

# Weapons in Yemen

(Results Summary)

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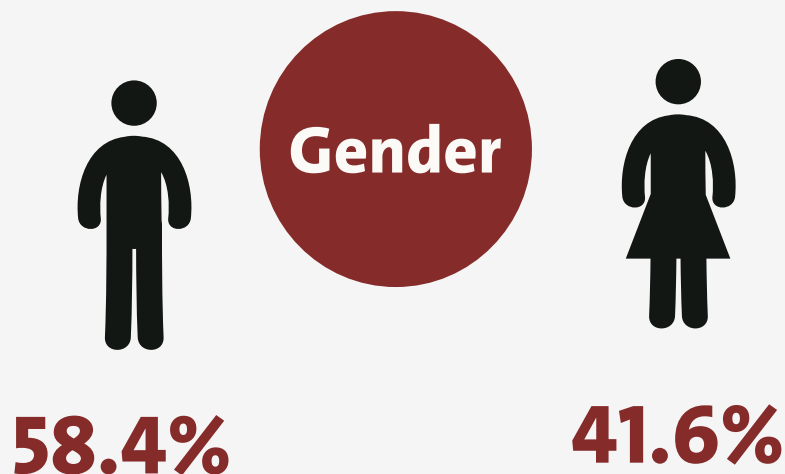


Since ancient times, owning weapons in Yemen has been closely linked to Yemeni customs and traditions. Weapons have been considered a symbol of honor, strength, and courage, and one of the most important accessories in traditional Yemeni men's attire, reflecting the social status of the wearer. All of this has made carrying weapons a valuable cultural and social legacy passed down through generations, giving it a significant social status; weapons were used as a tool to resolve tribal conflicts in Yemen.

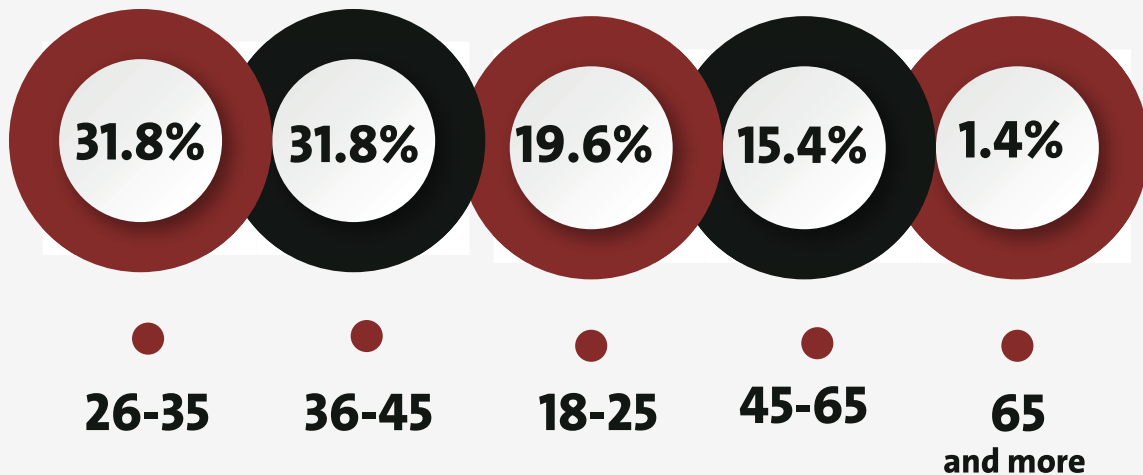
But over time, with the start of conflict in Yemen, these meanings have changed significantly. Amid the conflicts that have plagued Yemen in recent decades, the concept of weapons in Yemen has undergone a major transformation. The uncontrolled spread of weapons has exacerbated conflicts, increased crime rates, and undermined security and stability in the country. The proliferation of weapons has also marginalized the role of the judiciary and official institutions in resolving conflicts.

As a result, the Information and Opinion Polling Unit at "Yemen Information Center" conducted a survey titled "Weapons in Yemen" to gauge the opinions of a sample of the Yemeni community on the spread of the phenomenon of carrying weapons and the negative effects resulting from it, as well as its role in destabilizing security and stability in the country.

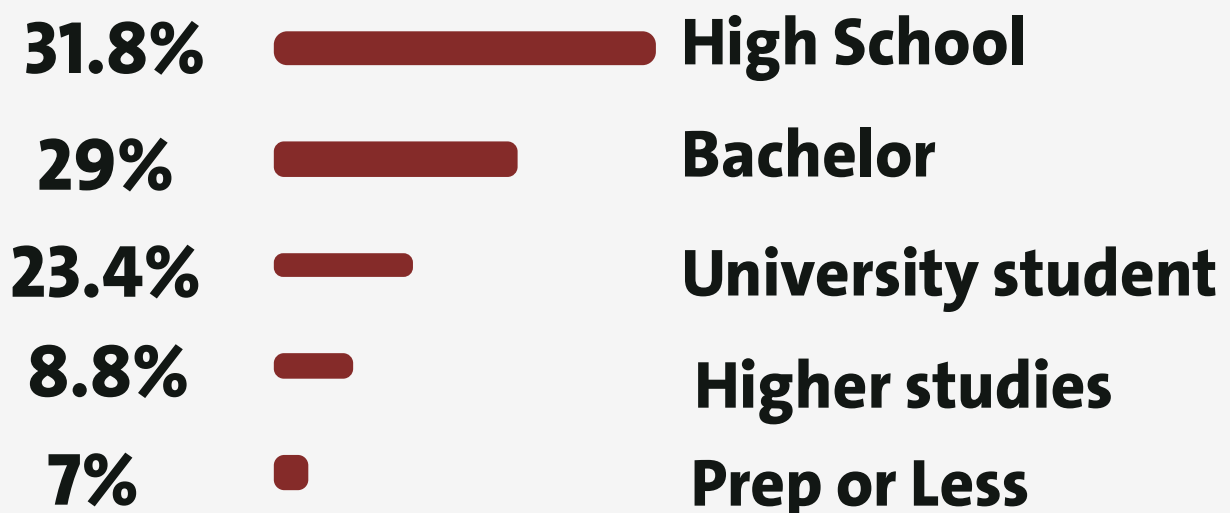
This survey involved 214 participants from various parts of Yemen, with males representing the majority at 58.4% compared to 41.6% females.



The age groups of the participants varied, with the age group between 26-35 years representing 31.8% of participants, followed by another 31.8% in the age group between 36-45 years. Additionally, 19.6% of participants were in the age group between 18-25 years, and 15.4% were in the age group between 46-65 years, while only 1.4% of participants were above 65 years.

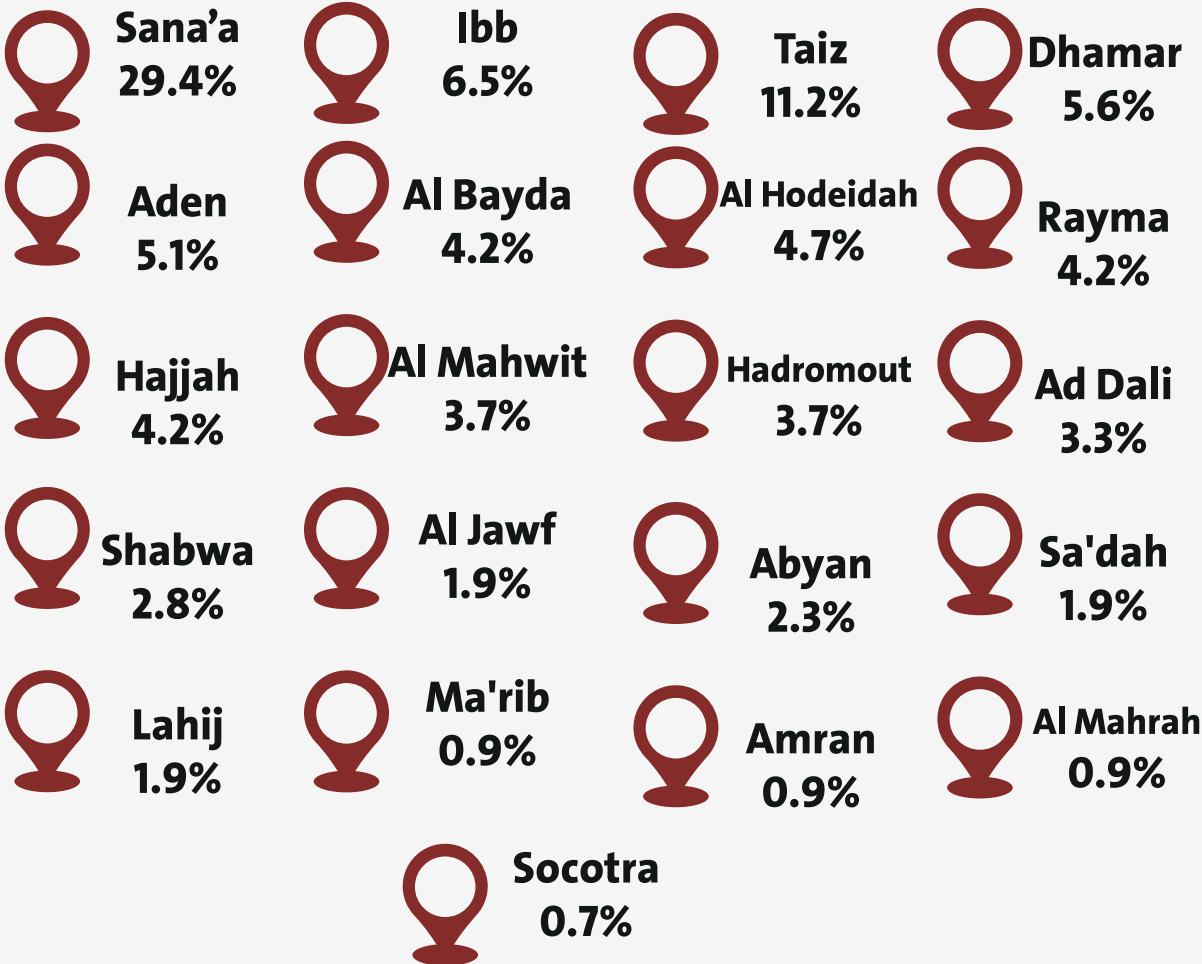


As for education, high school diploma holders were the most represented group at 31.8%, followed by bachelor's degree holders at 29%, and 23.4% were university students. Only 8.8% held higher degrees, while participation was limited to 7% for those with preparatory school certificates and below.



The survey covered 21 Yemeni governorates, with Sana'a governorate having the highest participation rate at 29.4%. This was followed by Taiz governorate at 11.2%, Ibb at 6.5%, Dhamar at 5.6%, and Aden at 5.1%. Additionally, 4.7% participated from Hodeida, 4.2% from Al-Baydha, 4.2% from Rima, 4.2% from Hajja, 3.7% from Hadhramaut, 3.7% from Al-Mahweet, 3.3% from Al Dhali', 2.8% from Shabwa, 2.3% from Abyan, 1.9% from Al-Jawf, 1.9% from Sa'da, 1.9% from Lahj, while only 0.9% participated from Al-Mahra, Amran, and Ma'rib, and just 0.7% from Socotra.

## Governorate



## Main Results

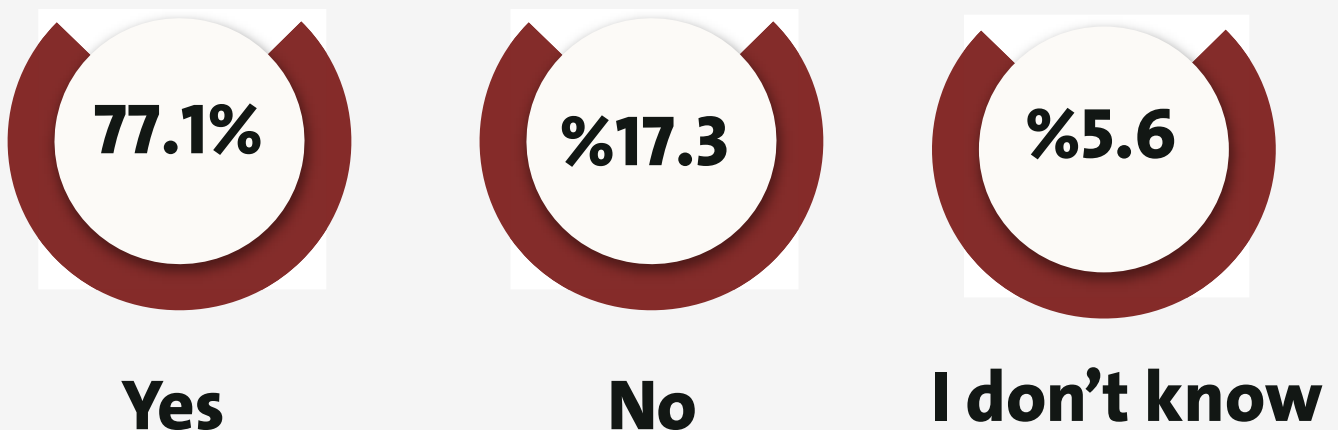
88.8% of the survey participants believe that the spread of weapons in Yemen is significant and widespread, attributing this spread to the following reasons:(multiple-choice question, each response was analyzed as a separate sample, with a percentage estimated at 100%)

- The culture of carrying weapons, by 67.3%
- Ongoing conflict in the country, by 50%
- Weak control, by 41.6%

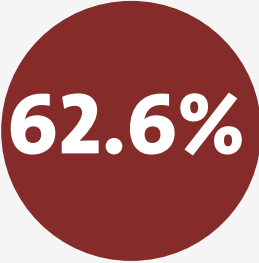
While 10.3% believed its spread is moderate, and only 0.9% stated that the spread of weapons in Yemen is weak and limited.



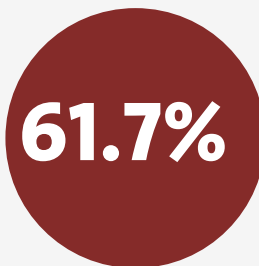
Regarding the impact of conflict on the spread of weapons in Yemen, 77.1% of survey participants said that the continuation of conflict in Yemen has significantly affected the increase in the spread of weapons in Yemen, while 17.3% believe the opposite and only 5.6% said they have no idea about the matter.



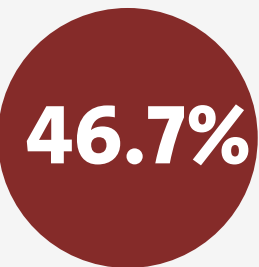
Certainly, many negative effects are facing Yemenis due to the spread of weapons in Yemen, which, according to the opinions of the survey participants, were as follows: (multiple-choice question, each response was analyzed as a separate sample, with a percentage estimated at 100%)



**Threat to community security**



**Spread of violence**



**Negative psychological  
and social effects**

Despite these effects, 83.2% believe that carrying weapons in Yemen is closely related to Yemeni popular culture, while 15.9% believe otherwise, and only 0.9% said they have no idea about the matter.

**83.2%**



**Yes**

**15.9%**



**No**

**0.9%**



**I don't know**

In conclusion, survey participants agreed that carrying weapons holds a significant place in the Yemeni social structure, but they were divided on the extent of positivity or negativity of this status; on one hand, some considered weapons as symbols of honor, power, and courage, with ownership enhancing one's status in society. Others viewed weapons as necessary for self-defense and protection of property, especially in areas where weapons are widespread and security is lacking. However, participants highlighted the risks of weapons proliferation, such as exacerbating crime and tribal conflicts and undermining security and stability. They also emphasized the need for strict laws to regulate the possession and use of weapons. Overall, the issue of weapons in Yemen is complex and multifaceted, requiring a comprehensive approach that considers various social, cultural, and security aspects.