LGBT FIREARM OWNERSHIP IN CALIFORNIA
Results from the 2018 California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS)

An estimated **129,200 LGBT California adults** (8% of LGBT adults in the state) **personally own a gun**, and an additional 8% **live in a home with someone else who does.**

≈ 50,000 LGBT Californians

By contrast, **4.2 million (14%) of all adults** in the state **own a gun**, and an additional 11% do not own, but live in a household with an owner.

**MOST LGBT CALIFORNIANS OWN A SINGLE FIREARM, USUALLY A HANDGUN.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single-firearm owners</th>
<th>Multiple-firearm owners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(77%)</td>
<td>(23%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>61%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handgun only (&gt;1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Long guns only (&gt;1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Handguns &amp; long guns</td>
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<td>16%</td>
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**SELF-PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP AND CARRYING ARE MORE COMMON AMONG LGBT GUN OWNERS THAN OWNERS IN THE GENERAL POPULATION.**

See [https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/UCFC/survey.html](https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/UCFC/survey.html) for prior work estimating ownership among California adults as a whole.

**LGBT Firearm Owners**
- Owns a single firearm: 77%
- Owns handgun and/or long gun for protection against people: 70%
- Carried loaded handgun in the past 30 days: 29%
- Concealed carry permit holder: 22%
- Carries a firearm for work: 17%

**General Population Firearm Owners**
- Owns a single firearm: 38%
- Owns handgun and/or long gun for protection against people: 48%
- Carried loaded handgun in the past 30 days: 17%
- Concealed carry permit holder: 15%
- Carries a firearm for work: 6%

Tomsich, E., et al. Violence & Gender 2020
DOI:10.1089/VIO.2020.0024

[Read the full study](https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/UCFC/survey.html)
Over half of California’s LGBT owners acquired their most recent firearm by purchase, usually from a gun or sporting goods store.

In California, nearly all firearm sales, including private party sales, require a background check.

Most LGBT owners own 1 gun, accounting for 38% of guns owned by LGBT Californians. Half of guns owned by LGBT Californians are owned by the 12% of owners who own 4+ guns.

Ownership by Gender, Sexual Orientation, Age, and Race/Ethnicity

16% LGBT adults personally own (8%) or live with a gun-owner (8%).

Over 3 in 4 LGBT owners own a single firearm, typically a handgun.

LGBT populations may experience disproportionate risk for violent injury, suicide in particular. Efforts to prevent firearm injury among LGBT owners should address self-protection as the primary driver of ownership and carrying, and violence and suicide risks associated with ownership.

The California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS) is a statewide, probability-based internet survey developed by UCFC and administered by Ipsos Public Affairs, LLC in late 2018. CSaWS asked questions on a wide range of topics related to firearm ownership and exposure to violence and its consequences. A total of 806 LGBT California adults completed CSaWS, and their answers are weighted to be statistically representative of the adult LGBT population of the state.

Funding for CSaWS comes from the State of California.