Political violence and the 2024 elections

Joyce Foundation research webinar series
June 5, 2024
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Survey description

- Annual, nationally representative longitudinal survey
  - Conducted late May, early June 2022-2024
- Address-based probability sample (Ipsos KnowledgePanel)
- Wave 1 respondents: 8,620 main sample, 4,327 oversamples (firearm owners, Californians, transgender people, combat vets)
- Completion rate: Wave 1, 56%; Wave 2, 84%
Beliefs

- Strongly/very strongly agree
- 67%: “serious threat to our democracy”
- 19%: “having a strong leader for America is more important than having a democracy”
- 16%: “native-born white people are being replaced by immigrants”
- 9%: “Satan-worshipping pedophiles” who traffic children
- 18%: “2020 election stolen from Donald Trump”
Justification for political violence

- Usually/always justified
- 3.0%: “in general”
- 32.8%: at least 1 of 17 specific objectives
- 5.5%: “to return Donald Trump to the presidency this year”
- 5.6%: “to preserve an American way of life based on Western European traditions”
- 12.1%: “to preserve an American way of life I believe in”
If PV justified, personal willingness by type

- Very or completely willing
- 7.8%: “to damage property”
- 5.6%: “to threaten or intimidate a person”
- 5.6%: “to injure a person”
- 5.4%: “to kill a person”

(Percentages are of the 32.8%: PV usually/always justified in 1 or more of 17 instances)
If PV justified, personal willingness by target

- Very or completely willing, “because they are…”
- 5.8%: “an elected federal or state government official”
- 4.7%: “an election worker…poll worker or vote counter”
- 5.7%: “a member of the military or National Guard”
- 6.5%: “a police officer”
- 4.6%: “a person who does not share your race or ethnicity”

(Percentages are of the 32.8%: PV usually/always justified in 1 or more of 17 instances)
Future firearm use for PV

- All respondents; very/extremely likely
- “In the next few years,” and I think PV justified…
- 7.7%: “I will be armed with a gun”
- 4.1%: “I will carry a gun openly, so that people know I am armed”
- 1.1%: “I will shoot someone with a gun”
## Political party identification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>MAGA Republican</th>
<th>Strong Republican</th>
<th>Other Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 of 17 justified, %</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will be armed,” %</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will shoot someone,” %</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAGA: Republican, Trump voter, election denier
Rep/Dem: “would you call yourself...”
Justified: usually or always justified
Firearm use: very or extremely likely

(32.8% ≥ 1, 7.7% “armed,” 1.1% “shoot”)
## Extremist movement affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Christian Nationalist</th>
<th>White Supremacy</th>
<th>Militia</th>
<th>Boogaloo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 of 17 justified, %</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>90.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will be armed,” %</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will shoot someone,” %</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>25.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Affiliation: strongly or very strongly approve
Justified: usually or always justified
Firearm use: very or extremely likely

(32.8% ≥ 1, 7.7% “armed,” 1.1% “shoot”)
## Firearm ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>Nonowners, no guns at home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 of 17 justified, %</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will be armed,” %</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will shoot someone,” %</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Justified: usually or always justified  
Firearm use: very or extremely likely  

(32.8% ≥ 1, 7.7% “armed,” 1.1% “shoot”)
## Firearm owner subgroups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Assault-type rifle</th>
<th>Recent purchase</th>
<th>Always/nearly always carry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1 of 17 justified, %</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>55.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will be armed,” %</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I will shoot someone,” %</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Justified: usually or always justified  
Firearm use: very or extremely likely  

(32.8% ≥ 1, 7.7% “armed,” 1.1% “shoot”)

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CVP

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

UC DAVIS
2023 update

• Decreased support (to 25%) for PV
  • Not election year
• Increase in predicted firearm use among supporters
  • 5.7% “I will shoot someone”
• New findings of increased support and willingness: racism, hostile sexism, homonegativity, transphobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia, antisemitism
Civil war

- Expectation from 14% in 2022 to 6% in 2023
- 39% of those expecting in 2023: “the US needs a civil war to set things right”
- Expectation and perceived need greater among groups supporting PV
- 2024: Whose side will you be on? What will you do?
The good news

- Most rejected political violence completely
- Most endorsers were not willing to become personally involved
The big picture

- What this means
- What we can do about it
Thank you

For more…

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