

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 Basic Firearm Safety Course.

In 1999, 157,700 Californians purchased 235,875 handguns. The vast majority (91.4%) of these handgun purchasers were male, and more than half (51.3%) were ages 25-34 or 35-44. Most purchasers (76.2%) bought only one handgun; the 23.8% of purchasers who bought more than one handgun accounted for 49.1% of all handguns sold (see pages 62 and 63).

A total of 120,126 people bought one handgun in 1999. Most of these handgun purchasers were male (90.7%), and they were most commonly ages 25-34 (27.4%; see page 64).

A total of 37,574 people bought at least 2 and as many as 305 handguns in 1999; they bought 115,749 handguns in total. Most of these purchasers were male (94.4%), and they were most commonly ages 35-44 (26.1%; see page 65).

There were 2,929 people who bought more than five handguns in 1999. They accounted for only 1.8% of all purchasers but bought 12.4% of all handguns sold; a total of 29,188 handguns (see page 62).

For male handgun purchasers, the proportion who bought more than one handgun varied moderately with age. Among males, purchasers who were 45-54 years old were most likely to buy more than one handgun (28.7%); those 21-24 years old were least likely (18.5%). For female handgun purchasers there was no relationship between age and number of handguns purchased (see page 66).

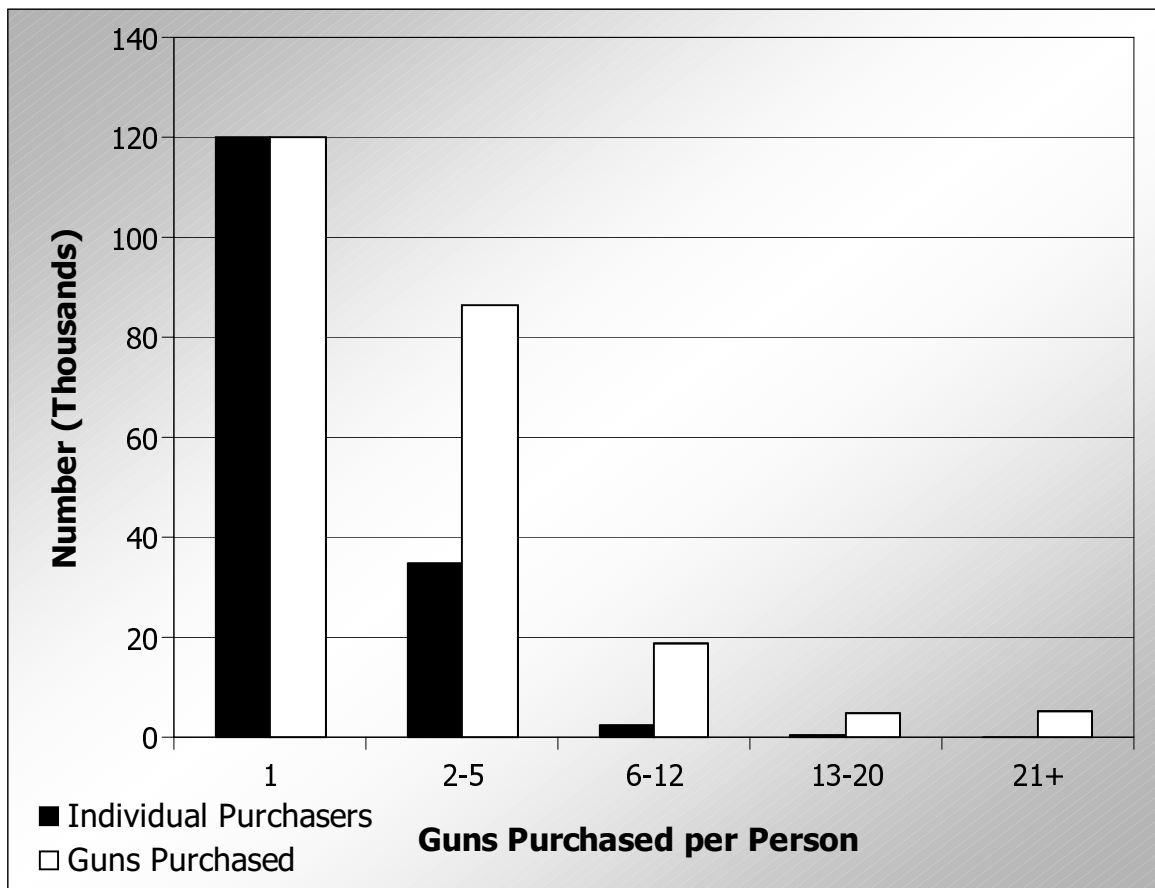
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Purchasers and Guns Purchased

Of 157,700 individuals who purchased handguns, 120,126 (76.2%) bought one handgun and accounted for 50.9% of handguns sold. The 37,574 purchasers (23.8%) who bought more than one handgun accounted for 49.1% of all handguns sold.

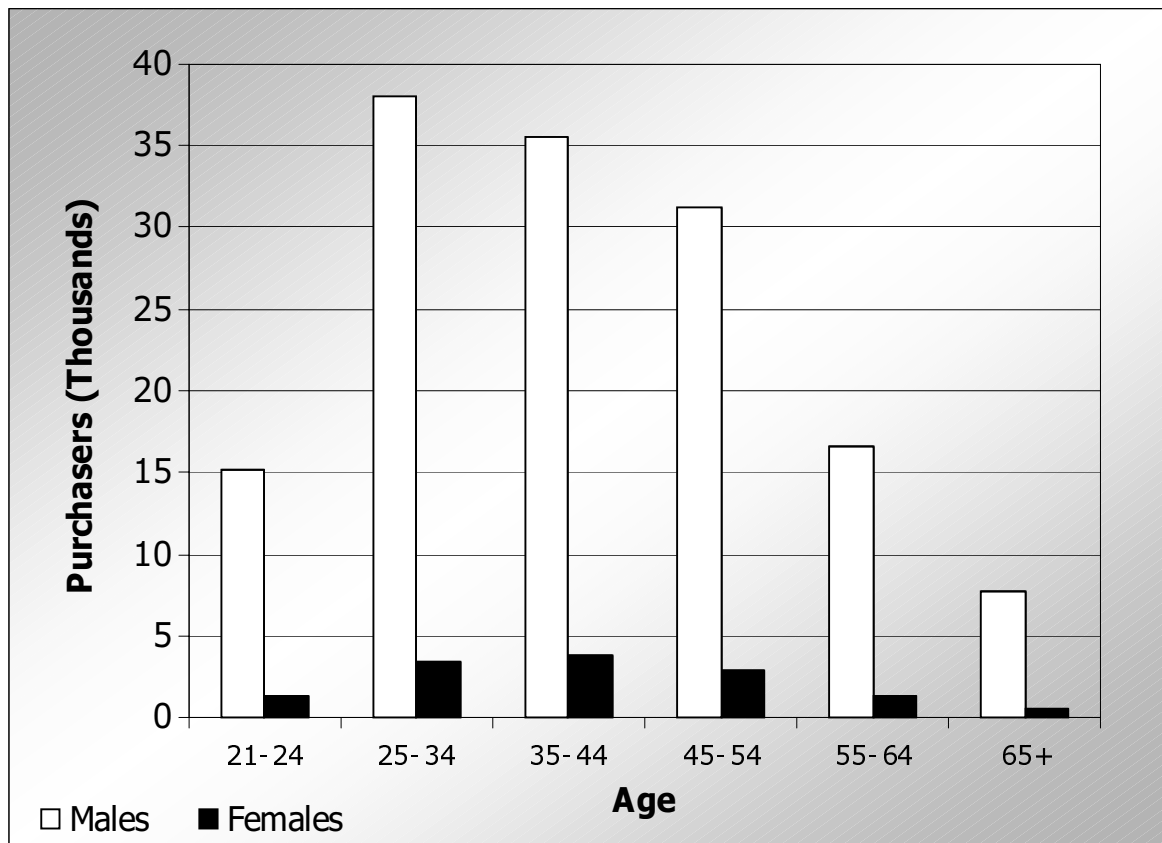
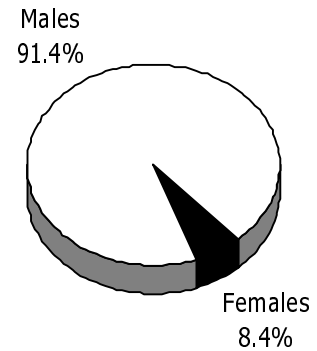
Guns Purchased	Purchasers		Total Guns Purchased	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	120,126	76.2	120,126	50.9
2-5	34,645	22.0	86,561	36.7
6-12	2,456	1.5	18,938	8.0
13-20	318	0.2	4,891	2.1
21+	155	0.1	5,359	2.3



All Purchasers - Age and Sex

Of 157,700 handgun purchasers, 144,385 (91.4%) were male and 13,304 (8.4%) were female. More persons ages 25-34 and 35-44 purchased handguns than did persons of other ages. See Appendix I for additional details.

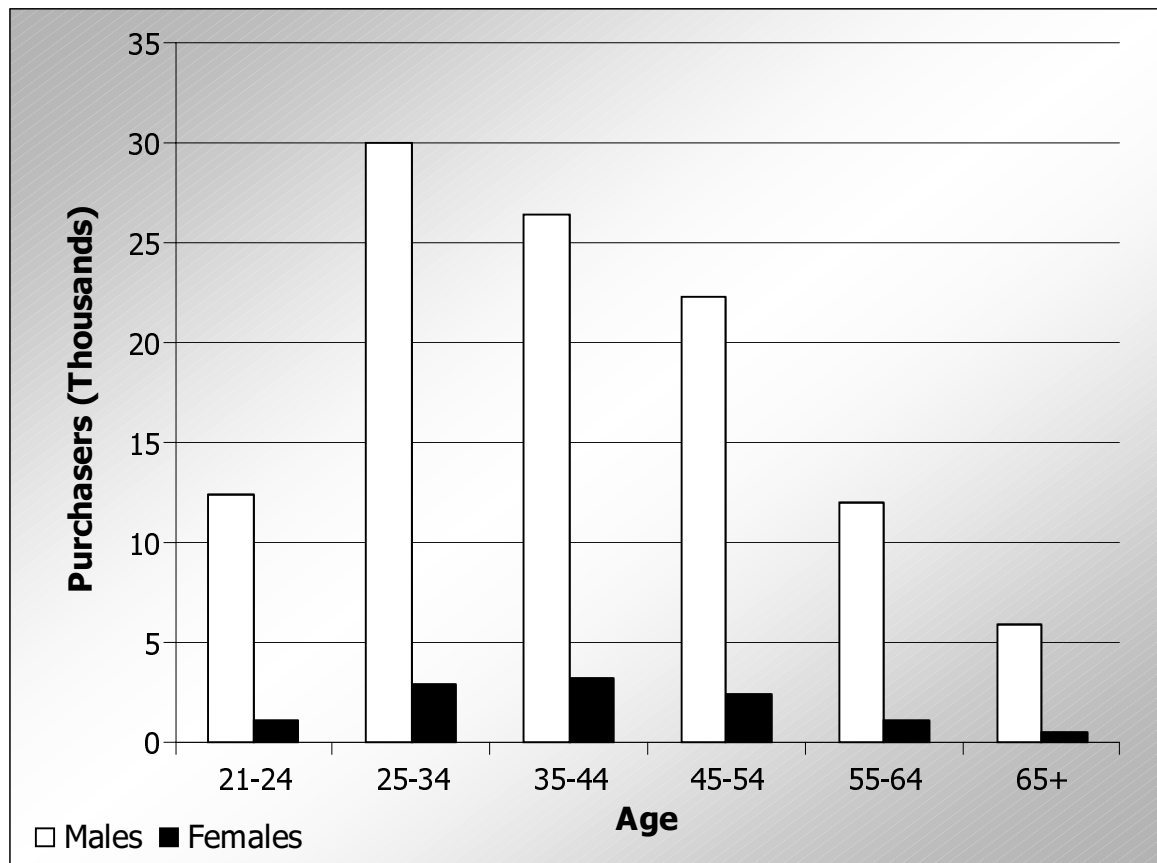
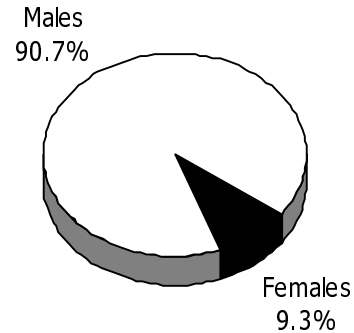
<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	16,459	10.4
25-34	41,503	26.3
35-44	39,407	25.0
45-54	34,217	21.7
55-64	17,876	11.3
65+	8,226	5.2



Single-Gun Purchasers - Age and Sex

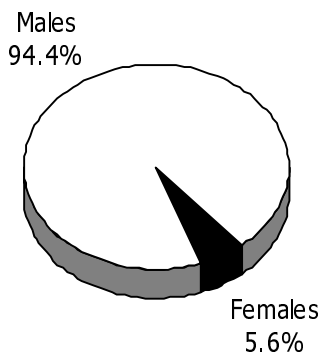
Of 120,126 purchasers of one handgun, 108,931 (90.7%) were male and 11,187 (9.3%) were female. More purchases of one handgun were made by persons ages 25-34 (27.4%) than by persons of other ages. See Appendix I for additional details.

Age	Number	Percent
21-24	13,464	11.2
25-34	32,919	27.4
35-44	29,592	24.6
45-54	24,728	20.6
55-64	13,055	10.9
65+	6,360	5.3

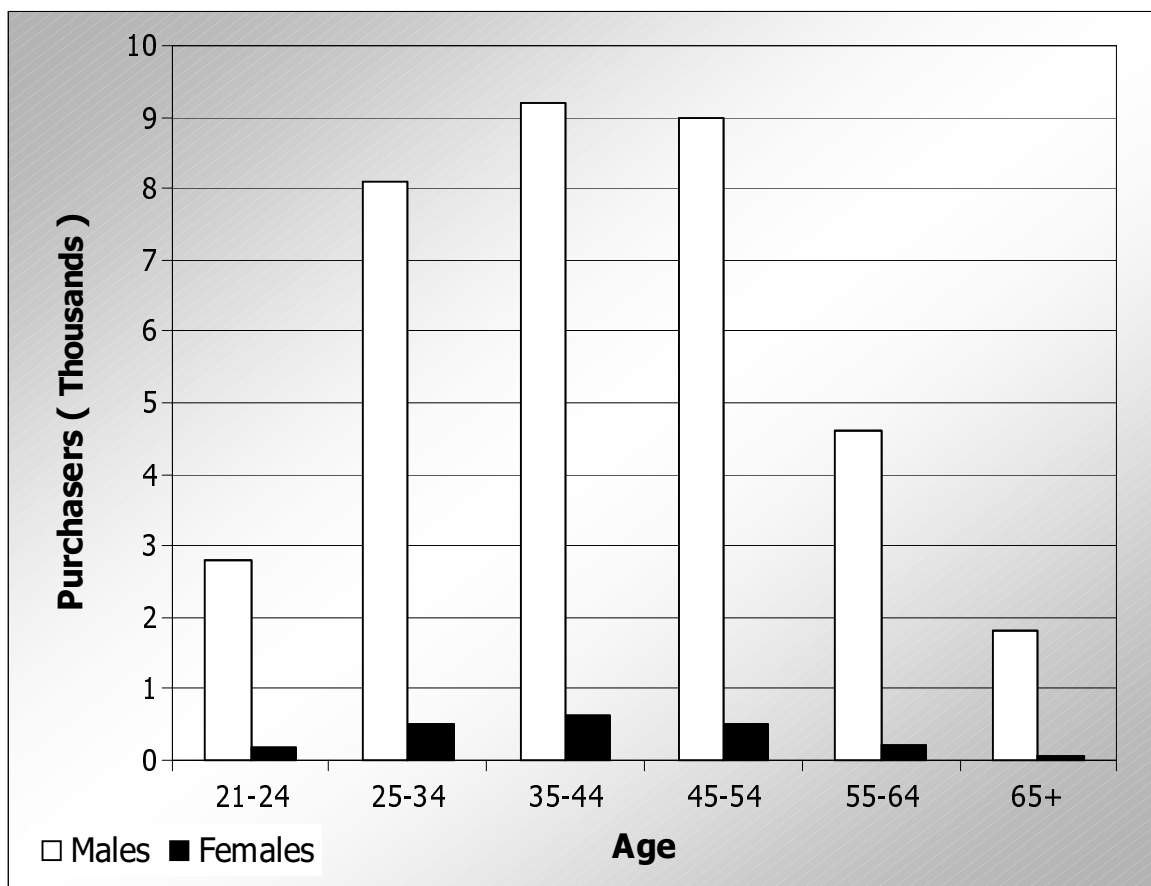


Multiple-Gun Purchasers - Age and Sex

Of 37,574 purchasers of two or more handguns, 35,454 (94.4%) were male and 2,117 (5.6%) 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. See Appendix I for additional details.

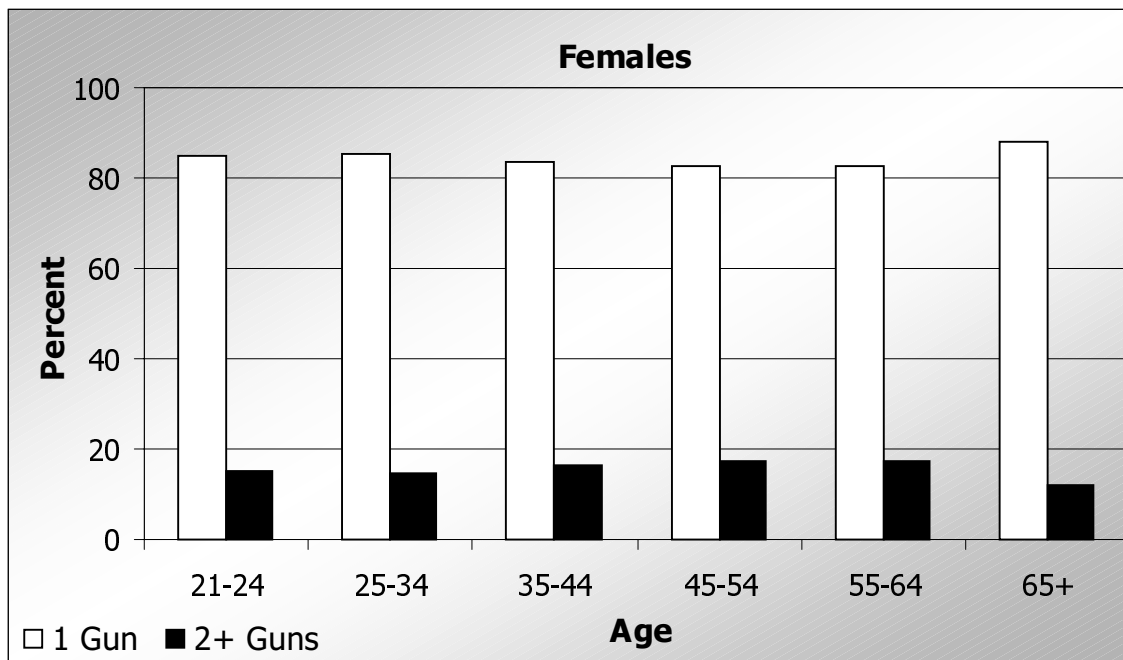
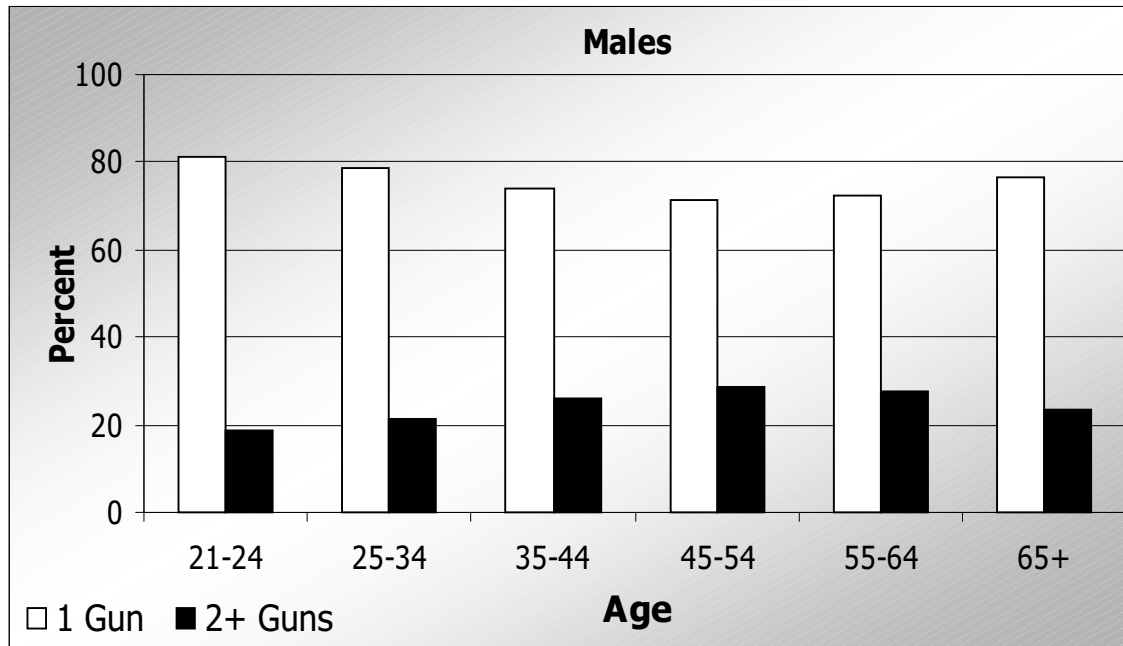


<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
21-24	2,995	8.0
25-34	8,584	22.9
35-44	9,815	26.1
45-54	9,489	25.3
55-64	4,821	12.8
65+	1,866	5.0



Handguns Purchased by Age and Sex

The proportion of purchasers who bought more than one handgun varied moderately with age among males and was highest (28.7%) for those ages 45-54. There was little variation among females.



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 2,177 firearm licensees who reported handgun sales in 1999.

The majority of licensees are in the urban counties of Southern California and the San Francisco Bay area (see page 70; Los Angeles County ranked first with 327 licensees), but the highest numbers of licensees on a per capita basis are found in rural counties (see page 71; Alpine County ranked first with 119.0 licensees per 1,000 persons ages 21 and older).

Gun dealers accounted for 86.5% of both licensees and handgun sales; pawnbrokers accounted for 11.5% of licensees and 10.0% of handgun sales (see page 72). Handgun sales were concentrated among relatively few retailers, defined in this report as gun dealers and pawnbrokers (i.e., excluding manufacturers and importers). The 43.1% of all retailers who sold fewer than 10 handguns counted for just 1.5% of sales by retailers. The 109 retailers selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 5.1% of all retailers but 57.2% of sales by retailers (see pages 74 and 75 for separate results for gun dealers and pawnbrokers).

Handguns sold by dealers were more likely than those sold by pawnbrokers to be pistols (71.2% and 62.2%, respectively). There was little difference in caliber distribution; 45.8% of handguns sold by gun dealers and 41.9% of those sold by pawnbrokers were of large caliber (see page 73).

Two gun dealers reported sales of more than 5,000 handguns. Of the 20 retailers with the largest numbers of handgun sales, five were branches of Turner's Outdoorsman, eight are in the Los Angeles area, six in the San Francisco Bay area, three in Riverside/San Bernardino, two in the Sacramento area, and one in San Diego (see page 76).

Of the retailers with the largest number of denied sales, about half were also among those with the largest number of handgun sales. Denied sales ranged from 0.3 to 5.5 for every 100 handguns sold (see page 77).

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

The 43.1% of all retailers who sold fewer than 10 handguns accounted for just 1.5% of sales by retailers. Those selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 5.1% of retailers but 57.2% of sales by retailers.

Licensee Types and Sales

Gun dealers accounted for 86.5% of both licensees and handgun sales; pawnbrokers accounted for 11.5% of licensees and 10.0% of handgun sales.

Licensee Type	Number	Percent
Gun Dealer	1,883	86.5
Pawnbroker	251	11.5
Manufacturer (Ammunition)	1	0.0
Manufacturer (Firearms)	26	1.2
Importer (Firearms)	16	0.7

Sales by Licensee Type	Number	Percent
Gun Dealer	203,999	86.5
Pawnbroker	23,705	10.0
Manufacturer (Ammunition)	48	0.0
Manufacturer (Firearms)	1,422	0.6
Importer (Firearms)	6,699	2.8

Handgun Type and Caliber - Retailers

Handguns sold by gun dealers were more likely than those sold by pawnbrokers to be pistols (71.2% and 62.2%, respectively). There was little difference in caliber distribution; 45.8% of guns sold by gun dealers and 41.9% of those sold by pawnbrokers were of large caliber.

Gun Type by Retailer Type

Gun Type	Gun Dealers		Pawnbrokers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pistol	145,159	71.2	14,751	62.2
Revolver	56,065	27.5	8,576	36.2
Derringer	1,608	0.8	201	0.8
Other	1,147	0.6	173	0.7

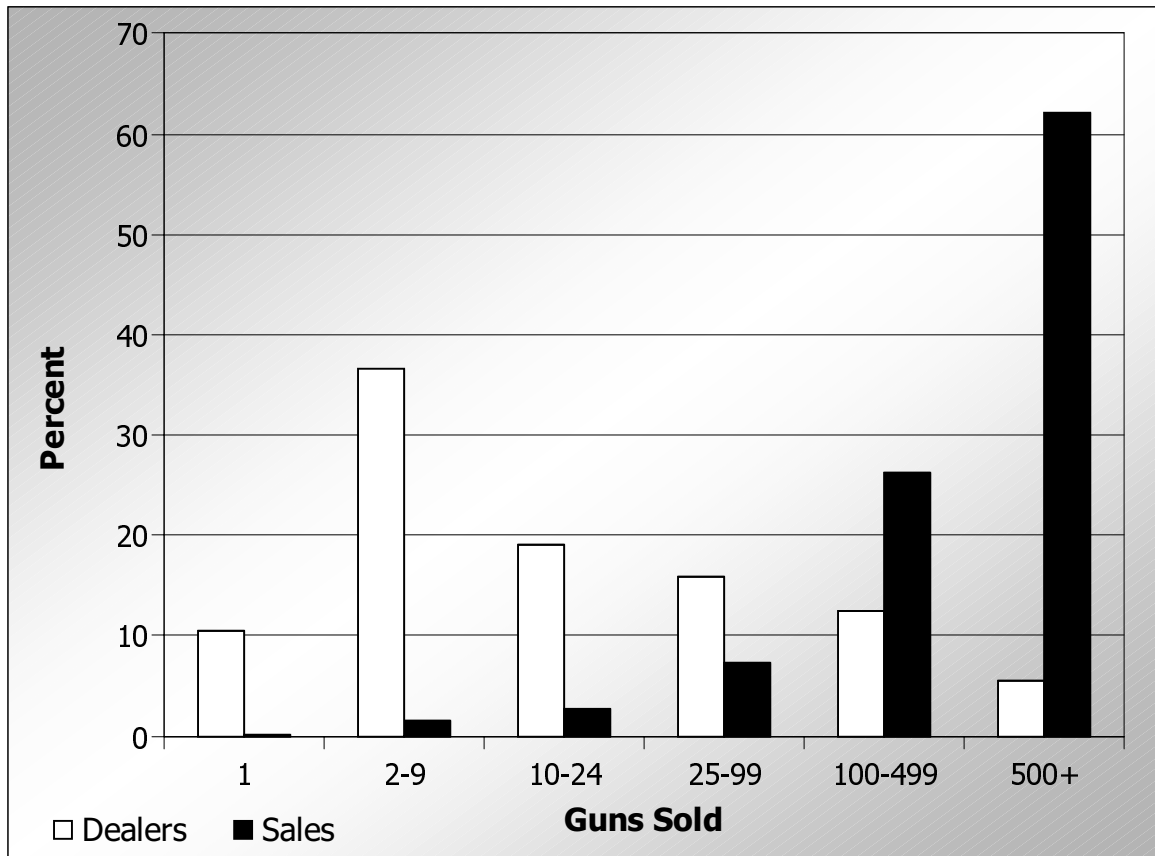
Caliber by Retailer Type

Caliber	Gun Dealers		Pawnbrokers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Small	32,562	16.1	3,686	15.6
Medium	77,302	38.1	10,058	42.5
Large	92,844	45.8	9,918	41.9

Gun Dealer Sales

Among gun dealers, nearly half (47.1%) sold fewer than 10 handguns in 1999 and accounted for just 1.6% of sales by dealers. The 5.6% of dealers selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 62.2% of sales by dealers.

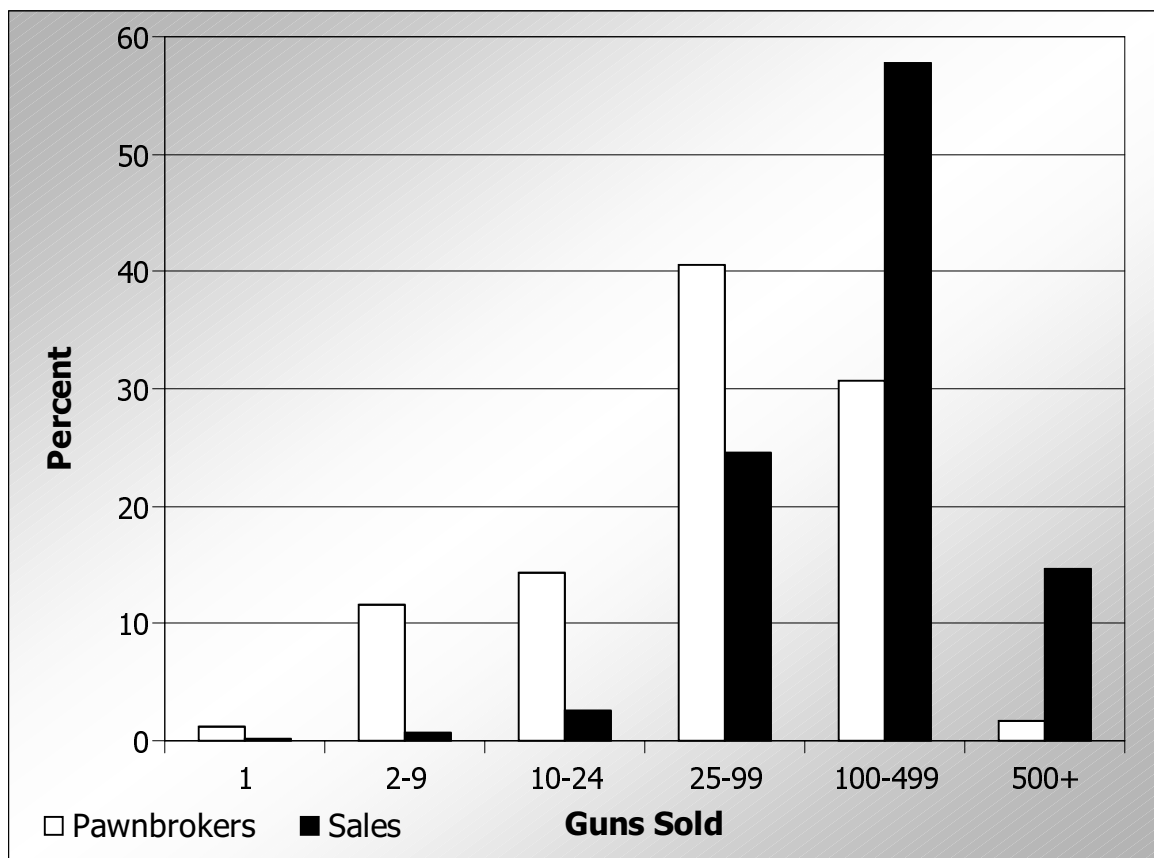
Guns Sold	Gun Dealers		Total Sales	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	198	10.5	198	0.1
2-9	690	36.6	3,130	1.5
10-24	357	19.0	5,472	2.7
25-99	298	15.8	14,973	7.3
100-499	235	12.5	53,379	26.2
500+	105	5.6	126,847	62.2



Pawnbroker Sales

Only 12.8% of pawnbrokers sold fewer than 10 handguns; they accounted for 0.6% of sales by pawnbrokers. The 1.6% selling 500 or more handguns accounted for 14.6% of sales by pawnbrokers.

Guns Sold	Pawnbrokers		Total Sales	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	3	1.2	3	0.0
2-9	29	11.6	153	0.6
10-24	36	14.3	569	2.4
25-99	102	40.6	5,814	24.5
100-499	77	30.7	13,715	57.9
500+	4	1.6	3,451	14.6



Retailers with the Most Sales

Of the retailers with the largest number of handgun sales, eight are in the Los Angeles area, six in the San Francisco Bay area, three in Riverside or San Bernardino, two in the Sacramento area, and one in San Diego.

<u>Retailer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Sales</u>
1. B & B Sales	Westminster	5,207
2. Trader Sports	San Leandro	5,106
3. B & B Sales	North Hollywood	4,858
4. B & E Guns	Cypress	3,513
5. Martin B Retting	Culver City	2,586
6. Great Guns	Sacramento	2,335
7. Wild Sports	Orangevale	2,161
8. L. A. Revolver & Athletic Club	Los Angeles	2,131
9. San Francisco Gun Exchange	San Francisco	2,126
10. Southern California Gun	San Diego	2,088
11. Turner's Outdoorsman	Riverside	2,022
12. Turner's Outdoorsman	San Bernardino	1,997
13. National Shooting Club	Santa Clara	1,980
14. Sportsmen's Supply	Campbell	1,912
15. Turner's Outdoorsman	West Covina	1,900
16. Turner's Outdoorsman	Pasadena	1,869
17. Reed's Sport Shop	San Jose	1,864
18. Turner's Outdoorsman	Norwalk	1,722
19. Target Masters West	Milpitas	1,720
20. Slim's Gun Shop	Riverside	1,708

Retailers with the Most Denied Sales

Of the retailers with the largest number of denied sales, about half were also among those with the largest number of handgun sales listed on page 76. Denied sales for these 22 retailers ranged from 0.3 to 5.5 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. B & B Sales	North Hollywood	78	3	1.6
2. Boulevard Sales & Service	Compton	71	35	5.4
3. Trader Sports	San Leandro	60	2	1.2
4. Western Firearms	Bell	48	47	4.5
5. Slim's Gun Shop	Riverside	47	20	2.8
6. Turner's Outdoorsman	Reseda	38	24	2.4
7. Western Surplus	Hawthorne	36	28	2.4
8. Turner's Outdoorsman	West Covina	32	15	1.7
9. Martin B Retting	Culver City	26	5	1.0
10. Turner's Outdoorsman	Long Beach	25	21	1.5
11. Great Guns	Sacramento	24	6	1.0
12. National Gun Sales	Northridge	24	36	1.8
13. Pony Express Sportshop	North Hills	22	51	2.2
14. Dunns Discount Guns	San Diego	22	31	1.6
15. Turner's Outdoorsman	Norwalk	22	18	1.3
16. B & B Sales	Westminister	18	1	0.3
17. Sportsmen's Supply	Campbell	18	14	0.9
18. Firearms Training Academy	Montebello	17	169	5.5
19. Gun World Van Nuys	Van Nuys	16	97	2.8
20. The Grant Boys	Costa Mesa	16	55	1.6
21. B & E Guns	Cypress	16	4	0.5
22. Turner's Outdoorsman	Pasadena	16	16	0.9