
32313	0.63%	4
32314	0.47%	3
32315	0.47%	3
32316	0.94%	6
32317	5.95%	38
32318	0.31%	2
32362	0.31%	2
32395	0.47%	3
32399	0.00%	0
I do not reside in any of the zip codes listed above	4.85%	31
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>639</b>

Q3 Do you reside in one of these neighborhoods? If yes, select your neighborhood. If no, select “I do not reside in the neighborhoods listed above.”

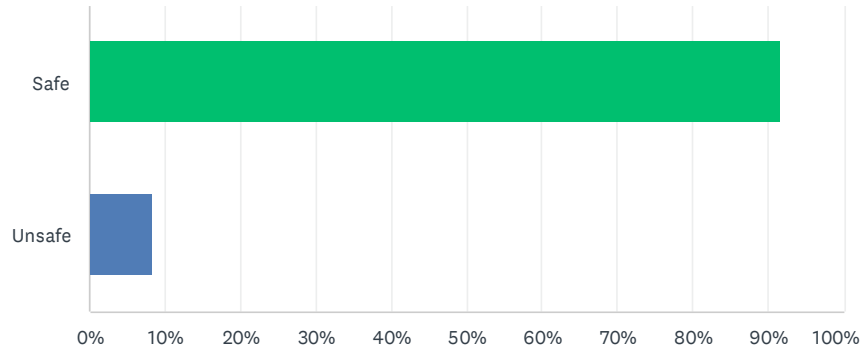
Answered: 182 Skipped: 486



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Apalachee Ridge	4.95%	9
Bond & Providence	6.04%	11
Chapel Ridge	2.75%	5
Frenchtown	6.04%	11
Griffin Heights	1.65%	3
Jake Gaither	3.30%	6
Seminole Manor	2.20%	4
South City	4.95%	9
I do not reside in the neighborhoods listed above	68.13%	124
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>182</b>

### Q4 During the day, do you feel safe or unsafe when you are outside in the area where you live?

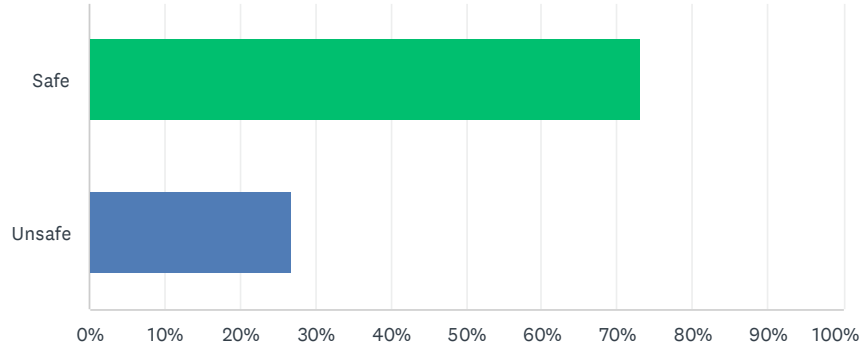
Answered: 560 Skipped: 108



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Safe	91.61%	513
Unsafe	8.39%	47
TOTAL		560

### Q5 At night, do you feel safe or unsafe when you are outside in the area where you live?

Answered: 560 Skipped: 108

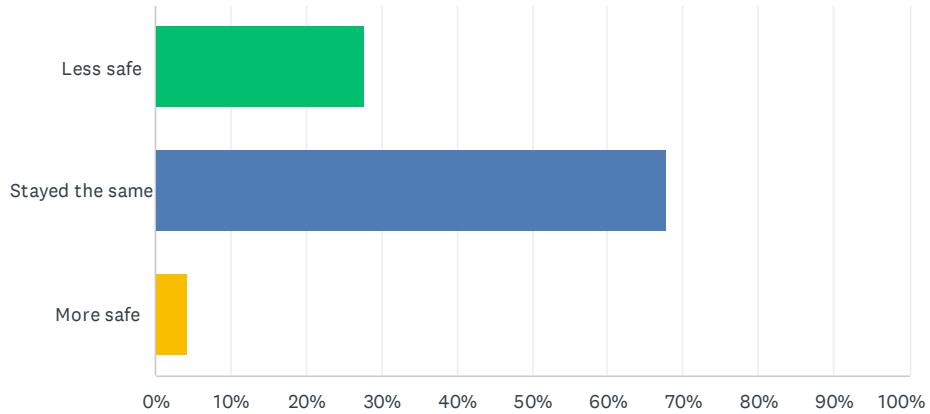


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Safe	73.21% 410
Unsafe	26.79% 150
TOTAL	560



### Q6 In the past year, do you feel the area where you live has become less safe, more safe or stayed the same?

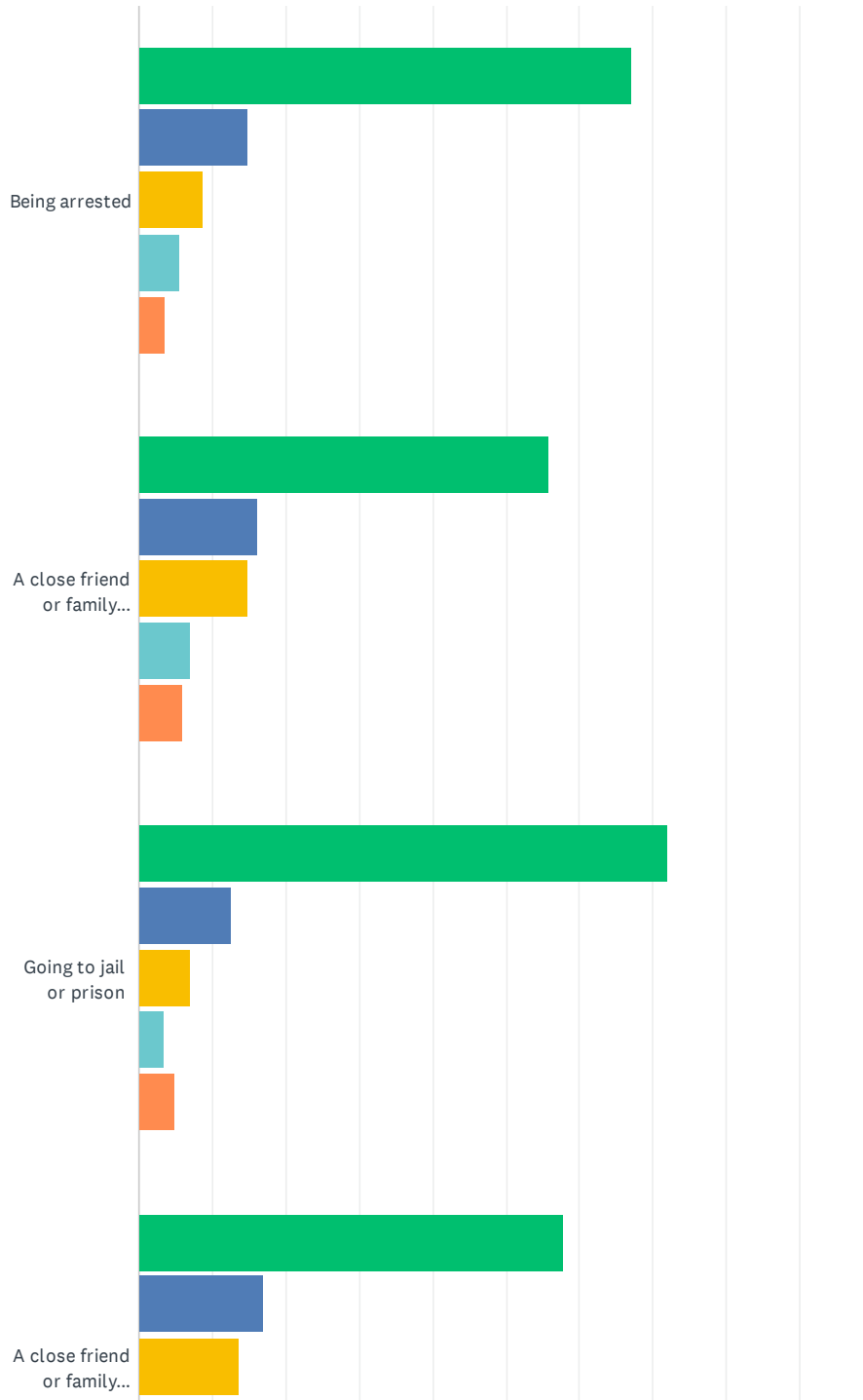
Answered: 554 Skipped: 114



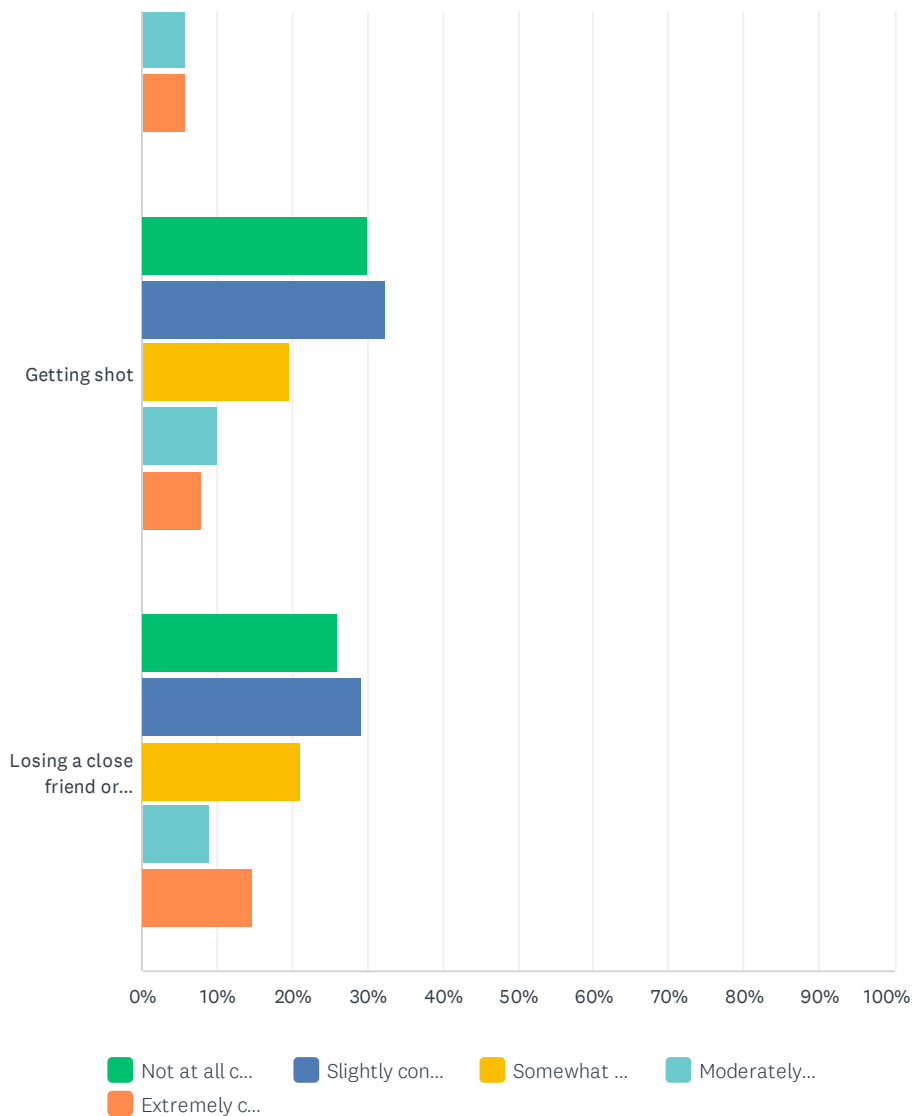
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less safe	27.80%	154
Stayed the same	67.87%	376
More safe	4.33%	24
TOTAL		554

### Q7 How concerned are you that you will experience the following issues in or near the area where you live?

Answered: 559 Skipped: 109



Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

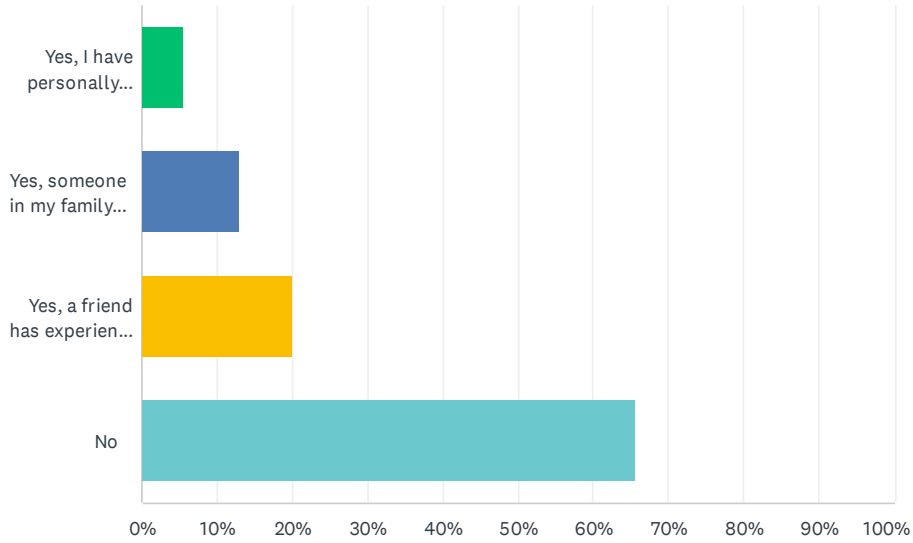


Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

	NOT AT ALL CONCERNED	SLIGHTLY CONCERNED	SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	MODERATELY CONCERNED	EXTREMELY CONCERNED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Being arrested	67.20% 375	14.87% 83	8.78% 49	5.56% 31	3.58% 20	558	1.63
A close friend or family member being arrested	55.91% 312	16.31% 91	14.87% 83	6.99% 39	5.91% 33	558	1.91
Going to jail or prison	72.09% 390	12.57% 68	7.02% 38	3.51% 19	4.81% 26	541	1.56
A close friend or family member going to jail or prison	57.89% 323	17.03% 95	13.62% 76	5.73% 32	5.73% 32	558	1.84
Getting shot	30.04% 167	32.37% 180	19.60% 109	10.07% 56	7.91% 44	556	2.33
Losing a close friend or family member to gun violence	26.12% 146	29.16% 163	21.11% 118	8.94% 50	14.67% 82	559	2.57

**Q8 In the past year, have you or someone close to you been threatened, injured or killed by a gun? Select all that apply.**

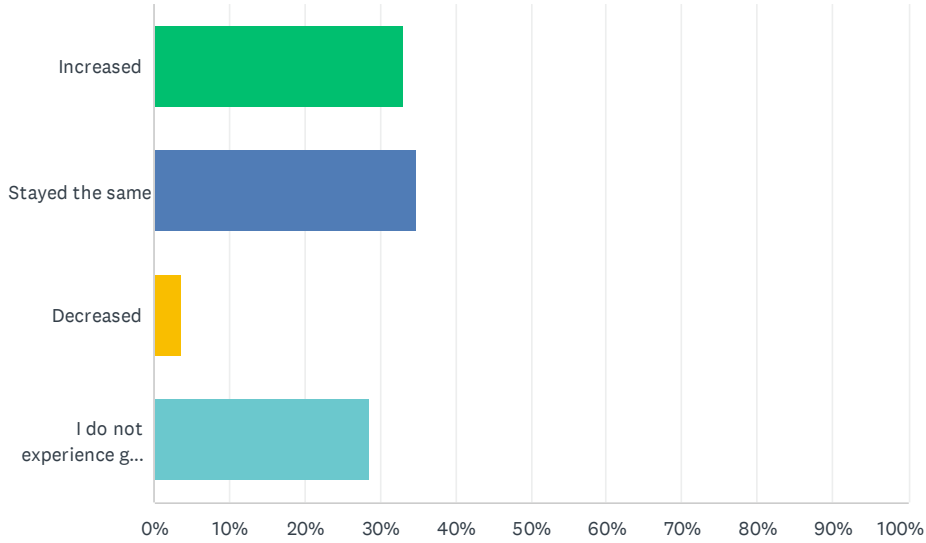
Answered: 557 Skipped: 111



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I have personally experienced this	5.57%	31
Yes, someone in my family has experienced this	13.11%	73
Yes, a friend has experienced this	20.11%	112
No	65.71%	366
Total Respondents: 557		

### Q9 In the past year, do you feel gun violence in the area where you live has increased, decreased or stayed the same?

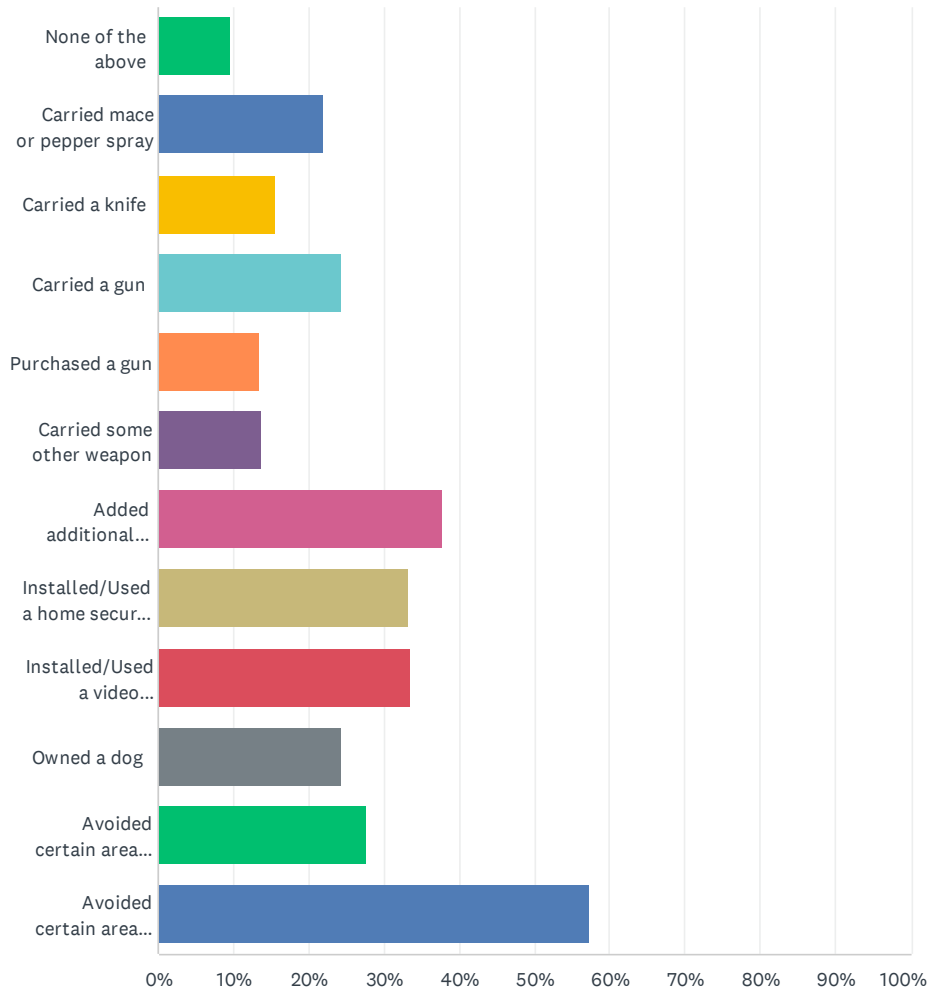
Answered: 556 Skipped: 112



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased	33.09%	184
Stayed the same	34.71%	193
Decreased	3.60%	20
I do not experience gun violence where I live	28.60%	159
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>556</b>

**Q10 Which of the following have you done because you were concerned about crime and gun violence in or near the area where you live? Select all that apply. Remember, this survey is completely ANONYMOUS and CONFIDENTIAL.**

Answered: 553 Skipped: 115



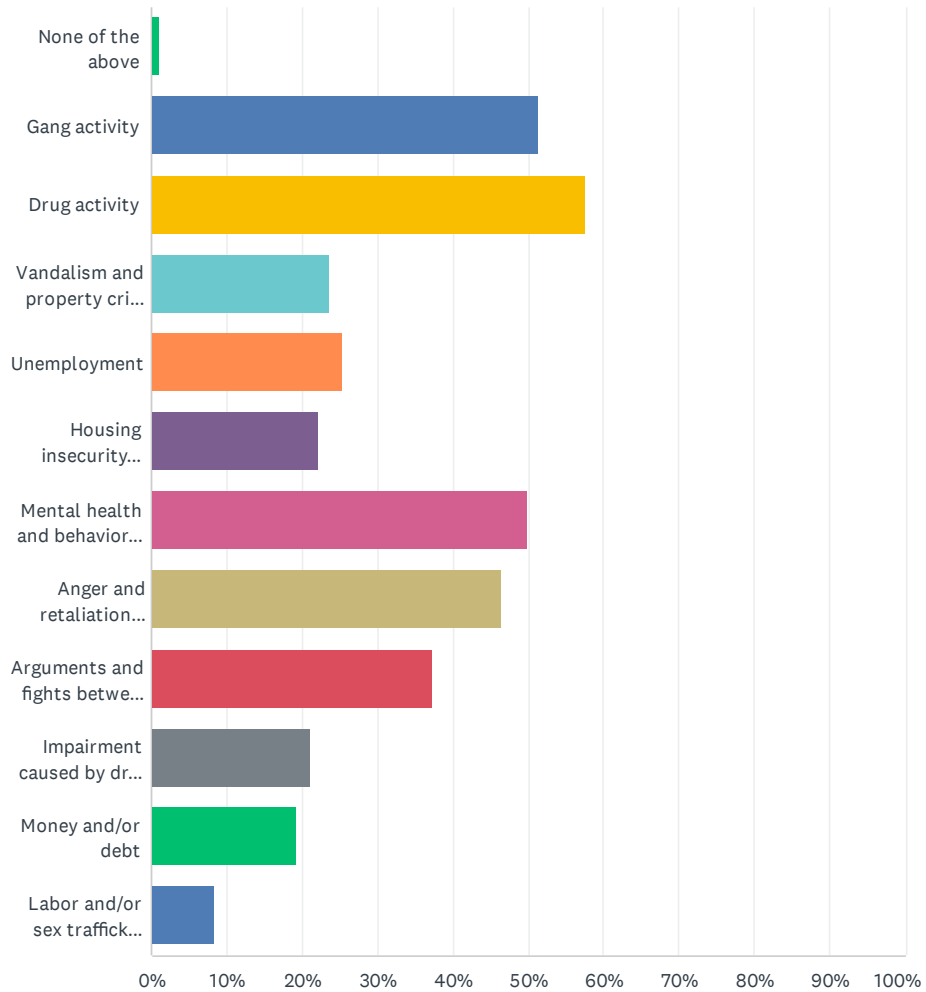
## Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	9.58%	53
Carried mace or pepper spray	22.06%	122
Carried a knife	15.55%	86
Carried a gun	24.23%	134
Purchased a gun	13.38%	74
Carried some other weapon	13.74%	76
Added additional lights or locks to home	37.79%	209
Installed/Used a home security system	33.27%	184
Installed/Used a video doorbell or other camera	33.45%	185
Owned a dog	24.41%	135
Avoided certain areas during the day	27.67%	153
Avoided certain areas during the night	57.32%	317
Total Respondents: 553		



### Q11 In your opinion, what are the main causes of gun violence in Leon County? Select the top THREE.

Answered: 541 Skipped: 127



## Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

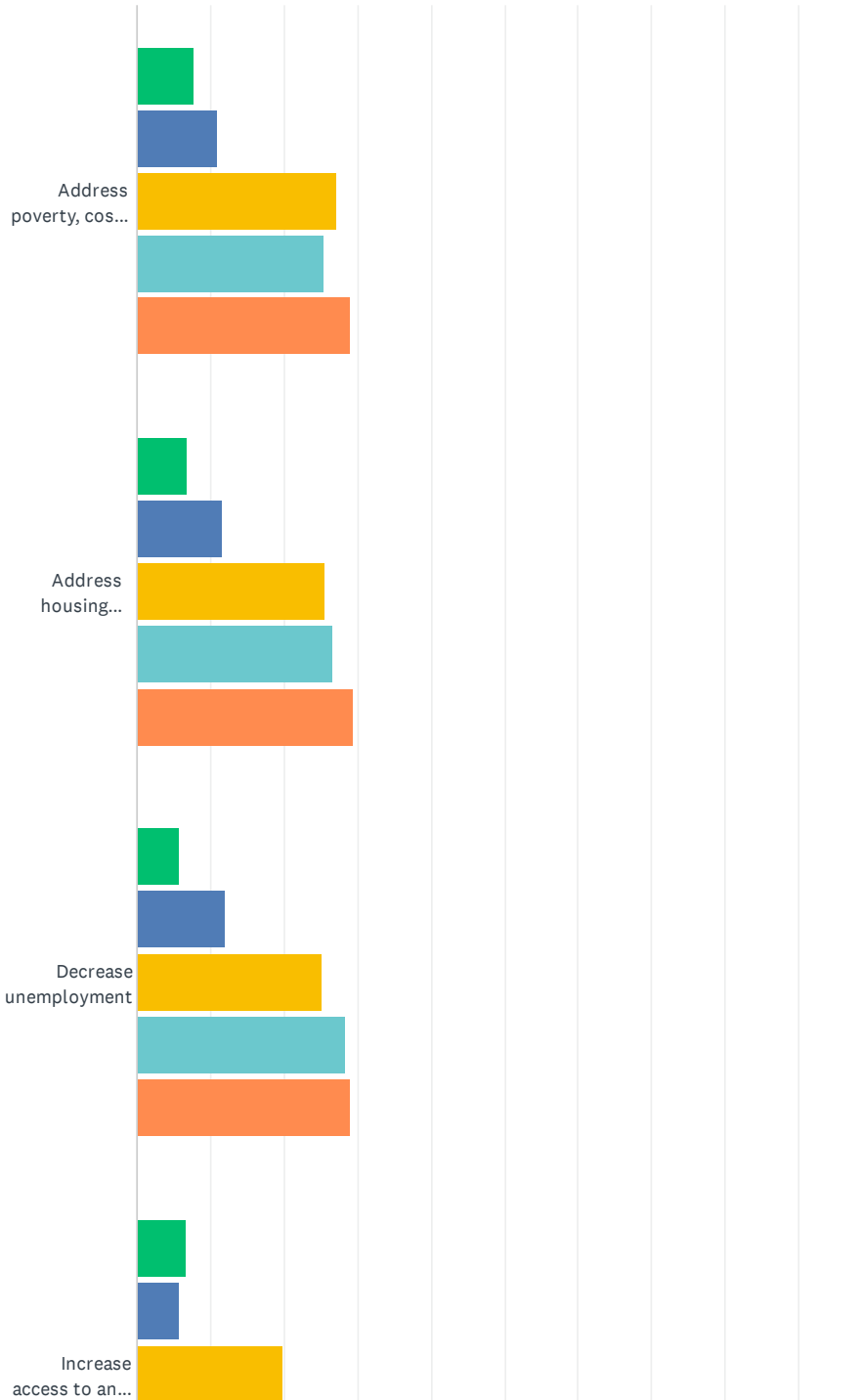
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.11%	6
Gang activity	51.39%	278
Drug activity	57.67%	312
Vandalism and property crime (e.g., robbery, theft, mugging)	23.66%	128
Unemployment	25.32%	137
Housing insecurity (e.g., housing costs, rent costs, homelessness)	22.18%	120
Mental health and behavioral issues (e.g., mental illnesses, irrational thinking)	49.91%	270
Anger and retaliation between individuals	46.58%	252
Arguments and fights between individuals	37.34%	202
Impairment caused by drugs or alcohol	21.07%	114
Money and/or debt	19.22%	104
Labor and/or sex trafficking (human trafficking)	8.32%	45
Total Respondents: 541		

**Q12 In your opinion, what would be most effective in reducing gun violence in Leon County?**

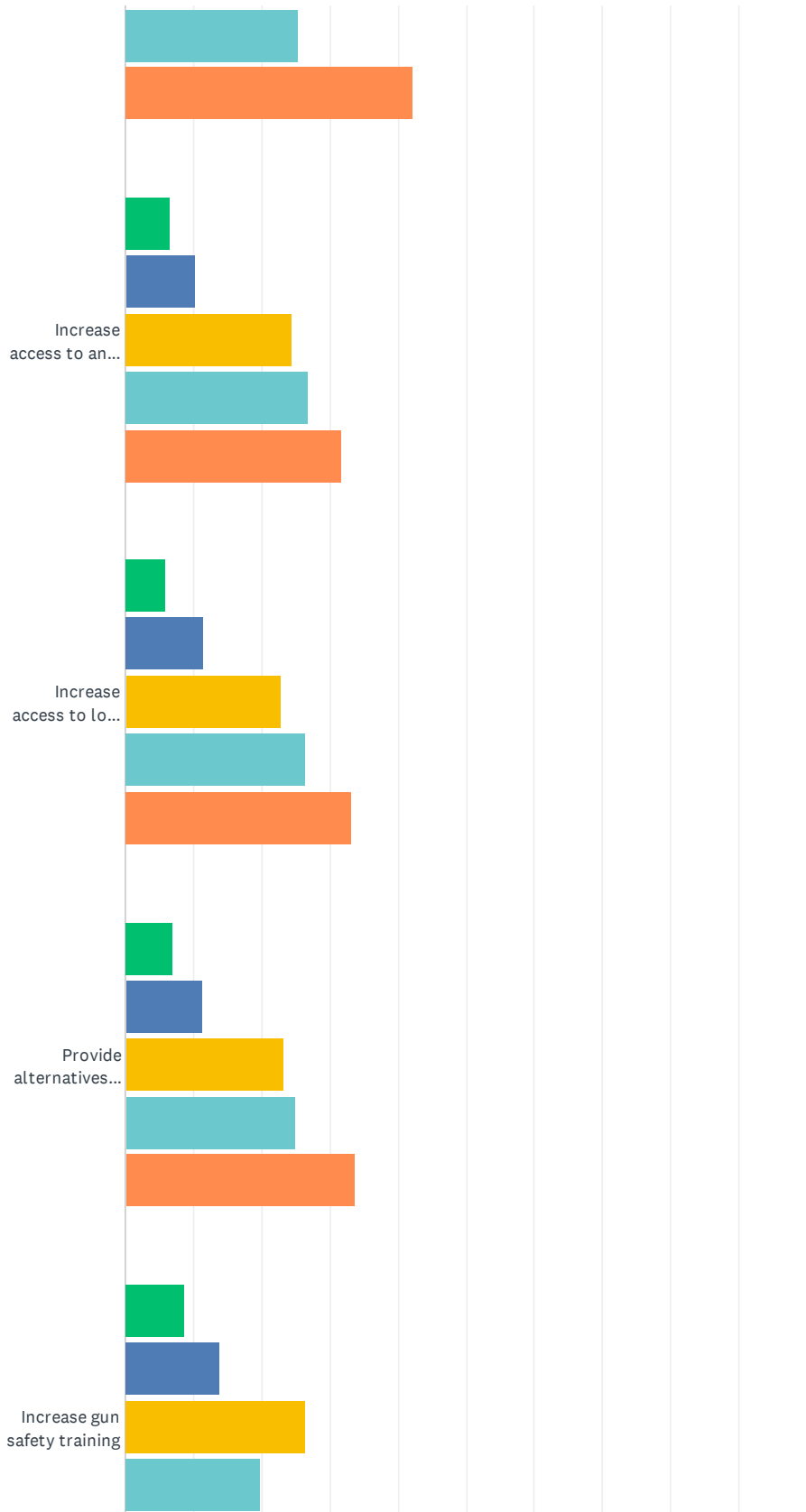
Answered: 420 Skipped: 248

### Q13 How effective do you feel the following would be in reducing gun violence and deaths caused by guns in Leon County?

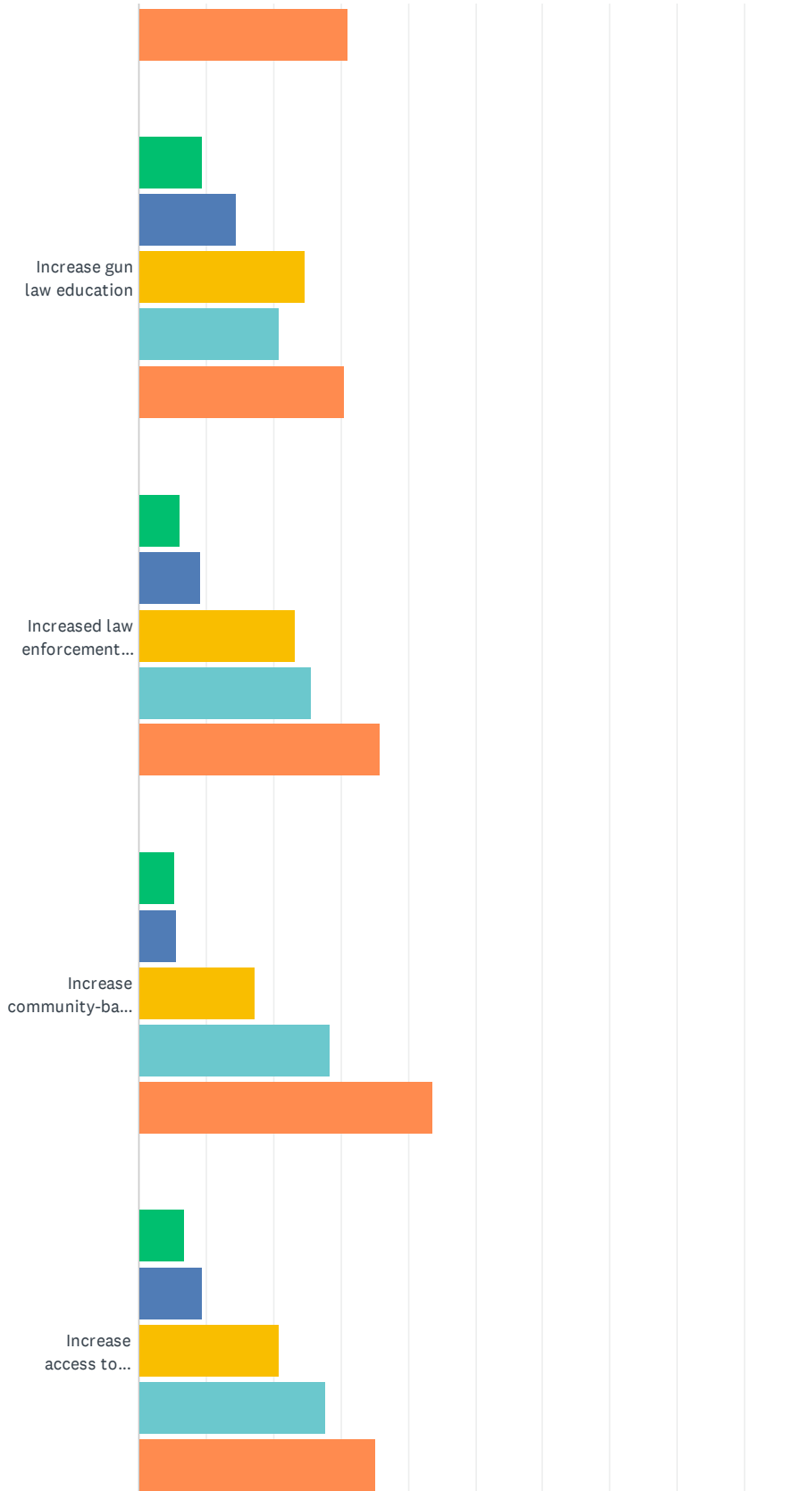
Answered: 533 Skipped: 135



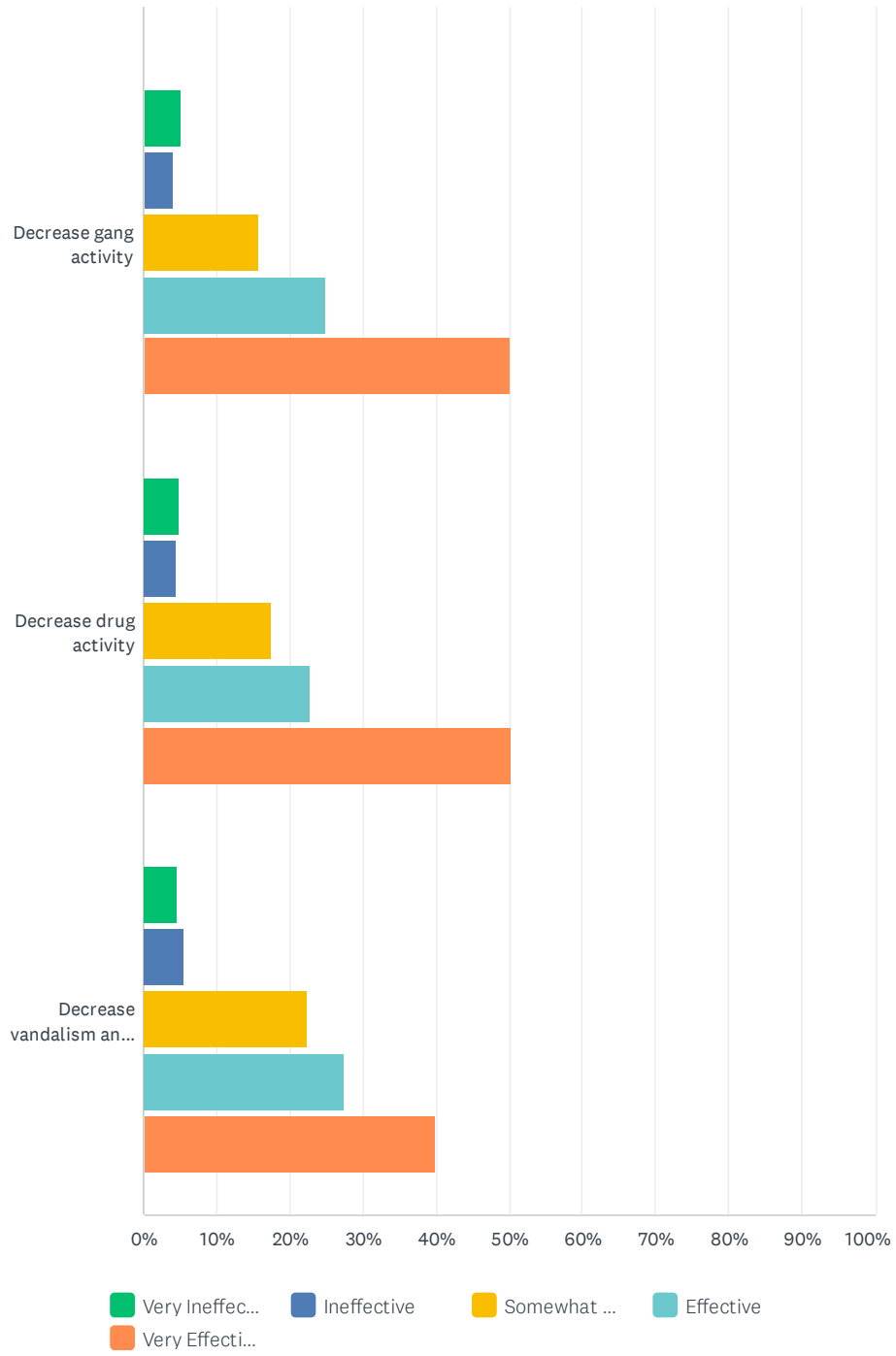
Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey



# Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey



### Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey



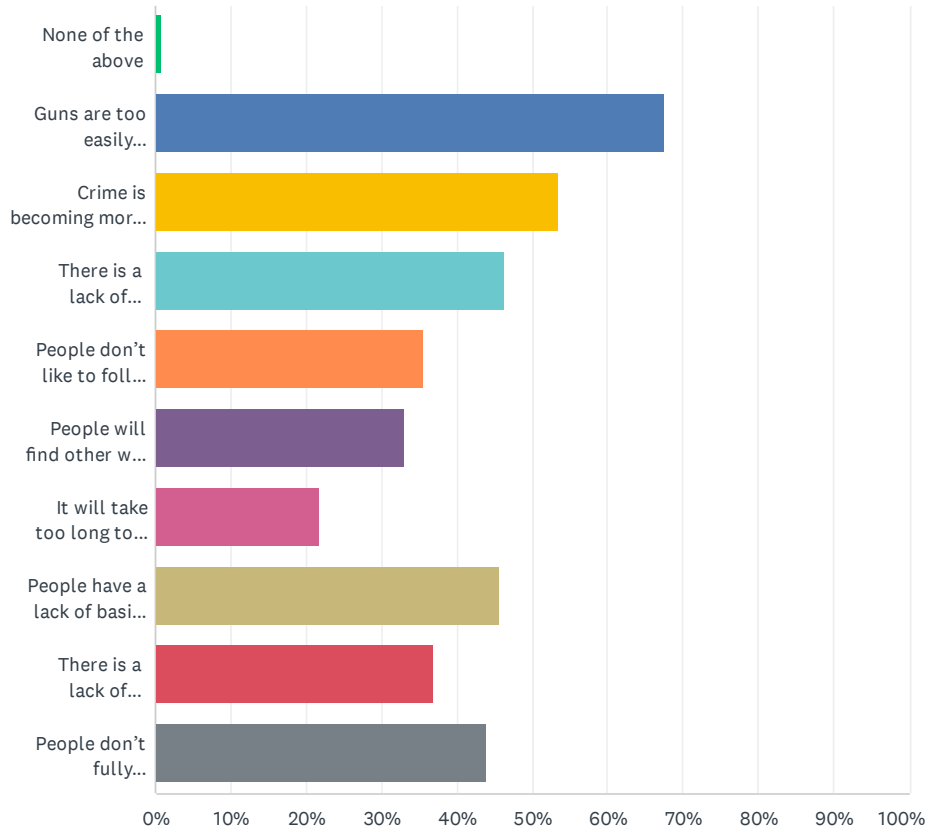
Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

	VERY INEFFECTIVE	INEFFECTIVE	SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE	EFFECTIVE	VERY EFFECTIVE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Address poverty, cost of living and food insecurity	7.59% 40	10.82% 57	27.13% 143	25.43% 134	29.03% 153	527	3.57
Address housing insecurity and homelessness	6.83% 36	11.57% 61	25.62% 135	26.57% 140	29.41% 155	527	3.60
Decrease unemployment	5.75% 30	11.88% 62	25.10% 131	28.35% 148	28.93% 151	522	3.63
Increase access to and funding of mental health and substance abuse resources and counseling	6.60% 35	5.85% 31	19.81% 105	25.47% 135	42.26% 224	530	3.91
Increase access to and funding of social workers and training	6.65% 35	10.27% 54	24.52% 129	26.81% 141	31.75% 167	526	3.67
Increase access to local resources (jobs and career counseling, household goods and tools for rent, etc.)	5.87% 31	11.55% 61	22.73% 120	26.52% 140	33.33% 176	528	3.70
Provide alternatives to student suspension and expulsion in Leon County schools	7.02% 37	11.20% 59	23.34% 123	24.86% 131	33.59% 177	527	3.67
Increase gun safety training	8.76% 46	13.90% 73	26.48% 139	19.81% 104	31.05% 163	525	3.50
Increase gun law education	9.39% 49	14.56% 76	24.71% 129	20.88% 109	30.46% 159	522	3.48
Increased law enforcement officers presence and patrol of areas with high gun violence and deaths caused by guns	6.26% 33	9.11% 48	23.15% 122	25.62% 135	35.86% 189	527	3.76
Increase community-based youth organized activities	5.28% 28	5.47% 29	17.17% 91	28.30% 150	43.77% 232	530	4.00
Increase access to supervised childcare	6.87% 36	9.35% 49	20.99% 110	27.67% 145	35.11% 184	524	3.75
Decrease gang activity	5.11% 27	3.98% 21	15.72% 83	25.00% 132	50.19% 265	528	4.11
Decrease drug activity	4.96% 26	4.39% 23	17.56% 92	22.71% 119	50.38% 264	524	4.09
Decrease vandalism and property crime (robbery, theft, mugging)	4.61% 24	5.57% 29	22.46% 117	27.45% 143	39.92% 208	521	3.93



### Q14 What do you think might stand in the way of reducing gun violence in Leon County? Select all that apply.

Answered: 532 Skipped: 136

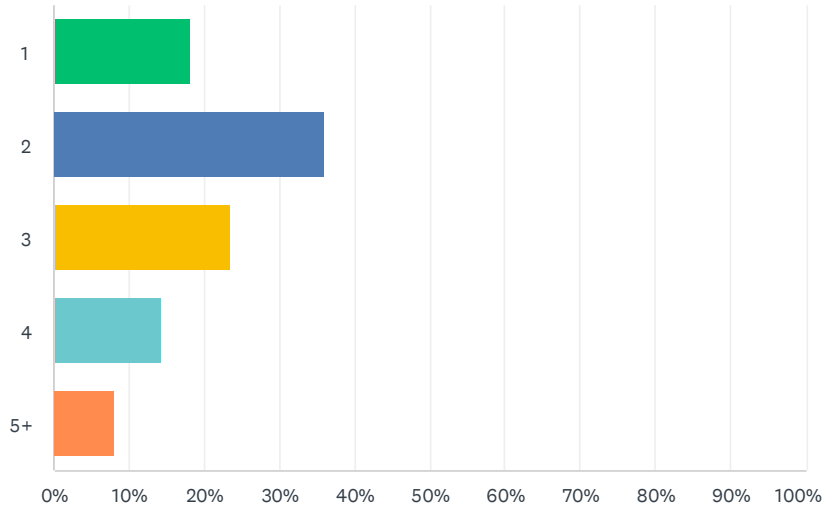


## Leon County Gun Violence Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0.94%	5
Guns are too easily purchased and/or stolen	67.67%	360
Crime is becoming more common and more accepted	53.57%	285
There is a lack of confidence in law enforcement and city officials	46.24%	246
People don't like to follow the rules and laws	35.71%	190
People will find other ways to commit crimes and violence	33.08%	176
It will take too long to implement improvements and change	21.80%	116
People have a lack of basic resources (housing, food, jobs, transportation)	45.68%	243
There is a lack of understanding. The City and County officials implementing change don't live in my community or understand what it's really like	36.84%	196
People don't fully understand the impact of gun violence	43.98%	234
Total Respondents: 532		

### Q15 How many people live in your home, including yourself?

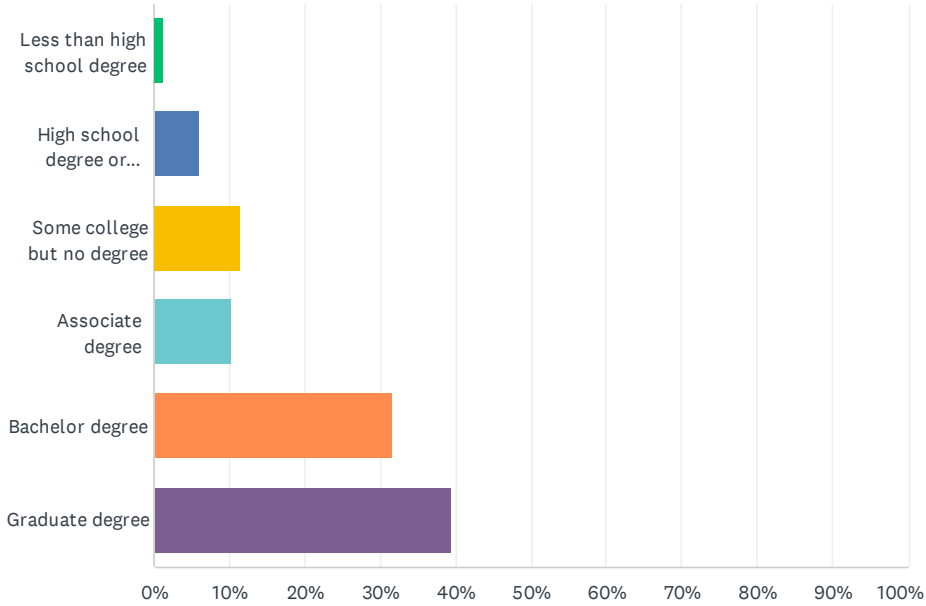
Answered: 528 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	18.18%	96
2	35.98%	190
3	23.48%	124
4	14.20%	75
5+	8.14%	43
TOTAL		528

### Q16 What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

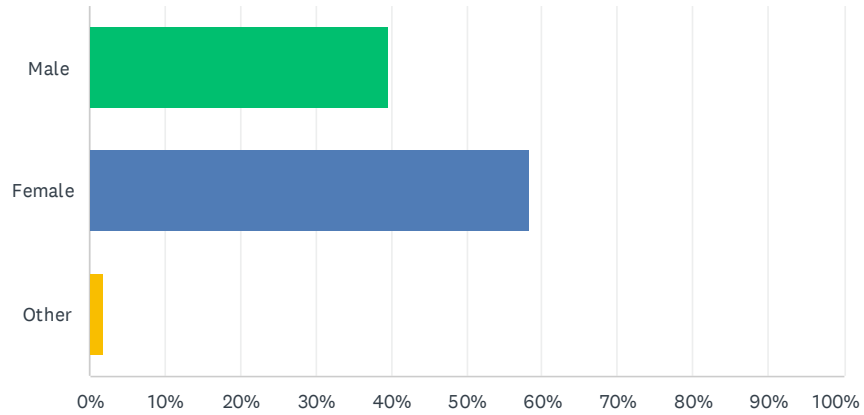
Answered: 528 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than high school degree	1.33%	7
High school degree or equivalent (e.g., GED)	5.87%	31
Some college but no degree	11.55%	61
Associate degree	10.23%	54
Bachelor degree	31.63%	167
Graduate degree	39.39%	208
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>528</b>

### Q17 What is your gender?

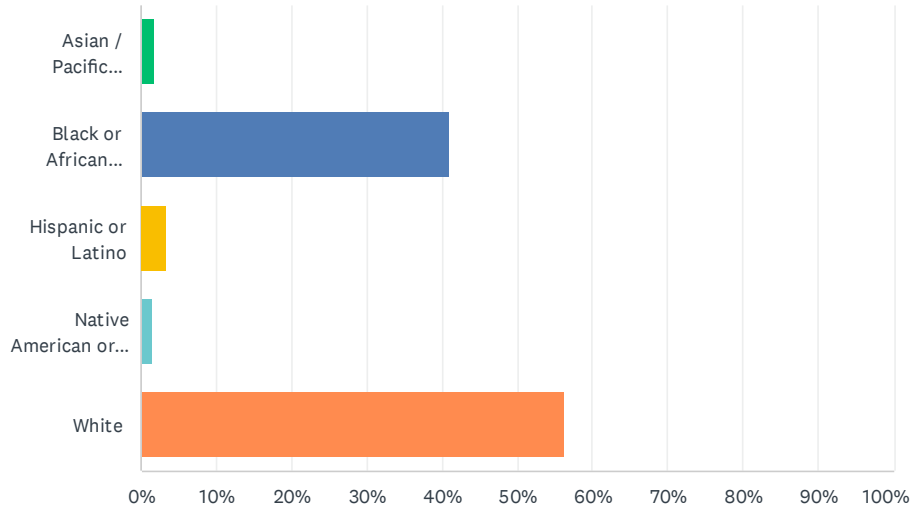
Answered: 525 Skipped: 143



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	39.62%	208
Female	58.48%	307
Other	1.90%	10
TOTAL		525

Q18 What is your race? Please check all that apply.

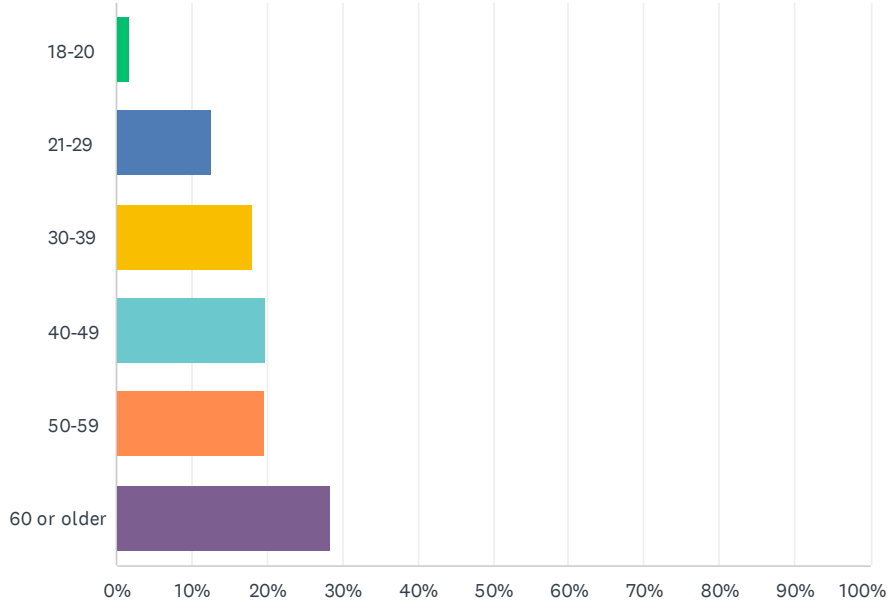
Answered: 517 Skipped: 151



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Asian / Pacific Islander	1.74% 9
Black or African American	41.01% 212
Hispanic or Latino	3.48% 18
Native American or American Indian	1.55% 8
White	56.29% 291
Total Respondents: 517	

### Q19 What is your age?

Answered: 527 Skipped: 141



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18-20	1.71% 9
21-29	12.52% 66
30-39	18.22% 96
40-49	19.73% 104
50-59	19.54% 103
60 or older	28.27% 149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>527</b>

# Gun Violence Prevention in Leon County

Community Survey  
August 2023

