A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making

A Review of 2019 CDC Gun Mortality Data

FEBRUARY 2021

EFSGV | THE EDUCATIONAL FUND TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

CSGV | THE COALITION TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

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About this Report

About the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence

Founded in 1978, the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV) seeks to make gun violence rare and abnormal. A 501(c)(3) affiliate organization of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, EFSGV uses public health and equity lenses to identify and implement evidence-based policy solutions and programs to reduce gun violence in all its forms. EFSGV is the gun violence prevention movement's premier research intermediary and founder of the Consortium for Risk-Based Firearm Policy. EFSGV makes communities safer by translating research into policy; it achieves this by engaging in policy development, advocacy, community and stakeholder engagement, and technical assistance.

About the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) is the nation's oldest gun violence prevention organization, founded in 1974. Along with its affiliate organization, the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, CSGV develops and advocates for evidence-based solutions to reduce gun injury and death in all its forms. CSGV's guiding principle is simple: We believe gun violence should be rare and abnormal. We pursue this goal through policy development, advocacy, community engagement, and effective training.

Report Contributors

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence would like to thank Dakota Jablon, Vicka Chaplin, Ari Davis, Lisa Geller, Rachel Perrone, Tom Fazzini, and Lauren Footman for their contributions to the development of this report.

How to Cite this Report

Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. (2021). A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making: A Review of 2019 CDC Gun Mortality Data. Available: http://efsgv.org/2019CDCdata

Data Source

This report outlines gun death data from 2019, the most recent year of data available, and shows trends over the last two decades. The purpose of the report is to share data in an accessible and user-friendly format. All data were accessed using the Centers for Disease Control's Underlying Cause of Death database, part of the Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) database. The Underlying Cause of Death database contains data based on death certificates for United States residents.

Introduction

Gun violence is an American public health crisis decades in the making. The latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data show that 39,707 people, 86% of whom were male, lost their lives to gun violence in 2019. It was the third consecutive year of nearly 40,000 gun deaths, and part of a three-year cluster with a higher gun death rate than any other time in the last two decades. Further, almost one in ten (3,390) gun deaths in 2019 were children and teens, the second-highest number of annual child and teen gun deaths in twenty years. In 2019, firearms were the leading cause of death for American children, teens, and young adults ages 1 to 24.

After years of a gradual but fairly consistent decline, the U.S. firearm homicide rate began climbing in 2015, leading to more than 14,000 deaths in three of the four following years, including in 2019, when a third of gun deaths were homicides (36%), 14,414 in total. A closer look reveals a painful story of the effects of racism and inequity: 37% of gun homicide victims were Black males between the ages of 15 and 34 – although they made up only 2% of the U.S. population. Their gun homicide rate was more than 20 times higher than White males of the same age group.

The majority -- 60% -- of gun deaths in 2019 were suicides, 23,941 in total. Firearm suicide risk was highest among White men age 75 and older, though for men of every other racial and ethnic identity, firearm suicide risk peaked between the ages of 20 and 34. While 2019 showed a slight reprieve with 491 fewer firearm suicides reported than in 2018, the firearm suicide rate has been steadily growing over the last decade. Suicide (by any method) continues to be the 10th leading cause of death in the country, and firearms continue to account for half of all suicides.

The fact is, gun violence in the U.S. remains persistently high, and lives will continue to be lost needlessly without meaningful national leadership. To stem this tide, we need to adopt a comprehensive public health approach to gun violence prevention, applied with an equity lens, that includes robust legislation, funding across all levels of government, and executive action from the new presidential administration. More comprehensive recommendations are included later in this report.

Further, we must improve how firearms data are collected. The CDC's 2019 fatality data only became available in December 2020 -- an unacceptable delay that hampers potential responses. We cannot solve a problem we cannot quantify, and without timely data, we lack the information we need to make the best possible decisions. For example, there are indications that homicides have risen dramatically in 2020, and emerging data suggest there may be a disproportionate rise in suicides among Black people, but because the U.S. lacks a standard and timely system for collecting and reporting gun deaths, we won't know the full scale of the problem for many months to come. Data collection and reporting must be improved.

Despite the limitations, gun death data are the most reliable type of gun violence data currently available -- but gun deaths are only the tip of the iceberg of gun violence. Many more people are shot and survive their injuries, are shot at but not hit, or witness gun violence. Many experience gun violence in other ways, by living in impacted communities, losing loved ones to gun violence, or being threatened with a gun. With this report, it is our mission to share the most accurate and up-to-date data related to gun deaths while we advocate for more and better data related to gun violence in all its forms. Ultimately, we strive to apply these data to create and implement life-saving policies and programs that will end the gun violence epidemic.

In 2019, 109 Americans died from gun violence *daily.* But it doesn't have to be this way. Gun violence is preventable. By applying the public health approach and implementing stronger, evidence-based gun laws and programs, we can create a more peaceful future, free from gun violence in all its forms.

Fast Facts: 2019 and 5-Year Averages

Gun Deaths, 2019

In 2019, nearly 40,000 Americans were killed by gun violence, including over 14,400 by homicide and nearly 24,000 by suicide. Gun violence killed nearly 109 Americans daily, including 39 by homicide and 66 by suicide. This is a horrifying reality for our country -- one we must change.

	Gun deaths total, 2019	Average daily gun deaths, 2019	Gun death rate, 2019
Homicide	14,414	39	4.59
Suicide	23,941	66	6.84
Unintentional	486	1	0.16
****Legal Intervention**	520	1	0.17
Undetermined Intent	346	1	0.09
Total	**39,707**	**109**	**11.86**

Note: Rates listed are age-adjusted to allow for accurate comparisons between populations with different age distributions.

***A cautionary note about "legal intervention" data: Strong evidence shows that the government's data (including the CDC data presented here) provide a substantial under-count of police-involved injuries and deaths.[1] To address this gap, several media sources have tracked police-involved shootings in recent years, most notably the Washington Post's Fatal Force database, finding more than double the number of police-involved fatal shootings than are reported in FBI and CDC databases. The Fatal Force database reported that 999 and 1,000 Americans were shot and killed by police in 2019 and 2020 respectively, nearly double the number that the CDC reported. Ultimately, better data on police-involved injuries and deaths are sorely needed. Compulsory and comprehensive data collection at the local level, reporting to the federal government, and transparency in the public dissemination of data will be critical for understanding this unique kind of gun violence and developing evidence-based solutions to minimize police-involved shootings.*

Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens, 2019

Tragically, more than 3,300 children and teens (ages 0-19) were killed by gun violence in 2019, including over 2,000 by homicide and 1,100 by suicide. An average of nine children and teens were killed by gun violence daily in 2019, including six by homicide and three by suicide.

	Child and teen gun deaths total, 2019	Average daily child and teen gun deaths, 2019	Child and teen gun death rate, 2019
Homicide	2,023	6	2.48
Suicide	1,167	3	1.43
Unintentional	117	<1	0.14
Legal Intervention	19	<1	Unreliable
Undetermined Intent	64	<1	0.08
Total	**3,390**	**9**	**4.15**

1 Barber, C., Azrael, D., Cohen, A., Miller, M., Thymes, D., Wang, D. E., & Hemenway, D. (2016). Homicides by police: comparing counts from the national violent death reporting system, vital statistics, and supplementary homicide reports. *American Journal of Public Health*. 106(5), 922-927.

The following averages are based on the most recent five years of CDC data, 2015-2019.

Average Number of Gun Deaths, 2015-2019

Every year from 2015 through 2019, an average of nearly 40,000 Americans were killed by guns, including over 14,000 by homicide and 23,000 by suicide. This totals more than 100 gun deaths every single day.

	Average annual gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average daily gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average gun death rate, 2015-2019
Homicide	14,062	39	4.51
Suicide	23,437	64	6.80
Unintentional	483	1	0.15
Legal Intervention	521	1	0.17
Undetermined Intent	324	<1	0.09
Total	**38,826**	**106**	**11.73**

Note: Rates listed are age-adjusted to allow for accurate comparisons between populations with different age distributions.

Average Number of Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens, 2015-2019

On average, over 3,200 children and teens (ages 0-19) were killed by guns annually from 2015-2019, including over 1,800 by homicide, 1,100 by suicide, and 115 unintentionally. Nine children and teens died from gun violence every day.

	Average annual child and teen gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average daily child and teen gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average child and teen gun death rate, 2015-2019
Homicide	1,855	5	2.26
Suicide	1,176	3	1.43
Unintentional	115	<1	0.14
Legal Intervention	26	<1	0.03
Undetermined Intent	59	<1	0.07
Total	3,231	9	3.94

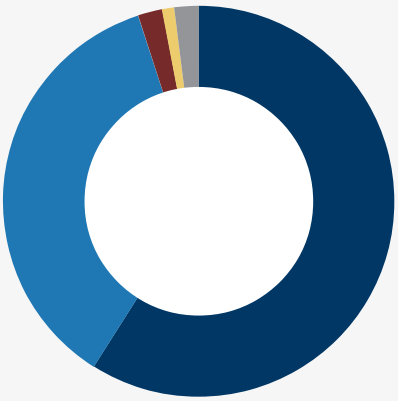
Gun Deaths in the United States: 2019 and Trends Over Time

Gun violence was a leading cause of death in 2019. On average, 109 individuals died from gun violence every day in 2019. For the year in total:

- 39,707 people died from gun violence in the U.S., a small decrease of 33 gun deaths from 2018. 2,112 more Americans died by gun violence (39,707) than by car crashes (37,595).
- It was the third consecutive year of nearly 40,000 gun deaths, capping a decade during which the overall gun death rate increased 17% (10.1 to 11.86 deaths per 100,000, age-adjusted, 2010-2019).
- Males were disproportionately impacted across all forms of gun violence and accounted for 86% of gun death victims. Black males were at especially high risk, with the highest rate of gun death among demographic groups (43.09 deaths per 100,000).

FIGURE 1

Number of Gun Deaths by Intent, 2019



60.3%	Suicide
36.3%	Homicide
1.2%	Unintentional
.09%	Undetermined
1.3%	Legal Intervention

Gun violence comes in many forms and that was true in 2019:

- The proportion of homicides upticked slightly as compared to the previous year, representing 36% of all gun deaths. More than 14,400 individuals were firearm homicide victims in 2019, including 2,023 children and teens (ages 0-19). This equated to an average of 39 firearm homicides every day.
- Suicides continued to make up 60% of all gun deaths. Nearly 24,000 individuals died by firearm suicide, including 1,167 children and teens (ages 0-19). This equated to an average of 66 lives lost every day.
- While the majority of gun deaths are homicides and suicides (combined 96%), people died by other forms of gun violence too, including unintentional,[2] legal intervention,[3] and undetermined intent.[4]

2 "Unintentional" is the description used for a death that was not caused purposely. In gun violence, examples include fatal injuries that occur when a weapon misfires or is mishandled by a child and results in the victim being shot (in contrast with homicide and suicide, both of which involve an intent to pull the trigger and cause harm). Unintentional injuries and deaths are often called "accidents," which can imply that nothing could be done to stop them from happening; we do not use "accident" terminology because gun violence is preventable. Easy access to firearms, particularly unsecured firearms and the presence of firearms in risky situations, increases risk of unintentional injury and death by firearm. Mitigating access with safer storage practices and through evidence-based policy prevents unintentional gun violence.

3 "Legal intervention" is the description used by the CDC for injuries inflicted by the police or other law enforcement agents, including military on duty, in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest lawbreakers, suppressing disturbances, maintaining order, and other legal actions. Cases in which a police or other law enforcement officer discharges a firearm are also known as police-involved or officer-involved shootings.

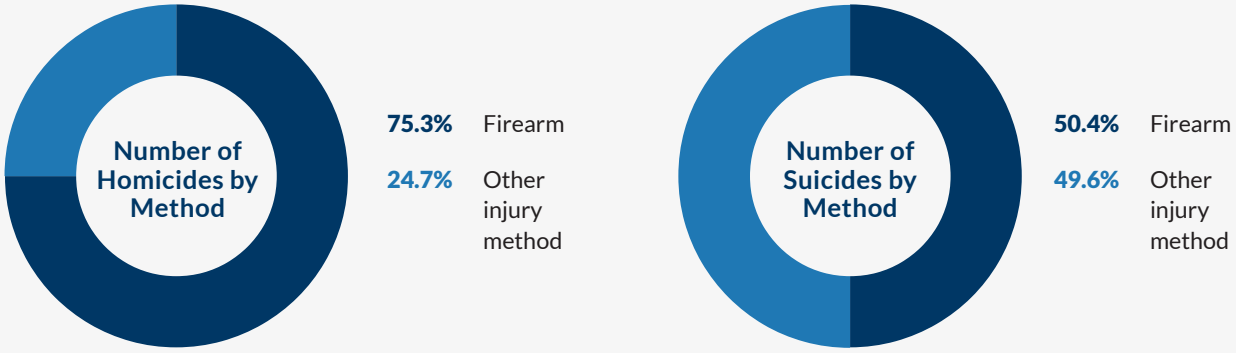
4 While the intentionality of the injury that caused a person's death is most often known or determined in the course of death investigations, there are some cases wherein the available information is insufficient to enable the medical or legal authority to make a distinction between an unintentional injury, self-harm (suicide), or assault (homicide). These cases are described as having an "undetermined" intent.

The Lethality and Accessibility of Firearms Drives Up Homicides and Suicides

Due to their high lethality and ease of accessibility, firearms are often the method of choice for both homicides and suicides.

FIGURE 2

Homicide and Suicide by Injury Method (Firearm v. Non-Firearm), 2019



In 2019, 75% of all homicides were committed by firearm:

- While only 22% of *attempted* homicides with a gun are lethal, guns are still an incredibly lethal means that may also result in nonfatal but very serious injuries.[5]
- Guns are used in homicides nearly nine times more than the second most common method of homicide (cutting/piercing) and more than 30 times more than suffocation.

In 2019, 50% of all suicides involved firearms:

- While poisoning is the most commonly used suicide *attempt* method (used in approximately 60% of all suicidal acts), firearms, which account for less than 10% of all suicidal acts,[6] account for half of all suicide *deaths*.
- While poisoning is lethal less than 3% of the time, 90% of suicide attempts involving firearms are lethal.[7]
- The second most lethal suicide attempt method is drowning (56% of suicidal acts by drowning result in death), yet it is far less likely to happen.[8] There were nearly 46 times more firearm suicide deaths than deaths by drowning in 2019.

5 Cook PJ, Rivera-Aguirre AE, Cerdá M, & Wintemute G. (2017). Constant lethality of gunshot injuries from firearm assault: United States, 2003-2012. American Journal of Public Health.
6 Conner A, Azrael D, & Miller M. (2019). Suicide case-fatality rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014. A nationwide population-based study. ***Annals of Internal Medicine***.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.

FIGURE 3

Homicide Rates, by Method, 2019

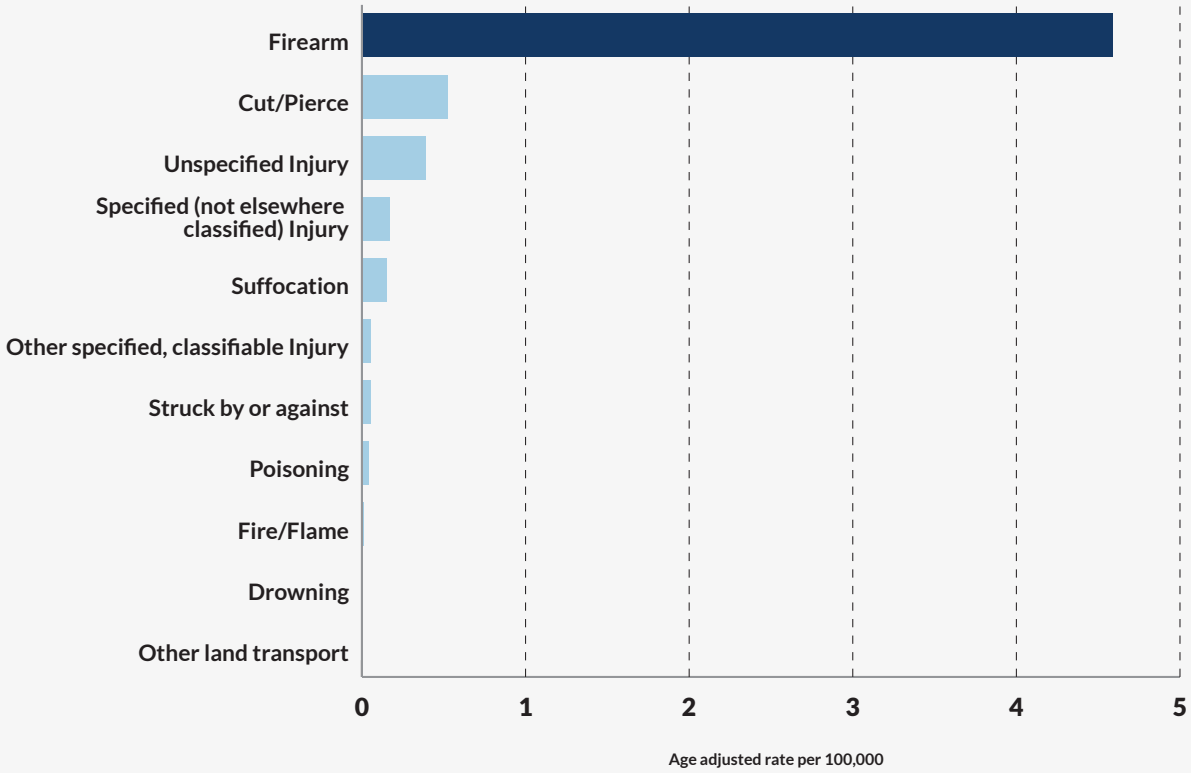
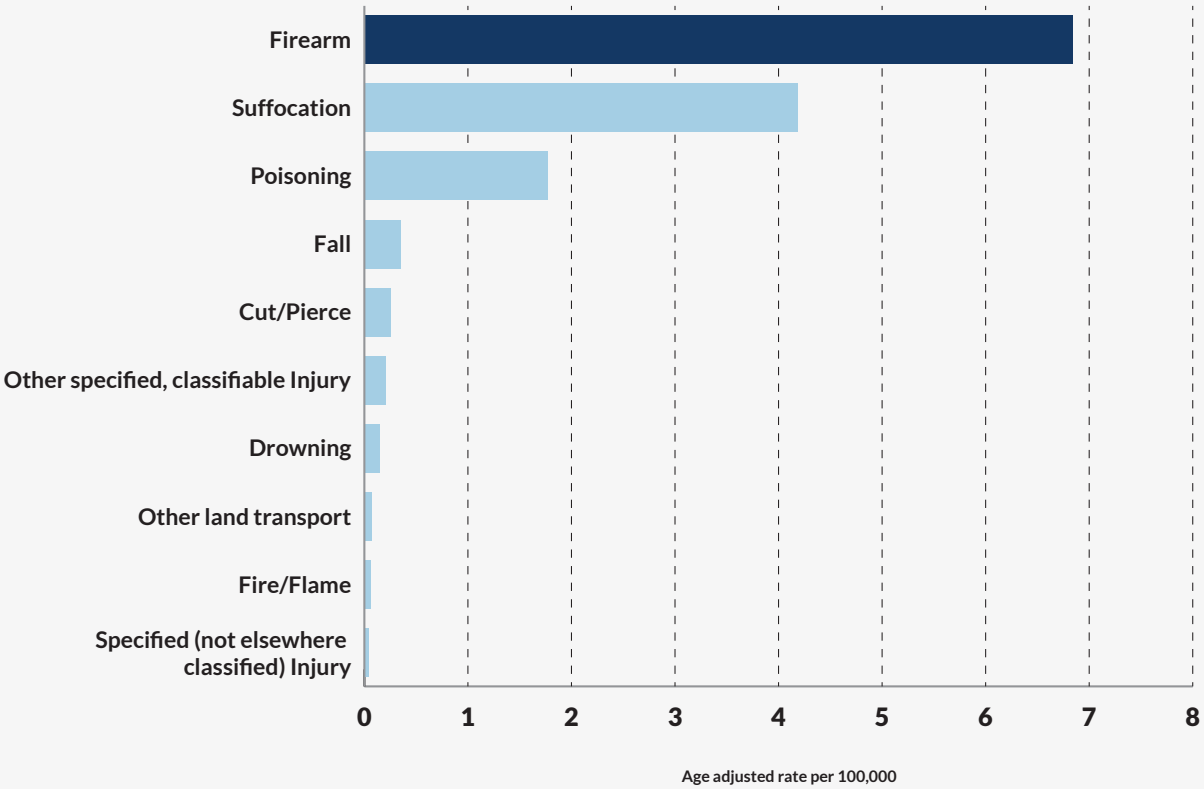


FIGURE 4

Suicide Rates, by Method, 2019



Two Decades of Gun Violence

One way to better understand gun violence is to explore its changes and impacts on communities over time. By examining the last two decades of gun death data, we see that gun violence deaths have escalated in recent years, driven by a significant spike in firearm homicides and steady growth in firearm suicides.

Gun Violence Trends, 2000-2019

Nearly 40,000 people died by gun violence in 2019, part of a three-year-cluster in which there were nearly 40,000 annual gun deaths. This capped a two-decade period during which nearly 570,000 lives were lost to gun violence -- similar to the entire population of Wyoming.

- Over the last 20 years, the most recent five years have been the deadliest. The highest gun death rate occurred in 2017, followed by 2018, 2019, 2016, and 2015.
- The largest single-year increase in the overall gun death rate was from 2014 to 2015; this substantial 7.3% jump can be directly attributed to the astronomical increase in the firearm homicide rate that year.
- The lowest gun death rate over the last 20 years occurred in 2004, 13 years prior to the peak. The next lowest gun death rates occurred in 2009, 2010, 2000, and 2011.
- The increase from the lowest to highest gun death rate (occurring in 2004 and 2017, respectively) was 20%.

Firearm Homicide Trends, 2000-2019

More than 14,000 people were killed by firearm homicide in 2019, capping two decades during which more than 200,000 lives were lost to firearm homicide, more Americans than were lost in World War I and Vietnam combined.

- After years of decline (from 2006-2011), the firearm homicide rate fluctuated before an astronomical rise from 2014 to 2015.
- Over the last 20 years, the most recent four years have been the deadliest. The highest firearm homicide rate occurred in 2017, followed by 2016, 2019, 2018, and 2006.
- The largest single-year increase in the firearm homicide rate was from 2014 to 2015, when the rate increased 18%. Another substantial jump in the firearm homicide rate occurred the following year, from 2015 to 2016, when the rate increased 11%.
- The lowest firearm homicide rate over the last 20 years was in 2014, three years prior to the peak. The next lowest firearm homicide rates occurred in 2011, 2013, 2010, and 2000.
- The increase from the lowest to highest firearm homicide rate (occurring in 2014 and 2017, respectively) was 31%.

Firearm Suicide Trends, 2000-2019

Nearly 24,000 Americans died by firearm suicide in 2019, capping two decades during which more than 340,000 people were lost to firearm suicide, 50,000 more than the number of U.S. troops killed in World War II.

- Overall, the firearm suicide epidemic has been growing, despite the year 2019 showing a slight reprieve, with the rate dropping by nearly 3% from 2018.
- Over the last 20 years, the most recent five years have been the deadliest. The highest firearm suicide rate occurred in 2018, followed by 2017, 2019, 2016, and 2015.
- The largest single-year increase in the firearm suicide rate was from 2015 to 2016, when the rate increased 3.7%. The single-year increase was similar (3.6%) from 2007 to 2008. The change in the firearm suicide rate from year to year has been consistently and steadily increasing, with only a few exceptions.
- The lowest firearm suicide rate over the last 20 years occurred in 2006, 12 years prior to the peak. The next lowest gun death rates occurred at the start of the new millenium, in 2007, 2004, 2005, and 2003.
- The increase from the lowest to highest firearm suicide rate (occurring in 2006 and 2018, respectively) was 27%.

FIGURE 5

Number of Gun Deaths, 2000-2019

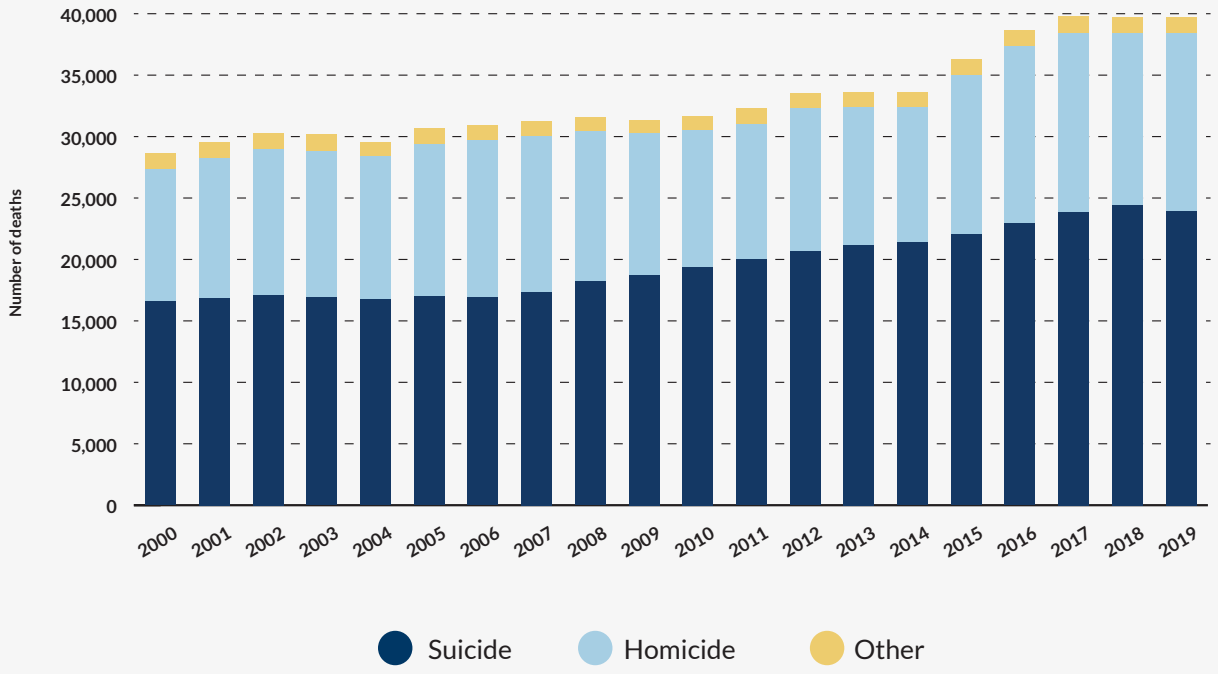
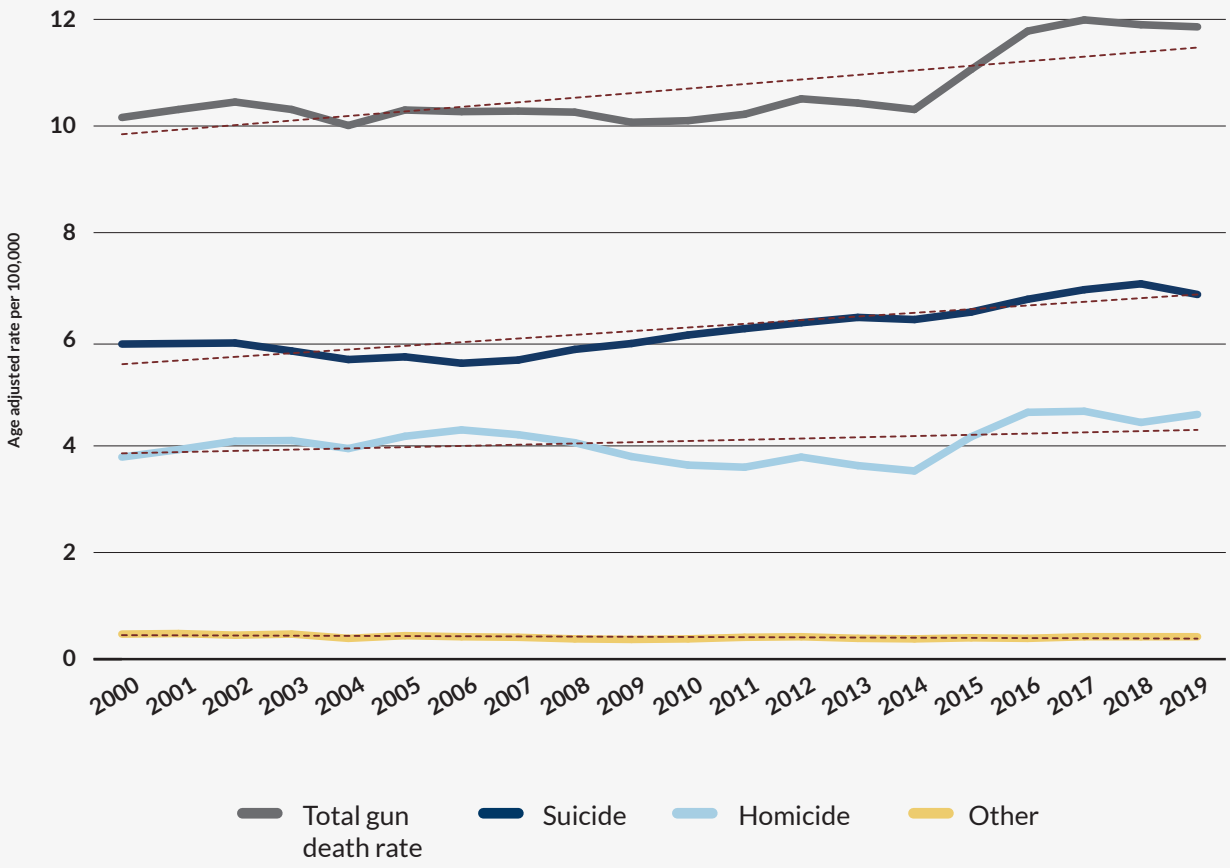


FIGURE 6

Gun Death Rates by Intent, 2000-2019



Disproportionate Impacts

Gun Violence Overall by Demographics

While nobody is immune from gun violence, some demographic groups are at much higher risk than others:

By sex:

- Males are six times more likely to die by gun violence (any intent) than females, making up 86% of U.S. firearm deaths in 2019 (84% of homicides and 87% of suicides).

By age:

- Gun deaths impact both younger and older generations. In fact, the age groups most impacted by gun deaths are young adults (ages 15-34) followed by older adults (ages 75 and older). This is primarily due to homicide victims being disproportionately young and suicide decedents skewing more elderly.

By race/ethnicity among males:

- Black males are disproportionately impacted and have by far the highest rate of gun death, nearly twice as high (1.8x) as the second-highest (and also disproportional) rate of gun death among American Indian/Alaska Native males. Continuing in order descending by rate are White, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. Black males were more than twice as likely to die by firearms than White males in 2019.

By race/ethnicity among females:

- The highest firearm death rate is among American Indian/Alaska Natives, followed closely by Black females. Continuing in order descending by rate: are White, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. American Indian/Alaska Native females were 1.4 times more likely to die by firearms than the White females in 2019.

To stop gun violence in all its forms, broad prevention efforts to reduce risk to the population as a whole must be implemented together with tailored solutions for high-risk populations. Understanding how risk differs across the population by sex, race/ethnicity, and age, and broken down by gun death intent (homicide and suicide), is critical for designing these interventions.

Demographic categories:

The CDC WONDER database allows mortality data to be broken down into the following demographic categories: age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The four race categories are American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black or African American, and White. Hispanic origin is considered an ethnicity, which is why it is not considered a race category. For example, a person may be classified as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hispanic, Asian and Hispanic, Black and Hispanic, or White and Hispanic. Hispanic origin is classified as "Hispanic or Latino" or "Not Hispanic or Latino."

For our analysis, we chose to use "Hispanic or Latino" as a distinct category regardless of race, and selected "Not Hispanic or Latino" for each of the race categories. This ensured that individuals were not counted twice in different demographic groups and follows common practice used by the CDC for data analyses.

Homicide by Demographics

There was a 66x difference in risk of firearm homicide between Black males and Asian females (the highest and lowest risk demographics, respectively). A closer look at demographic data reveals:

By sex:

- More than eight in ten U.S. firearm homicide victims were male (84%) in 2019. Males were five times more likely to be victims than females.

By age:

- Firearm homicide victims are disproportionately young. Across the population -- all races combined, all sexes -- the highest risk age for dying by firearm homicide was 15-24 years old. Separated by race/ethnicity, this young age (15-24) is the highest risk age for Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian/Pacific Islanders, but the risk is highest at slightly older ages for American Indian/Alaska Native (25-34) and White (35-44) populations.

By race/ethnicity among males:

- Fifty-three % of all firearm homicide victims (63% of male victims) in 2019 were Black males. Across all ages, Black men were nearly 8 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than the general population (all sexes) and 14 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than White men. Black males were followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/Hispanic, White, and Asian/Pacific Islander males.

- Young Black males (15-34) are especially disproportionately impacted, making up 2% of the population but accounting for 37% of all gun homicide fatalities in 2019. Their rate of firearm homicide was more than 20 times higher than White males of the same age group.

By race/ethnicity among females:

- Black females had the highest risk of firearm homicide among females of all other races and ethnicities, followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/Hispanic, White, and Asian/Pacific Islander females. Black females and American Indian/Alaska Native females also were both at greater risk of firearm homicide than both White and Asian/Pacific Islander males. Black females were more than four times more likely to be firearm homicide victims than White females.

Suicide by Demographics

There was a 38.5x difference in firearm suicide risk between White men and Asian women (the highest and lowest risk demographics, respectively). A closer look at demographic data reveals:

By sex:

- Nearly nine in ten U.S. firearm suicide decedents are male (87% in 2019), reflecting the increased risk of firearm suicide for males as compared to females across all races/ethnicities and age groups. Males were nearly seven times more likely to die by firearm suicide than females.

By age:

While the overall data shows that firearm suicide victims were disproportionately elderly (75+ is the highest risk age group for the population as a whole), this was skewed by White men, the highest risk demographic.

- The risk for White males increased across the lifespan and peaked at ages 75+.
- Among males of each racial and ethnic identity other than White, the risk of suicide by firearm peaked much younger, among men ages 15-34.
- The risk of firearm suicide for White females peaked at ages 45-54 in 2019.
- Among females of each racial and ethnic identity other than White, the risk of suicide by firearm peaked younger, among women ages 25-34.

By race/ethnicity among males:

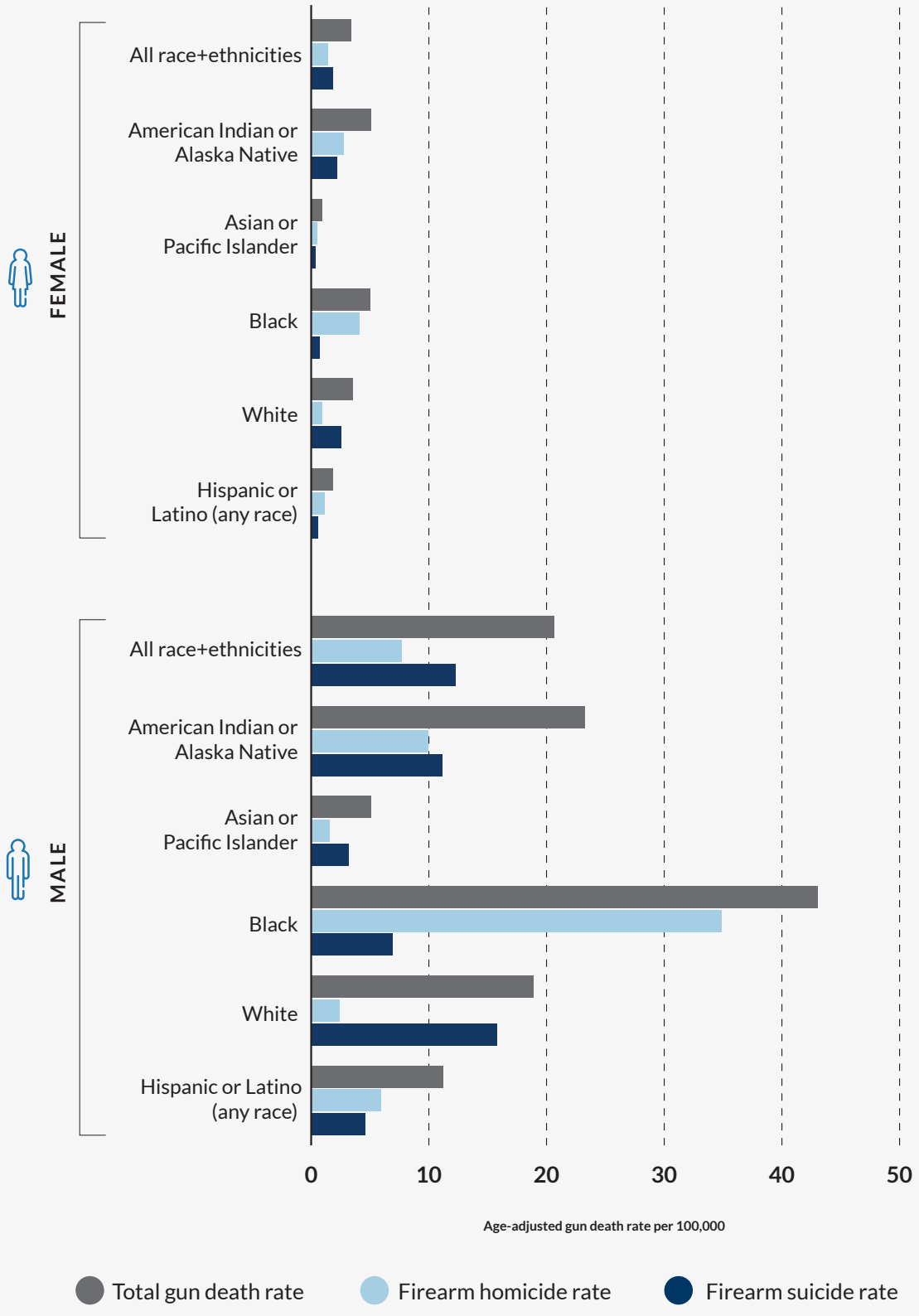
- The majority of all firearm suicide decedents are White males (73%). White males had the highest firearm suicide rate overall, followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander males.
- Across all ages, White men were more than twice as likely to die by firearm suicide than the general population (all sexes). American Indian/Alaska Native males also have a disproportionately high rate of firearm suicide (11.16 deaths per 100,000), although there are far fewer suicide deaths among this demographic due to the smaller size of the population as a whole. In 2019, 17,427 White males and 152 American Indian/Alaska males died by firearm suicide.
- White males were at the highest risk for firearm suicide at all ages except 15-34, during which the risk was highest for American Indian/Alaska Native males.

By race/ethnicity among females:

- The majority of all female firearm suicide decedents are White females (86%). White females had the highest firearm suicide rate both overall and within each age group, followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander females.

FIGURE 7

Gun Death Rates by Demographic Groups, 2019



Geographic Variations

Overall gun death rates at the state level show substantial variation, such as the seven-fold difference in risk between the states with the lowest and highest overall gun death rates (Massachusetts and Alaska in 2019, respectively). In 2019, by urbanization level:

- The total gun death rate was highest in the most rural counties, driven largely by having the highest rate of firearm suicide as compared to other urbanization levels.
- Homicide rates, on the other hand, were highest in urban counties (large central metro and medium metro counties), but much more evenly distributed across urbanization levels, with a smaller spread between the lowest and highest rates.
- The total gun death rate was lowest in the suburbs (large fringe metro counties), a combination of having the lowest homicide rate and second-lowest suicide rate.

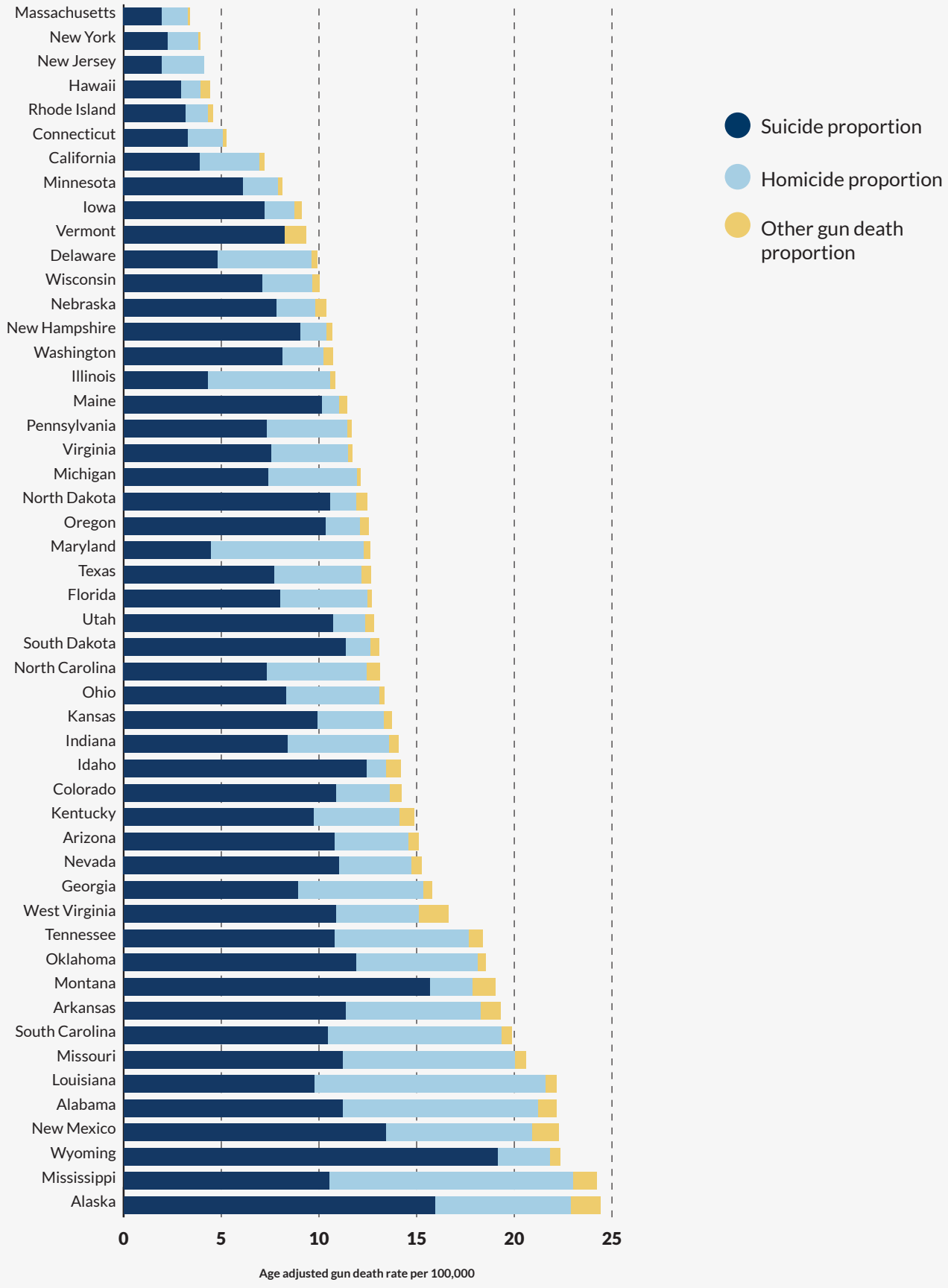
A person's geographic location is directly connected to the risk of gun violence. For example, in Maryland in 2019, someone living in Baltimore City was 13 times more likely to die by firearm than someone living 40 miles down the road in Montgomery County. Understanding these differences adds critical context to gun violence prevention efforts.

Why use rates of deaths?

While numbers of gun deaths can help illustrate the burden of gun violence in a particular community, because the total population varies significantly by geographic area, firearm death rates (the number of gun deaths per 100,000 total population) provide an important measure for comparison. For example, Cook County (Chicago), Illinois has by far the highest number of firearm homicides out of any county in the country, averaging over 600 each year. However, because Cook County has a population of 5.2 million residents, the firearm homicide rate is lower than many other large metro counties with smaller populations. In fact, Cook County's firearm homicide rate is, on average, 12.12 deaths per 100,000 people, ranking it 72nd in the country and a fraction of the homicide rate in the highest rate counties, such as Macon County, Alabama, which had the highest firearm homicide rate from 2015-2019 -- 44.44 deaths per 100,000 people -- an average of eight gun homicides per year in a population less than 20,000 people. Clearly, the sheer number of firearm homicides illustrates that Cook County is in the midst of a gun violence crisis, but this crisis is not unique to Chicago; it is equally devastating in cities across the United States and among more rural counties, as well.

FIGURE 8

Gun Death Rates by State, Ranked Lowest to Highest, 2019



Overall Gun Violence Rates Across the States

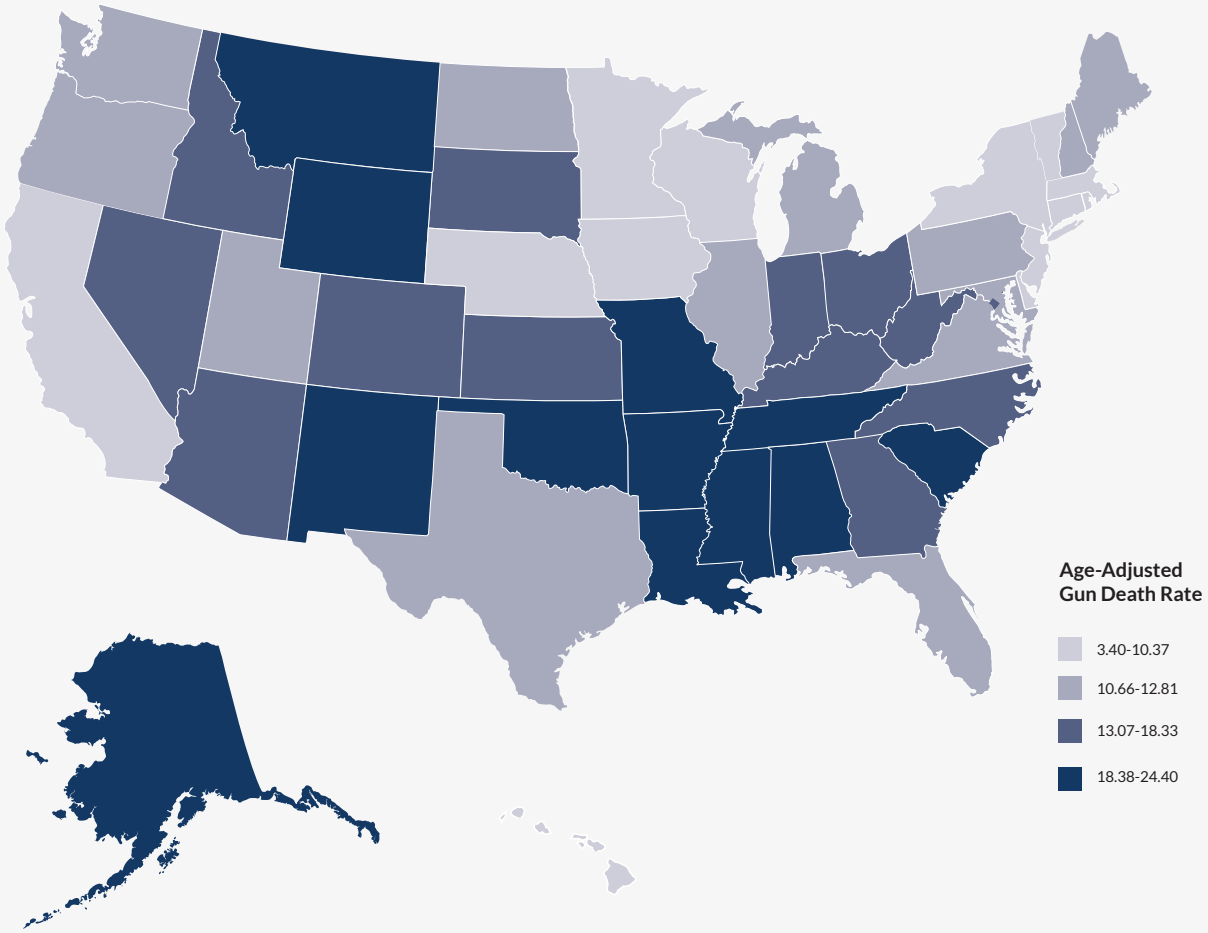
The five states with the highest overall gun death rates in 2019 were Alaska, Mississippi, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Alabama. Alaska had the highest gun death rate for 7 of the last 10 years, which in 2019 was seven times higher than Massachusetts, which had the lowest rate. Mississippi ranked in the five highest overall gun death rates in the country every year in the last decade, while Alabama and Louisiana did so for all but one year.

On the other end of the spectrum, the five states with the lowest overall gun death rates in 2019 were Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, and Rhode Island. Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island each ranked in the five lowest overall gun death rates for all of the last 10 years.

Figure 8 displays how the 50 states and District of Columbia fared with gun deaths in 2019, ranking them from lowest to highest gun death rate. It additionally shows the proportion of deaths attributed to homicide, suicide, and other intents (law enforcement intervention, unintentional, and unclassified).

FIGURE 9

Gun Death Rates by State, 2019



A Closer Look: Gun Violence by Intent Across Counties and Urbanization Levels

Looking more closely at gun violence at the county level, separated by intent (homicide and suicide), helps to better understand the burden of gun violence in a specific community. We looked at 2019 data by county urbanization level and individual county data using five-year averages from 2015-2019 (just one year of data would not produce a reliable rate of gun homicide or suicide for comparison).

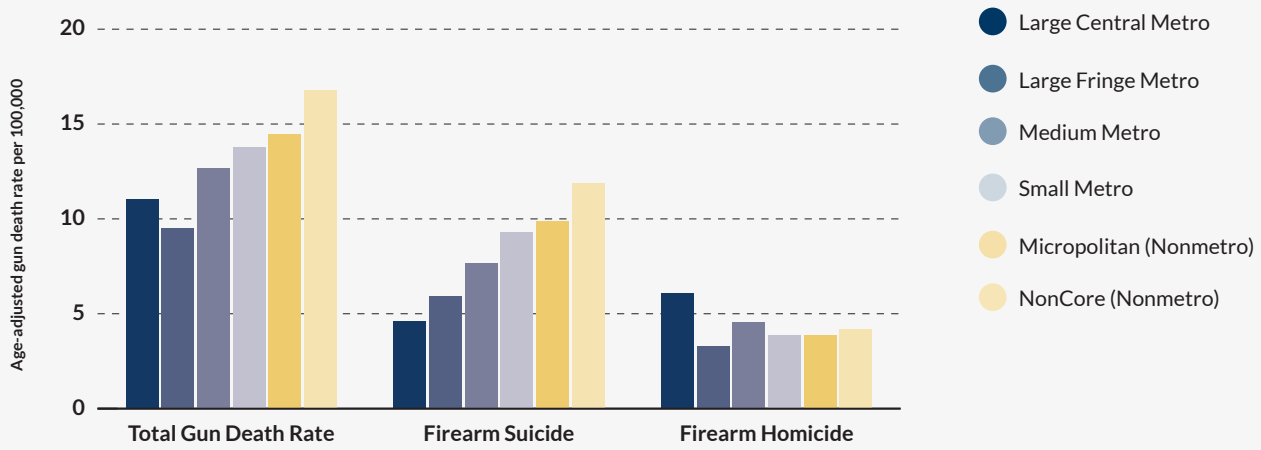
While county-level data layers valuable context on top of state data, data at an even more local level -- census tracts -- is much needed to truly understand concentrations of gun violence. Because county size varies significantly within and between states, data at this level does not consistently portray the most accurate representation of the local areas most impacted by gun violence. Taking a closer look at Los Angeles (LA) County, CA, which has a population of 10 million, we find that it had 670 firearm homicides in 2019, a rate of 6.47 deaths per 100,000 people, which is above the national average but below the state average. Stopping here, however, would be insufficient, as LA County county comprises neighborhoods and cities with populations larger than many U.S. counties and extremely disparate firearm homicide rates. For example, Burbank and Compton, cities in LA County with populations of approximately 100,000 each, had one and sixteen firearm homicides in 2019,[9] respectively. They shoulder very different burdens of gun violence and require different approaches to prevention.

About urbanization levels:

The CDC classifies counties by level of urbanization using a six-level urban-to-rural classification scheme. The most urban category consists of "central" counties of large metropolitan areas and the most rural category consists of nonmetropolitan "noncore" counties. The six classification levels for counties from most urban to most rural are large central metro (≥1 million population and covers a principal city), large fringe metro (≥1 million population but does not cover a principal city, akin to suburbs), medium metro (≥250,000 but <1 million population), small metro (<250,000 population), micropolitan (nonmetro; has an urban cluster of ≥10,000 but <50,000 population), and noncore (nonmetro; most rural). See the Glossary for formal definitions of each.

FIGURE 10

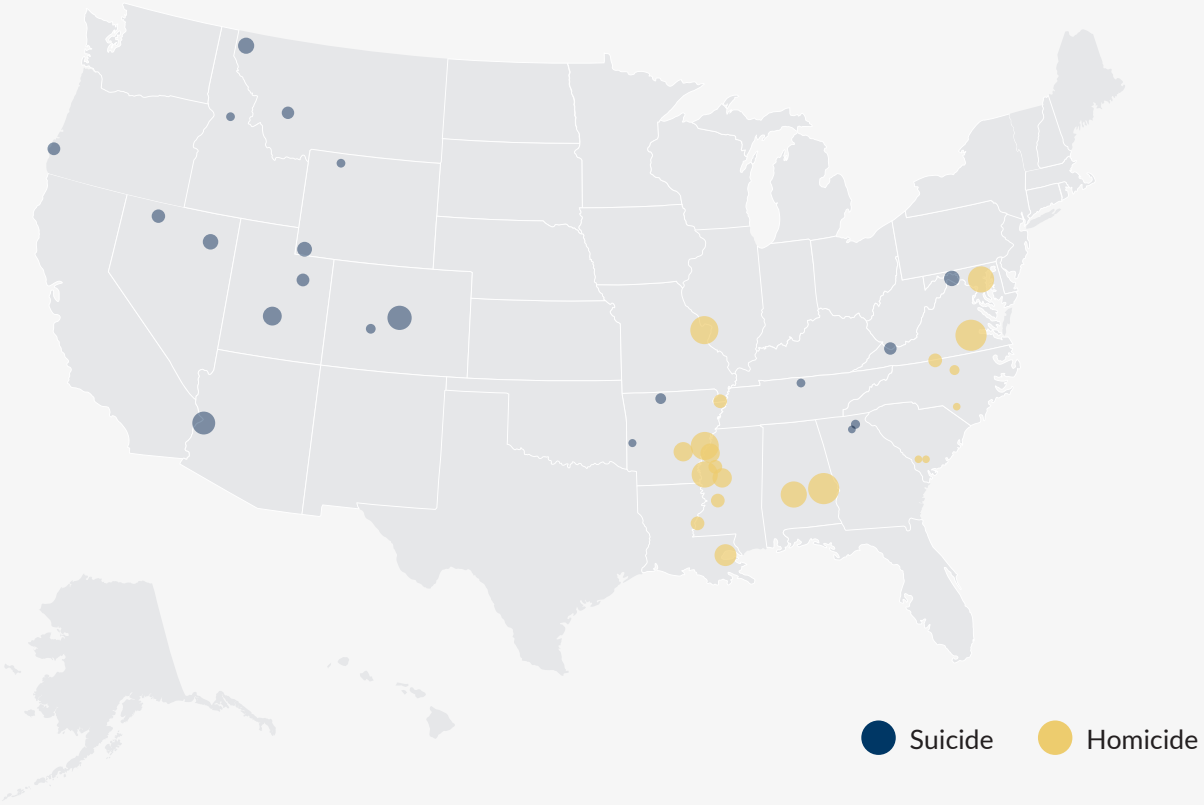
Gun Death Rates by Urbanization, 2019



9 Los Angeles Times, The Homicide Report. Accessed January 25, 2021 for Burbank: https://homicide.latimes.com/neighborhood/burbank/year/2019 and for Compton: https://homicide.latimes.com/neighborhood/compton/year/2019.

FIGURE 11

Counties with the Highest Rates of Firearm Homicide and Suicide, 2015-2019



Counties with the Highest Firearm Suicide Rates, 2015-2019	Counties with the Highest Firearm Homicide Rates, 2015-2019
Park County, CO	Macon County, AL
La Paz County, AZ	Petersburg City, VA
Sevier County, UT	St. Louis City, MO
Morgan County, WV	Phillips County, AR
Lincoln County, MT	Baltimore City, MD
Elko County, NV	Dallas County, AL
Duchesne County, UT	Washington County, MS
Humboldt County, NV	Orleans Parish, LA
Silver Bow County, MT	Holmes County, MS
McDowell County, WV	Coahoma County, MS
Uinta County, WY	Jefferson County, AR
Curry County, OR	Leflore County, MS
Marion County, AR	Adams County, MS
Gunnison County, CO	Hinds County, MS
Lumpkin County, GA	Danville City, VA
Park County, WY	Mississippi County, AR
Macon County, TN	Vance County, NC
Dawson County, GA	Colleton County, SC
Idaho County, ID	Robeson County, NC
Polk County, AR	Hampton County, SC

See appendix 6 for the list of counties with the highest firearm homicide rates and suicides with accompanying data.

Geography of Homicide

By urbanization level:

When clustered by urbanization level, the highest rate of firearm homicide in 2019 was in large central metro counties (most urban), 1.3 times higher than the national average and 1.8 times higher than large fringe metro counties (suburbs), where the homicide rate is lowest. The next highest rates were in medium metro and then noncore metro (most rural) counties. As compared to firearm suicide rates, the firearm homicide rate was more evenly distributed across all types of counties, the difference between the most urban and most rural counties was much smaller, and there was no clear trend to track rates as counties became more rural or urban. Because of their higher rates and large populations, the vast majority -- 89% -- of firearm homicides occur in metropolitan areas (large, medium, and small metro and large fringe metro).

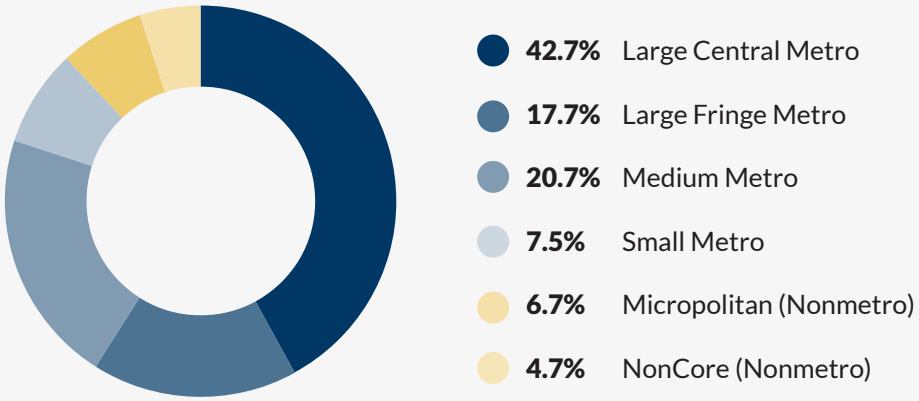
Looking at specific counties:

When looking at individual counties rather than consolidated by urbanization, a different pattern emerges. Of the 20 counties with the highest rates of firearm homicide, the majority are rural (14/20 were noncore or micropolitan non-metro) and only the remaining 6 are metropolitan (large, medium, and small metro, and large fringe metro). While high rates in sparsely-populated counties represent small total numbers of deaths, these rates are alarmingly high and indicate a significant burden on communities. Notably, 19 of the top 20 are in the South.

See appendix 6 for the list of counties with the highest firearm homicide rates.

FIGURE 12

Proportion of Firearm Homicides by Urbanization Level, 2019



Geography of Suicide

By urbanization level:

The firearm suicide rate increases as counties become more rural. When clustered by urbanization level, in 2019, noncore (non-metro, most rural) counties had the highest rate of firearm suicide, 1.7 times higher than the national average and 2.6 times higher than large central metro (urban, big city) counties, where the firearm suicide rate was lowest. Because the total population is concentrated in cities and large suburbs as compared to more rural areas, the majority of firearm suicides -- 78% -- still occur in metropolitan areas (large, medium, and small metro, and large fringe metro), despite the lower rates.

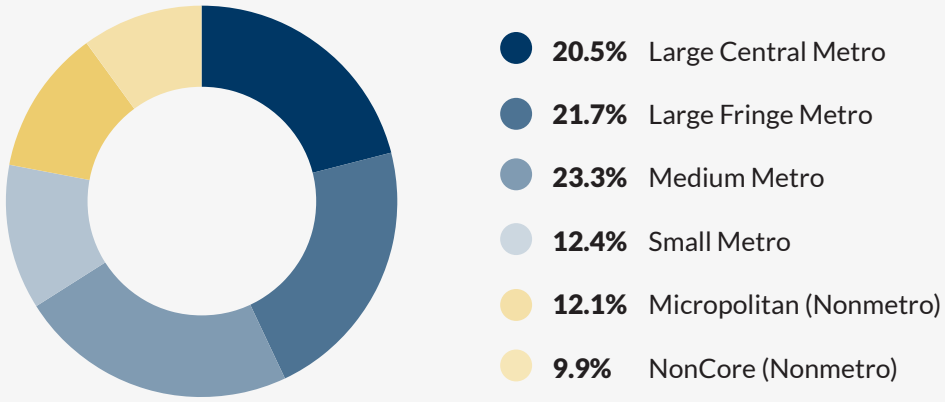
Looking at specific counties:

The 20 counties with the highest rates of firearm suicide from 2015-2019 were mostly rural (17/20 were noncore or micropolitan nonmetro) and nearly all clustered in the Mountain West (12/20) and South (7/20).

See appendix 7 for the list of counties with the highest firearm suicide rates.

FIGURE 13

Proportion of Firearm Suicides by Urbanization Level, 2019



Gun Violence as a Leading Cause of Death

A Leading Cause of Death Among Young People

Unlike other leading causes of death, such as cancer or heart disease, gun violence disproportionately impacts children and young adults.

Children and teens 1-19 years:

Firearms were the leading cause of death in 2019 for American children and teens ages 1-19, prematurely taking the lives of nearly 3,400 Americans -- the second-highest total in twenty years -- and accounting for nearly one in ten deaths in this age group. Of these youngest victims, 44% were Black. More than half of all Black teens (15-19) who died in 2019 -- a staggering 57% -- were killed by gun violence. While suicides are 60% of all gun deaths across the whole U.S. population, homicides are the most common type of gun death among children and teens -- 60% of child and teen gun deaths were homicides and 34% were suicides.

Young adults 20-39 years:

Firearms are the leading cause of death for young adults ages 20-24 as well, accounting for almost one in four deaths in this age group and over half of the deaths among young Black men, specifically. While firearms drop to be the second leading cause of death for the general population for ages 25-34, they hold their position as the leading cause of death among Black men through age 39.

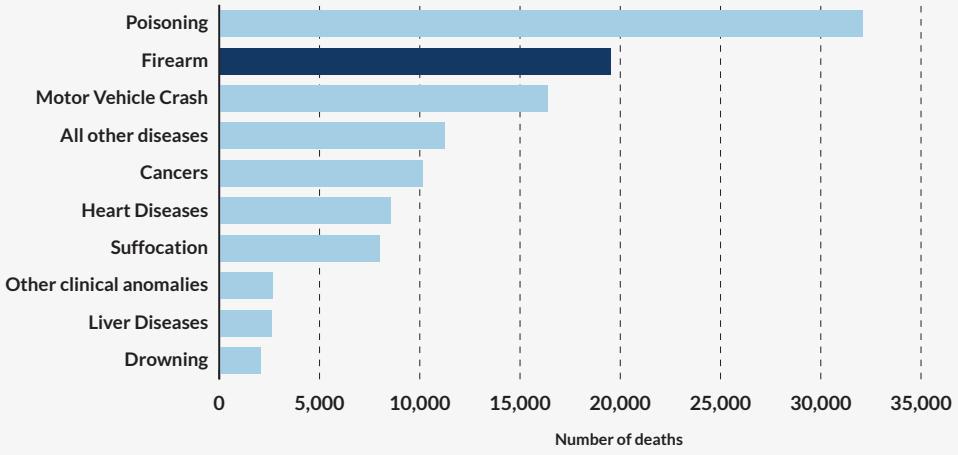
Total population under 40 years:

In total, 19,524 Americans under the age of 40 died by gun violence in 2019 -- 49% of all gun deaths. But while we know the numbers, the loss is immeasurable. When a young person is shot and killed, they lose decades of potential: the potential to grow up, have a family, contribute to society, and pursue their passions in life. Families lose a child, parent, or other loved one; the loss is felt across neighborhoods and communities. Despite the enormous toll gun violence inflicts on Americans, scant attention and only minimal funding is allocated to study and prevent this leading cause of death among young people.

FIGURE 14

Leading Causes of Death for Americans, Ages 1-39

By Injury Mechanism and all Other Leading Causes



Note: We chose not to include infant deaths in our analyses, as infants (under age 1) are at a unique risk for age-specific causes of death, including perinatal period deaths (stillbirths and deaths in the first 7 days of life) and congenital anomalies (commonly referred to as birth defects). If including infant deaths, the ten leading causes of death in 2019 for Americans ages 0-39 are as follows, starting with the leading cause of death: poisoning, firearm, motor vehicle crash, all other diseases, perinatal deaths, cancers, suffocation, heart diseases, congenital diseases, and other clinical anomalies. In 2019, 12 infants were killed by firearms.

Firearm Fatalities Compared to Other Forms of Fatal Injuries

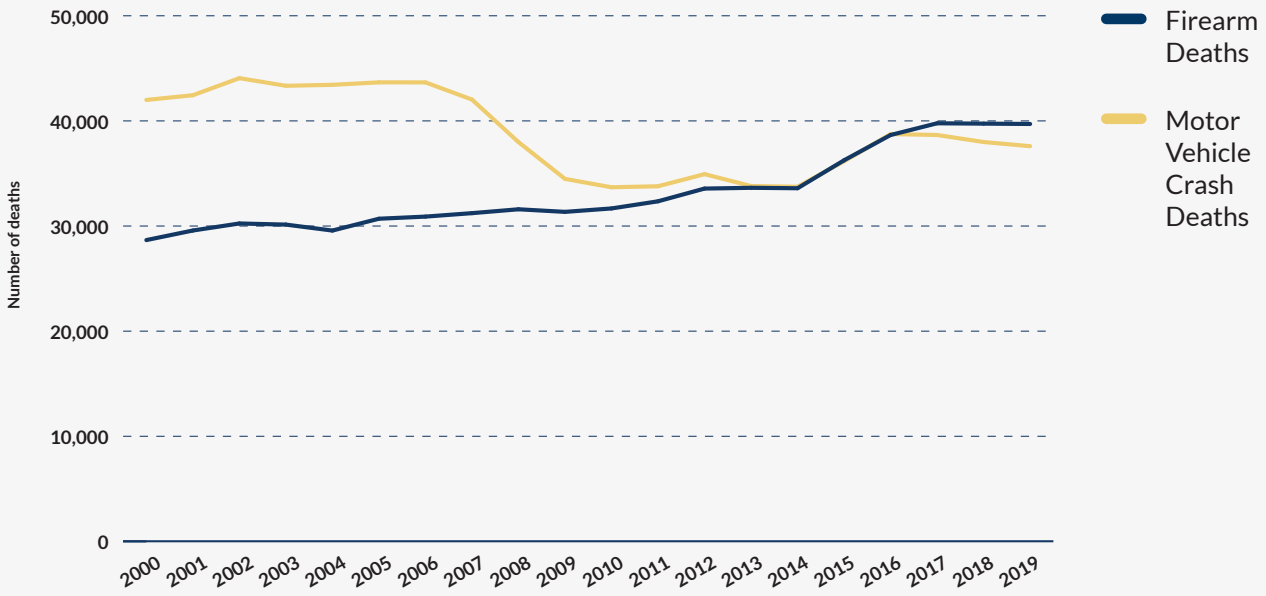
Injuries make up a substantial burden of premature death in the United States, and among injury mechanisms, firearms are one of the deadliest. In 2019, poisonings, falls, firearms, motor vehicle crashes, and suffocation were the five leading causes of injury-related death. Gun deaths outnumbered all the remaining causes of injury-related death combined.

Compared to car crashes:

The burden of firearm injury is often compared to car crashes, and their numbers are similar. In the last three years, however, for the first time more Americans died by guns than by car crashes (in 2019, 39,707 and 37,595 deaths, respectively). Reducing motor vehicle injuries and their severity has long been a focus of injury prevention policy; while there is clearly more work to do, substantial reductions have been made. A similarly comprehensive approach to gun violence prevention also holds promise.[10,11]

FIGURE 15

Firearm Deaths and Motor Vehicle Traffic Deaths, 2000-2019



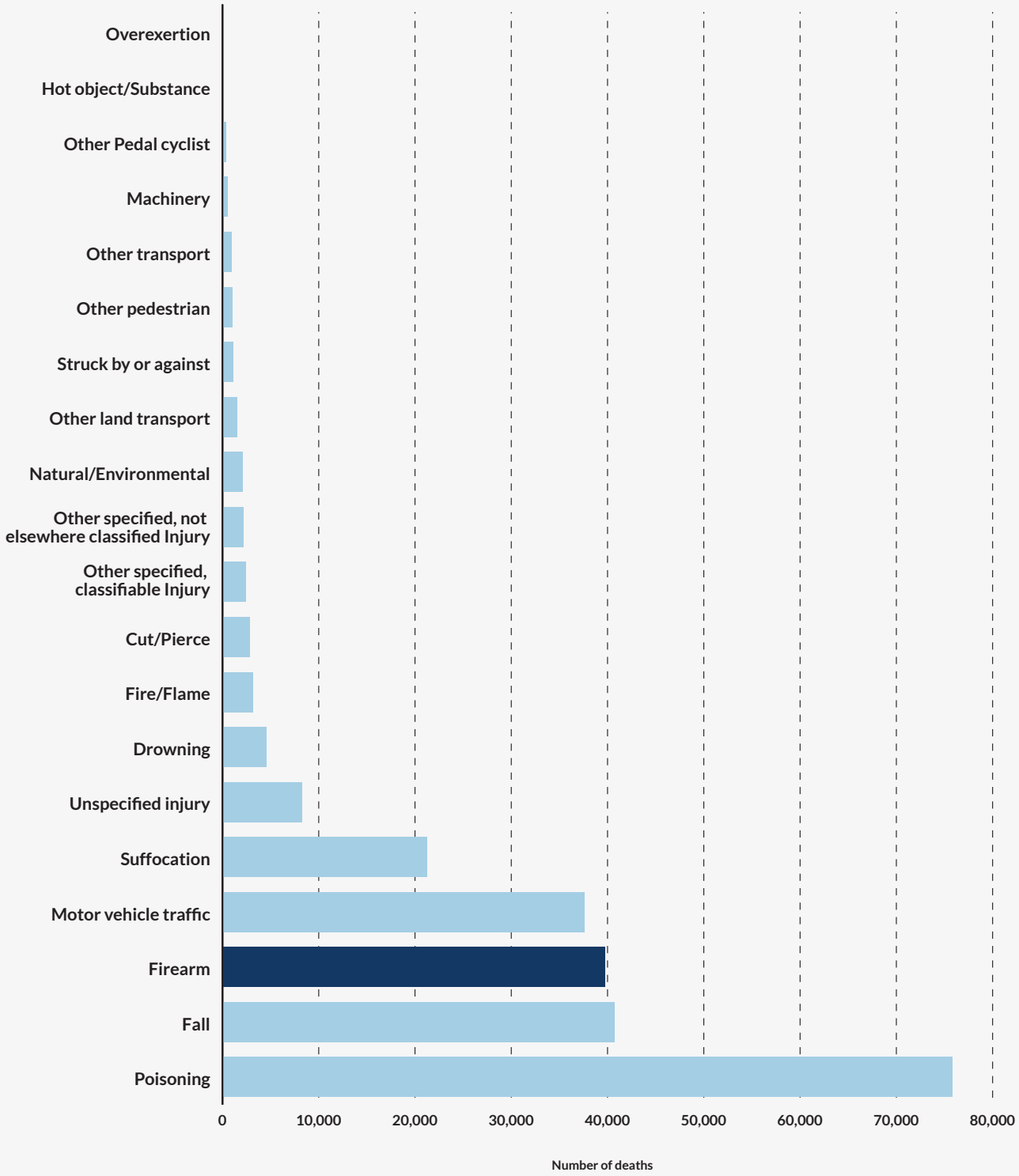
Other notable injury death comparisons:

- 14 times as many Americans died by a gunshot than by cutting/piercing (knife, etc.)
- Nearly 9 times more Americans died by a gunshot than by drowning
- Nearly 13 times more Americans died by a gunshot than in a fire

10 Mozaffarian D, Hemenway D, Ludwig DS. Curbing Gun Violence: Lessons From Public Health Successes. JAMA. 2013;309(6):551–552. doi:10.1001/jama.2013.38
11 Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. (2020). The Public Health Approach to Gun Violence Prevention. efsgv.org/PublicHealthApproachToGVP

FIGURE 16

Total Injury Deaths by Mechanism, 2019



Policy Recommendations to Stop Gun Violence

Gun violence is an ongoing yet preventable public health tragedy affecting communities all over the United States. It is also a complex issue that requires many approaches to its prevention, starting with the collection and timely dissemination of data. The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence are committed to advancing evidence-based policies, programs, and practices and ensuring that these preventative measures are designed and implemented equitably. Fortunately, there are a myriad of effective options at the federal, state, and local levels.

To improve how firearms data are collected and disseminated, we recommend all levels of government:

- Collect more comprehensive gun violence data for fatal and non-fatal firearm injuries, shootings that may not involve physical injuries, police-involved shootings, and firearm-involved crimes where no shots were fired, including domestic violence-related threats.
- Make data publicly available where possible, particularly to researchers studying gun violence and its prevention.
- Invest in resources to support the timely release of firearms injury and fatality data.

To stop gun violence in all its forms, we recommend:

- Apply the public health approach, with an equity lens, for effective gun violence prevention.[12]
- Fund and conduct gun violence research, and improve data infrastructure, which is fundamental for effective gun violence prevention.
- Enact and implement a true universal background check law that requires background checks on all gun sales and transfers, including private and online sales, and eliminate "default proceed" sales.
- Enact and implement state firearm licensing laws and support equitable implementation through local, state, and federal funding.
- Enact and implement state extreme risk laws to prevent tragedy before it occurs and support robust implementation through federal funding.
- Invest in community violence intervention and prevention programs and address the underlying social and economic inequalities that drive firearm violence.
- Support implementation of healthcare professional training on lethal means safety counseling so they are prepared to ask patients about firearm access and provide effective and respectful counseling when appropriate.
- Expand both federal and state domestic violence firearm prohibitions to reduce abusers' access to firearms and improve collection and reporting of domestic violence-related data.

12 Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. (2020). The Public Health Approach to Gun Violence Prevention. efsgv.org/PublicHealthApproachToGVP

- Reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.
- Prohibit the manufacture, purchase, and possession of "ghost guns."
- Repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA).
- Require that new semi-automatic pistols manufactured, sold, or imported into the U.S. are equipped with microstamping technology.
- Enact and implement state prohibitions on the open carry of firearms in public and strongly regulate concealed carry of firearms to help protect public safety.
- Repeal state-level stand your ground laws, which run counter to centuries of self-defense doctrine and make it legal for individuals to kill another even when they can easily and safely retreat.
- Improve police accountability and strengthen police legitimacy through procedurally just policing practices.

Glossary

Age-adjusted rate: The rates of almost all causes of death vary by age. Age adjustment is a technique for "removing" the effects of age from crude rates, to allow meaningful comparisons across populations with different underlying age structures. Age-adjusted death rates are weighted averages of the age-specific death rates, where the weights represent a fixed population by age. An age-adjusted rate represents the rate that would have existed had the age-specific rates of the particular year prevailed in a population whose age distribution was the same as that of the fixed population. Age-adjusted rates should be viewed as relative indexes rather than as direct or actual measures of mortality risk.

Burden of injury: Describes the impact of a health problem (injury), including death and loss of health due to injuries, related financial costs, and other indicators.

Cause of death: Based on medical information—including injury diagnoses and external causes of injury—entered on death certificates filed in the United States. This information is classified and coded per the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD–10).

- **International Classification of Diseases (ICD):** Causes of death are classified per the International Classification of Disease. Deaths for 1999 and beyond are classified using the Tenth Revision (ICD-10). ICD is designed to promote international comparability in the collection, processing, classification, and presentation of mortality statistics. This includes providing a format for reporting causes of death on the death certificate. The reported conditions are then translated into medical codes through the use of the classification structure and the selection and modification rules contained in the applicable revision of the ICD, published by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Underlying Cause of Death database:** The database contains mortality data based on information from all death certificates filed in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Deaths of nonresidents (e.g. nonresident aliens, nationals living abroad, residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and other territories of the U.S.) and fetal deaths are excluded. Each death certificate identifies a single underlying cause of death and demographic data.

County Classification: The CDC categorizes all counties into six levels of urbanization that incorporate population number and density. From largest and most urban to smallest and most rural, they are:

- **Large central metro counties:** Counties part of a metropolitan statistical area with ≥1 million population and covers a principal city; most urban, large cities.
- **Large fringe metro counties:** Counties part of a metropolitan statistical area with ≥1 million population but does not cover a principal city; akin to suburbs.
- **Medium metro counties:** Counties part of a metropolitan statistical area of 250,000-999,999 population.

- **Small metro counties:** Counties part of a metropolitan statistical area of less than 250,000 population.
- **Micropolitan (non-metro) counties:** Counties part of a micropolitan statistical area (has an urban cluster of ≥10,000 but <50,000 population).
- **Non-core (non-metro) counties:** Counties not part of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area; the most rural counties.

Injury Intent: Describes whether an injury was caused by an act carried out on purpose by oneself or by another person(s), with the goal of injuring or killing. For the CDC data used in this report, all injury-related causes of death are classified by intent and by mechanism, determined according to the ICD-10 external cause of injury coded as the underlying cause of death on the death certificate.

- **Homicide:** Injuries inflicted by another person with the intent to injure or kill, by any means. Excludes injuries due to legal intervention and operations of war. The ICD-10 cause of death codes for firearm homicide include X93 Assault by handgun discharge; X94 Assault by rifle, shotgun, and larger firearm discharge; X95 Assault by other and unspecified firearm and gun discharge; and *U01.4 Terrorism involving firearms.
- **Legal Intervention:** Injuries inflicted by the police or other law-enforcing agents, including military on duty, in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest lawbreakers, suppressing disturbances, maintaining order, and other legal actions. Excludes injuries caused by civil insurrections. The ICD-10 cause of death code for legal intervention by firearm is Y35.0 Legal intervention involving firearm discharge.
- **Suicide:** An intentionally self-inflicted injury that results in death. The ICD-10 cause of death codes for firearm suicide are X72 Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge; X73 Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun, and larger firearm discharge; and X74 Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm and gun discharge.
- **Undetermined Intent:** Events where available information is insufficient to enable a medical or legal authority to make a distinction between accident, self-harm, and assault. The ICD-10 cause of death codes for firearm deaths of undetermined intent are Y22 Handgun discharge, undetermined intent; Y23 Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent; and Y24 Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent.
- **Unintentional:** Unintentional injury that results in death. The ICD-10 cause of death codes for unintentional firearm deaths are W32 Accidental handgun discharge and malfunction; W33 Accidental rifle, shotgun, and larger firearm discharge; and W34 Accidental discharge and malfunction from other and unspecified firearms and guns.

Injury Mechanism or Method: The cause, or mechanism, of injury is the way in which the person sustained the injury; how the person was injured; or the process by which the injury occurred.

Suppressed: Rates are marked as suppressed when there are zero to nine (0-9) deaths.

Unreliable: Rates are marked as unreliable when the death count is less than 20.

APPENDIX 1:

United States Gun Deaths by Intent, 2000-2019

	Total Gun Deaths	Firearm Suicide Deaths	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Unintentional Gun Deaths	Legal Intervention Deaths*	Gun Deaths by Undetermined Intent
2000	28,663	16,586	10,801	776	270	230
2001	29,573	16,869	11,348	802	323	231
2002	30,242	17,108	11,829	762	300	243
2003	30,136	16,907	11,920	730	347	232
2004	29,569	16,750	11,624	649	311	235
2005	30,694	17,002	12,352	789	330	221
2006	30,896	16,883	12,791	642	360	220
2007	31,224	17,352	12,632	613	351	276
2008	31,593	18,223	12,179	592	326	273
2009	31,347	18,735	11,493	554	333	232
2010	31,672	19,392	11,078	606	344	252
2011	32,351	19,990	11,068	591	454	248
2012	33,563	20,666	11,622	548	471	256
2013	33,636	21,175	11,208	505	467	281
2014	33,594	21,386	11,008	461	464	275
2015	36,252	22,018	12,979	489	484	282
2016	38,658	22,938	14,415	495	510	300
2017	39,773	23,854	14,542	486	553	338
2018	39,740	24,432	13,958	458	539	353
2019	39,707	23,941	14,414	486	520	346

***A cautionary note about "legal intervention" data: Strong evidence shows that the government's data (including the CDC data presented here) provide a substantial under-count of police-involved injuries and deaths.13 To address this gap, several media sources have tracked police-involved shootings in recent years, most notably the Washington Post's Fatal Force database, finding more than double the number of police-involved fatal shootings than are reported in FBI and CDC databases. The Fatal Force database reported that 999 and 1,000 Americans were shot and killed by police in 2019 and 2020 respectively, nearly double the number that the CDC reported. Ultimately, better data on police-involved injuries and deaths are sorely needed. Compulsory and comprehensive data collection at the local level, reporting to the federal government, and transparency in the public dissemination of data will be critical for understanding this unique kind of gun violence and developing evidence-based solutions to minimize police-involved shootings.*

13 Barber, C., Azrael, D., Cohen, A., Miller, M., Thymes, D., Wang, D. E., & Hemenway, D. (2016). Homicides by police: comparing counts from the national violent death reporting system, vital statistics, and supplementary homicide reports. *American Journal of Public Health*. 106(5), 922-927.

APPENDIX 2:

United States Gun Death Rates, by Intent, 2000-2019

	Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Unintentional Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000
2000	10.16	5.91	3.79	0.26
2001	10.31	5.91	3.93	0.28
2002	10.45	5.93	4.09	0.27
2003	10.31	5.78	4.1	0.25
2004	10.01	5.62	3.95	0.22
2005	10.3	5.67	4.18	0.27
2006	10.27	5.55	4.3	0.24
2007	10.28	5.61	4.21	0.2
2008	10.26	5.81	4.06	0.19
2009	10.07	5.92	3.8	0.18
2010	10.1	6.08	3.64	0.2
2011	10.22	6.2	3.6	0.2
2012	10.51	6.31	3.79	0.19
2013	10.43	6.41	3.63	0.16
2014	10.31	6.37	3.53	0.14
2015	11.06	6.51	4.17	0.15
2016	11.78	6.75	4.63	0.17
2017	11.99	6.93	4.65	0.16
2018	11.9	7.04	4.44	0.14
2019	11.86	6.84	4.59	0.16

APPENDIX 3:

United States Gun Death Numbers by Demographic Groups, 2019

	Total Gun Deaths	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Firearm Suicide Deaths
Female (all races/ethnicities)	**5,666**	**2,287**	**3,216**
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	70	37	31
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	108	61	47
Black (non-Hispanic)	1,118	909	177
White (non-Hispanic)	3,811	932	2,775
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	555	346	184
Male (all races/ethnicities)	**34,041**	**12,127**	**20,725**
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	315	135	152
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	532	167	334
Black (non-Hispanic)	9,277	7,590	1,411
White (non-Hispanic)	20,340	2,261	17,427
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	3,503	1,955	1,350

APPENDIX 4:

United States Gun Death Rates by Demographic Groups, 2019

	Total Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000
Female (all races/ethnicities)	**3.39**	**1.42**	**1.85**
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	5.09	2.75	2.19
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	0.95	0.53	0.41
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.03	4.11	0.76
White (non-Hispanic)	3.57	0.93	2.57
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	1.87	1.15	0.61
Male (all races/ethnicities)	**20.7**	**7.69**	**12.27**
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	23.30	9.98	11.16
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	5.09	1.58	3.19
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.09	34.88	6.90
White (non-Hispanic)	18.89	2.42	15.8
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	11.20	5.97	4.61

APPENDIX 5:

State Variations, 2019

	TOTAL GUN DEATHS					FIREARM HOMICIDES			FIREARM SUICIDES		
State	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Total Gun Death Rate	Total Gun Deaths	Total Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Total Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens (Ages 0-19)	Child and Teen Gun Death Rate per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Homicide Rate	Firearm Suicide Deaths	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Suicide Rate
Alabama	5	1,076	22.18	98	8.06	486	10.67	4	543	10.59	13
Alaska	1	179	24.4	24	12.19	51	7.2	11	117	15.68	2
Arizona	17	1,136	15.12	79	4.3	285	4.11	26	809	10.4	14
Arkansas	9	580	19.32	51	6.55	208	7.38	9	341	10.83	8
California	45	2,945	7.22	235	2.37	1,246	3.18	29	1,586	3.74	44
Colorado	19	846	14.21	74	5.26	164	2.89	30	647	10.71	10
Connecticut	46	190	5.27	10	Unreliable	65	1.97	36	118	3.08	45
Delaware	41	93	9.93	10	Unreliable	45	5.21	18	45	4.35	41
District of Columbia	13	141	18.33	20	13.39	128	16.52	1	12	Unreliable	*
Florida	27	2,872	12.7	187	3.97	1,013	5.2	19	1,808	7.27	33
Georgia	15	1,695	15.8	163	5.82	691	6.67	12	955	8.65	26
Hawaii	48	62	4.42	Suppressed	Suppressed	14	Unreliable	*	41	2.81	47
Idaho	20	255	14.2	16	Unreliable	18	Unreliable	*	223	12.25	5
Illinois	36	1,367	10.84	179	5.69	791	6.58	13	540	3.96	43
Indiana	21	958	14.09	100	5.7	355	5.53	15	570	8.08	27
Iowa	43	294	9.1	26	3.18	49	1.72	40	233	6.96	37
Kansas	22	403	13.74	43	5.5	99	3.51	28	291	9.83	22
Kentucky	18	682	14.88	58	5.18	201	4.82	22	445	9.28	23
Louisiana	6	1,013	22.15	107	8.89	542	12.35	3	446	9.23	24
Maine	35	163	11.46	10	Unreliable	13	Unreliable	*	144	9.85	20
Maryland	29	757	12.61	59	3.96	468	8.19	7	268	4.07	42
Massachusetts	51	247	3.4	18	Unreliable	95	1.39	43	142	1.87	49
Michigan	32	1,220	12.12	83	3.45	458	4.95	20	742	6.98	36
Minnesota	44	465	8.12	37	2.56	102	1.9	37	350	5.96	40
Mississippi	2	710	24.23	64	8.2	366	13.08	2	308	9.92	19
Missouri	7	1,252	20.6	122	7.99	537	9.33	6	681	10.7	11
Montana	10	209	19.03	17	Unreliable	24	2.29	33	172	15.31	3
Nebraska	39	205	10.37	13	Unreliable	40	2.09	35	154	7.7	31
Nevada	16	490	15.27	33	4.34	118	3.99	27	354	10.67	12

	TOTAL GUN DEATHS					FIREARM HOMICIDES			FIREARM SUICIDES		
State	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Total Gun Death Rate	Total Gun Deaths	Total Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Total Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens (Ages 0-19)	Child and Teen Gun Death Rate per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Homicide Rate	Firearm Suicide Deaths	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Suicide Rate
New Hampshire	38	156	10.66	Suppressed	Suppressed	20	1.48	42	132	8.86	25
New Jersey	49	368	4.13	38	1.77	193	2.39	32	173	1.71	50
New Mexico	4	471	22.27	40	7.52	158	8.16	8	284	12.68	4
New York	50	804	3.94	50	1.11	326	1.74	39	455	2.09	48
North Carolina	24	1,397	13.11	116	4.47	541	5.41	16	781	6.99	35
North Dakota	31	93	12.44	10	Unreliable	10	Unreliable	*	79	10.29	15
Ohio	23	1,578	13.35	142	4.92	565	5.21	17	980	7.85	30
Oklahoma	11	737	18.56	70	6.61	246	6.56	14	473	11.52	6
Oregon	30	566	12.56	25	2.59	78	1.88	38	466	10.16	18
Pennsylvania	34	1,541	11.67	100	3.36	548	4.65	23	964	6.77	39
Rhode Island	47	48	4.58	Suppressed	Suppressed	12	Unreliable	*	33	2.9	46
South Carolina	8	1,012	19.88	95	7.61	453	9.5	5	532	9.84	21
South Dakota	25	113	13.07	10	Unreliable	11	Unreliable	*	98	11.25	7
Tennessee	12	1,270	18.38	103	6.14	474	7.37	10	746	10.22	16
Texas	28	3,683	12.66	388	4.73	1,299	4.5	24	2,237	7.65	32
Utah	26	394	12.81	32	3.11	51	1.6	41	329	10.78	9
Vermont	42	67	9.34	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	*	59	8.03	28
Virginia	33	1,025	11.71	87	4.17	342	4.18	25	661	7.25	34
Washington	37	842	10.71	56	3.04	165	2.22	34	637	7.96	29
West Virginia	14	300	16.64	20	4.97	76	4.86	21	196	10.16	17
Wisconsin	40	604	10.03	49	3.45	153	2.82	31	427	6.78	38
Wyoming	3	133	22.33	13	Unreliable	16	Unreliable	*	114	19.08	1

**Denotes where the state firearm homicide or suicide rate is unreliable and cannot be compared.*

APPENDIX 6:

Counties with the Highest Firearm Homicide Rates, 2015-2019

Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Homicide Rate	County	Urbanization	Firearm Homicide Deaths (2015-2019)	Population (per year)	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted, five-year average) per 100,000
1	Macon County, AL	NonCore (Nonmetro)	41	18,666	44.44
2	Petersburg City, VA	Large Fringe Metro	64	31,804	43.76
3	St. Louis City, MO	Large Central Metro	647	307,826	41.86
4	Phillips County, AR	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	32	18,574	40.83
5	Baltimore City, MD	Large Central Metro	1207	608,829	38.36
6	Dallas County, AL	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	60	39,172	36.22
7	Washington County, MS	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	73	46,111	35.08
8	Orleans Parish, LA	Large Central Metro	607	391,111	31.2
9	Holmes County, MS	NonCore (Nonmetro)	26	17,742	30.07
10	Coahoma County, MS	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	33	23,267	28.77
11	Jefferson County, AR	Small Metro	92	69,127	28.58
12	Leflore County, MS	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	38	29,436	27.33
13	Adams County, MS	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	34	31,078	25.21
14	Hinds County, MS	Medium Metro	297	238,508	25.07
15	Danville City, VA	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	47	41,169	24.72
16	Mississippi County, AR	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	50	42,124	24.21
17	Vance County, NC	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	46	44,428	23.18
18	Colleton County, SC	NonCore (Nonmetro)	35	37,720	22.26
19	Robeson County, NC	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	137	132,499	22.06
20	Hampton County, SC	NonCore (Nonmetro)	20	19,629	22.03

APPENDIX 7:

Counties with the Highest Firearm Suicide Rates, 2015-2019

Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Suicide Rate	County	Urbanization	Firearm Suicide Deaths (2015-2019)	Population (per year)	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted, five-year average) per 100,000
1	Park County, CO	Large Fringe Metro	29	17,796	34.39
2	La Paz County, AZ	NonCore (Nonmetro)	33	20,655	30.17
3	Sevier County, UT	NonCore (Nonmetro)	27	21,345	28.05
4	Morgan County, WV	NonCore (Nonmetro)	23	17,703	26.66
5	Lincoln County, MT	NonCore (Nonmetro)	22	19,505	26.35
6	Elko County, NV	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	65	52,398	25.35
7	Duchesne County, UT	NonCore (Nonmetro)	23	20,225	25.01
8	Humboldt County, NV	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	21	16,861	24.53
9	Silver Bow County, MT	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	41	34,737	24.48
10	McDowell County, WV	NonCore (Nonmetro)	23	18,656	24.33
11	Uinta County, WY	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	22	20,523	23.83
12	Curry County, OR	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	37	22,721	23.77
13	Marion County, AR	NonCore (Nonmetro)	21	16,471	22.79
14	Gunnison County, CO	NonCore (Nonmetro)	21	16,824	22.77
15	Lumpkin County, GA	NonCore (Nonmetro)	36	32,458	22.39
16	Park County, WY	NonCore (Nonmetro)	34	29,333	22.19
17	Macon County, TN	Large Fringe Metro	27	23,915	21.93
18	Dawson County, GA	Large Fringe Metro	27	24,497	21.87
19	Idaho County, ID	NonCore (Nonmetro)	20	16,395	21.86
20	Polk County, AR	NonCore (Nonmetro)	24	20,104	21.76