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Shootings, Strain, and Safety on a College Campus: An Analysis of Perceptions of Safety and  
Concealed Carry

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A thesis

presented to

the faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

East Tennessee State University

In partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology

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by

Amanda S. Bishop

May 2019

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Dr. Nicole Prior, Chair

Dr. Dustin Osborne

Dr. Chris Rush

Keywords: Perceptions of Safety, Concealed Carry, Campus Shooting

## ABSTRACT

Shootings, Strain, and Safety on a College Campus: An Analysis of Perceptions of Safety and

Concealed Carry

by

Amanda S. Bishop

School and campus shootings are a contemporary problem in the United States. Because of these shootings, colleges have enacted new policies to ensure safety on their campuses, including concealed carry on campus. The State of Tennessee has a unique law in place that allows colleges to create their own policies regarding concealed carry on campus, with the stipulation that only full-time faculty and staff can carry concealed weapons. East Tennessee State University is one campus with this policy. East Tennessee State University students, faculty, and staff were questioned via email survey about their perceptions of safety on campus and opinions regarding the current concealed carry policy. No significant relationship was found between respondents' perceptions of safety and their level of support for the current policy, although political affiliation, affiliation with ETSU, gun ownership, and possession of a concealed carry permit were significantly related to support of concealed carry on campus.

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## DEDICATION

This manuscript is dedicated to the 32 members of the Virginia Tech community who lost their lives on April 16, 2007. Ut Prosim.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the individuals who helped make this paper, and graduate school, a reality. First, I would like to express my deepest thanks to my Advisory Committee chair and members, Dr. Nicole Prior, Dr. Dustin Osborne, and Dr. Chris Rush, for their guidance and insight. I would also like to thank the resilient community at Virginia Tech for inspiring me to study this topic. Finally, I could not have done this without the endless support and encouragement from my family and friends including my parents, grandparents, Ashton, and Matthew. Thank you.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

School and campus shootings are an increasingly current problem within the United States. Even though they have occurred throughout the history of formal education, school and campus shootings have only soared to the forefront of debate and discussion within American media, legislatures, and the criminal justice system due to their increased violence and frequency of occurrence, particularly since the 1990s (Levin & Madfis, 2009; Palumbo, 2016; Rocque, 2012). Because of these attacks, faculty, staff, and student perceptions of safety on college campuses may have been altered. In possible response to their developing attitudes, policies have been enacted to enhance safety on school and college campuses, including policies that allow or disallow concealed carry on college campuses (Fox & Savage, 2009). This paper aims to see if allowing faculty and staff to have concealed weapons on college campuses in response to campus shootings are connected to perceptions of safety on campus and to examine who supports concealed carry policies.

While shootings have occurred on the grounds and campuses of various types of schools from elementary schools to colleges, this paper focuses only on college campus shootings. It is important to understand how existing campus shootings, and the possibility of more shootings affect perceptions of safety held by students and employees who study, live, and work on college campuses. Many students who attend American colleges and universities are young adults, some of whom have never lived away from home, may have negative perceptions of college campus safety because of the shootings that have happened in the past, such as the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007 and the Northern Illinois shooting in 2008. College faculty and staff may also have negative perceptions of safety on their campuses. Because of these instances of violence,

many college campuses around the United States have attempted to revamp and improve their existing safety protocols and measures, including responses to campus shootings and other emergencies. It is important to understand and study student and employee perceptions of safety so that effective policies and measures can be introduced and implemented across the United States to increase safety on college campuses. The remainder of this paper will be comprised of five sections. The rest of Chapter One will include a discussion on the background of this topic. Chapter Two will present a review of the relevant literature and information regarding each state's laws on concealed carry on college campuses. Chapter Three will outline the methods utilized to conduct this study, specifically the variables and statistical techniques utilized. Chapter Four will provide the results and analysis of the data highlighting any significant findings within the data. Finally, Chapter Five will contain a discussion that examines the findings and results in context with existing literature and in context with the university community in which they occur, pose recommendations for future research, and discuss potential policy implications based on the findings.

### **Perceptions of Safety on College Campuses and Increases in Safety Measures Due to Campus Shootings**

Because of campus shootings in recent history including, Virginia Tech in 2007 and Northern Illinois in 2008, many college campuses are improving and modernizing their security systems to increase student and employee perceptions of safety (Sulkowski & Lazarus, 2011). These changes include increasing the presence of security technology on campus, such as police alert buttons and email alerts about emergency situations, hiring more campus police, and even allowing certain faculty and staff members to carry concealed weapons on campus (Fox & Savage, 2009; Sulkowski & Lazarus, 2011). While there has been little research to fully determine whether allowing faculty and staff to carry concealed weapons on campuses reduces

violence (Bouffard, Nobles, Wells, & Cavanaugh, 2011), numerous colleges across the United States have introduced these types of policies, including East Tennessee State University (ETSU) (ETSU Department of Public Safety, 2016). The State of Tennessee passed a bill granting individual colleges and universities the ability to decide whether to allow faculty and staff members to carry guns on each respectful campus (TN SB2376, 2016).

Within this bill, and within ETSU policy, employees must notify their college or university in writing that they wish to carry a concealed weapon on campus. Additionally, they and may be required to take and pass a specific concealed carry class (ETSU Department of Public Safety, 2016; TN SB2376, 2016). Furthermore, the employee may not carry a weapon to meetings involving employee or student disciplinary matters, stadiums, gyms, and theaters when school-sponsored activities are taking place, tenure meetings, hospitals and student or mental health care centers, and child care centers (ETSU Department of Public Safety, 2016; TN SB2376, 2016).

While it is of paramount importance to protect the safety of students and employees on college campuses, changes and improvements to policy must be made in a timely but careful manner and not as an immediate reaction to an extreme situation. For instance, the feelings of fear and anxiety that exist after a campus shooting can pressure college administrators to push for radical policy changes that may not be beneficial long term (De Angelis, Benz, & Gillham, 2017; Reddy et al., 2001; Regehr, Glancy, Carter, & Ramshaw, 2017). Therefore, it is important to push for research that tests these policies to ascertain if they are good uses of resources and to determine if they are successful at increasing student and employee perceptions of safety. In this manner, some argue that allowing college faculty and staff members to carry guns on campus will help mitigate possible future attacks (Bouffard et al., 2011). The other side of the argument

puts forth that these policies were implemented in a rush to only foster a sense of safety, but that more guns are not the answer. It is their stance that improving police response times and emergency notification methods will do more to help. Nevertheless, it remains to be seen whether adding more guns on college campuses, in the form of faculty and staff concealed carry, helps to prevent campus shootings and thus affect faculty, staff, and student perceptions of safety. In addition, this topic has not been studied on a college campus in Tennessee, which has a unique law in place regarding concealed carry on campuses (ETSU Department of Public Safety, 2016; TN SB2376, 2016). This paper aims to continue to fill in the gap in the literature by studying perceptions of employee concealed carry and its effects on perceptions of safety on a college campus in Tennessee, specifically one that has not experienced a shooting. This section has introduced perceptions of safety and concealed weapons on college campuses in response to campus shootings across the United States. In the next section of this paper, a review of the relevant literature of perceptions of safety and guns on campuses will be presented to lay out the framework of this study.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In the previous chapter the topic of school shootings was introduced. Many states, colleges, and universities have enacted policies allowing faculty and staff to carry concealed weapons on campus. These and similar strategies have been implemented to increase perceptions of campus safety. Studies that have looked at the impact on these policies have had on perceptions of safety have taken various viewpoints on the topic. Some research measures the variables of perception of safety and opinions regarding concealed carry on campus from the faculty and staff, while others take the point of view solely of the students. Lastly, other articles include all three groups' impressions; faculty, staff, and students. The remainder of the chapter will focus on measures colleges are taking to address the threat of school shootings and to increase perceptions of safety while on campus and existing literature regarding concealed carry and perceptions of safety on college campuses.

#### **Measures Colleges are Taking to Address the Threat of School Shootings and to Increase Perceptions of Safety While on Campus**

In the wake of multiple recent shootings, college administrators and state legislators have been hard-pressed to incorporate additional safety measures aimed at increasing the security of students, faculty, and staff. Some of these measures are straightforward, such as increasing the number of campus police officers, introducing emergency text messaging and email notification systems, creating emergency response plans, educating campus stakeholders on these systems and plans, and increasing emergency preparedness training for campus police officers, other faculty and staff, and students (Fox & Savage, 2009; Regehr et al., 2017). In terms of emergency response plans, it is specifically important to train campus personnel for active shooters. While it

is not practical for students or even some faculty and staff to engage in tactical drills and realistic simulations, it is prudent and necessary to ensure that all security personnel are up-to-date on this type of training (Fox & Savage, 2009). Additionally, it is important for colleges and universities to educate all faculty and staff members on the emergency response plans currently in place on their campuses. Simply being aware of these plans may prove to be helpful in the event of an emergency or active shooter situation on campus. Some colleges have taken a step further and have introduced curricula about survival skills, including a security video with techniques on how to survive an active shooter attack on campus (Fox & Savage, 2009). East Tennessee State University is one such campus that provides faculty, staff, and students information for what to do in an active shooter scenario, but the training is not mandatory, and the information is solely contained on a website maintained by ETSU.

East Tennessee State University's emergency preparedness website has a page dedicated to active shooter preparedness (East Tennessee State University Safety, 2018). This website instructs individuals to "run," "hide," or "fight" if confronted by an active shooter, and it contains a video demonstrating those techniques. The video contains all the elements discussed by Fox and Savage (2009). While this information is available on the University's website to anyone who wishes to view it, there is no comprehensive training plan for ETSU students and some students may not be aware of the emergency preparedness website's existence. Only full-time employees receive any type of active shooter training; this excludes part-time employees, student workers, and graduate assistants. Even though many of the newly introduced safety measures on college campuses nationwide, including emergency notification systems and more campus police officers, are straightforward and noncontroversial, some of these recently enacted security measures have garnered more dispute, such as increased education and training for



emergency preparedness and the introduction of concealed carry of weapons on college campuses.

### **Existing Literature Regarding Concealed Carry and Perceptions of Safety on College Campuses**

Within the last few decades, a trend toward the liberalization of guns and gun control policy in the United States has occurred, meaning that many states have made it easier for individuals to obtain guns (De Angelis et al., 2017). In fact, a number of state legislatures have relaxed many of the legal requirements governing the carrying of concealed firearms in public and on college campuses, including a reduction of gun-free zones on college campuses (De Angelis et al., 2017). As of 2015, the states that explicitly allow concealed firearms on public university and college campuses were Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). Twenty-three other states allow individual colleges and universities to create policies that allow for concealed carry on campus, whereas 16 states have imposed a complete ban of firearms on college campuses (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). States that allow individual colleges and universities to create their own policies include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). As of 2015, states that have a complete firearms ban were California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Wyoming (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015).

Tennessee is different from the aforementioned examples (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). The State of Tennessee has a law in place that allows individual colleges and universities to create a policy allowing for the concealed carry of firearms in certain locations by eligible faculty and staff members only, not the public or students while on campus (TN SB2376, 2016). While twenty-three other states allow individual colleges and universities to make their own policies regarding the allowance of concealed carry on campus, these campuses can allow anyone to carry concealed weapons, only certain groups like faculty and staff, or completely ban concealed weapons on campuses. The State of Tennessee, however, only allows its colleges and universities to pass policies that allow full-time faculty and staff members to carry concealed weapons or to pass policies that ban anyone from carrying concealed weapons. Little, if any, research has been done examining Tennessee's unique policy, and overall, little research has been done to accurately determine whether these measures increase student and employee safety while on campus.

Even though limited analysis has been done regarding Tennessee's law concerning concealed carry on campus and perceptions of safety on college campuses within the State of Tennessee, various studies have been conducted in which perceptions of safety on campuses were measured in other parts of the country (Bennett, Kraft, & Grubb, 2012; Dahl, Bonham, Jr., & Reddington, 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang, Dierenfeldt, & Lee, 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer, Lee, Burruss, & Giblin, 2018; Thompson, Price, Dake, & Teeple, 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson, Price, Mrdjenovich, & Khubchandani, 2009).

Overall, the findings in these studies reflect the fact that a majority of faculty, staff, and students oppose the introduction of bills allowing for the concealed carry of weapons on college

campuses (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; and Thompson et al., 2009). The main focus was on measuring the perceptions of concealed carry policies and perceptions of safety on college campuses for a variety of populations including faculty, staff, students, university presidents, and campus police chiefs. For instance, De Angelis et al. (2017) discuss faculty and staff perceptions of safety, fear of crime, trust in police, and support for concealed carry on a college campus in a rural area of the Western United States. This study examined 1,170 faculty and staff members employed by the college, and found a connection between the fear of violence, a distrust of police or the government, and the support of concealed carry. In other words, this study concluded that fear of crime is not a strong motivator for or predictor of those who support concealed carry on campus (De Angelis et al., 2017). These results also support the findings of Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013) which suggest that allowing concealed weapons on campus can lead to a decrease in perceptions of campus safety among university faculty, staff, and students (De Angelis et al., 2017; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013).

Bennett et al. (2012) looked at faculty attitudes regarding guns on campus by using a sample of 158 participants from a public state university in southeastern Georgia. They found that 78% of the university's faculty were opposed or strongly opposed to a bill allowing qualified faculty and staff to carry concealed weapons in many public spaces, including on college campuses (Bennett et al., 2012). Respondents who were Democrats were more likely to oppose the bill than Republicans or Independents, just as respondents who did not own guns were more likely to oppose the bill than those who owned guns (Bennett et al., 2012). In a similar study, Dahl et al. (2016) found that a majority of community college faculty and staff across 18 states

felt safe while on their campuses and opposed bills or policies that allowed faculty, staff, students, or visitors to carry concealed weapons on campus. The states identified in this study included California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, Maine, Alaska, and Montana. These results demonstrate a preponderance of postsecondary educational institutions and faculty who oppose the presence of guns on their campuses; also, the findings suggest that many college employees feel that allowing guns on college campuses would change the atmosphere from one that feels safe to one that feels threatening (Dahl et al., 2016).

A study conducted by Thompson et al. (2012) also examined college faculty perceptions regarding concealed carry on campus. This study examines university faculty members from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin; fifteen randomly selected universities were used, and 791 faculty members participated (Thompson et al., 2012). Most of this study's participants were white, male, Democrats, did not own a firearm, and did not have a permit to carry a firearm (Thompson et al., 2012). Approximately 97% of participants reported feeling safe on their campuses, and 94% of participants did not want individuals with a concealed carry permit to carry on campus (Thompson et al., 2012). Further, respondents who were male or Republican were more likely to support concealed carry on campus than female respondents or those from other political affiliations (Thompson et al., 2012). This study concluded that introducing guns into a stressful environment like college campuses could increase the risk of violent crimes and suicides (Thompson et al., 2012). The faculty members measured in this study overwhelmingly indicated that they would feel unsafe if people could carry concealed weapons on college campuses (Thompson et al., 2012).

A study completed by Price et al. (2014) inspected university presidents' perceptions about concealed carry on campuses. Similar to Thompson et al. (2012), this study noted that if guns were allowed on college campuses across the United States through the introduction of concealed carry policies, the number of firearm homicides and suicides involving college students could have a significant increase (Price et al., 2014). This study found that university presidents across the United States overwhelmingly thought that faculty and students felt safe on their campus (Price et al., 2014). In addition, 95% of presidents were not supportive of faculty, students, and visitors carrying concealed weapons on campus (Price et al., 2014). Furthermore, when asked about additional existing measures to ensure campus safety, 91% of presidents stated that their campuses identified and referred potentially violent students to the appropriate campus or community resources; 91% stated that their campuses utilized mass text alerts; 85% of presidents stated that their campuses had an active shooter plan in place; 82% said that their campuses have a police presence; and 77% stated that their campuses utilize security cameras (Price et al., 2014). Fewer than half of the presidents surveyed, however, stated that their faculty or students were trained to respond to active shooter situations on campus (Price et al., 2014). Overall, this study found that Republican university presidents were more likely to support concealed carry on campus than Independents and Democrats, just as males were more likely than females to perceive advantages to allowing concealed carry on campus; however, the majority of all these groups did not perceive any advantages to carrying concealed weapons on campus (Price et al., 2014).

In addition, a study by Thompson et al. (2009) examined the issue of concealed carry on college campuses from the perspective of campus police chiefs. This study states that colleges and universities need to implement "threat assessment teams" to formally identify and address

situations in which student behavior or the behavior of other members of campus communities suggests that they may be having trouble functioning or may be a threat to themselves or others (Thompson et al., 2009, p. 248). The work of these teams may be implemented through campus police departments, since campus police departments may already be conducting similar activities and procedures. Campus police chiefs have the duty to manage college security activities, prepare comprehensive security plans, manage ongoing assessments of campus security programs, direct investigations of criminal and violent incidents that occur on campus, and coordinate with other college officials to ensure that security plans are followed (Thompson et al., 2009). They may also conduct training and information sessions for members of the college community. Because of the increase in frequency of firearms-related incidents on college campuses, this article examined campus police chiefs' involvement in reducing firearm-related involvement and their perceptions on several potential firearms policies, including student concealed carry on campus (Thompson et al., 2009). This study found that, of the 417 participants, 86% believed that allowing students to carry concealed weapons on campus would not prevent some or all killings on campus (Thompson et al., 2009). Ultimately, Thompson et al. (2009) concluded that even though firearm-related events continue to be a problem on college campuses, many colleges have policies prohibiting concealed carry on campus for some individuals and most police chiefs believe that allowing students to carry concealed weapons on campus would not prevent gun violence.

In addition to studies examining the attitudes of faculty and staff members on college campuses, several studies have observed student perceptions of safety and opinions regarding concealed carry on their campuses. For example, Jang et al. (2014) surveyed students at Missouri Western State University regarding their perceptions of recently passed bills that allow concealed

carry on their campus and how various explanatory factors help predict support for concealed carry on campus. This study revealed that of the sampled 451 students, 49.9% strongly disagreed or disagreed with legalizing concealed carry on campus, while 32.4% strongly agreed or agreed with the legalization (Jang et al., 2014). In addition, Republicans, students who had friends who carried weapons, and students with a higher perceived risk of victimization were more likely to support concealed carry on campus (Jang et al., 2014). This study concluded that weapon-carrying is highly associated with gender, just as is the support for the legalization of concealed carry on campus (Jang et al., 2014). Further, this study concluded that the most important findings were the roles that political orientation and weapon socialization played in supporting the legalization of concealed carry on campuses (Jang et al., 2014).

A study conducted by Schafer et al. (2018) also examined college student perceptions of safety regarding recently implemented safety initiatives. This study discussed various safety initiatives colleges have introduced following the high-profile Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois shootings in 2007 and 2008 and studied students' perceptions on these safety initiatives using predictive factors such as victimization, perceived self-capacity, fear of crime and perceived risk, along with demographic factors such as gender, age, and race. Using a sample of 4,329 students from six colleges in Illinois, the results revealed that student support for concealed weapons on campus was more a function of demographics, such as gender (Schafer et al., 2018). On the other hand, student support for limiting access on campus by requiring an ID card, another commonly implemented safety initiative, was more a function of crime and safety perceptions (Schafer et al., 2018).

In addition, a study completed by Patten, Thomas, and Viotti (2013) examined female students' opinions regarding concealed weapons and their perceptions of safety on their college

campus. Using a sample of 1,484 male and female students, faculty, and staff from California State University, Chico, this study found that an overwhelming majority of female students, approximately 82%, did not want qualified faculty and staff to be able to carry concealed weapons on campus (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013). In addition, 83% of female students stated that they would not feel safer with more guns on campus even when carried by qualified individuals (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013). Furthermore, 83% of female students responded that arming faculty, staff, and students would not promote a greater sense of safety on campus (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013). Interestingly, during this study, a female student at California State University, Chico was abducted at gunpoint at a location close to campus and was sexually assaulted by a man unaffiliated with the university (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013). The next day, a “riot” took place just off campus that was eventually broken up by several law enforcement agencies (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013). This allowed the researchers to use these events as intervening variables when examining their results. Before these incidents, Patten, Thomas, and Viotti (2013) found that 77% of female students did not want qualified individuals to carry concealed weapons on campus, 81% of female students would not feel safer with more concealed weapons on campus, and 82% did not think armed faculty, students, and staff would promote a greater sense of campus safety. After the incidents, it was found that 87% of female students did not want qualified individuals to be allowed to carry a concealed gun on campus, 84% would not feel safer with more concealed weapons on campus, and 84% did not think armed faculty, students, and staff would promote a greater sense of safety on campus (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013). This study concluded that both before and after the violent incidents around the university’s campus, approximately 80% of female students did not support concealed carry on campus (Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013).



A similar study conducted by Thompson et al. (2013) also evaluated student perceptions regarding concealed carry on college campuses. This study assessed perceptions of undergraduate students at 15 public college campuses across the Midwestern United States regarding concealed carry on campus and safety (Thompson et al., 2013). Of the 1,649 undergraduate participants in this study, 93% reported that they felt safe on their college campuses and 79% did not support concealed carry on campuses (Thompson et al., 2013). Also, 79% of participants believed that most students would not feel safe if faculty, staff, students, or visitors could carry concealed weapons on their campuses (Thompson et al., 2013). In addition, 50% of respondents did not know if their college had policies regarding firearms or concealed carry (Thompson et al., 2013). This study found that support for concealed carry on campus was associated with gender, firearm ownership, political affiliation, and the background in which one was raised; specifically, support for concealed carry on campus was more likely to come from men who grew up in homes with firearms present, were Republican, and who owned firearms (Thompson et al., 2013). This study concluded that firearm violence, though rare on college campuses, will continue to occur and may only get worse with the introduction of more guns on campuses (Thompson et al., 2013). In fact, they state that more guns on college campuses do not appear to be a solution to these relatively rare events and that colleges need to do a better job of educating and informing students, faculty, and staff members about firearm policies on their campuses (Thompson et al., 2013). These conclusions are similar to those found by other studies (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson et al., 2009).

In addition to these studies, a similar study completed by Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013) examined faculty and student attitudes and opinions regarding concealed carry on college campuses. Specifically, Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013) surveyed faculty members and students on two college campuses about their perceptions on private citizen concealed carry rights on campus. This study noted that concealed weapons policy on college campuses has been divisive and polarizing, and that after the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, many states began to rethink their stances on concealed carry on campuses (Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013). Before the 2007 attack, the topic of concealed weapons on college campuses was a relatively minor issue and typically only gained local or statewide debate; few colleges across the country allowed concealed weapons on their campuses (Sanfilippo, 2017). Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013) examined faculty, staff, and students at California State University, Chico and at Chadron State College in Nebraska. A total of 1,548 respondents were surveyed (Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013). This study found that 73% of respondents did not want qualified individuals to be able to carry concealed weapons on campus (Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013). In addition, 85% of women stated that they did not want guns on campus, while only 77% of males felt the same (Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013). These results echo the results from other studies, especially the findings that women are more likely than men to oppose concealed carry on campus and that most respondents overall are opposed to concealed carry on campus (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson et al., 2009).

Taken as a whole, the existing literature demonstrates that most college students, faculty, and staff members are opposed to concealed weapons on campus (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten,

Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson et al., 2009). Even though the literature finds a consensus in the fact that most respondents are opposed to concealed weapons on campus, one group stands out among the existing literature as being most likely to support this measure. Specifically, white, gun-owning Republican men are most likely to support concealed weapons on college campuses across the country (Bennett et al., 2012; Jang et al., 2014; Price et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013).

It will be important to compare the findings of these studies (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson et al., 2009) with the findings of the current study, which examines this issue of concealed carry and perceptions of safety through Tennessee's unique policy and across genders, political affiliations, gun ownership, possession of a concealed carry permit, and affiliation with East Tennessee State University, including faculty, staff, and students. This study is important because Tennessee's unique policy will be examined, which has not been done before in the existing literature. While other states have laws that allow individual colleges and universities to choose their own policies regarding concealed weapons on campus, Tennessee is unique in that the law only permits colleges and universities two choices: to allow full-time faculty and staff members to carry concealed weapons on campus, or to completely ban concealed weapons on campus (TN SB2376, 2016). While this section discussed existing literature regarding perceptions of safety and concealed weapons on college campuses, the next section will discuss the methodology utilized in the current study.

CHAPTER 3  
METHODOLOGY

**Hypotheses**

This study looks at the possible relationship between support for the carry of concealed weapons on East Tennessee State University's campus and individuals' perceptions of safety while on campus, the principal variables of interest. Additional variables will include role at East Tennessee State University, such as student, faculty, and staff, demographic variables, gun ownership, possession of a concealed carry permit, and political affiliation. The hypotheses for this study are as follows:

H1: There is a statistically significant relationship between support for the carry of concealed weapons on ETSU's campus and perceptions of safety.

This hypothesis evaluates the relationship between perceptions of safety and support of concealed carry on ETSU's campus. The hypothesis was chosen based on results from studies by Bennett et al. (2013), Dahl et al. (2016), De Angelis et al. (2017), and Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013). These studies found that support for concealed carry on college campuses is not highly associated with perceptions of safety.

H2: Men are more likely than women to support the carry of concealed weapons on ETSU's campus.

This hypothesis examines the relationship between gender and support of concealed carry on ETSU's campus based on findings from studies by Jang et al. (2014), Schafer et al. (2018), and Thompson et al. (2013). These studies found that support of concealed carry on college campuses varied greatly between genders, with males being more supportive of concealed carry policies than females.

H3: Men are more likely than women to feel safe while on campus.

This hypothesis was designed to evaluate the relationship between gender and perceptions of safety while on ETSU's campus based on results from studies by Jang et al. (2014), Schafer et al. (2018), and Thompson et al. (2013). While these studies found that most respondents felt safe on their college campuses across the board, males often reported higher rates of perceptions of safety than females.

H4: There is a statistically significant relationship between affiliation with ETSU and support for the carry of concealed weapons on ETSU's campus.

Testing the relationship between affiliation with ETSU and support for the current concealed carry policy on campus, this hypothesis was designed based on results from studies by Bennett et al. (2012), Dahl et al. (2016), De Angelis et al. (2017), Jang et al. (2014), Patten, Thomas, and Viotti (2013), Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013), Price et al. (2014), Schafer et al. (2018), Thompson et al. (2012), Thompson et al. (2013), and Thompson et al. (2009). These studies found that most respondents across the board were unlikely to support concealed weapons on college campuses.

H5: There is a statistically significant relationship between affiliation with ETSU and perceptions of safety.

This hypothesis examines the relationship between affiliation or role with ETSU and perceptions of safety and was based on findings from studies by Dahl et al. (2016), De Angelis et al. (2017), Patten, Thomas, and Viotti (2013), Patten, Thomas, and Wada (2013), Price et al. (2014), Thompson et al. (2012), and Thompson et al. (2013). These studies found that most respondents felt safe on their campuses, regardless of their affiliation or role with their college or university.

H6: Respondents who identify as Conservative/Republican are more likely to support the carry of concealed weapons on ETSU's campus than respondents who identify as Liberal/Democrat.

Designed to test the relationship between political affiliation and support for the current concealed carry policy, this hypothesis was based on results from studies by Jang et al. (2014), Thompson et al. (2012), and Thompson et al. (2013). These studies found that Republican respondents were more likely to support concealed weapons on college campuses than respondents from other political affiliations and that political affiliation played an important role in respondents' support for the legalization of concealed carry on college campuses.

H7: Respondents who own a gun are more likely to support the current concealed carry policy on campus than non-gun owners are.

This hypothesis examines the relationship between gun ownership and support for the current concealed carry policy, which was based on findings from studies by Bennett et al. (2012) and Jang et al. (2014). These studies found that weapon socialization factors play an important role in supporting the legalization of concealed carry on college campuses and that individuals who did not own guns were more likely to oppose concealed weapons on campus.

H8: Respondents who possess a concealed carry permit are more likely to support the current concealed carry policy than respondents who do not own a concealed carry permit.

Testing the relationship between possession of a concealed carry permit and support for the current concealed carry policy, this hypothesis was based on findings from a study by Jang et al. (2014), who found that weapon socialization factors played an important role in determining respondents' support of the legalization of concealed carry on college campuses.

## **Research Design**

This study was conducted on the campus of East Tennessee State University, located in Johnson City, Tennessee. It was a convenience sample, as this university was chosen based on the researcher's ease of access. This study consisted of quantitative research collected in the form of an email survey (Appendix A). The survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey in a password-protected account and was distributed to every current East Tennessee State University student and employee with an active ETSU email address. Only those who are 18 years of age or older were eligible to participate, as this was a requirement before agreeing to participate in the survey. This study was anonymous. This study was granted Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and was deemed exempt. This survey was distributed via email on September 10, 2018 via campus listserv to all ETSU faculty, staff, and students with a valid ETSU email address. The survey was included in a weekly update newsletter; it was not distributed in its own email. A second email distributed in a weekly newsletter was sent to only the student listserv on September 24, 2018 to encourage greater rates of student participation and to reach a larger sample size. The survey was closed on October 2, 2018. The questions included in the email survey involved demographic information and asked participants to rank their opinions about various statements on a five-point Likert scale with an option for "no opinion."

### **Demographics and Description of East Tennessee State University and Surrounding Area**

East Tennessee State University's main campus is located in Johnson City, Tennessee. ETSU is a public, state-supported regional university governed by an Institutional Board of Trustees (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). The City of Johnson City has a population of approximately 66,000 individuals (United States Census Bureau, 2017). There are approximately 14,600 students in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at ETSU (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). East Tennessee State University employs approximately 2,300 full-time faculty and staff

members, including 52 Executive, Administrative, and Managerial staff members; 799 Faculty members; 736 Professional Non-Faculty staff members; 378 Clerical and Secretarial staff members; 82 Technical and Paraprofessional staff members; 52 Skilled Craft staff members; and 192 Maintenance staff members (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). While East Tennessee State University also hires part-time employees, there was no demographic information available on these employees.

In addition to the main campus in Johnson City, Tennessee, a branch of the campus is also located in Kingsport, Tennessee. Furthermore, there is a location in Elizabethton, Tennessee, as well as two additional sites for the College of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy at the Mountain Home Veteran's Administration Hospital (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). Most students at ETSU are from Tennessee and the surrounding southeastern region, but students hail from over 45 states and 75 foreign countries (ETSU Fact Book, 2017).

In terms of student race/ethnicity at ETSU, approximately 81% are White, 7% are Black/African American, 4.5% are nonresident aliens of varying races, 2.7% are two or more races, 2.5% are Hispanic/Latino, 1.4% are Asian, .2% are Alaskan Native/American Indian, .01% are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 1.3% do not know their race/ethnicity (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). In terms of full-time faculty/staff race/ethnicity at ETSU, approximately 88% are White, 4.6% are Black/African American, .04% are nonresident aliens of varying races, 1.6% are two are more races, 1.8% are Hispanic/Latino, 3.7% are Asian, .2% are Alaskan Native/American Indian, and .1% are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). Approximately 58% of students are female and 42% are male, while 59% of full-time faculty/staff are female and 41% are male (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). The average age of



undergraduate students is approximately 22, while the average age of graduate students is 32 (ETSU Fact Book, 2017).

East Tennessee State University is largely a commuter campus, meaning that many students do not live on campus but instead drive to campus from the surrounding area. Approximately 20% of the ETSU student population lives in on-campus housing (ETSU Fact Book, 2017). The U.S. Census Bureau (2010) categorizes the greater Tri-Cities region, of which Johnson City, Tennessee is a part, to be “mostly urban.” The Tri-Cities region is a Combined Statistical Area, made up of Johnson City, Tennessee; Kingsport, Tennessee; Bristol, Tennessee; and Bristol, Virginia and the counties therein (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

### **Variables**

Variables of interest in this study include perceptions of safety on ETSU’s campus, support for concealed carry on ETSU’s campus, gender of participants, participants’ affiliation with ETSU, participants’ political affiliation, gun ownership, and possession of a carry permit. These variables have differing levels of measurement, which are located in Table 1. Some of the variables have a ratio level of measurement, while gender, affiliation with ETSU, and political affiliation are measured on the nominal level. In the hypotheses presented above, the independent variables include gender, affiliation with ETSU, gun ownership, possession of a carry permit, and political affiliation, depending on the hypothesis of interest. The dependent variables in the hypotheses above include perceptions of safety and support of concealed carry on campus. These variables were chosen based on the previous literature (De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; Schafer et al., 2018; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Thompson et al., 2009; Price et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2012; and Thompson et al., 2013). In these studies, gender, affiliation or role with a college or university, political affiliation, gun ownership, and possession of a carry permit

were found to be significantly related to individuals' perceptions of concealed weapons on college campuses and their perceptions of safety.

**Table 1.**

*Variables Table*

Variable of interest	Level of Measurement	Attributes of variable of interest
Perceptions of safety	Ratio	Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, No opinion
Support of concealed carry on campus	Ratio	Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, No opinion
Gender	Nominal	Male, Female, Other
Affiliation with ETSU	Ordinal	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Graduate/professional student; Full-time teaching faculty, full-time administrative/staff, part-time teaching faculty, part-time administrative/staff, other
Political affiliation	Nominal	Liberal/Democrat, Conservative/Republican, Independent, Other
Gun ownership	Nominal	Yes, No
Possession of a carry permit	Nominal	Yes, No

## **Data Analysis Plan**

Because many of the null and research hypotheses deal with comparing two distinct variables, correlations and Pearson's correlation coefficient were calculated using SPSS to determine the strengths of those relationships, if statistically significant relationships are indeed found between the variables of interest. To determine if statistically significant relationships exist, ANOVA tests, or analysis of variance, were calculated. Additionally, Independent Samples *t*-Tests were calculated to ascertain which hypotheses, the null or research, are more likely to occur for some hypotheses. Measures of central tendency, including mode were also calculated, along with frequencies. In addition, the variable "Affiliation with ETSU" was collapsed into two distinct attributes for "Student" and "Faculty/staff" to make statistical analyses simpler. The attributes "Freshman," "Sophomore," "Junior," "Senior," and "Graduate/Professional Student" were collapsed into the "Student" attribute, while "Full-time teaching faculty," "Full-time administrative/staff," "Part-time teaching faculty," and "Part-time administrative/staff" were collapsed into the "Faculty/staff" attribute. In addition, each missing variable was recoded and excluded from statistical analyses. Furthermore, each "no opinion" response was also treated as a missing variable and was excluded from statistical analyses.

## CHAPTER 4

### RESULTS

#### **Frequencies and Descriptive Statistics**

The results from the survey were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 25. Eighty-three respondents, or 74.8%, identified as female; 27 respondents, or 24.3%, identified as male; 1 respondent, or 0.9%, identified as another gender (see Table 2). The respondent who identified as another gender stated that they were agender. The mode value for Gender was Female.

**Table 2.**

*Frequencies for Gender*

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Female	83	74.8	74.8
Male	27	24.3	24.3
Other	1	0.9	0.9
Total	111	100	100

Seven respondents, or 6.4% of the sample, were Freshman; 5 respondents, or 4.5%, were sophomores; 18 respondents, or 16.4%, were juniors; 8 respondents, or 7.3% were seniors; 7 respondents, or 6.4%, were graduate/professional students; 23 respondents, or 20.9%, were full-time teaching faculty; 34 respondents, or 30.9% of the sample, were full-time staff/administrative employees; 3 respondents, or 2.7%, were part-time teaching faculty, and 5 respondents, or 4.5%, were otherwise affiliated with East Tennessee State University (see Table 3). The mode value for Primary Affiliation to ETSU was Full-time staff/administrative employee.

**Table 3.***Frequencies for Primary Affiliation to ETSU*

Primary affiliation to ETSU	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Freshman	7	6.3	6.4
Sophomore	5	4.5	4.5
Junior	18	16.2	16.4
Senior	8	7.2	7.3
Graduate/professional student	7	6.3	6.4
Full-time teaching faculty	23	20.7	20.9
Full-time staff/administrative	34	30.6	30.9
Part-time teaching faculty	3	2.7	2.7
Other	5	4.5	4.5
Total	110	99.1	100
Missing	1	0.9	
Total	111	100	

Forty-five respondents, or 41.7%, identified as a Liberal/Democrat; 23 respondents, or 21.3%, identified as a Conservative/Republican; 30 respondents, or 27.8%, identified as being an Independent; and 10 respondents, or 9.3%, identified as having other political affiliations (see Table 4). The mode value for Political Affiliation was Liberal/Democrat.

**Table 4.***Frequencies for Political Affiliation*

Political Affiliation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
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Table 4 (continued)

Liberal/Democrat	45	40.5	41.7
Conservative/Republican	23	20.7	21.3
Independent	30	27.0	27.8
Other	10	9.0	9.3
Total	108	97.3	100
Missing	3	2.7	
Total	111	100	

Seventy-six respondents, or 68.5% of the sample, did not own guns; 35 respondents, or 31.5%, were gun owners (see Table 5). The mode value for Gun Ownership was No.

**Table 5.**

*Frequencies for Gun Ownership*

Gun Ownership	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	76	68.5	68.5
Yes	35	31.5	31.5
Total	111	100	100

Ninety-six respondents, or 87.3%, did not possess a permit to carry a weapon, while 14 respondents, or 12.7% of the sample, possessed a carry permit (see Table 6). The mode value for Possession of a Carry Permit was No.

**Table 6.***Frequencies for Possession of a Carry Permit*

Possession of a Carry Permit	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	96	86.5	87.3
Yes	14	12.6	12.7
Total	110	99.1	100
Missing	1	0.9	
Total	111	100	

Thirty-one respondents, or 28.2%, strongly agreed with feeling safe; 69 respondents, or 62.7%, agreed with feeling safe; 8 respondents, or 7.3%, disagree with feeling safe; and 2 respondents, or 1.8% of the sample, strongly disagreed with feeling safe. This means that 90.9% of respondents reported feeling safe on ETSU's campus, to some degree (see Table 7). The mode value for Perceptions of Safety on Campus was Agree.

**Table 7.***Frequencies for Perceptions of Safety on Campus*

I feel safe while I am on ETSU's campus	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	31	27.9	28.2
Agree	69	62.2	62.7
Disagree	8	7.2	7.3
Strongly disagree	2	1.8	1.8
Total	110	99.1	100
Missing	1	0.9	

Table 7 (continued)

Total	111	100
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Frequencies showed that 34 respondents, or 33.0% of the sample, strongly agreed with ETSU’s current concealed carry policy; 14 respondents, or 13.6%, agreed with this policy; 21 respondents, or 20.4% of respondents, disagreed with this policy; and 34 respondents, or 33.0%, strongly disagreed with this policy. These numbers indicate that approximately 47% of the sample agreed with the current concealed carry policy to some extent, while about 53% of the sample disagreed with this policy to some extent (see Table 8). The mode value for Support of ETSU’s Current Concealed Carry Policy was Strongly agree and Strongly disagree.

**Table 8.**

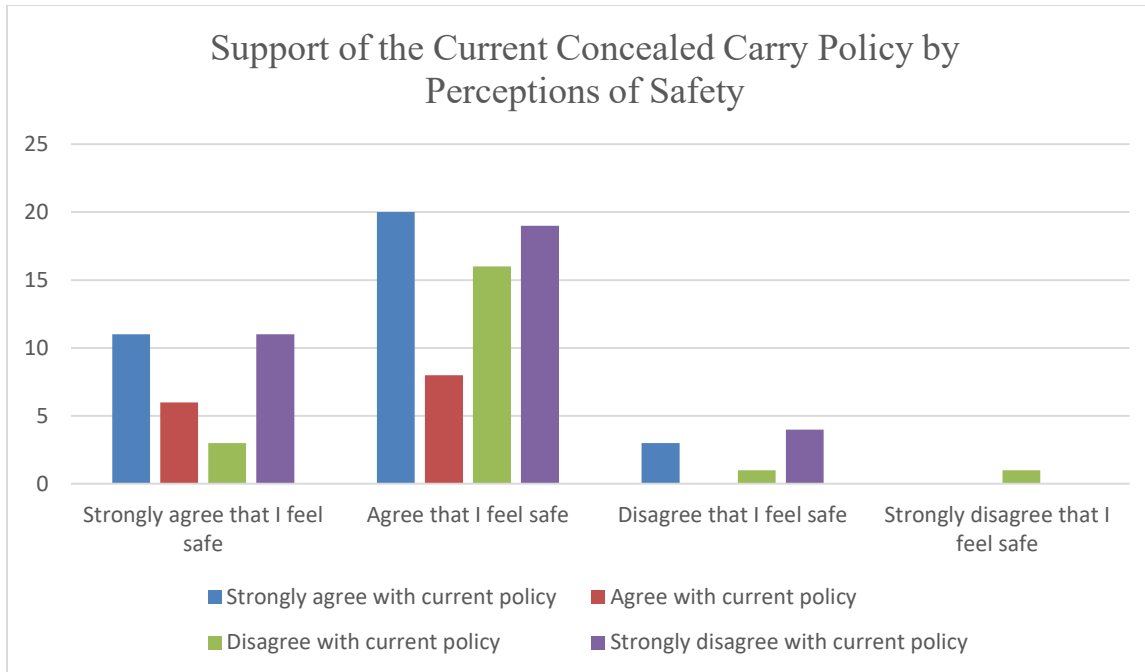
*Frequencies for Support of ETSU’s Current Concealed Carry Policy*

I support ETSU’s current concealed carry policy	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	34	30.6	33.0
Agree	14	12.6	13.6
Disagree	21	18.9	20.4
Strongly disagree	34	30.6	33.0
Total	103	92.8	100
Missing	8	7.2	
Total	111	100	



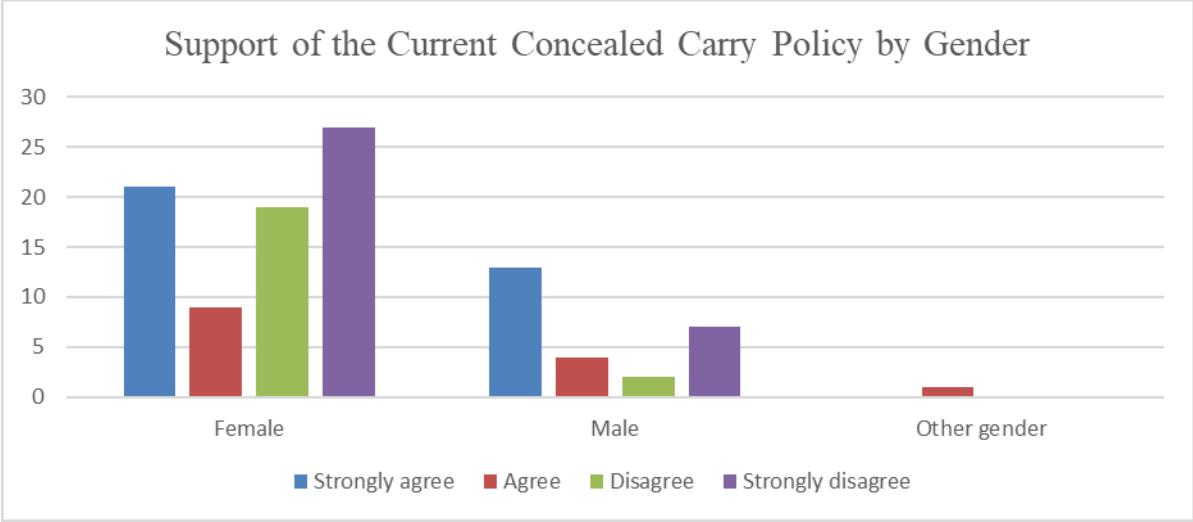
## Crosstabs and Bar Charts

Crosstabs were calculated to find interactions between the variables in each hypothesis. Regarding H1, it was found that approximately 48% of those who feel safe to some degree on ETSU's campus also support the current concealed carry policy on campus to some degree. It was also determined that 30% of those who do not feel safe on campus to some degree support the current policy to some degree. Specifically, 11 respondents strongly agreed that they felt safe on campus and stated that they strongly supported the current concealed carry policy (See Figure 1). Six respondents strongly felt safe on campus and agreed that they supported the current concealed carry policy, while 3 respondents strongly felt safe on campus but disagreed that they supported the current concealed carry policy, and eleven respondents strongly agreed that they felt safe while on campus but strongly disagreed with the current policy. Also, 20 respondents agreed that they felt safe on campus and strongly supported the current concealed carry policy, while 8 respondents agreed that they felt safe on campus and agreed that they supported the current policy. Three respondents stated that they disagreed with feeling safe on ETSU's campus and strongly supported the current concealed carry policy, while 1 respondent stated they disagreed with feeling safe and disagreed with the policy. Additionally, 4 respondents disagreed with feeling safe on campus and strongly disagreed with the current policy. Finally, 1 respondent strongly disagreed with feeling safe on campus and disagreed with the current concealed carry policy on ETSU's campus.



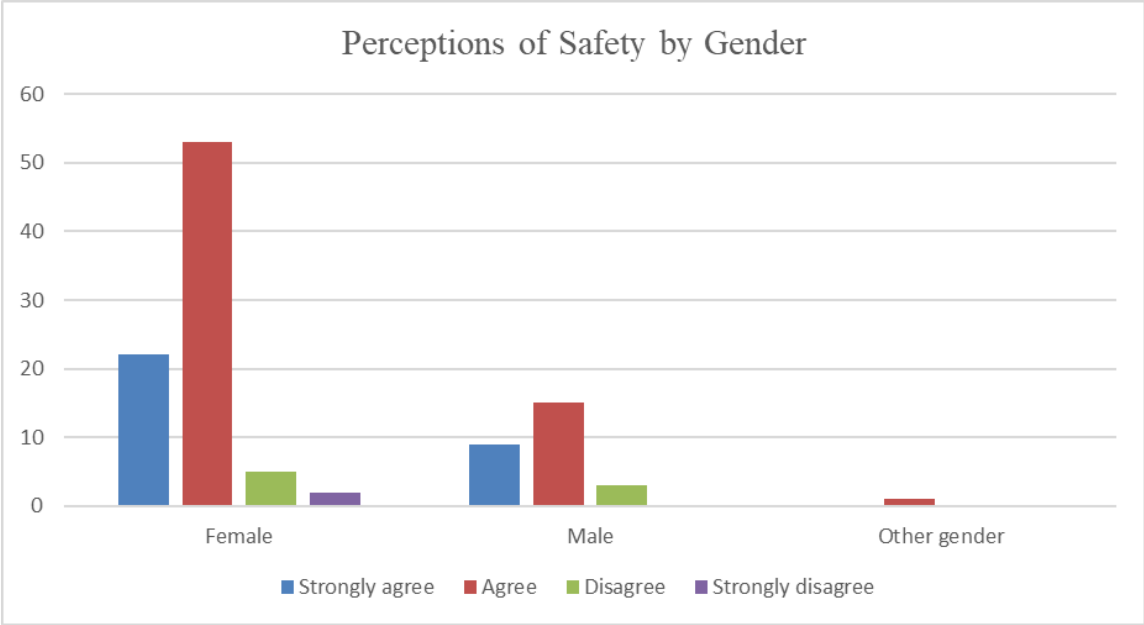
**Figure 1.** Support of the Current Concealed Carry Policy by Perceptions of Safety

When measuring H2, it was found that 39% of women agreed or strongly agreed that they supported the current concealed carry policy, while 65% of men agreed or strongly agreed that they supported the policy. Additionally, a bar chart was created to illustrate the differences between genders (See Figure 2). Specifically, 21 females strongly agreed that they support the current policy, 9 females agreed that they support the current policy, 19 females disagreed that they support the current policy, and 27 females strongly disagreed that they support the current policy. Thirteen males strongly agreed that they support the current policy, 4 males agreed that they support the current policy, 2 males disagreed that they support the current policy, and 7 males strongly disagreed that they support the current policy. One respondent who identified as another gender agreed that they support the current concealed carry policy.



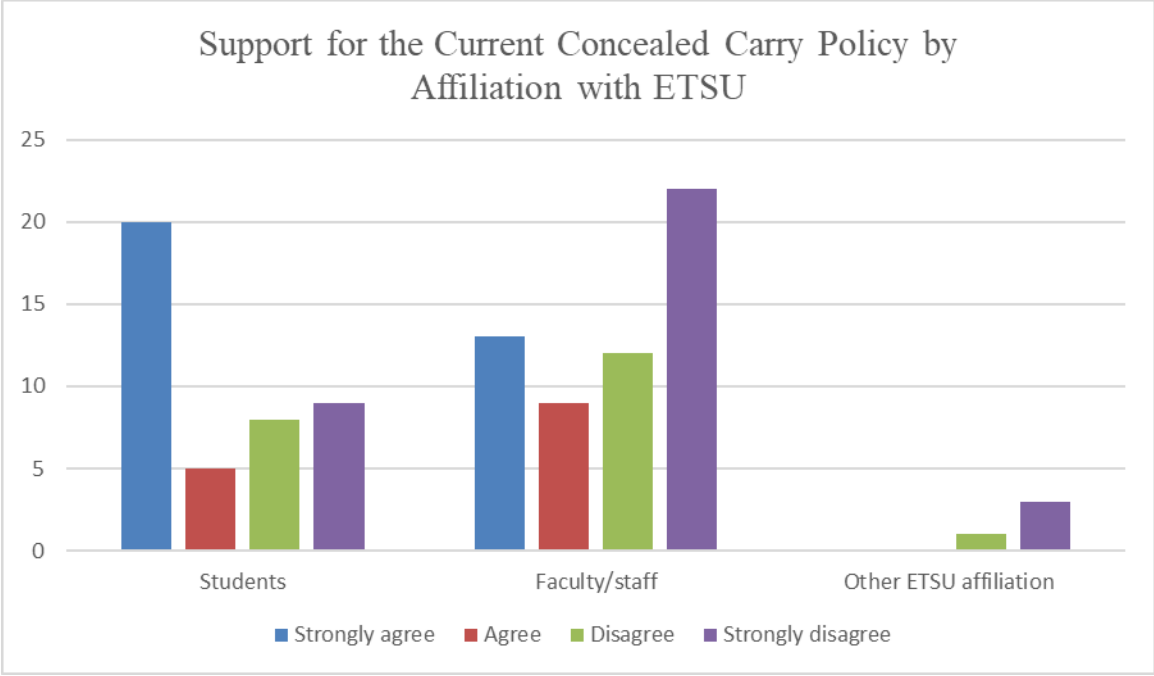
**Figure 2.** Support of the Current Concealed Carry Policy by Gender

Regarding H3, it was determined that approximately 91% of female respondents felt safe to some extent while on ETSU’s campus, whereas about 89% of male respondents reported feeling safe to some degree. It was also found that 100% of respondents who identified as another gender felt safe while on ETSU’s campus. In addition, a bar chart was created to show the differences between genders (See Figure 3). Specifically, 22 females strongly agreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus, 15 females agreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus, 5 females disagreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus, and 2 females strongly disagreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus. Nine males strongly agreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus, 15 males agreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus, and 3 males disagreed that they feel safe on ETSU’s campus. One respondent who identified as another gender agreed that they felt safe while on ETSU’s campus.



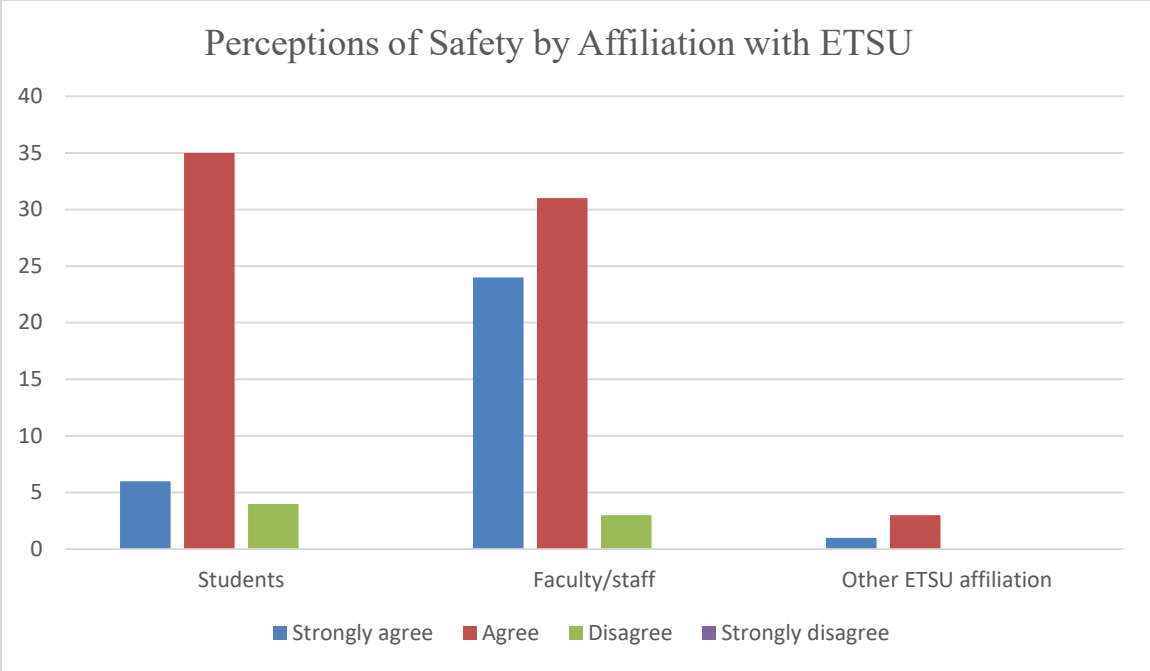
**Figure 3.** Perceptions of Safety by Gender

While measuring H4, it was found that about 60% of students supported the current concealed carry policy to some extent, while approximately 39% of faculty and staff supported the policy to some extent. Also, a bar chart was created to show the differences among respondents (See Figure 4). Specifically, 20 students strongly agreed with the current policy, 5 students agreed with the current policy, 8 students disagreed with the current policy, and 9 students strongly disagreed with the current policy. Thirteen faculty/staff members strongly agreed with the current policy, 9 agreed with the current policy, 12 disagreed with the current policy, and 22 strongly disagreed with the current policy. In terms of those otherwise affiliated with the university, 1 respondent disagreed with the current policy, while 3 strongly disagreed.



**Figure 4.** Support of the Current Concealed Carry Policy by Affiliation with ETSU

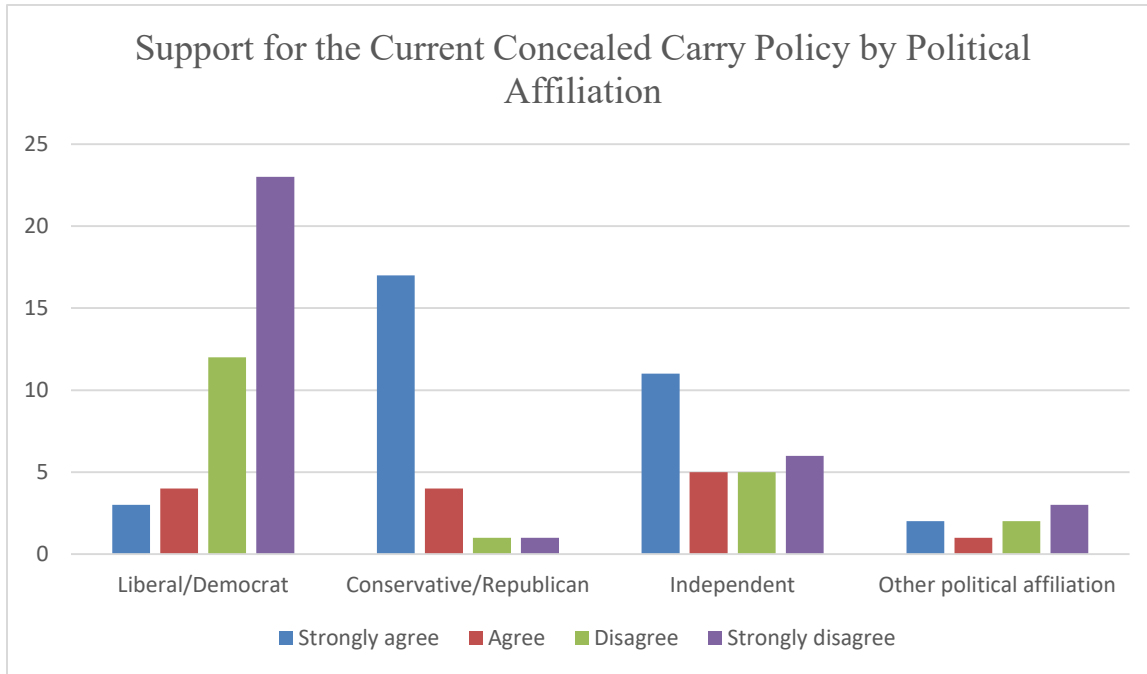
When evaluating H5, it was discovered that approximately 91% of students reported feeling safe to some degree while on ETSU’s campus. In addition, about 92% of faculty and staff members responded that they felt safe to some degree while on campus, whereas 100% of respondents who were otherwise affiliated with ETSU felt safe to some extent. In addition, a bar chart was created to demonstrate the differences among respondents (See Figure 5). Specifically, 6 students strongly agreed that they felt safe, 35 students agreed that they felt safe, and 4 students disagreed with feeling safe while on ETSU’s campus. Twenty-four faculty/staff members strongly agreed that they felt safe, 31 faculty/staff members agreed that they felt safe, and 3 faculty/staff members disagreed with feeling safe while on ETSU’s campus. Of those who were otherwise affiliated with ETSU, 1 strongly agreed that they felt safe while on campus, while 3 respondents agreed that they felt safe.



**Figure 5.** Perceptions of Safety by Affiliation with ETSU

Regarding H6, it was determined that 17% of Liberals/Democrats supported the policy to some degree, 91% of Conservatives/Republicans supported the policy to some degree, 59% of Independents supported the policy to some degree, while 38% of those otherwise politically affiliated supported the policy to some degree. Additionally, a bar chart was created to show the differences among respondents (See Figure 6). Specifically, three Liberals/Democrats strongly agreed that they support the current policy, 4 Liberals/Democrats agreed that they support the current policy, 12 Liberals/Democrats disagreed that they support the current policy, and 23 Liberals/Democrats strongly disagreed that they support the current policy. Seventeen Conservatives/Republicans strongly agreed that they support ETSU’s current policy, 4 Conservatives/Republicans agreed that they support the current policy, 1 Conservative/Republican disagreed that they support the current policy, and 1 Conservative/Republican strongly disagreed with supporting ETSU’s current concealed carry policy. 11 Independents strongly agreed that they support the current policy, 5 Independents

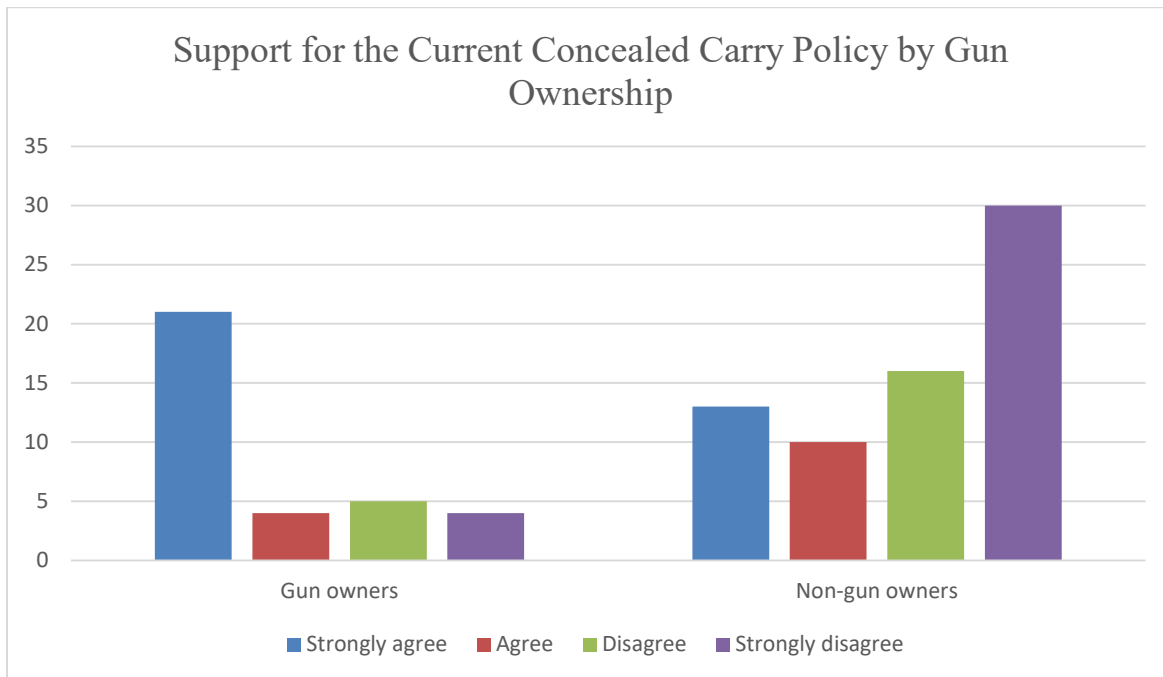
agreed that they support the current policy, 5 Independents disagreed with supporting the current policy, and 6 Independents strongly disagreed that they support the current policy. Of those otherwise politically affiliated, 2 strongly agreed that they support the current policy, 1 agreed that they support the current policy, 2 disagreed that they support the current policy, and 3 strongly disagreed with ETSU’s current concealed carry policy.



**Figure 6.** Support for the Current Concealed Carry Policy by Political Affiliation

While measuring H7, it was found that about 33% of non-gun owners supported the current concealed carry policy on ETSU’s campus to some extent, whereas approximately 74% of gun owners supported the current policy to some extent. Also, a bar chart was created to demonstrate the differences among respondents (See Figure 7). Specifically, among non-gun owners, 13 strongly agreed that they support the current concealed carry policy, 10 agreed that they support the current policy, 16 disagreed that they support the current policy, and 30 disagreed that they support ETSU’s current concealed carry policy. Among respondents who owned guns, 21 strongly agreed that they support ETSU’s current concealed carry policy, 4

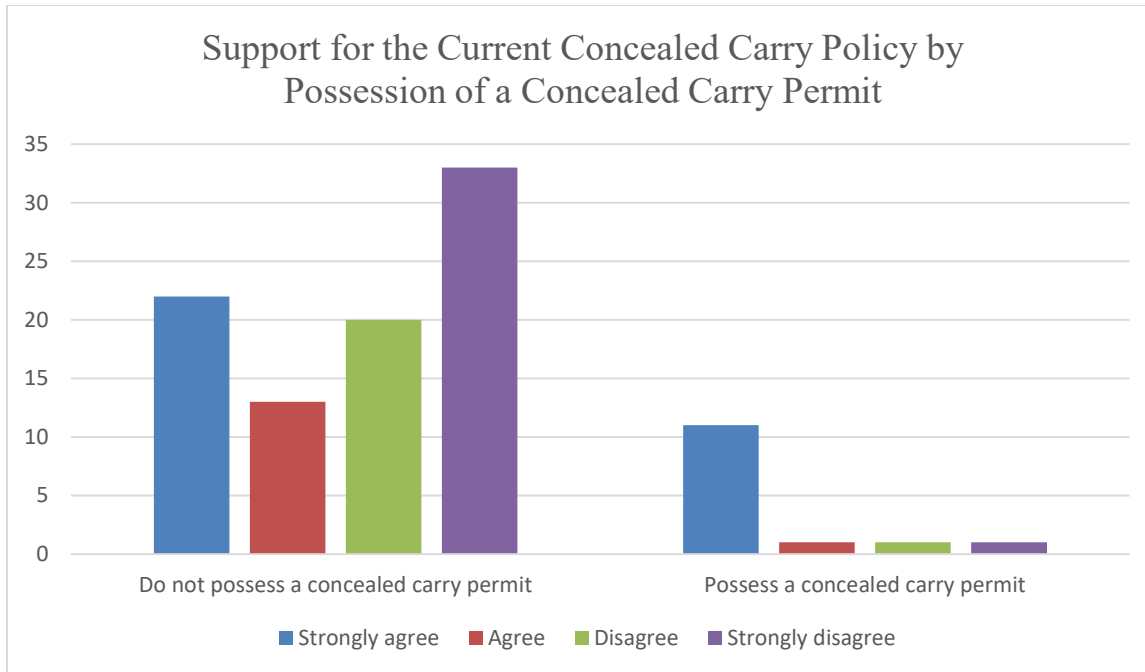
agreed with the policy, 5 disagreed with the policy, and 4 strongly disagreed with ETSU's current policy.



**Figure 7.** Support for the Current Concealed Carry Policy by Gun Ownership

When evaluating H8, it was determined that 40% of respondents who do not possess a concealed carry permit supported the current concealed carry policy on ETSU's campus to some extent, while about 86% of respondents who possessed a concealed carry permit supported the current policy to some extent. In addition, a bar chart was created to demonstrate the differences among respondents (See Figure 8). Specifically, of those respondents who did not possess a concealed carry permit, 22 strongly agreed with the current policy, 13 agreed with the current policy, 20 disagreed with the policy, and 33 strongly disagreed with ETSU's current concealed carry policy. Of the respondents who possessed a concealed carry permit, 11 strongly agreed with ETSU's current concealed carry policy, 1 agreed with the current policy, 1 disagreed with the current policy, and 1 strongly disagreed with the current policy.





**Figure 8.** Support for the Current Concealed Carry Policy by Possession of a Concealed Carry Permit

### Statistical Analyses and Evaluating the Hypotheses

#### Correlations

A Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated to examine H1 to test the linear correlation between the support of concealed weapons on ETSU’s campus and perceptions of safety (See Table 9). A weak correlation that was not significant was found ( $r(103) = 0.508, p > .05$ ). Based on these results, it can be concluded that there is no statistically significant relationship between the support of concealed carry on ETSU’s campus and perceptions of safety.

**Table 9.**

*Correlations*

Hypothesis	r	N	p	Correlation
H1: There is a statistically significant relationship between perceptions of safety and support for the current concealed carry policy on campus	0.508	103	0.066	No; there is no statistically significant relationship between perceptions of safety and support for concealed carry on campus

**ANOVAs**

ANOVA tests, or analysis of variance tests, were conducted to examine the amount of variation between respondents' answers in a number of hypotheses. These tests analyze the differences among group means in a given sample, and they can determine whether a statistically significant relationship exists. In the case of a significant ANOVA finding, Tukey's *HSD* will be calculated to further examine the differences in group means. Regarding H1, a one-way ANOVA was computed. No significant difference was found ( $F(3, 99) = 1.435, p > .05$ ). Because of this, the null hypothesis was retained; therefore, there is no statistically significant relationship between the support for the carry of concealed weapons on ETSU's campus and perceptions of safety.

A one-way ANOVA was computed to examine H4, which compared affiliation with ETSU and the level of support of the current concealed carry policy on campus. A significant difference was found among the varying affiliations with ETSU and their level of support of concealed carry on campus ( $F(8, 93) = 4.255, p < .05$ ). Tukey's *HSD* was used to determine the nature of the differences between respondents' affiliation with ETSU and their support of

concealed carry on campus. This analysis revealed that respondents who were juniors differed significantly from graduate/professional students in their support for concealed carry on campus. Tukey's HSD also revealed that respondents who were juniors differed significantly from full-time teaching faculty. Juniors were most strongly in support of concealed carry on campus, while graduate/professional students were most strongly opposed to concealed carry on campus. Because of this, the null hypothesis was rejected; there is a statistically significant relationship between respondents' affiliation with ETSU and their support for the current concealed carry policy on campus.

A one-way ANOVA was also calculated to examine H5, which compared affiliation with ETSU and perceptions of safety on campus. No significant difference was found ( $F(8,100) = 0.722, p > .05$ ). Because of this, the null hypothesis was retained; therefore, there was no statistically significant relationship between respondents' affiliation with ETSU and their perceptions of safety on campus.

A one-way ANOVA was also calculated for H6. A significant difference was found among political affiliations and their support for concealed carry on campus ( $F(3,96) = 18.913, p < .05$ ). Tukey's HSD was used to determine the nature of the differences in these responses. This analysis revealed that respondents who were Liberal/Democrat varied significantly from respondents who were Conservative/Republican and from respondents who were politically Independent. This analysis also revealed that respondents who were Conservative/Republican varied significantly from respondents who were Independent and from those who identified as Other politically. Because of this, the null hypothesis was rejected; there is a statistically significant relationship between political affiliation and support of concealed carry on campus.

## Independent Samples T-Tests

Independent samples *t*-tests were calculated to evaluate whether there was a statistically significant difference between the means in two unrelated groups (See Table 10). When evaluating H2, an independent samples *t*-test was calculated. This test revealed that there was a significant difference in the level of support of the current concealed carry policy among genders ( $t(100) = 2.010$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Because of this, the null hypothesis was rejected; there was a statistically significant difference between respondents' gender and their support of the current concealed carry policy.

Regarding H3, an independent samples *t*-test was conducted. This test revealed that there was not a significant difference in perceptions of safety ( $t(107) = 0.450$ ,  $p > .05$ ). Because of this, the null hypothesis was retained; there is no statistically significant difference between perceptions of safety among genders.

While evaluating H7, an independent samples *t*-test was calculated. This test revealed that there was a significant difference between respondents' support of the current concealed carry policy and gun ownership ( $t(101) = 4.801$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Based on these results, the null hypothesis was rejected; gun owners were more likely to support the current concealed carry policy on ETSU's campus than respondents who do not own a gun.

When examining H8, an independent samples *t*-test was calculated. This test revealed that there was a significant relationship between respondents' support of the current concealed carry policy and possession of a concealed carry permit ( $t(100) = 4.608$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Based on these findings, the null hypothesis was rejected; respondents who possessed a concealed carry permit were more likely to support the current concealed carry policy on ETSU's campus than respondents who did not possess a carry permit.

This chapter stated the results of the current study, including frequencies, correlations, ANOVAs, and independent sample *t*-tests. The next chapter will discuss these results in the context of East Tennessee State University’s campus and in the context of the existing literature, will offer recommendations for future research, will discuss possible policy implications based on these results, and will provide a conclusion.

**Table 10.** Independent Samples T-Tests

Hypothesis	<i>t</i>	N	<i>p</i>	Significance
H2: Men are more likely than women to support the current concealed carry policy.	2.010	100	0.047	Yes; men are more likely than women to support the current concealed carry policy.
H3: Men are more likely than women to feel safe on campus	0.450	107	0.654	No; there is no statistically significant relationship between gender and perceptions of safety on campus.
H7: Respondents who own guns are more likely than non-gun owners to support the current concealed carry policy	4.801	101	0.000	Yes; respondents who own guns are more likely than non-gun owners to support the current concealed carry policy on campus.
H8: Respondents who possess a concealed carry permit are more likely to support the current concealed carry policy than those who do not possess a concealed carry permit	4.608	100	0.000	Yes; respondents who possess a concealed carry permit are more likely than respondents who do not to possess a concealed carry permit to support the current concealed carry policy.

## CHAPTER 5

### DISCUSSION

#### **Results in Context Within the East Tennessee State University Community and the State of Tennessee**

It is important to put these results into context within the community of East Tennessee State University and to discuss the implications of these results, both in terms of the perceptions of safety that students, faculty, and staff currently have while on ETSU's campus and in terms of what can be done to encourage safety on campus in the future. First, however, it must be noted that on the first day of the semester in August 2018, fourteen days prior to the distribution of this study's survey, ETSU experienced a campus-wide lockdown due to an assault involving a gun near the student center on campus (East Tennessee State University Advisory Archive, 2018; Vance & Campbell, 2018). The emergency alert sirens were activated, as well as the ETSUAlert system, which notifies those in the ETSU community about emergencies via text messages and emails. No students, faculty, or staff were involved in the assault and no shots were fired; the incident involved two contracted construction workers (Vance, 2018). ETSU Public Safety and the Johnson City Police Department apprehended the alleged perpetrator approximately one hour after the alerts were distributed, and the all clear was given at that time (East Tennessee State University Advisory Archive, 2018; Vance, 2018). While it is impossible to tell if the lockdown on campus affected potential respondents' willingness to participate or had any effect on the answers of those who did participate, it must be noted that this incident occurred, and that participation rates or participants' answers could have been affected.

With that said, the present study's results indicate that perceptions of safety on campus are not largely affected by any single, specific factor measured in the scope of this study. Specifically, the current concealed carry policy has no significant relationship with individuals'

perceptions of safety on East Tennessee State University's campus and people on East Tennessee State University's campus do not feel significantly more or less safe due to the presence of concealed weapons on campus. Perceptions of safety also do not vary significantly based on individuals' gender or affiliation with East Tennessee State University.

In terms of variables that were found to be significant, male respondents were more likely to support concealed carry on campus than female respondents; 39% of women supported to some degree, whereas 65% of men supported to some degree. This is similar to the findings regarding students and faculty/staff, with students more likely than employees to support concealed carry on campus; 60% of students supported to some degree, whereas 39% of faculty and staff supported to some degree. Political affiliation was not significantly correlated with support of the policy; a significant ANOVA, or analysis of variance, was found between political affiliation and support for concealed carry, however, which indicates that significant differences were found between multiple political affiliations and their level of support of the policy. Liberals/Democrats were significantly less supportive of the policy than Conservatives/Republicans and Independents, just as Conservatives/Republicans were significantly more supportive of the policy than Independents and those who identified as being otherwise politically affiliated; 17% of Liberals/Democrats supported the policy to some degree, 91% of Conservatives/Republicans supported the policy to some degree, 59% of Independents supported the policy to some degree, and 38% of those otherwise politically affiliated supported the policy to some degree. Gun ownership was highly correlated with support for concealed carry on campus, similar to the possession of a concealed carry permit; individuals who owned guns were more likely to support the current policy, just as respondents who possessed a concealed carry permit were more supportive of the current policy than respondents who did not

have a concealed carry permit. Now that the findings have been discussed in context with East Tennessee State University's campus, they must be discussed in context with the State of Tennessee's unique law regarding concealed carry on college campuses, in which colleges and universities can choose to ban concealed weapons on campus or allow only full-time faculty and staff members to carry concealed weapons (TN SB2376, 2016).

The State of Tennessee is unique in its law regarding concealed carry on campuses (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). As noted in Chapter 2, Tennessee has a law in place that allows individual colleges and universities to create their own policies that either ban concealed carry on campus entirely or allow the concealed carry of firearms by eligible faculty and staff members only, not the public or students (TN SB2376, 2016). The results from this study show that the population of East Tennessee State University is split on its support of the University's current concealed policy, although a majority of respondents are not supportive of the policy.

### **Results in Context with Existing Literature**

While Tennessee is unique with its law regarding concealed carry on college campuses (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015; TN SB2376, 2016), the results from this study can be compared with results from similar studies to determine how individuals across the United States feel about concealed weapons policies on college campuses. For instance, the current study demonstrates that there is no statistically significant connection between concealed carry on campus and perceptions of safety. In fact, nearly every respondent stated that they feel safe to some extent while on ETSU's campus; 90.9% stated that they strongly agreed or agreed they felt safe. This is echoed by the findings in Schafer et al. (2018), who found that predicting support of concealed carry and other policies meant to encourage safety on campus is not greatly determined by perceptions of safety. Specifically, Schafer et al. (2018) found that support for



concealed weapons on campus was more dependent on demographic factors, such as gender, rather than fear or victimization factors. In addition, Jang et al. (2014) found that student opinions regarding concealed carry on campus were more closely dependent on political and weapon socialization factors rather than fear. The present study's findings indicated a similar conclusion since perceptions of safety and support for concealed carry on campus were not correlated. Conversely, gun ownership and possession of a concealed carry permit were associated with support for concealed carry on campus. In fact, respondents who owned guns were more likely to support concealed weapons on campus than respondents who did not own guns; in the present study, it was found that approximately 33% of non-gun owners supported the current concealed carry policy on ETSU's campus to some extent, while about 74% of gun owners supported the current policy to some extent. Similarly, Bennett et al. (2012) found that individuals who did not own guns were more likely to oppose concealed weapons on campus than individuals who owned guns. Because of these results, it can be concluded that gun ownership and possession of a concealed carry permit can affect an individual's likelihood of supporting concealed weapons on college campuses.

Nearly 91% of the current study's respondents stated that they feel safe to some extent while on East Tennessee State University's campus. This is supported by findings from other studies done across the United States which demonstrate that most college students, faculty, and staff feel safe while on campus (Dahl et al., 2016; Price et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2012). Dahl et al. (2016) stated that a majority of the community college faculty and staff felt safe while on their campuses across the country. Thompson et al. (2012) found that 97% of the faculty and staff examined on five college campuses in the Midwest reported feeling safe on campus. In addition, Price et al. (2014) found that the university presidents they studied overwhelmingly

reported that they thought their students and employees felt safe while on their campuses. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that most college students, faculty, and staff members currently feel safe while on their college campuses. In addition to faculty, staff, and student perceptions of safety, faculty, staff, and student support for concealed carry on campus was also studied.

Bennett et al. (2012) found that a majority of the faculty and staff in their sample on a college campus in Georgia were opposed to concealed carry, echoing the findings of the current study; only about 39% of the faculty and staff members surveyed in this study support the current concealed carry policy on ETSU's campus to some degree. That most college faculty and staff oppose concealed weapons on their campuses is also supported by De Angelis et al. (2017) and Dahl et al. (2016). Dahl et al. (2016) found that a majority of community college faculty and staff across 18 states opposed policies that allowed faculty, staff, students, or visitors to carry concealed weapons on campus. In this context, it can be concluded that most college faculty and staff members are opposed to concealed weapons on college campuses around the United States, regardless of the type of institution.

In addition, Bennett et al. (2012) found that Democrats were more likely than Republicans to oppose concealed carry on campus. The current study determined that even though there was no significant correlation between political affiliation and support for concealed carry on campus, there was a significant difference in the variance between the groups, particularly between Liberals/Democrats and Conservatives/Republicans. Conservatives/Republicans were more likely than any other political affiliation to support concealed carry on ETSU's campus. Further, Thompson et al. (2012) and Thompson et al. (2013)

concluded that Republicans were more likely to support concealed carry on college campuses than respondents from other political affiliations.

While political affiliation was found to be a significant variable in the current study, so was gender. In the current study, males were found to be more likely than females to support concealed carry on campus (65% of males supported the policy to some degree, whereas 39% of females supported the policy to some degree). These findings are similar to those by Patten, Thomas, and Viotti (2013), who reported that over 80% of females in their study did not support concealed carry on campus. In addition, Schafer et al. (2018) found that support of concealed carry on college campuses is a function of demographics, including gender. Further, Jang et al. (2014) concluded that support for concealed carry on college campuses and weapon-carrying behaviors was highly associated with gender; males were more likely than females to support concealed weapons on campuses and to carry weapons themselves. In addition, Thompson et al. (2012) and Thompson et al. (2013) also found that support for concealed weapons on campuses was associated with gender, with males being more supportive than females.

The current study's findings furthermore indicate that students were more supportive of concealed carry on campus than faculty and staff members were, as a group; 60% of students supported the policy, to some degree, whereas 39% of faculty and staff supported the policy, to some degree. The current study's finding that most students were in support of concealed carry on campus contradicts Schafer et al. (2018). Most students in their study were opposed to concealed carry on campus (Schafer et al., 2018). In addition, that over half of the students in the current study's sample supported concealed carry on campus is in contradiction to Jang et al. (2014), who found that 49.9% of the students in their sample opposed concealed carry. It is likely that some of these disparities may be due to differences in geographical area, state laws

regarding concealed carry on college campuses, and due to the limitations in this study. In terms of the geographical areas and existing state laws, Schafer et al. (2018) conducted their study in Illinois, where there is a complete firearm ban on college campuses (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). Jang et al. (2014) studied students on Missouri Western State University's campus. The state of Missouri also has a complete firearm ban on college campuses (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2015). As noted, Tennessee allows individual colleges and universities to make their own policies regarding concealed carry on campus, with the caveat that only qualified, full-time faculty and staff can carry (TN SB2376, 2016). Based on these results and in this context, it can be concluded that students who go to college in a state that currently allows some form of concealed carry on college campuses may be more likely to support that policy than faculty and staff who work at the same college.

### **Limitations**

This study has limitations. To begin, the sample size (N=111) is large enough for generalization but is still small when compared to the population of the ETSU community. The population is comprised of approximately 14,600 students and about 2,300 full-time faculty and staff members (East Tennessee State University Fact Book, 2017). Some of these sampling issues may be due, at least in part, to the distribution methods. As noted in Chapter 3, the survey was distributed on September 10 via email, which was during the third week of classes. At the beginning of the semester, many students may still be getting used to the college environment and may not check their email frequently. Additionally, the survey was distributed in a weekly newsletter email titled The Presidents' Weekly Update email, which many individuals may skim over or even delete before reading. Even though the survey was distributed to students again on September 24, it was again sent out in the weekly newsletter email. Additionally, due to time

constraints, it was difficult to obtain a larger sample size. While these sampling issues may not account for all the limitations involved in this study, they should be noted.

### **Recommendations for Future Research and Potential Policy Implications**

While this study was conducted on a relatively small scale and focused on one sample on a single college campus, similar studies could be conducted on other college campuses to compare the findings in case significant results are found, especially if larger sample sizes are reached. In the future, it could prove interesting if a similar study was conducted on a college campus that had experienced a campus shooting, as these individuals may have more extreme attitudes toward concealed carry, or they may feel significantly less safe compared to individuals on East Tennessee State University's campus. Furthermore, additional research should be done to examine the differences between undergraduate students' and graduate/professional students' opinions regarding support for concealed carry on campus; as noted in Chapter 4, graduate/professional students were the group most opposed to concealed carry on campus, whereas undergraduate students were the group most in favor of concealed carry on campus. The categories of undergraduate and graduate/professional students were grouped together simply as students within the scope of this study, but additional research could yield interesting information on the possible differences between the groups. Additionally, it should be noted that perceptions of safety may be incredibly individualized and may have layers; people may feel safe during the day but may not feel safe at night, or they may feel safe when part of a group but not when walking alone, for instance. Because of this, a five-point Likert scale like the one used in this study may not be able to capture all the nuances of an individual's perception of safety. In the future, it may be beneficial to conduct a similar study but use a more qualitative approach to measure perceptions of safety. This could allow for richer results and could have a broader

scope; it could reveal certain elements or factors that influence perceptions of safety that this researcher did not consider.

In the future, more research should also be done to examine how, or if, other recently enacted safety measures such as active shooter training affect perceptions of safety on college campuses. The results from those studies could be compared to the results from this study to see if individuals tend to be more in favor of concealed carry as compared to other safety measures. As noted in Chapter 2, active shooter training has been implemented by colleges and universities across the United States (Fox & Savage, 2009). While some students and parents may feel that active shooter training is a positive step in increasing safety and emergency preparedness, others may view this training as an indicator of a high risk of violence on their campus and it may serve to increase fear on campus rather than safety, as it was originally intended (Fox & Savage, 2009). Just as this paper examines the perceptions of safety surrounding concealed carry, similar studies should be conducted to examine the potential effects of active shooter training and other recently enacted safety measures have on perceptions of safety so that the risks are minimized, and safety is encouraged for all.

In addition, more research should be conducted to compare samples from states that allow some form of concealed carry to states that have a ban on concealed carry on college campuses. As noted earlier in this chapter, student support for concealed carry in the current study varied from existing studies (Jang et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018). Student participants in the current study were more likely than students in the previous studies to support the policy (Jang et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018). As noted, the current study measures a population on East Tennessee State University's campus, in which full-time faculty and staff can carry concealed weapons. The existing literature measured student opinions in Illinois and Missouri,

two states that have a ban on concealed weapons on college campuses (Jang et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018). It would be beneficial to conduct the same or a similar study on students in various states to determine if there is any connection between the states' existing laws regarding concealed carry and student support for concealed carry. Perhaps students who live in states that allow concealed carry are more in favor of these policies than students who live in states with a ban, or perhaps the opposite is true. More research should be done to make this determination, as the results could affect future laws and policies.

Regarding policy implications, it would be unwise to recommend that officials or lawmakers take any immediate, drastic action due to the results of this study, particularly since it was done on a small scale and may not be generalizable to other populations outside of East Tennessee State University. However, it appears that lawmakers and university officials should consider the opinions of college faculty, staff, and students when making decisions, since they are directly affected by concealed carry policies and other policies meant to ensure safety on campus. This is especially true since many of the current study's results were supported by findings from other similar studies (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017; Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson et al., 2009). While individual perceptions of safety and the support for concealed carry on campus may not be correlated, support for concealed carry on campus can be affected by other factors, including gender, political affiliation, affiliation with an institution, gun ownership, and possession of a concealed carry permit. More knowledge regarding the level of support for concealed carry can help lawmakers and university officials make informed decisions about the

implementation of these policies and other safety measures in the future to help protect students and employees from campus shootings.

### **Conclusion**

It is important to continue to study perceptions of safety and perceptions of concealed carry on college campuses due to the existence of campus shootings in the United States. The current study found that the overall sample of 111 respondents from East Tennessee State University was split on the issue of support for concealed weapons on campus, with about 53% disagreeing with the current policy to some extent and 47% agreeing with the current policy to some extent. In addition, an overwhelming majority of respondents feels safe on campus to some extent (90.9%). This demonstrates that support for concealed weapons on campus does not depend on how safe individuals feel while on campus. Further, support for concealed carry on East Tennessee State University's campus can depend on political affiliation and affiliation with ETSU, whether student, faculty, or staff member. These findings are supported by existing literature (Bennett et al., 2012; Dahl et al., 2016; De Angelis et al., 2017, Jang et al., 2014; Patten, Thomas, & Viotti, 2013; Patten, Thomas, & Wada, 2013; Price et al., 2014; Schafer et al., 2018; Thompson et al., 2012; Thompson et al., 2013; Thompson et al., 2009). Because of this, it should be concluded that concealed weapons on college campuses do not make respondents feel significantly safer or less safe. If lawmakers and college officials wish to pass measures and policies meant to encourage safety on college campuses, perhaps allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons on campus is not the best choice.



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A

#### Survey Instrument

Question	Answer choices
1. Clicking the AGREE button below indicates: I have read the above information, I agree to volunteer, and I am over 18	Agree Do not agree
2. What is your age?	18-24 25-34 35-44 45-64 65+
3. What is your gender?	Male Female Other (please specify)
4. What is your race/ethnicity?	White (not Hispanic/Latino) Hispanic/Latino Black/African-American Asian/Pacific Islander Native American Other (please specify)
5. What is your primary affiliation to ETSU?	Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate/Professional student Full-time Teaching Faculty Full-time Staff/Administrative Part-time Teaching Faculty Part-time Staff/Administrative Other (please specify)
6. What is your political affiliation?	Liberal/Democrat Conservative/Republican Independent Other (please specify)
7. What is your religious affiliation?	Christian Jewish Muslim Atheist or Agnostic Other (please specify)
8. Do you own a gun?	I own a gun I do not own a gun
9. Do you have a permit to carry a weapon?	I have a permit to carry a gun

10. What is the highest education level you have obtained? If currently enrolled, select the highest level completed.

- I do not have a permit to carry a gun
- No schooling completed
- Elementary school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Some high school, no diploma
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college (at least one semester)
- College diploma
- Some graduate or professional school (at least one semester)
- Graduate or professional school diploma

Please indicate how you feel about the following statements:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 11. I feel safe while I am on ETSU's campus   | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 12. I think more should be done to make ETSU's campus a safer place   | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 13. I think that it is necessary to own a gun for personal safety   | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 14. I am aware that ETSU has a policy that allows full-time faculty and staff members to carry concealed handguns in certain locations on its campus                                  | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 15. I support ETSU's policy allowing the carry of concealed handguns in certain locations on its campus by eligible full-time faculty and staff members                               | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 16. I would support the carry of concealed handguns on ETSU's campus by <i>any</i> faculty and staff member, whether full-time or part-time if a policy allowing this were introduced | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 17. I would support the carry of concealed handguns on ETSU's campus by students if a policy allowing this were introduced  | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 18. I know what to do in the event of an active shooter situation on ETSU's campus  | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 19. I support active shooter training for all ETSU employees, including part-time and temporary employees   | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 20. I support active shooter training for all ETSU students   | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 21. It makes me feel safe knowing that eligible, full-time employees can carry concealed weapons on campus  | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 22. I would feel safer if more guns were allowed on ETSU's campus in the form of concealed carry by <i>any</i> faculty and staff member, whether full-time or part-time | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 23. I would feel safer if more guns were allowed on ETSU's campus in the form of concealed carry by students  | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |
| 24. I think that police officers are the only individuals who should have access to guns on ETSU's campus   | Strongly agree<br>Agree<br>Disagree<br>Strongly disagree<br>No opinion |

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