

I Am the NRA: An Analysis of a National Random Sample of Gun Owners

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Data from a national random sample of gun owners ($N = 605$) were used to determine whether members of the National Rifle Association (NRA) are a representative sample of all gun owners and how well the NRA's lobbying positions on gun control reflect the views of its membership and of nonmember gun owners. No obvious demographic distinctions were identified between member and nonmember gun owners, but handgun owners (odds ratio [OR], 1.69; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.19 to 2.39) and individuals who owned six or more guns as opposed to just one gun (OR, 1.95; 95% CI, 1.22 to 3.10) were more likely to belong to the NRA. Nonmembers were more supportive of specific proposals to regulate gun ownership (OR, 1.82; 95% CI, 1.14 to 2.91), but a majority of both member and nonmember gun owners favored a waiting period for the purchase of a handgun (77% and 89%, respectively) and mandatory registration of handguns (59% and 75%).

The National Rifle Association of America (NRA) is one of the nation's most active and influential lobby groups (Hrebener & Scott, 1990; Isikoff, 1991; King, 1992; Wilson, 1981). Its principal stated purpose and objective are:

To protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, especially with reference to the inalienable right of the individual American citizen guaranteed by such Constitution to acquire, possess, transport, carry, transfer ownership of, and enjoy the right to use arms, in order that the people may always be in the position to exercise their legitimate individual rights of self-preservation and defense of family, person and property, as well as to serve effectively in the appropriate militia for the common defense of the republic and the individual liberty of its citizens (NRA, 1992).

The legislative and political arm of the NRA is the Institute for Legislative Action (ILA). The ILA was set up "as the front line of defense against anti-gun legislation" (NRA, 1992). The NRA opposes any licensing and registration of firearms and any waiting period for the purchase of firearms. In assuming these positions, NRA literature states that it is "representing the rights and wishes of not only our millions of members, but some 18 million licensed hunters and 65 million American gun owners as well" (NRA, 1992).

In March 1992, *The New York Times* published the results of a survey that showed that gun owners were largely supportive of specific proposals to regulate private gun ownership (Lewis, 1992). For example, 82% of the gun owners surveyed said that they would support a 7-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun; 76% were in favor of a ban on semiautomatic military-style rifles.

The findings of *The New York Times* survey were not surprising. As early as 1975, research suggested that gun owners supported regulations that the NRA officially opposed (Wright & Marston, 1975). Other national, randomly conducted surveys produced similar results (see Kleck, 1991). Among these surveys was the one conducted for *Time* magazine and Cable News Network, which is used as the basis for the analysis in this article. As reported in *Time*, 87% of the gun owners questioned favored a waiting period; 72% said that they backed mandatory registration of handguns ("Under Fire," 1990).

Not reported in *Time* magazine, *The New York Times*, or in virtually any summary of survey findings was how members of the NRA felt about gun control or how their level of support differed from other gun owners. This study attempts to address this issue by addressing two questions: (1) Are members of the NRA a representative sample of all gun owners? (2) Do NRA leadership positions on gun control reflect the views of the Association's membership, and do they represent the views of nonmember gun owners?

METHOD

Data Origin and Potential Sources of Bias

The data were obtained from a random national telephone survey of 605 gun owners 18 years and older. The survey, sponsored by *Time* magazine and Cable News Network, was conducted December 15 through 22, 1989, by Yankelovich Clancy & Shulman, Inc. Telephone numbers were randomly generated to ensure that households with both listed and unlisted numbers were included. Respondents were not identifiable to the researchers by name or address.

Approximately two-thirds of the people initially contacted agreed to participate in the survey. This participation rate was consistent with other telephone surveys conducted during the same period (Frey, 1989; Kaskutas & Greenfield, 1992). Individuals who agreed to participate were asked a screening question to determine whether someone in the household owned a firearm. Virtually no one identified as a gun owner failed to complete the survey.

Although the possibility of selection bias is a concern for any survey, we have no reason to suspect that NRA members, relative to nonmembers, were more or less likely to agree to participate. Virtually everyone who dropped out did so before the screening question was administered and before identification of guns as the subject of the survey.

Surveys that sample the population are subject to sampling error. Results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole population were interviewed. For a survey of 600 respondents, the results are subject to an error margin of ± 4 percentage points for each question because of chance variation in the sample.

Telephone surveys are subject to systematic error. Individuals without telephones or those who work unusual hours may not be represented. In 1986, 7% of all people in the United States (including more than 15% of all blacks and 27% of people living below the poverty line) lived in households that did not have a telephone (Thornberry & Massey, 1988).

Registered gun owners have been shown to provide generally valid responses to questions about gun ownership (Kellermann et al., 1991). However, the same may not be true for owners of unregistered weapons. Individuals who own guns illegally or for illegal purposes may be reluctant to admit ownership. It is not uncommon for individuals under the age of 18 years to possess firearms (Callahan & Rivara, 1992), but these people were not included in the sample.

The imprecise wording of some questions may introduce random measurement error. For example, respondents were asked "What is the main reason you own your gun(s)?" If an individual owns one gun for hunting and another for protection, it is not clear how this person should respond. Because random measurement error generally biases results toward the null hypothesis, the reported odds ratios may underrepresent the true associations.

Outcome Variables

The dependent variable is whether or not the respondent said that she or he is a member of the NRA. Of the 605 individuals surveyed, 3 did not respond to the question. These individuals were dropped from the sample.

Predictors

Three types of independent variables were included in the analysis: demographic characteristics, gun variables, and attitudinal variables.

Demographic Variables

The demographic variables were gender, race, age, level of education, region, and whether respondents lived in a metropolitan or nonmetropolitan area. Race identified respondents as white or not white. We broke age into four categories (≤ 29 , 30–39, 40–49, ≥ 50) and education into two (\leq high school education, $>$ high school). We further classified respondents by whether they resided in one of the southern states. The South has high rates of homicide, gun homicide, and gun ownership compared with other regions of the country (Gastil, 1989; National Opinion Research Center, 1986).

Gun Variables

The gun variables analyzed were the number of guns owned (1, 2, 3, 4–5, 6+), type of firearms owned (whether any were handguns), how the weapons were stored (unloaded and/or locked up when not in use), the primary purpose of ownership (for protection from crime versus hunting, target shooting, collecting, and all other possibilities), and whether the owner had received formal training in the proper use of firearms.

The number of guns owned was not treated as a continuous variable because we did not expect the relationship between this variable and NRA membership to be linear. Each of the five groups contain approximately one fifth of the observations in the data set.

Two dichotomous variables were created to study the association between the way firearms are stored and membership in the NRA. One variable compared individuals who never stored their gun(s) loaded with individuals who kept a gun loaded some of the time or all of the time. The other variable used a similar dichotomy, comparing individuals who kept their firearm(s) locked up with those whose weapons were either never locked up or locked up only some of the time.

Attitudinal Variables

Three attitudinal variables were examined: whether the individual supported a mandatory waiting period before the purchase of a handgun, whether she or he supported the mandatory registration of handguns, and whether she or he believed that a prohibition on handgun ownership would benefit criminals.

Respondents were asked if they were in favor of a 7-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun and whether they favored handgun registration. Because these two variables are highly correlated, three composite indicator variables were created to capture overall support for these regulatory approaches: support for both forms of regulation, support for one but not both forms, and opposition to both proposals.

Individuals were asked if they believed that "prohibiting the public from having handguns would give criminals an added advantage." Those who believed prohibition would help criminals were compared to individuals who did not so believe or were unsure.

Odds ratios were estimated using multivariate logistic regression. There is no established theory to suggest the functional form that many of the independent variables should take. Alternative forms were tested to determine whether the results were sensitive to the modeling of these variables. They were not.

RESULTS

The data consisted of survey responses from 605 gun owners; 75% were men, 12% were nonwhite. Each respondent owned at least one gun, with the majority owning more than one (77%). Seventeen percent of the sample population said they were dues-paying members of the NRA. The majority of members (98%) and nearly half of the nonmembers (47%) said that they were "supporter[s] of the National Rifle Association," and two-thirds of the individuals surveyed (66%) said that they agreed with its positions.

Demographic Variables

Cross-tabulations showed no significant association between membership in the NRA and the demographic characteristics included in the model, with the exception of gender (Table 1). NRA members appeared to be disproportionately male (likelihood ratio $\chi^2 4.31$; $p \leq .01$). However, the association between gender and membership did not hold in the multivariate analysis (odds ratio [OR], 0.97; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.70 to 1.40) (Table 2).

Gun Variables

Simple cross-tabulations showed a positive association between NRA membership and owning a handgun, owning more than one gun, having received formal training in the proper use of a firearm, and storing a gun loaded and keeping it locked up when not in use. These latter two correlates did not hold in the multivariate analysis. When holding other factors constant, members of the NRA did not appear to be significantly more likely than nonmembers to keep their weapons loaded (OR, 1.10; 95% CI, 0.83 to 1.45) or locked up (OR, 1.27; 95% CI, 0.98 to 1.65) when not in use.

In the multivariate analysis, the purpose for owning a firearm was significantly correlated with NRA membership. Individuals who own a gun principally for reasons

TABLE 1. Cross-Tabulations of Possible Predictors of NRA Membership and Associated χ^2 Statistics

Factor		% Members of the NRA	Chi-square
Demographic			
Sex			
1 = male	<i>N</i> = 453	19%	4.31**
0 = female	<i>N</i> = 149	11%	
(3 observations missing)			
Race			
1 = nonwhite	<i>N</i> = 75	15%	0.32
0 = white	<i>N</i> = 527	17%	
(3 observations missing)			
Age			
≤ 29	<i>N</i> = 149	20%	2.70
30-39	<i>N</i> = 147	14%	
40-49	<i>N</i> = 100	19%	
50+	<i>N</i> = 201	16%	
(8 observations missing)			
Education			
1 = ≤ high school	<i>N</i> = 323	18%	0.66
0 = > high school	<i>N</i> = 273	16%	
(9 observations missing)			
Region*			
1 = southern	<i>N</i> = 265	17%	0.00
0 = other	<i>N</i> = 337	17%	
(3 observations missing)			
Metropolitan			
1 = metropolitan	<i>N</i> = 225	17%	0.04
0 = other	<i>N</i> = 377	17%	
(3 observations missing)			
Weapon			
Handgun			
1 = owns a handgun	<i>N</i> = 365	24%	29.28****
0 = other	<i>N</i> = 231	6%	
(9 observations missing)			
Purpose			
1 = protection from crime	<i>N</i> = 163	14%	1.28
0 = other	<i>N</i> = 439	18%	
(3 observations missing)			
Number of Guns Owned			
1 gun	<i>N</i> = 132	5%	45.58****
2 guns	<i>N</i> = 105	9%	
3 guns	<i>N</i> = 107	16%	
4 or 5 guns	<i>N</i> = 94	15%	
6+	<i>N</i> = 139	33%	
(28 observations missing)			
Training			
1 = military or class	<i>N</i> = 315	23%	14.70****
0 = other	<i>N</i> = 287	11%	
(3 observations missing)			

Loaded when Stored			
yes	<i>N</i> = 219	23%	8.09***
no	<i>N</i> = 372	14%	
(14 observations missing)			
Locked Up when Stored			
yes	<i>N</i> = 268	21%	6.34**
no	<i>N</i> = 320	13%	
(17 observations missing)			
Support for Regulation			
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Regulation			
support both	<i>N</i> = 401	13%	19.37****
oppose both	<i>N</i> = 34	41%	
support one, but not both	<i>N</i> = 157	21%	
(13 observations missing)			
Constitutional Right to Own Firearm			
yes	<i>N</i> = 540	18%	2.59
no/uncertain	<i>N</i> = 62	10%	
(3 observations missing)			
Prohibition Helps Criminals			
yes	<i>N</i> = 373	21%	9.54***
no/uncertain	<i>N</i> = 229	11%	
(3 observations missing)			

****p* < .01, ****p* < .001, *****p* < .0001.

*The southern region included Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The other region included all remaining states. Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. are not represented in the sample.

**TABLE 2. Factors Associated With Membership in NRA:
Interpreting the Fitted Logistic**

Factor	Logistic Regression Results	
	Odds Ratio	95% CI
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Demographic		
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Sex		
1 = male	0.97	(0.70, 1.40)
0 = female		
Race		
1 = nonwhite	0.92	(0.61, 1.38)
0 = white		
Age		
A30		
1 = 30-39	0.85	(0.60, 1.20)
0 = other		
A40		
1 = 40-49	0.91	(0.62, 1.32)
0 = other		
A50		
1 = 50+	0.87	(0.62, 1.22)
0 = other		
Education		
1 = ≤ high school	1.07	(0.83, 1.40)
0 = > high school		

Region^b		
1 = southern	0.98	(0.75, 1.28)
0 = other		
Metropolitan		
1 = metropolitan	1.03	(0.80, 1.34)
0 = other		
Weapon		
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Handgun		
1 = owns a handgun	1.69	(1.19, 2.39)
0 = other		
Purpose		
1 = protection from crime	0.68	(0.48, 0.95)
0 = other		
Number of Guns Owned		
N2		
1 = owns 2 guns	1.40	(0.82, 2.38)
0 = other		
N3		
1 = owns 3 guns	1.40	(0.85, 2.30)
0 = other		
N45		
1 = owns 4 or 5 guns	1.16	(0.69, 1.96)
0 = other		
N6		
1 = owns 6 or more guns	1.95	(1.22, 3.10)
0 = other		
Training		
1 = military or class	1.37	(1.03, 1.81)
0 = other		
Loaded when Stored^c		
1 = yes	1.10	(0.83, 1.45)
0 = no		
Locked up when Stored^d		
1 = yes	1.27	(0.98, 1.65)
0 = no		
Support for Regulation		
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Regulation		
Oppose		
1 = oppose waiting period <i>and</i> mandatory registration		
0 = other	1.82	(1.14, 2.91)
Intermediate		
1 = support waiting period <i>or</i> mandatory registration		
0 = other	1.17	(0.88, 1.56)
Prohibition		
1 = believes it helps criminals	1.47	(1.09, 1.98)
0 = other		

^a1 = member of the NRA, 0 = nonmember of the NRA.

^bThe southern region included Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The other region included all other states. Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. are not represented in the sample.

^c1 = store guns loaded some or all of the time, 0 = never store loaded.

^d1 = store guns kept locked up some or all of the time, 0 = never locked.

other than protection were approximately 50% more likely than other gun owners to be members of the NRA (OR, 1.47; 95% CI, 1.05 to 2.08).

The strongest predictor of NRA membership was the number of guns owned. Controlling for other factors, individuals who owned more than five guns were twice as likely as people who owned just one gun to be members of the NRA (OR, 1.95; 95% CI, 1.22 to 3.10). Handgun owners were approximately 70% more likely to be NRA members than were people who owned only long guns (OR, 1.69; 95% CI, 1.19 to 2.39). Individuals who received formal training in the proper use of firearms were estimated to be 1.37 times more likely to be members of the organization than were other gun owners (95% CI, 1.03 to 1.81).

Attitudinal Variables

Although virtually all respondents believed that the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of Americans to own firearms, they also overwhelmingly favored specific regulatory approaches to private gun ownership (Table 3). This was true whether or not the individual was a member of the NRA. For example, 77% of the respondents who belong to the NRA said that they favored a federal law mandating a 7-day waiting period and background check prior to the purchase of a handgun, and 59% said that they were in favor of "mandatory registration of handguns or pistols." Among nonmembers, the percentages were 89% and 75%, respectively. When asked more generally, "Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws?," the support for regulation was weaker: 33% of the NRA members and 54% of nonmembers said that they favored regulation.

The finding that NRA members were somewhat less supportive of gun-control laws than nonmembers was supported in the multivariate analysis. Individuals who said that they opposed both waiting periods and mandatory registration of handguns were 80% more likely to be members of the NRA than were gun owners who supported both proposals (OR, 1.82; 95% CI, 1.14 to 2.91). Individuals who believed gun prohibition would help criminals were approximately 50% more likely to be members of the NRA than were individuals who did not so believe or were not sure (OR, 1.47; 95% CI, 1.09 to 1.98).

DISCUSSION

There seemed to be no obvious demographic distinctions between gun owners who belong to the NRA and those who do not. There were, however, other differences between the two groups of gun owners. Compared to nonmembers, people who belonged to the NRA were more likely to own a handgun and to own a large number of guns. They were also more likely to own their guns primarily for reasons other than protection from crime, such as hunting and target shooting.

TABLE 3. Support for Regulation of Firearms by NRA Membership

NRA Affiliation	Percent in Favor		
	Seven-Day Waiting Period	Registration of Handguns	Stricter Laws
Member	77	59	33
Nonmember	89	75	54

The NRA actively promotes hunting and the shooting sports, so it is not surprising that the organization attracts individuals who participate in these activities. Nor is it surprising that most NRA members own at least one handgun, as they often possess many firearms. When asked the primary reason for gun ownership, many may have replied "for hunting or target shooting" even if a handgun was kept for self-protection.

NRA members were also more likely than nonmembers to have received formal training in the proper use of firearms. The training, however, did not translate into higher levels of safe behavior as measured by storage practices. NRA members were no more likely than nonmembers to follow NRA safety guidelines to the effect that, when not in use, guns should be kept unloaded and locked up separately from ammunition. This finding is not unexpected because an earlier analysis of data for the entire study population showed that training was not associated with safe storage practices (Weil & Hemenway, 1992).

NRA members were less supportive than other gun owners of specific regulatory proposals concerning private gun ownership. However, a large majority of both NRA members and nonmembers said that they were in favor of mandatory registration and a 7-day waiting period, positions that are contradictory to those taken by the leaders of the NRA. The origin of the differences that do exist between the two groups of gun owners cannot be explained by the data. One possible explanation is self-selection: individuals who agree with NRA positions might be inclined to join the group. Another plausible explanation is that the attitudes of individuals, having joined the Association, are influenced by the information they receive through NRA publications.

It has been argued that public policy concerns are not the primary reason individuals join interest groups (Olson, 1965). Public policy achievements can be thought of as collective goods that may be consumed by anyone "regardless of whether or not they make a contribution toward the effort" (Walker, 1983). Consequently, "selective material benefits" (e.g., magazine subscriptions and access to low-cost insurance policies) must be provided as an inducement to membership. When selective benefits are particularly attractive, individuals joining the group "might actually disagree with the group's goals" (Walker, 1983). This may be true for many voluntary organizations utilizing selective benefits to attract members, not just for the NRA.

It would, however, be a mistake to assume that no individual, in joining an interest group, is responding to the purposive benefits of membership (Moe, 1981). The policy concerns of people for whom policy matters are an important inducement to membership must be attended to by interest group leaders. Insofar as they are, it has been suggested, leadership positions will actually represent the views of this constituency (Sabatier & McLaughlin, 1988).

This idea of a group's membership being divisible into two factions—one for whom the policies of the organization are not intimately related to the decision to be a member and one for whom policy is the crucial ingredient—seems to reflect the reality of the NRA; and, as may be true for other lobby groups across the political spectrum, it is the latter who appears to be in control of the NRA.

The NRA claims to have nearly 3 million members. Most of these people are not active in the formulation of NRA policy. They do not participate in the NRA's annual meeting or the election of the Association's board. In 1991, for example, participation in the election of board members was, according to Josh Sugarman (1992), Executive Director of the Violence Policy Center, "light: only 114,000 of the 1.3 million members eligible to vote bothered to mail in their ballots." Election results did, however, produce what was characterized as "a victory for political hard-line slates." Furthermore, the people who attended the annual meeting that year were described as "the true believers"

for whom "the leadership's uncompromising stance does represent their views" (Sugarman, 1992). However, the leadership's uncompromising stance does not appear to reflect the position of the majority of its members.

This study has various limitations. The information was derived from self-reported rather than from observational data, and required respondents to express an opinion regarding gun control options. A problem with self-report data is that people are sometimes unable to respond accurately to survey questions (Roberts, 1992). For example, an individual may not understand the policies she or he is being asked about. It is also possible that respondents will indicate that they favor or oppose specific regulatory options in order to "be helpful" to the interviewer when they have no opinion. However, given the intensity of the debate over gun control and the direct relevance it has to gun owners, most respondents probably offered reasoned opinions to questions regarding firearm regulation.

Seventeen percent of the survey's respondents said that they were members of the NRA—a figure that is considerably larger than the prevalence of NRA membership in the general population of gun owners. The 17% figure, however, is not an anomaly of this particular study. Other recent, random national surveys have reported nearly identical results (Harris, 1989; LH Research, Inc., 1993).

We have no reason to believe that respondents would intentionally lie about their membership status. They appear to give honest answers about other questions. Survey responses of registered gun owners (about gun ownership) have been validated (Kellermann et al., 1991). Many of the findings in our particular study (e.g., percentage of gun owners who own a handgun; percentage of all gun owners who say that they support a waiting period for the purchase of a handgun) are similar to results of other published research.

There are three likely explanations for the 17% figure. First, many NRA memberships are probably shared. One person joins, but all people in the household consider themselves members. Certainly, many of the benefits of membership are common goods—they accrue to the entire family (e.g., the magazine subscription and the no-annual-fee VISA card). Second, there are probably many people who are often, but for various reasons (e.g., financial or forgetfulness) not always, members of the NRA. They may not remember from year to year whether or not they have paid their dues, but they strongly identify with the organization and consider themselves members. Finally, there may be something about national, random telephone survey methodologies that tends to oversample NRA members. This could happen if NRA membership and the survey method are both associated with a common factor, such as income.

The generalizability of the survey is limited by several factors. The absolute number of nonwhite individuals in the study population was small. As a result, race was dichotomized (white, nonwhite). Differences among blacks, Hispanics, and Asian Americans were lost, and it was not possible to investigate the relationship between race and other variables as they relate to membership status.

Telephone surveys tend to underrepresent low-income groups, which may be the case in the present study. The survey excluded gun owners under the age of 18, yet many young people own guns (Callahan & Rivara, 1992). Also excluded were non-gun-owning members of the NRA. As a result of their exclusion, it is possible that support among the membership for NRA positions may have been underestimated.

Additional survey questions would have helped to bring more depth to the analysis. For example, respondents were asked if they supported NRA positions but were not asked to demonstrate knowledge of those positions. Respondents were also not asked

their opinion about the “instant check,” an NRA-backed alternative to a waiting period, or whether they believed this alternative was preferable to a waiting period. There were also no questions about why they had decided to join (or leave) the NRA. Information with respect to such questions might have helped to explain the apparent contradiction between the generalized support of gun owners for the NRA and their apparent disagreement with the organization on important matters of policy.

Caution must also be taken in interpreting respondent support for or opposition to gun control policies. Many jurisdictions have established laws regulating private gun ownership, but the survey instrument did not assess respondent knowledge of these laws. Consequently, an expression of support for waiting periods, for example, may be a call for stricter laws or an endorsement of the status quo.

CONCLUSION

In many respects, gun owners who belong to the NRA are not much different from those who do not. For example, members and nonmembers are similar in terms of their demographics and their attitude regarding the rights of an individual to own a firearm. Virtually all gun owners, whether or not they are members of the NRA, believe that the U.S. Constitution guarantees the individual the right to keep and bear arms. In this way, gun owners and the leadership of the NRA are in agreement. What is clear from this study, however, is that the leadership positions of the NRA do not represent the views of either the typical NRA member or nonmember gun owners with respect to important gun control policies.

The findings of this study indicate that support for the NRA is strongest when measured in very general terms (e.g., when individuals are asked if they support the Association or agree with its positions). However, when gun owners are asked about specific regulatory requirements, they often support the regulation, disagreeing with the stated position of the organization. This finding holds for both NRA members and for nonmembers.

The assertion of the NRA that it speaks both for its members and for all gun owners on matters of policy seems incorrect. Although perhaps representing the general interests of gun owners, on many important issues of current policy importance the NRA appears to speak for no more than a small, active fraction of its membership.

NOTE

Four additional purposes and objectives of the NRA are:

- (1) To promote public safety, law, order, and the national defense;
- (2) To train members of law enforcement agencies, the armed forces, the militia, and people of good repute in marksmanship and in the safe handling and efficient use of small arms;
- (3) To foster and promote the shooting sports, including the advancement of amateur competitions in marksmanship at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels;
- (4) To promote hunter safety, and to promote and defend hunting as a shooting sport and as a viable and necessary method of fostering the propagation, growth, conservation, and wise use of our renewable wildlife resources.

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