

Survey of
Missouri State University Students'
Opinions on Carrying Guns on Campus

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Methodology

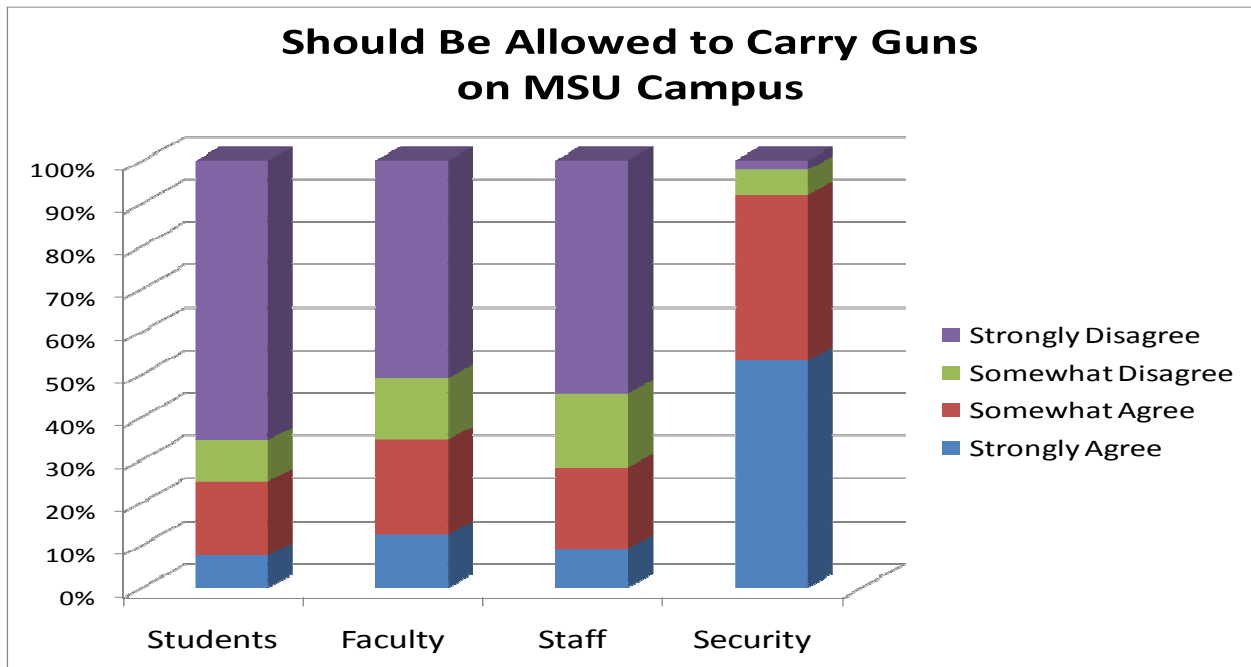
This project was conducted as a class project in Dr. Gary Brinker's Introduction to Research Methods class (SOC 301). The questionnaire (See Appendix) was developed to measure the opinions of Missouri State students (Springfield campus) regarding policies for carrying guns on campus. The sample was compiled by acquiring an Excel file listing all members of the target population, along with their respective email addresses, through special permission from administration. To insure a random sample, a list of random numbers was pasted into the Excel file. Then, the rows of the file were sorted by the random numbers, effectively randomizing the list of students. The sample was comprised of the top 1200 students on the randomized list. The methodology was then submitted to the MSU Internal Review Board, and on March 26, 2008, the project was approved.

On April 1, 2008, sampled students were emailed an invitation to participate in the study. By April 15, a total of 313 completed questionnaires had been submitted (Response Rate = 26%). The data were then entered into an SPSS data file for statistical analysis. The following report summarizes the findings. The percentage estimates for the various questions will have a maximum margin of error of 5.7%. Within this error, the estimates should reflect the opinions and attitudes of all Missouri State students on the Springfield campus.

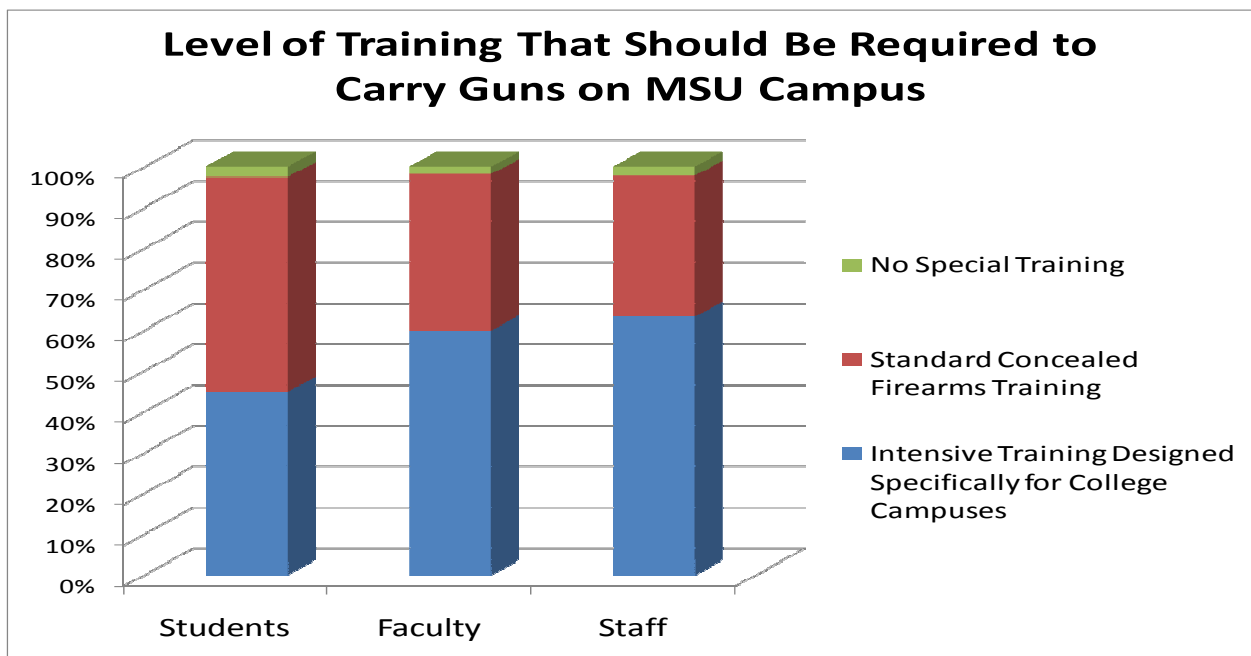
Executive Summary

- About one-third of respondents favored allowing faculty, staff and, to a lesser degree, students to carry guns on the MSU campus. The vast majority of respondents favored allowing campus security to carry guns. Female respondents tended to be less in favor of allowing students to carry guns, but more likely to favor allowing campus security to carry.
- Among those favoring guns on campus, most favored requiring a special course designed for college campuses. Ironically, those favoring allowing guns to be carried by students were least likely to prefer requiring special training.
- About two-thirds of those favoring guns on campus felt gun carriers should be at least 21, if not older.
- Although few respondents felt being victimized on the MSU campus during the day was likely, most indicated that victimization at night was not unlikely. Female respondents were slightly more likely to think victimization during the day was possible, but felt like victimization at night was significantly more likely than male respondents indicated.
- When asked about the likelihood, compared to other universities, that MSU could experience a random assault on students, response varied somewhat. About 20% felt an attack of this sort would be less likely than on other campuses (less than 4 on a scale of 1 to 10). About 5% felt an attack was more likely (greater than 7). The vast majority, however, indicated that this type of attack was about as likely at MSU as most other universities. Male respondents more often said a random gun attack at MSU would be less likely.
- The vast majority of respondents favored the same gun carrying policies for males and females. Of the 5% of respondents who favored differential policies, most said males should be given greater access to guns on campus.

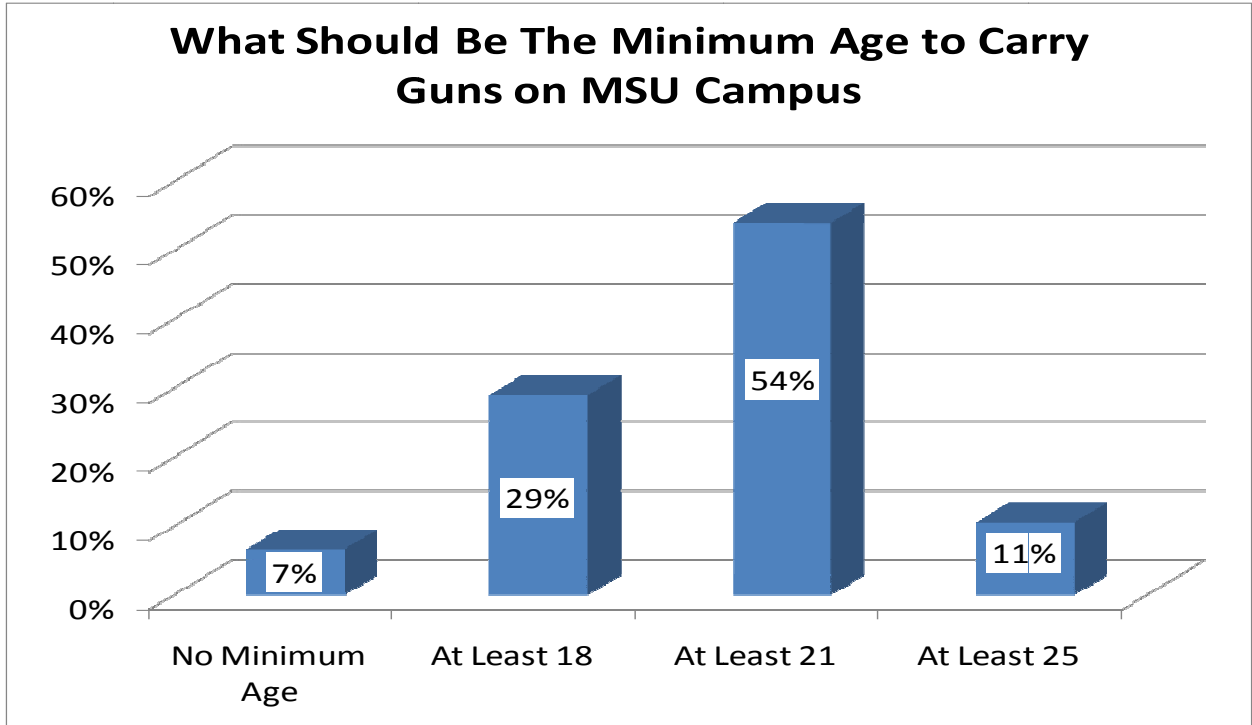
Responses to Survey Questions



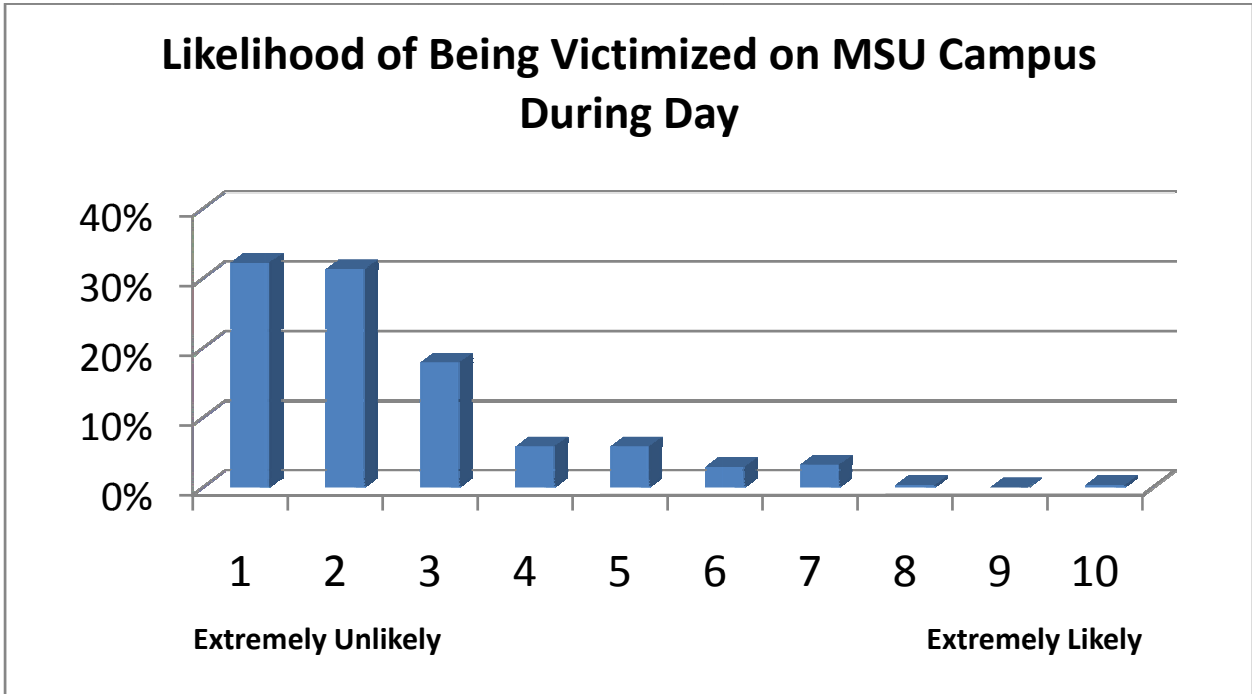
The strongest support for carrying guns on campus was for campus security, with 89% of respondents agreeing security should be allowed to carry guns. Thirty-four percent supported allowing faculty to carry guns on campus, while 28% said they thought staff should be given this option. Only 24% of respondents indicated they would support students carrying guns on campus.



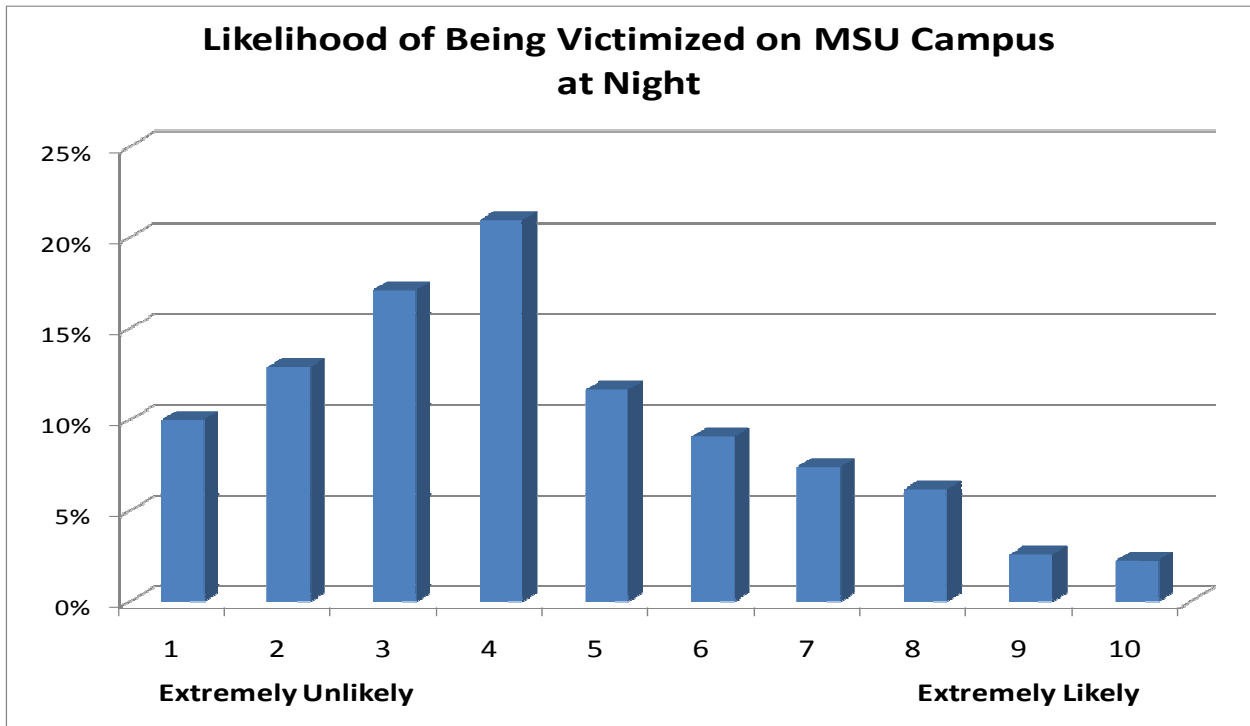
Among respondents who supported allowing faculty and staff to carry guns, over half indicated that they should be required to complete intensive training specifically designed for the campus environment. Those who supported allowing students to carry guns were more likely to feel the standard firearms training would be sufficient.



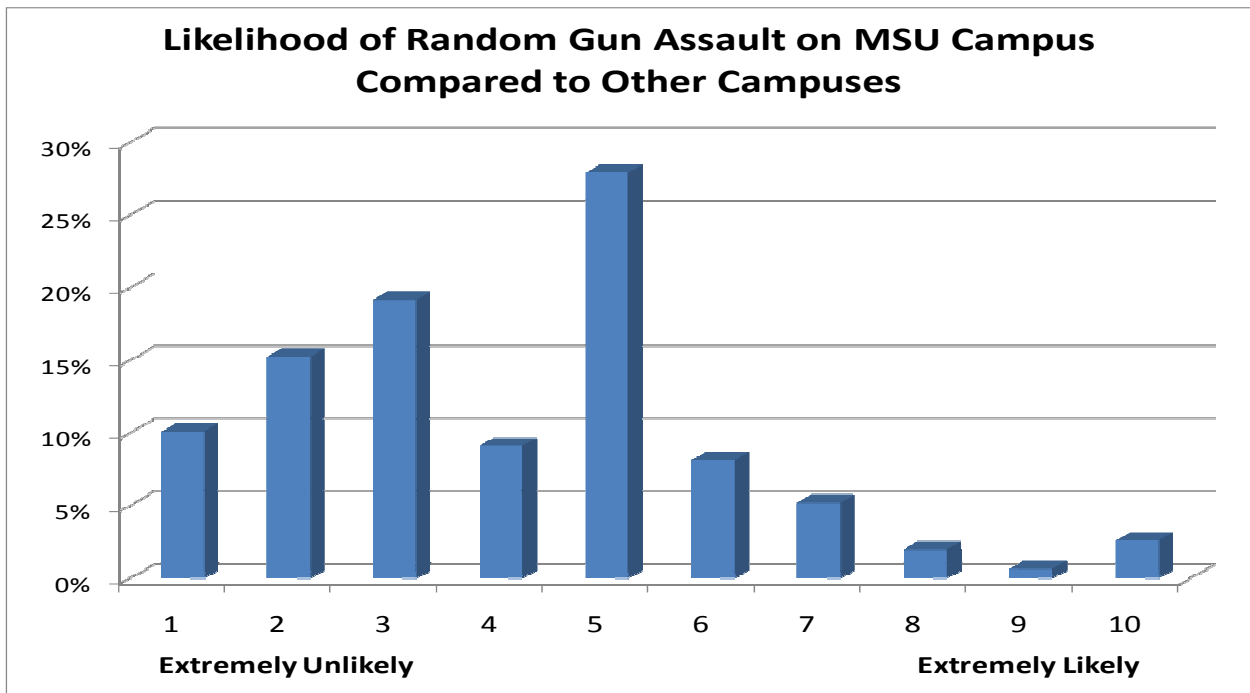
Among respondents who supported allowing students to carry guns on campus, over half indicated that they would require students to be 21 to be given this privilege. Over one-tenth would require gun carriers to be at least 25 years old.



When asked to report, on a scale of 1 to 10, the likelihood of being victimized on the MSU campus during the day, the vast majority of respondents indicated that it would be highly unlikely. About one-fifth indicated a moderate degree of likelihood, but virtually no respondents said victimization during the day was highly likely. The mean for the overall distribution was 2.48.

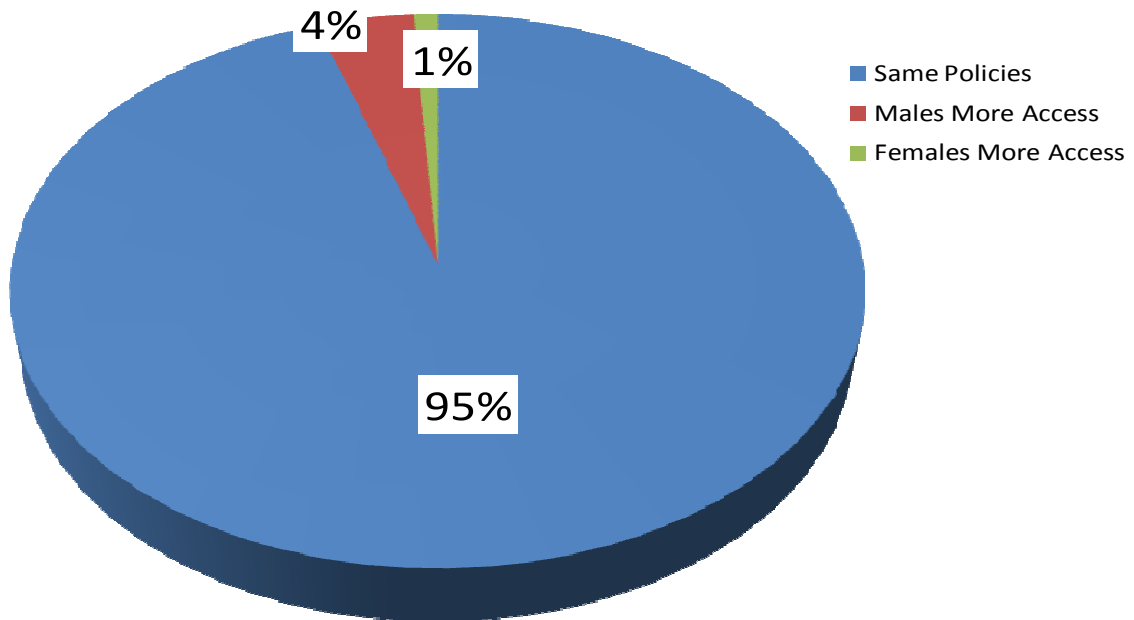


As might be expected, the reported likelihood of being victimized on the MSU campus at night was significantly higher than for during the day. The mean rating for likelihood of victimization at night was 4.3, compared to 2.48 for the daytime. Relatively few, however, felt victimization at night was extremely likely.



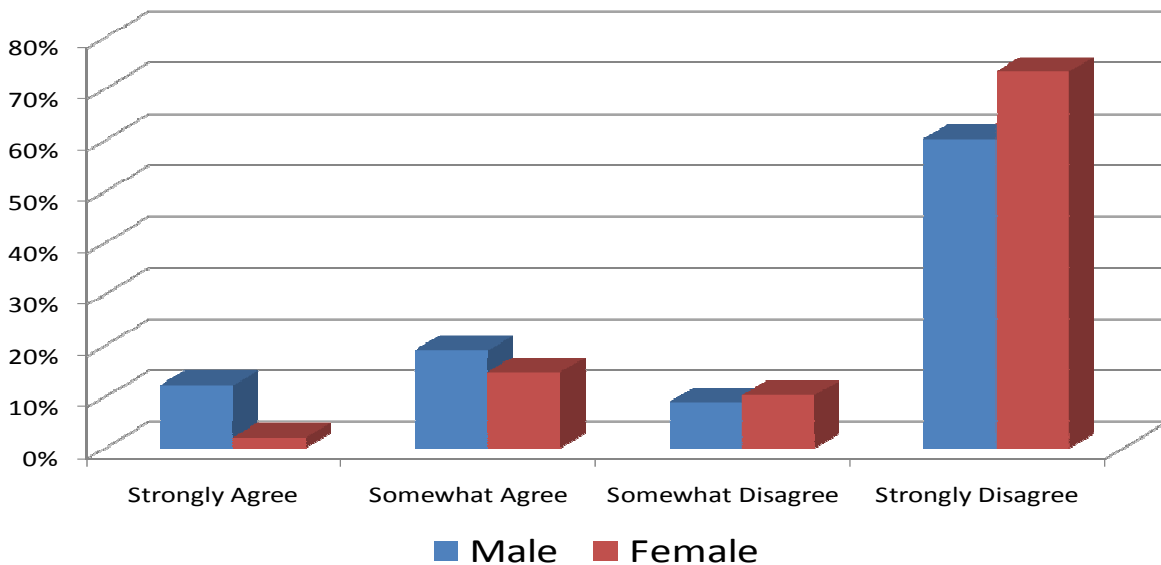
When asked about the likelihood, compared to other campuses, that Missouri State could experience a random gun assault on students, the most common rating given was 5, suggesting that it would be about as likely. The majority of the remaining respondents felt an attack at MSU would be less likely than at other universities.

Would You Favor the Same Gun Policies for Males and Females?

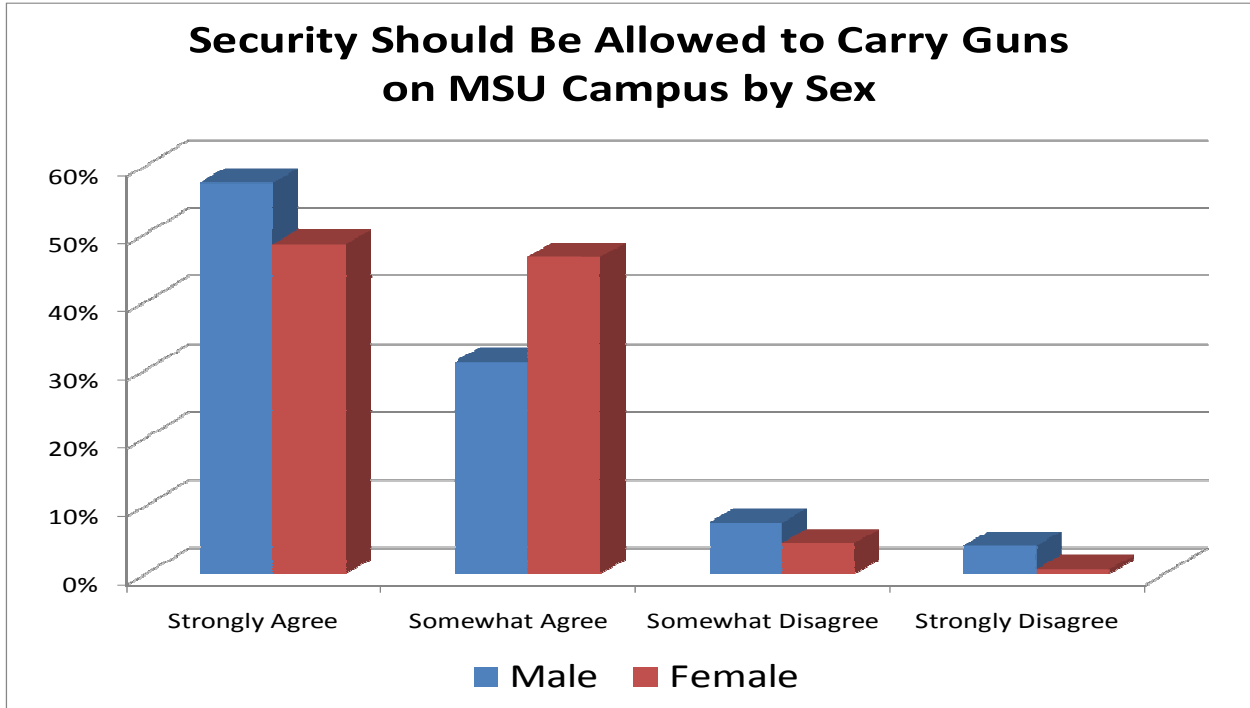


To test for gender bias, respondents were asked if they favored different gun carrying policies for males and females. The vast majority of respondents indicated that they favored uniform policies for males and females. Of the 5% who favored differential policies, most said that males should be given preferential access.

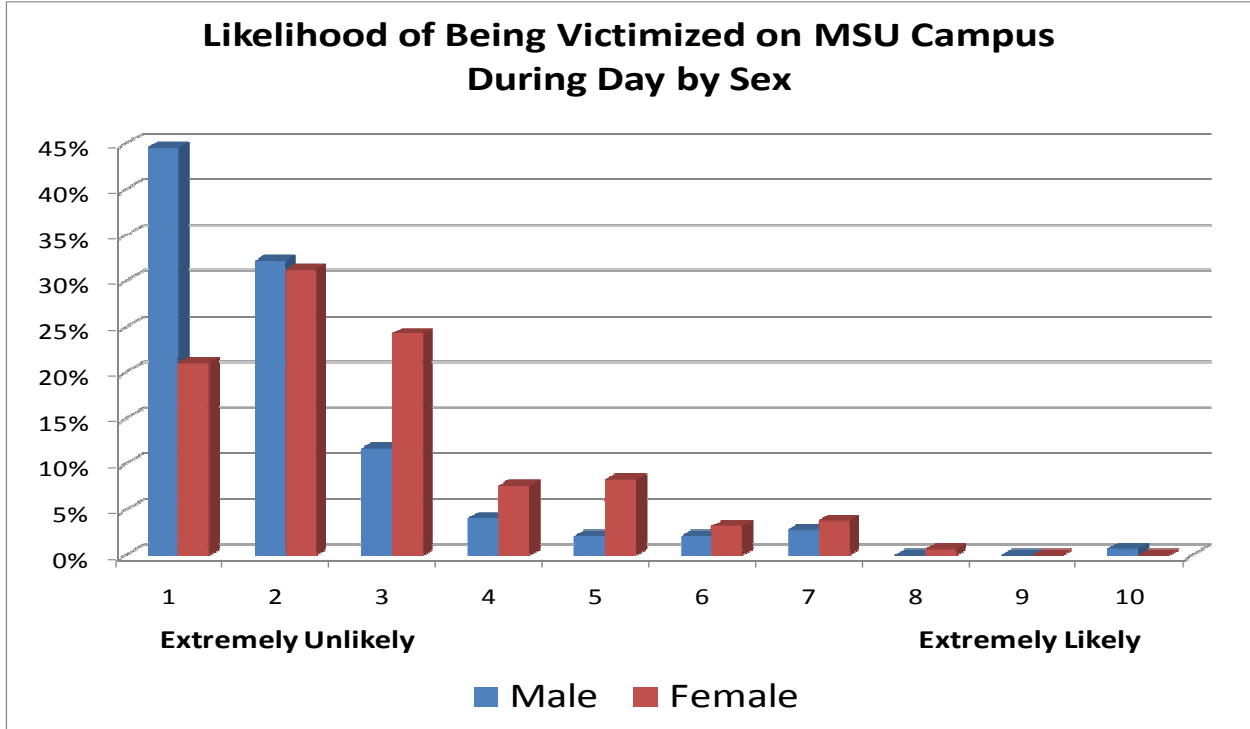
Students Should Be Allowed to Carry Guns on MSU Campus by Sex



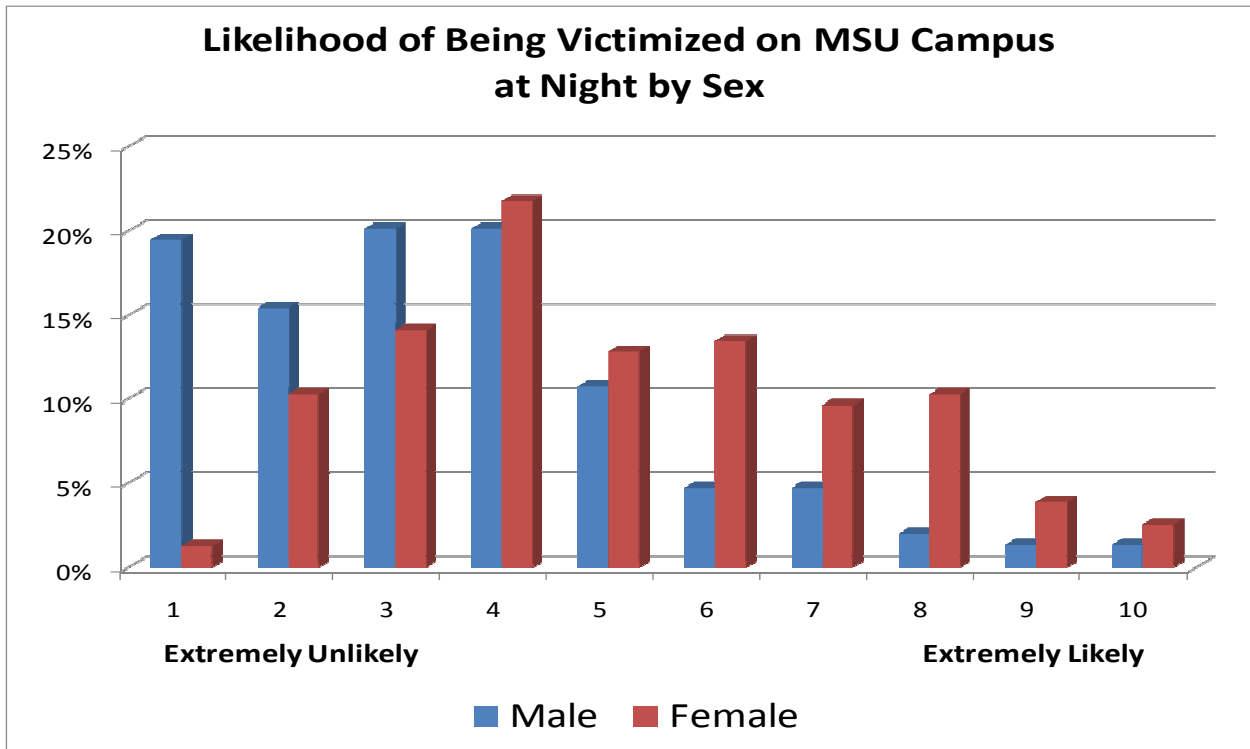
Male respondents were significantly more likely to favor student access to guns on campus than female respondents. This was particularly true for the extreme preferences.



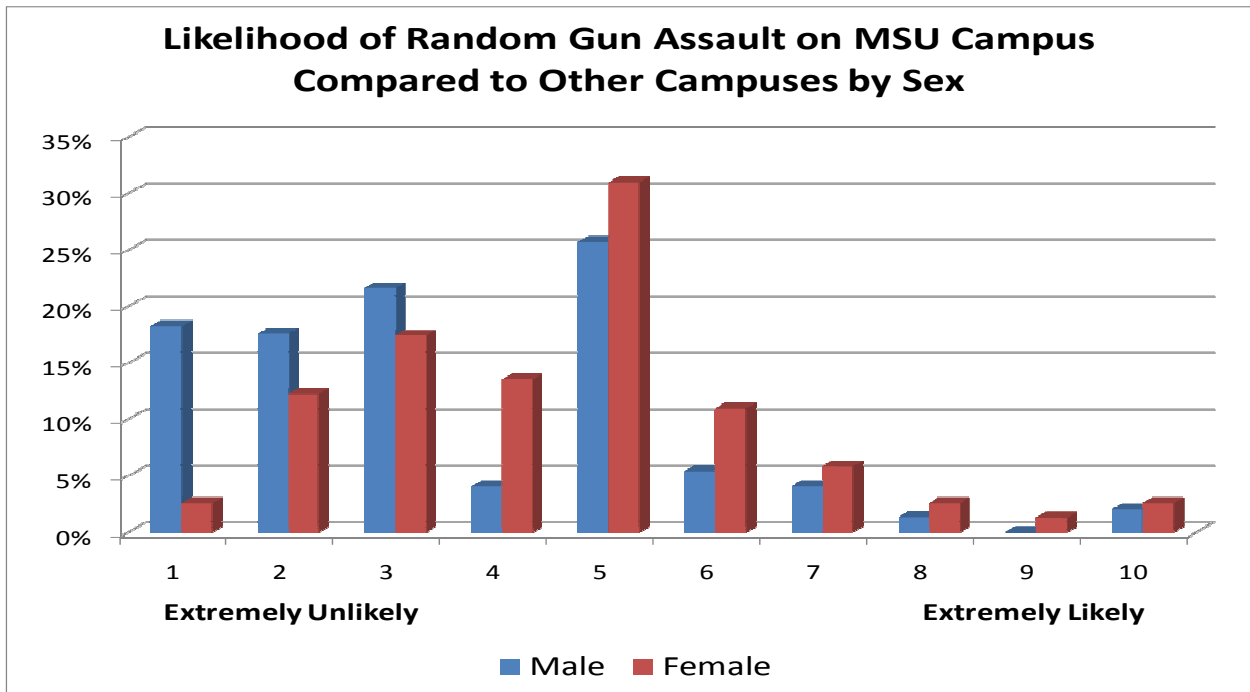
Although male respondents were more likely than female respondents to strongly agree that campus security should be allowed to carry guns on campus, they were also more likely to oppose this policy. Overall, female respondents were more likely to favor allowing campus security to carry guns.



Male respondents were more likely to think it extremely unlikely to be victimized during the day, while female respondents were more likely to think daytime victimization somewhat likely. The mean likelihood rating for males was 2.09, while the mean rating for females was 2.79.



Female respondents felt victimization on campus at night was much more likely than male respondents. A significantly greater proportion of female respondents felt victimization at night was highly likely. The mean rating for females was 5.06, compared to only 3.48 for males.



Female respondents were also significantly more likely than males to think that a random gun assault on students could happen at Missouri State University. The mean response for males was 3.55, compared to 4.53 for females.

List of Student Researchers

Allman, Daniel J
Basile, Holly A
Bough, Ryan
Brooks, Miranda M
Brown, Sarah L
Campbell, Kyle J
Collet, Steven P
Costello, Nicholas A
Critzas, Alexandra M
Deatrack, Dana A
Drye, Jared N
Flora, Jason
Hubbard, Jonathan J
Johnson, Benjamin P
Kingsland, Kara N
Krawczyk, Daniel A
Marsh, Mehan N
McCarty, Noah B
McKee, Daniel J
Metzger, Nathaniel J
Meyer, Stephen G
Nickelson, John M
Olson, Robert J
Ozborn, Megan A
Robinson, Mark L
Roman, Bryce A
Smith, Michelle T
Smith, Ryan C
Stewart, Aaron E
Stewart, Brant N
Unger, Amy E
Viox, Cody L

Survey of Missouri State Students

Guns on MSU Campus

1. 1. Students should be allowed to carry guns on the MSU campus? Do you:

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree (SKIP To Q4)
- Strongly disagree (SKIP To Q4)

2. 2. What level of training would be required for students to carry guns?

- No special training
- Standard concealed firearms training
- Intensive training designed specifically for college campuses

3. 3. What should be the minimum age for students to carry guns?

- No minimum age
- At least 18
- At least 21
- At least 25

4. 4. Faculty should be allowed to carry guns on the MSU campus?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree (SKIP To Q6)
- Strongly disagree (SKIP To Q6)

5. 5. What level of training would you require for faculty to carry guns?

- No special training
- Standard concealed firearms training
- Intensive training designed specifically for college campuses

6. 6. Non-security staff should be allowed to carry guns on the MSU campus?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree (SKIP To Q8)
- Strongly disagree (SKIP To Q8)

7. 7. What level of training would you require for non-security staff to carry guns?

- No special training
- Standard concealed firearms training
- Intensive training designed specifically for college campuses

8. 8. Security personnel should be allowed to carry guns on the MSU campus?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

9. In general, how likely is it that you would be victimized on the MSU campus during the day?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extremely Unlikely

Extremely Likely

10. In general, how likely is it that you would be victimized on the MSU campus at night?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extremely Unlikely

Extremely Likely

11. Compared to other campuses how likely is it that a random gun assault on students would occur on the MSU campus?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Extremely Unlikely

Extremely Likely

12. In general, would you favor the same gun policies on campus for both males and females?

Yes [Skip to Q14]

No

13. If No: Should females or males be given more access to guns on MSU campus?

Females

Males

14. Please indicate your sex.

Male

Female

Thank you for assisting us with our research. Please hit the Submit Button to submit your data.

To maintain the integrity of our random sample, please do not distribute this survey to anyone else. Thank you!