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Millions of women in the United States have experienced rape.

As of 1998, an estimated 17.7 million American women had been victims of attempted or completed rape.

Young women are especially at risk.

82% of all juvenile victims are female. 90% of adult rape victims are female. Females ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.

Women ages 18-24 who are college students are 3 times more likely than women in general to experience sexual violence. Females of the same age who are not enrolled in college are 4 times more likely.

21% of TGQN (transgender, genderqueer, nonconforming) college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18% of non-TGQN females, and 4% of non-TGQN males.

On average, American Indians ages 12 and older experience 5,900 sexual assaults per year.<sup>14</sup>

American Indians are twice as likely to experience a rape/sexual assault compared to all races.

41% of sexual assaults against American Indians are committed by a stranger; 34% by an acquaintance; and 25% by an intimate or family member.

Source- <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>

Fearing the likelihood of assault, many women are purchasing guns for self-defense and successfully thwarting potential rapists and other attackers.

In response to the increasing rate of attacks on women, many women are purchasing handguns for personal protection. More than 50 percent of the 104,000 women who responded to a March 1987 Ladies' Home Journal survey say they have guns in their homes, with 40 percent of them reporting that the firearms are owned strictly for protection.

Source- <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/handguns-are-effective-form-self-defense-women-gun-control-p-163>

according to authorities such as Prof. Gary Kleck of Florida State University, guns are used for defense about 3 to 5 times more often than they are used in crimes. A wide range of different surveys puts the number of defensive gun uses at between 777,000 and 3 million per year.

Source- <https://www.aware.org/women-guns-article/>

The Covid-19 pandemic and increases in violence against minorities have spurred a plethora of minorities to become gun owners. Yet, most studies of gun violence equate gun ownership with white conservative men. However, this focus provides an incomplete picture of a very diverse community of gun owners and the variety of reasons for gun ownership, with sexuality, gender, race, and class all shaping issues surrounding firearms and violence. This dissertation centers this complexity through the case of LGBTQ gun owners, who are caught in the crosshairs between the political Left and Right. I draw on 50 interviews, gathered from 2020-2021 with LGBTQ gun owners across the United States, to investigate the paradox of gender and sexual minority gun owners and ask: 1) How do some LGBTQ people become gun owners? 2) How do LGBTQ gun owners navigate their seemingly opposing identities as gender and sexual minorities and as gun owners? and 3) How do LGBTQ gun owners understand self-defense, violence, and guns? In answering these questions, I find that LGBTQ gun owners' perspectives on self-defense, violence, and guns center on forgoing reliance on structural change and, instead, taking self-protection into their own hands. This individualized response focuses on how broader macro-level reliance on laws and policies for social change and progress may not reflect the everyday experiences of some marginalized groups. Furthermore, their perspectives highlighted historical denial of gun ownership as a means of disempowering minorities. This lens helps shape their understandings of (non)inclusion within LGBTQ and gun rights communities, as well as their politics.

Source- <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/116383>