



WARD RESEARCH
I N C O R P O R A T E D

Public Opinion of Gun Safety Laws (Online Survey of Hawai'i Residents)

Prepared for:
Everytown For Gun Safety
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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Conclusions.....	3
Objectives.....	4
Methodology.....	5
Profile of Respondents.....	6
Profile of Respondents (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners).....	8
Where Guns Should Be Allowed.....	11
Where Guns Should Be Allowed (Additional Findings).....	12
Where Guns Should Be Allowed (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners).....	13
Public Opinion on Gun Measures.....	15
Public Opinion on Gun Measures (Additional Findings).....	16
Public Opinion on Gun Measures (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners).....	17
Detailed Findings	
Appendix	

Conclusions

- Despite the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on Second Amendment protections, a large majority of Hawai'i's registered voters support stricter gun control measures on who can get a permit to carry their gun in public and where people with permits can legally bring their guns.
- Public support is strongest in terms of requiring people to receive in-person firearm safety training before they are allowed to carry a gun in public and allowing law enforcement to deny concealed carry permits to people who pose a risk to public safety. There is also very strong sentiment against allowing loaded, concealed guns into K-12 schools and playgrounds; bars or places where alcohol is served; and government buildings. It is interesting to note that all of these responses were equally shared among both gun owners and non-owners; which would suggest that state laws safeguarding these areas would face the least opposition.
- Separation between gun owners and non-owners starts with discussions of loaded, concealed guns being allowed into businesses open to the public (like restaurants, hotels, and shopping malls); large crowded venues (like stadiums or concert halls); or public spaces (like beaches or parks); with greater support amongst gun owners. Gun owners were much more likely than non-owners to agree that *Hawai'i would be safer if more people were allowed to carry guns in public*; so data suggest that this sentiment is driven by expanding their freedoms at common-area places and larger venues.
- Not surprisingly, most major differences in public opinion were based on political affiliation, with Democrats/lean Democrat wanting stricter gun laws in place. Those Democrats/lean Democrat surveyed tended to give extreme ratings (strongly agree or disagree; as opposed to somewhat agree or disagree) when asked about their stance toward various gun control measures, especially in their opposition of where to allow more access of loaded, concealed guns.
- Females also expressed stronger opposition than did males in terms of where to allow more access of loaded, concealed guns; and were more likely to strongly disagree that *Hawai'i would be safer if more people were allowed to carry guns in public*.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the research were:

- **To measure public opinion toward various degrees of gun control; and**
- **To identify any major differences in support/opposition to gun control measures based on key demographic segments.**

Research Methodology

- Online survey among n=605 Hawai'i residents statewide; n=404 from O'ahu and n=201 across the Neighbor Islands. All respondents are members of Ward Research's *The Hawai'i Panel*, an online survey panel designed only for Hawai'i residents.
- Field dates: February 3 to 12, 2023
- Sampling error for sample of n=605: +/-4.0%
- The final distribution of respondents skewed slightly younger than actual voter population estimates. As a result, the final data set was weighted by age, as well as ethnicity, to match actual Statewide voter population estimates.
- Residents were screened to ensure they were all 18 years of age or older and registered voters in the state of Hawai'i.

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

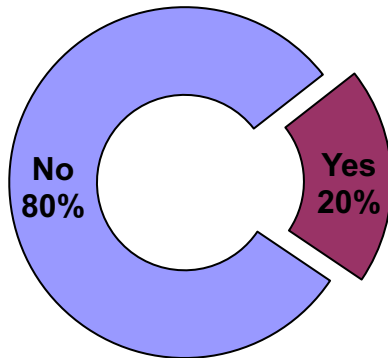
Profile of Respondents

Years Lived in Hawai'i	(%)	Children in Household	(%)
Less than 10 years	4%	Yes	32%
10+ years, not born & raised	28%	No/Prefer not to answer	68%
Born & Raised in Hawai'i	68%	Ethnicity	
Island		Caucasian	22%
O'ahu	65%	Chinese	5%
Maui County	13%	Filipino	11%
Kaua'i	5%	Hawaiian/Pt. Hawaiian	21%
Hawai'i Island	17%	Japanese	21%
Political Affiliation		Mixed	9%
Democrat	39%	Other	7%
Independent, lean Democrat	17%	Refused	4%
Republican	11%	Marital Status	
Independent, lean Republican	9%	Single, never married	23%
Independent/Other	13%	Married	61%
Prefer not to answer	11%	Divorced, widowed, separated	14%
Union Household		Last Grade Completed	
Yes	29%	High school or less	7%
No/Prefer not to answer	71%	Business/trade school	5%
Age		Some college	20%
18 to 34 years	15%	College grad/post grad	67%
35 to 44 years	19%	Household Income	
45 to 54 years	17%	Under \$35,000	11%
55 to 64 years	17%	\$35,000 to \$49,999	10%
65+ years	33%	\$50,000 to \$74,999	16%
Gender		\$75,000 to \$99,999	14%
Male	47%	\$100,000 to \$149,999	23%
Female	51%	\$150,000+	13%
Non-Binary	<1%	Refused	12%
Prefer not to answer	2%	Base: Registered Voters	(605)

Profile of Respondents (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners)

- Overall, 1 in 5 registered voters surveyed (20%) reported that either they or someone in their household owns a gun (handgun, rifle, or shotgun).
- As seen in the following page, a relatively greater proportion of gun owners (than non-owners) are Republican/lean Republican or from upper-income households of \$100,000+.
- In contrast, a significantly greater proportion of non-owners (than gun owners) are 65+ years of age.

Q: Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?



Do you own...	% Yes
A handgun	9%
A rifle or shotgun	10%
Does someone else in HH own...	
A handgun	11%
A rifle or shotgun	9%

Profile of Respondents (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners)

	Gun Owners	Non-Owners		Gun Owners	Non-Owners
Years Lived in Hawai'i	(%)	(%)	Children in Household		
Less than 10 years	0%	5%	Yes	38%	30%
10+ years, not born & raised	25%	29%	No/Prefer not to answer	62%	69%
Born & Raised in Hawai'i	75%	66%	Ethnicity	(%)	(%)
Island			Caucasian	30%	20%
O'ahu	63%	66%	Chinese	4%	5%
Maui County	9%	14%	Filipino	6%	13%
Kaua'i	5%	4%	Hawaiian/Pt. Hawaiian	21%	21%
Hawai'i Island	23%	16%	Japanese	20%	21%
Political Affiliation			Mixed	12%	8%
Democrat	35%	40%	Other	6%	7%
Independent, lean Democrat	17%	17%	Refused	2%	5%
Republican	14%	10%	Marital Status		
Independent, lean Republican	19%	6%	Single, never married	24%	22%
Independent/Other	11%	14%	Married	66%	59%
Prefer not to answer	5%	13%	Divorced, widowed, separated	8%	16%
Union Household			Last Grade Completed		
Yes	34%	28%	High school or less	9%	6%
No/Prefer not to answer	66%	72%	Business/trade school	6%	5%
Age			Some college	21%	20%
18 to 34 years	16%	15%	College grad/post grad	63%	68%
35 to 44 years	21%	18%	Household Income		
45 to 54 years	18%	16%	Under \$35,000	5%	13%
55 to 64 years	22%	16%	\$35,000 to \$49,999	4%	12%
65+ years	23%	35%	\$50,000 to \$74,999	20%	15%
Gender			\$75,000 to \$99,999	18%	13%
Male	48%	46%	\$100,000 to \$149,999	26%	22%
Female	52%	51%	\$150,000+	20%	11%
Non-Binary	0%	<1%	Refused	6%	13%
Prefer not to answer	0%	2%	Base: Registered Voters	(124)	(481)

Support/Opposition To Various Degrees of Gun Control

Those surveyed were presented with a list of randomized statements regarding gun control and asked to what degree they agreed or disagreed with each one -- based on a scale of strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree. The following were rated:

- People should NOT be allowed to bring loaded, concealed guns into K-12 schools and playgrounds
- People should be allowed to bring loaded, concealed guns onto college campuses, including dorms
- People should NOT be allowed to bring loaded, concealed guns into bars or places where alcohol is served
- People should be allowed to bring loaded, concealed guns into large, crowded venues like stadiums or concert halls
- People should NOT be allowed to bring loaded, concealed guns into government buildings such as courts and libraries
- People should be allowed to bring loaded, concealed guns into public spaces such as beaches or parks
- People should NOT be able to bring loaded, concealed guns into businesses open to the public, like restaurants, hotels, and shopping malls
- Hawai'i would be SAFER if more people were allowed to carry guns in public
- People should receive in-person firearm safety training to demonstrate they can safely handle a firearm before they are allowed to carry a loaded, concealed gun in public
- Law enforcement should be allowed to deny concealed carry permits to people who pose a risk to public safety
- Allowing more guns in public makes it more likely that tense situations will escalate into shootings or that guns will be used to intimidate people
- Hawai'i already has self-defense laws that give people the right to protect themselves and their families, including to use deadly force if necessary. Hawai'i should change the law to allow people to use deadly force as the first option rather than the last, even when they can clearly and safely walk away

Where Guns Should Be Allowed



**Total
(n=605)**

% Agree (Strongly + Somewhat)

Should NOT be allowed into K-12 schools & playgrounds

91%

Should NOT be allowed into bars or places alcohol is served

91%

Should NOT be allowed into government buildings

90%

Should NOT be allowed into businesses open to the public

78%

% Disagree (Strongly + Somewhat)

Should be allowed onto college campuses

80%

Should be allowed into large crowded venues

79%

Should be allowed into public spaces

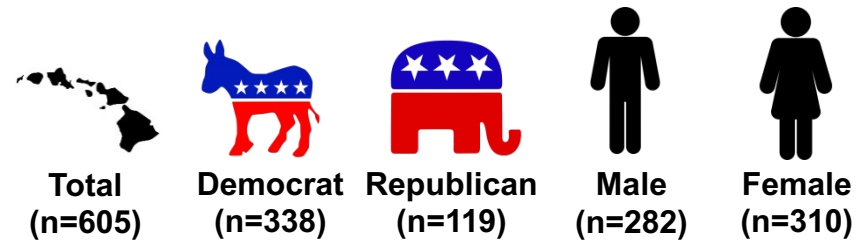
71%

- Nine in 10 registered voters agree that loaded, concealed guns should not be allowed into K-12 schools and playgrounds (91%); bars or places where alcohol is served (91%); and government buildings (90%).
- Eight in 10 agree that loaded, concealed guns should not be allowed onto college campuses (80%); large crowded venues (79%); and businesses open to the public (78%).
- Seven in 10 agree that loaded, concealed guns should not be allowed into public spaces (71%).

Where Guns Should Be Allowed (Additional Findings)

- Those who consider themselves Democrats/lean Democrat (vs. Republicans/lean Republican) and females (vs. males) express the strongest sentiments against allowing more access of loaded, concealed guns.

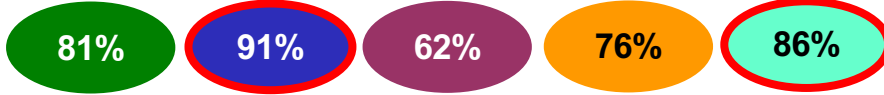
% STRONGLY Agree



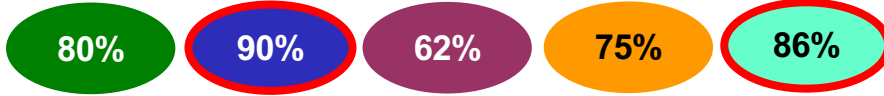
Should NOT be allowed into K-12 schools & playgrounds



Should NOT be allowed into bars or places alcohol is served



Should NOT be allowed into government buildings

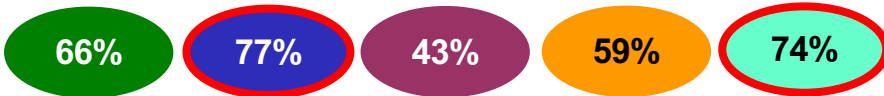


Should NOT be allowed into businesses open to the public



% STRONGLY Disagree

Should be allowed onto college campuses



Should be allowed into large crowded venues



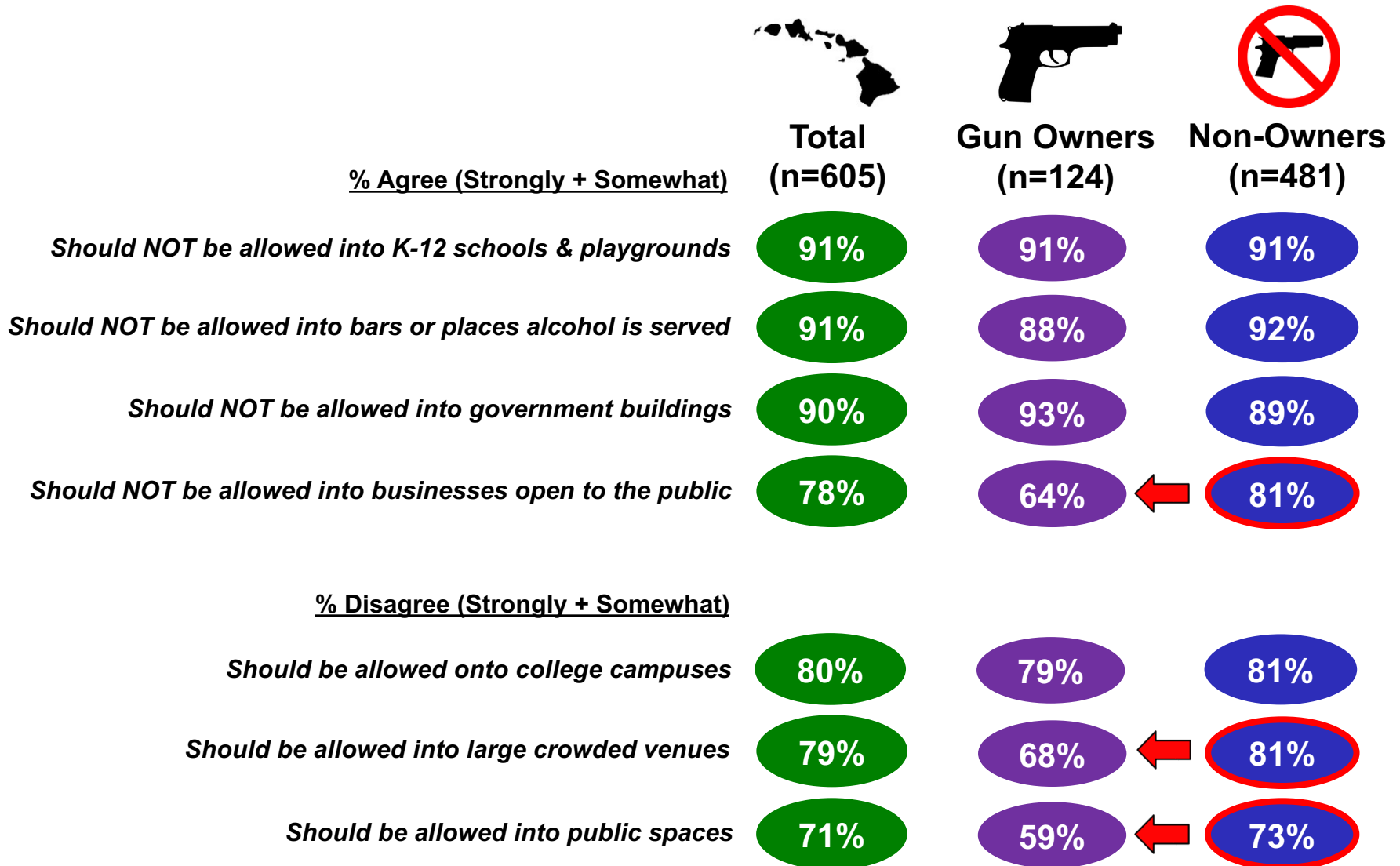
Should be allowed into public spaces



Where Guns Should Be Allowed (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners)

- As seen in the following page, there was similar sentiment across gun owners and non-owners that loaded, concealed guns should not be allowed into K-12 schools and playgrounds; bars or places where alcohol is served; government buildings; and college campuses.
- A significantly greater proportion of gun owners (than non-owners) support loaded, concealed guns being allowed into businesses open to the public like restaurants, hotels, and shopping malls; large crowded venues like stadiums or concert halls; or public spaces like beaches or parks.

Where Guns Should Be Allowed (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners)



Public Opinion on Gun Measures



**Total
(n=605)**

% Agree (Strongly + Somewhat)

People should receive in-person firearm safety training before they are allowed to carry a gun in public

95%

Law enforcement should be allowed to deny concealed carry permits to people who pose a risk to public safety

95%

Allowing more guns in public makes it more likely tense situations will escalate or that guns will be used to intimidate

78%

% Disagree (Strongly + Somewhat)

Hawai'i would be safer if more people were allowed to carry guns in public

76%

Hawai'i should change law to allow people to use deadly force as the first option

71%

- More than 9 in 10 registered voters agree that people should receive in-person firearm training to demonstrate they can safely handle a firearm before they are allowed to carry a gun in public (95%) or that law enforcement should be allowed to deny concealed carry permits to people who pose a risk to public safety (95%)
- Roughly 3 in 4 agree that allowing more guns in public makes it more likely that tense situations will escalate or that guns will be used to intimidate people (78%).
- Three in 4 disagree that Hawai'i would be safer if more people were allowed to carry guns in public (76%).
- Seven in 10 disagree that Hawai'i should change the law to allow people to use deadly force as the first option rather than the last (71%).

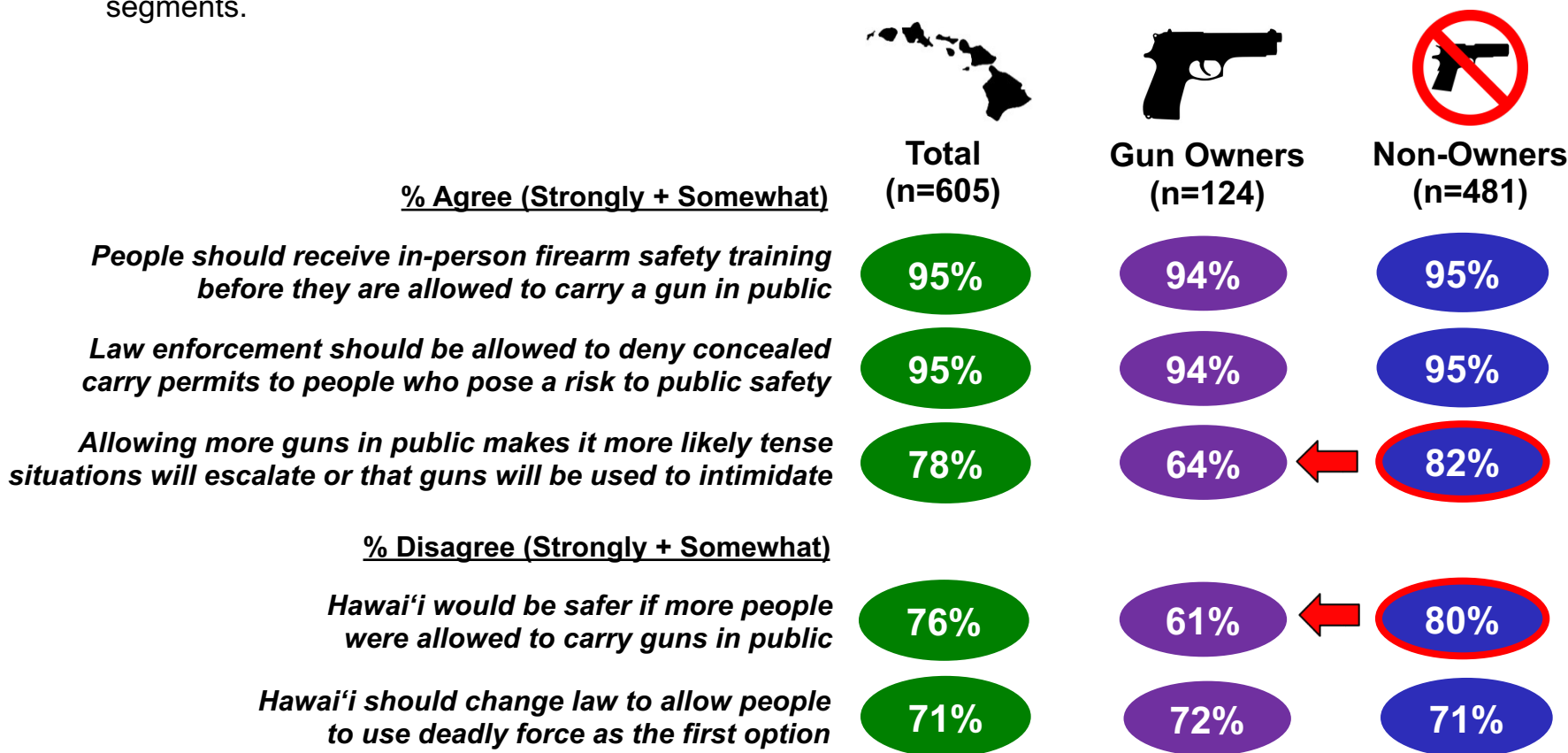
Public Opinion on Gun Measures (Additional Findings)

- Pronounced differences based on political affiliation held true across most of the public opinion statements tested, with those who consider themselves Democrats/lean Democrat expressing stronger anti-gun sentiments than those who consider themselves Republicans/lean Republican. A comparable proportion from both sides, however, strongly agreed that *people should receive in-person firearm safety training before they are allowed to carry a gun in public*.
- There were less notable differences based on gender, with more females (vs. males) strongly disagreeing that *Hawai'i would be safer if more people were allowed to carry guns in public*.



Public Opinion on Gun Measures (Gun Owners vs. Non-Owners)

- Gun owners were much more likely than non-owners to feel that *Hawai'i would be safer if more people were allowed to carry guns in public*. [Note: A majority of gun owners (61%) still disagreed with this statement.]
- Additionally, more gun owners (vs. non-owners) disagreed that *allowing more guns in public makes it more likely that tense situations will escalate or that guns will be used to intimidate people*. [Note: A majority of gun owners (64%), however, did agree with this statement.]
- Sentiments regarding in-person firearm safety training; denying permits to those who pose a risk to public safety; and changing the law to allow deadly force as the first option were evenly shared across both segments.



DETAILED FINDINGS

APPENDIX

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE