UVU CAMPUS SAFETY AND FIREARM POLICY

Group 5

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

• More and more school shootings
• What do UVU students know about the firearm policy on campus?
• How safe do they feel?
• Does this affect learning at UVU?
EXPECTATIONS/RISKS

• Some students may feel uneasy with subject
• May not feel safe with weapons allowed
• See concern for a more strict policy
• Majority with conservative views on firearms
• Research Method by Survey and Analyze Results Afterward
• Background
• Opinions on Gun Policy and Concealed Carry
• Comfort and Safety Levels of Firearms
• Level of Comfort for Firearms in Classroom
• How It May Affect Learning and Concentration
• **Affording Disaster: Concealed Carry on Campus by J. M. Dieterle**

• **Crime and Fear on Campus by Bonnie S. Fisher**

• **Forward: The Past and Future of Guns by Lindgren, James**

• **Sweating Bullets: Female Attitudes Regarding Concealed Weapons and the Perceptions of Safety on College Campuses by Ryan Patten**
• Random selection of 500 UVU students out of a total population of 35,000
• 72 total responses
• 50/50 male/female
• Even throughout school level freshman to senior
• Mainly ages under 35; less than 15% were older
• Accurate representation of UVU campus
• Confidence interval of about 7; level 95%
• **MAJORITY CONSERVATIVE**

• **FIREARM RIGHTS IMPORTANT BUT ONLY HALF THINK IT’S IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN VOTING**

• **ABOUT HALF FOR STRICTER LAWS**

• **ABOUT HALF AGAINST**
Concealed Weapons
Utah Valley University complies with state law with regard to weapons on campus. Utah state law clearly states that a person may not possess a dangerous weapon, firearm, or sawed-off shot gun on school premises (Utah Code 76-10-505.5) except under certain conditions. One of these exceptions indicates that this criminal statute is not applicable if the person is authorized to possess a concealed firearm as provided by the Concealed Weapon Law. UVU abides by this law and accordingly allows concealed firearm permit holders to possess their concealed firearm on campus. There is nothing specifically set forth in the Utah statutes that allows a concealed firearm permit holder to carry that firearm openly on a college campus. State statute defines a concealed dangerous weapon as being covered, hidden, or secured in a manner that the public would not be aware of its presence (Utah Code 76-10-501). As an institution, UVU respects the right of its students and others to legally carry a concealed firearm under those parameters, as outlined by state law.

• Questioned students on facts of state firearm laws and UVU policy
• 1/3 have misconceptions of state concealed carry laws and state gun laws
• Most students comfortable with UVU policy
• 30% have no opinion
• 16% suggest a stricter policy for schools
SAFETY ON CAMPUS

• SAFETY AFFECTS ABILITY TO LEARN
• GENERALLY STUDENTS FEEL SAFE ON CAMPUS
• KNOWING SOMEONE WHO IS CARRYING FEELS SAFER
• KNOWING RANDOM PEOPLE CARRYING DOES NOT AFFECT STUDENTS
• STUDENTS DON’T BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE AFFECTED IF FIREARMS WEREN’T ALLOWED

Knowing that a student or teacher may have a concealed weapon in the classroom, is your concentration affected?

Do you feel your concentration at school would be affected knowing that no one is carrying?
Please rate your preference for a policy regarding guns on school campus. Who do you think should be allowed to conceal carry?

I personally feel that ____ should have firearms on campus.

- **IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT FACULTY HAS A CONCEALED PERMIT THAN ANYONE**
- **ONLY CONCEALED CARRY HOLDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE FIREARMS ON CAMPUS**
- **MANDATORY TRAINING SHOULD BE REQUIRED IN THE CONCEALED PERMIT PROCESS**
STUDENTS WITH FIREARMS

- About half currently own firearms – mostly for personal protection
- 57% of firearm owners do not have a permit but feel they are ready
- Most students have little to no experience with firearms
- More likely to shoot recreationally than for hunting, work, or other reasons
- 25% grew up with no access to firearms
I have had at least one professor discuss the university firearm policy.

How likely do you think a shooting is to occur on campus knowing that concealed weapons are allowed?

- **MAJORITY OF STUDENTS DON’T CONSIDER IT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CHOOSING A SCHOOL**
- **MOST TEACHERS HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THE FIREARM POLICY TO STUDENTS**
- **ALLOWING WEAPONS ON CAMPUS DOESN’T MAKE THE SCHOOL MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A SHOOTING**
- **MORE STUDENTS FEEL BETTER KNOWING THERE ARE ARMED PEOPLE AROUND THEM DURING A CRISIS**
- **RECENT SHOOTINGS HAVE CAUSED MOST TO EVALUATE SURROUNDINGS MORE, STILL DON’T FEEL PREPARED**
EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY

- Most students feel safe on campus with firearm policy as is.
- Not as many know the gun laws as much as they think.
- Willing to suggest changes even though content with policy.
- Most students have little to no personal experience with firearms.
- Only 8 have actually brought a firearm to campus.
- Only a few still have negative feelings toward firearms.
CONCLUSION

• MANY STUDENTS RESPECT RIGHT TO OWN AND USE FIREARMS

• MORE STUDENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF FIREARM LAWS AND POLICY

• STUDENTS FEEL SAFE ON CAMPUS KNOWING THERE MIGHT BE STUDENTS CARRYING

• STUDY HABITS AND CONCENTRATION UNAFFECTED

• MANY STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE STRICTER FIREARM POLICY
THANK YOU