



Firearms Control in Canada

Should the Availability of Firearms to Canadians be Strictly Controlled for the
Good of Society

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Introduction

Topic and Purpose

First, this research specifically focuses on Canada's general population's opinion about the availability of firearms to Canadians. The purpose of this research is to find out "should the availability of firearms to Canadians be strictly controlled for the good of society?". To find conclusions of this topic, this research created a survey to collect population's relative data including necessary background information and topic-related rating questions.

Also, the reason of why this topic should be researched is that even though there are some benefits of giving firearms to the population such as protecting farmers from beasts, firearms still take a huge part of violent events such as homicide, random killing on the street, robbery, and other gun-related events. For Canadians' safety and social stability, this research should be done.

Hypotheses

In order to find conclusions to this topic, two opposite hypotheses, or in other words, one hypothesis in favor and one hypothesis against the topic, need to be stated before the creation of survey.

The first hypothesis is: strict regulation of gun ownership is necessary in Canada to maintain social safety.

The second hypothesis is: individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection.

By analysing the data collected from the participants of the survey, we can see which hypothesis is supported, and the conclusion of the central topic question can be made.

Sampling Technique and Process

Firstly, convenience sampling is used for the survey. "Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling method where units are selected for inclusion in the sample because they are the easiest for the researcher to access (Nikolopoulou, 2022)."

Secondly, theoretically systematic sampling or stratified sampling should be used for this survey. Systematic and stratified sampling methods both in a fair way, cover all different groups to make the result of the survey most likely to be the result of the whole population, but due to the limited number of the population, and the inconvenience for the population, thus convenience sampling is used.

Furthermore, the survey is spread in social media, school, and within the family. Which means the result of this survey may not representing the whole population of Canada, but again, this inaccuracy cannot be resulted. Also, the number of response is limited to 10 due to requirement, to decrease the number of responses, random selection is used to remove the redundant responses.

Last but not least, to make the response easy to go through, only 7 questions, which 4 questions are multiple choice questions, and 3 questions are rating questions are on the survey. Similarly, some multiple-choice questions that have too many options have been changed from multiple choice format to dropdown format on google forms to increase the readability of the survey.

Survey

Firearms Control in Canada

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This survey will take approximately 1–2 minutes to complete, and all responses will be kept totally anonymous.

This survey aims to gather information from the general population regarding firearms control in Canada.

You will be asked a series of multiple-choice questions about some personal information that will only be used to classify data, and then you will be asked to rank 3 questions from 1 to 10 relating to your opinion on firearms control in Canada.

 joseph.siu@student.tdsb.on.ca (not shared) [Switch account](#)



* Required

Please select the option that best fits you for the following questions.

Do you live in Canada? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

- ☐ Urban
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

Choose ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

Choose ▼

*The options are:

What is your age range? *

1. Under 18 years old
2. 18-29 years old
3. 30-49 years old
4. 50-64 years old
5. Over 64 years old
6. Prefer not to answer

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

1. Elementary school
2. High school
3. Collage / University undergraduate
4. Collage / University postgraduate and above
5. Prefer not to answer

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety? *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection? *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Strongly Disagree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Strongly Agree

Firearms Control in Canada

Your response has been recorded. Thank you for completing this survey. Your response will remain completely confidential.

[Submit another response](#)

*The survey template is shown before the responses and tabulated data to increase the readability of the data.

Responses / Tabulated Data

Order	Do you live in Canada?	Do you live in an urban or rural area?	What is your age range?	What is the highest academic qualification you have attained?	Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly?	Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety?	Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection?
1	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	High school	7	8	4
2	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	High school	8	10	1
3	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University postgraduate and above	7	9	2
4	Yes	Urban	Over 64 years old	Collage / University postgraduate and above	7	8	3
5	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	High school	10	10	2
6	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	High school	7	9	4
7	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	Elementary school	10	1	2
8	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University postgraduate and above	7	9	3
9	Yes	Rural	30-49 years old	Collage / University undergraduate	7	7	4
10	Yes	Rural	30-49 years old	High school	7	6	5
11	Yes	Not sure / Prefer not to answer	Under 18 years old	Elementary school	8	8	3
12	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University undergraduate	7	8	3
13	Yes	Rural	Under 18 years old	Elementary school	10	10	5
14	Yes	Not sure / Prefer not to answer	Under 18 years old	High school	6	8	2
15	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University undergraduate	7	9	3

Responses are ordered based on the submission time.

All responses are shown above. To limit the number of responses we need to analysis, 5 times of random selection are needed to remove the redundant 5 responses.

Random selection is based on the random function on the calculator, randint(min, max), thus, let 1=min, and let 15=max, enter randint(1, 15), the results of running this function 5 times are: 13, 15, 2, 14, 7. Then, the responses with order 2, 7, 13, 14, 15 are to be removed.

Order	Do you live in Canada?	Do you live in an urban or rural area?	What is your age range?	What is the highest academic qualification you have attained?	Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly?	Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety?	Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection?
1	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	High school	7	8	4
2	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University postgraduate and above	7	9	2
3	Yes	Urban	Over 64 years old	Collage / University postgraduate and above	7	8	3
4	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	High school	10	10	2
5	Yes	Urban	Under 18 years old	High school	7	9	4
6	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University postgraduate and above	7	9	3
7	Yes	Rural	30-49 years old	Collage / University undergraduate	7	7	4
8	Yes	Rural	30-49 years old	High school	7	6	5
9	Yes	Not sure / Prefer not to answer	Under 18 years old	Elementary school	8	8	3
10	Yes	Urban	18-29 years old	Collage / University undergraduate	7	8	3

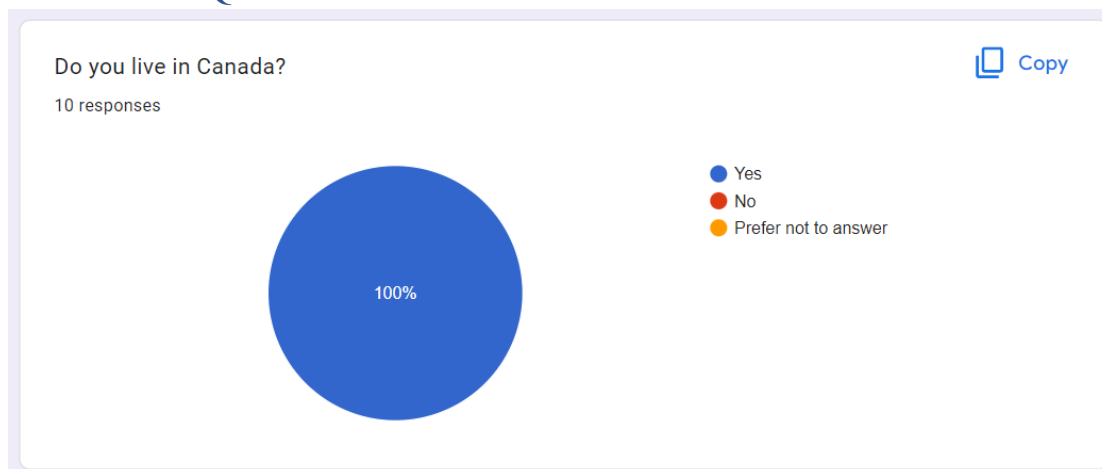
The table above re-ordered the data left.

Now we remove those 5 responses from the google form. All responses are shown and saved previously so those can be recovered from the table.

All data are shown above so no separate single question data will be shown as well as the numbers can be found or calculated based on the circle graphs and bar graphs easily.

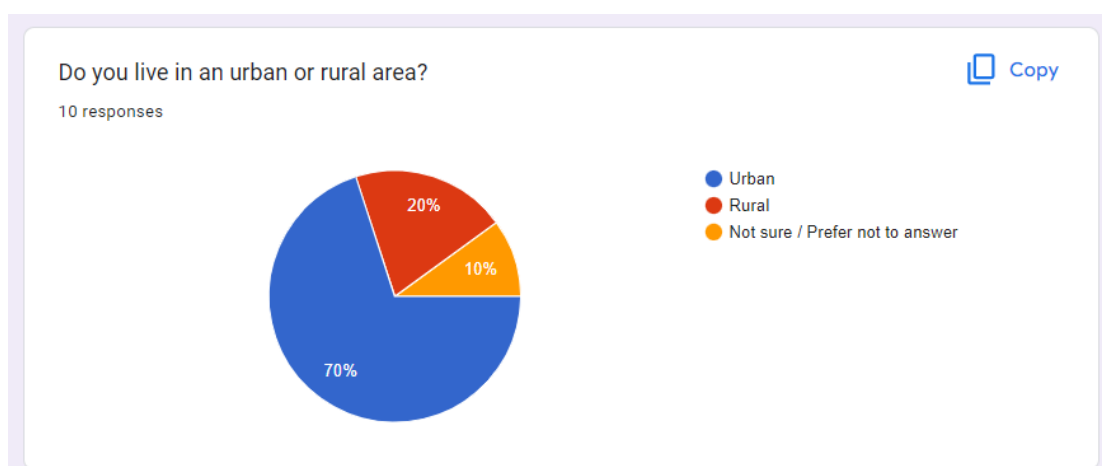
Analysis

Informational Questions

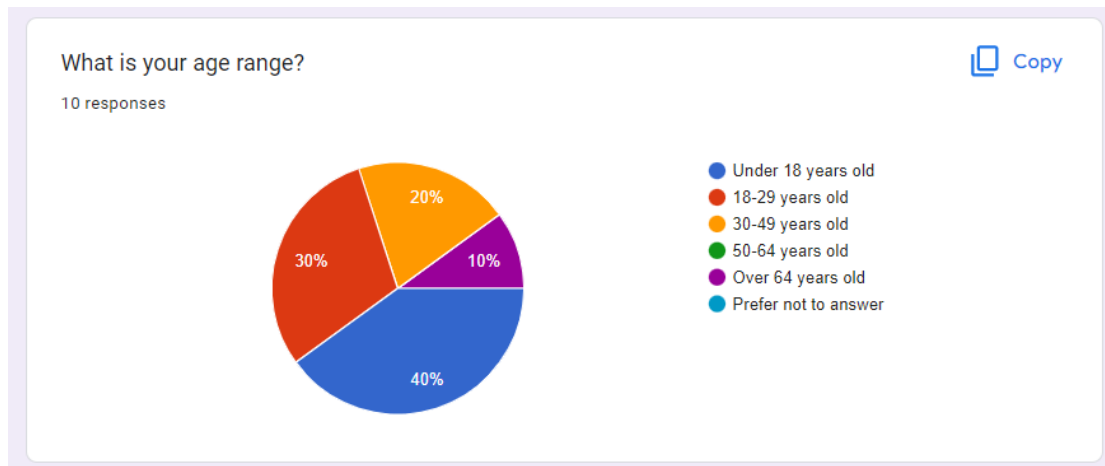


The first question ensures that all participants are living in Canada, to ensure the accuracy of the data, participants that are not living in Canada should not be considered a valid response since this survey is researching the gun control in Canada.

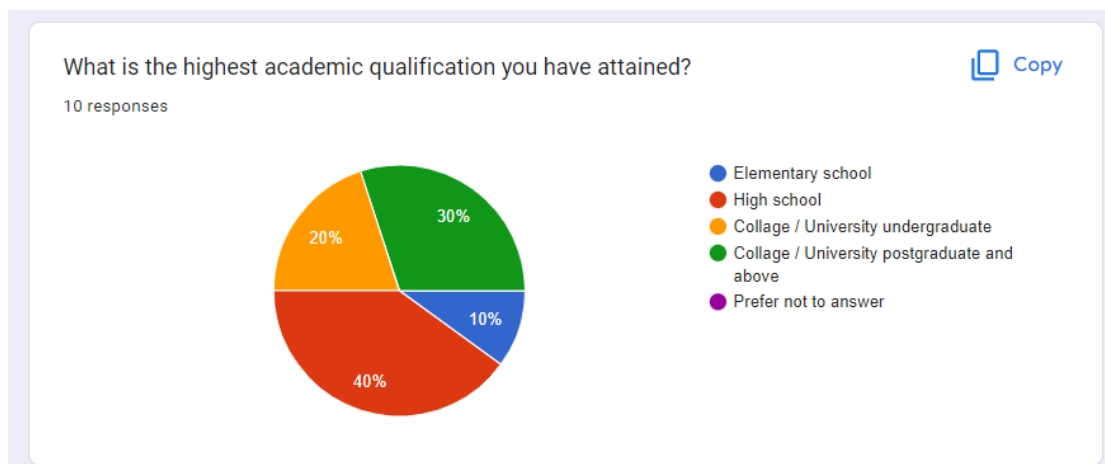
This question should be looked over before the removal of 5 responses, but for the convenience of the whole report, this question is shown right before all other questions.



Because Canada is a large country including multiple large provinces and cities, not all places' situations are similar, this question helps to distinguish the areas of where the participants are living. First, ignoring the 10% that not sure or prefer not to answer, 20% of the participants are living in rural areas, and 70%, or most of the participants are living in urban areas. The responses of these 2 different areas' participants may result in different answers due to the different environments they are facing, for example, people living in rural areas need firearms to protect them from beasts or dangerous. But people living in urban areas don't have the chance to face beasts. Therefore, the result and the conclusion of this survey may be in favour of the urban population instead of the rural population based on the percentage of the two areas' participants.

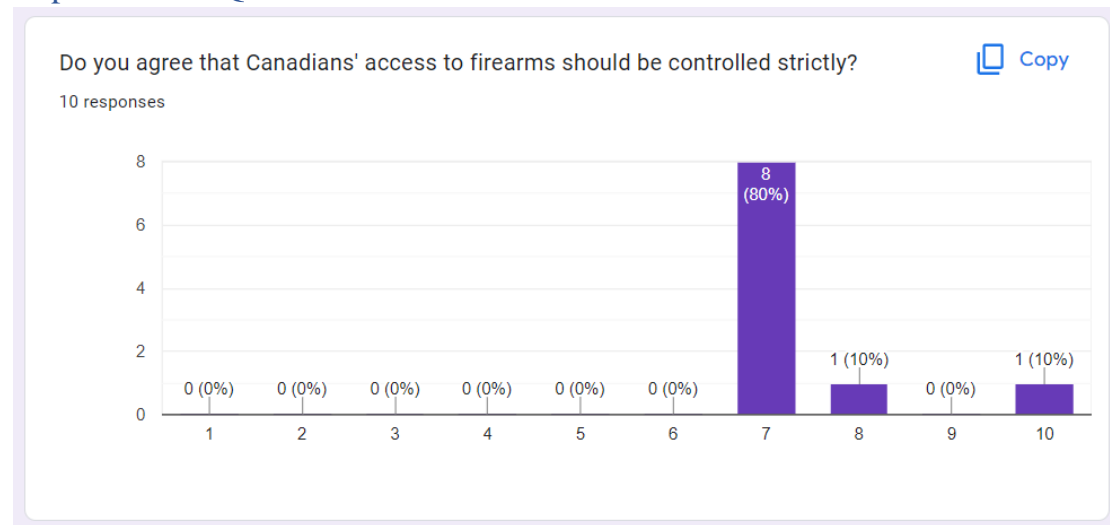


Ages of participants is also a key information to be collected. People over 64 years old can have totally different opinions compared to people under 18 years old since they have more life experiences or involved in wars. People with lower age could have a opinion that is totally influenced by the social media or the environment, such as people under 18 years old, they may have never touched or faced firearms or violence events, so their opinions are totally from their parents or the social media. There is a high probability that the opinions of participants under 18 years old can represent the opinion of the general opinions of the social medias. Thus, because of the high percentage of participants are below 30 years old, and not averagely or evenly distributed, the result might not represent the entire population.

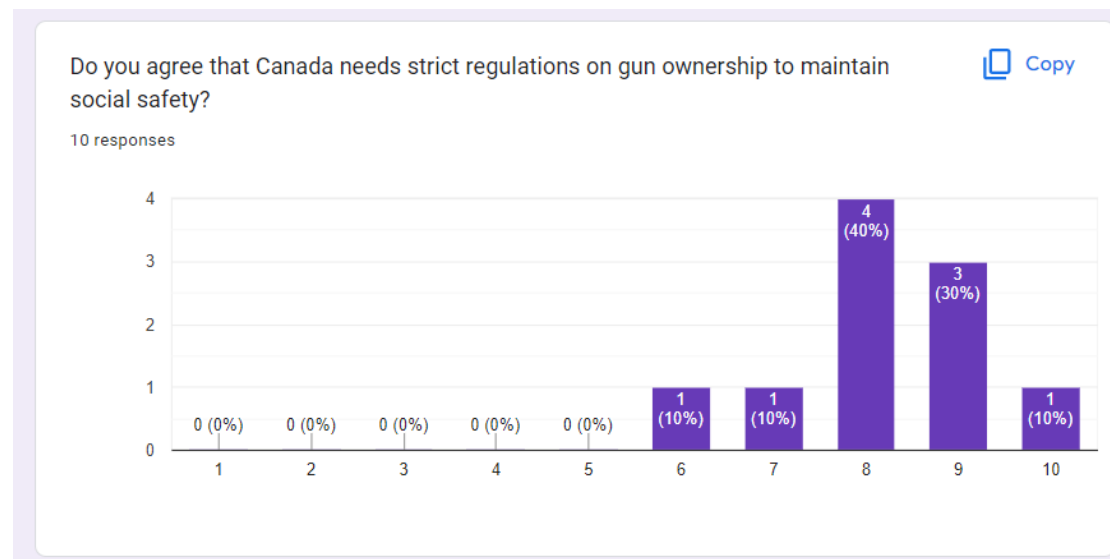


Again, this question distinguishes participants not only based on the areas they are living or based on their ages, also based on the degree of education they have attained. Participants with higher academic qualification would result in more logical opinion, or opinion based on their own opinion and the real life situation. Half of the participants have high school as the highest academic qualification attained. As mentioned previously, this should be evenly distributed based on the percentage of people in all ranges in Canada, since nearly 33% of Canadians at working age have university bachelor's degree or higher(Friesen, 2022), and half of the participants have university degree or above, thus the result may be inaccurate comparing the result based on the entire Canada's population, people have university bachelor's degree and above may be overrepresenting the people don't have bachelor's degree and below.

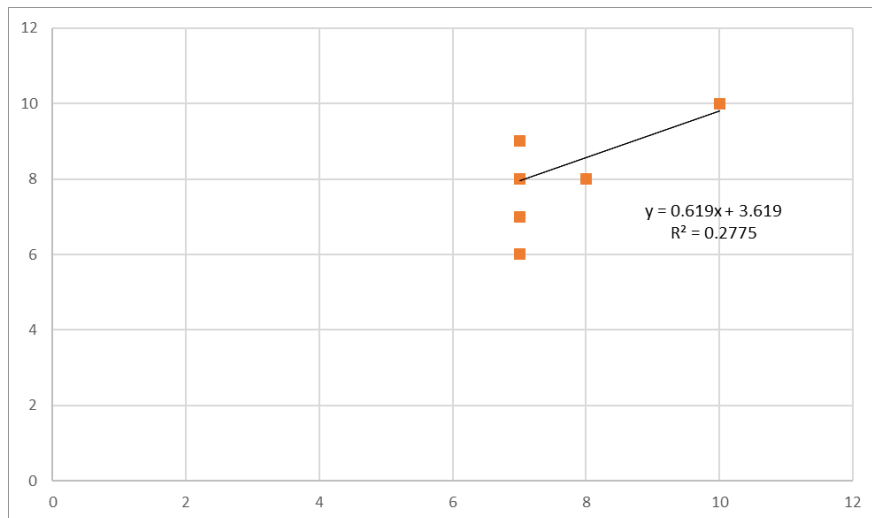
Topic-Related Questions



The first rating question is relating to the topic of this research which is “should the availability of firearms to Canadians be strictly controlled for the good of society?” This question aims to gather the opinions about the central topic question, which can be compared to the next 2 questions, to see do Canada needs to take some action or change laws and which hypothesis is supported.



This is the question which based on the hypothesis in favour of the central question. By looking at the bar graph generated by google form above, which the x-axis represents the degree of agree and the y-axis represents the number of participants that have chosen this degree, we can see that most participants agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety.



The horizontal axis represents participants' degree of "do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly?", the vertical axis represents participants' degree of "do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety". The straight line is the trendline, the line of best fit, or the regression line of all relating data. Note that some points contain multiple responses since their horizontal and vertical values are same.

The regression line is a straight line calculated based on a and b, which:

$$y = ax + b$$

And the formulas for a and b are:

$$a = \frac{n \sum(xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2}$$

$$b = \bar{y} - a\bar{x}$$

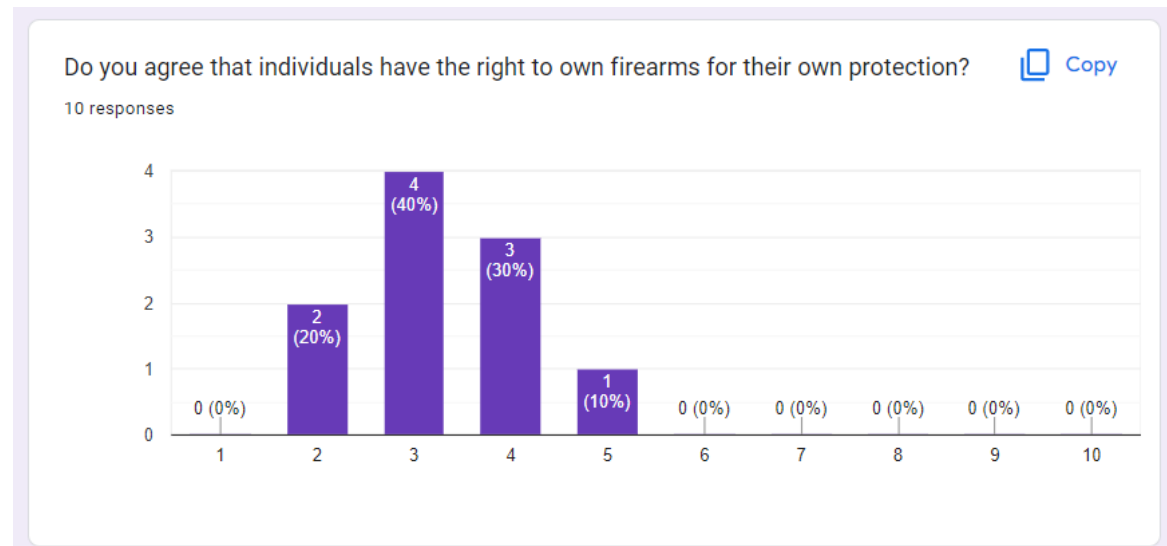
"=LINEST(H4:H13, G4:G13)" is the formula for the calculation of a and b, which H4:H13 is the array of the vertical values and G4:G13 is the array of the horizontal values. The values calculated are: 0.619047619, 3.619047619, which the first value represents the slope of the regression line, and the second value represents the y-intercept.

$$r = \frac{n \sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][n \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

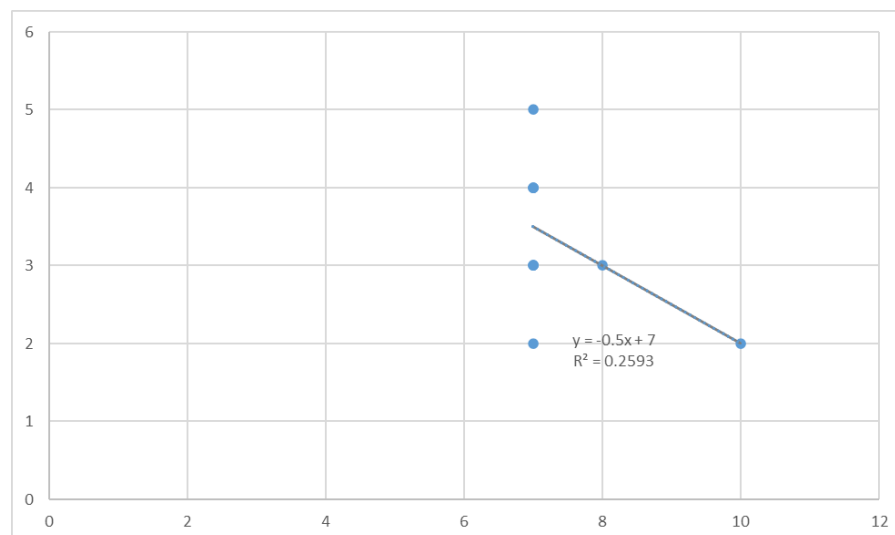
The linear correlation coefficient, r, is calculated using the formula above. By entering "=CORREL(array1, array2)" which array1 is the array that contains all responses for the central topic question, and array2 is the array that contains all responses for the first hypothesis's question. We get the correlation coefficient of these 2 arrays is 0.526786584. Which indicates that there is a strong positive relation between the responses of the central topic question and the first hypothesis. Also, both the slope of regression line and the correlation coefficient are positive.

The linear correlation coefficient is a number between -1 to 1 which measures the strength of the linear relationship between two variables: x and y. If the correlation coefficient is higher than 0.7 or lower than -0.7 this would be considered as a very strong relationship; if the correlation coefficient is between 0.40 to 0.69 or -0.40 to -0.69 then this is a strong relationship;

if the correlation coefficient is between 0.30 to 0.39 or -0.30 to -0.39, then the relation is moderate; weak relationship when the correlation coefficient is between 0.20 to 0.29 or -0.20 to -0.29; between 0.1 to 0.19 or -0.1 to -0.19 means negligible or no relationship; and if this is 0 then there is no relationship, or zero correlation between two variables (Glen, 2022). In the scenario above, 0.53 can be considered as a strong positive relationship.



The last question on the survey is made based on the hypothesis against the central question. By looking at the bar graph generated by google form above, which the x-axis represents the degree of agree and the y-axis represents the number of participants that have chosen this degree, we can see that most participants agree that individuals should not have the right to own firearms for self protection.



Again, the horizontal axis represents participants' degree of "do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly", and the vertical axis represents the degree of "do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection". The regression line is shown as black, some points are overlapping each other due to the same horizontal and vertical value. Based on the formulas and the excel function for the line of best fit, we can calculate that a, b are = -0.5, 7 respectively. The linear correlation coefficient of these data is -0.509175077, which shows a strong negative relationship as mentioned previously (Glen, 2022).

Conclusion

The correlation coefficient between the first hypothesis's question and the central topic question is 0.526786584, which can be rounded to 0.53, this means that there is a strong positive relationship between the 2 questions which are "do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly?" and "do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety?". Participants ranked Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly are also likely to rank that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety.

The correlation coefficient between the second hypothesis's question and the central topic question is -0.509175077, which can be rounded to -0.51, which shows that there is a strong negative relationship between the 2 questions which are "do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly?" and "do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection?". Participants ranked Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly are also likely to rank individuals should not have the right to own firearms for their own protection.

To sum up. Participants chose "Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly" are more likely to think that firstly, Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety; secondly, Individuals in Canada should not have the right to own firearms for self protection.

As written at the beginning of the article, the first hypothesis is: strict regulation of gun ownership is necessary in Canada to maintain social safety. The second hypothesis is: individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection.

In conclusion, by looking at the results from the participants of the survey. Firstly, the linear correlation coefficient between the central topic question's answers and the first hypothesis's question answers 0.53 is much greater than the correlation coefficient between the central topic question's answers and second hypothesis's question answers -0.51, which means the second last question have much more positive relationship to the third last question, compared to the last question. The first hypothesis is well supported, the participants have the same opinions as this hypothesis which is stated at the previous paragraph, and the second hypothesis is not supported, or supported oppositely since the linear correlation coefficient is negative, the opposite opinions are observed from the participants comparing to the hypothesis. Also, by looking at the central topic question on the survey, participants are in favour of stricter regulation of firearms, this can result in answers in favour of gun control and answers against not regulating firearms, as same as collected.

References

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Please select the option that best fits you for the following questions.

Do you live in Canada? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

- ☒ Urban
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

Under 18 years old ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

High school ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety?

*

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☒

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☒

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Thank you for completing this survey.

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- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

18-29 years old ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

Collage / University postgraduate and above ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety? *

Strongly Disagree

- 1 ☐
- 2 ☐
- 3 ☐
- 4 ☐
- 5 ☐
- 6 ☐
- 7 ☐
- 8 ☐
- 9 ☒
- 10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☒

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

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- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

- ☒ Urban
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

Over 64 years old ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

Collage / University postgraduate and above ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety? *

Strongly Disagree

- 1 ☐
- 2 ☐
- 3 ☐
- 4 ☐
- 5 ☐
- 6 ☐
- 7 ☐
- 8 ☒
- 9 ☐
- 10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☒

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

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- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

Under 18 years old ▼

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High school ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☒

Strongly Agree

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Strongly Disagree

- 1 ☐
- 2 ☐
- 3 ☐
- 4 ☐
- 5 ☐
- 6 ☐
- 7 ☐
- 8 ☐
- 9 ☐
- 10 ☒

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☒

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

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Please select the option that best fits you for the following questions.

Do you live in Canada? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

- ☒ Urban
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

Under 18 years old ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

High school ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety? *

Strongly Disagree

- 1 ☐
- 2 ☐
- 3 ☐
- 4 ☐
- 5 ☐
- 6 ☐
- 7 ☐
- 8 ☐
- 9 ☒
- 10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that individuals have the right to own firearms for their own protection? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☒

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☐

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Thank you for completing this survey.

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Google Forms

Firearms Control in Canada

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Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

- ☒ Urban
- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

18-29 years old



What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

Collage / University postgraduate and above



Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

8 ☐

9 ☐

10 ☐

Strongly Agree

Do you agree that Canada needs strict regulations on gun ownership to maintain social safety?

*

Strongly Disagree

- 1 ☐
- 2 ☐
- 3 ☐
- 4 ☐
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- 6 ☐
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- 8 ☐
- 9 ☒
- 10 ☐

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Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

- ☐ Urban
- ☒ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

30-49 years old



What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

Collage / University undergraduate



Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

Do you agree that Canadians' access to firearms should be controlled strictly? *

Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

6 ☐

7 ☒

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- ☒ Rural
- ☐ Not sure / Prefer not to answer

What is your age range? *

30-49 years old ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

High school ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

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Strongly Disagree

1 ☐

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Do you live in an urban or rural area? *

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- ☐ Rural
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What is your age range? *

Under 18 years old ▼

What is the highest academic qualification you have attained? *

Elementary school ▼

Please rate the following questions from 1 to 10.

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