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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

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## **MANY WORRY ABOUT POSSIBLE GUN VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS AND ELSEWHERE IN ARIZONA**

Phoenix, Arizona. November 16, 2015. Even before the violent terrorist attacks against civilians in Paris this past Friday, a person-to-person telephone poll of adults in Arizona found that seven of ten of those surveyed worry about gun violence occurring in their communities. Two of the greatest fears pertain to shootings on highways and streets or to worries about children or other young people becoming the victims of gun violence while on campuses of the schools they attend. Less than a third say this eventuality never worries them, but 71 percent do worry about these possibilities, including a quarter who report that they "worry a lot" about such possibilities.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a statewide random sample survey of 700 adult heads of household including 577 registered voters. It was conducted between October 24 and November 5, 2015 by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is part of the Center's Independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll Series. All interviewing was conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. The public is welcome to visit [www.BRCpolls.com](http://www.BRCpolls.com) for this and other polls.

Given the rash of shootings on campuses around the country over the past few years and the recent highway shootings in the Phoenix area, it is perhaps reasonable that worry about potential gun violence in one's community is so widespread. Yet the survey also finds that concerns about gun violence penetrate far beyond schools and college campuses or street and highway violence. For example, 63 percent or more admit that they worry that innocent people may be shot while attending entertainment events such as movies or sporting events or while visiting major shopping malls or a convenience market. And majorities of the public say they worry about innocent people in Arizona being shot while shopping at food stores or at pharmacies (56%), while walking or biking in their neighborhoods (57%) or when visiting their community's downtown area (56%). Fully 53 percent say they worry about gun violence at places of worship.

It is also evident that women are more deeply worried about these possibilities than are men, particularly as regards gun violence in churches, at entertainment venues and in shopping malls.

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The survey also finds that people in Pima County are often the most concerned about the possibility of gun violence, especially as regards it happening in houses of worship, in schools and at shopping malls. Also evident in the survey is the finding that citizens in rural areas, which are often said to be the heartland of pro-gun sentiments, are among the most worried about potential gun violence on school campuses, on streets and highways and at shopping malls.

-30-

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2015-IV-04), is based on 700 interviews with heads of household statewide, including 577 registered voters, conducted between October 24 and November 5, 2015. Interviewing was conducted in both English and Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both land lines and cell phones. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, and race were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.8 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical Tables

“As you may be aware, mass shootings in the U.S. have been in the news a lot lately. Thinking about the safety of people in Arizona, do you worry a lot, some, only a little or not at all about law abiding citizens encountering gun violence in each of the following situations?

	Statewide	Maricopa
People driving on streets or highways	71%	29%
When children or young people are in school or on a college campus	71	29
People who have stopped at a convenience market	65	35
People going to a movie or other entertainment venues	63	37
People visiting a major shopping mall or department store	62	38
People attending sporting events	60	40
People taking walks or riding bicycles in their communities	57	43
People visiting their neighborhood food store or pharmacy	56	44
People visiting the downtown area of your community	56	44
People attending events at a house of worship	53	47

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

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DETAIL % WHO WORRY ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE  
 IN ARIZONA

	A Lot	Some	Only A Little	Not At All
People driving on streets or highways	20%	29%	22%	29%
When children or young people are in school or on a college campus	25	24	22	29
People who have stopped at a convenience market	18	23	24	35
People going to a movie or other entertainment venues	23	19	21	37
People visiting a major shopping mall or department store	20	18	24	38
People attending sporting events	20	23	17	40
People taking walks or riding bicycles in their communities	14	22	21	43
People visiting their neighborhood food store or pharmacy	10	22	24	44
People visiting the downtown area of your community	17	20	19	44
People attending events at a house of worship	17	15	21	47

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