

AWARENESS & USE OF GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

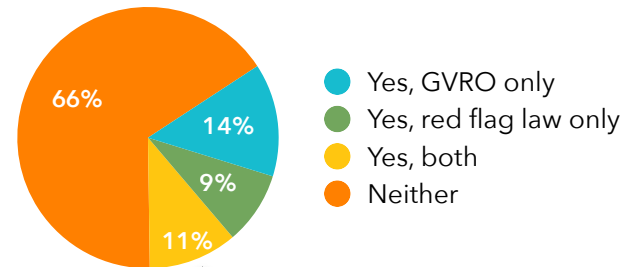
Results from the 2020 California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS)

WHAT ARE GVROs?

Gun violence restraining orders (GVROs), also called extreme risk protection orders or "red flag" orders, are civil court orders in California that temporarily prevent a person who is at risk of hurting themselves or others from possessing or purchasing any firearms or ammunition. California has 3 types of GVROs.

- **Emergency orders** are available to law enforcement 24/7 for crisis situations and last up to 3 weeks.
- **Temporary orders** are available to family members, household members, some co-workers and employers, some school employees, and law enforcement and last up to 3 weeks.
- **Orders issued after notice and hearing** are available to the same groups of people as temporary orders and last up to 5 years.

2 in 3 respondents had never heard of a GVRO or red flag order.

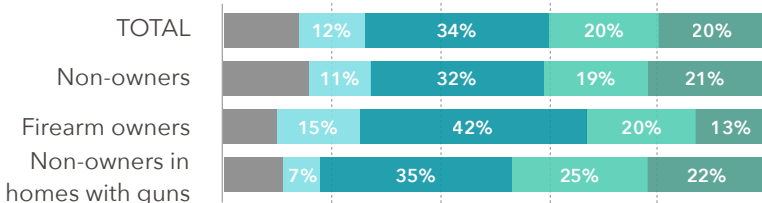


Firearm owners were more likely (21%) than non-owners in homes with guns (6%) and non-owners (10%) to have heard of **both**.

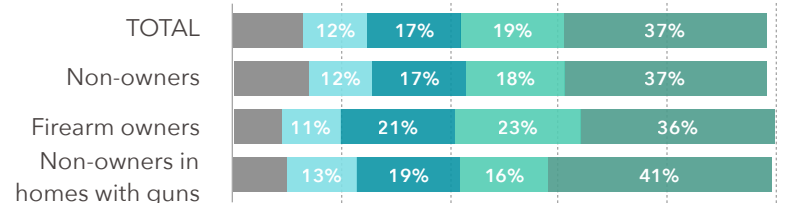
After reading a brief description of California's GVRO law, **3 in 4** respondents indicated that it would be **at least sometimes appropriate** for a judge to issue a GVRO in multiple risk scenarios.

Legend: Don't know (grey), Never appropriate (light blue), Sometimes appropriate (medium blue), Usually appropriate (teal), Always appropriate (dark teal)

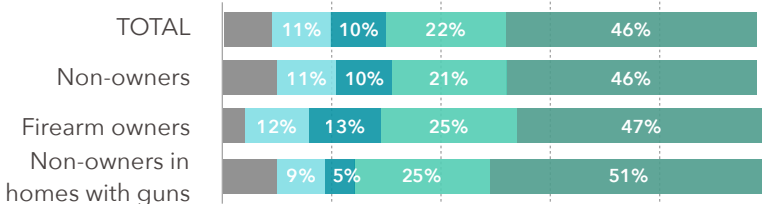
Person experiencing an emotional crisis



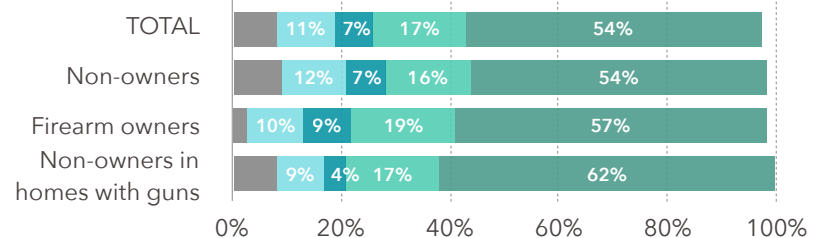
Person with severe dementia or something like it



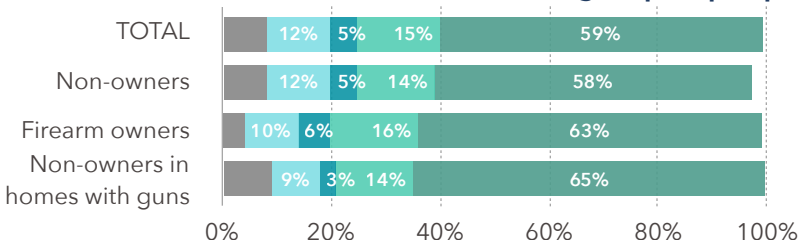
Person threatened to hurt themselves



Person threatened to hurt you or someone else



Person threatened to hurt a group of people



In 4 of 5 risk scenarios, **firearm owners** reported the **highest** levels of at least some support—80% or more—for the appropriateness of GVROs.

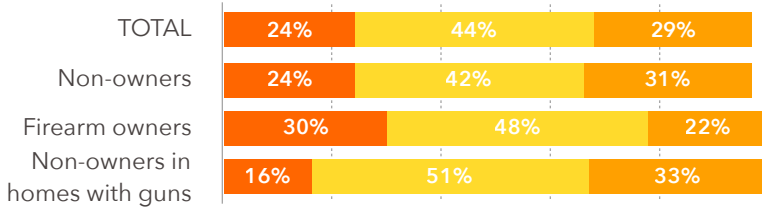
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% because those who refused are not shown.

[Read the full study](#)

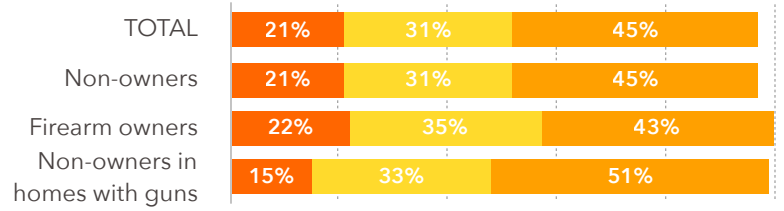
Depending on the risk scenario, 73% to 83% of respondents said they would personally be **somewhat or very willing** to use a GVRO for a family member at risk of harm.

Not at all willing Somewhat willing Very willing

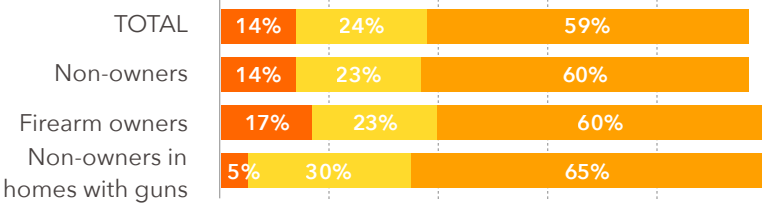
Family member experiencing an emotional crisis



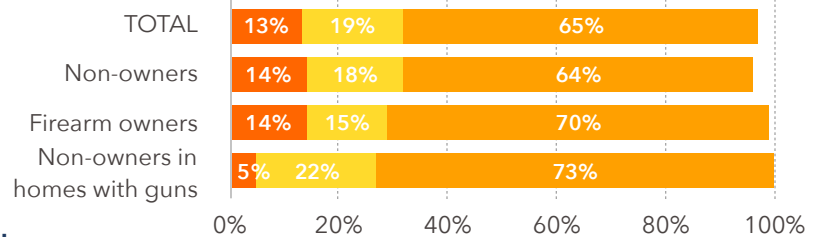
Family member with severe dementia or something like it



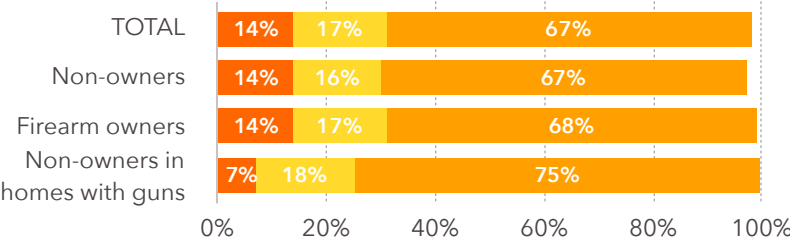
Family member threatened to hurt themselves



Family member threatened to hurt you or someone else



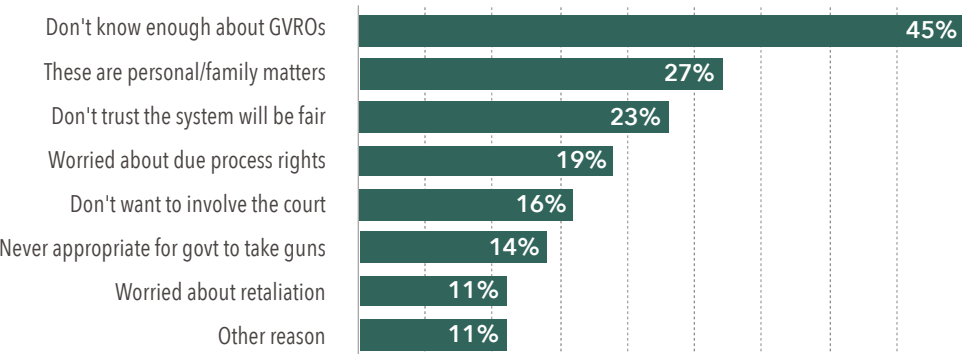
Family member threatened to hurt a group of people



Non-owners in homes with guns reported the **highest** levels of personal willingness to use a GVRO.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% because those who refused are not shown.

30% of respondents were "not at all" willing to ask a judge for a GVRO for a family member in ≥1 risk scenarios. **Reasons for being unwilling** included:



What we learned:

Although GVROs have been available in California since 2016, most Californians have never heard of them.

After reading a brief description of the law, support for the appropriateness of and willingness to use a GVRO was high among both gun owners and non-owners.

Raising awareness of GVROs and normalizing the process of intervening to reduce an at-risk person's access to guns may lead to increased GVRO use to prevent firearm-related harm.



The California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS) is an ongoing, statewide, probability-based Internet survey developed by UCFC and administered by Ipsos. CSaWS asks questions on a wide range of topics related to firearm ownership and exposure to violence and its consequences. More than 2,500 California adults participate in CSaWS at each wave, and their answers are weighted to be statistically representative of the adult population of the state. The 2020 CSaWS was administered from July 14-27, 2020.

Funding for CSaWS comes from the State of California.