

PATTERNS OF FIREARM OWNERSHIP

Results from the 2018 California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS)

We identified patterns of firearm ownership based on firearm-related motivations, practices, and behaviors.

We learned that there are important differences among owners.

This may help us better understand who's at increased risk for injury and why, and how to most effectively prevent firearm-related harm.

We asked 429 firearm owners 6 questions about...

Number of firearms owned

Types of firearms owned

Main reason for ownership

Firearm storage practices

Loaded handgun carrying

High-capacity magazine ownership

and let the computer find the similarities between their answers.

THE RESULT: **5** DISTINCT GROUPS OF FIREARM OWNERS

2 groups owned one firearm only

They differed from each other in the **type** of firearm they owned, their **reason** for ownership, and the way they **stored** their firearm.

3 groups owned multiple firearms

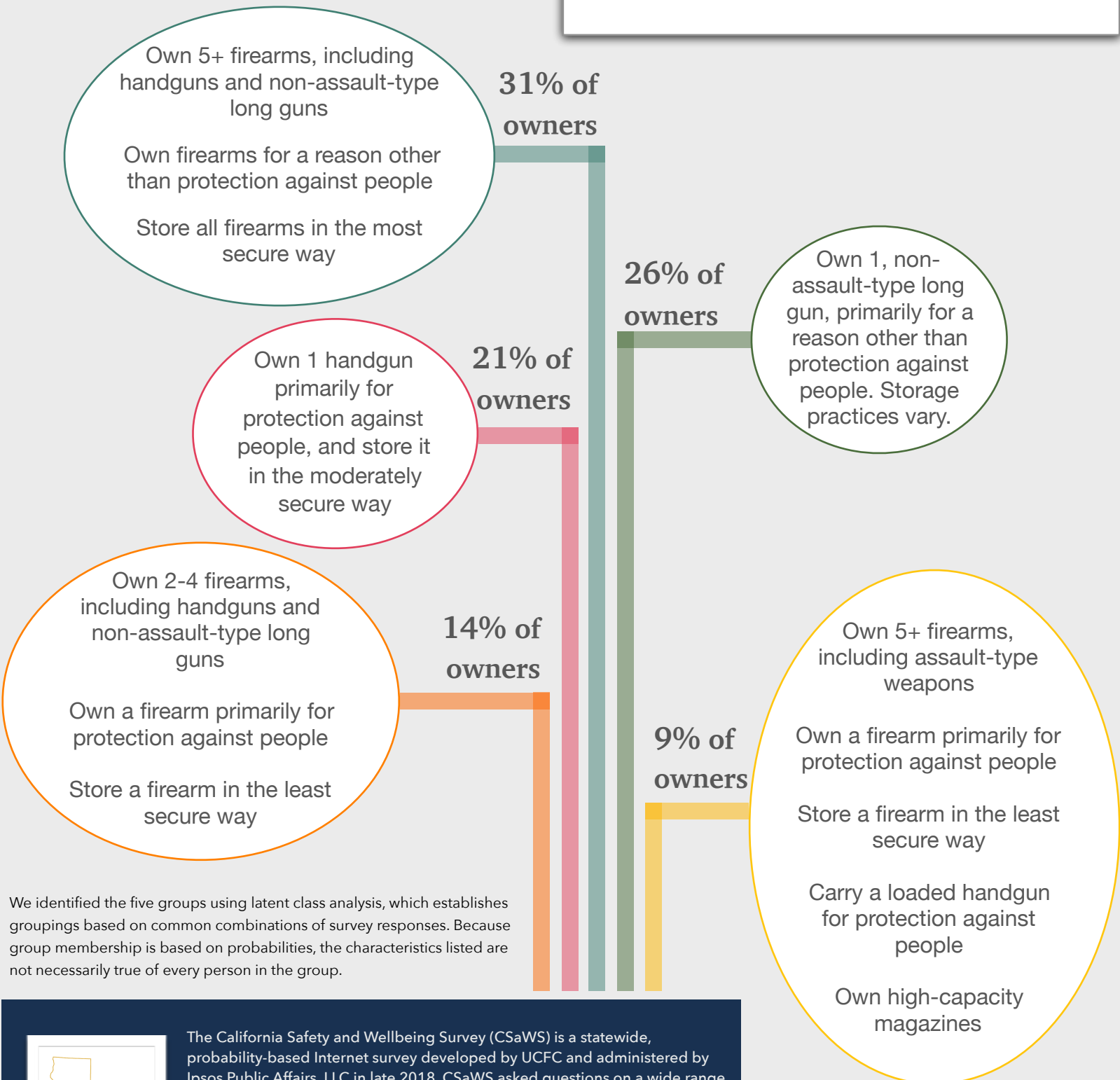
One of these 3 groups (9% of owners) was unlike all the others. These owners were likely to own **high-capacity magazines** and **assault-type weapons**, and to carry a **loaded handgun** for **protection against people**.

Knowing *whether* someone owns a firearm tells us a lot about their risk for injury: owning firearms increases risk of firearm injury. But it doesn't tell us the whole story.

These distinct patterns of ownership can inform public health and safety interventions that are relevant to firearm owners' varying motivations, choices and risks.

[Read the full study](#)

5 DISTINCT GROUPS OF FIREARM OWNERS:



We identified the five groups using latent class analysis, which establishes groupings based on common combinations of survey responses. Because group membership is based on probabilities, the characteristics listed are not necessarily true of every person in the group.



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. More than 2,500 California adults completed CSaWS, and their answers are weighted to be statistically representative of the adult population of the state.

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