



C A L I F O R N I A

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Office of Gun Violence Prevention*

***OGVP Data Report:  
The Impact of Gun Violence in California***



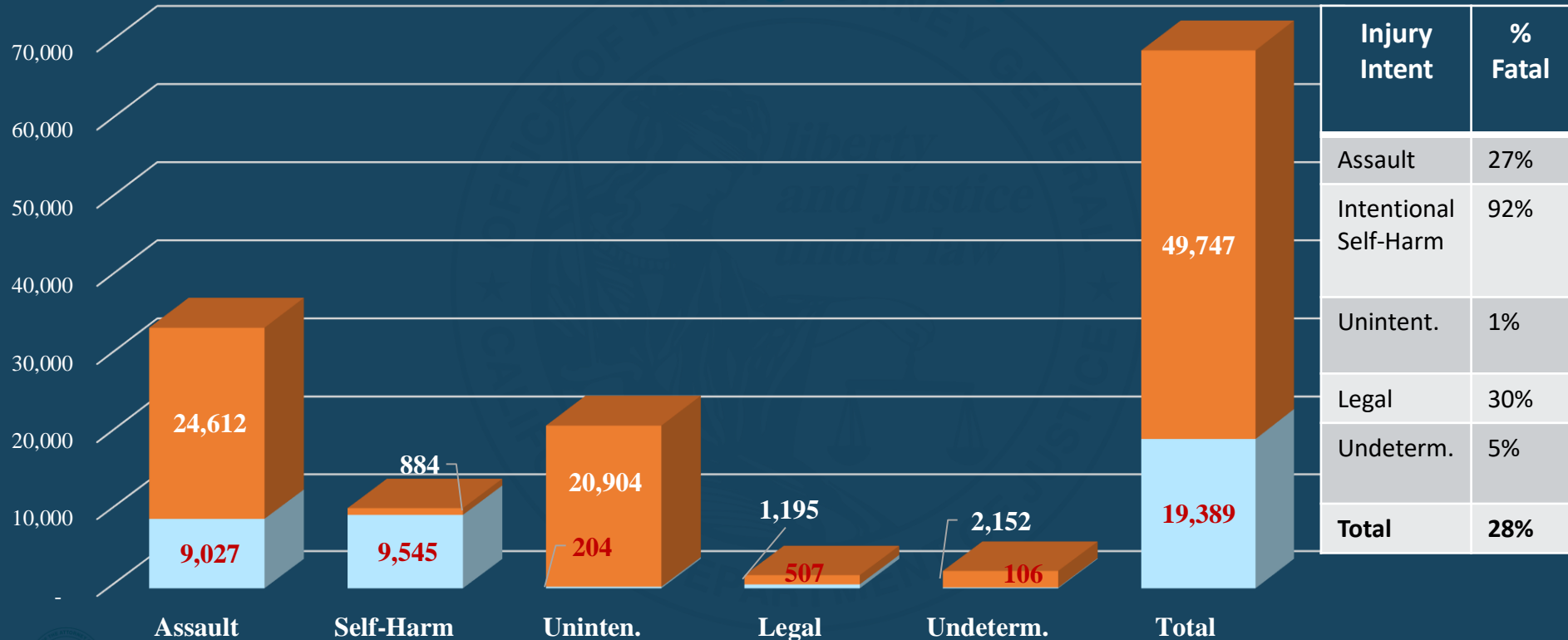
# Guide to Publicly Accessible Data Sources

1. CA Dept. of Justice: [Open Justice Data Portal](#)
2. CA Dept. of Public Health (CDPH): [EpiCenter California Injury Data Online](#)
3. US CDC: [WONDER](#) and [WISQARS](#) data portals
4. [Gun Violence Archive](#) & The Trace: [Atlas of American Gun Violence](#)



# Fatal + Nonfatal Gunshot Wounds in California (2016-2021):

■ Deaths ■ Nonfatal GSW (Hosp. + ED)

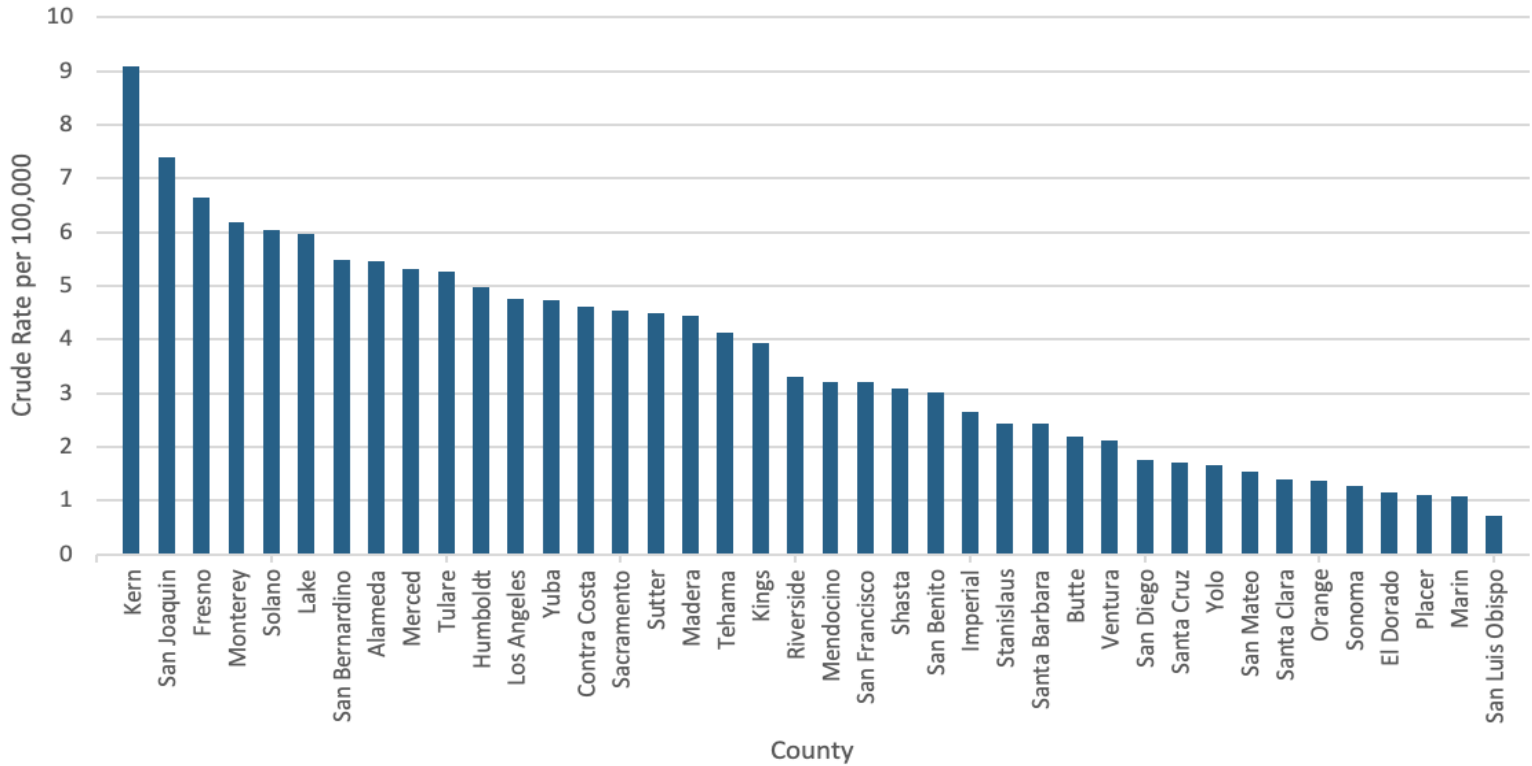


Injury Intent	% Fatal
Assault	27%
Intentional Self-Harm	92%
Unintent.	1%
Legal	30%
Undeterm.	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28%</b>

Source: OGVP analysis of firearm death, hospitalization, and emergency dept. data from CDPH EpiCenter for 2016-2021.

# Gun Homicide Rates by County in California (2016-2021)

## Gun Homicide Rates by County

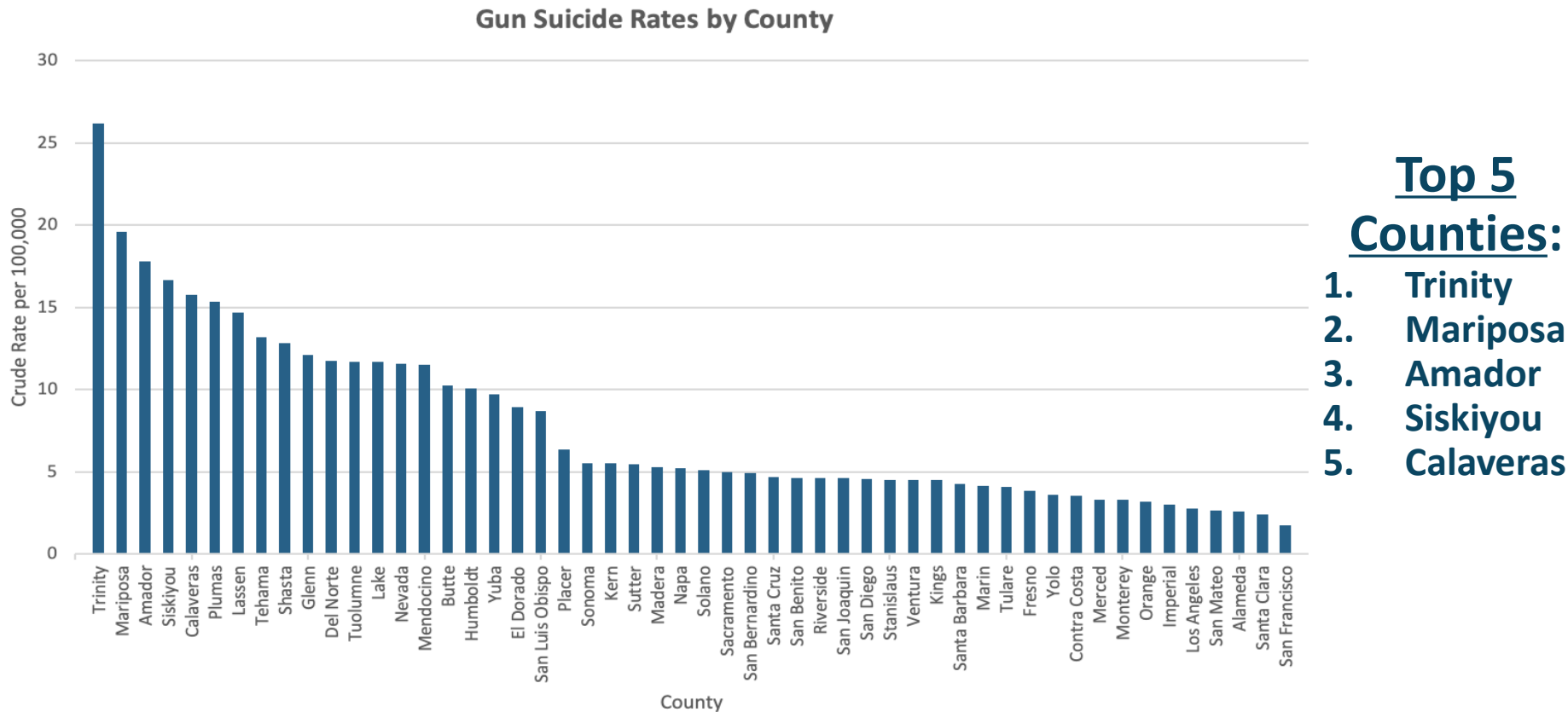


### Top 5 Counties:

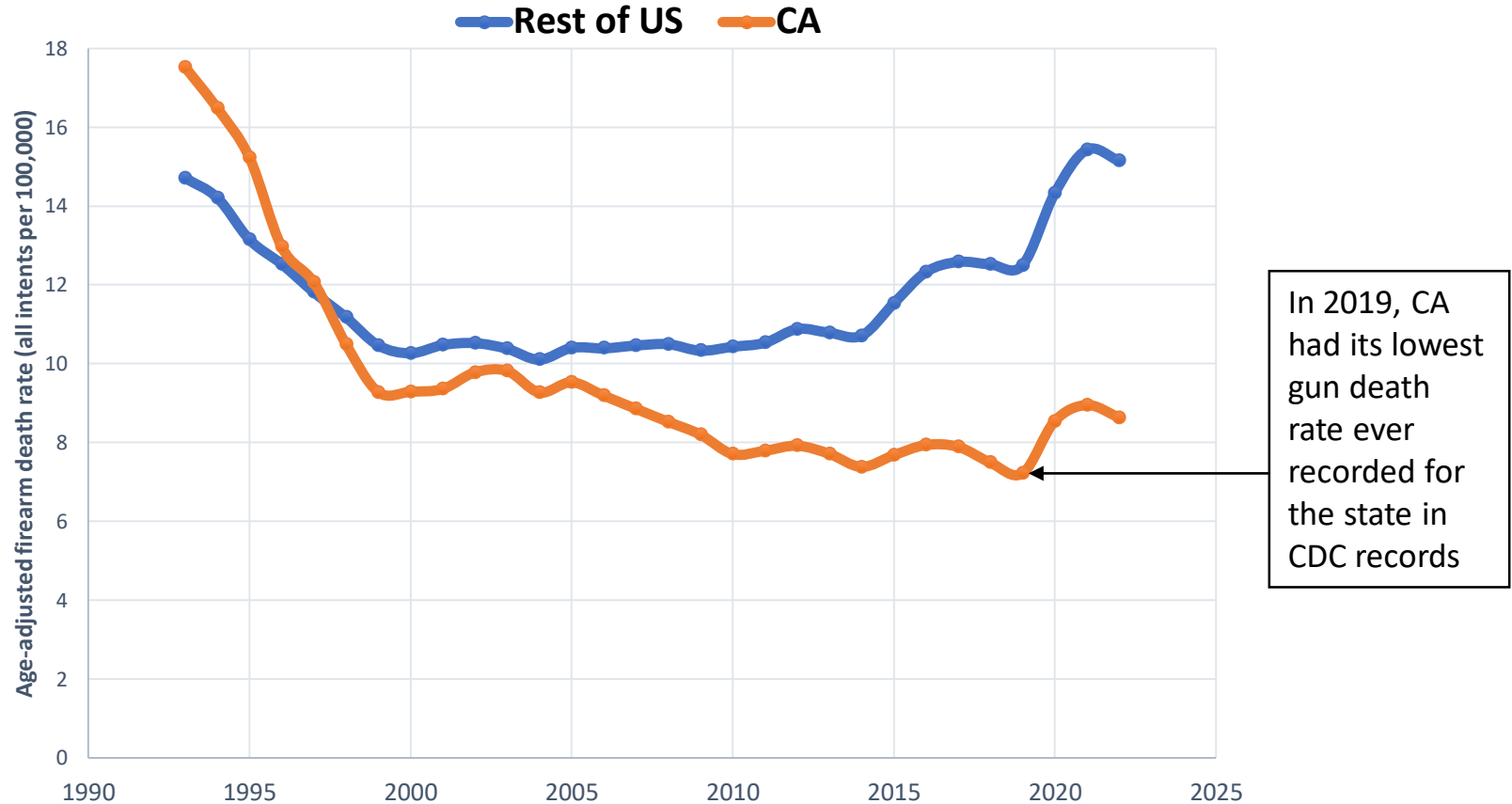
1. Kern
2. San Joaquin
3. Fresno
4. Monterey
5. Solano

Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDPH EpiCenter, firearm homicide rate by county for 2016-2021 (crude rate per 100,000) (Data not available for counties with <11 gun homicides over this period).

# Gun Suicide Rates by County in California (2016-2021)

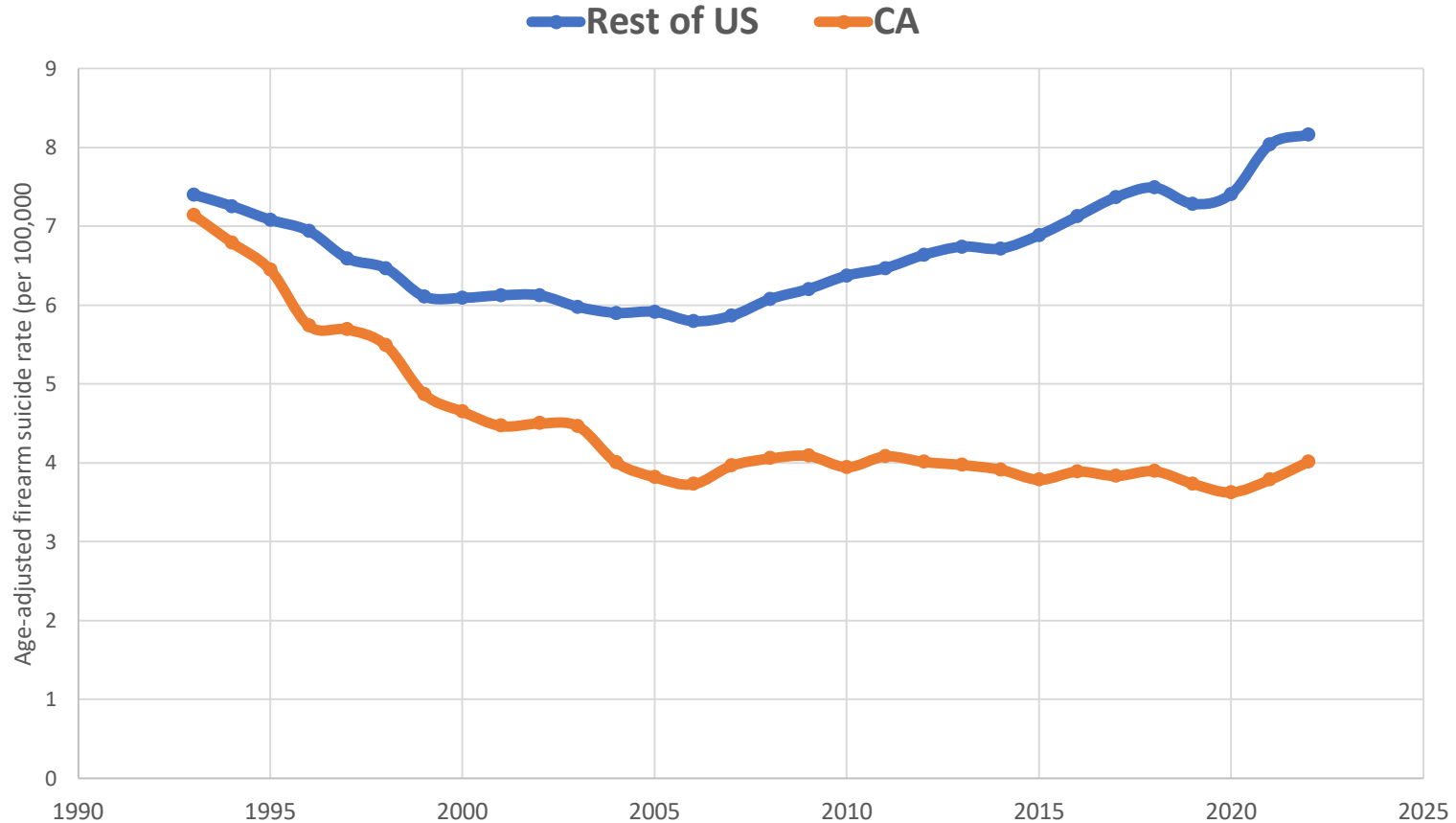


# Overall Firearm Death Rates: California vs. Rest of US



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 1993-2022 (2022 data preliminary); Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

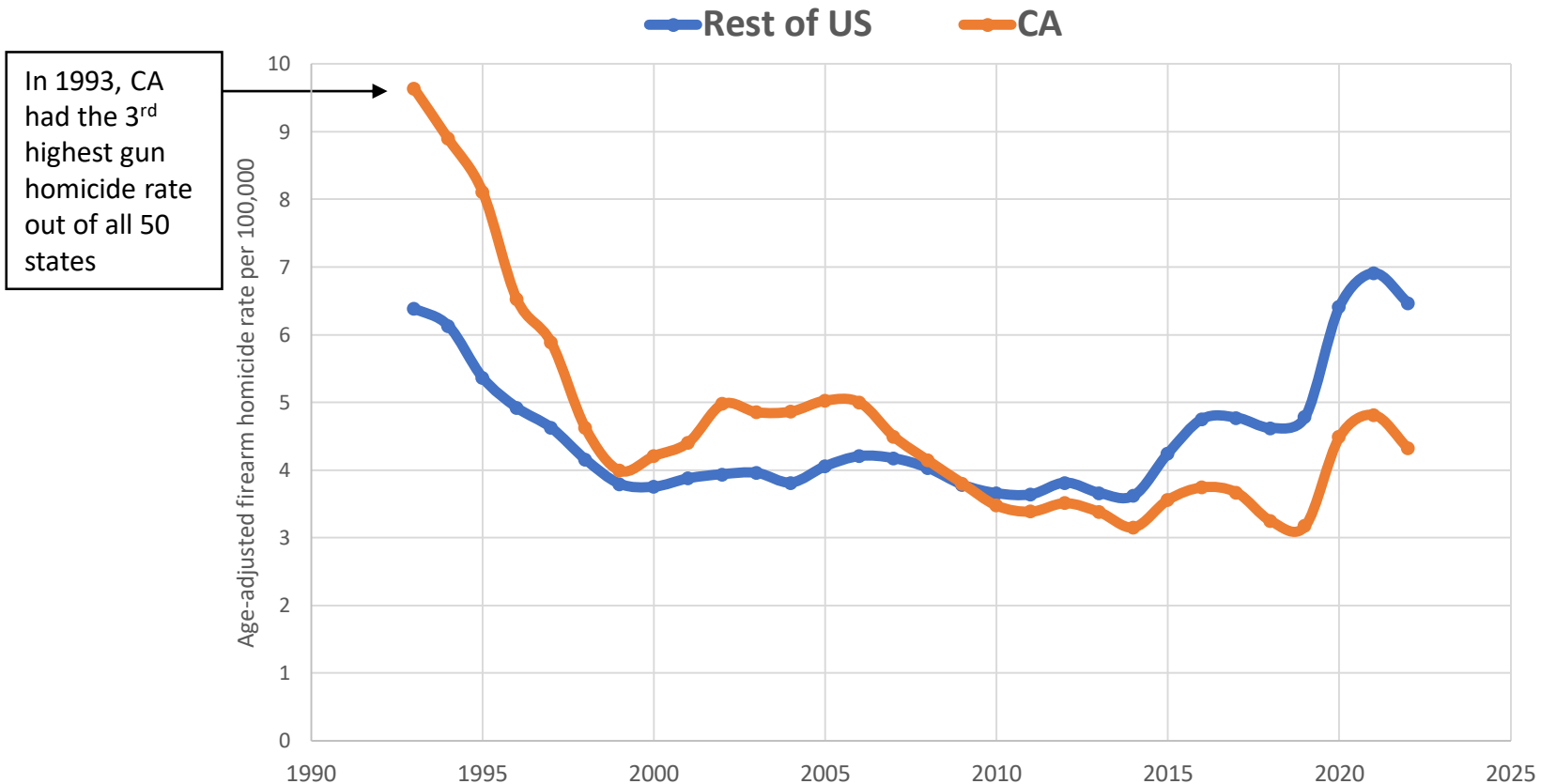
# Firearm Suicide Rates: California vs. Rest of US



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 1993-2022 (2022 data preliminary); Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

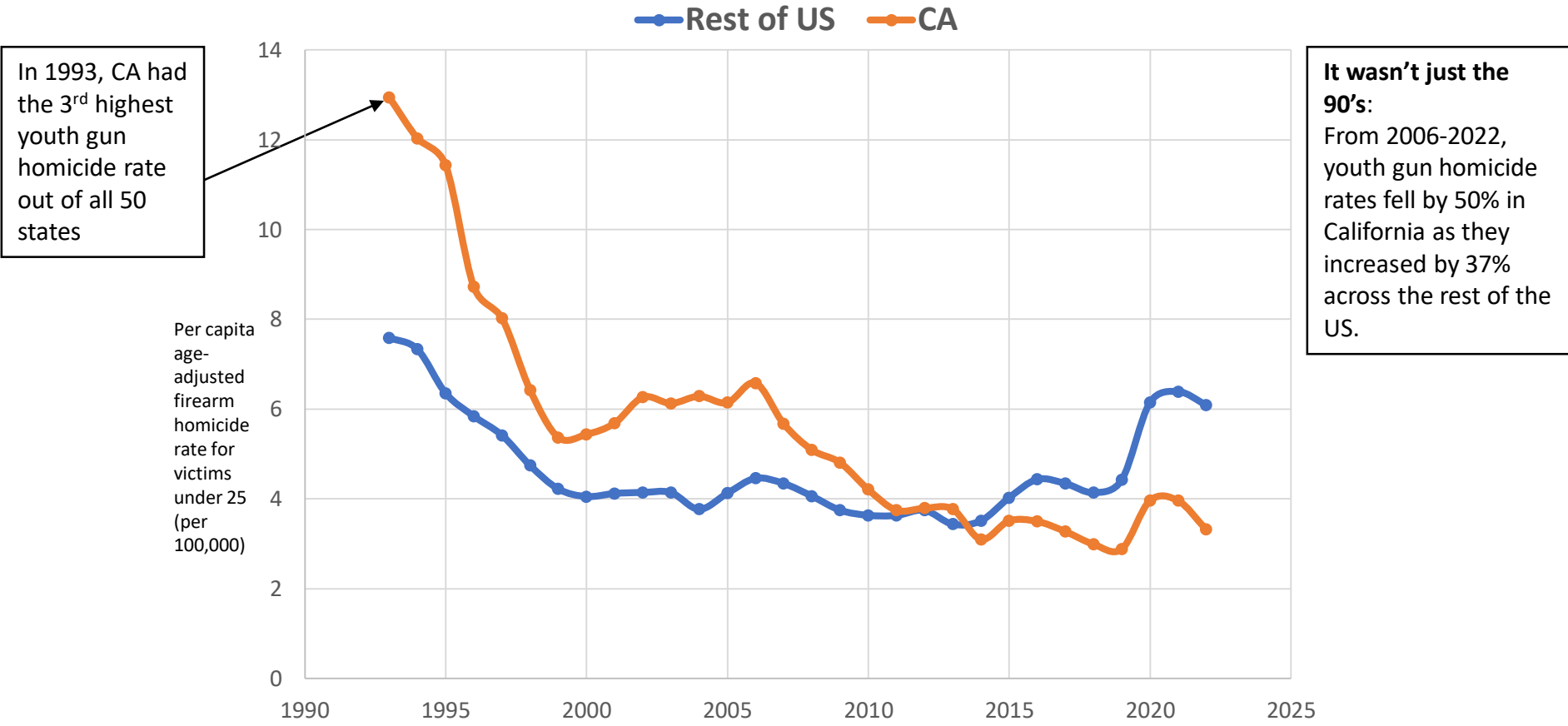


# Firearm Homicide Rates: California vs. Rest of US



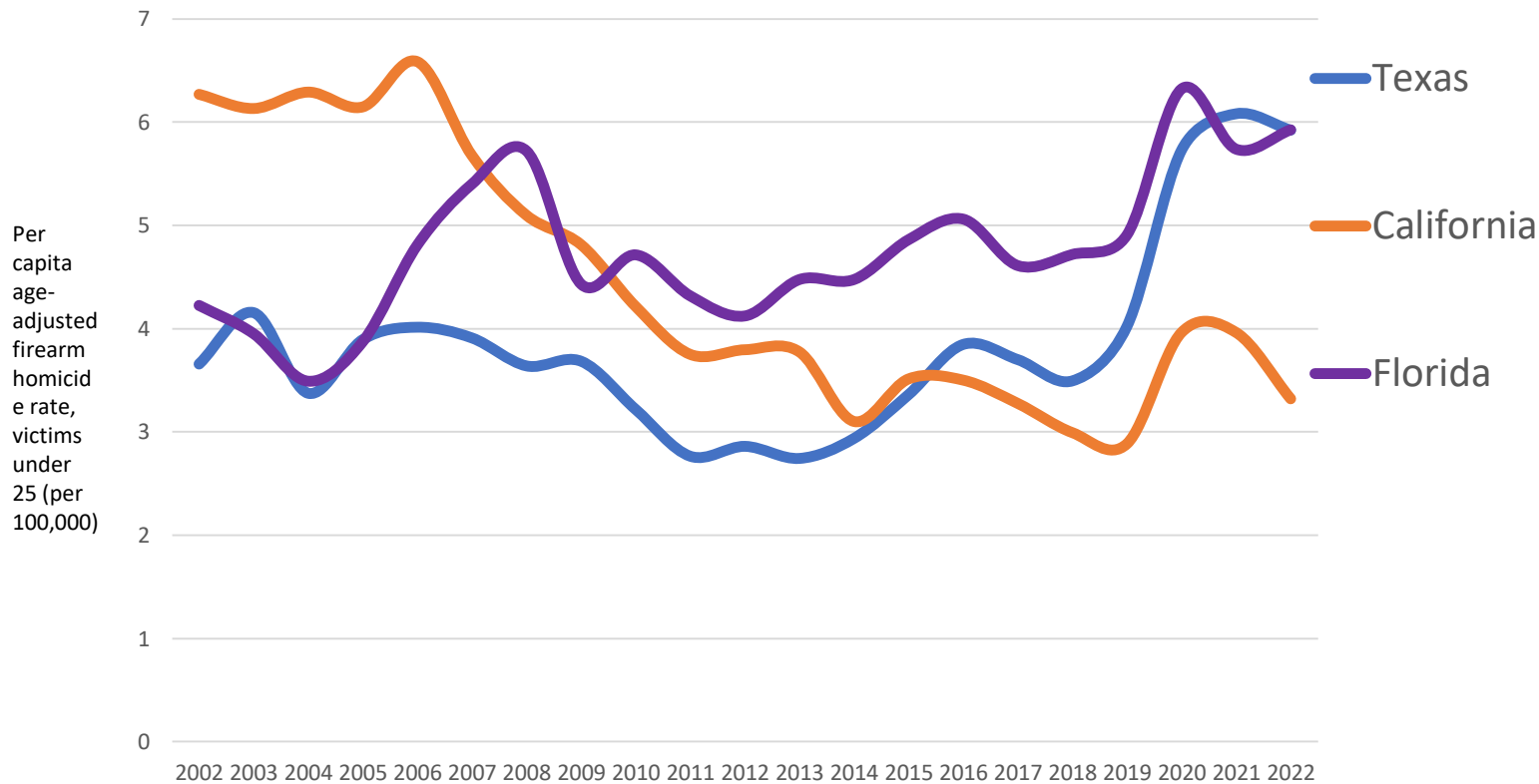
Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 1993-2022 (2022 data preliminary); Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

# Firearm Homicide Rates for Youth Under 25: California vs. Rest of US



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 1993-2022 (2022 data preliminary); Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

# Firearm Homicide Rates for Youth in 3 Most Populous States



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 2002-2022 (2022 data preliminary).

# Impact

IF THE  
FIREARM MORTALITY RATE  
IN THE **REST OF THE U.S.**  
**MATCHED CALIFORNIA'S**  
BETWEEN 2013-2022, THERE  
WOULD HAVE BEEN NEARLY  
**140,000 FEWER**  
**FIREARM-RELATED**  
**DEATHS** NATIONWIDE



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER; Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

# Patterns in Firearm Trafficking

- A significant number of guns recovered in law enforcement investigations in California were purchased elsewhere and trafficked into the state.
- In 2021, ATF received “trace” requests to investigate the sale history of 54,338 firearms recovered by law enforcement agencies in California that year.
- Of the firearms recovered in California and successfully traced to a final dealer, **just over half (50.4%)** were traced to sellers in **other states**.
- A majority of these CA-recovered firearms traced to out-of-state sources were traced to dealers in just three other states: Arizona (30%), Nevada (14%), and Texas (10%).



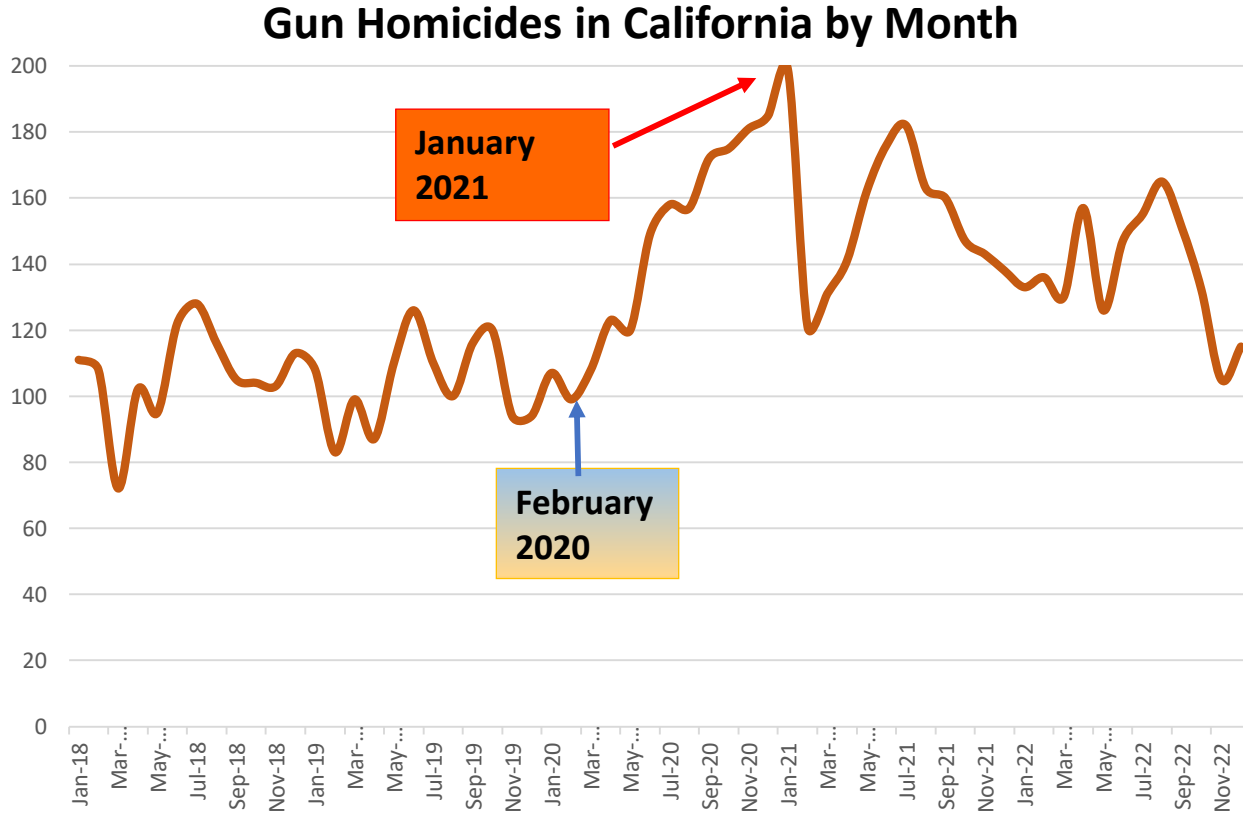
# Patterns in Firearm Trafficking

- California is much less likely than most states to be a source state for firearms trafficked into other states.
- In 2021, ATF data indicated that California was the source state for 2,036 firearms recovered in *all other states and territories combined*, including 203 firearms recovered in Arizona.
- By comparison, Arizona was the source state for 4,725 firearms recovered *just in California alone*.

Source: OGVP analysis of data from ATF, "Firearms Trace Data: California – 2021", available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-california-2021> and "Number of Firearms Sourced and Recovered in the United States and Territories," available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-2021>. See also, ATF, "National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Crime Guns – Volume Two, Part III, Crime Guns Recovered and Traced within the United States and its Territories" (Jan. 11, 2023), at <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/nfcta-volume-ii-part-iii-crime-guns-recovered-and-traced-us/download>.

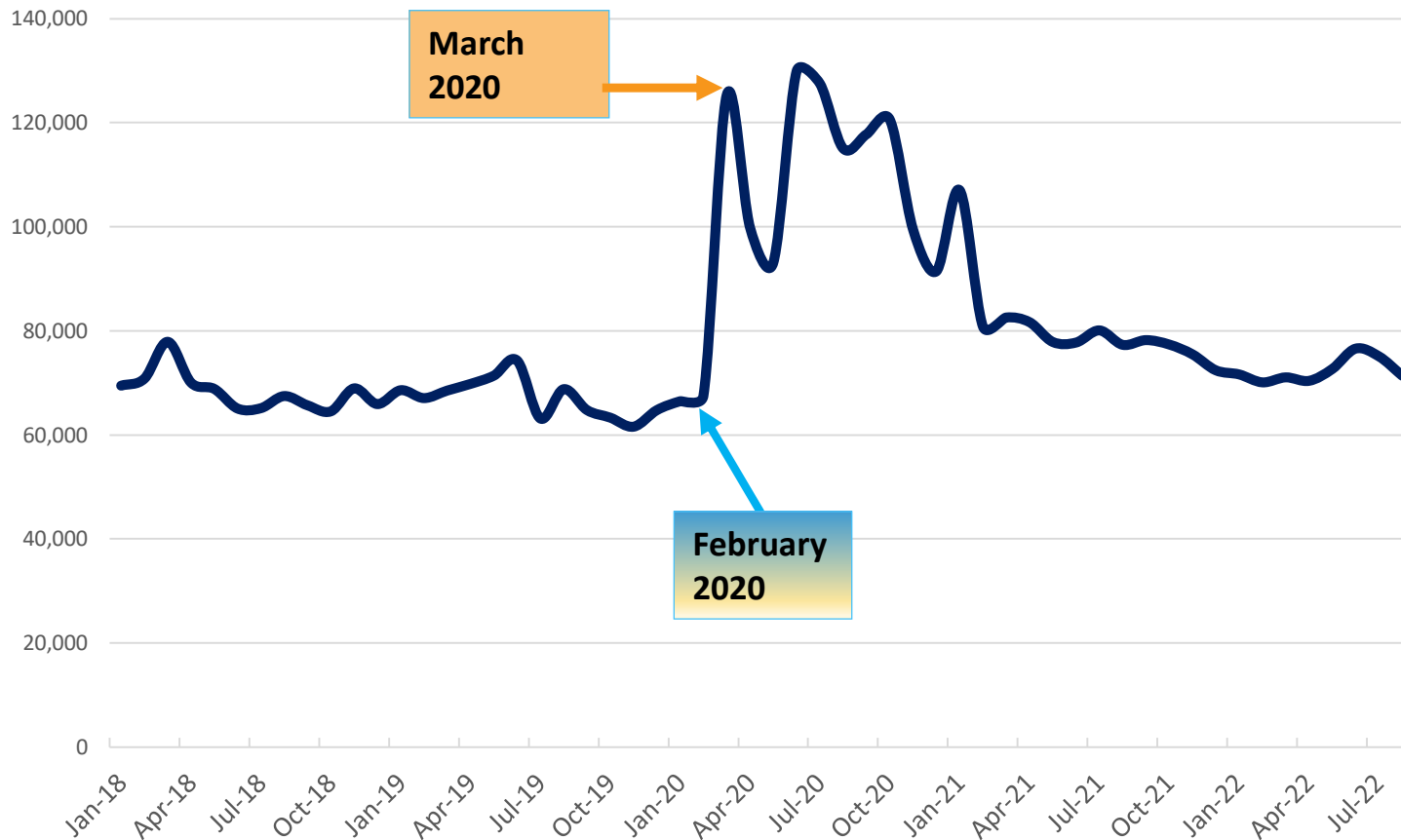


# Gun Homicides in CA by Month



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDPH EpiCenter for 2018-2022 (2022 data preliminary).

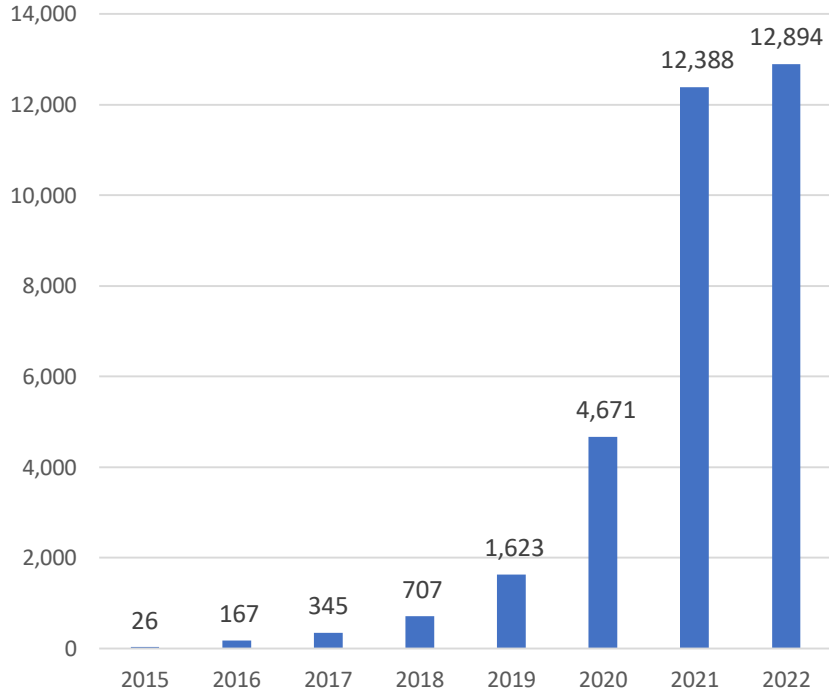
# Estimated # of Firearms Lawfully Sold in CA by Month (*The Trace*)



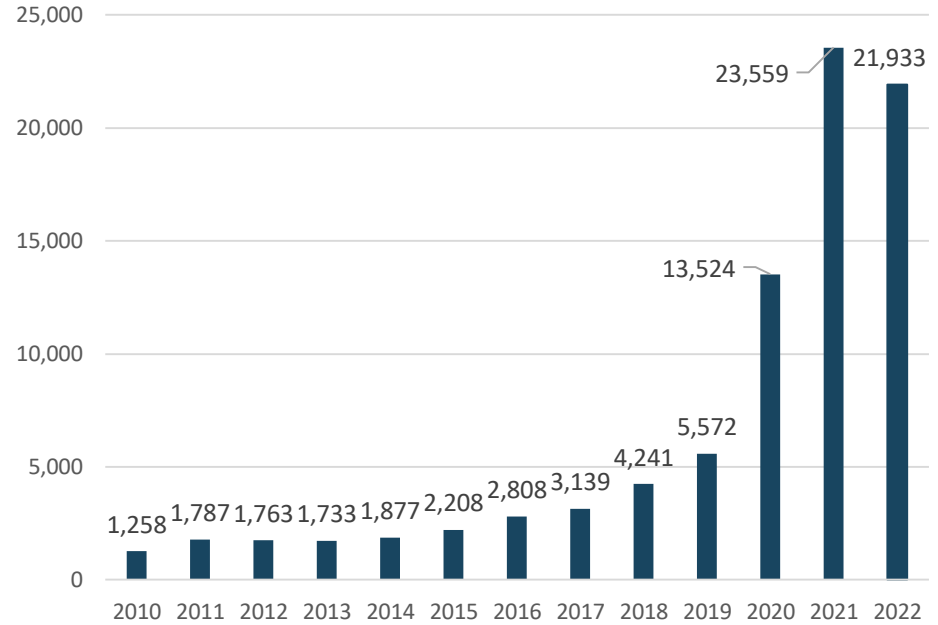


# Ghost Guns Recovered from Crimes in CA by Year

## Number of Ghost Guns Recovered as Crime Guns in CA by Year



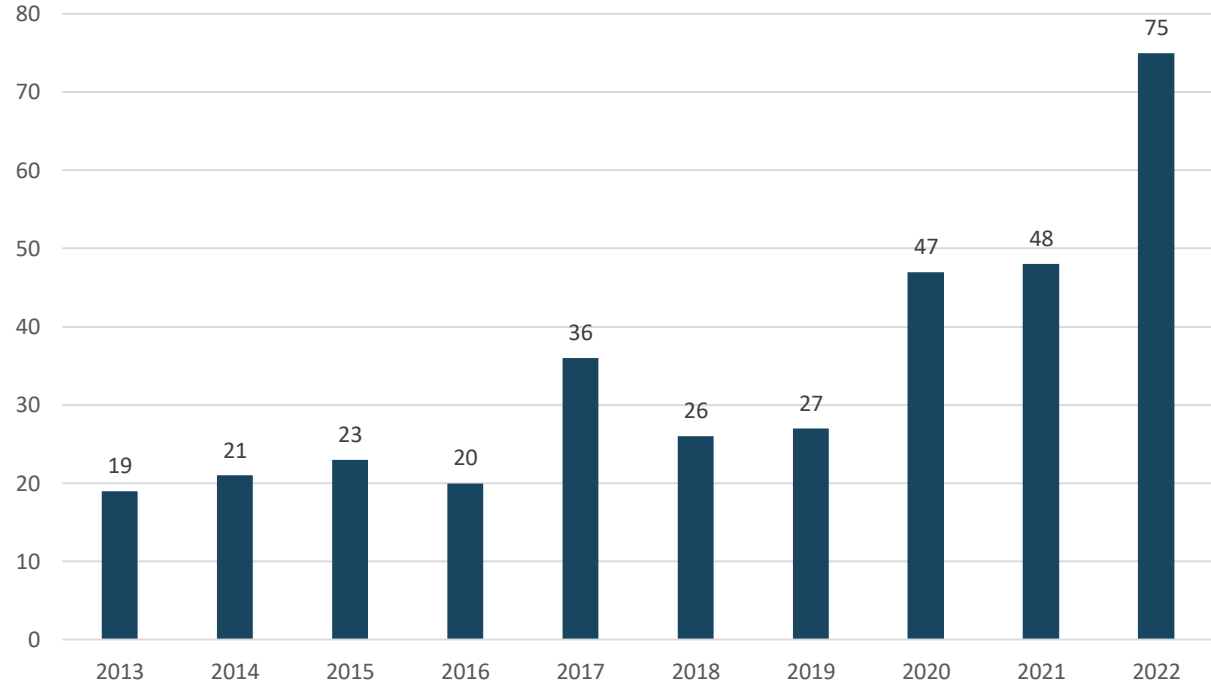
## Number of Firearms Without Serial Numbers Recovered as Crime Guns in CA by Year (Incl. suspected ghost guns, obliterated serial numbers, antiques)



# Hate Crimes & Firearms

Unlike a majority of US states, California law generally disqualifies people from purchasing or accessing firearms for 10 years after they are convicted of misdemeanor assault, criminal threats, or hate crimes.

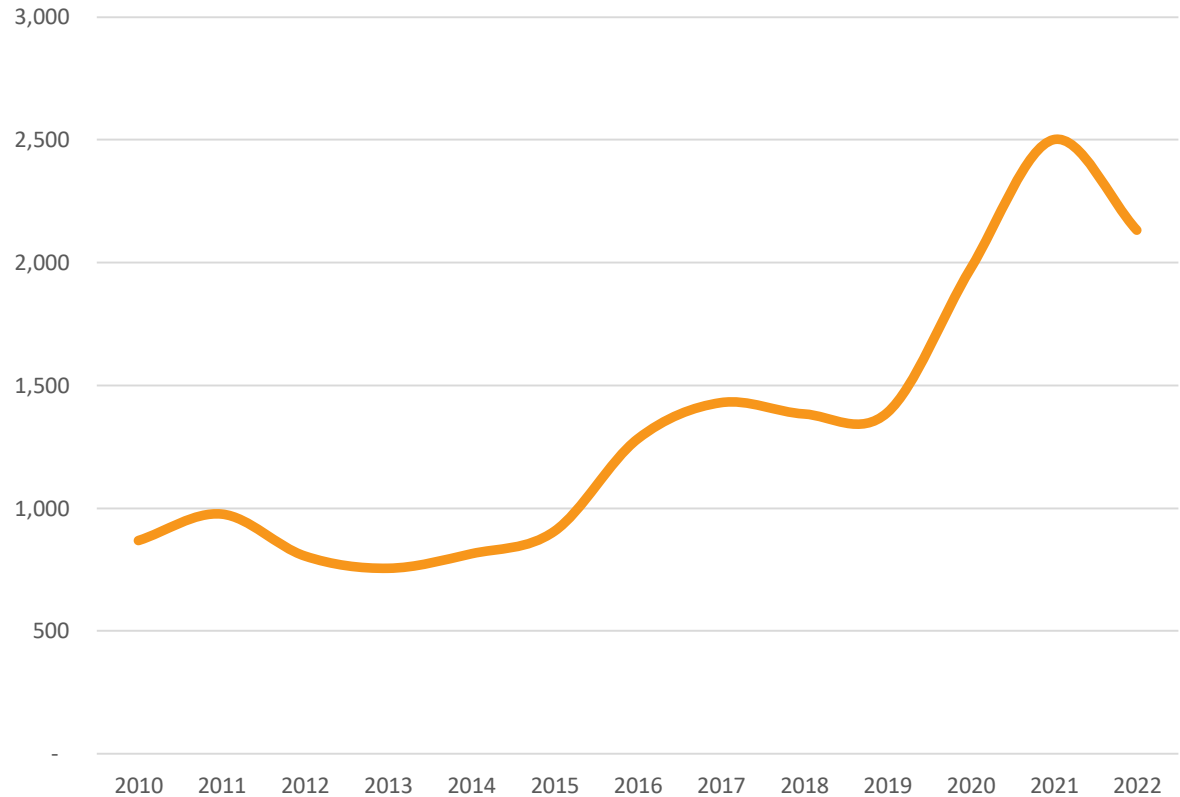
Number of Hate Crimes in CA Involving Firearms by Year



# Domestic Violence calls for assistance in CA involving firearms

From 2019-2021, there was a 2% increase in **domestic violence-related** calls for law enforcement assistance in CA but an 80% increase in the number of those calls involving the reported use or threatened use of firearms.

An abusive partner's access to firearms increases risk of female victim homicide by 1,000%.

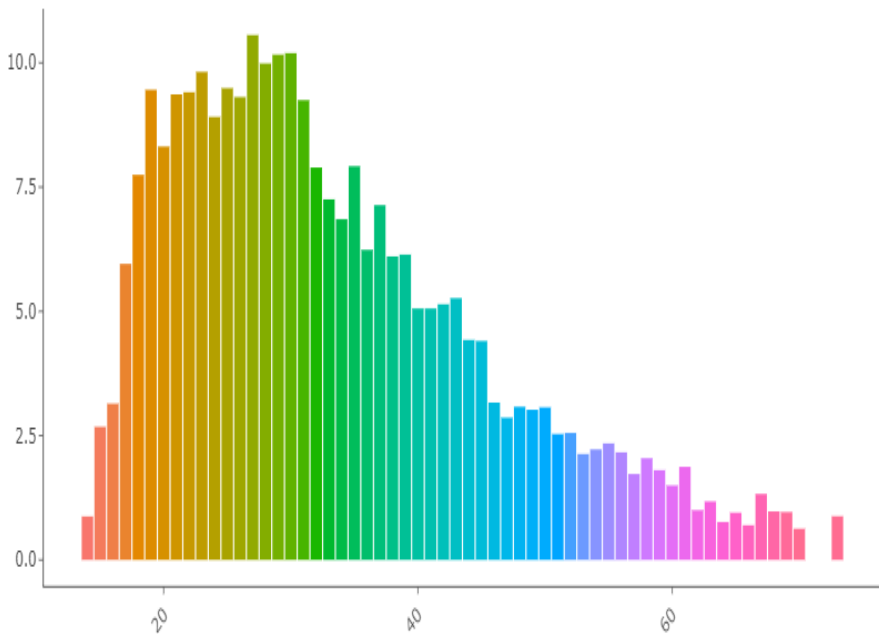


# Domestic Violence & Firearms

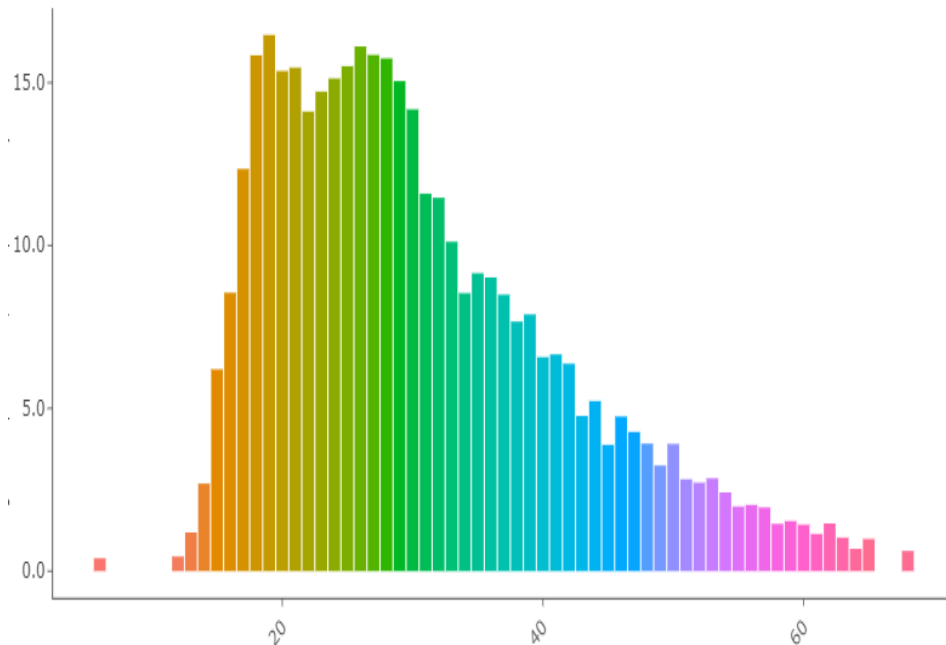
- Domestic violence drives a significant share of violence perpetrated against women and children in particular.
- At the national level, in 2021, **at least 50%** of all female murder victims in the US were killed by a current/former intimate partner or family member.
  - *This is likely a significant undercount: for another 20% of female victim homicide cases, the victim-offender relationship was unlisted or reported as “unknown”.*
- From 2019 to 2021, Gun Violence Archive data showed a **65% increase** in the number of minors killed or injured in domestic violence shootings nationwide.
- In 2022, more than twice as many minors were killed or injured in domestic violence shootings in the US than in school shootings.

# Gun Homicide and Gun Assault Rates by Age in CA (2016-2021)

**Gun Homicide Rate by Age in CA**



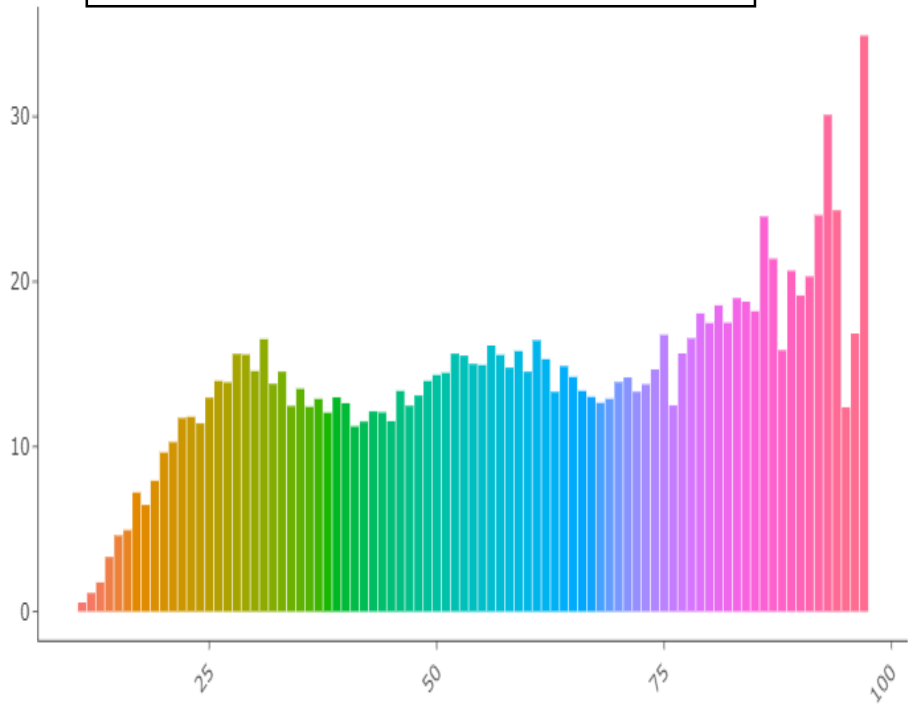
**Gun Assault Hospitalization Rate by Age in CA**



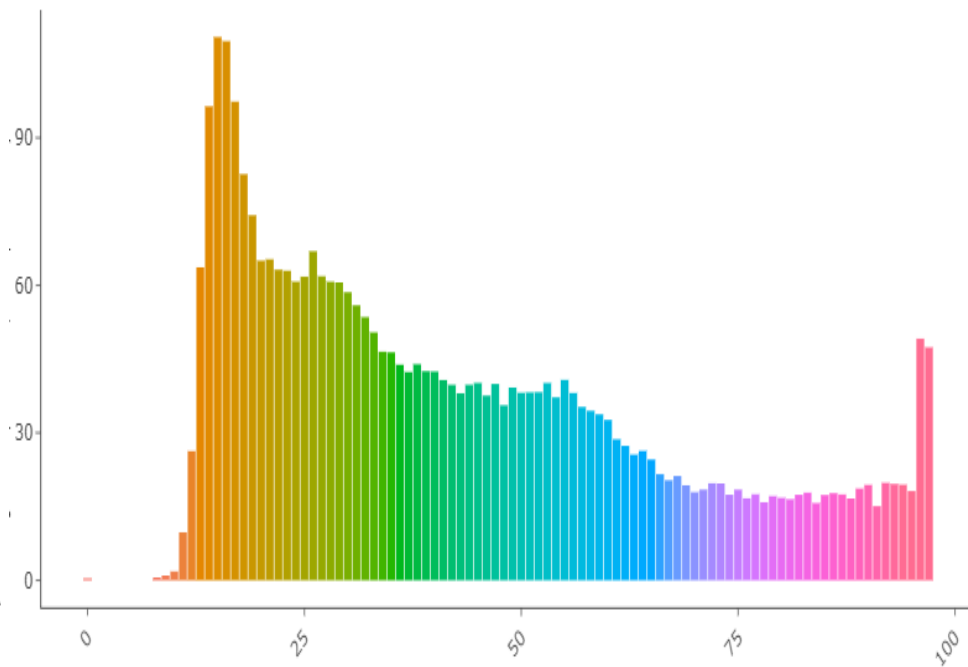
Source: CDPH EpiCenter firearm homicide rate and firearm assault hospitalization rate per 100,000 by single-year age group for 2016-2021.

# Intentional Self-Harm by Any Method, Rates by Age in CA (2016-2021)

**Overall Suicide Death Rate by Age in CA**

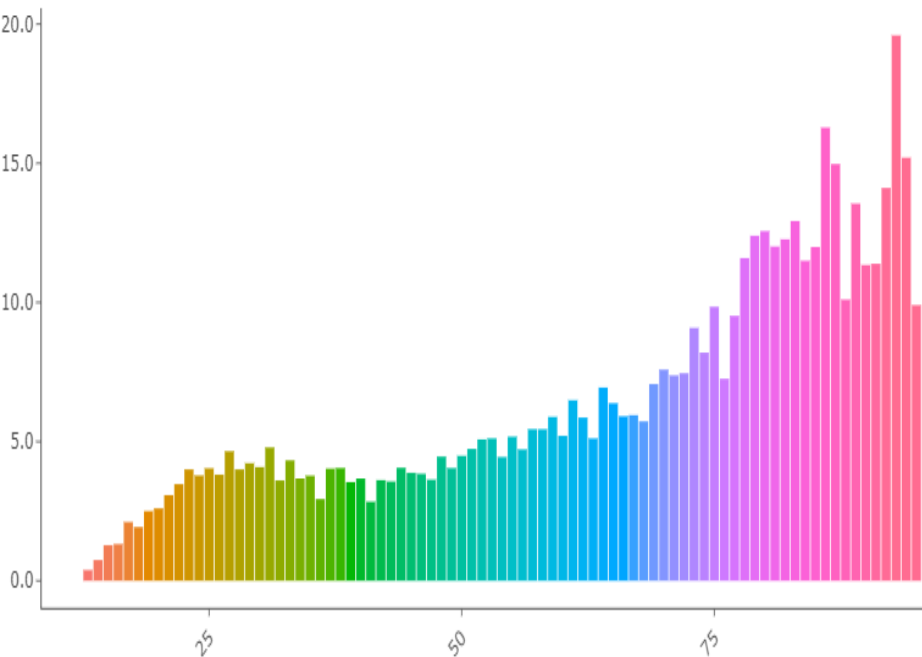


**Overall Intentional Self-Harm Hospitalization Rate by Age in CA**

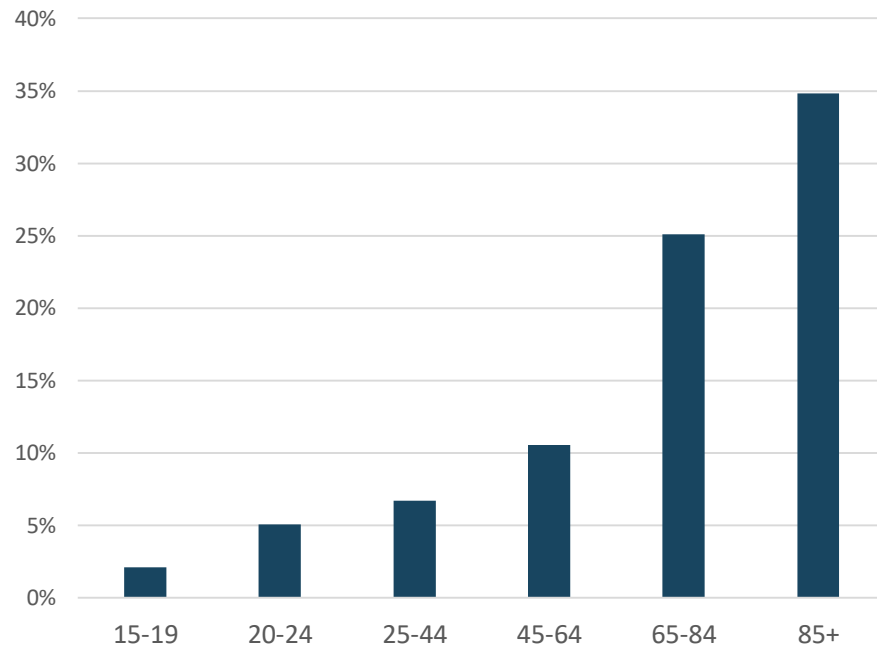


# Intentional Self-Harm with Firearms in CA

**Gun Suicide Death Rate by Age in CA**



**% of Self-Harm Hospitalizations or Deaths (Combined) Involving Firearms, by Age in CA**



# Firearm access is a major risk factor for people in suicidal crisis:

- In 2021, firearms were used in **3%** of intentional self-harm incidents in CA that either resulted in death or required hospitalization/emergency care.
- Of those incidents: **91% with firearms** resulted in death, compared to **5% without a firearm**.
- As a result, GSWs were responsible for **less than 1%** of intentional self-harm incidents requiring hospitalization/emergency care in CA but **38% of suicide deaths**.

*If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.*

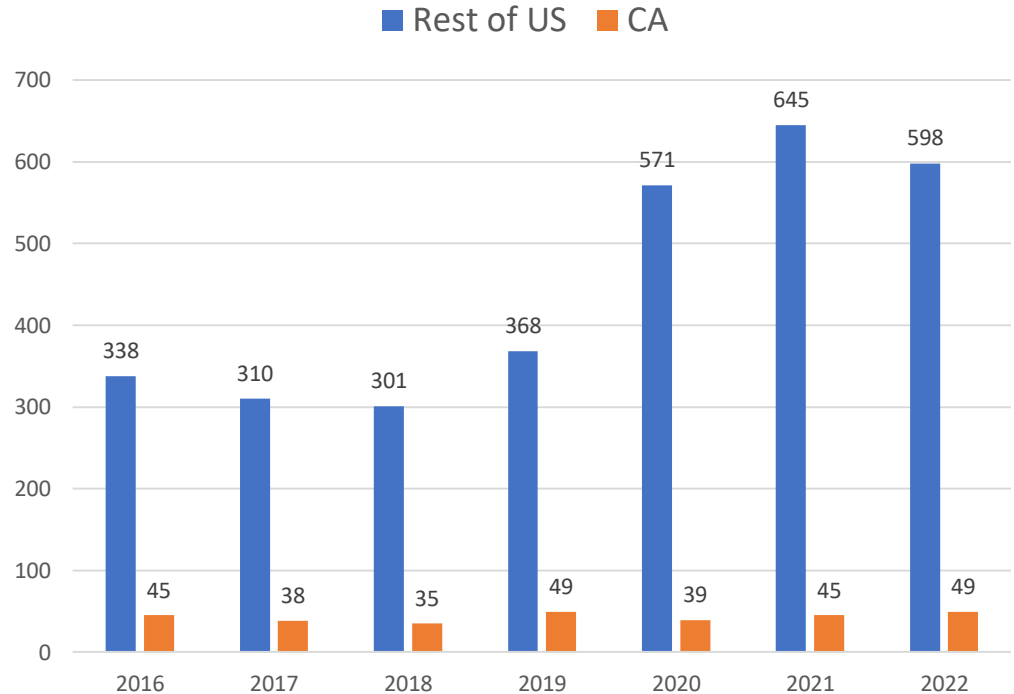
*Please call or text the number 988 to reach the free, confidential, 24/7 “988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline” or chat 988lifeline.org.*



# Mass Shootings

- Nationwide, mass shootings have become more frequent and higher casualty on average.
- 6 of the 10 highest casualty shootings in modern US history occurred between 2016-2022.
- In 68% of mass shootings, the shooter had a history of domestic violence and/or killed a family member or intimate partner.
- Many mass shootings have also been motivated by conspiracies or hateful ideologies. Some of the deadliest mass shootings in US history were perpetrated as hate crimes.

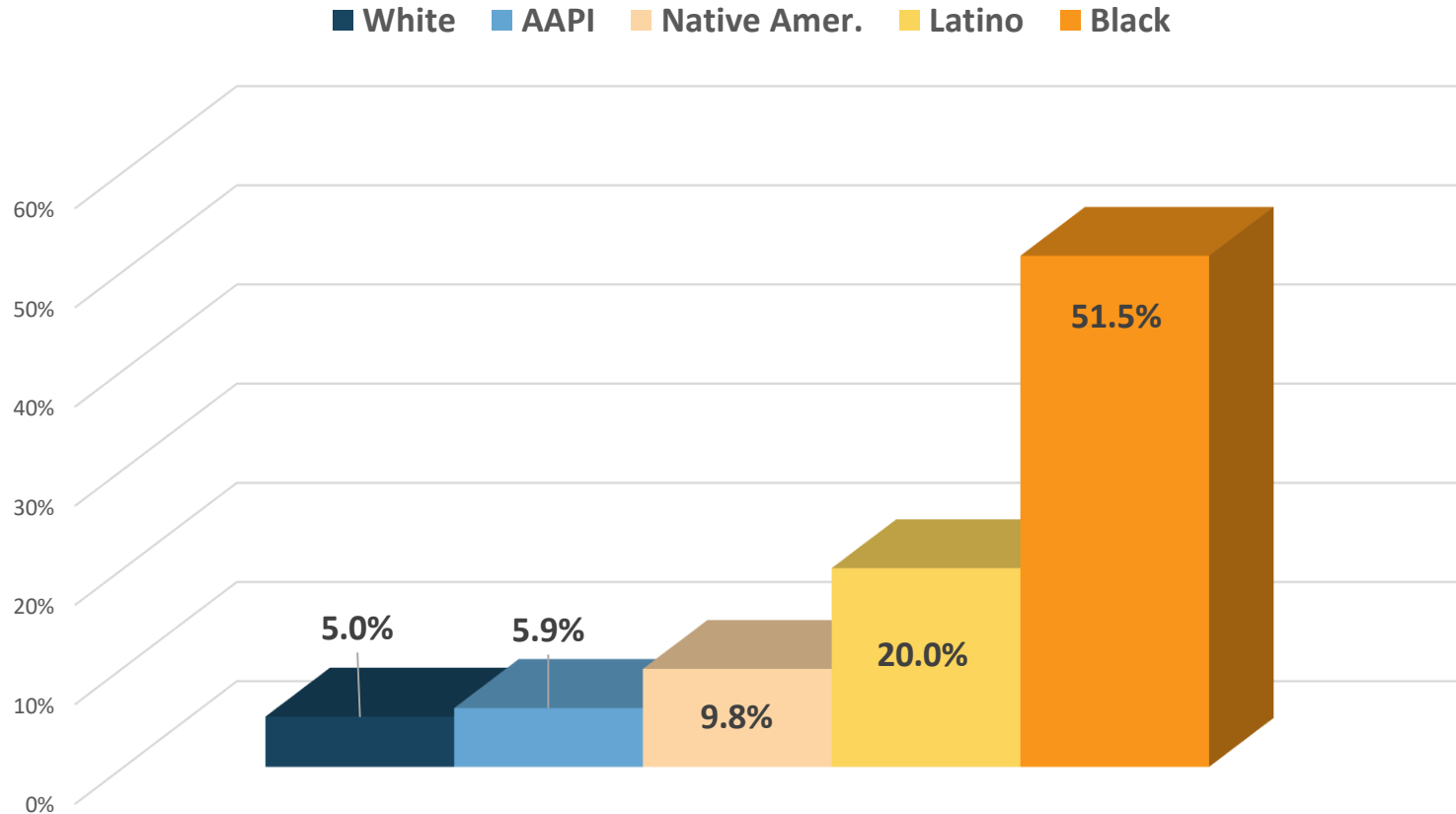
## Number of Mass Shooting Incidents (4+ victims shot) by Year



# Mass Shootings

- From 2019-2021, across the US, **1,585 people were killed** in mass shootings nationwide (not including the shooter), and nearly **7,000 more were shot** in these attacks.
- In CA over this period, 152 people were killed and 509 more were shot in mass shootings.
- These mass shooting deaths represented about **3%** of US gun homicides over this period—underscoring the enormous societal impact of gun violence in the US.

# % of Teenaged Boys' Deaths in US Caused by Gun Homicide



Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 2020-2021 (firearm homicides as percentage of all deaths for 13-19 year old males).

# Hospitalized Shooting Survivors in California

## Among Californians hospitalized for nonfatal gun assaults from 2020-2021:

- 89% male
- 79% Hispanic or Black (43% Hispanic + 36% Black)
- 16% teenaged, 37% in their 20's, 26% in their 30's
- About half hospitalized for 5 days or more
- Medi-Cal is expected health insurer for 73%; 86% publicly insured or uninsured

# Survivors' Risk of Violent Re-injury and Death:

Many gun assault survivors are at extremely elevated risk of being shot again and killed:

- [One statewide study](#) found that, compared to CA's statewide average, the gun homicide rate in CA was over **60 times higher** for people who had previously survived one nonfatal gun assault injury, and over **120 times higher** among people who had survived multiple.
- A [study](#) from a trauma center in Oakland, CA found that gun homicide was the cause of death for **79%** of gun assault patients who survived the initial shooting but died within 5 years after being discharged from the hospital.
- Compared to patients treated at the same hospital for motor vehicle accidents or for *non-gun* assault injuries, gun assault patients were **5-6 times** more likely to die during the first year after leaving the hospital.

# Q&A

