

Gun Ownership and Community Attitudes Toward Firearms In New York Primary Care

Ashley Landicho MD, MBA¹, Matthew Anderson, MD¹, Cameron Nienaber, MD², Ambika Nath, DO², Navdeep Kaur, MD²

¹Department of Family and Social Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

²Department of Family Medicine, Jamaica Hospital Medical Center



BACKGROUND

- ❖ Firearm related homicide is the second leading cause of injury and death within the pediatric and young adult populations.
- ❖ Several studies have shown that these injuries often occur due to easily accessibility and improper storage of household firearms.
- ❖ The role of physicians in screening for and counseling about gun safety measures in the ambulatory setting is unclear and an area of considerable debate.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To assess:
 - Prevalence and demographics of self-reported gun ownership in primary care settings
 - Firearm storage and accessibility of gun owners
 - Correlations between gun exposure and community attitudes towards safety

METHODS

- ❖ Cross-sectional study using anonymous, verbal surveys, administered in both English and Spanish, to adult patients and adult guardians of pediatric patients
- ❖ **Setting:**
 - 5 urban primary care clinics in the Bronx and Queens
- ❖ **Survey:**
 - 5 items for all participants
 - 3 sub items for participants who owned a gun
 - Questions developed to assess gun exposure in the community, familial or direct exposure, perceptions of community safety, gun ownership, and firearm storage and access

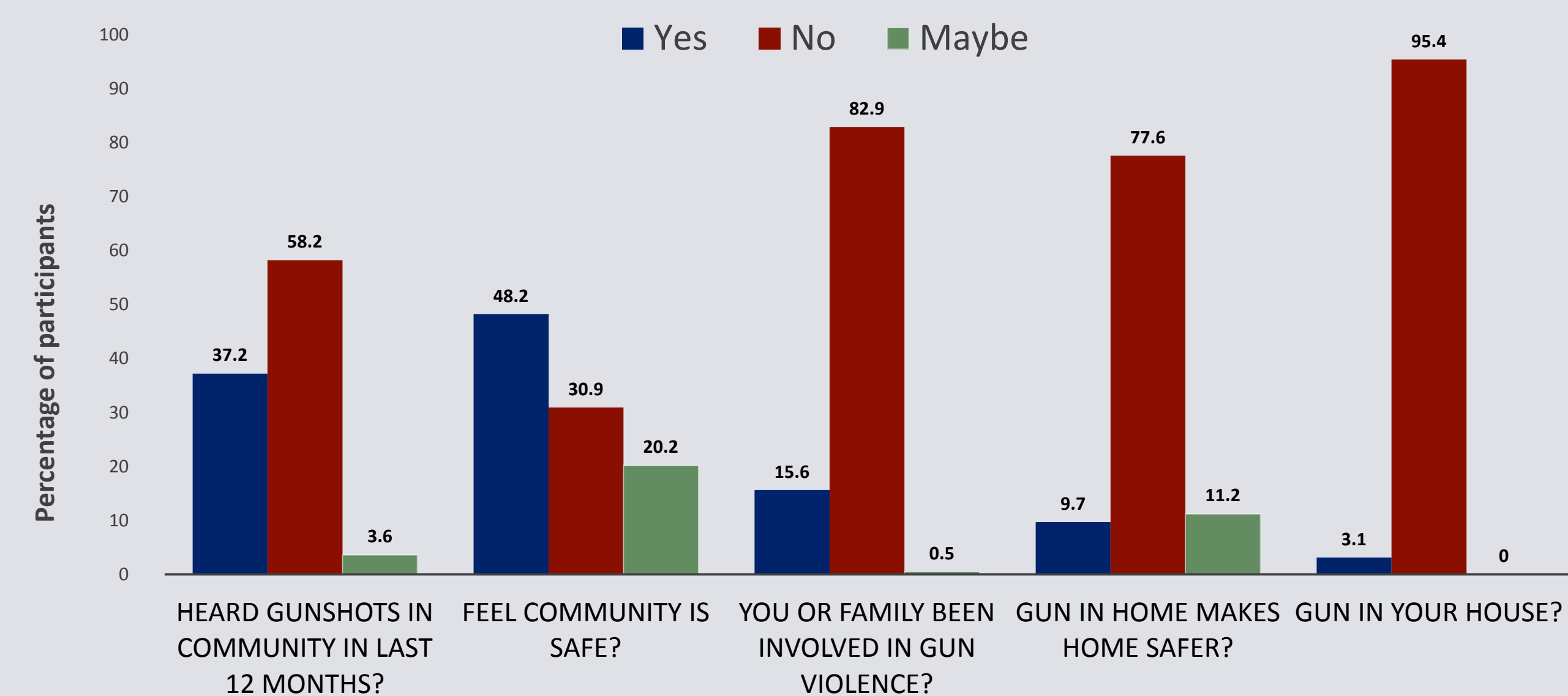
RESULTS

Participants & Demographics

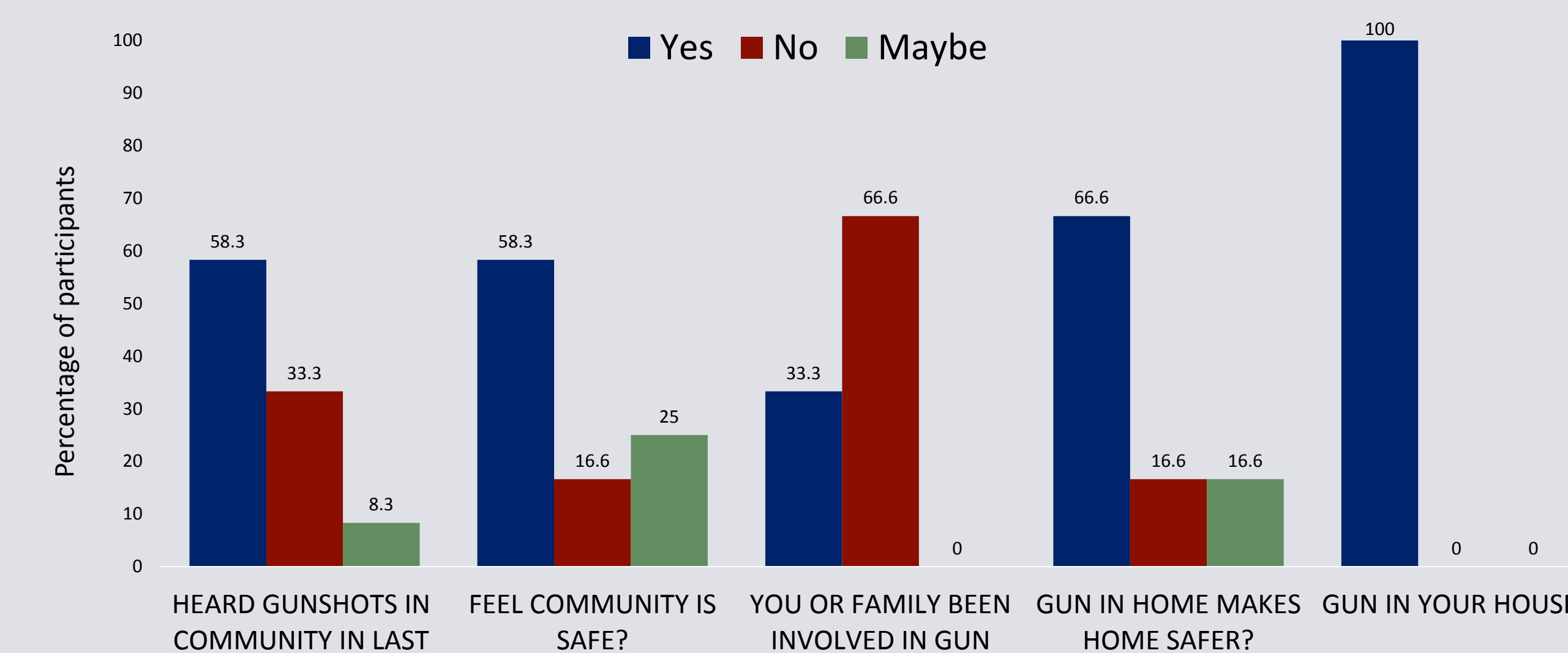
390 total adult participants
12 participants who owned guns

All participants		Gun Owners	
Average Age	36-65 year old age group	Average age	45 years old
Gender	67% female, 33% male	Gender	75% female, 25% male

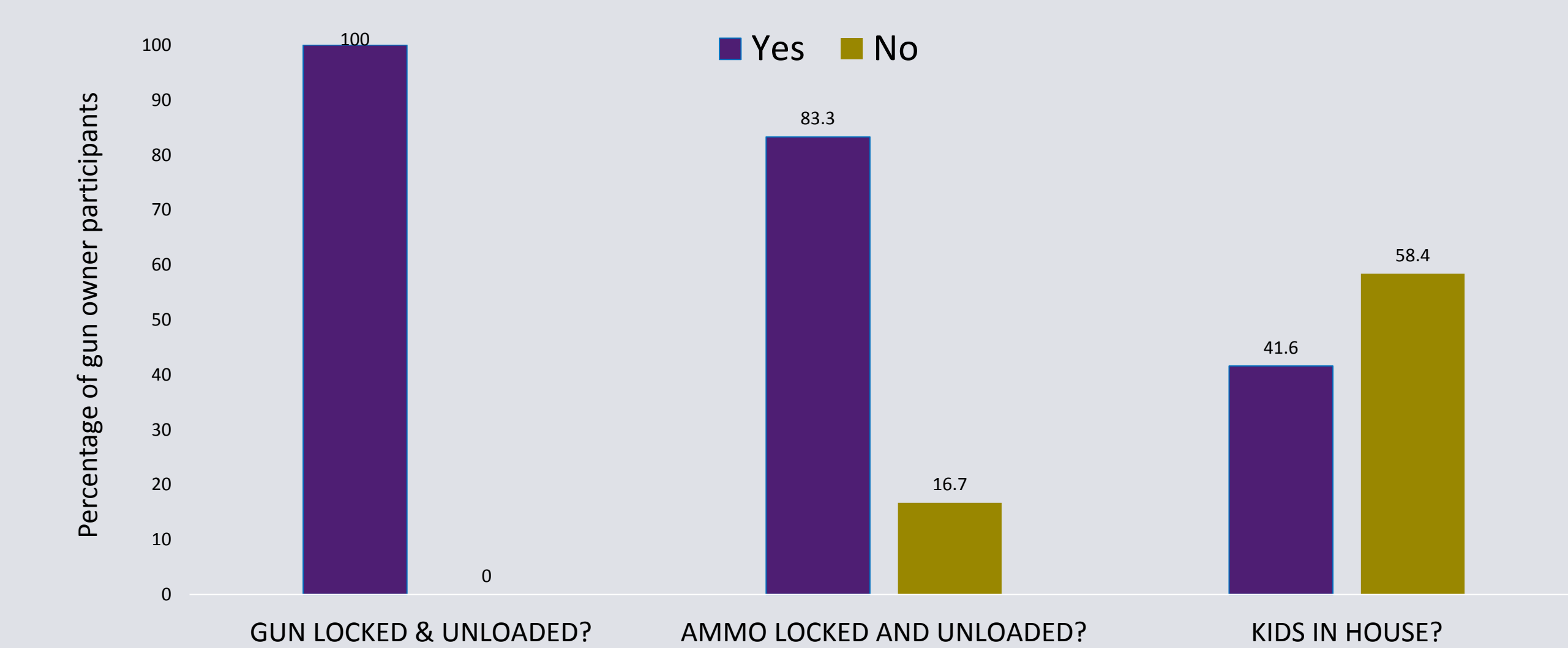
Total Participant Answers to Questions



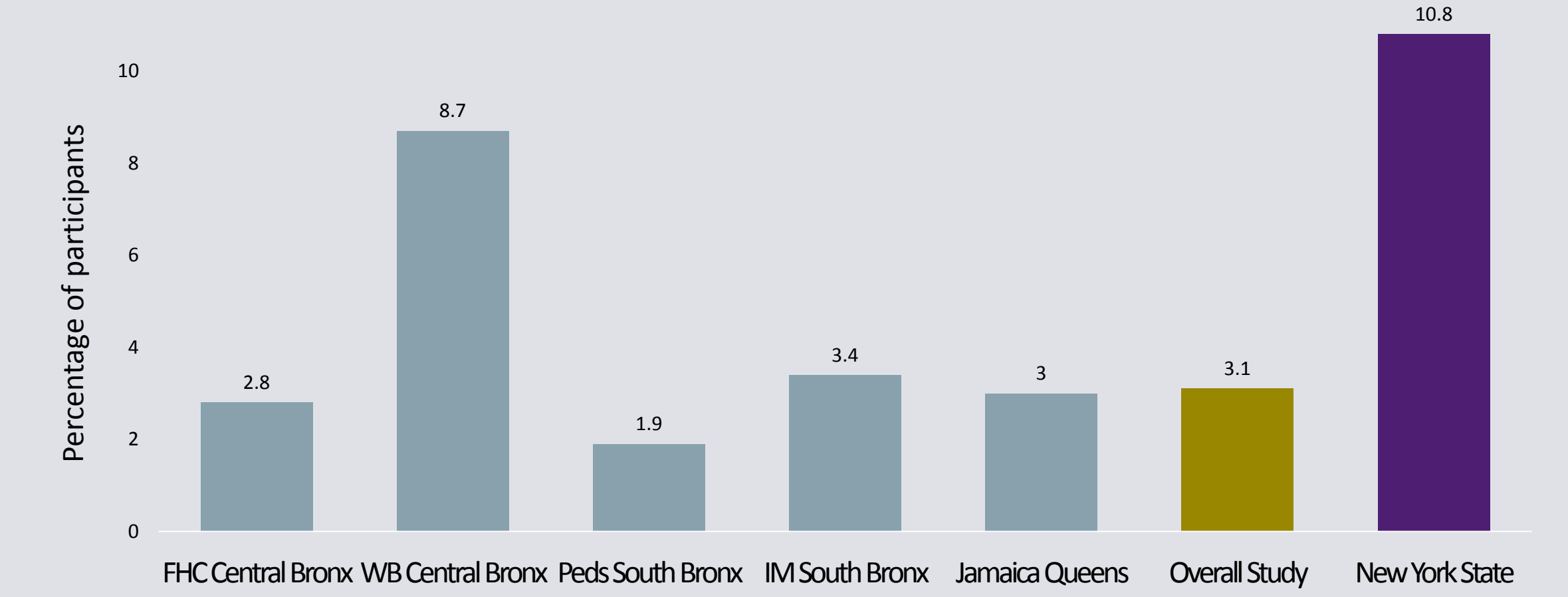
Gun Owners Answers to Questions



Gun Owners Answers to Gun Storage & Access Questions



Gun Owner Prevalence by Location



Bivariate Association Between Pairings of Questions

Question		Feel community is safe?		Total
		No	Yes	
Heard gunshots in the last 12 months?	Yes	68	30	98
	No	34	128	162
	Total	102	158	260

Likelihood Ratio Chi Squared 61.1 p value <.0001
Those who did **not** hear gunshots in their neighborhood in the last 12 months were **61x** more likely to believe their community was a safe place (p < 0.0001).

Question		Feel community is safe?		Total
		No	Yes	
You or family been involved in gun violence?	Yes	24	19	43
	No	78	139	217
	Total	102	158	260

Likelihood Ratio Chi Squared Analysis 5.9 p value <.02
Those who did **not** have family or had been involved in gun violence were **6x** more likely to believe their community was a safe place (p < 0.02).

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- ❖ Reported gun ownership rates were low across all study clinics, but proportionally consistent with state prevalence
- ❖ The most significant correlations were between patient's reported exposure to guns and their perception of safety within their communities
- ❖ For low gun prevalence states like New York, office based interventions aimed at gun storage and access may have little benefit
- ❖ Ambulatory efforts may be better utilized in screening for gun exposure, and counseling on subsequent toxic stress health issues