# Civilian firearm possession in Ukraine since the Russian invasion
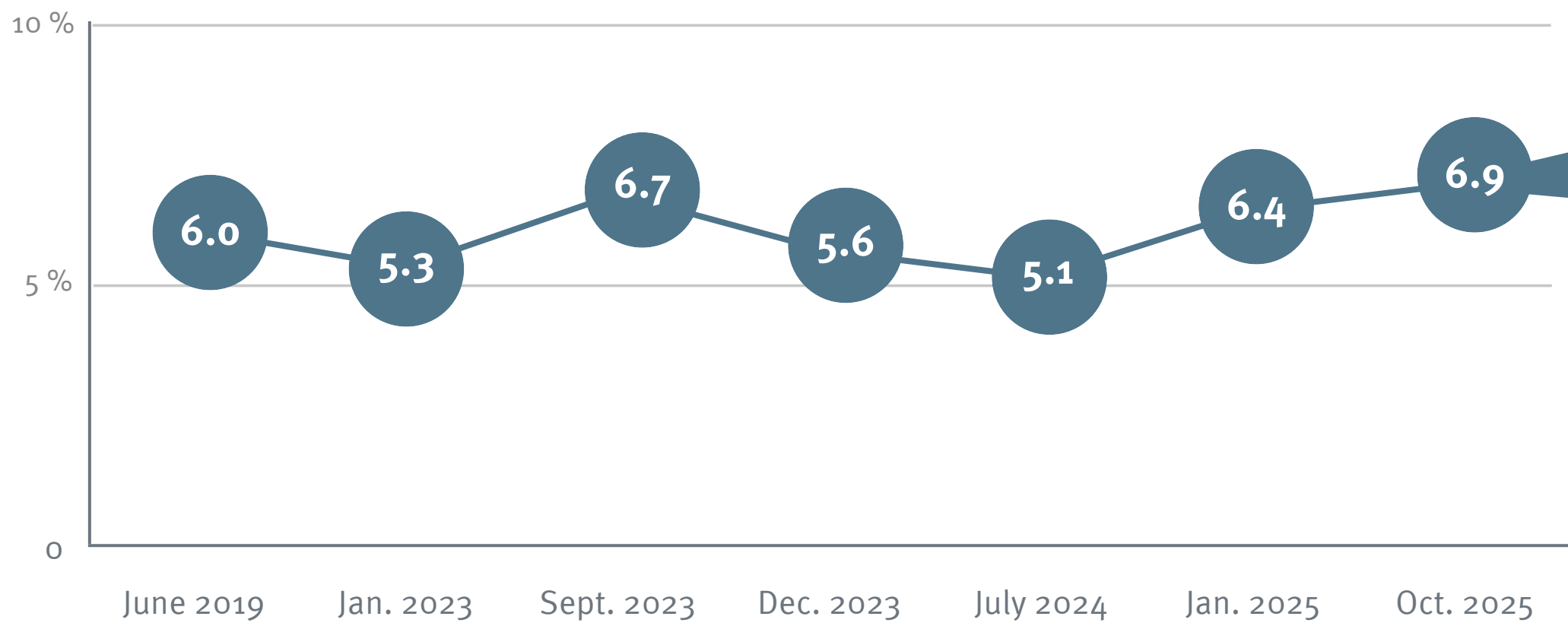
## Percentage of households that have firearms at home

- June 2019: 6.0
- Jan. 2023: 5.3
- Sept. 2023: 6.7
- Dec. 2023: 5.6
- July 2024: 5.1
- Jan. 2025: 6.4
- Oct. 2025: 6.9
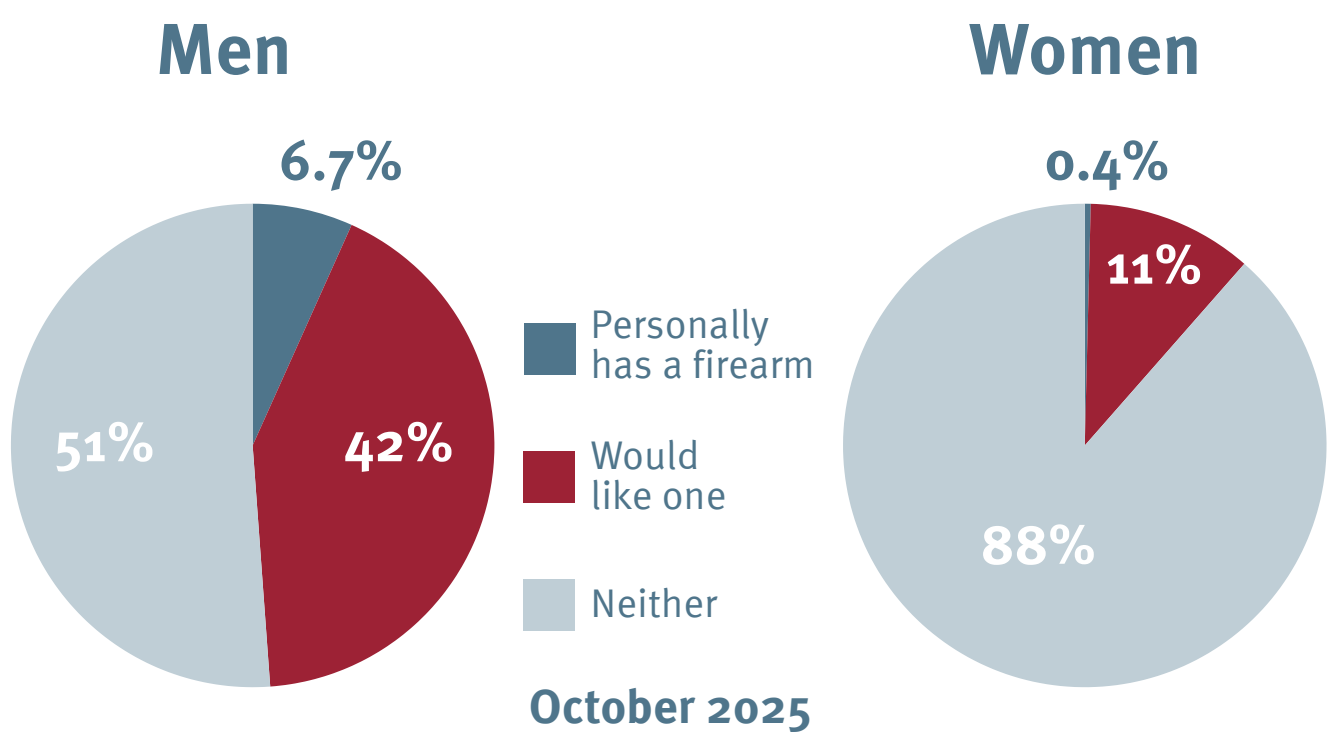
**Gender-adjusted estimate ***
**8.7%**

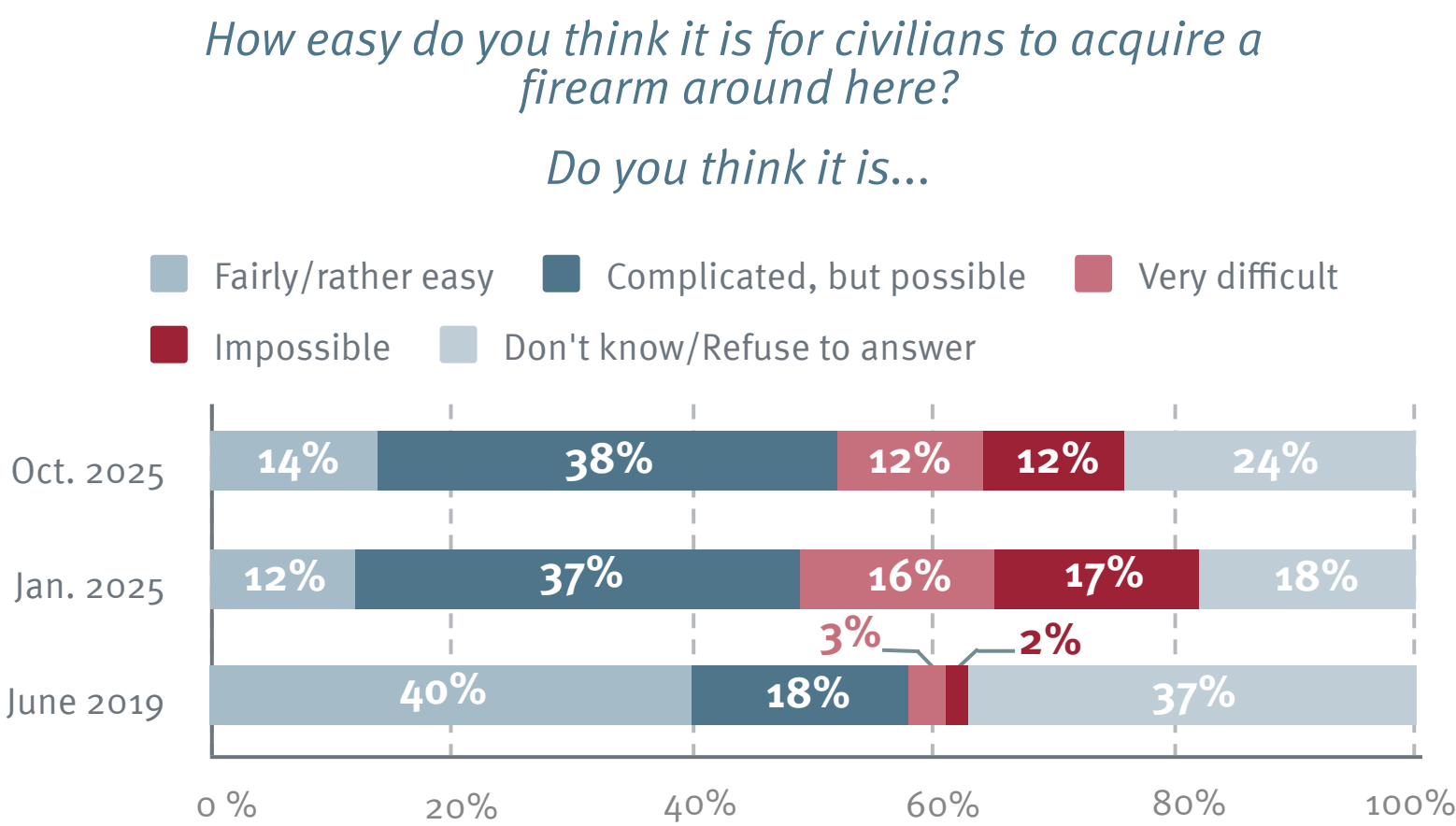**Network-based estimate ****
**11.7%**

**October 2025**

\* Compensating for lower disclosure rate among women by extrapolating male-provided answers to all households where an adult male resident was present.

\*\* Survey respondents report whether they believe, or are certain, that their neighbours (up to five households) possess a firearm. The reported rate reflects only those households which the respondents knew for sure that they owned one or more firearms.

## Relatively few people have firearms, but many more would like to have one

### Men
- 6.7% Personally has a firearm
- 42% Would like one
- 51% Neither

### Women
- 0.4% Personally has a firearm
- 11% Would like one
- 88% Neither

**October 2025**

Legend:
- Personally has a firearm
- Would like one
- Neither

## Access, however, is perceived to be much more difficult since the full scale invasion

*How easy do you think it is for civilians to acquire a firearm around here?*

*Do you think it is...*

Legend:
- Fairly/rather easy
- Complicated, but possible
- Very difficult
- Impossible
- Don't know/Refuse to answer

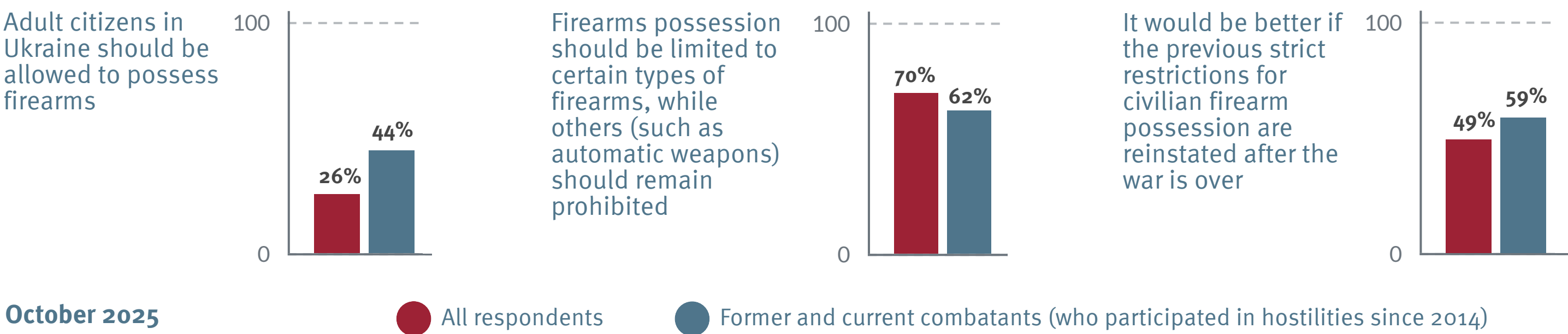| | Fairly/rather easy | Complicated, but possible | Very difficult | Impossible | Don't know/Refuse |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. 2025 | 14% | 38% | 12% | 12% | 24% |
| Jan. 2025 | 12% | 37% | 16% | 17% | 18% |
| June 2019 | 40% | 18% | 3% | 2% | 37% |

## The majority of respondents favour stricter regulations around firearm possession

*What is your opinion on the current regulations around firearms in Ukraine?*

- They should be more permissive: 12%
- They are appropriate: 17%
- They should be stricter: 56%
- Don't know/Refuse to answer: 15%

**October 2025**

## Combat exposure affects perceptions of firearm regulations

**Percentage of respondents who somewhat agree or completely agree with the below statements:**

- Adult citizens in Ukraine should be allowed to possess firearms
  - All respondents: 26%
  - Former and current combatants: 44%

- Firearms possession should be limited to certain types of firearms, while others (such as automatic weapons) should remain prohibited
  - All respondents: 70%
  - Former and current combatants: 62%

- It would be better if the previous strict restrictions for civilian firearm possession are reinstated after the war is over
  - All respondents: 49%
  - Former and current combatants: 59%

**October 2025**

Legend:
- All respondents
- Former and current combatants (who participated in hostilities since 2014)

# Civilian firearm safety in Ukraine

## Many Ukrainians, especially men, have undergone some form of firearm training

*Did you, personally, receive any training about firearm safety? If yes, how?*

- 24% — Yes, through military or other armed services training (incl. law enforcement)
- 9% — Yes, some other formal training
- 4% — Yes, a knowledgeable person explained it
- 1% — Yes, self-taught from the internet or from books
- 62% — No
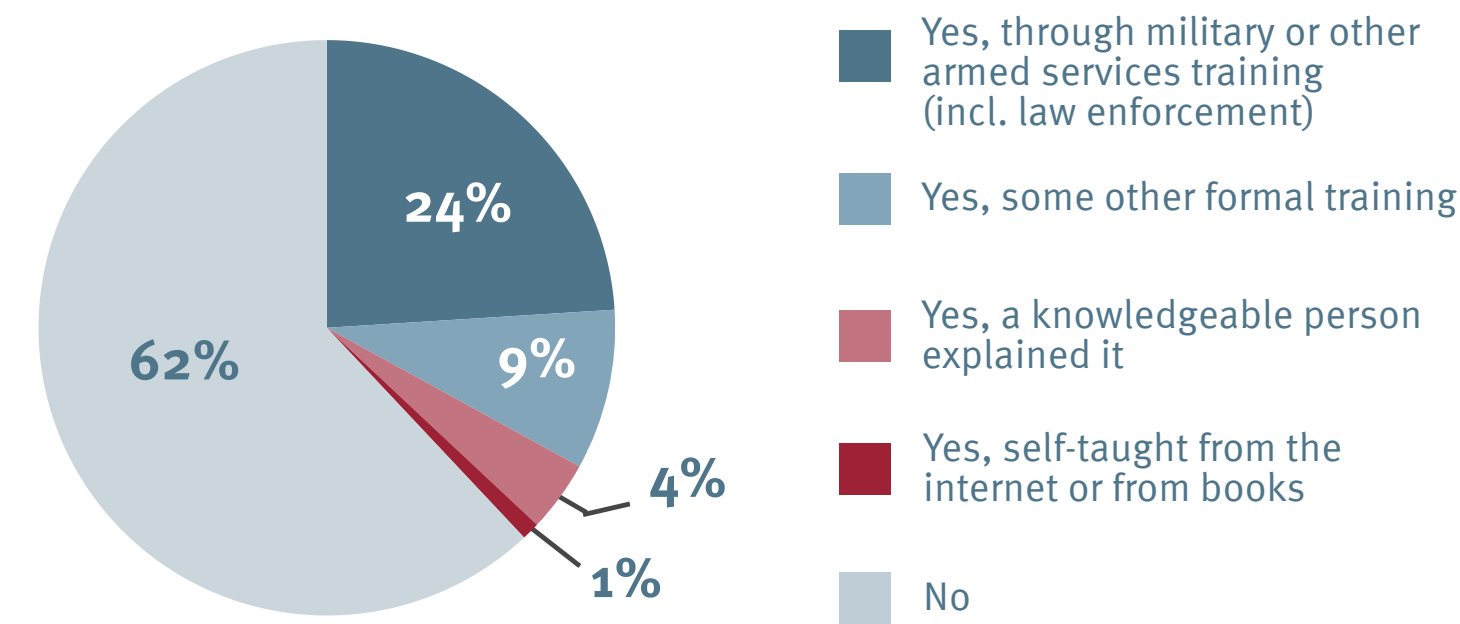
**33%** of all respondents received some kind of formal training

*Proportion of the general population who claim to have received formal firearm training, by age and gender (%)*

| Age | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| 18-29 | 48 | 17 |
| 30-59 | 57 | 11 |
| 60+ | 60 | 12 |
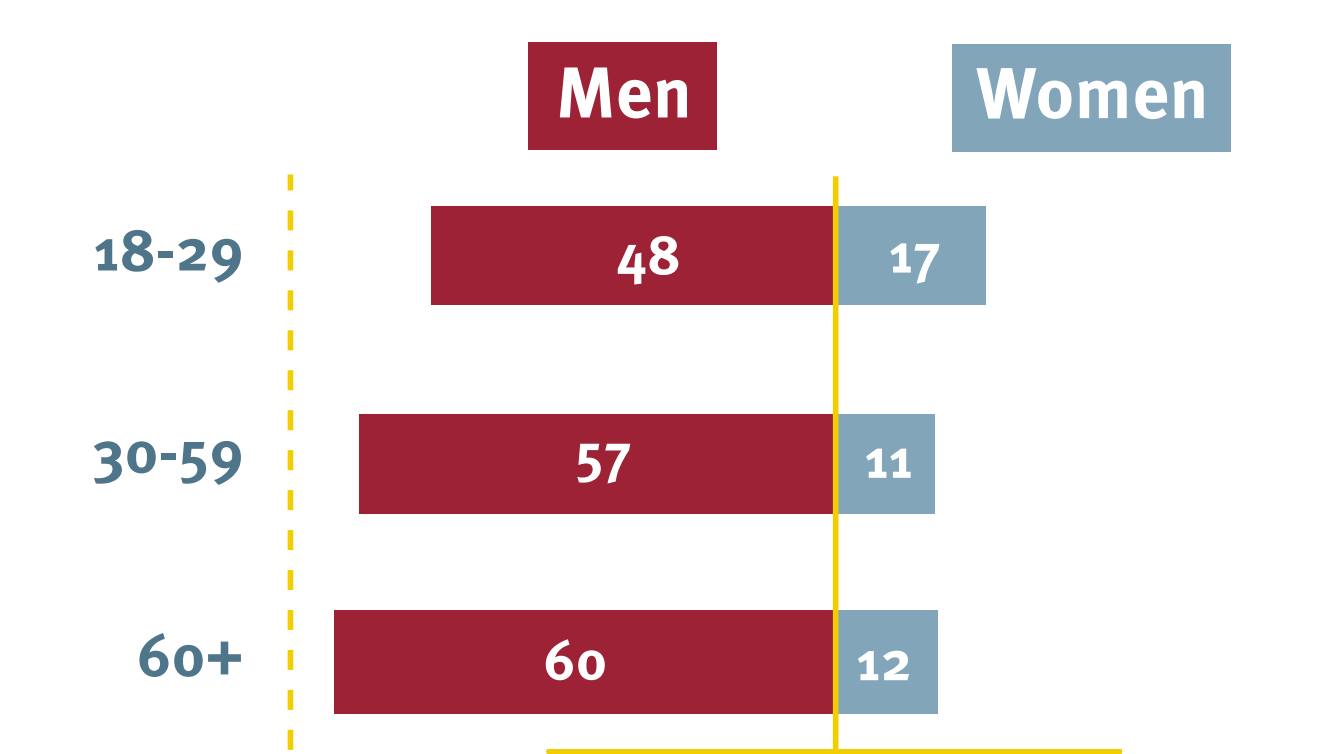
## The Unified Register of Weapons (URW)

**68%** of Ukrainians agree* that if it is not going to be possible to collect firearms from those who have them, it is better to allow them to keep firearms **under the condition that they are registered.**
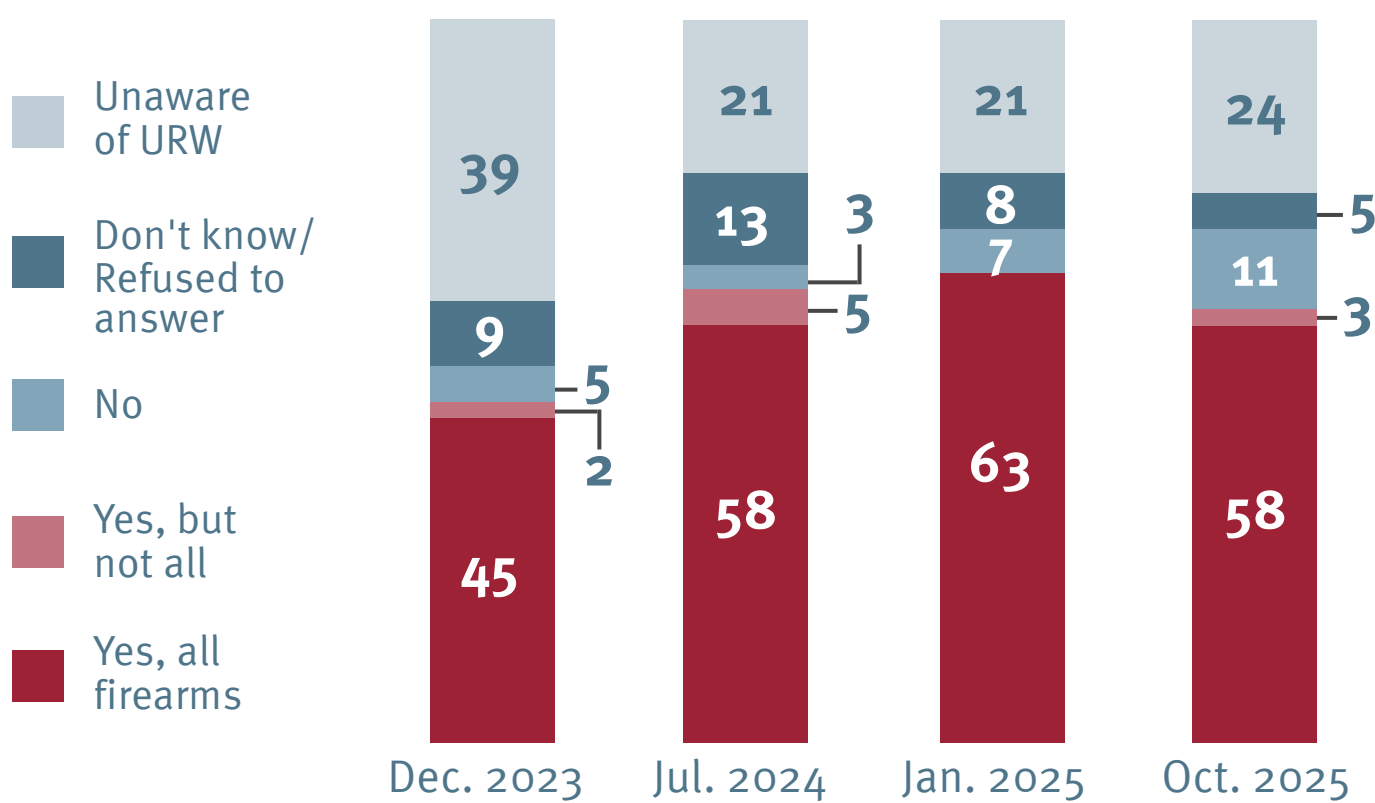
*\* completely agree + rather agree*

**Less than 6 in 10 respondents** living in firearm-owning households **declared that all their firearms are registered in the URW**. About a quarter are **not aware** of the URW.

### Some clear gaps in firearm storage practices remain

*Respondents who have weapons in the household, or at least occasionally keep their firearm at home or in their vehicle*

- **96%** lock all weapons away
- **34%** keep ammunition separate, and all weapons unloaded
- **78%** use trigger locks / safety
- **96%** keep them away from children

**26% apply all four measures**

*Are any of the firearms in this household\* recorded in the Unified Register of Weapons?*

| | Dec. 2023 | Jul. 2024 | Jan. 2025 | Oct. 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unaware of URW | 39 | 21 | 21 | 24 |
| Don't know/Refused to answer | 9 | 13 | 8 | 5 |
| No | 5 | 3 | 7 | 11 |
| Yes, but not all | 2 | 5 | — | 3 |
| Yes, all firearms | 45 | 58 | 63 | 58 |

*\* among respondents with one or more firearms in the household*

## Exposure to awareness campaigns is decreasing, but social media retains its prominence

*Have you recently encountered a public awareness campaign about the risks related to firearms?*
*(All respondents)*

- January 2025: **14%**
- October 2025: **8%**
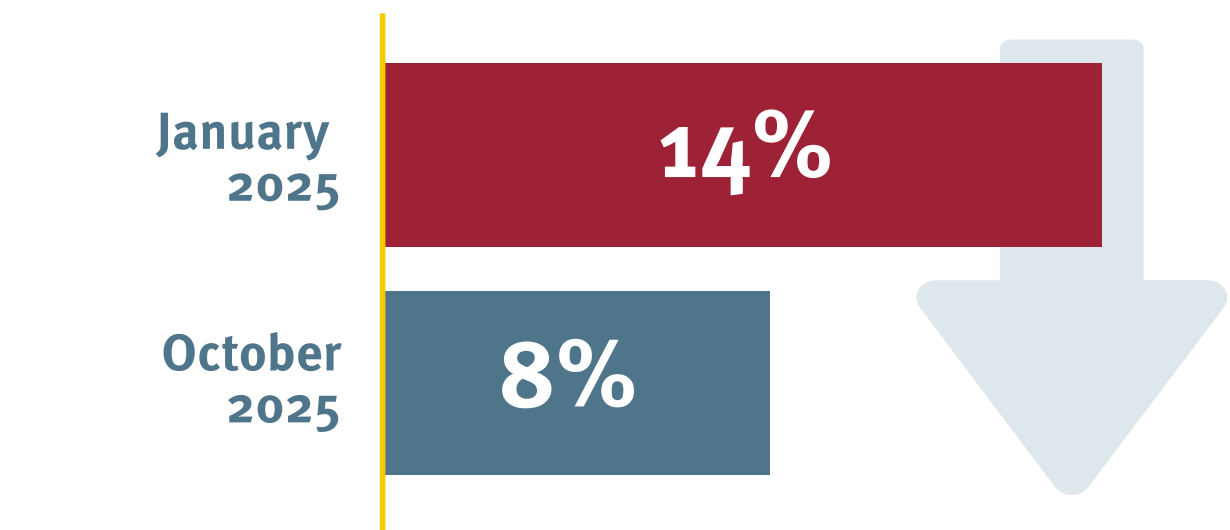
*Where did you encounter information campaigns about the risks of firearms? (of those who did)*

| | January 2025 | October 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Social media feeds | 57% | 58% |
| Dedicated community events, workshops | 17% | 24% |
| TV / YouTube ads | 54% | 46% |
| Dedicated websites | 27% | 20% |
| Schools or educational programs | 25% | 29% |
| Radio / podcasts | 28% | 17% |
| Printed brochures, posters | 40% | 28% |