

A large number of people have thoughts of shooting others, according to a recent survey

Researchers at the University of Michigan medical school recently conducted a nationally representative survey of more than 7,000 adults, called the National Firearms, Alcohol, Cannabis, and Suicide Survey. One of their findings is that 7% of the survey respondents said that at some time in their life, they had thought about shooting someone else. That percentage corresponds to 19.4 million people in the U.S. Over 3%, or about 8.7 million adults, said they had thought of shooting someone in the last year. Firearm owners were no more likely to have had these thoughts than those who didn't own firearms. More than one in five of those who had thoughts of shooting someone told another person what they were thinking – potentially creating an opportunity for intervention before anyone could be harmed. However, only 7% of those with thoughts of shooting someone said they had given their gun to someone else for safekeeping, while another 21% said they would consider doing so in future. Those findings highlight the importance of separating people with thoughts of shooting others from easy access to firearms, through measures such as ERPOs, safe storage, storing guns with others outside the home, and waiting periods.

[Thoughts don't kill people, but study suggests options for keeping guns from doing so](#)