

Handgun Purchasers

Handgun purchasers must be legal residents of California and be age 21 or older. They must also pass a background check and a safety course.

In 2000, 134,227 Californians purchased 193,489 handguns. The vast majority (90.9%) of these handgun purchasers were male, and more than half (50.4%) were ages 25-34 or 35-44. Most purchasers (77.3%) bought only one handgun; the 22.8% of purchasers who bought more than one handgun accounted for 46.4% of all handguns sold (see pages 72 and 73).

A total of 103,743 people bought one handgun in 2000. Most of these handgun purchasers were male (89.9%), and they were most commonly ages 25-34 (26.3%, see page 72).

A total of 30,484 people bought at least two and as many as 225 handguns in 2000; they bought 89,746 handguns in total. Most of these purchasers were male (94.3%), and they were most commonly ages 35-44 (26.3%, see page 73).

There were 2,031 people who bought more than five handguns in 2000. They accounted for only 1.6% of all purchasers but bought 9.5% of all handguns sold: a total of 18,383 handguns (see page 70).

For male handgun purchasers, those who were 35-44 years old were most likely to buy more than one handgun (26.3%); those 65+ years old were least likely (4.7%). For female handgun purchasers there was little relationship between age and number of handguns purchased (see page 74).

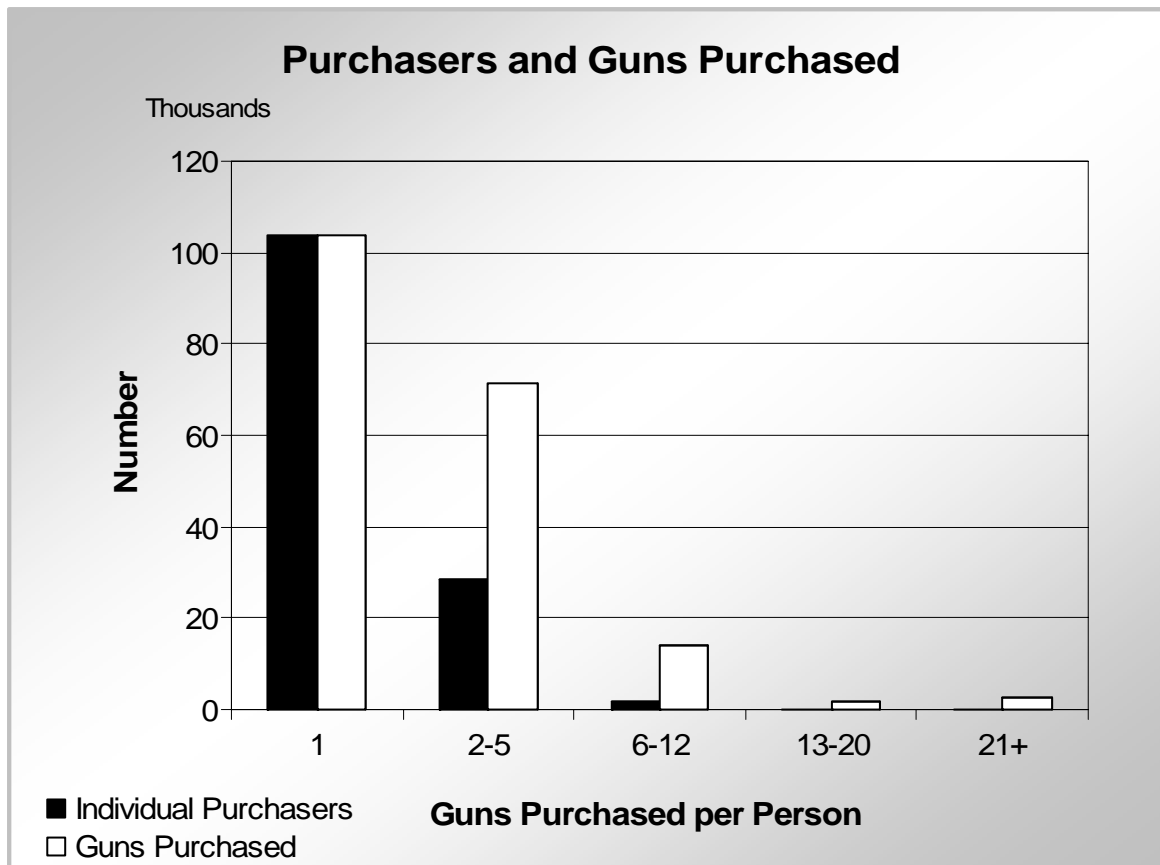
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Purchasers and Guns Purchased

Of 134,227 individuals who purchased handguns, 103,743 (77.3%) bought one handgun and accounted for 53.6% of handguns sold. The 30,484 purchasers (22.8%) who bought more than one handgun accounted for 46.4% of all handguns sold.

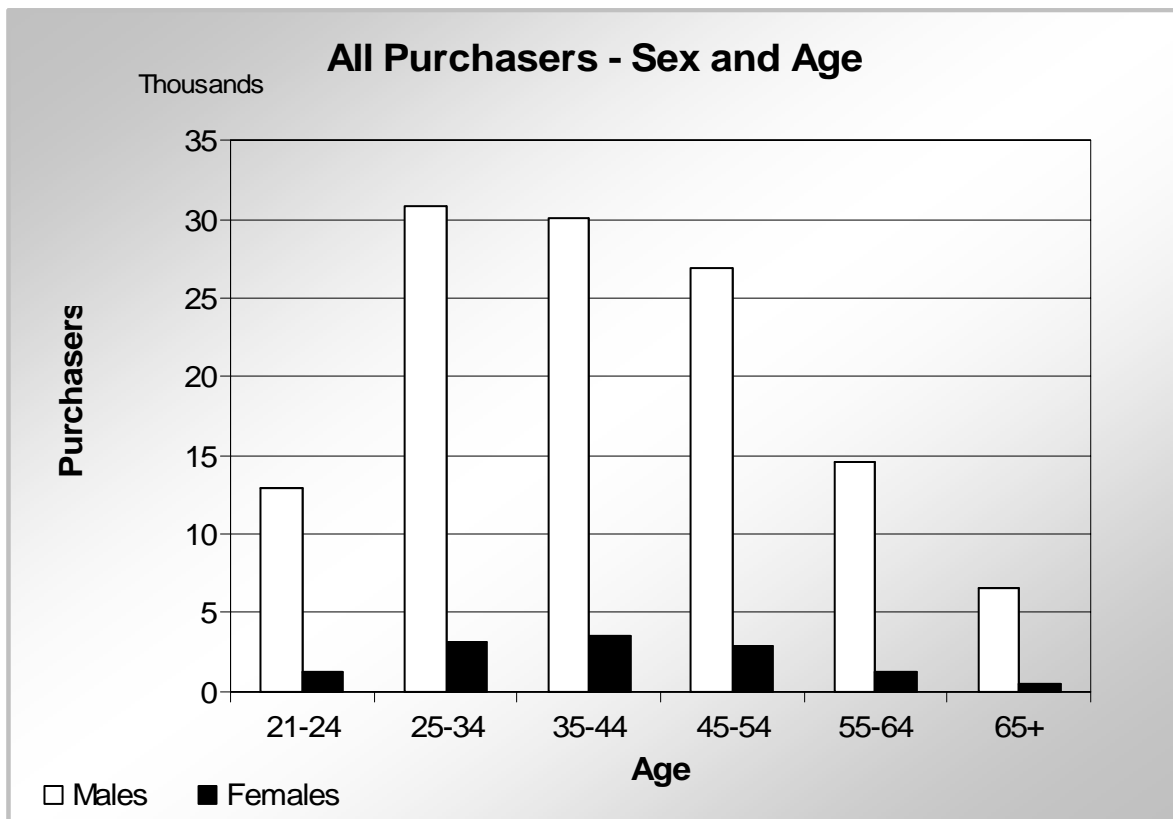
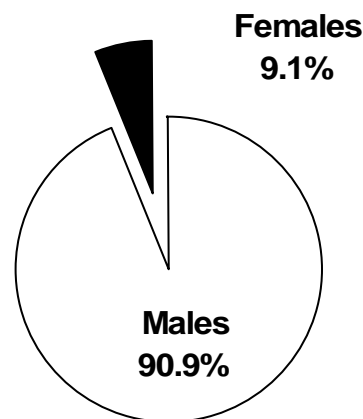
Number of Guns Purchased	Purchasers		Total Guns Purchased	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	103,743	77.3	103,743	53.6
2-5	28,453	21.2	71,363	36.9
6-12	1,855	1.4	14,053	7.3
13-20	103	0.1	1,561	0.8
21+	73	0.1	2,769	1.4



All Purchasers - Sex and Age

Of 134,227 handgun purchasers, 121,982 (90.9%) were male and 12,242 (9.1%) were female. More persons ages 25-34 and 35-44 purchased handguns than did persons of other ages.

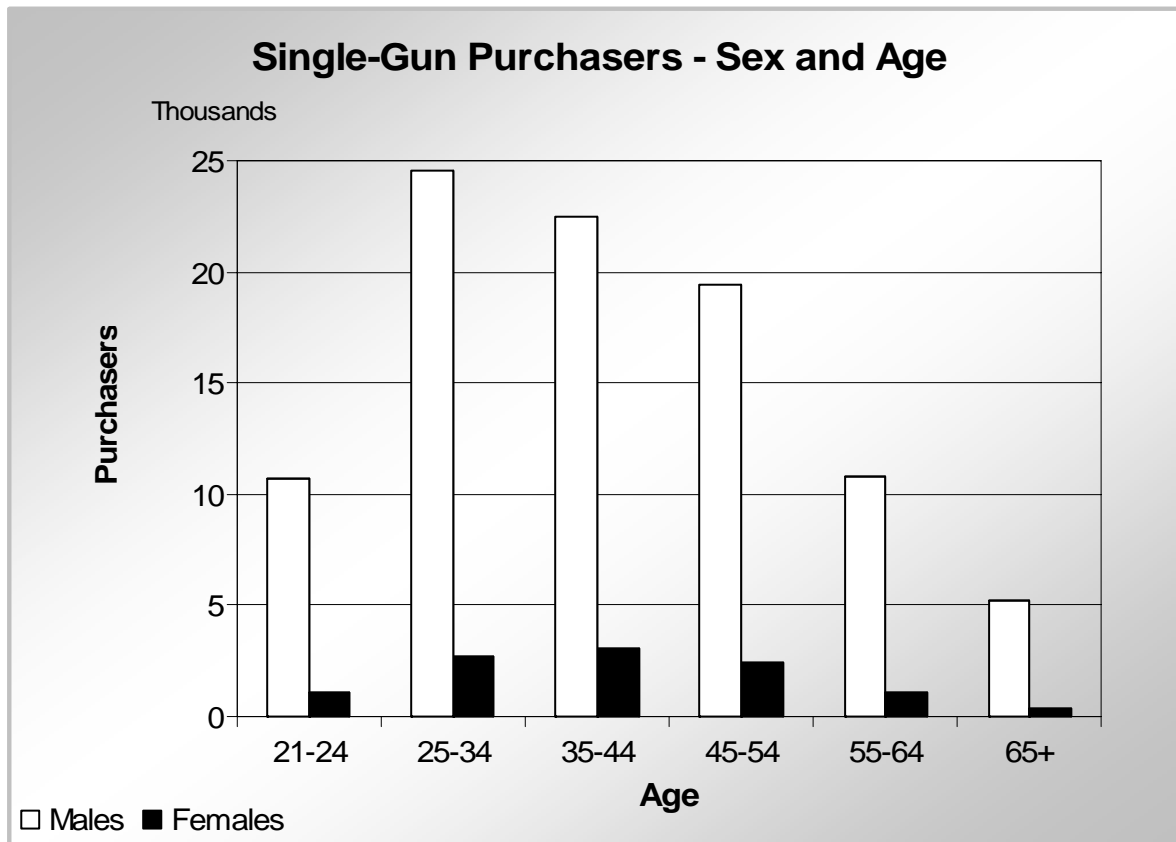
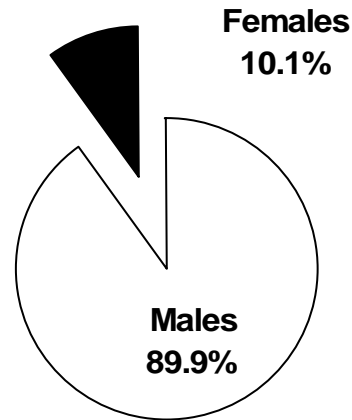
<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	14,118	10.5
25-34	34,000	25.3
35-44	33,584	25.0
45-54	29,808	22.2
55-64	15,750	11.7
65+	6,963	5.2



Single-Gun Purchasers - Sex and Age

Of 103,740 purchasers of one handgun, 93,239 (89.9%) were male and 10,501 (10.1%) were female. More purchases of one handgun were made by persons ages 25-34 (26.3%) than by persons of other ages.

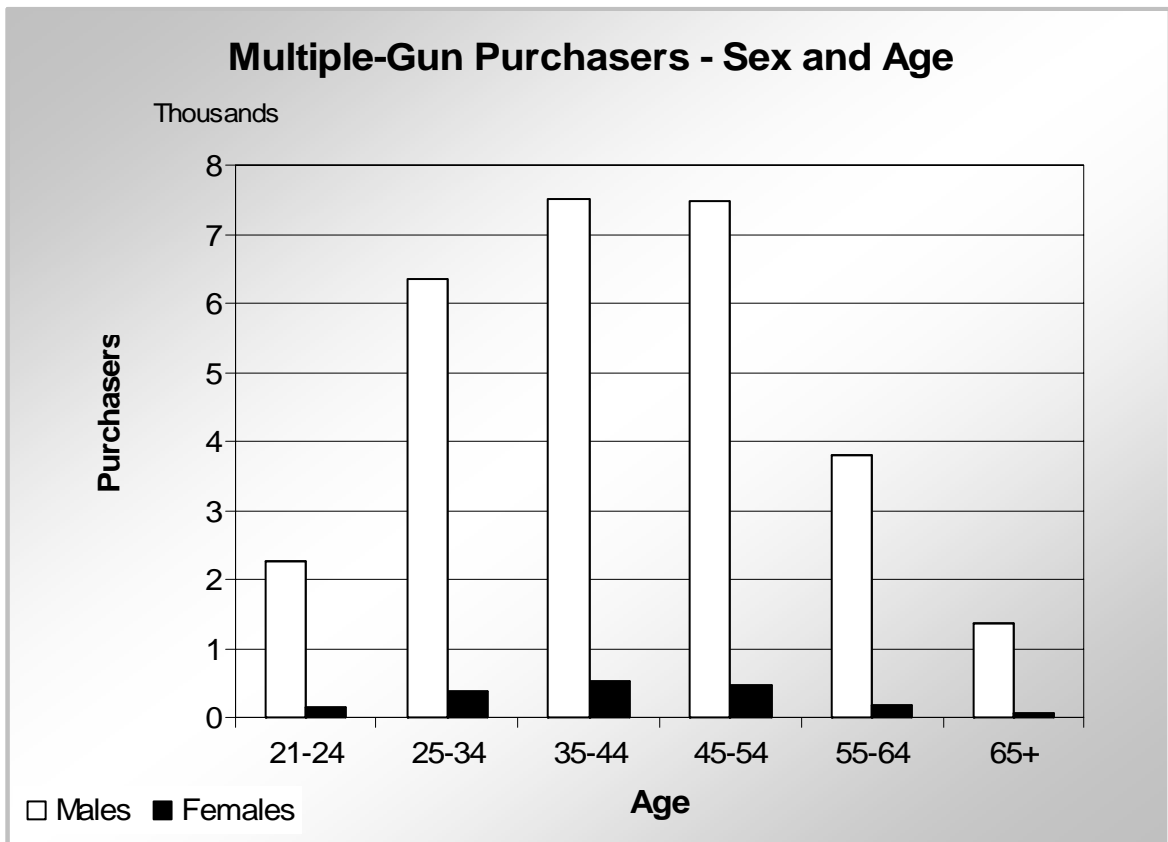
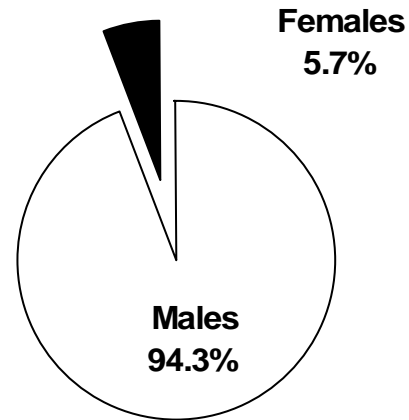
<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	11,725	11.3
25-34	27,266	26.3
35-44	25,574	24.7
45-54	21,863	21.1
55-64	11,793	11.4
65+	5,519	5.3



Multiple-Gun Purchasers - Sex and Age

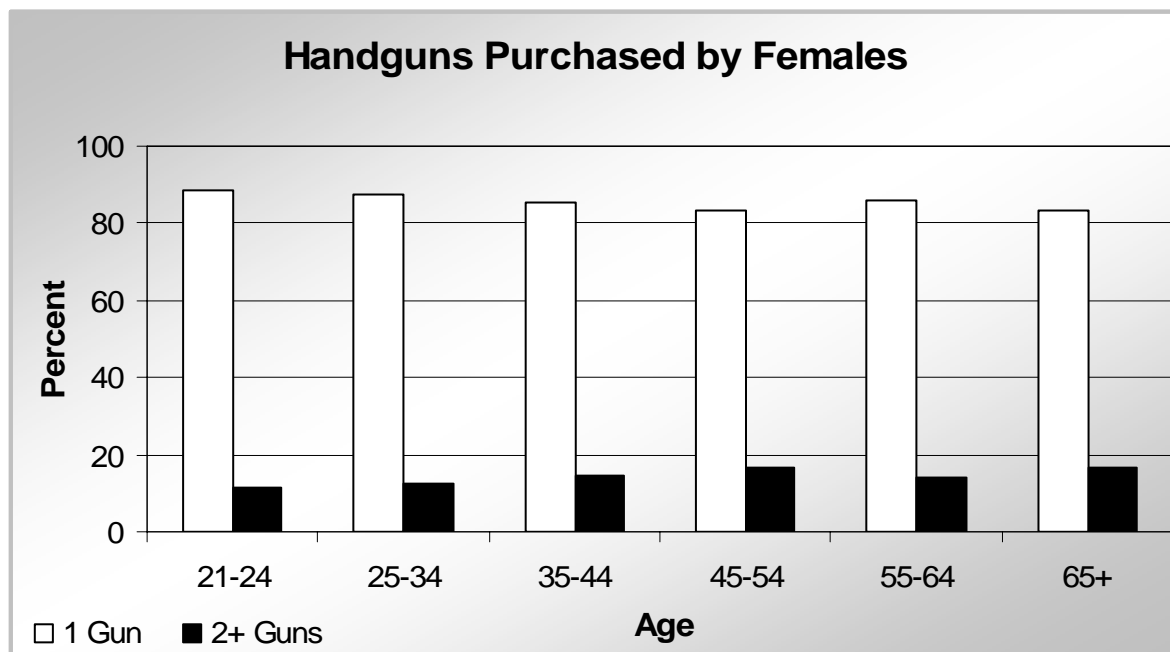
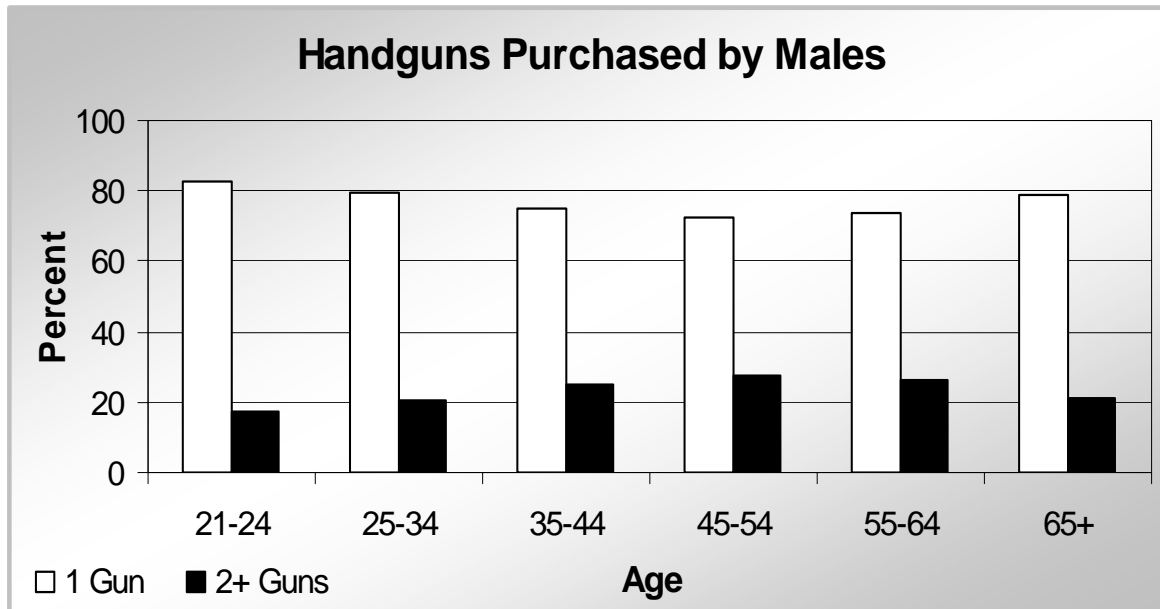
Of 30,484 purchasers of two or more handguns, 28,743 (94.3%) were male and 1,741 (5.7%) were female. More purchases of two or more handguns were made by persons ages 35-44 and 45-54 than by persons of other ages.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	2,393	7.9
25-34	6,734	22.1
35-44	8,010	26.3
45-54	7,945	26.1
55-64	3,957	13.0
65+	1,444	4.7



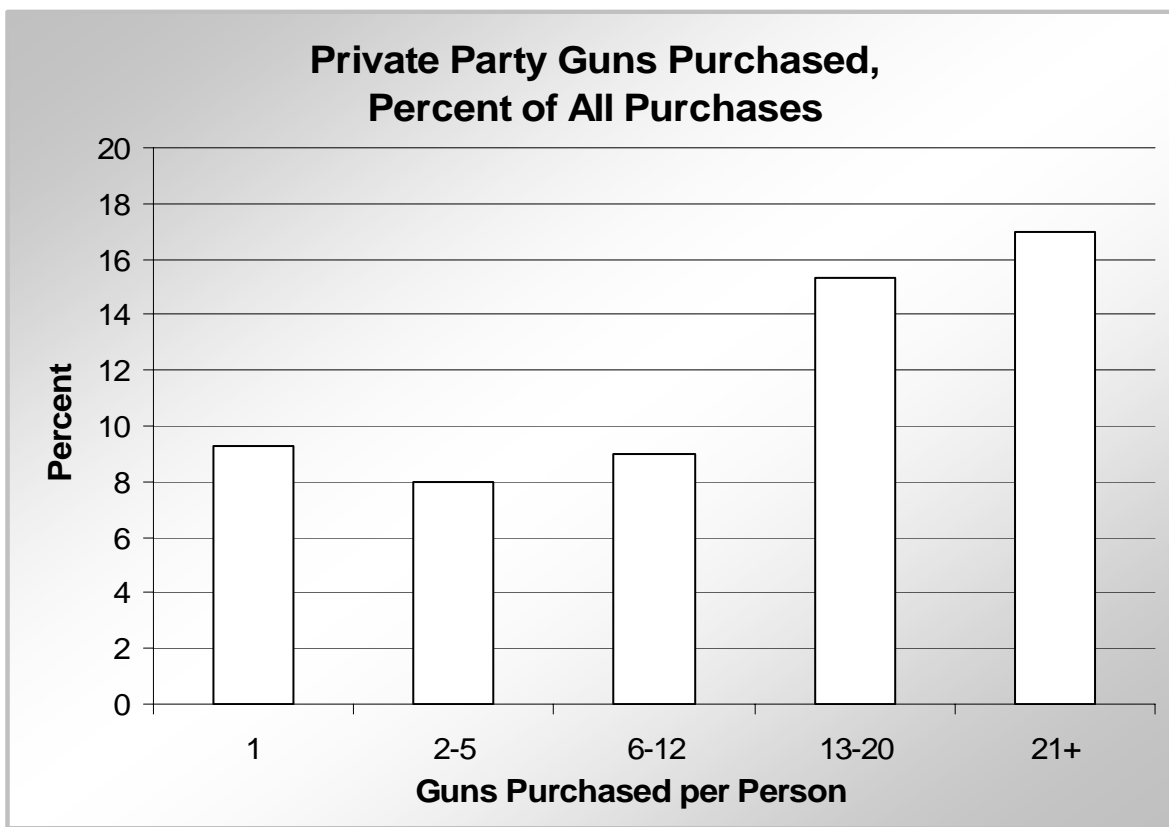
Handguns Purchased by Sex and Age

The proportion of purchasers who bought more than one handgun varied somewhat with age among males and was highest (27.7%) for those ages 45-54. There was little variation among females.



Private Party and Total Purchases

Private party purchases made up less than 10% of all guns purchased by persons who purchased 1, 2-5, or 6-12 handguns, but at least 15% for persons who purchased 13 or more handguns.



Firearm Licensees

Under federal law, a license is required to engage in the business of manufacturing, importing, distributing, or selling firearms or ammunition. California law also requires a state license. This report provides information on the 1,936 firearm licensees who reported handgun sales in 2000. (As of September 1999, there were 6,406 federal firearm licensees in California, including 4,005 gun dealers and 286 pawnbrokers.)

The majority of licensees are in the urban counties of Southern California and the San Francisco Bay area (see page 78; Los Angeles County ranked first with 273 licensees), but the highest numbers of licensees on a per capita basis are found in rural counties (see page 79); Alpine County ranked first with 115.5 licensees per 1,000 persons ages 21 and older.

Gun dealers accounted for 86.2% of licensees and 86.7% of handgun sales; pawnbrokers accounted for 11.7% of licensees and 9.8% of handgun sales (see page 80). Handgun sales were concentrated among relatively few retailers (gun dealers and pawnbrokers). The 94 retailers selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 4.9% of all retailers but 52.1% of sales by retailers (see pages 82 and 83).

Handguns sold by dealers were more likely than those sold by pawnbrokers to be pistols (68.9% and 60.7%, respectively) and to be of large caliber (51.2% and 44.9%, respectively) (see page 81).

Three gun dealers reported sales of more than 3,000 handguns. Of the 20 retailers with the largest numbers of handgun sales, six are branches of Turner's Outdoorsman. Eight are in the Los Angeles area, five in the San Francisco Bay area, two each in Riverside/San Bernardino, the Sacramento area, and San Diego, and one in Fresno (see page 84).

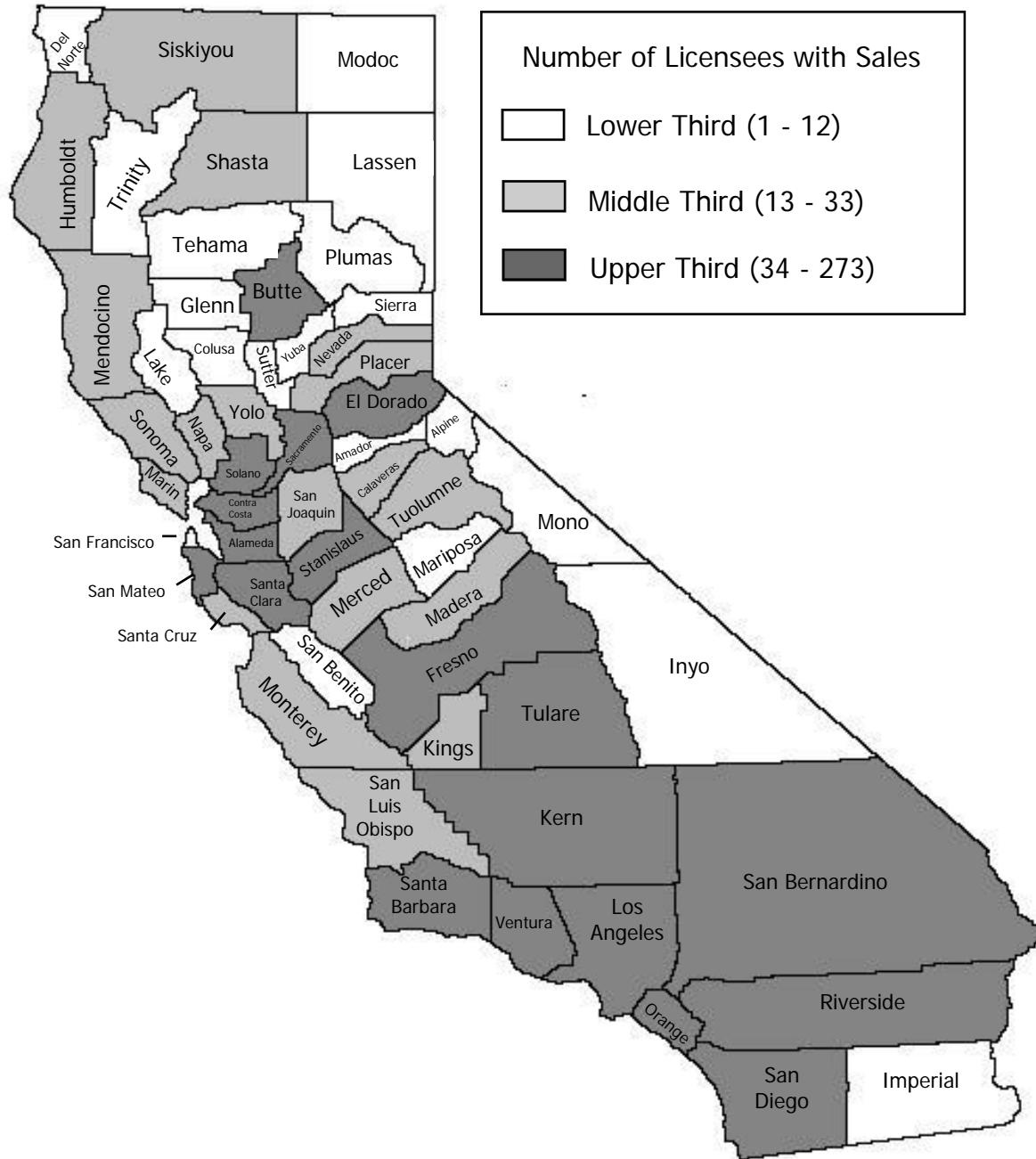
Of the retailers with the largest number of denied sales, about half were also among those with the largest number of handgun sales. For retailers with the most denied sales, denials ranged from 1.4 to 6.4 for every 100 handguns sold (see page 85).

Most licensees are in urban counties, but the highest numbers of licensees per capita are in rural counties.

Gun dealers and pawnbrokers selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 4.9% of retailers but 52.1% of sales by retailers .

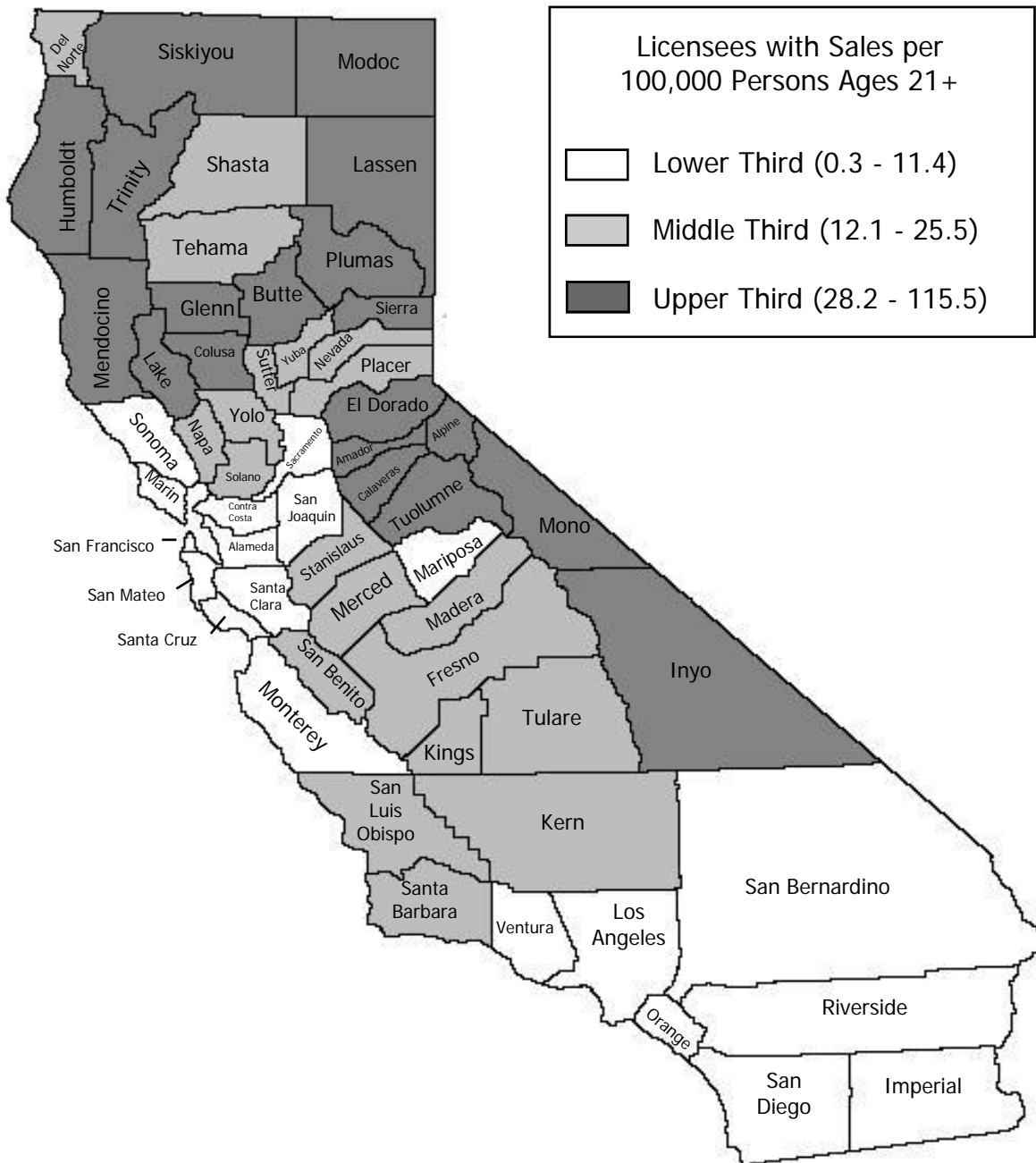
Licensees by County

This map summarizes the number of licensees with handgun sales in each county in 2000. Counties are ranked by number of licensees and grouped into thirds. Licensees are most numerous in urban counties.



Density of Licensees by County

This map summarizes the density of licensees with handgun sales per 100,000 persons ages 21 and older in each county in 2000. Counties are ranked by licensees per capita and grouped into thirds. Licensee density is highest in rural counties; the statewide average is 8.4 per 100,000 persons ages 21 and older.



Licensee Types and Sales

Gun dealers accounted for 86% of both licensees and handgun sales; pawnbrokers accounted for 11.7% of licensees and 9.8% of handgun sales. Pawnbroker sales included 7,837 redemptions from pawnshops.

<u>Licensee Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Gun Dealer	1,669	86.2
Pawnbroker	227	11.7
Manufacturer (Firearms)	24	1.2
Importer (Firearms)	16	0.8

<u>Handgun Sales by Licensee Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Gun Dealer	167,682	86.7
Pawnbroker	18,863	9.8
Manufacturer (Firearms)	1,185	0.6
Importer (Firearms)	5,759	3.0

Handgun Type and Caliber - Retailers

Handguns sold by gun dealers were more likely than those sold by pawnbrokers to be pistols (68.9% and 60.7%, respectively). There was little difference in caliber distribution; 51.2% of guns sold by gun dealers and 44.9% of those sold by pawnbrokers were of large caliber.

Gun Type by Retailer Type

<u>Gun Type</u>	Gun Dealers		Pawnbrokers	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pistol	115,587	68.9	11,449	60.7
Revolver	49,610	29.6	7,095	37.6
Derringer	1,218	0.7	144	0.8
Other	1,247	0.7	172	0.9

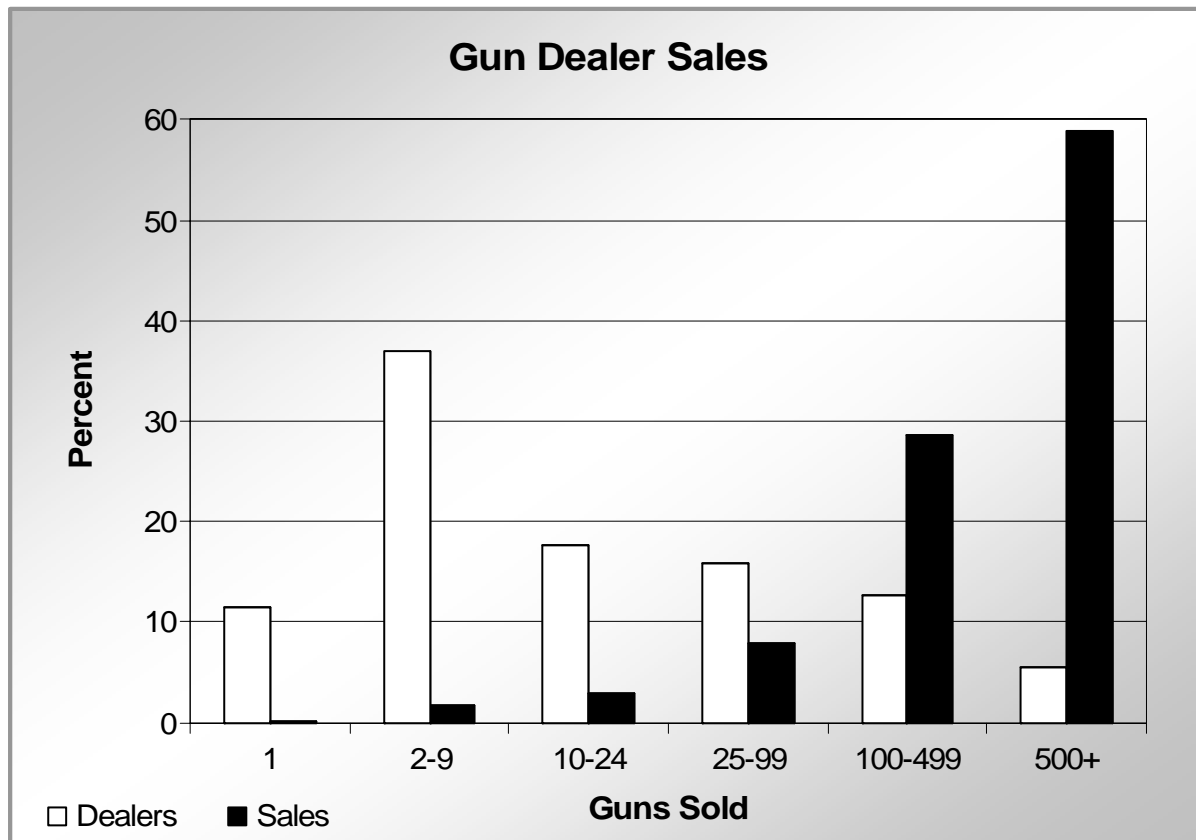
Caliber by Retailer Type

<u>Caliber</u>	Gun Dealers		Pawnbrokers	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Small	23,651	14.7	3,167	16.8
Medium	54,893	34.1	7,197	38.3
Large	82,365	51.2	8,434	44.9

Gun Dealer Sales

Among gun dealers, nearly half (48.3%) sold fewer than ten handguns in 2000 and accounted for just 1.8% of sales by dealers. The 5.5% of dealers selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 59.0% of sales by dealers.

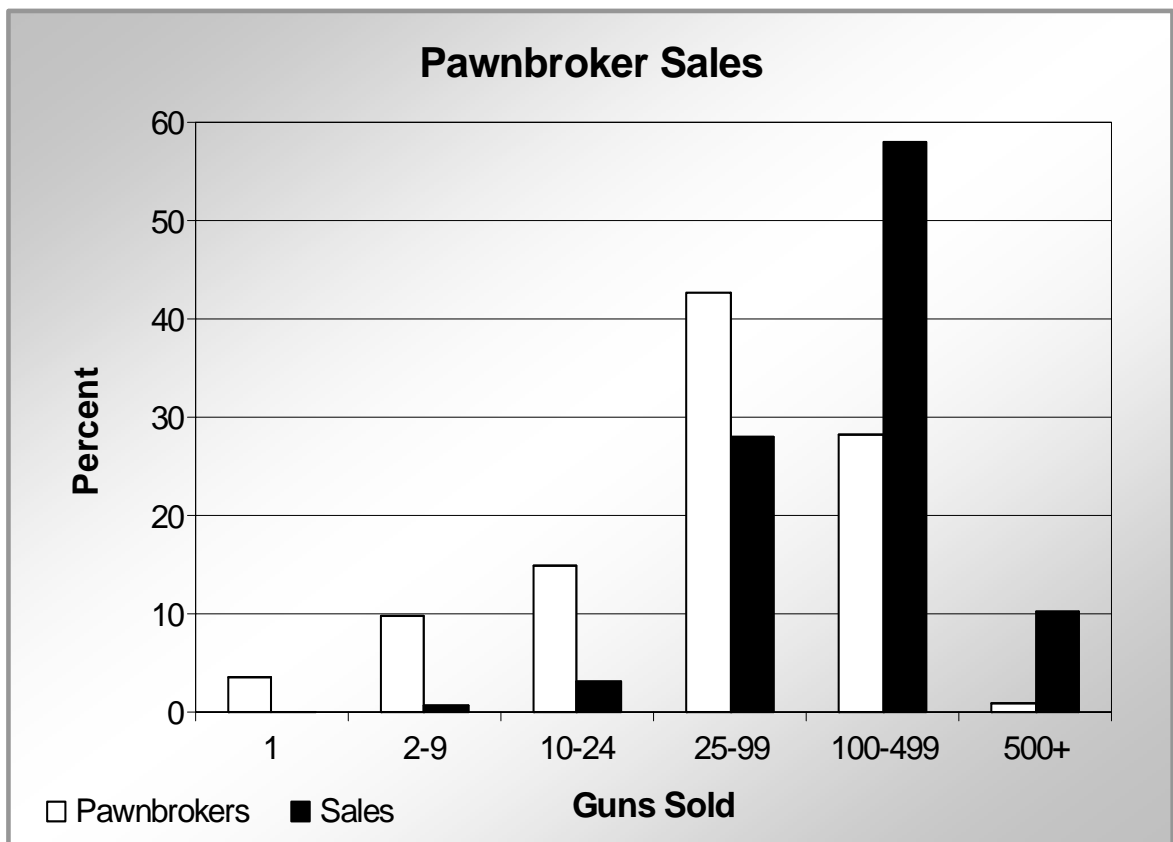
Guns Sold	Gun Dealers		Total Sales	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	190	11.4	190	0.1
2-9	616	36.9	2,860	1.7
10-24	294	17.6	4,625	2.8
25-99	266	15.9	13,239	7.9
100-499	211	12.6	47,901	28.6
500+	92	5.5	98,867	59.0



Pawnbroker Sales

Only 13.2% of pawnbrokers sold fewer than 10 handguns; they accounted for 0.6% of sales by pawnbrokers. The 0.9% selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 10.2% of sales by pawnbrokers.

Guns Sold	Pawnbrokers		Total Sales	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	8	3.5	8	0.0
2-9	22	9.7	106	0.6
10-24	34	15.0	599	3.2
25-99	97	42.7	5,268	27.9
100-499	64	28.2	10,965	58.1
500+	2	0.9	1,917	10.2



Retailers with the Most Sales

Of the retailers with the largest number of handgun sales, eight are in the Los Angeles area, five in the San Francisco Bay area, two each in Riverside/San Bernardino, the Sacramento area, and San Diego, and one in Fresno. Six are branches of Turner's Outdoorsman.

<u>Retailer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Sales</u>
1. Trader Sports	San Leandro	3,858
2. B & B Sales	North Hollywood	3,698
3. B & B Sales	Westminster	3,345
4. Martin B Retting	Culver City	2,268
5. L. A. Revolver & Athletic Club	Los Angeles	2,048
6. Reed's Sport Shop	San Jose	2,046
7. Wild Sports	Orangevale	1,839
8. Southern California Gun	San Diego	1,655
9. Turner's Outdoorsman	Reseda	1,633
10. Gilman-Mayfield, Inc.	Fresno	1,596
11. Turner's Outdoorsman	Pasadena	1,590
12. California Police Equipment Co	San Diego	1,588
13. Turner's Outdoorsman	Riverside	1,558
14. Sportsmen's Supply	Campbell	1,556
15. Turner's Outdoorsman	San Bernardino	1,529
16. Turner's Outdoorsman	Redondo Beach	1,484
17. Jackson Arms	South San Francisco	1,482
18. River City Gun Exchange	Sacramento	1,430
19. Target Masters West	Milpitas	1,411
20. Turner's Outdoorsman	Norwalk	1,376

Retailers with the Most Denied Sales

Of the 25 retailers with the largest number of denied sales, about half were also among those with the largest number of handgun sales listed on page 84. Denied sales for these retailers ranged from 1.4 to 6.4 for every 100 handguns sold.

<u>Retailer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Denied Sales</u>	<u>Sales Rank</u>	<u>Denied Sales Per 100 Handguns Sold</u>
1. Trader Sports	San Leandro	104	1	2.7
2. Boulevard Sales & Service	Compton	73	34	6.4
3. B & B Sales	North Hollywood	52	2	1.4
4. B & B Sales	Westminster	50	3	1.5
5. Martin B Retting	Culver City	46	4	2.0
6. Turner's Outdoorsman	Redondo Beach	41	16	2.8
7. Western Surplus	Hawthorne	40	33	3.4
8. Western Firearms	Bell	35	25	2.8
9. John McCormick Guns	Fresno	35	36	3.1
10. Dunns Discount Guns	San Diego	32	32	2.7
11. Stockton Gun Exchange	Stockton	32	41	3.1
12. Turner's Outdoorsman	San Bernardino	31	15	2.0
13. National Gun Sales	Northridge	31	42	3.0
14. Southern California Gun	San Diego	30	8	1.8
15. Turner's Outdoorsman	Pasadena	30	11	1.9
16. Gilman-Mayfield, Inc	Fresno	29	10	1.8
17. Turner's Outdoorsman	Long Beach	29	22	2.2
18. Turner's Outdoorsman	Riverside	29	13	1.9
19. Reed's Sport Shop, Inc	San Jose	28	6	1.4
20. Turner's Outdoorsman	Reseda	28	9	1.7
21. Target Masters West	Milpitas	26	19	1.8
22. Pony Express Sportshop	North Hills	26	47	2.7
23. Imbert & Smithers	San Carlos	26	64	3.5
24. Turner's Outdoorsman	Fountain Valley	26	29	2.1
25. Turner's Outdoorsman	West Covina	26	21	1.9

Retailers - Prohibited-Person Denials

This table lists the 20 retailers with the largest number of prohibited-person denials. For these retailers, prohibited-person denials ranged from 0.4 to 5.8 for every 100 handguns sold. Eight of these retailers are also among those with the most one gun a month denials (see page 87).

<u>Retailer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Denied Sales</u>	<u>Sales Rank</u>	<u>Denied Sales Per 100 Handguns Sold</u>
1. Boulevard Sales & Service	Compton	67	34	5.8
2. Trader Sports	San Leandro	43	1	1.1
3. Western Surplus	Hawthorne	40	33	3.4
4. B & B Sales	North Hollywood	34	2	0.9
5. Western Firearms	Bell	24	25	1.9
6. Martin B Retting	Culver City	22	4	1.0
7. Turner's Outdoorsman	Long Beach	21	22	1.6
8. National Gun Sales	Northridge	19	42	1.8
9. Turner's Outdoorsman	Redondo Beach	16	16	1.1
10. Turner's Outdoorsman	Pasadena	16	11	1.0
11. Turner's Outdoorsman	Reseda	16	9	1.0
12. Turner's Outdoorsman	Riverside	15	13	1.0
13. The Stockade	Westminster	14	51	1.5
14. Slim's Gun Shop	Riverside	14	62	1.8
15. Stockton Gun Exchange	Stockton	14	41	1.4
16. Turner's Outdoorsman	San Bernardino	14	15	0.9
17. Dunns Discount Guns	San Diego	13	32	1.1
18. Shooters Paradise	Oxnard	13	75	2.0
19. B & B Sales	Westminster	12	3	0.4
20. A1 Wholesale Guns	Rialto	12	160	4.1

Retailers - One Gun a Month Denials

This table lists the 24 retailers with the largest number of one gun a month denials. For these retailers, one gun a month denials ranged from 0.5 to 2.6 for every 100 handguns sold. Eight of these retailers are also among those with the most prohibited-person denials.

<u>Retailer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Denied Sales</u>	<u>Sales Rank</u>	<u>Denied Sales Per 100 Handguns Sold</u>
1. Trader Sports	San Leandro	61	1	1.6
2. B & B Sales	Westminster	38	3	1.1
3. Turner's Outdoorsman	Redondo Beach	25	16	1.7
4. John McCormick Guns	Fresno	25	36	2.2
5. Martin B Retting	Culver City	24	4	1.1
6. Southern California Gun	San Diego	19	8	1.2
7. Dunns Discount Guns	San Diego	19	32	1.6
8. Gilman-Mayfield, Inc	Fresno	18	10	1.1
9. B & B Sales	North Hollywood	18	2	0.5
10. Stockton Gun Exchange	Stockton	18	41	1.7
11. Imbert & Smithers	San Carlos	18	64	2.4
12. Turner's Outdoorsman	West Covina	18	21	1.3
13. Range Master	San Luis Obispo	18	71	2.6
14. Pony Express Sportshop	North Hills	17	47	1.8
15. Reed's Sport Shop, Inc	San Jose	17	6	0.8
16. Turner's Outdoorsman	San Bernardino	17	15	1.1
17. Turner's Outdoorsman	Fountain Valley	17	29	1.4
18. Barnwood Arms Company	Ripon	16	28	1.3
19. Target Masters West	Milpitas	15	19	1.1
20. Marin Firearms	Novato	15	48	1.6
21. Weisser's Sporting Goods	National City	15	23	1.1
22. Modesto Guns	Modesto	15	79	2.4
23. River City Gun Exchange	Sacramento	15	18	1.1
24. Turner's Outdoorsman	San Marcos	15	37	1.4