

Handgun Sales

Several characteristics of handguns sold by firearm licensees are recorded in the California Dealer's Record of Sale archive: handgun type, caliber, barrel length, and country of origin. In addition, sales records provide the age and sex of the person purchasing the handgun, the date the handgun was sold, the county of sale, whether the sale occurred at a gun show, and whether the sale was a private-party transfer. This section of the report summarizes that information.

In these tables, handguns are divided into four types: semiautomatic pistols (referred to hereafter as pistols), revolvers, derringers, and other handguns (single shot and bolt action handguns). Handgun calibers are divided into three groups: small (for example, .22, .25, .32), medium (for example, .38, .380, 9mm), and large (for example, .357, .40, .44, .45, .50). Barrel lengths are categorized here as short (three inches or shorter) or long (greater than three inches). Country of origin is reported as from either the United States or elsewhere.

While the number of handgun sales was highest in urban counties (see page 14; Los Angeles County ranked first with 40,824 sales), the per capita rate of sales was highest in predominantly rural counties (see page 15; Trinity County ranked first at 25.1 sales per 1,000 persons 21 years of age and older).

A total of 193,489 handguns were sold in California in 2000, for a rate of 8.4 handgun sales per 1,000 persons ages 21 and older. Handgun sales fluctuated little from month to month until the end of the year, then increased considerably. Sales ranged from a low of 13,085 in April to a high of 32,979 in December (see page 17).

Sixty-eight percent of handguns sold in California in 2000 were pistols. Large-caliber handguns were the most common (48.6%), and most handguns had long barrels (77.5%). More than one-third of handguns were manufactured outside the United States.

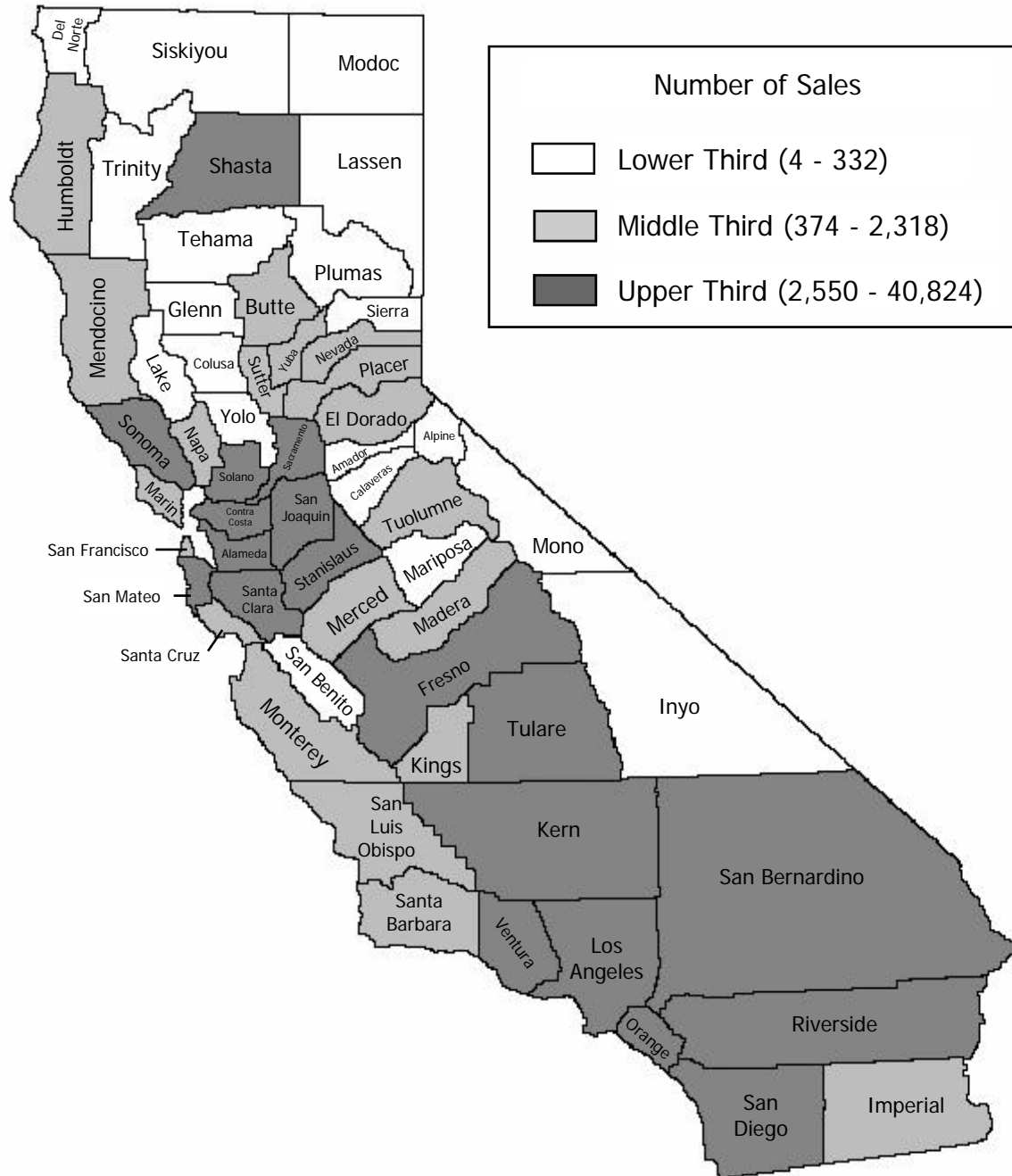
Males bought 92.2% of handguns, and 25.3% were bought by persons ages 35-44.

While the number of handgun sales was highest in urban counties, the rate of sales was highest in predominantly rural counties.

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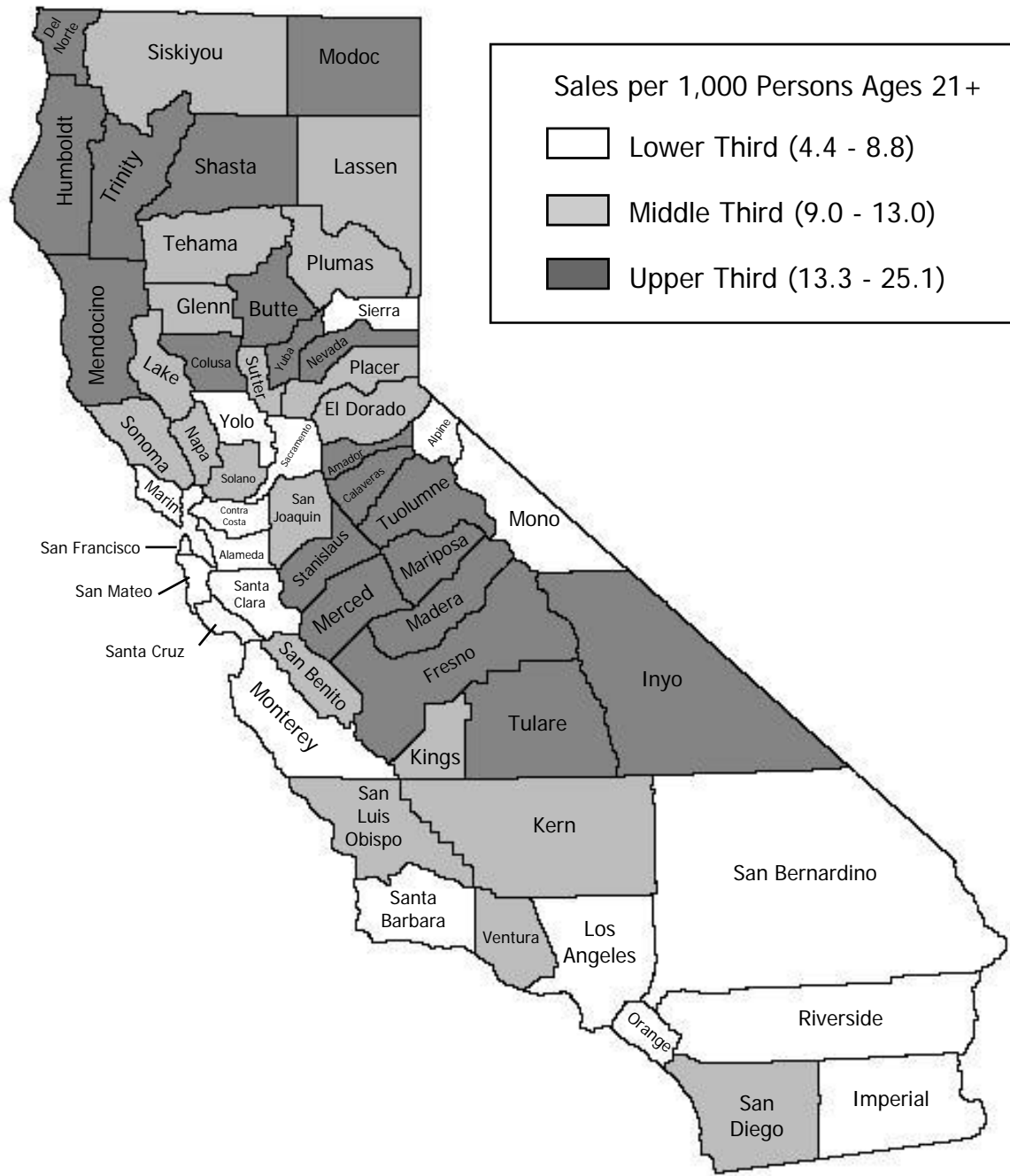
Sales by County

This map summarizes the number of handguns sold in each county in 2000. Counties are ranked by sales and grouped into thirds. These tabulations are of sales by licenses in a particular county and do not necessarily represent sales to residents of that county. Handgun sales counts were highest in urban counties; there were 193,489 sales altogether. See Appendix II for additional details.



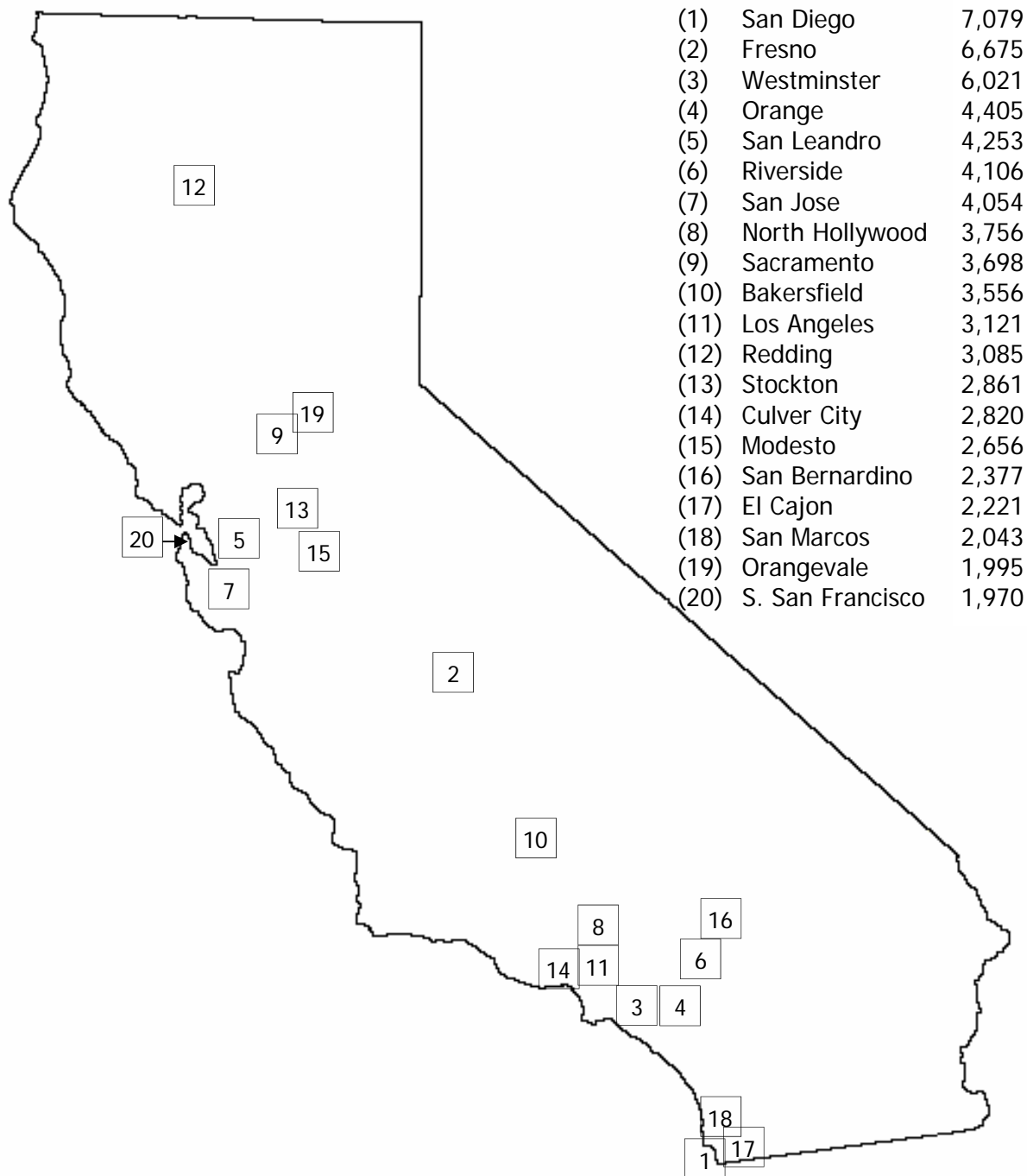
Rate of Sales by County

This map summarizes the rate of handgun sales per 1,000 persons ages 21 and older in each county in 2000. Counties are grouped by sales rate into thirds. These tabulations are of sales by licensees in a particular county and do not necessarily represent sales to residents of that county. The rate of sales was highest in predominantly rural counties; the statewide average was 8.4 sales per 1,000 persons ages 21 and older. See Appendix II for additional details.



Sales by City

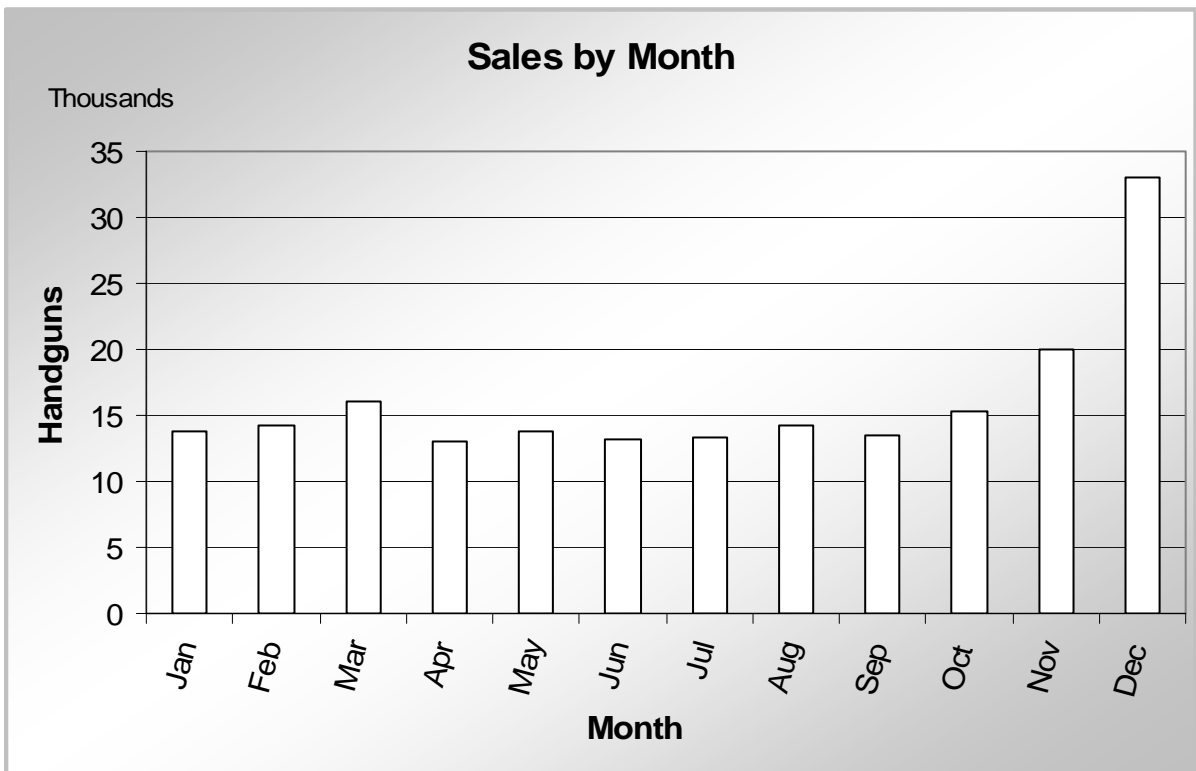
This map identifies the 20 cities with the largest number of sales in 2000. These tabulations are of handgun sales by licensees in a particular city and do not necessarily represent sales to residents of that city. See Appendix II for additional details.



Sales by Month

This table and figure indicate the number of handguns sold each month in California in 2000. Sales ranged from a low of 13,085 in April to a high of 32,979 in December.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	13,853	7.2
February	14,297	7.4
March	16,006	8.3
April	13,085	6.8
May	13,721	7.1
June	13,162	6.8
July	13,308	6.9
August	14,266	7.4
September	13,463	7.0
October	15,316	7.9
November	20,033	10.4
December	32,979	17.0



All Handguns

Approximately 68% of handguns sold in California in 2000 were pistols, and 17% of handguns were of small caliber. Most (77.5%) had barrels greater than three inches in length. More than one-third (36.1%) of handguns were manufactured outside the United States.

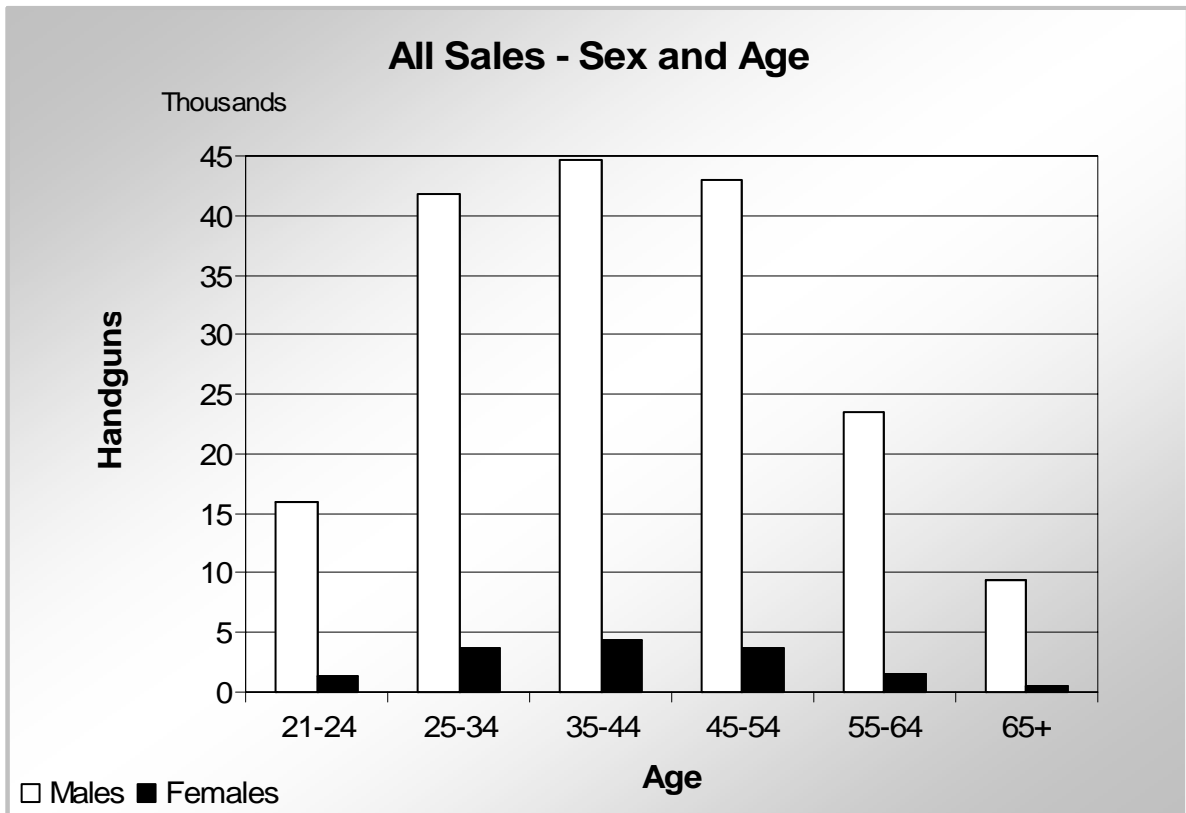
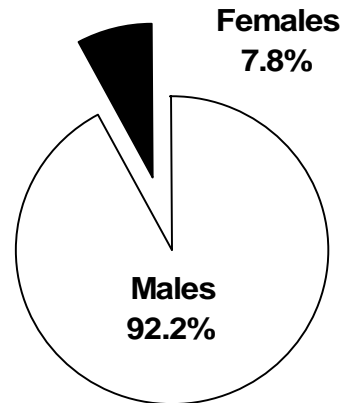
Total Handgun Sales: 193,489

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	132,291	68.4
Revolver	58,570	30.3
Derringer	1,305	0.7
Other	1,319	0.7
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	32,979	17.0
Medium	64,581	33.4
Large	94,024	48.6
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	41,697	21.6
Long	149,939	77.5
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	123,691	63.9
Import	69,798	36.1

All Sales - Sex and Age

Of 193,489 handguns sold, 178,374 (92.2%) were sold to males and 15,112 (7.8%) to females. More handguns were sold to persons ages 35-44 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	17,341	9.0
25-34	45,389	23.5
35-44	49,029	25.3
45-54	46,677	24.1
55-64	25,002	12.9
65+	10,042	5.2



Pistols

Pistols made up the majority of handgun sales in California in 2000 (68.4%). Most pistols were of medium caliber (37.9%) or large caliber (43.2%) and had long barrels (82.8%). More than 40% were manufactured outside the United States. See page 3 for a description of a pistol and page 7 for an example.

Total: 132,291

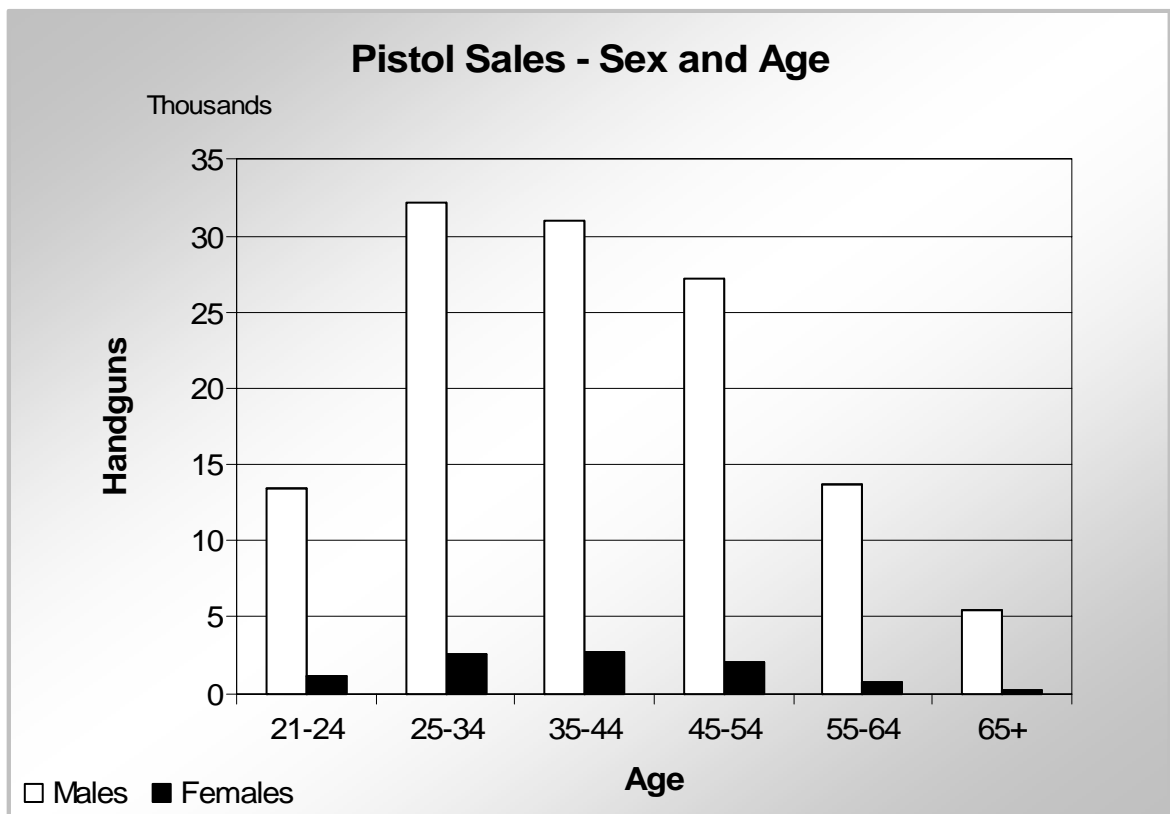
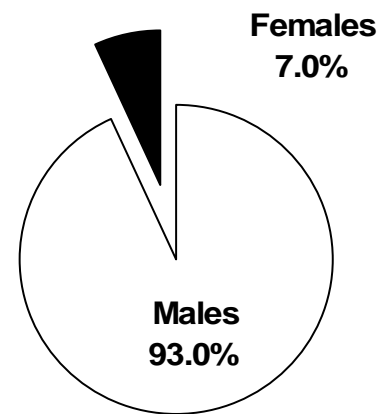
Percent of Handgun Sales: 68.4

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	23,619	17.9
Medium	50,174	37.9
Large	57,133	43.2
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	21,424	16.2
Long	109,518	82.8
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	74,406	56.2
Import	57,885	43.8

Pistol Sales - Sex and Age

Of 132,291 pistols sold, 122,991 (93.0%) were sold to males and 9,298 (7.0%) to females. More pistols (26.3%) were sold to persons ages 25-34 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	14,520	11.0
25-34	34,786	26.3
35-44	33,718	25.5
45-54	29,116	22.0
55-64	14,486	11.0
65+	5,658	4.3



Revolvers

Revolvers made up 30.3% of handgun sales in California in 2000. Most revolvers (61.3%) were of large caliber. About one-third (32.5%) had short barrels. Most revolvers (79.9%) were manufactured in the United States. See page 4 for a description of a revolver and page 8 for an example.

Total: 58,570

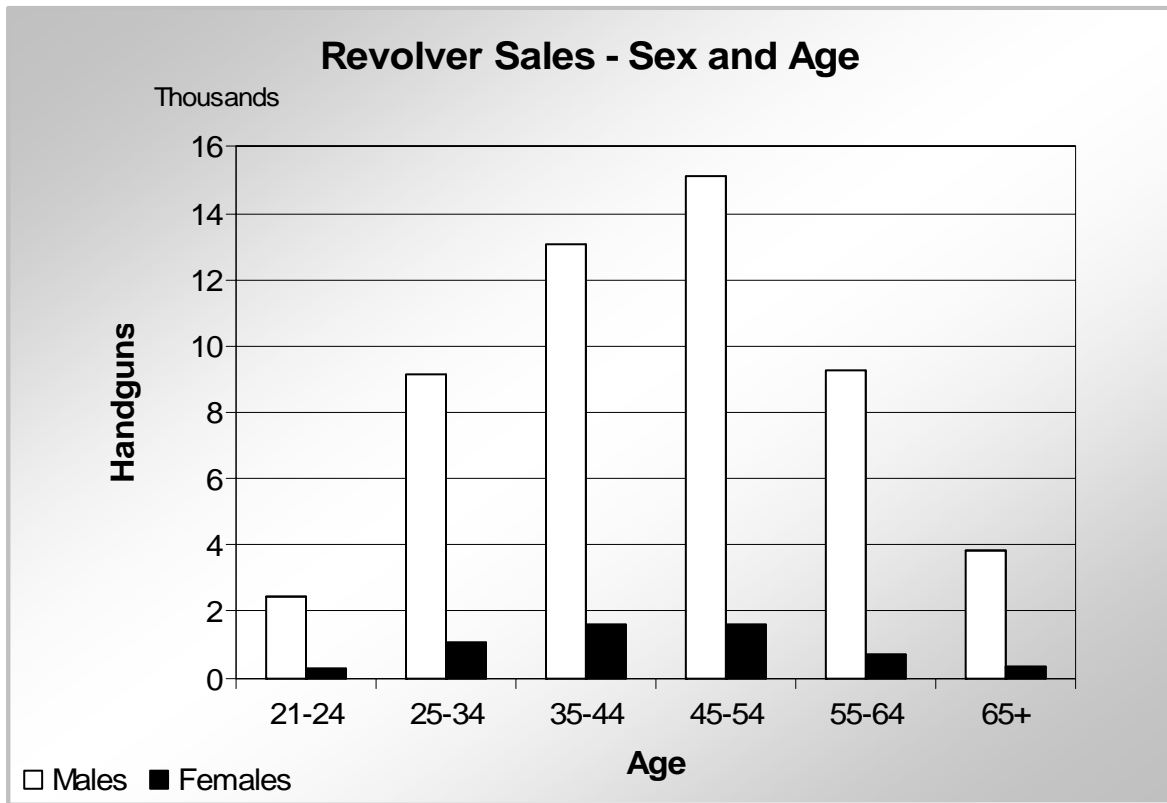
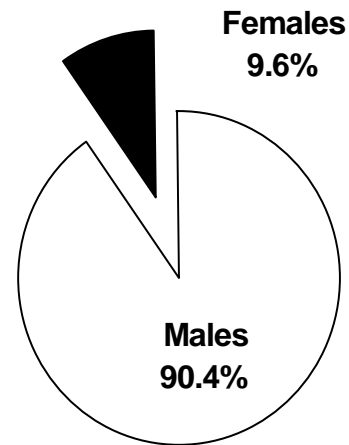
Percent of Handgun Sales: 30.3

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	8,594	14.7
Medium	13,987	23.9
Large	35,909	61.3
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	19,061	32.5
Long	39,449	67.4
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	46,770	79.9
Import	11,800	20.2

Revolver Sales - Sex and Age

Of 58,570 revolvers sold, 52,948 (90.4%) were sold to males and 5,621 (9.6%) to females. More revolvers (28.6%) were sold to persons ages 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	2,734	4.7
25-34	10,227	17.5
35-44	14,691	25.1
45-54	16,740	28.6
55-64	9,992	17.1
65+	4,184	7.1



Derringers

Derringers made up less than one percent of handgun sales in California in 2000. Nearly half of derringers (41.8%) were of small caliber. Nearly all had short barrels (89.7%) and were manufactured in the United States (96.6%). See page 4 for a description of a derringer and page 9 for an example.

Total: 1,305

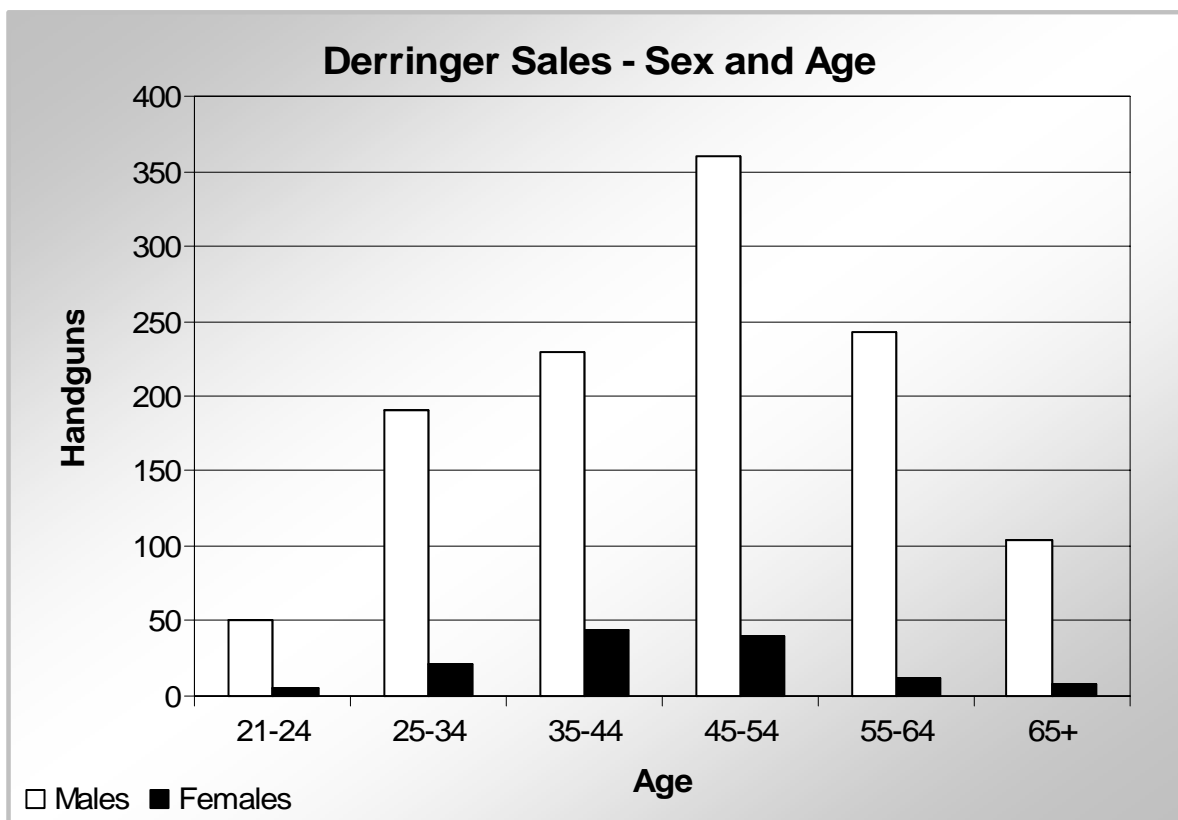
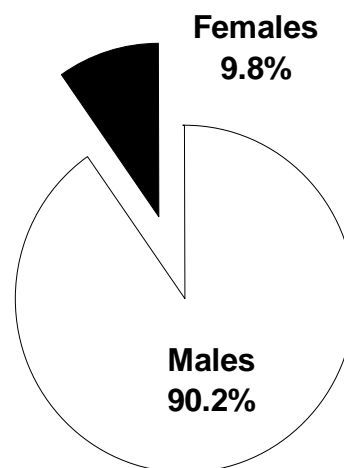
Percent of Handgun Sales: 0.7

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	546	41.8
Medium	408	31.3
Large	349	26.7
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	1,170	89.7
Long	133	10.2
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	1,261	96.6
Import	44	3.4

Derringer Sales - Sex and Age

Of 1,305 derringers sold, 1,177 (90.2%) were sold to males and 128 (9.8%) to females. More derringers (30.7%) were sold to persons ages 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	55	4.2
25-34	212	16.3
35-44	273	20.9
45-54	400	30.7
55-64	254	19.5
65+	111	8.5



Other Handguns

This category includes single-shot and bolt-action handguns. These handguns were typically of large caliber (47.8%), had long barrels (63.3%), and were manufactured in the United States (94.8%).

Total: 1,319

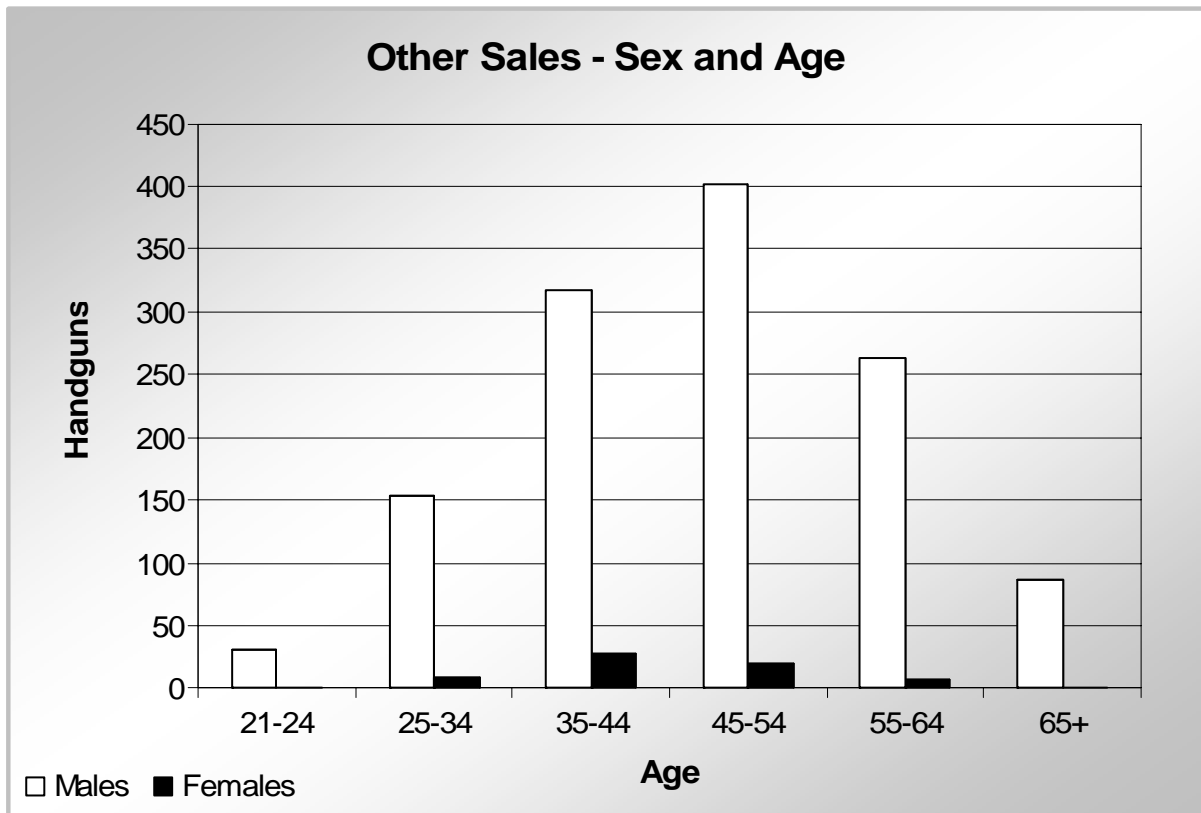
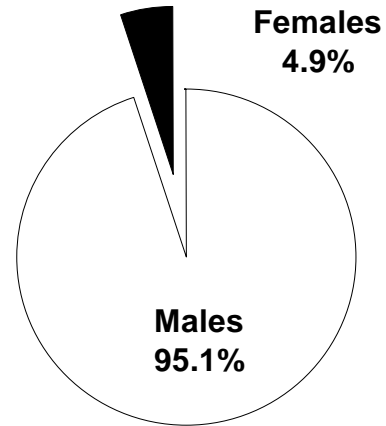
Percent of Handgun Sales: 0.7

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	219	16.6
Medium	12	0.9
Large	630	47.8
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	42	3.2
Long	835	63.3
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	1,251	94.8
Import	68	5.2

Other Sales - Sex and Age

Of 1,319 other handguns sold, 1,254 (95.1%) were sold to males and 65 (4.9%) to females. More of these handguns (31.9%) were sold to persons ages 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	31	2.4
25-34	163	12.4
35-44	346	26.2
45-54	421	31.9
55-64	270	20.5
65+	88	6.7



Small-Caliber Handguns

Small caliber includes calibers such as .22, .25, and .32. Small-caliber handguns made up 17.0% of sales and were typically pistols (71.6%). Many small-caliber handguns had short barrels (43.9%). Only 13.2% were manufactured outside the United States.

Total: 32,979

Percent of Handgun Sales: 17.0

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pistol	23,619	71.6
Revolver	8,594	26.1
Derringer	546	1.7
Other	219	0.7

Barrel Length

Short	14,472	43.9
Long	18,507	56.1

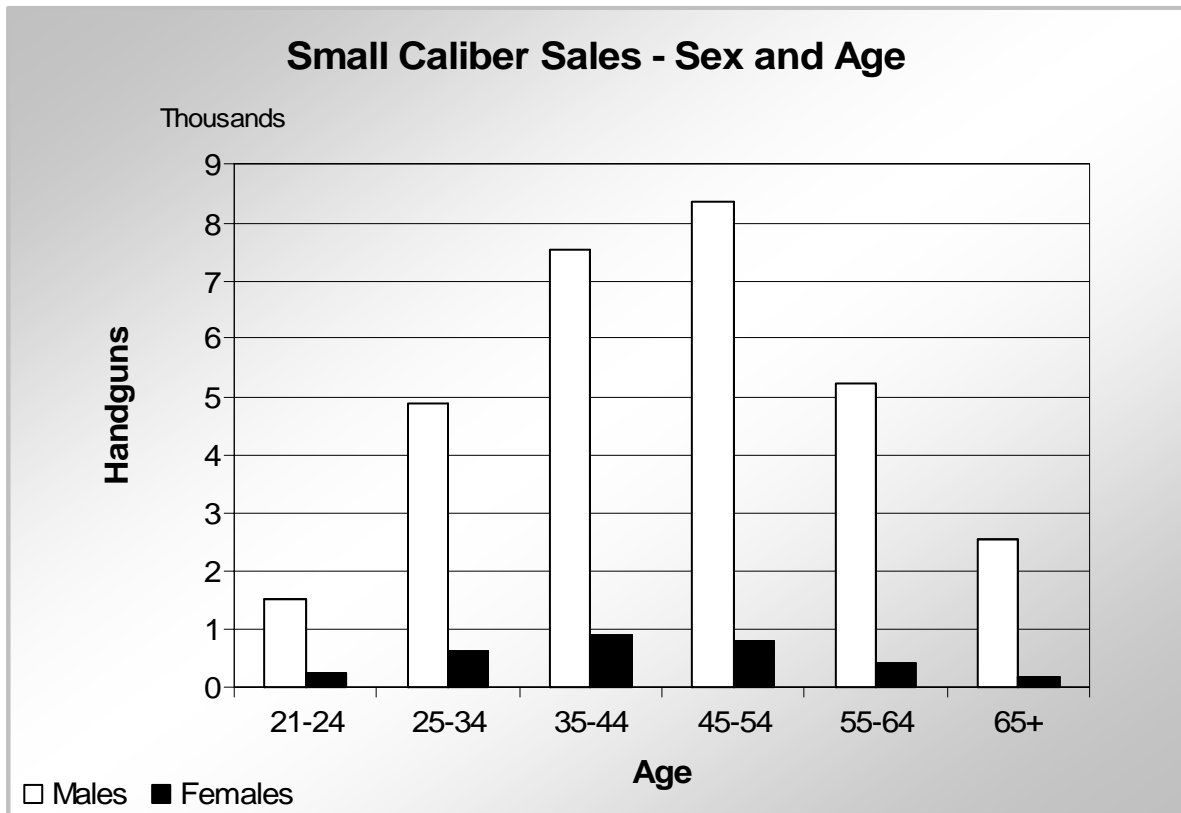
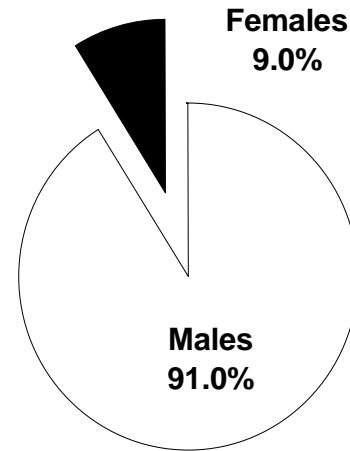
Country of Origin

U.S.	28,611	86.8
Import	4,368	13.2

Small-Caliber Sales - Sex and Age

Of 32,979 small-caliber handguns sold, 29,998 (91.0%) were sold to males and 2,981 (9.0%) to females. More small-caliber handguns (27.7%) were sold to persons ages 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	1,740	5.3
25-34	5,462	16.6
35-44	8,381	25.4
45-54	9,125	27.7
55-64	5,601	17.0
65+	2,670	8.1



Medium-Caliber Handguns

Medium caliber includes calibers such as .38, .380, and 9mm. Medium-caliber handguns made up 33.4% of sales and were typically pistols (77.7%). Nearly three-fourths had long barrels. Over 40% were manufactured outside the United States.

Total: 64,581

Percent of Handgun Sales: 33.4

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	50,174	77.7
Revolver	13,987	21.7
Derringer	408	0.6
Other	12	<0.1

Barrel Length

Short	16,830	26.1
Long	47,750	73.9

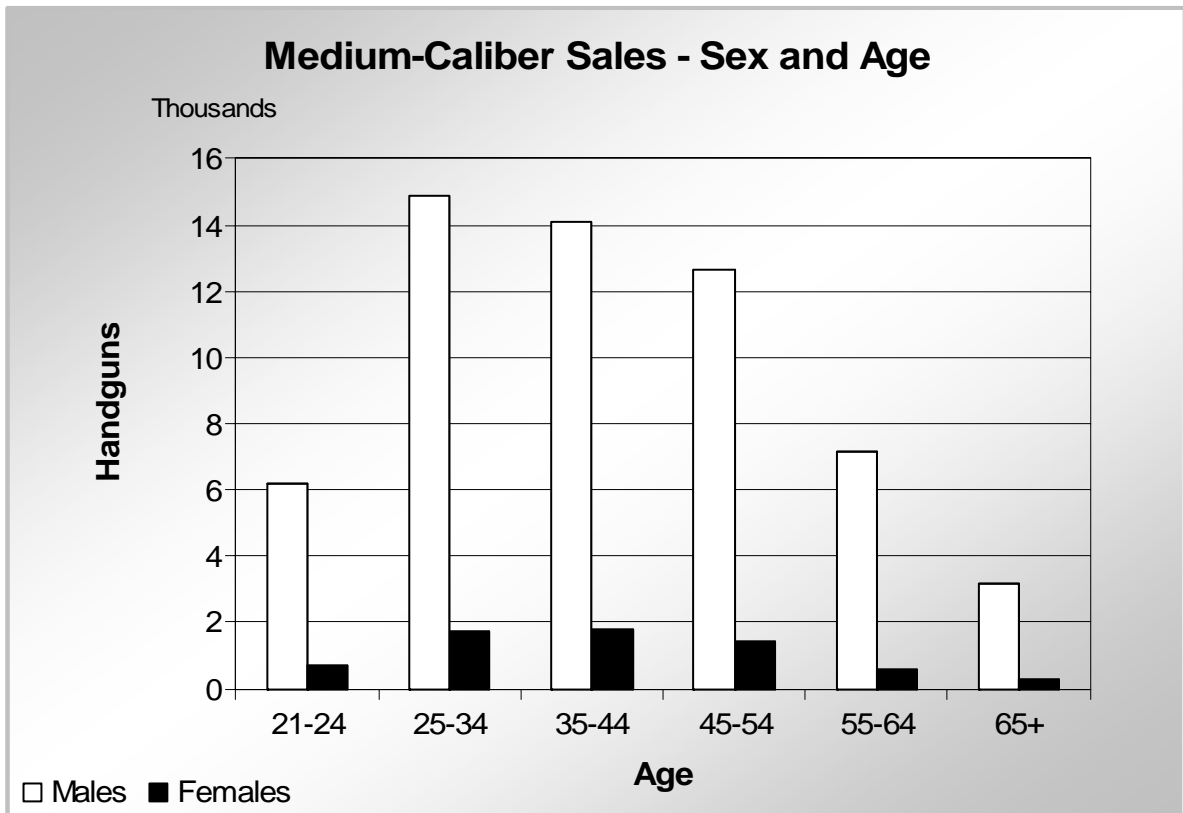
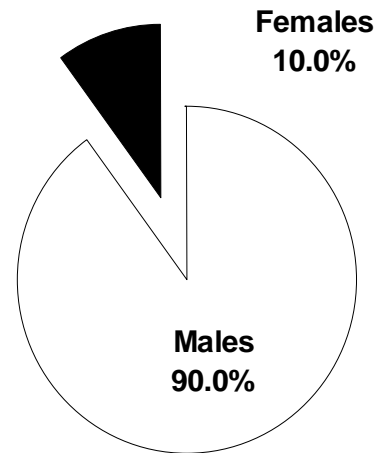
Country of Origin

U.S.	36,195	56.1
Import	28,386	44.0

Medium-Caliber Sales - Sex and Age

Of 64,581 medium-caliber handguns sold, 58,137 (90.0%) were sold to males and 6,443 (10.0%) to females. More medium-caliber handguns were sold to persons ages 25-34 and 35-44 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	6,889	10.7
25-34	16,561	25.6
35-44	15,912	24.6
45-54	14,083	21.8
55-64	7,737	12.0
65+	3,396	5.3



Large-Caliber Handguns

Large caliber includes calibers such as .357, .40, .44, .45, and .50. Large-caliber handguns made up 48.6% of sales, were less likely than other handguns to be pistols (60.8%), and were least likely to have short barrels (11.1%). Nearly 40% were manufactured outside the United States.

Total: 94,024

Percent of Handgun Sales: 48.6

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pistol	57,133	60.8
Revolver	35,909	38.2
Derringer	349	0.4
Other	630	0.7

Barrel Length

Short	10,388	11.1
Long	83,632	89.0

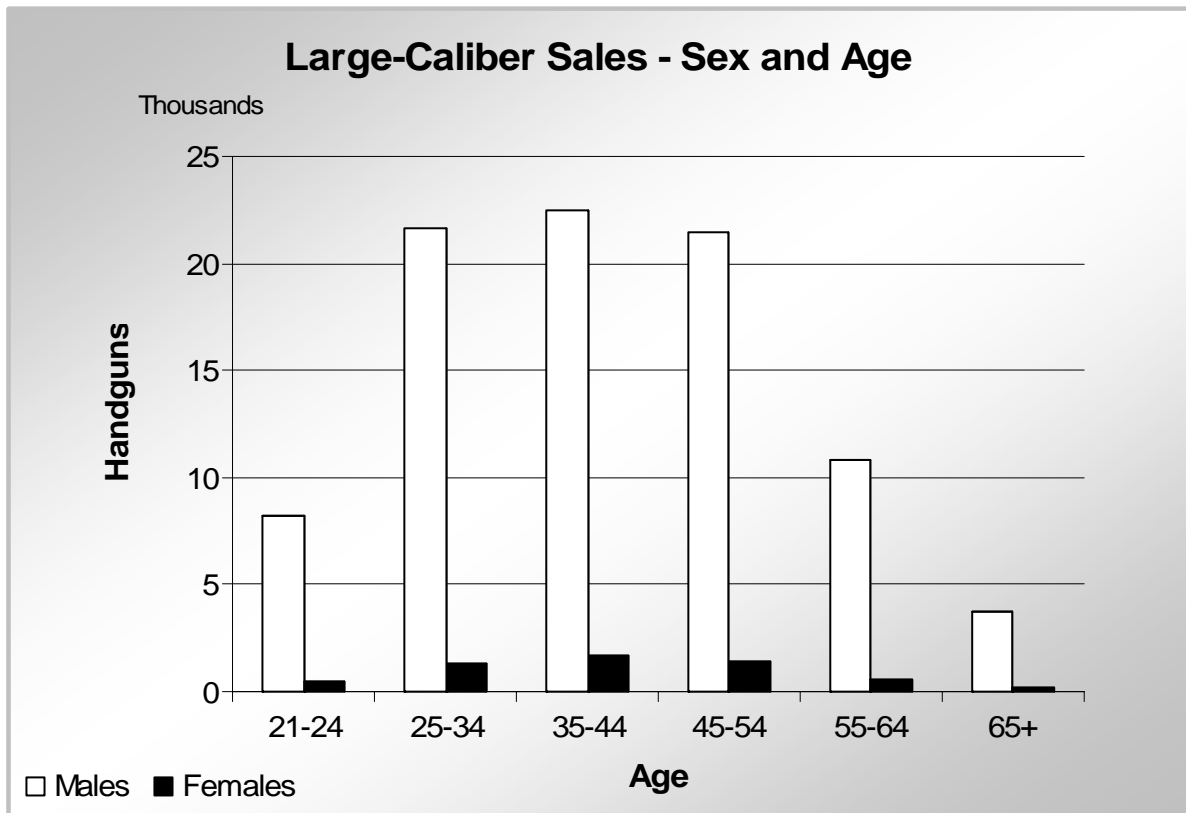
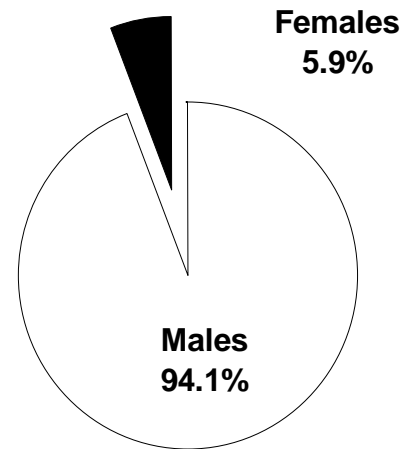
Country of Origin

U.S.	57,171	60.8
Import	36,853	39.2

Large-Caliber Sales - Sex and Age

Of 94,024 large-caliber handguns sold, 88,452 (94.1%) were sold to males and 5,570 (5.9%) to females. More large-caliber handguns were sold to persons ages 25-34, 35-44, and 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	8,639	9.2
25-34	23,026	24.5
35-44	24,184	25.7
45-54	22,896	24.4
55-64	11,379	12.1
65+	3,894	4.1



Short-Barrel Handguns

Short barrels are less than or equal to three inches long. Short-barrel handguns made up 21.6% of handgun sales. Over half (51.4%) of short-barrel handguns were pistols, and 34.7% were of small caliber. One quarter (25.8%) of short-barrel handguns were manufactured outside the United States.

Total: 41,697

Percent of Handgun Sales: 21.6

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	21,424	51.4
Revolver	19,061	45.7
Derringer	1,170	2.8
Other	42	0.1

Caliber

Small	14,472	34.7
Medium	16,830	40.4
Large	10,388	24.9

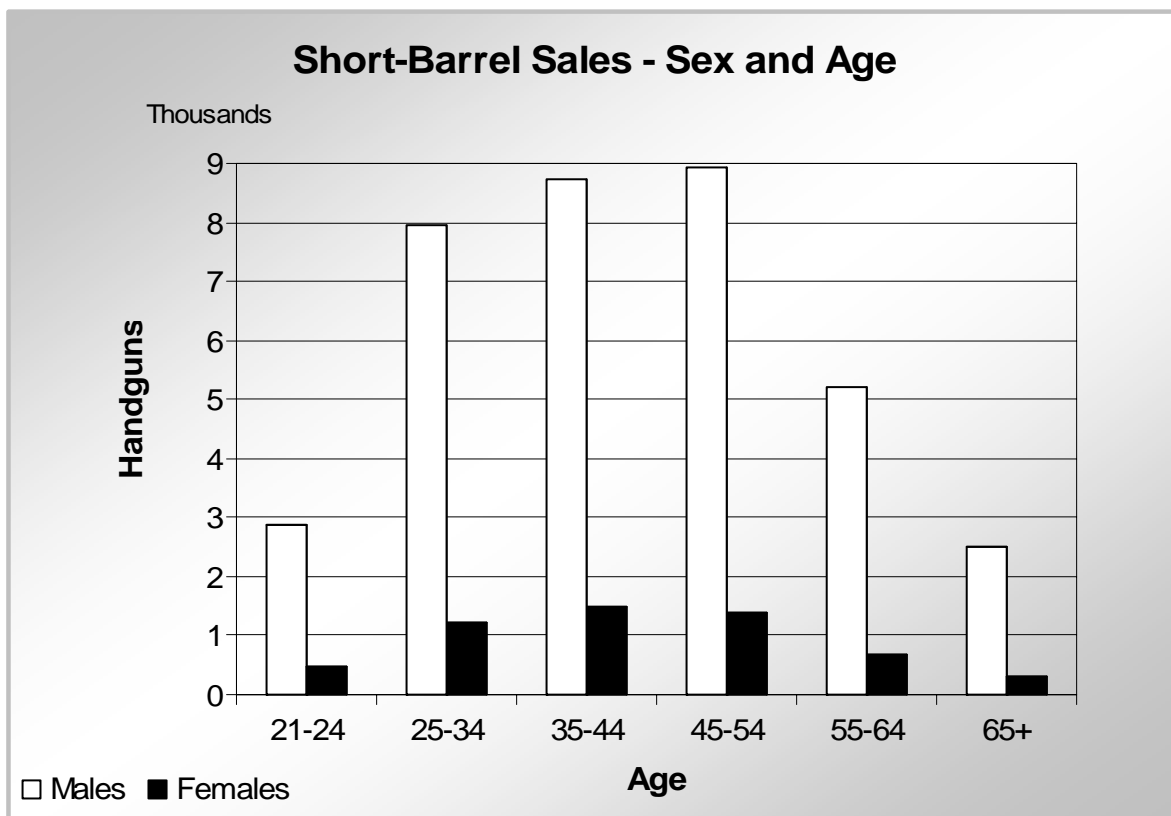
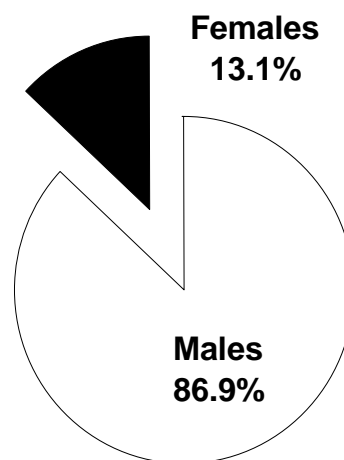
Country of Origin

U.S.	30,952	74.2
Import	10,745	25.8

Short-Barrel Sales - Sex and Age

Of 41,697 short-barrel handguns sold, 36,239 (86.9%) were sold to males and 5,458 (13.1%) to females. More short-barrel handguns were sold to persons ages 35-44 and 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	3,335	8.0
25-34	9,156	22.0
35-44	10,213	24.5
45-54	10,330	24.8
55-64	5,863	14.1
65+	2,800	6.7



Long-Barrel Handguns

Long barrels are greater than three inches long. Nearly three-fourths (73.0%) of long-barrel handguns were pistols and 55.8% were of large caliber. Nearly 40% of long-barrel handguns were manufactured outside the United States.

Total: 149,939

Percent of Handgun Sales: 77.5

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pistol	109,518	73.0
Revolver	39,449	26.3
Derringer	133	0.1
Other	835	0.6

Caliber

Small	18,507	12.3
Medium	47,750	31.9
Large	83,632	55.8

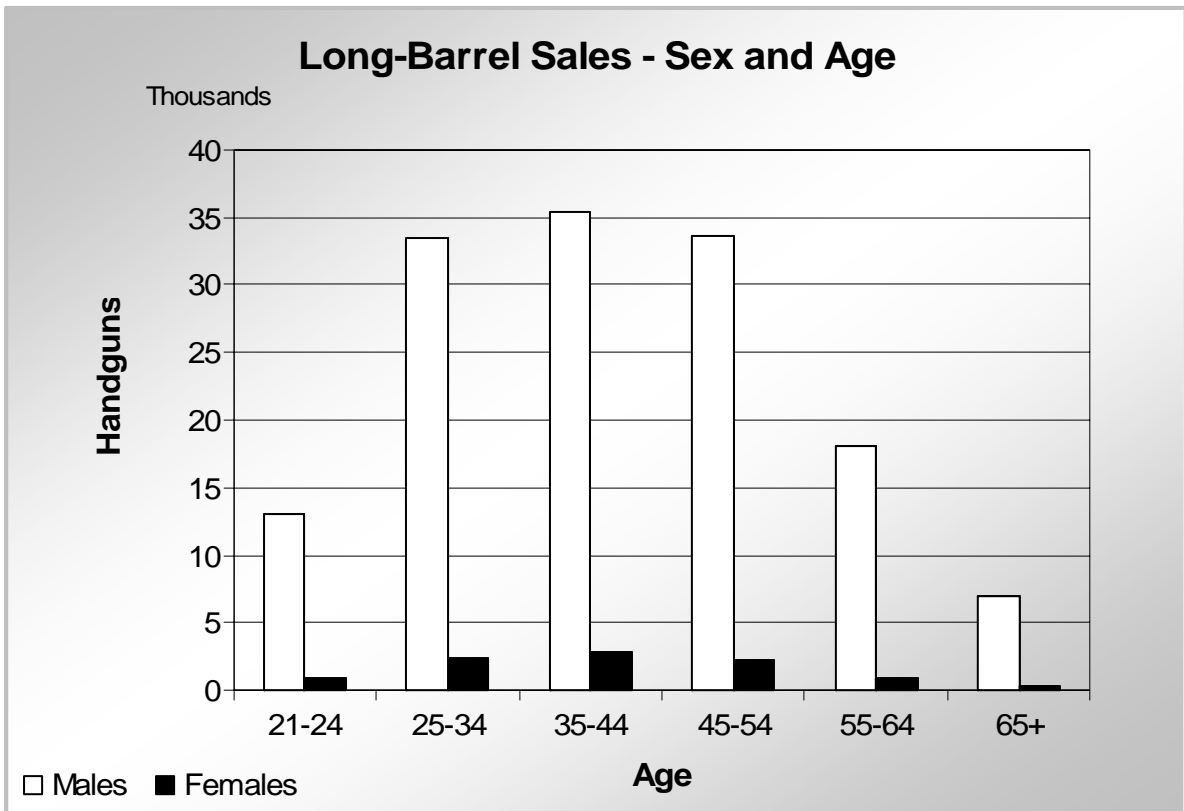
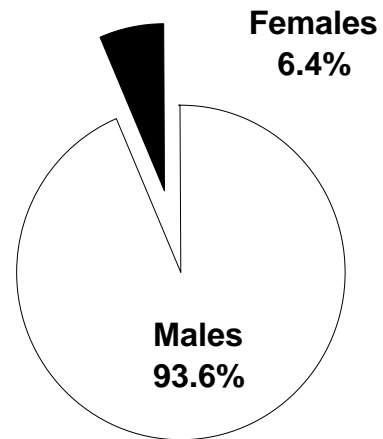
Country of Origin

U.S.	91,056	60.7
Import	58,883	39.3

Long-Barrel Sales - Sex and Age

Of 149,939 long-barrel handguns sold, 140,395 (93.6%) were sold to males and 9,541 (6.4%) to females. More long-barrel handguns were sold to persons 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	13,935	9.3
25-34	35,904	24.0
35-44	38,274	25.5
45-54	35,790	23.9
55-64	18,865	12.6
65+	7,162	4.8



U.S. Handguns

Handguns manufactured in the United States made up 63.9% of handguns sold in California in 2000. Over one-third (37.8%) of these handguns were revolvers, nearly half (46.2%) were of large caliber, and 73.6% had long barrels.

Total: 123,691

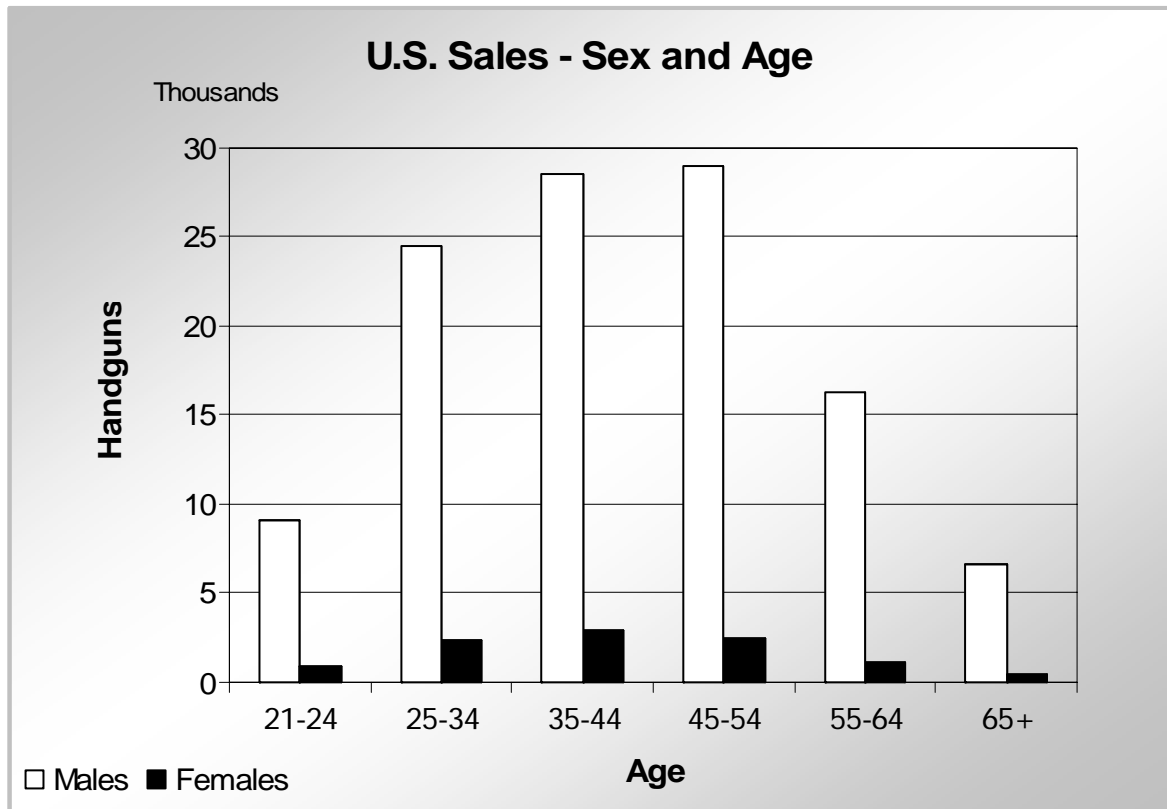
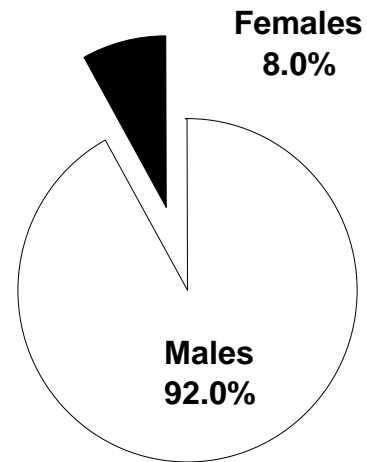
Percent of Handgun Sales: 63.9

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	74,406	60.2
Revolver	46,770	37.8
Derringer	1,261	1.0
Other	1,251	1.0
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	28,611	23.1
Medium	36,195	29.3
Large	57,171	46.2
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	30,952	25.0
Long	91,056	73.6

U.S. Sales - Sex and Age

Of 123,691 U.S.-manufactured handguns sold, 113,796 (92.0%) were sold to males and 9,893 (8.0%) to females. More U.S.-manufactured handguns were sold to persons ages 35-44 and 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	9,886	8.0
25-34	26,801	21.7
35-44	31,340	25.3
45-54	31,419	25.4
55-64	17,243	13.9
65+	6,996	5.7



Imported Handguns

Handguns manufactured outside the United States are subject to design restrictions that are not applied to handguns made in this country. Imported handguns made up 36.1% of California handgun sales in 2000. Most (82.9%) were pistols. More than half (52.8%) were of large caliber.

Total: 69,798

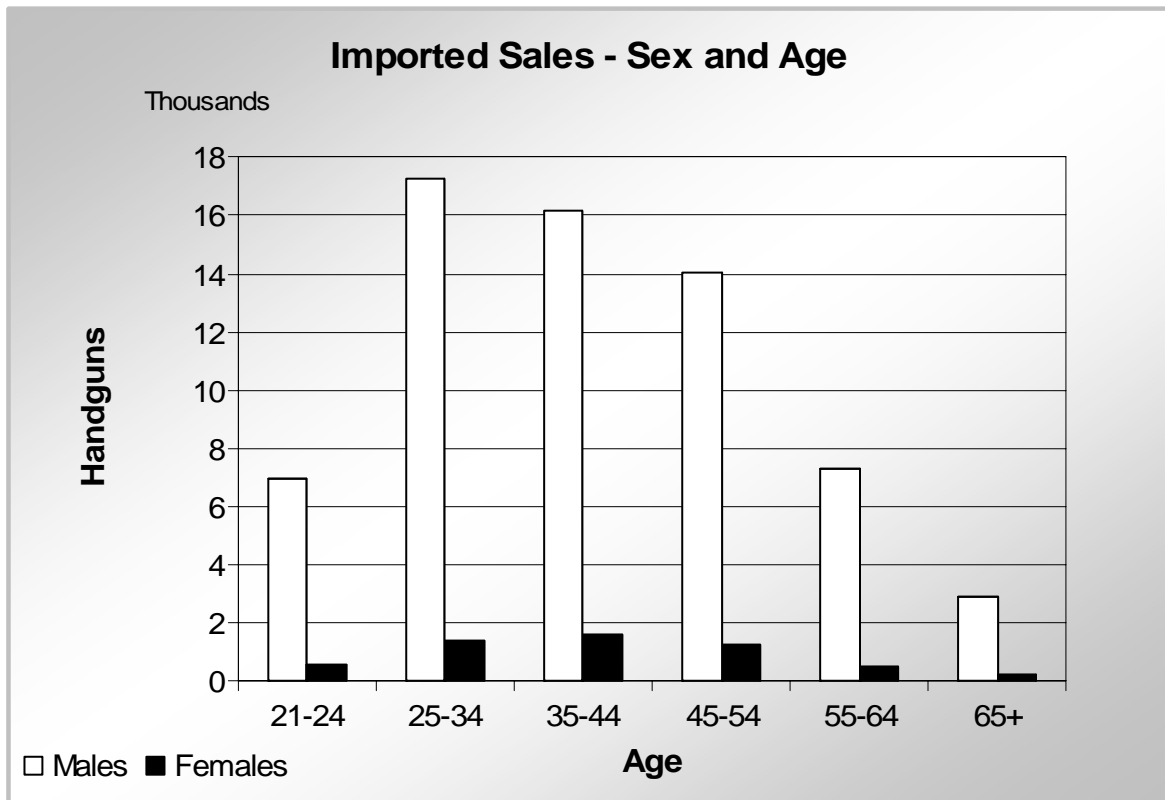
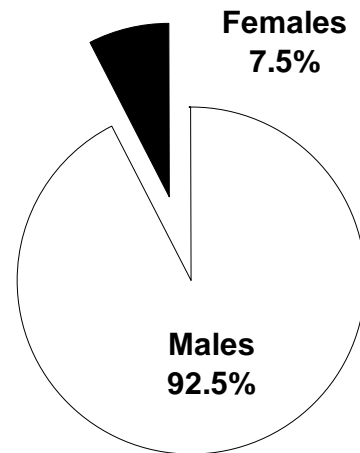
Percent of Handgun Sales: 36.1

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	57,885	82.9
Revolver	11,800	16.9
Derringer	44	0.1
Other	68	0.1
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	4,368	6.3
Medium	28,386	40.7
Large	36,853	52.8
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	10,745	15.4
Long	58,883	84.4

Imported Sales - Sex and Age

Of 69,798 imported handguns sold, 64,578 (92.5%) were sold to males and 5,219 (7.5%) to females. More imported handguns (26.6%) were sold to persons ages 25-34 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I and II for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	7,455	10.7
25-34	18,588	26.6
35-44	17,689	25.3
45-54	15,258	21.9
55-64	7,759	11.1
65+	3,046	4.4



Gun Show Handguns

The 5,353 handguns sold at gun shows accounted for 2.8% of all handgun sales in California in 2000. Pistols made up the majority of handguns sold at gun shows (69.4%). These guns were most often of large caliber (41.9%) and most had long barrels (75.9%).

Total: 5,353

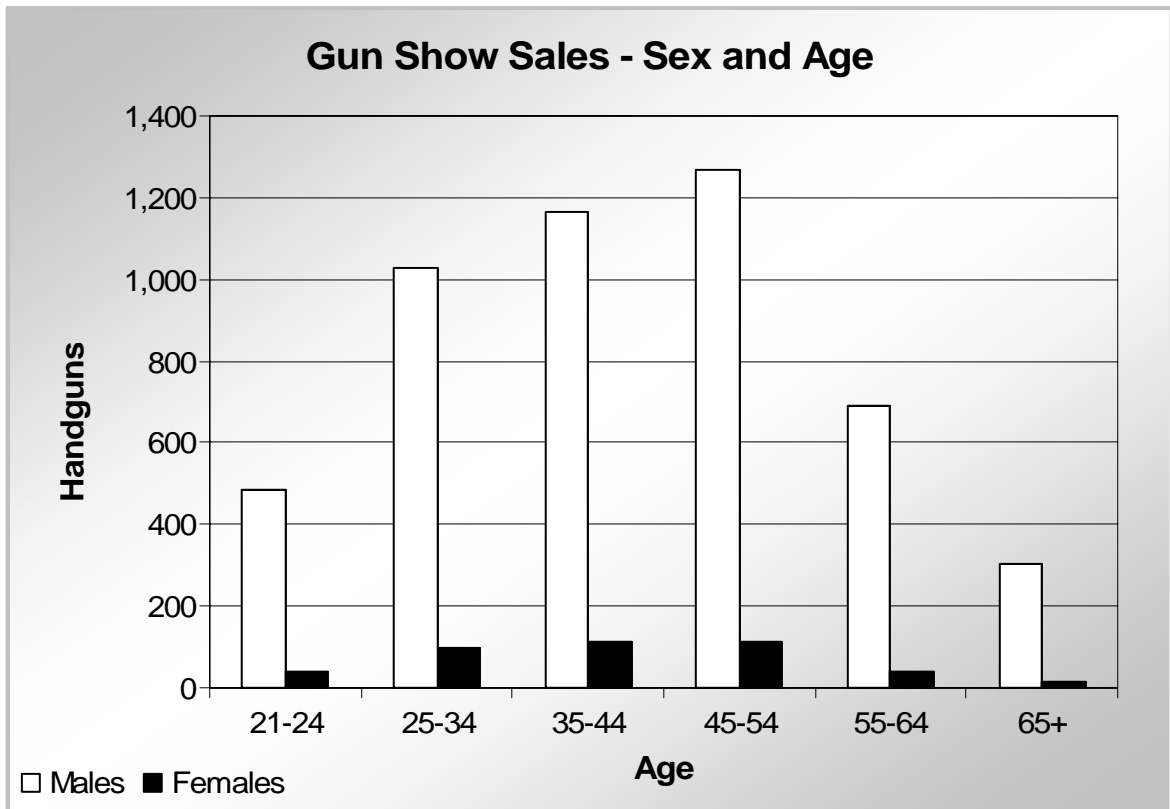
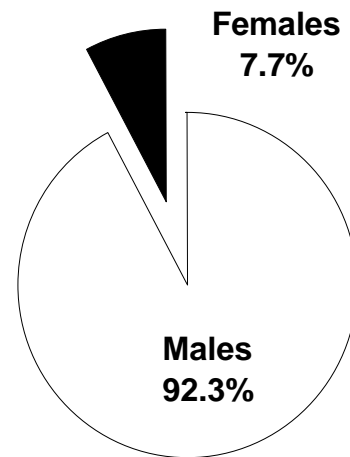
Percent of Handgun Sales: 2.8

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	3,715	69.4
Revolver	1,521	28.4
Derringer	54	1.0
Other	63	1.2
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	1,104	20.6
Medium	1,967	36.8
Large	2,242	41.9
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	1,254	23.4
Long	4,060	75.9
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	3,519	65.7
Import	1,834	34.3

Gun Show Sales - Sex and Age

Of 5,353 handguns sold at gun shows, 4,941 (92.3%) were sold to males and 412 (7.7%) to females. More handguns sold at gun shows (25.9%) were sold to persons ages 45-54 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I for additional details.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	524	10.0
25-34	1,127	21.1
35-44	1,276	23.8
45-54	1,384	25.9
55-64	727	13.6
65+	315	5.9



Private Party Handguns

The 17,261 private party transfers accounted for 8.9% of all handguns sold in California in 2000. These handguns were most frequently pistols (70.0%), of large caliber (48.2%), and had long barrels (82.3%).

Total: 17,261

Percent of Handgun Sales: 8.9

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Type</u>		
Pistol	12,081	70.0
Revolver	4,974	28.8
Derringer	103	0.6
Other	103	0.6
<u>Caliber</u>		
Small	1,923	11.1
Medium	6,923	40.1
Large	8,320	48.2
<u>Barrel Length</u>		
Short	2,960	17.2
Long	14,211	82.3
<u>Country of Origin</u>		
U.S.	10,866	63.0
Import	6,395	37.1

Private Party Sales - Sex and Age

Of 17,261 private party handgun sales, 16,111 (93.3%) were sold to males and 1,150 (6.7%) to females. More private party sales (26.7%) were to persons ages 25-34 than to persons of other ages. See Appendix I for additional details

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	1,552	9.0
25-34	4,609	26.7
35-44	4,387	25.4
45-54	3,783	21.9
55-64	2,208	12.8
65+	722	4.2

