Despite California’s Strong Gun Laws and Regulations, Issues of Gun Safety and Fears of Gun Violence Remain

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research’s California Health Interview Survey introduced questions about guns in the home and fears of gun violence among Californians. This study highlights estimates among young adults (ages 18–25); immigrants; veterans; lesbian, gay, or bisexual adults; transgender or gender nonconforming adults; and adults in rural areas.

More than 1 in 6 (17.6%) California adults live with a gun at home.

By population group:

- All California adults: 17.6%
- Veterans: 38.1%
- Adults living in rural areas: 31.9%
- Young adults (ages 18–25): 14.8%
- Lesbian, gay, or bisexual: 13.8%
- Transgender or gender nonconforming: 13.2%
- Immigrants: 7.7% U.S.-born adults (22.2%) 3x higher

Firearms Storage and Safety

Among California gun owners...

- Nearly 3 in 4 (72.5%) used a cable lock or locked container.
- 1 in 5 (19.6%) used a trigger lock.
- 1 in 13 (7.9%) used both a trigger lock and a cable lock or locked container.
- 1 in 13 (7.7%) reported having a firearm at home that was loaded and unlocked.

Gun Owners in California Who Kept a Firearm at Home Loaded and Unlocked*:

- 13.9% Veterans
- 9.7% Adults living in rural areas
- 9.3% Lesbian, gay, or bisexual
- 7.7% All California adults
- 5.0% Immigrants

*Data for young adults and transgender and gender nonconforming adults were statistically unstable.

Gun Violence Concerns Among Californians

- 1 in 8 (12.9%) California adults reported they were “very worried” about being a victim of gun violence.

By population group:

- Immigrant adults: 24%
- Young adults (ages 18–25): 14.3%
- Lesbian, gay, or bisexual adults: 13.7%
- Adults living in rural areas: 6.5%
- Veterans: 4.4%

3x more than 7.7% of U.S.-born adults

Half the 13.5% of adults in urban areas

*Data for transgender and gender nonconforming adults were statistically unstable.

Source: 2021 California Health Interview Survey
Read the fact sheet [here](https://chat.na.i/8.1779)