



Mayors Against Illegal Guns

Results From A National Survey Of 1003 Registered Voters
January 2011

Methodology



We surveyed 1003 respondents nationally between January 11-13, 2011

Sample universe

- We used Random Digit Dialing and screened for registered voters

Margin of error

- Margin of error: +/-3.1%
- Margin of error for subgroups is larger

Sample Characteristics



- **Male: 48%**
- **Female: 52%**
- **HS or <: 22%**
- **Sm coll: 29%**
- **Coll+: 48%**
- **<45: 41%**
- **45-64: 40%**
- **65+: 18%**
- **White: 75%**
- **Non-White: 22%**
- **Northeast: 18%**
- **Midwest: 24%**
- **South: 37%**
- **West: 21%**
- **Gun HH: 45%**
- **Non-Gun HH: 49%**

Views Toward Guns



This electorate is divided along partisan lines

There is support for gun ownership

- And the Second Amendment right to own a gun

But a majority now support stricter gun laws

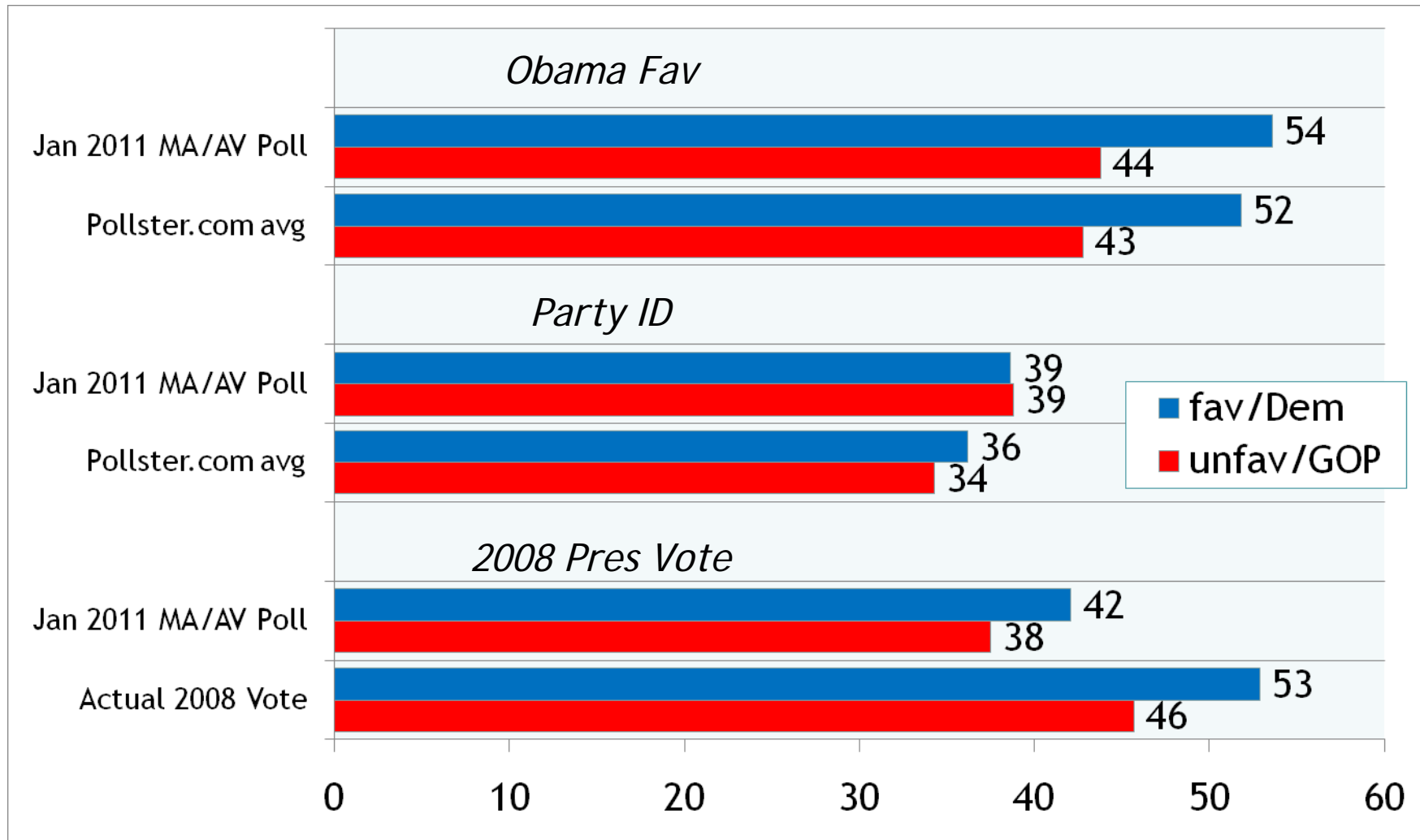
- This is an uptick after decades of decline

The Electorate Is Divided Politically



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Obama Favorability/Party ID/2008 Presidential Vote



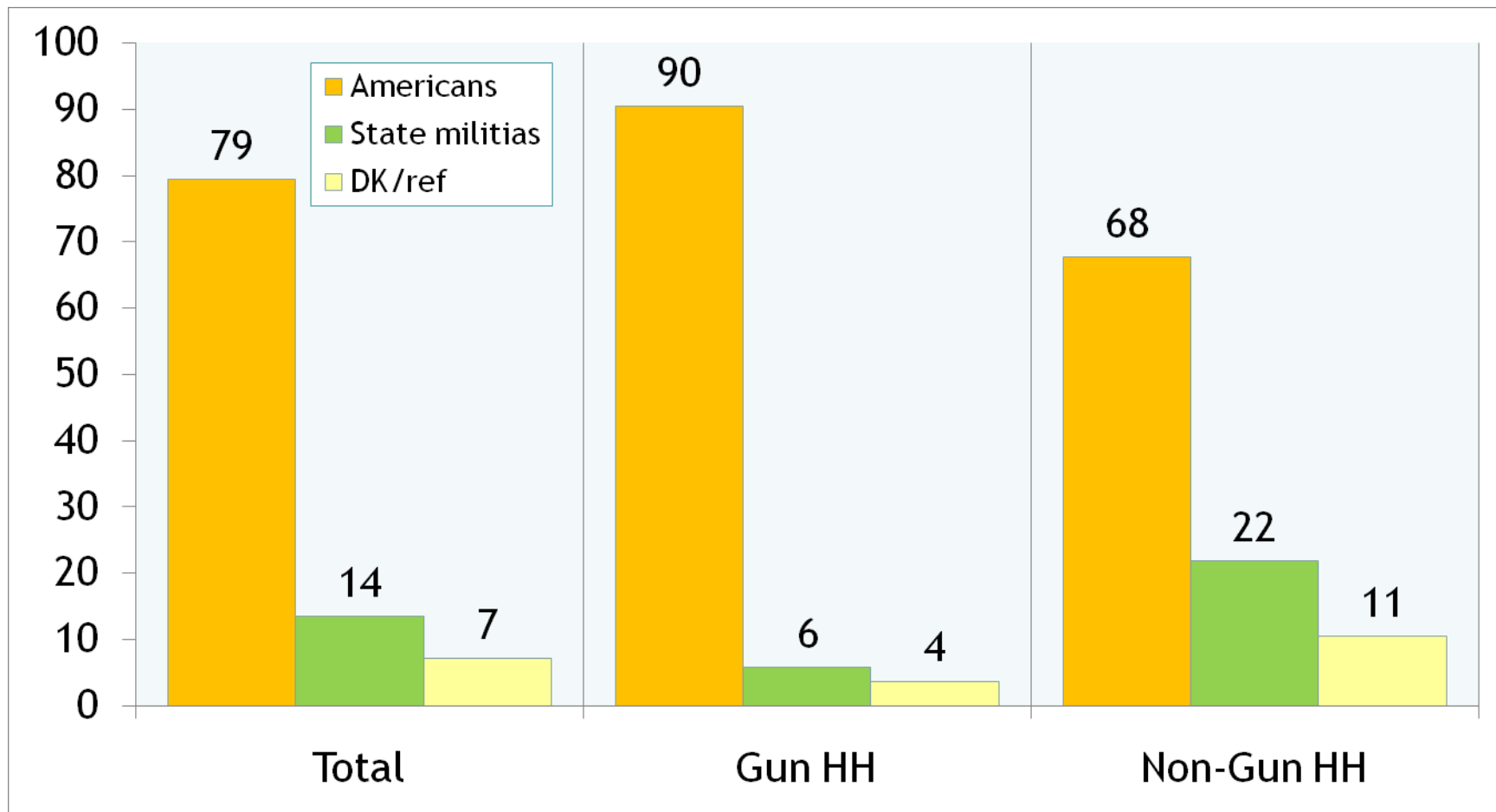
There Is Strong Support For The Constitutional Right Of Gun Ownership

Recall Nearly Half Live In A Gun-Ownning Household



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Do you believe the Second Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees the rights of Americans to own guns, or do you believe it only guarantees members of state militias such as National Guard units the right to own guns?



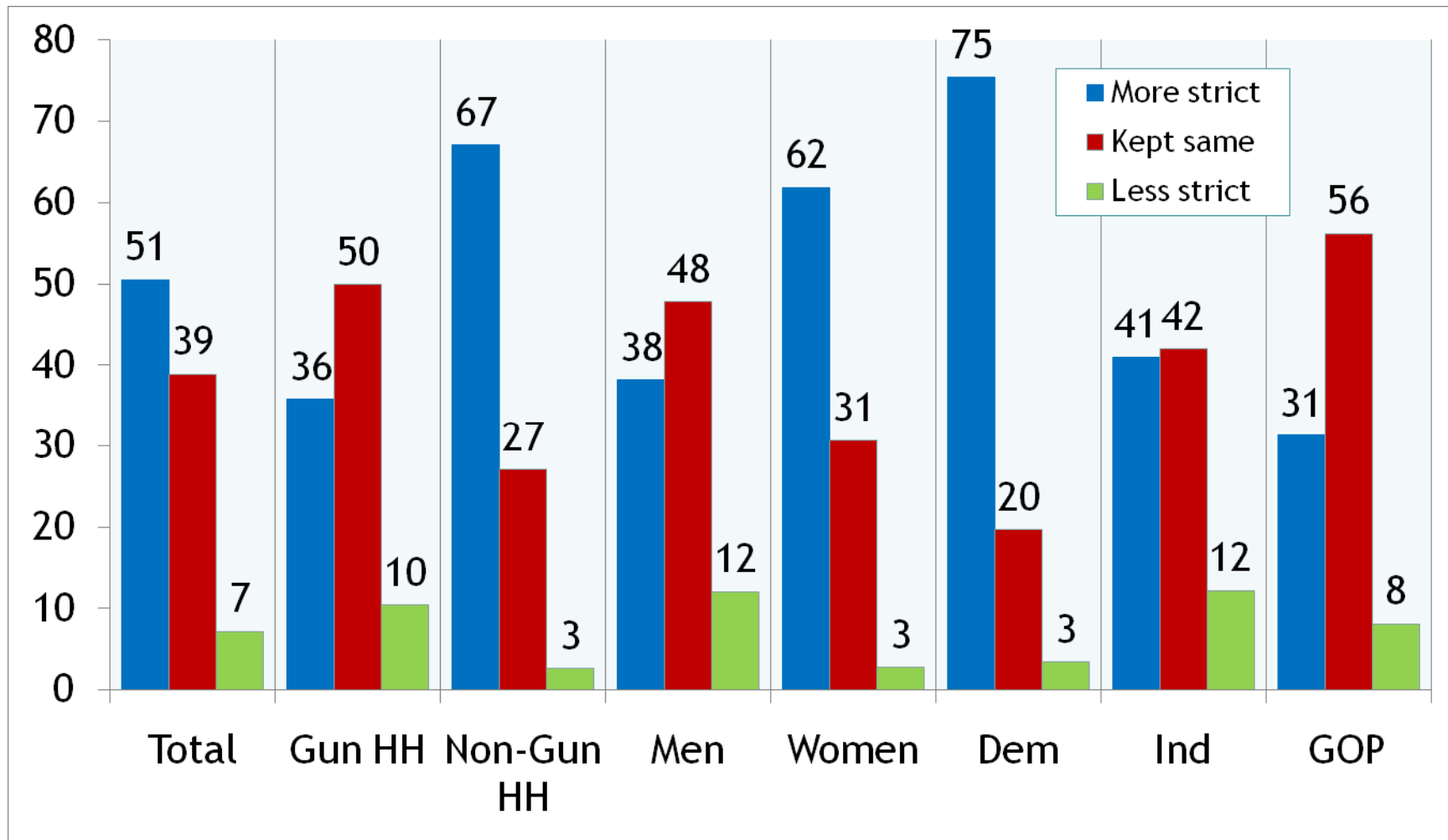
A Majority Support Stricter Gun Laws

Support Is Strongest In Non-Gun Households, With Women & Democrats



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Do you feel the laws covering the sale of guns should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

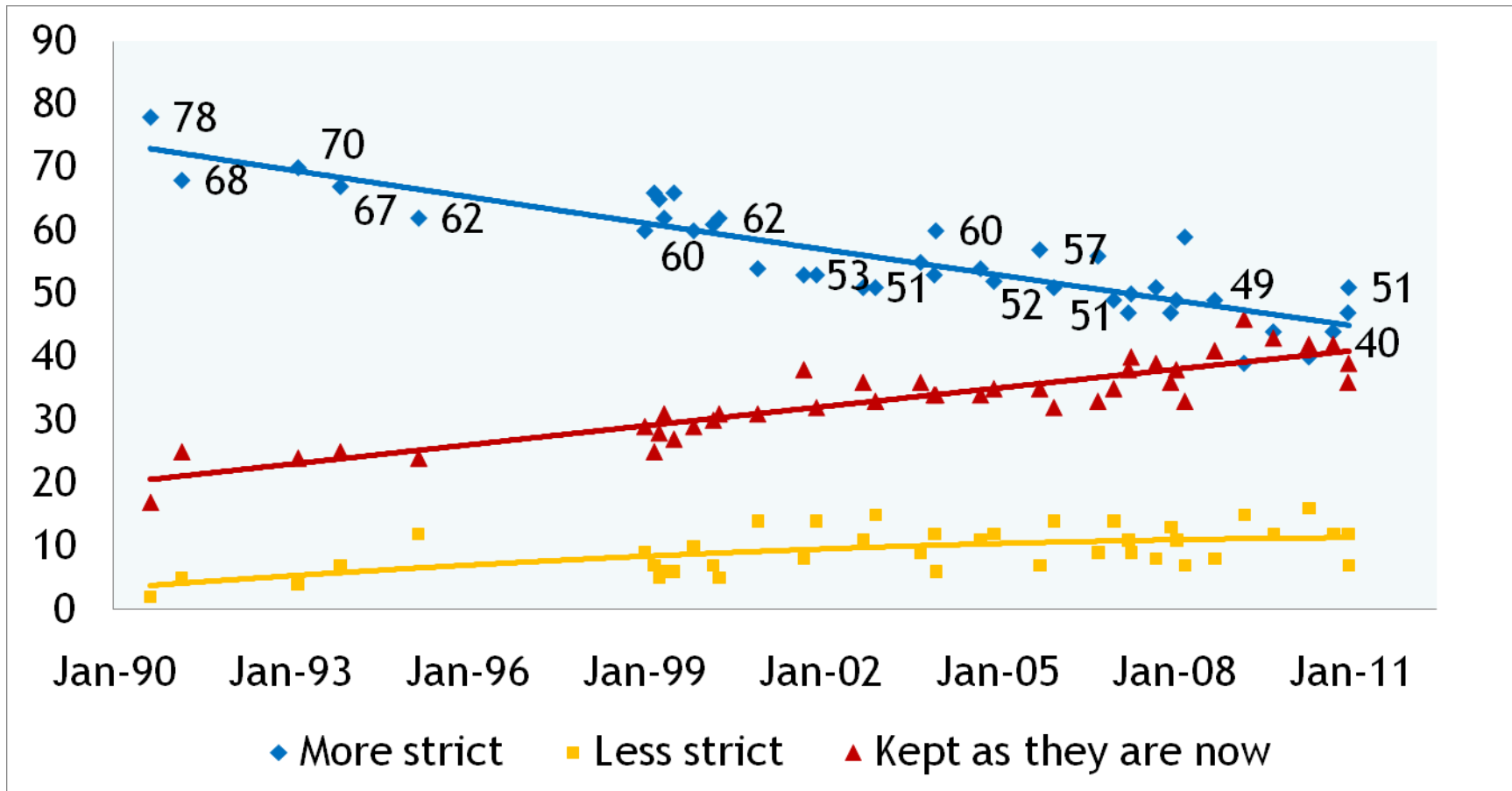


While Feelings Towards Stricter Gun Laws Have Declined Over The Past Two Decades...



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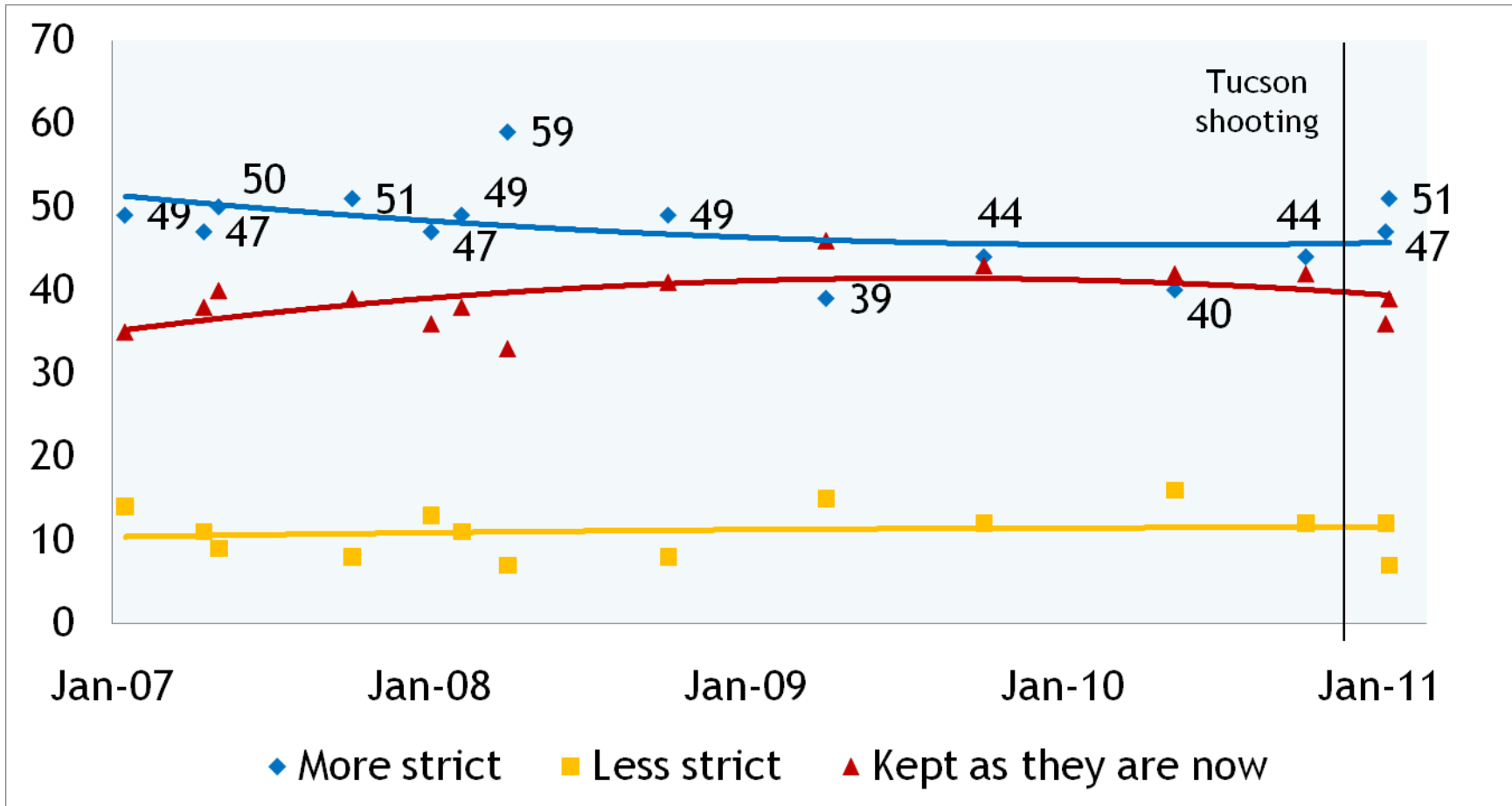
(Based on public polling from Gallup, MAIG, CBS News, CNN/Opinion Research, USA Today, & AP/Ipsos)

...Post-Tucson, Support For Stricter Gun Laws Has Increased



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Do you feel the laws covering the sale of guns should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?



(Based on public polling from Gallup, MAIG, CBS News, CNN/Opinion Research, USA Today, & AP/Ipsos)

Tucson Shooting



Most are following the incident

- Half are following it very or extremely closely

More cite mental health care & guns as important external factors

- Heated rhetoric or the media are less salient factors

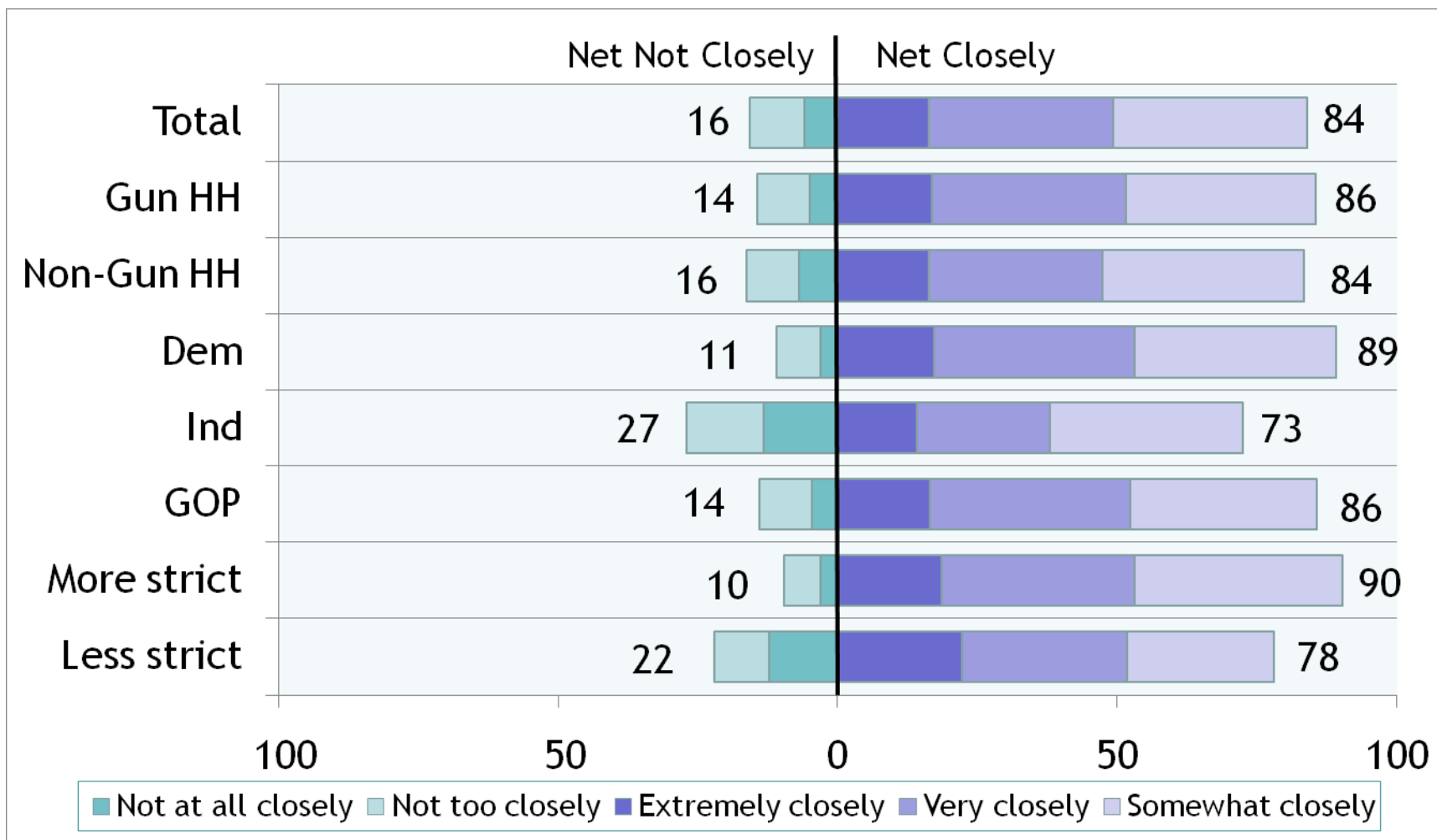
Many say Tucson has made them favor stricter gun laws more strongly

Most Voters Have Been Following The Tucson Shooting

Independents & Voters Wanting Less Strict Gun Laws Are Less Engaged



How much, if at all, have you been following the news about a shooting in Tucson of a Congresswoman, along with nearly twenty others?



Tucson Shooting Description



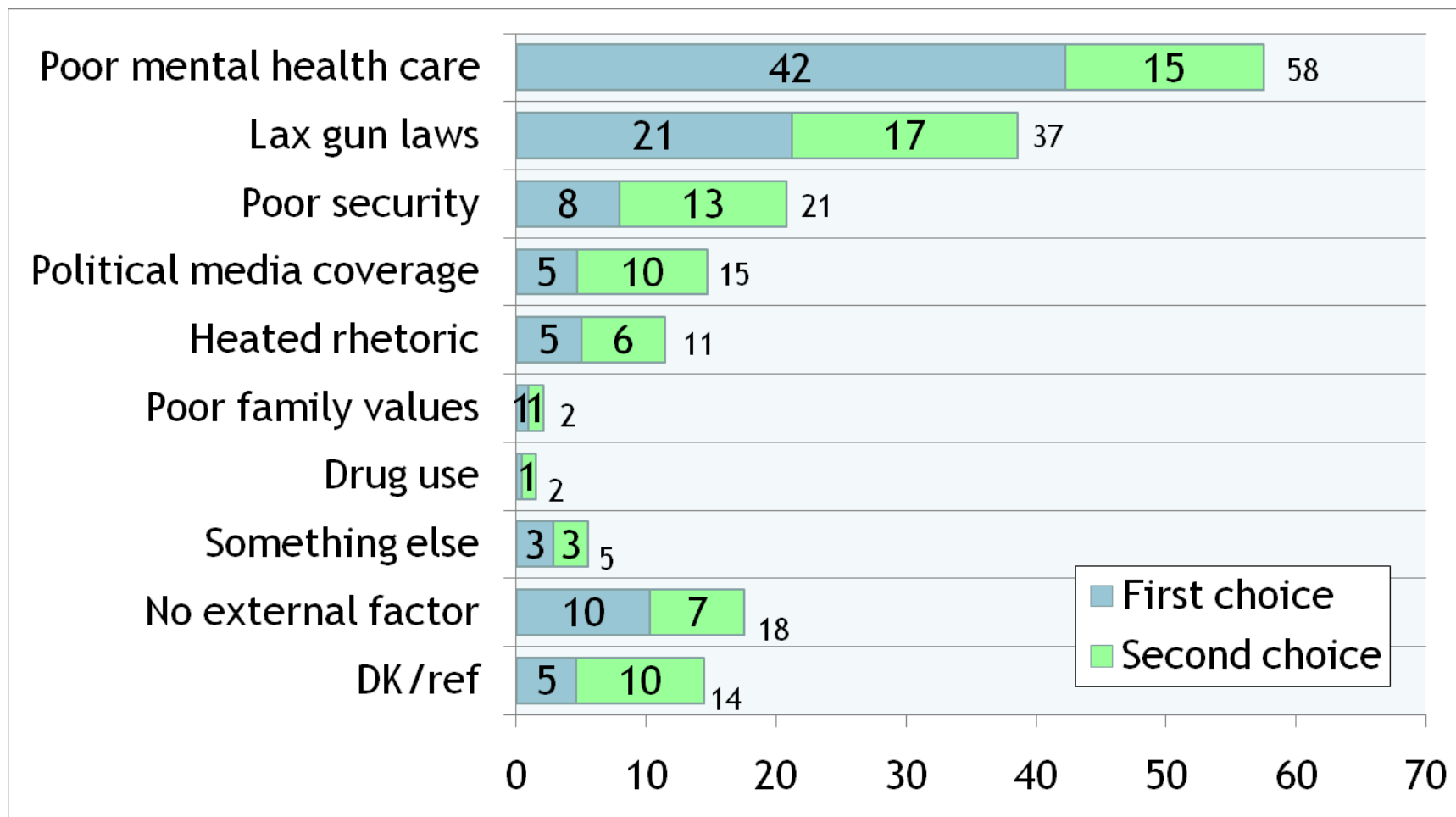
As you may know, on Saturday an Arizona Congresswoman was shot at close range while she met with constituents at a grocery store. Six people were killed, including a federal judge and a 9-year-old girl, and over a dozen others were injured. The alleged gunman passed a background check and bought a Glock 9-millimeter semi-automatic pistol, along with an extended magazine holding more than 30 bullets. The alleged gunman also has a history of drug use, disturbed behavior and outbursts, causing him to be expelled from community college and rejected from the military.

Far More Cite Mental Health Care And Gun Laws Than Rhetoric Or The Media



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Based on what you have heard and what you already know, what external factor played the largest/second largest role in this incident? (First & Second choice)

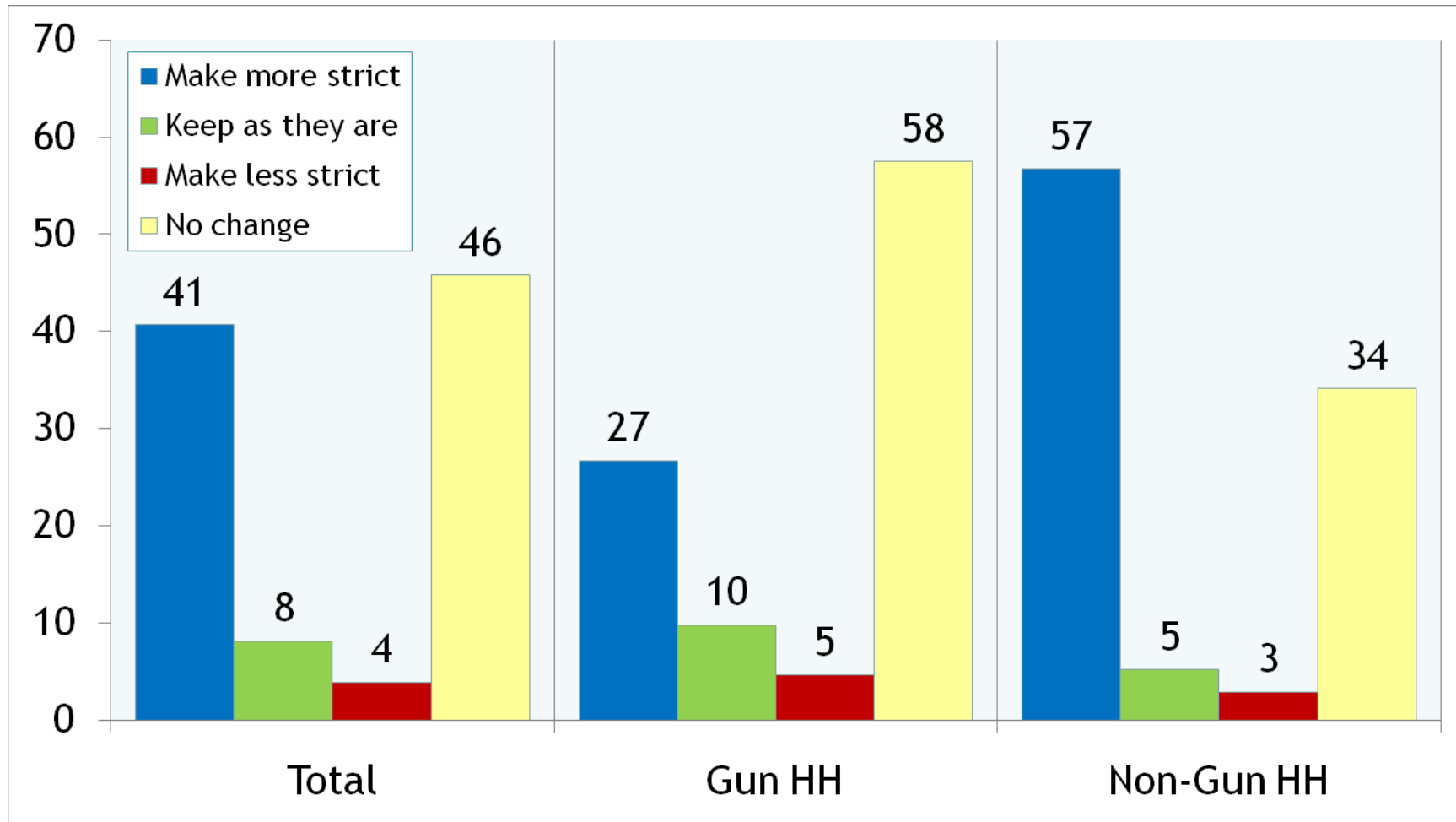


Tucson Has Made A Majority Of Non-Gun HHs And Even A Quarter Of Gun HHs Move Toward Stricter Gun Laws



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How, if at all, has this incident changed your opinion about gun laws?



Proposals & Action



Many proposals are overwhelmingly popular

- Overall, and with gun owners

In particular:

- Improved background checks
- Better information sharing
- Reporting stolen guns
- Closing existing gaps
- Keeping guns away from criminals, terrorists, and the mentally ill

Less popular proposals are those at either extreme

- Members of Congress carrying guns
- Banning handguns

Half want to balance both safety and gun owners' rights

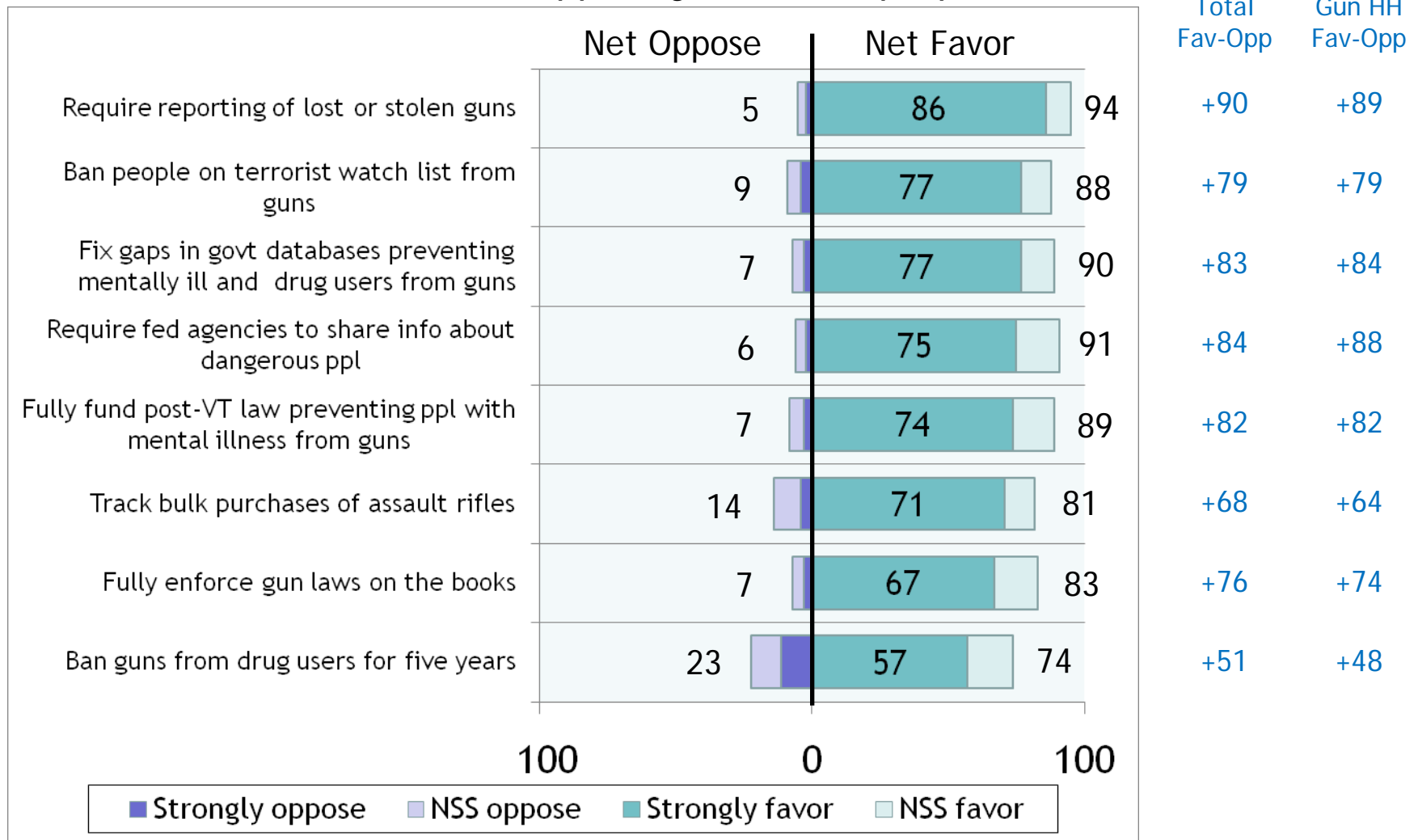
- And are optimistic this can be done

Top Gun Control Proposals, Even In Gun HHs, Are Reporting Lost Guns, Preventing Dangerous People From Getting Guns And Enforcing Current Laws



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% Favor/Oppose gun control proposal

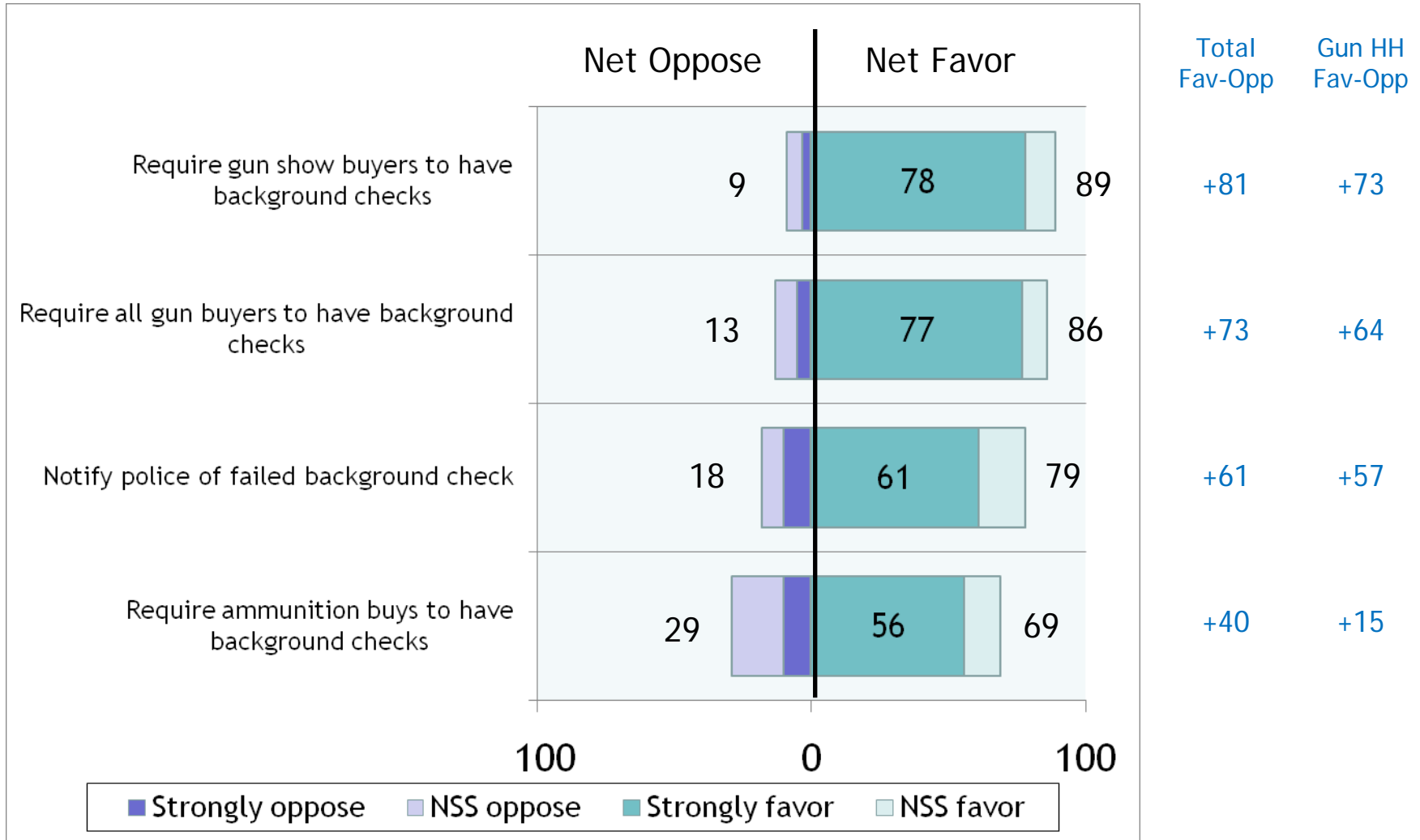


Background Check Proposals Are Also Overwhelmingly Popular

Gun Owners Are Net Supportive Of Each



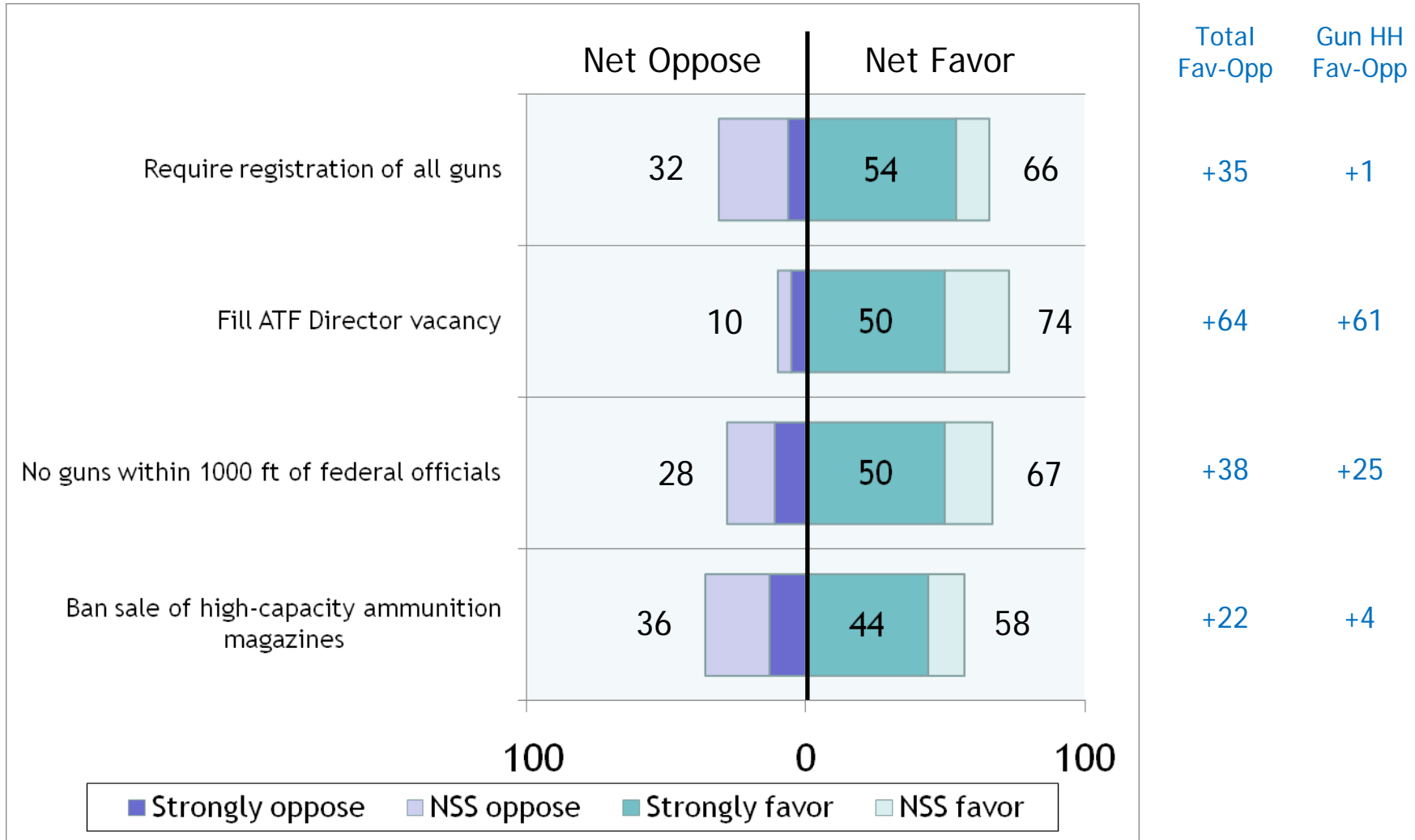
% Favor/Oppose gun control proposal



Other Proposals On Gun Registries, The ATF Vacancy, And Protecting Government Officials Are Also Popular Again, Even In Gun Households



% Favor/Oppose gun control proposal

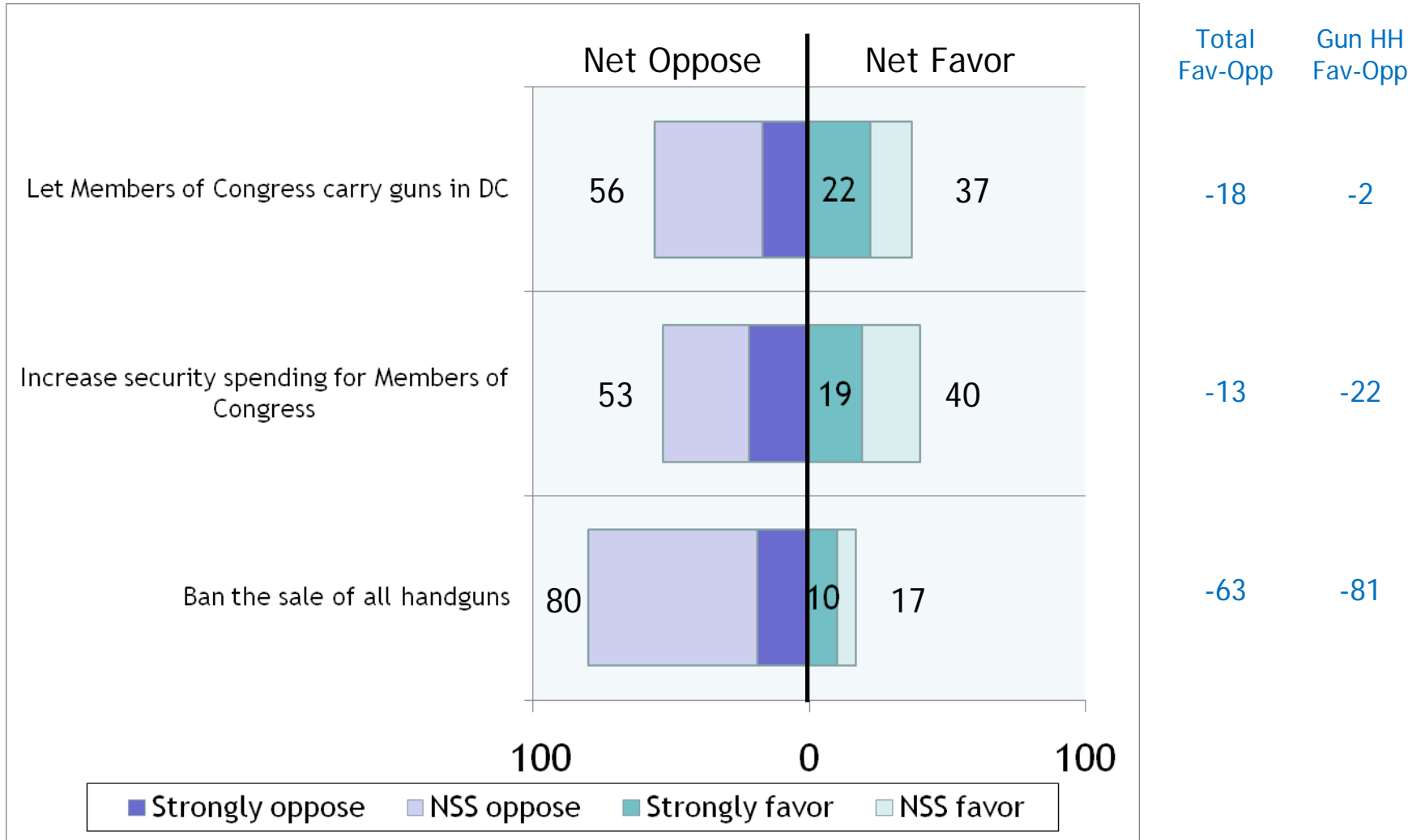


Majorities Oppose The More Extreme Proposals

Gun Owners Oppose Allowing Members To Carry Weapons



% Favor/Oppose gun control proposal

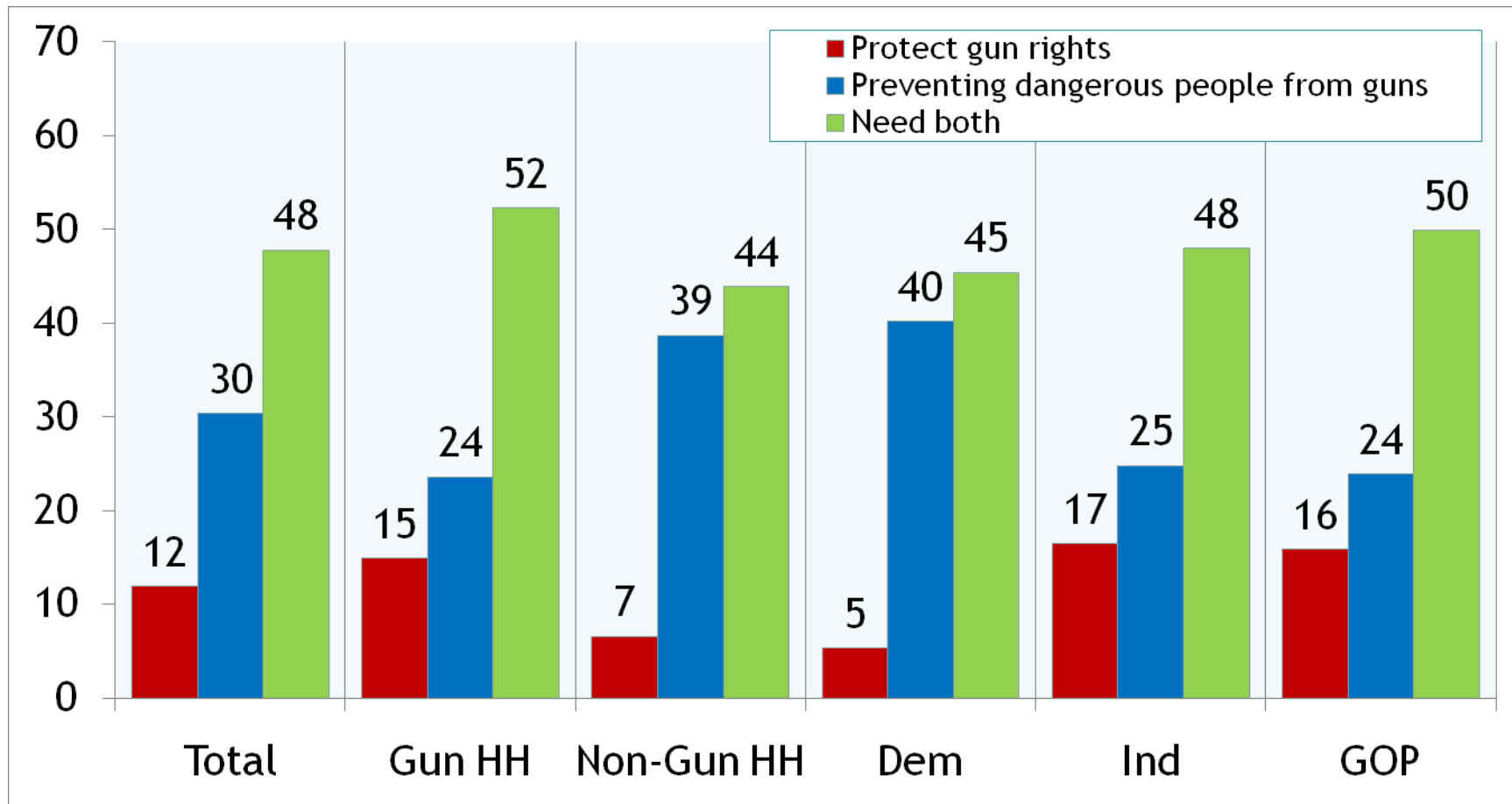


Pluralities Across Party As Well As Gun & Non-Gun Households Think We Should Both Protect Gun Owners' Rights And Limit Access



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Which comes closer to your own view? We need to protect Americans' constitutional right to own a gun OR We need to have effective laws preventing criminals, terrorists, drug abusers, and the mentally ill from having guns

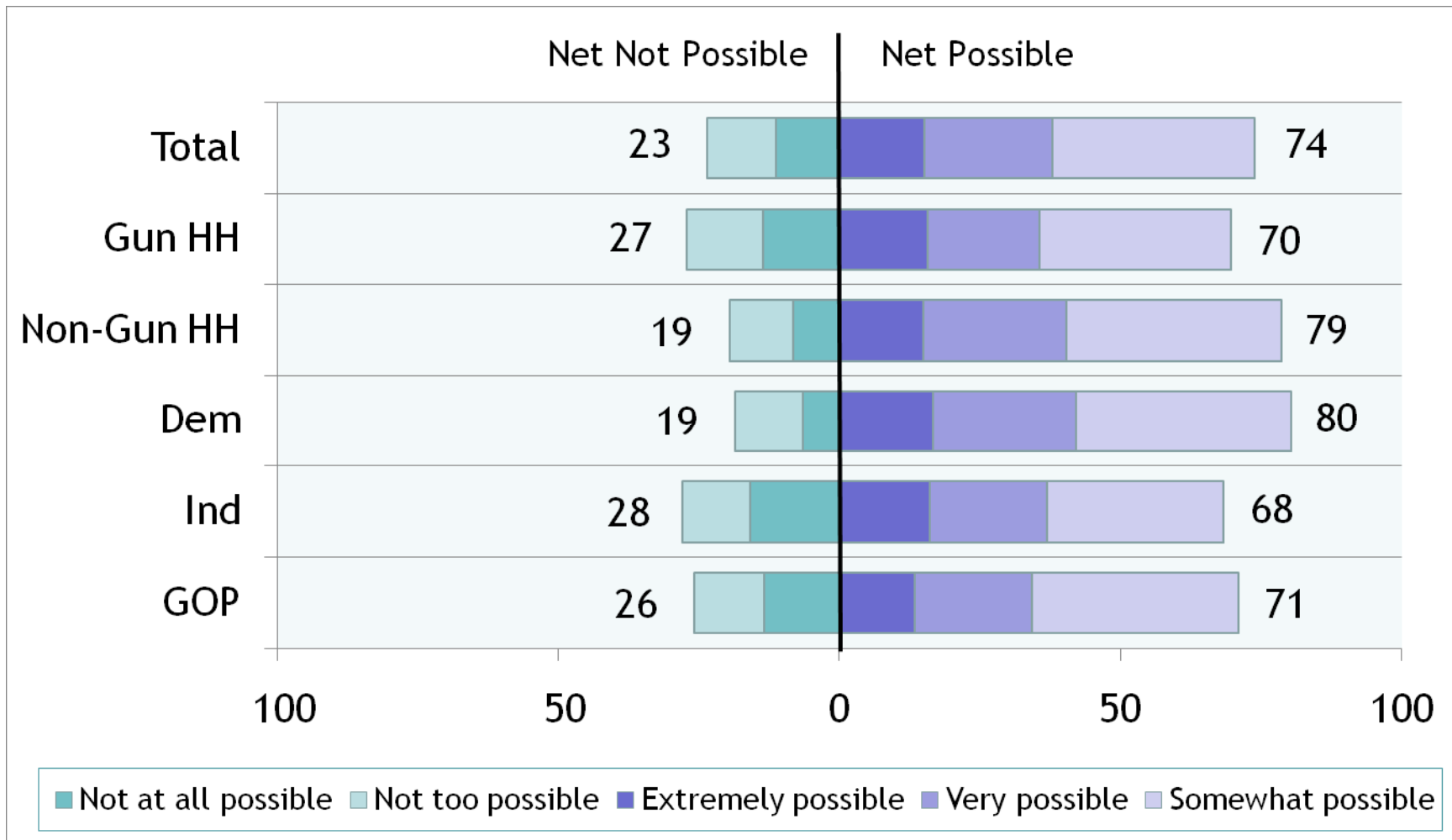


Voters Are Largely Optimistic About Protecting Both Gun Rights And Gun Control, Non-Gun HH and Democrats More So



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How possible do you think it is for our government to both protect gun owners' rights, and simultaneously prevent criminals and other dangerous people from having guns?



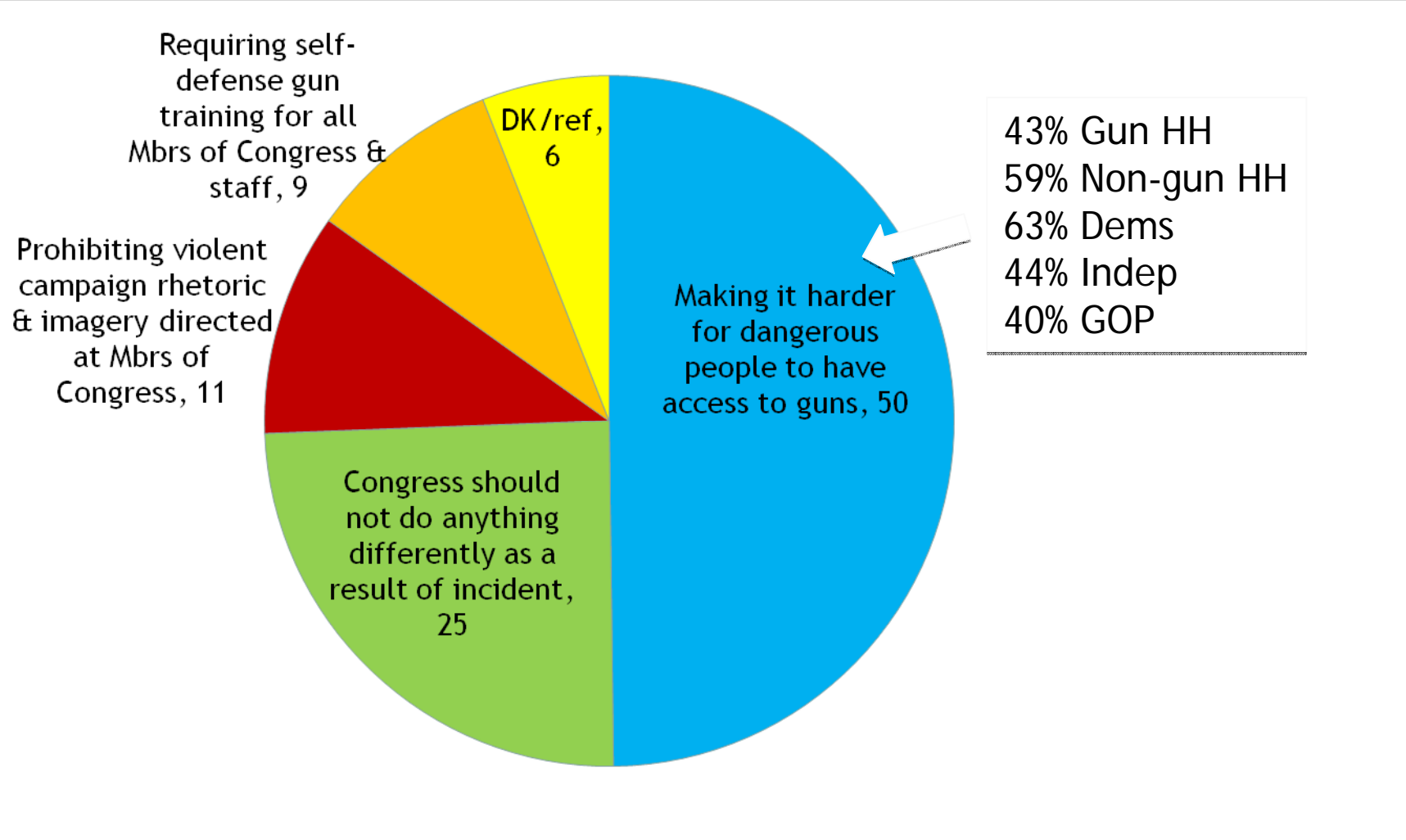
A Majority Want Congress To React To Tucson By Taking Action On Guns

Even A Plurality Of Gun Households And Republicans Agree



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What, if anything, should be Congress's top priority as a result of this incident?



Conclusions



Despite support for gun ownership, half support stricter gun laws

- An uptick after decades of decline

Common-sense proposals to improve existing laws are overwhelmingly popular across groups

Voters want to balance both safety and gun owners' rights

And want Congress to react to Tucson with action

There are more similarities than differences across gun ownership and party groupings