



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

# Firearms in the U.S. & Colorado



[cufirearminjuryprevention.org](http://cufirearminjuryprevention.org)



Sign up for our  
newsletter

Please take out your cell phone and either open your web-browser app *OR* your camera.

- In your browser, go to: [Pollev.com/fipi](https://Pollev.com/fipi)
- With your camera, zoom in on the upcoming QR-code boxes, then click to open the link.



## Saint Peter- Gun Owners are \_\_\_\_

 0

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

Saint Peter- Gun laws are \_\_\_\_\_

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

## Saint Peter- Suicide is \_\_\_\_\_

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

## Saint Peter- Gang Violence is \_\_\_\_

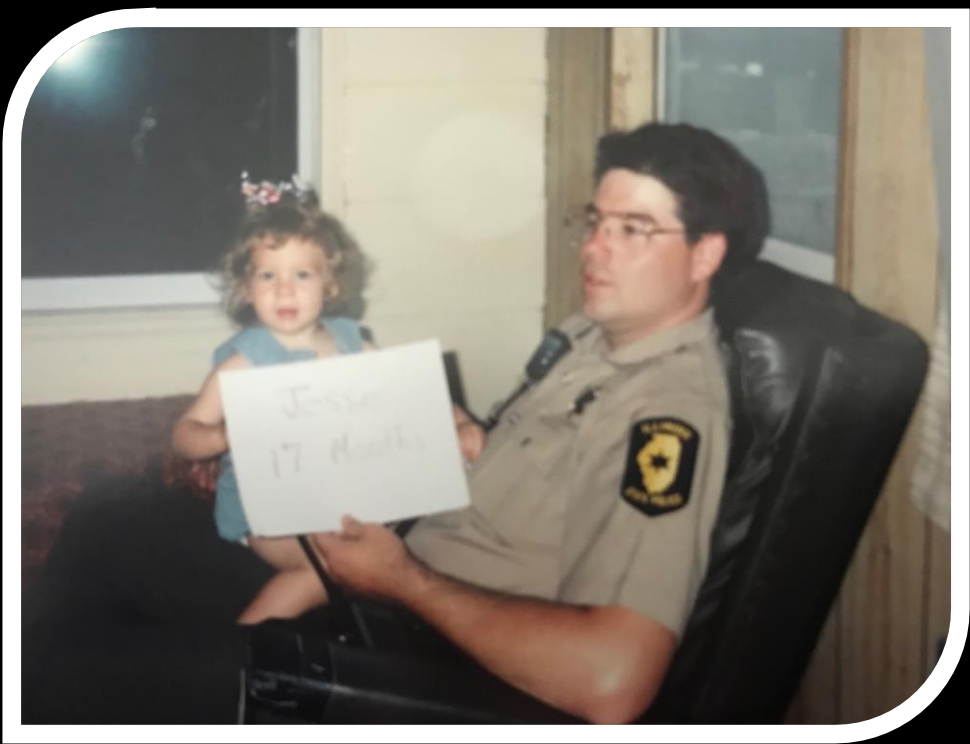
Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

## Firearm violence is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.









# Our Approach

## Vision

Create a future without firearm-related injuries, deaths, or other harms.

## Mission

To use collaboration, education, and research to prevent all types of firearm-related injuries and deaths in our homes and communities.



# Our Approach

## Our Values



Engagement of **impacted communities** and those with lived experience



Recognition of a common goal of **health and security**



Respect for **diversity** and consideration of a range of views



# Our Approach

## Our Values



Engagement of **impacted communities** and those with lived experience



Recognition of a common goal of **health and security**



Respect for **diversity** and consideration of a range of views

## Our Areas of Focus



### Research

Education and mentorship supports impacted communities and trains the next generation of researchers and practitioners.



### Education

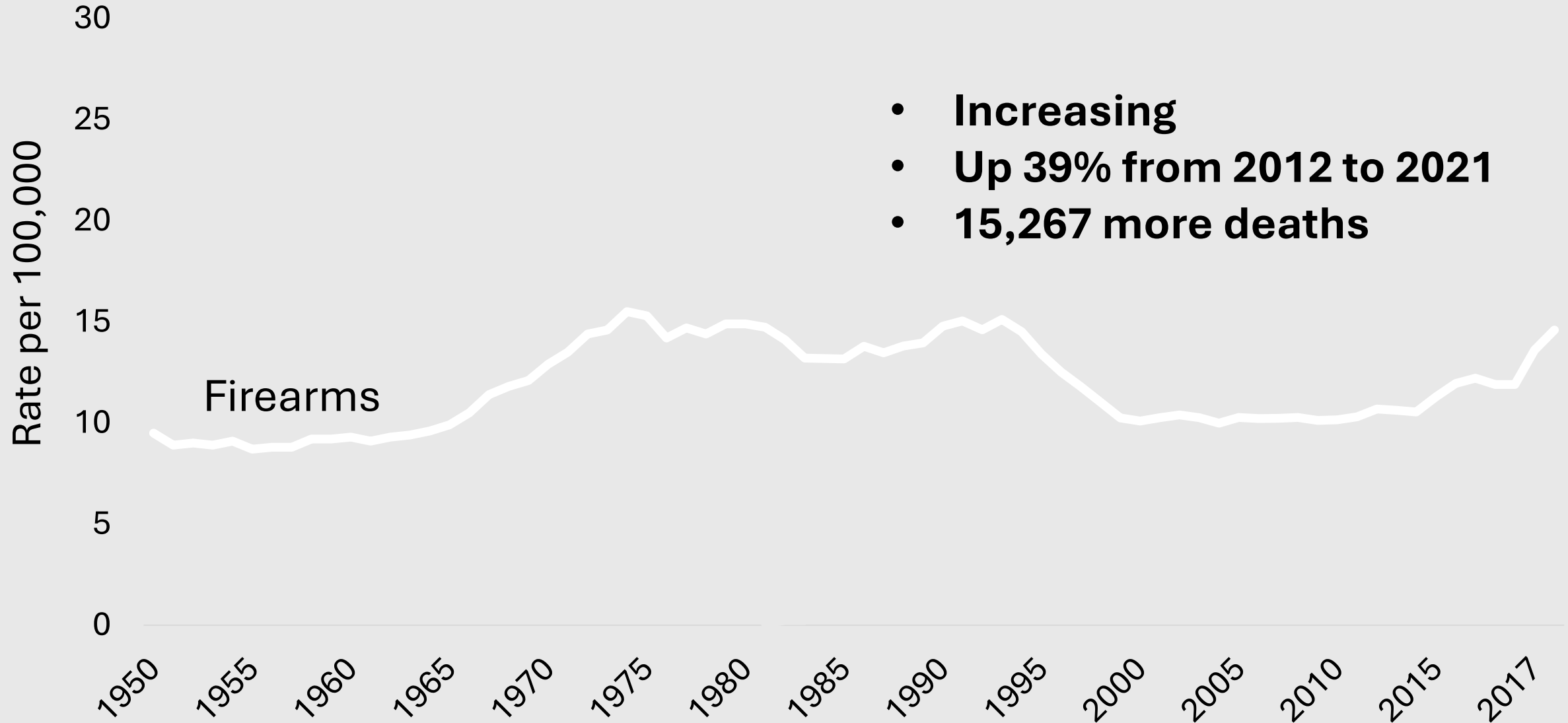
Partnership and engagement with impacted communities optimizes identification and impact of effective, acceptable solutions.



### Collaboration

Action-oriented, innovative research to support the development and dissemination of evidence-based solutions.

# Death rates, United States

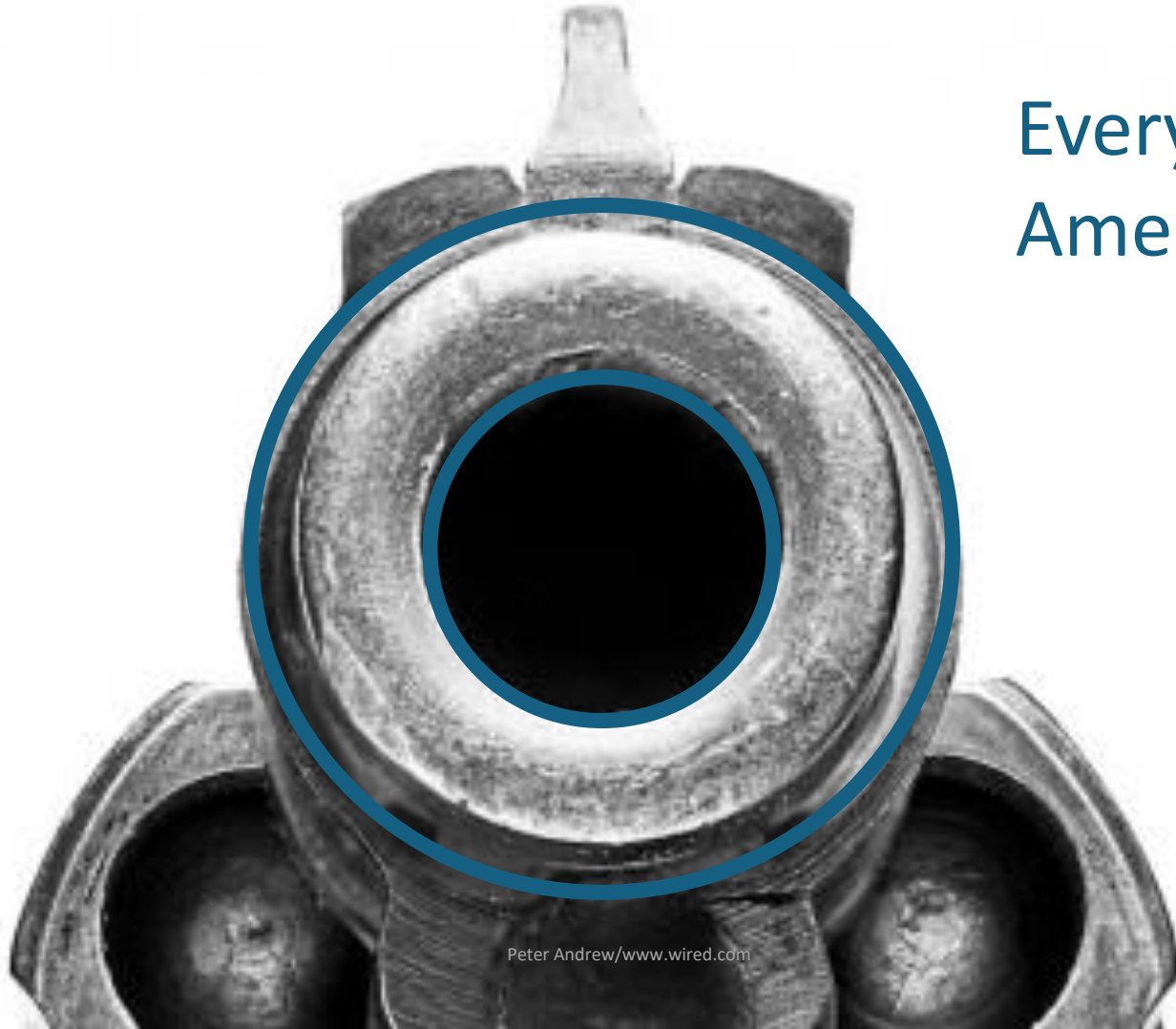


- **Increasing**
- **Up 39% from 2012 to 2021**
- **15,267 more deaths**



# Firearm Deaths in the U.S.

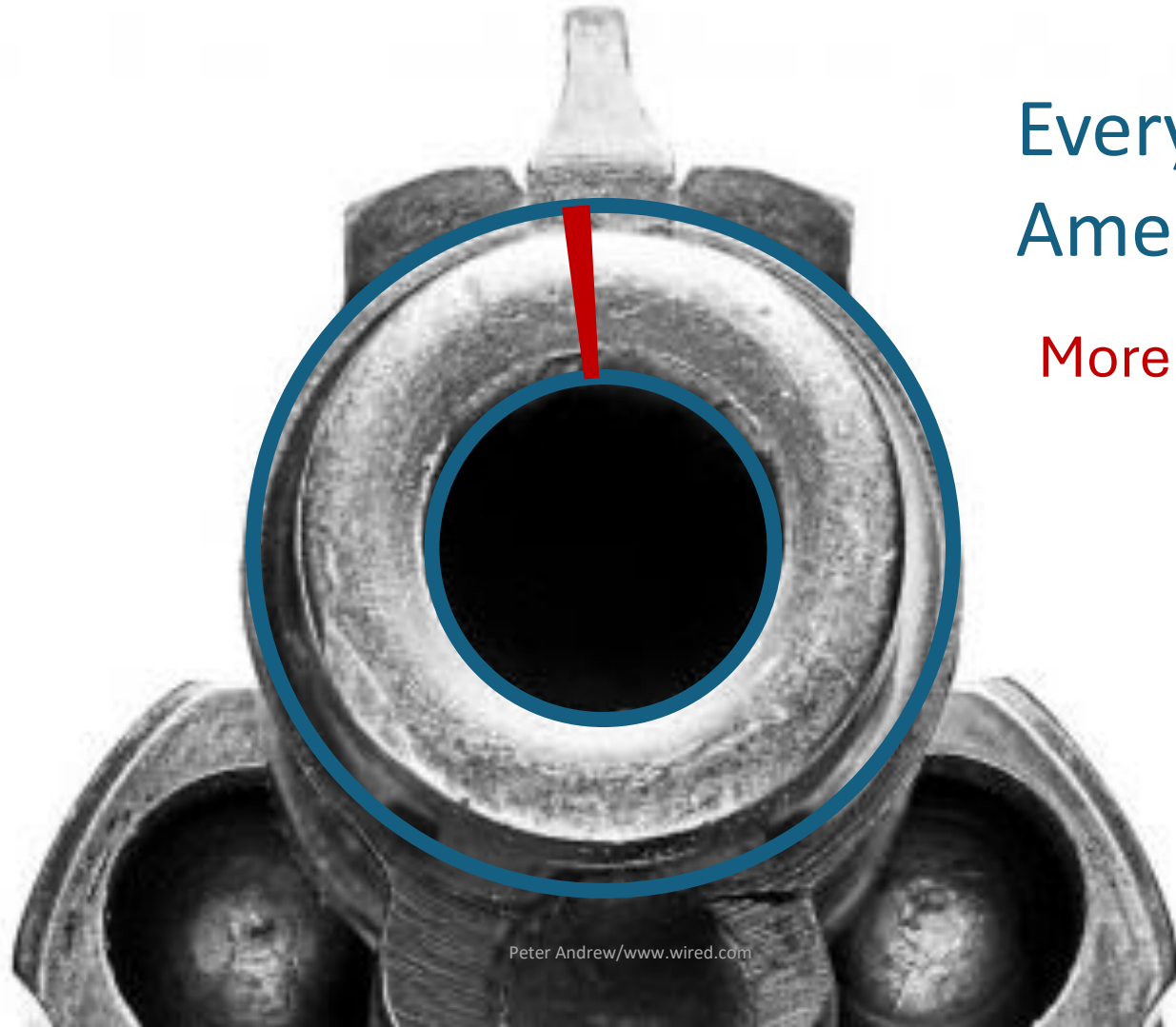
Every year, nearly 40,000  
Americans are killed by guns...



Peter Andrew/www.wired.com



# Firearm Deaths in the U.S.



Every year, nearly 40,000  
Americans are killed by guns...

More than 300 die by undetermined intent



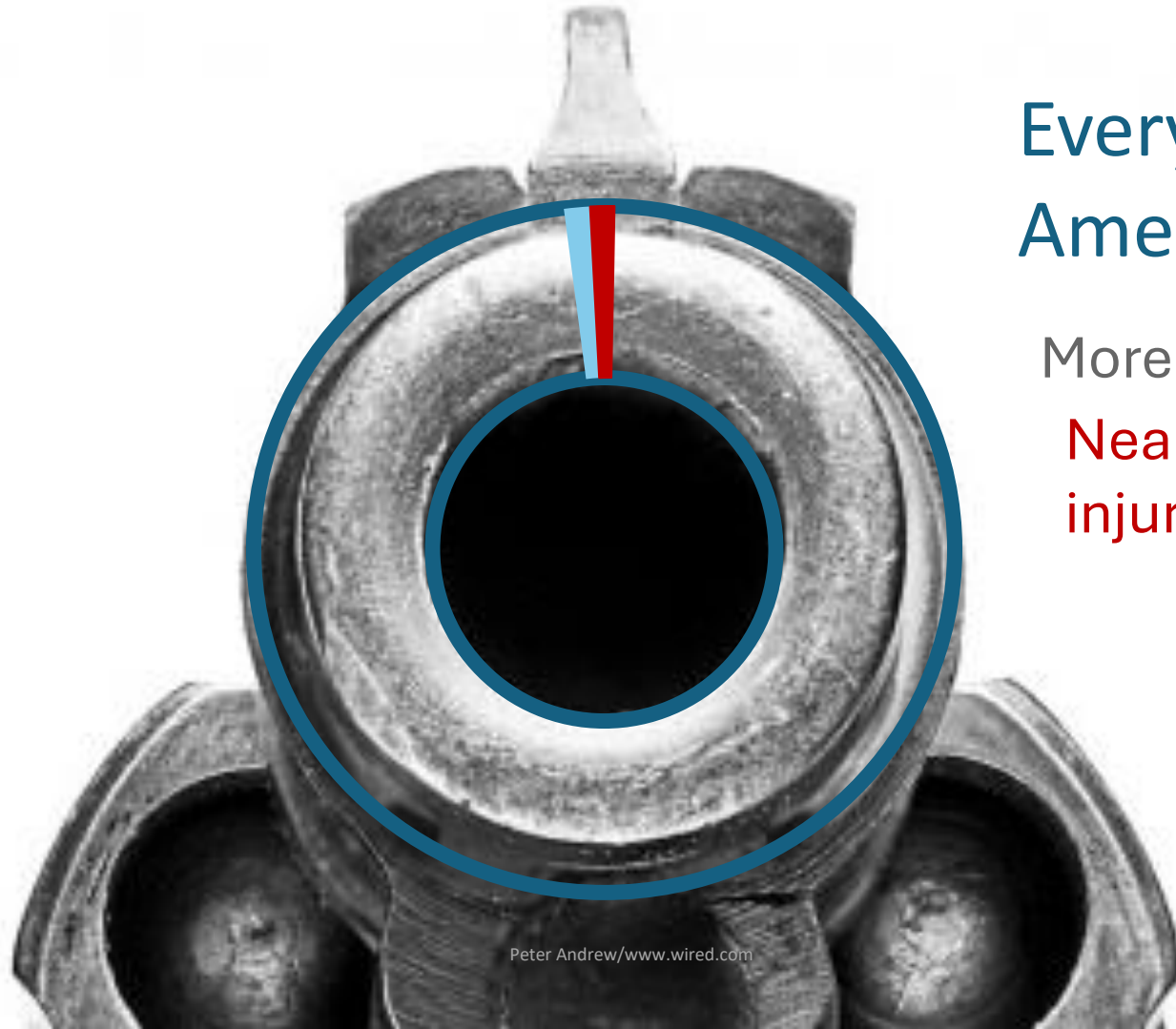


# Firearm Deaths in the U.S.

Every year, nearly 40,000  
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More than 300 die by undetermined intent

Nearly 500 die by unintentional firearm  
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Peter Andrew/www.wired.com



# Firearm Deaths in the U.S.

Every year, nearly 40,000  
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More than 300 die by undetermined intent  
Nearly 500 die by unintentional firearm  
injuries

14,500 die by homicide & legal intervention



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# Firearm Deaths in the U.S.

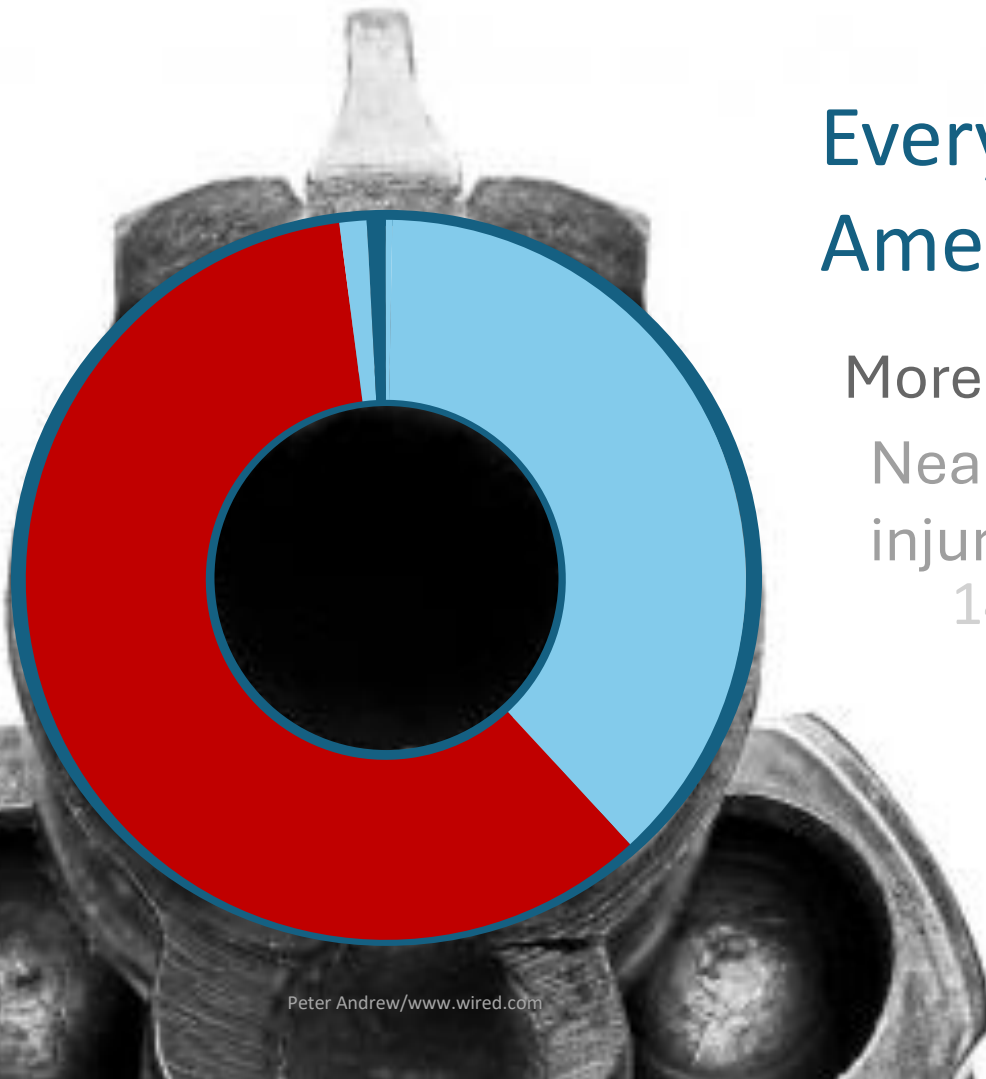
Every year, nearly 40,000  
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More than 300 die by undetermined intent

Nearly 500 die by unintentional firearm  
injuries

14,500 die by homicide & legal intervention

**More than 23,000 die by firearm suicide**



# Firearm Deaths in Colorado

1,064

firearm  
deaths  
in 2021



statistically  
significant  
increase 2020-21



# Firearm Deaths in Colorado

**1,064**

firearm  
deaths  
in 2021



statistically  
significant  
increase 2020-21

**73.6% suicides**



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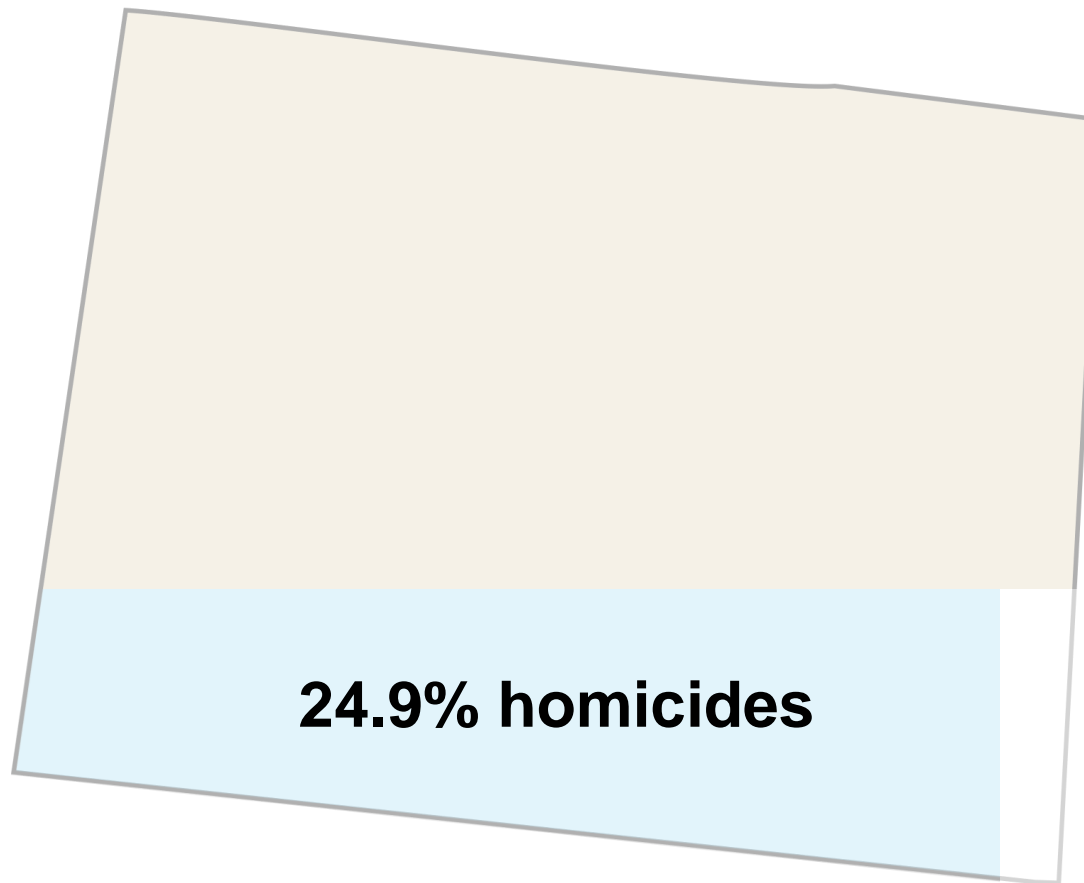
# Firearm Deaths in Colorado

**1,064**

firearm  
deaths  
in 2021



statistically  
significant  
increase 2020-21



**24.9% homicides**



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# Firearm Deaths in Colorado

**22nd**

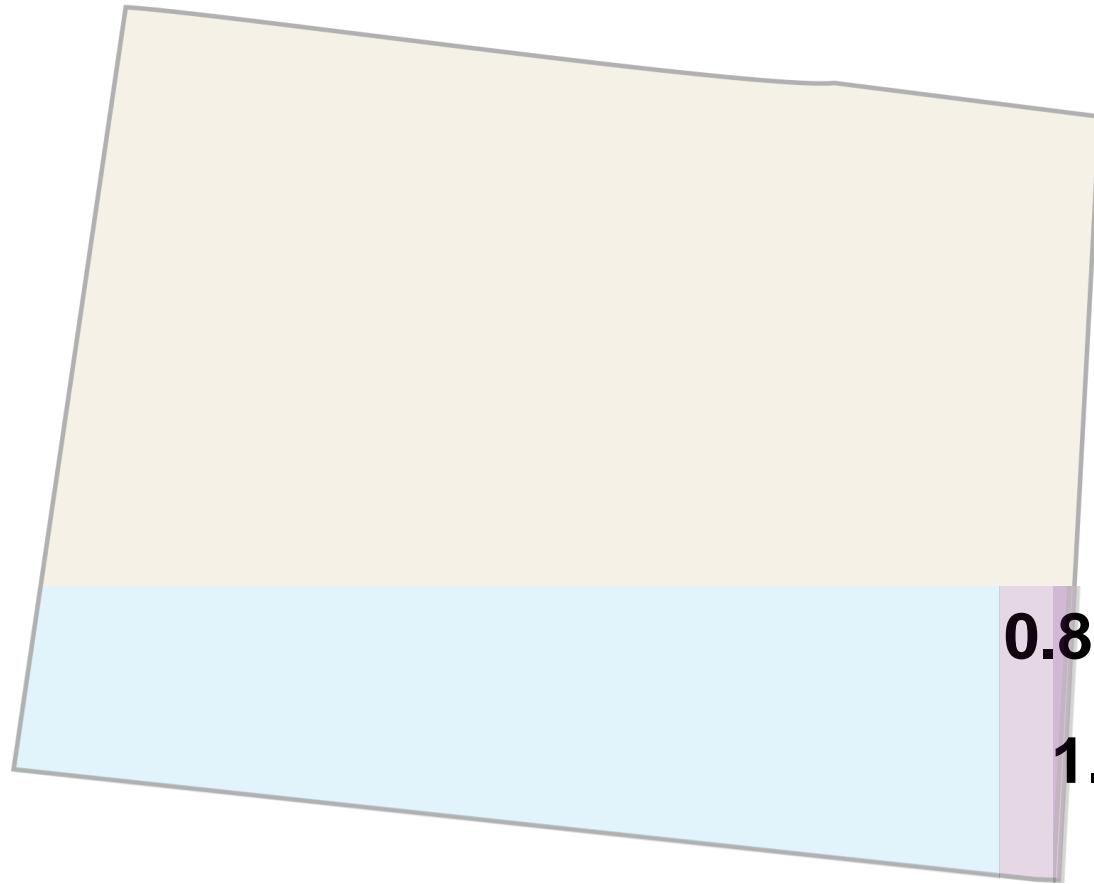
highest in firearm  
deaths across  
US

**1,064**

firearm  
deaths  
in 2021



statistically  
significant  
increase 2020-21



**0.8% unintentional**

**1.0% undetermined**

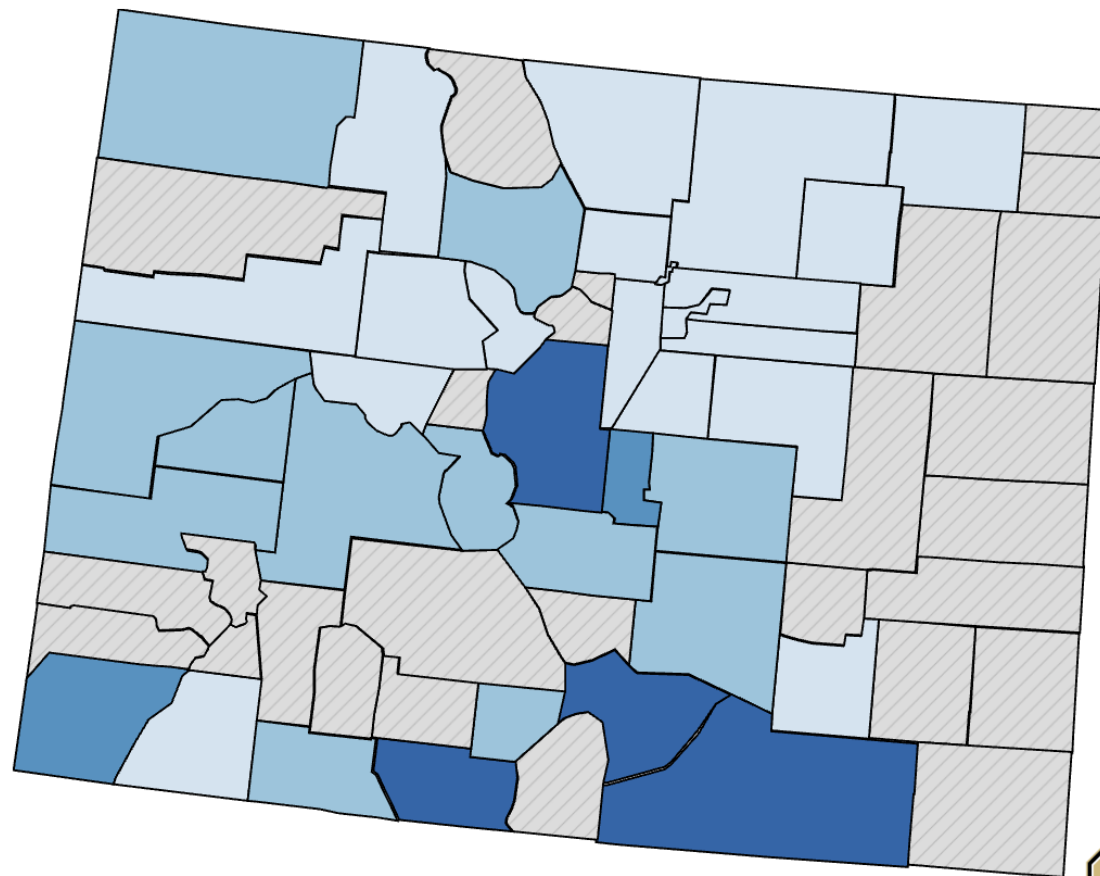
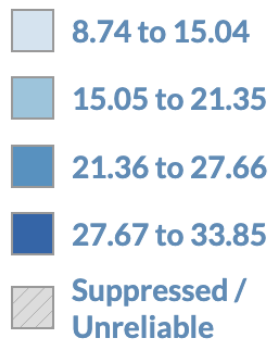


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# Firearm Deaths in Colorado

## COUNTY VARIATIONS

Age-adjusted gun death rate  
per 100,000



Among the counties in Colorado, Park County had the highest gun death rate, followed by Huerfano County and Las Animas County.



Conversely, Boulder County had the lowest gun death rate, followed by Eagle County and Douglas County.

Based on a ten-year average (2010-2019), CDC WISQARS



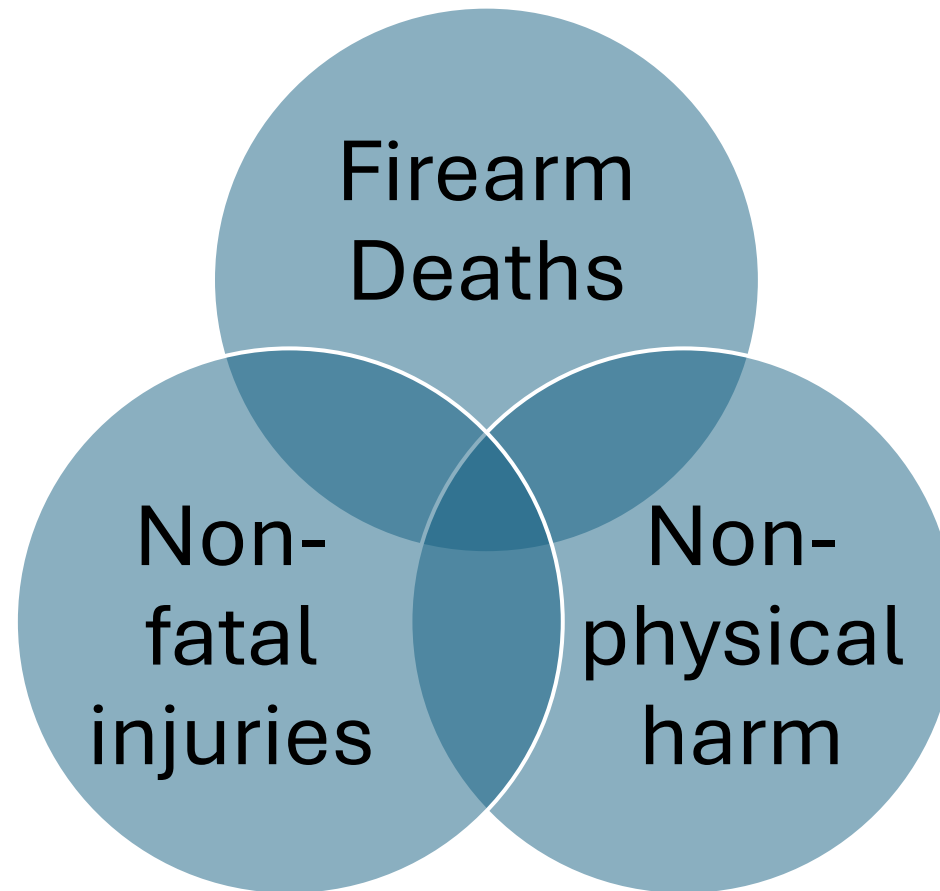
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# Firearm Deaths, Injury, & Harms



# Firearm Suicide

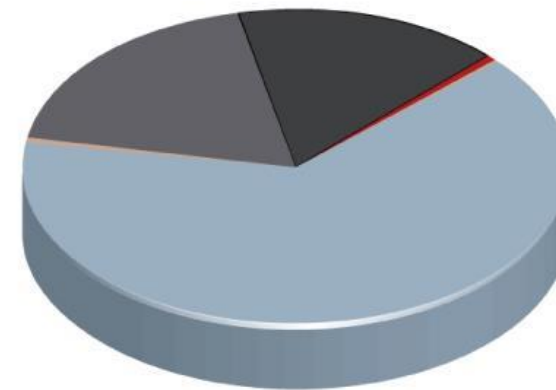
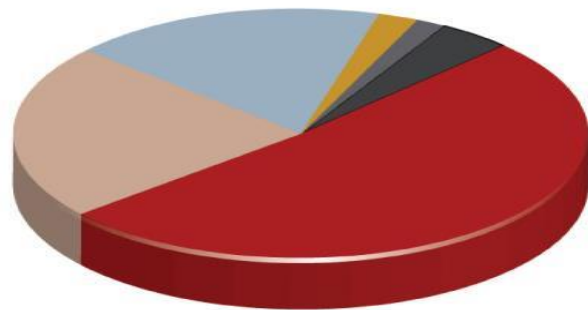
**~60%** Gun deaths across the U.S. are suicides (73% in CO)

**~50%** U.S. suicides are by firearm

**90%**

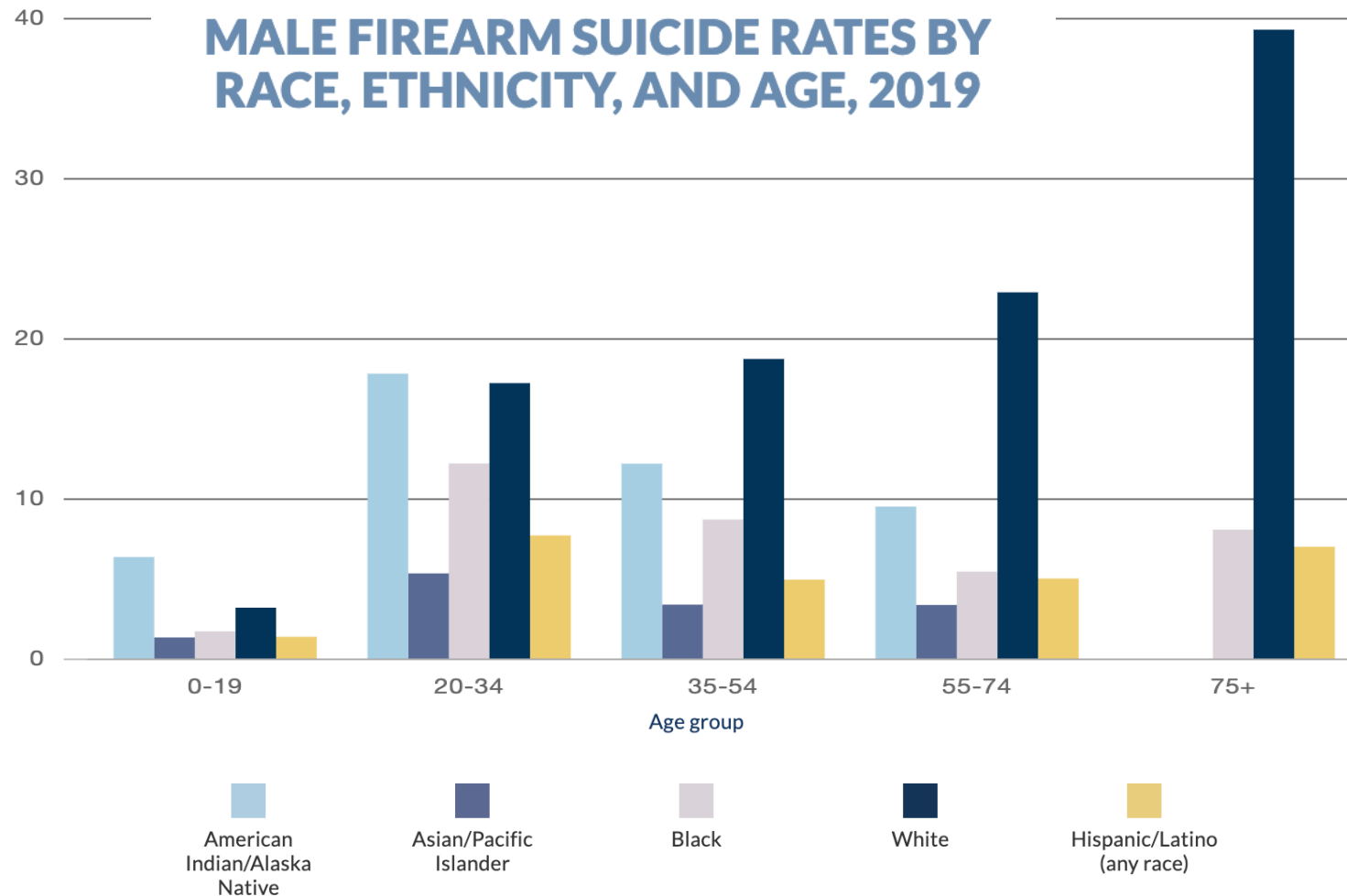
Firearm suicide attempts result in death

Fatal suicides



Nonfatal suicide attempts

# Firearm Suicide



- ✓ Higher among males
- ✓ Higher in rural areas
- ✓ Highest among white people
- ✓ Higher in states with more firearms

**7th**  
highest in suicide  
deaths across  
US (50%+  
firearm)



# Firearm Homicide

**23%** Gun deaths in CO are homicide

**75%** Homicides nationally are committed with firearms

**8x** Guns are used in homicides nearly 8x more than second most common method

**10x** Black Americans are over 10x more likely to die by firearm homicide compared to White Americans



# Firearm Homicide – Mass Shooting Events

<1%

Relatively rare events, accounting for less than 1% of all firearm deaths (U.S. + CO)

**BUT**

- ✓ Often dominate media
- ✓ Devastate entire communities
- ✓ Wide reaching impact
- ✓ Psychological effects

Coloradans are **most concerned** their communities and their families will be impacted by mass and school shooting events.



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# Firearm Homicide – Domestic Violence

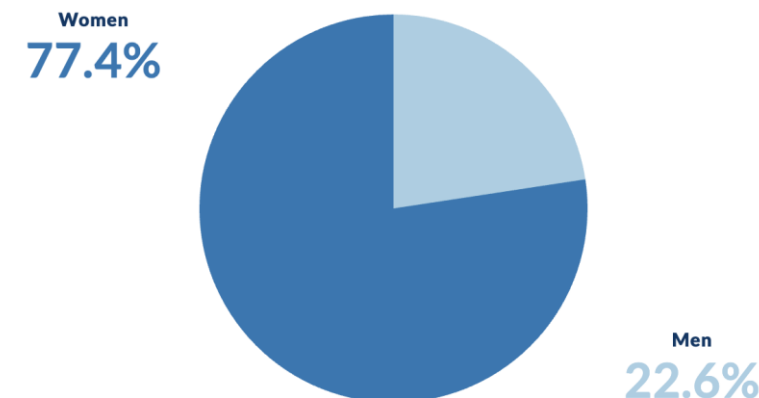
**50+%** Intimate partner homicides in U.S. involve a firearm

**12x** Domestic violence assaults are 12x more likely to end in death if a firearm is involved



The use of firearms in DV situations increases the risk of multiple fatalities

VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE



Source: Sabri B, Campbell JC, & Messing JT. (2018). [Intimate partner homicides in the United States, 2003-2013: A comparison of immigrants and nonimmigrant victims.](#) *Journal of Interpersonal Violence.*



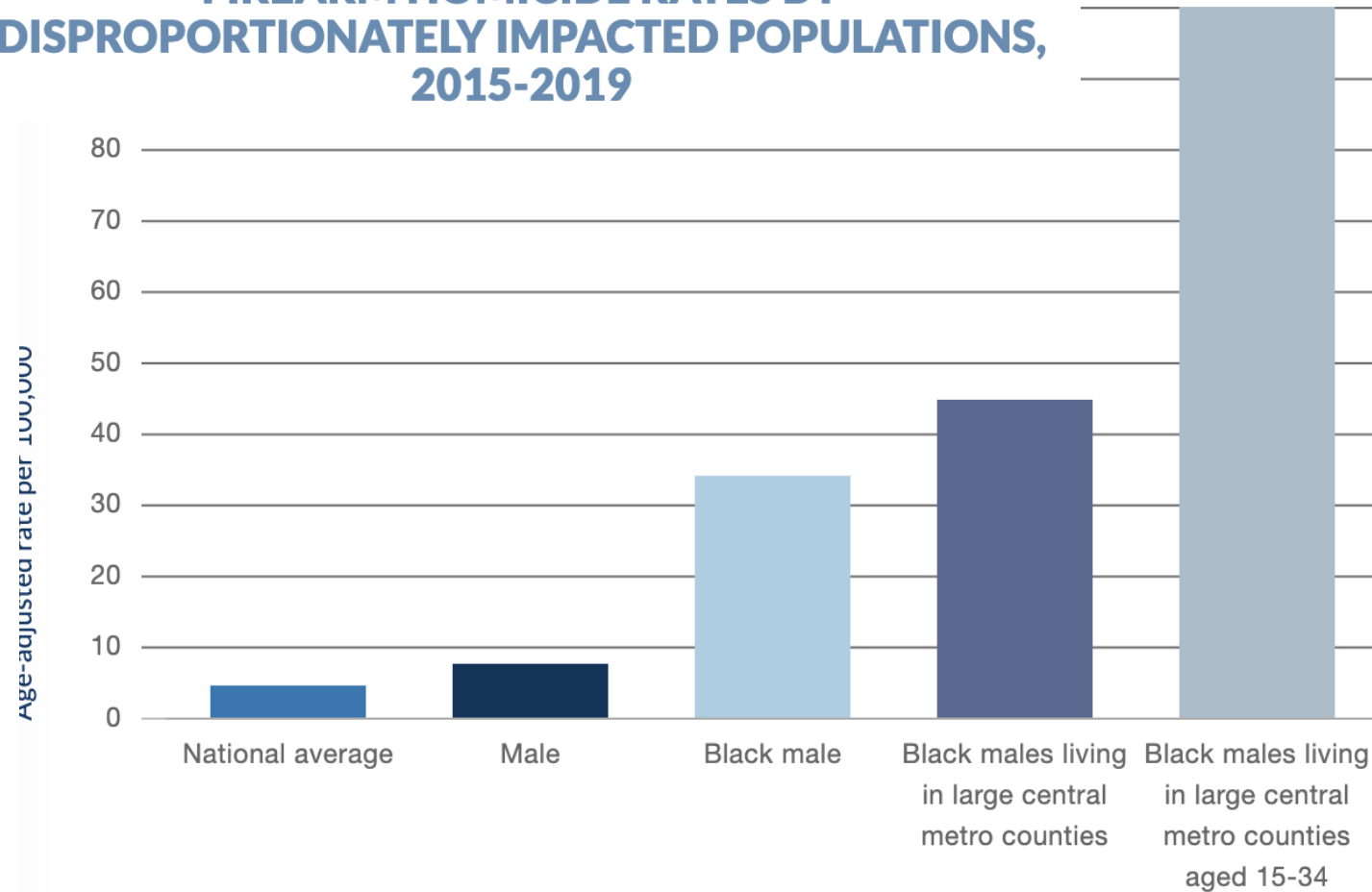
# Firearm Homicide – Community Violence

- Takes place in under-resourced city neighborhoods
- Disproportionately impacts Black and Hispanic/Latino communities — specifically young Black and Hispanic/Latino men
- Usually occurs outside of the home in a public setting
- Occurs between individuals who are not intimately related (not domestic violence)
- Often is sparked by a dispute between individuals or groups and may be retaliatory as a result of long-standing conflicts
- Sometimes referred to as “urban violence” or “group violence”



# Firearm Homicide – Community Violence

**FIREARM HOMICIDE RATES BY  
DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED POPULATIONS,  
2015-2019**



Disproportionately impacted population

Young Black males  
ages 15-34 make up  
2% of the U.S.  
population but  
account for 37% of all  
firearm homicide  
deaths

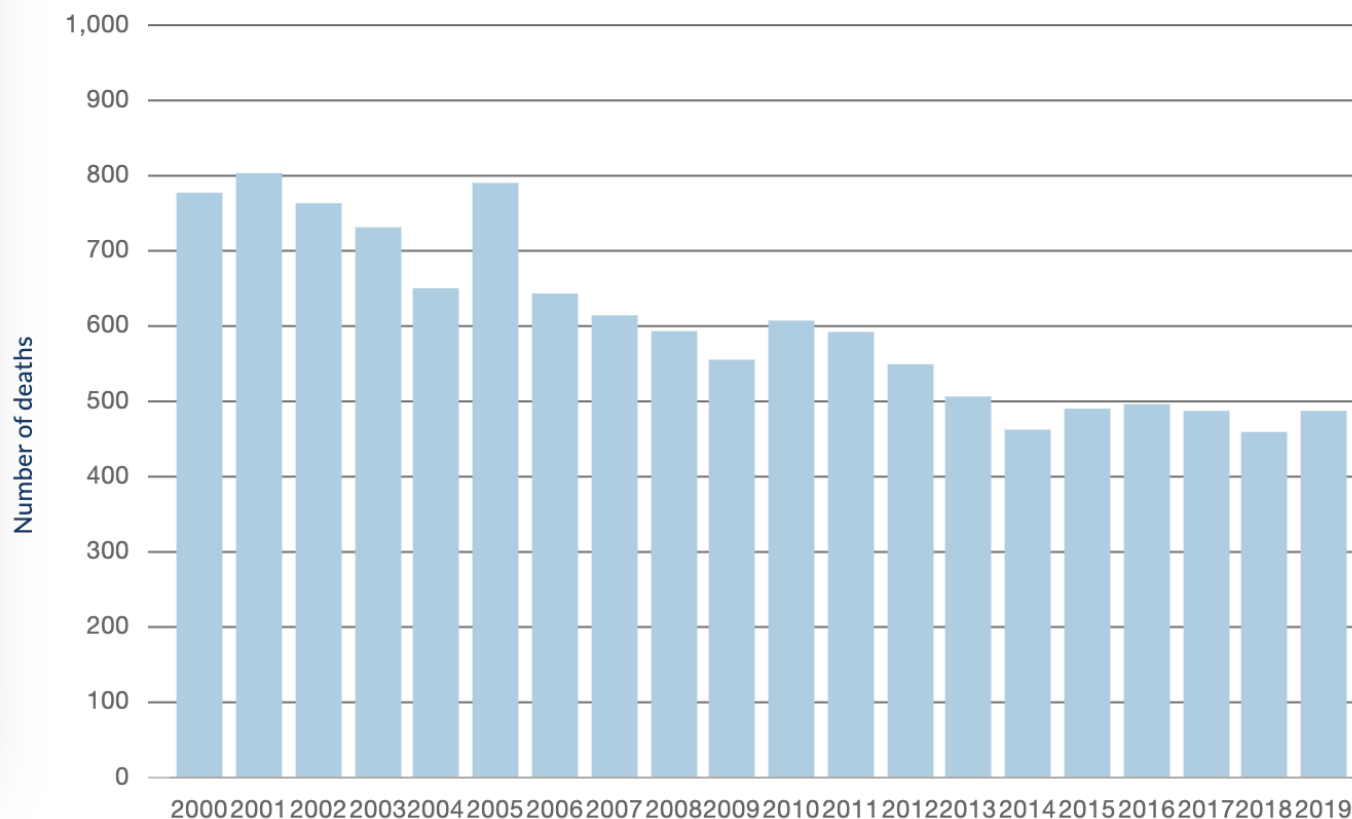


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# Unintentional Shootings

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES,  
2000-2019



Source: CDC WONDER.

Most common circumstances:

- Playing with firearm (28.3%)
- Believing not loaded (17.2%)
- Hunting (13.8%)

Quarter had consumed alcohol

Quarter of deaths are 0-19

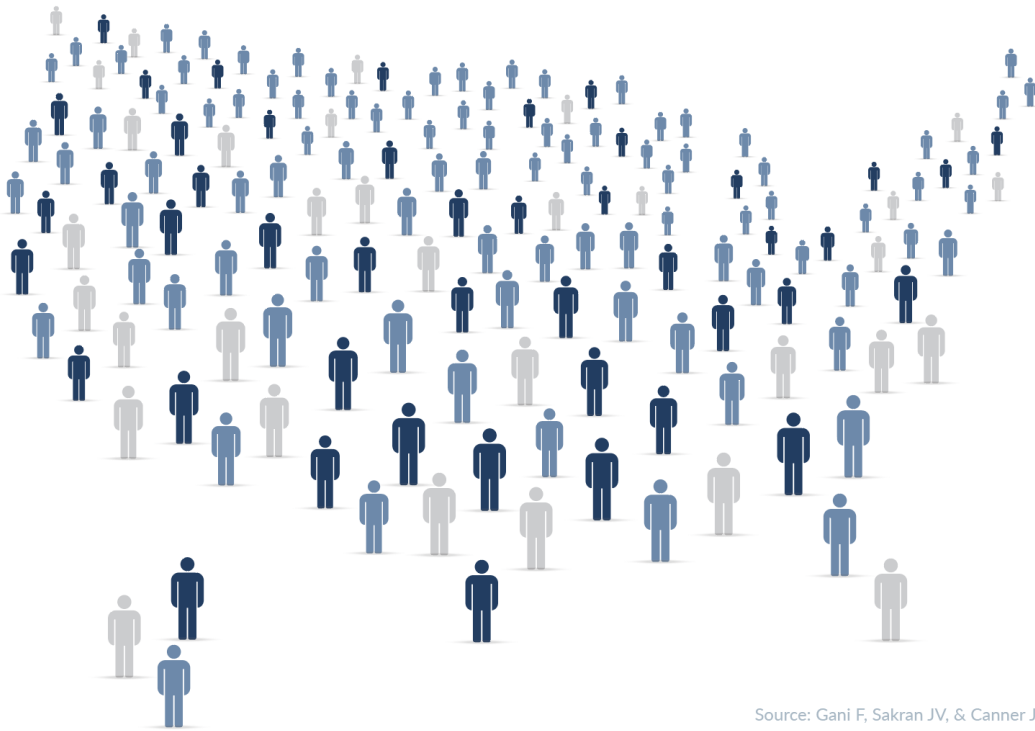
- 75% for 0-14 caused by someone else



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# Non-Fatal Injuries

Every year there are over 71,000  
nonfatal gunshot injuries in the United States



Source: Gani F, Sakran JV, & Canner JK (2017).

51% of non-fatal firearm injuries are a result of firearm assault and an additional 37% are unintentional injuries

Disproportionately impact young adult males

Individuals who live in the poorest neighborhoods are 6.9x more likely to suffer a nonfatal firearm injury compared to those who live in the wealthiest



# Other Harms

## Non-physical impacts on those involved

**3 out of 5**

Nonfatal injuries affect those under 30, resulting in potential life long trauma

**42%**

of GSW patients report severe avoidance behavior 8months post-injury



Increase in substance use, unemployment, and PTSD

**25%**

Adults report being threatened or intimidated with a firearm



# Other Harms

Firearm violence affects more than just the people who were directly involved



15%

Adults report that someone they care for has been killed with a gun

80%

Americans experience stress following a mass shooting

1/3

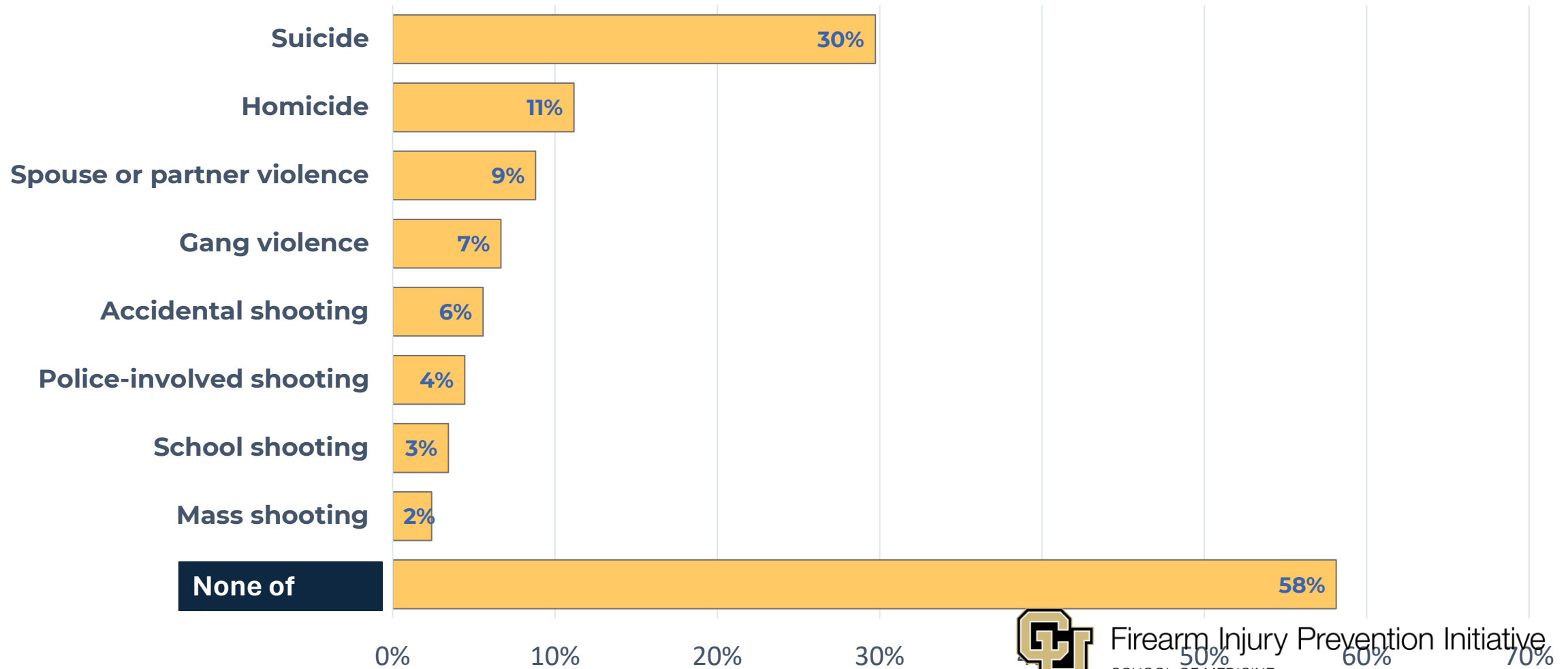
American adults say their fear of mass shootings prevents them from going to certain events



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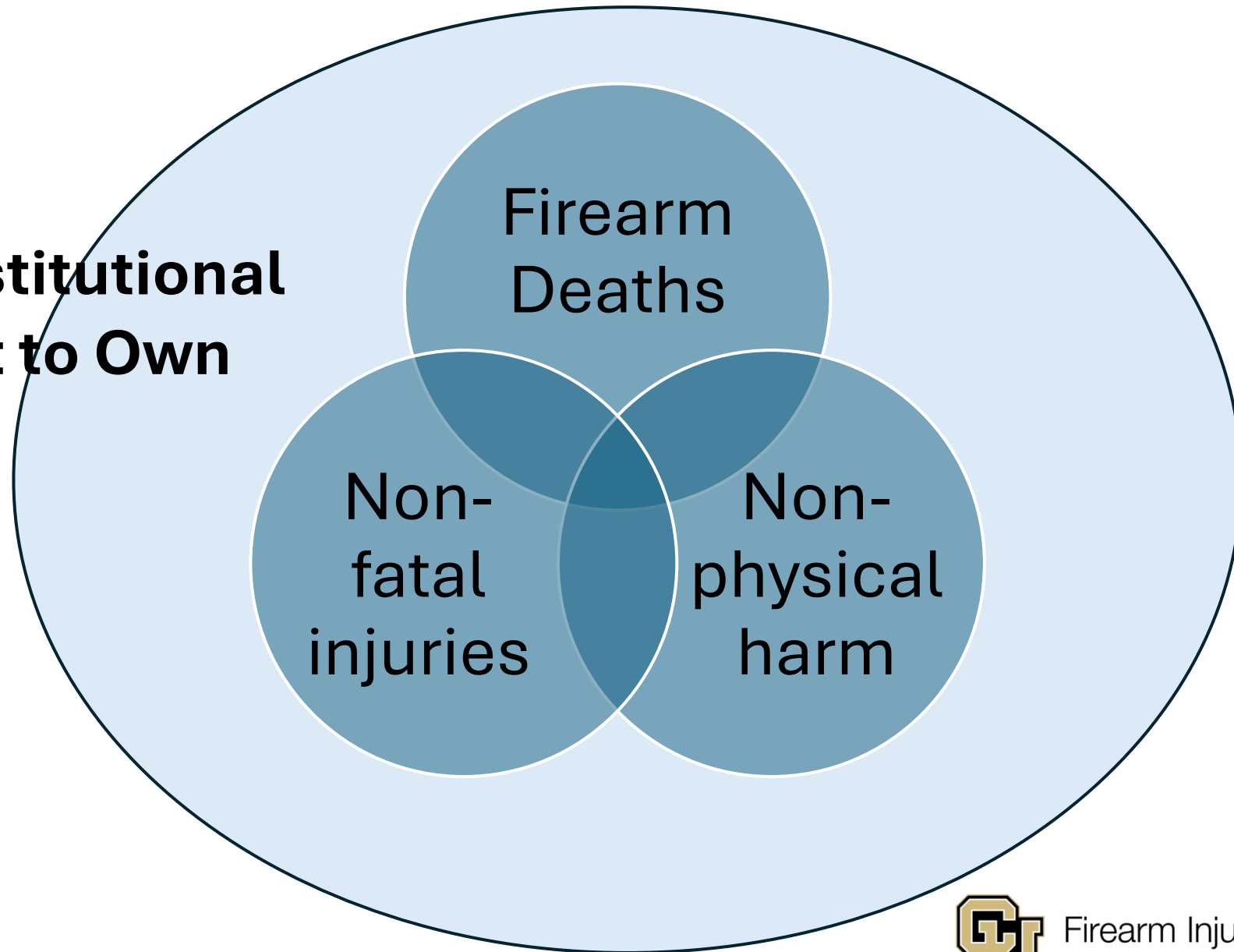
# Impact in Colorado

## Experiences with Firearm Harms



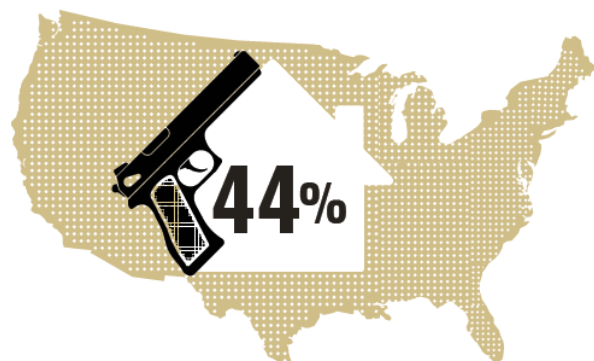
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**Constitutional  
Right to Own**



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# Firearm Ownership



OF U.S. ADULTS  
live in a home with a firearm.

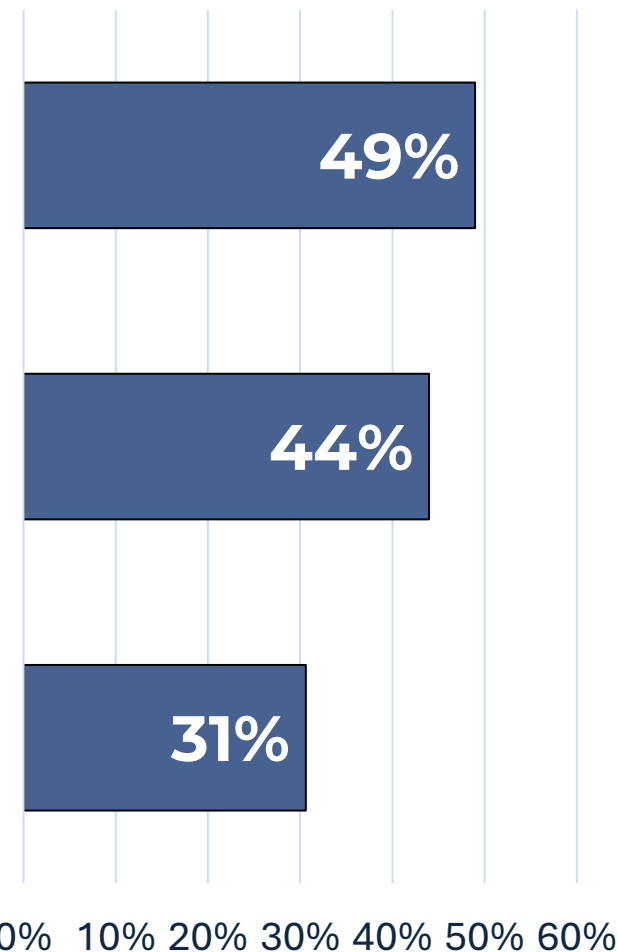


OF COLORADO  
adults live in a home with a firearm.

Grew up in household  
with firearms

Have firearms in the  
home

Personally own  
firearms



# Firearm Ownership in Colorado

Twice as many men own firearms compared to women.

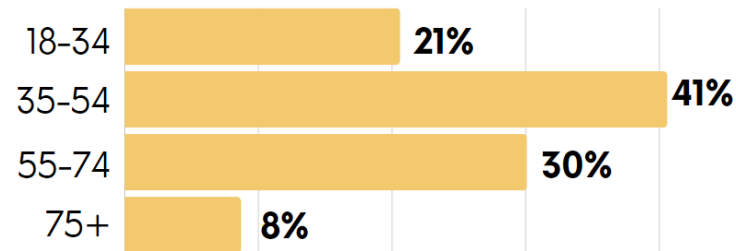


**27%**

of firearm owners are Veterans.

**88%** of Coloradans who personally own a firearm are white.

Most Colorado adults who personally own firearms are between the ages of 35-54.



The majority of Colorado who personally own firearms live in suburban areas.



**47%**  
in suburban



**31%**  
in urban



**22%**  
in rural



Children live in **38%** of the Colorado households that own firearms.

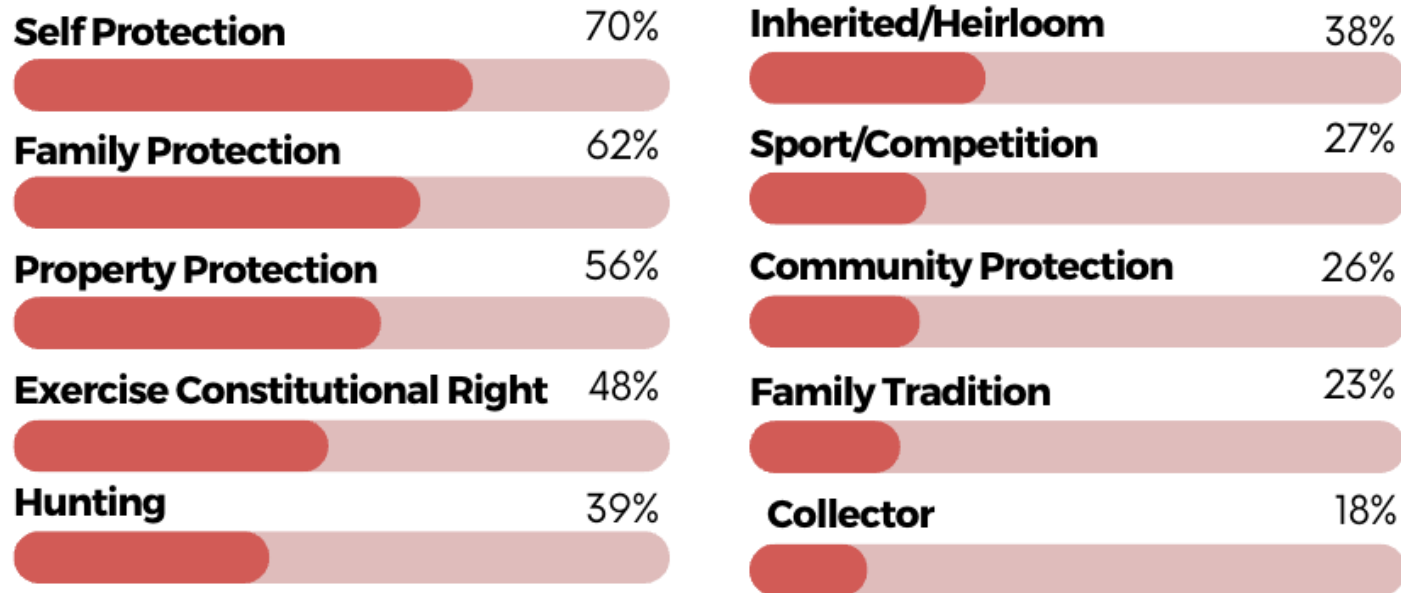


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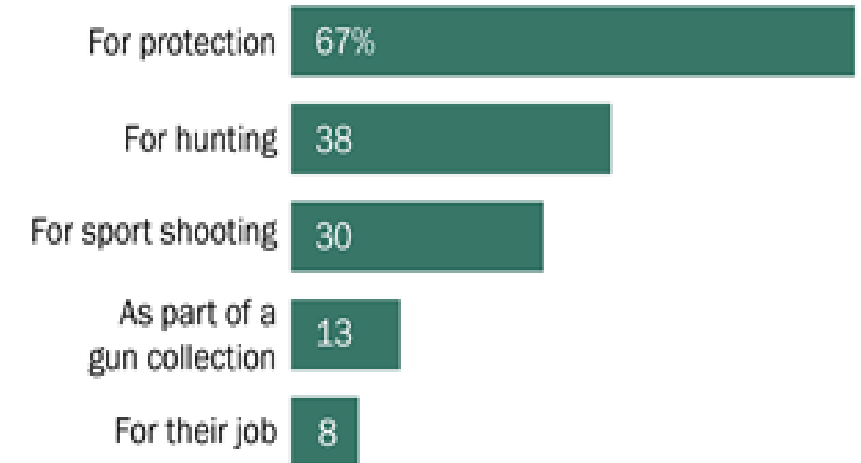
# Firearm Ownership in Colorado

## Colorado



## National

*% of gun owners saying each is a major reason why they own a gun*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-27 and April 4-18, 2017.

"America's Complex Relationship With Guns"



**Political-nature  
of Topic**

**Constitutional  
Right to Own**

Firearm  
Deaths

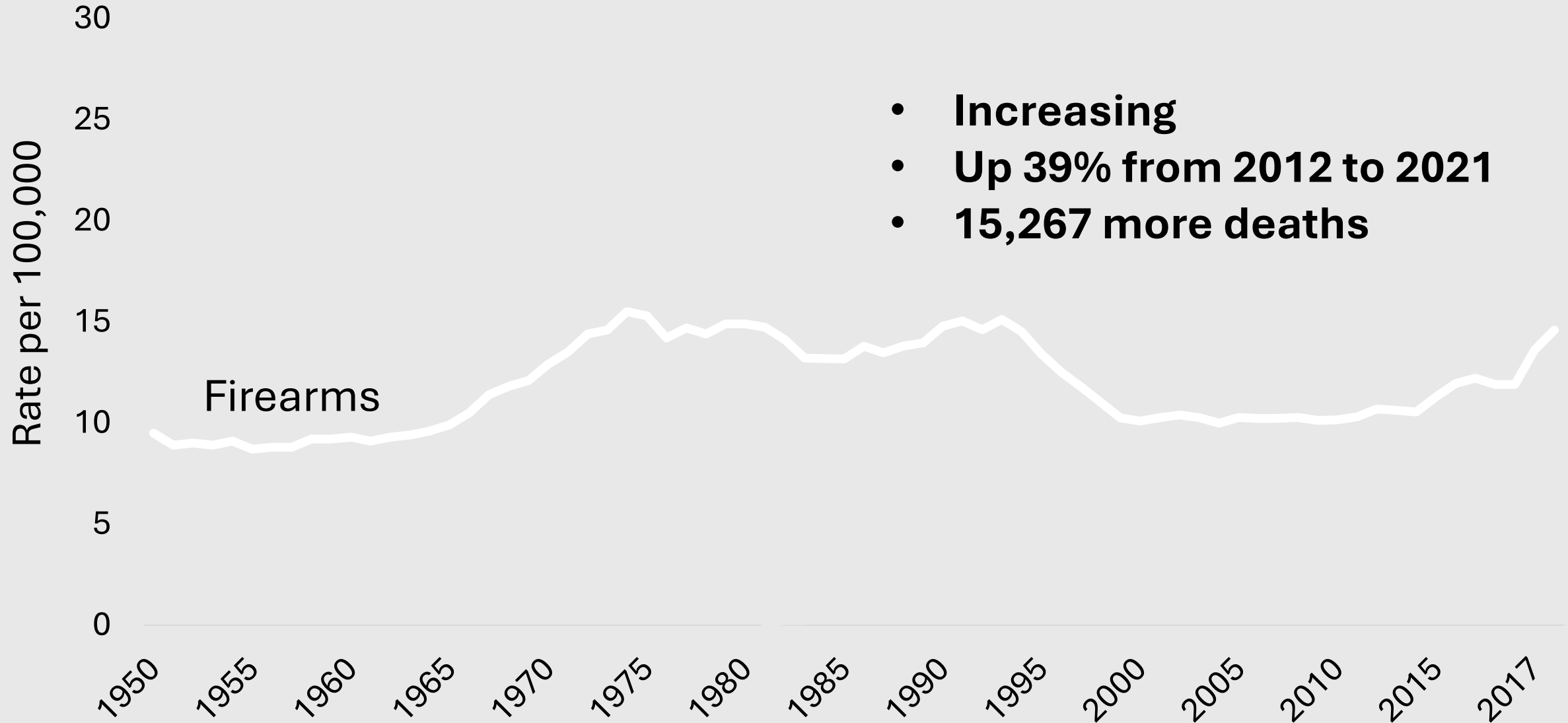
Non-  
fatal  
injuries

Non-  
physical  
harm



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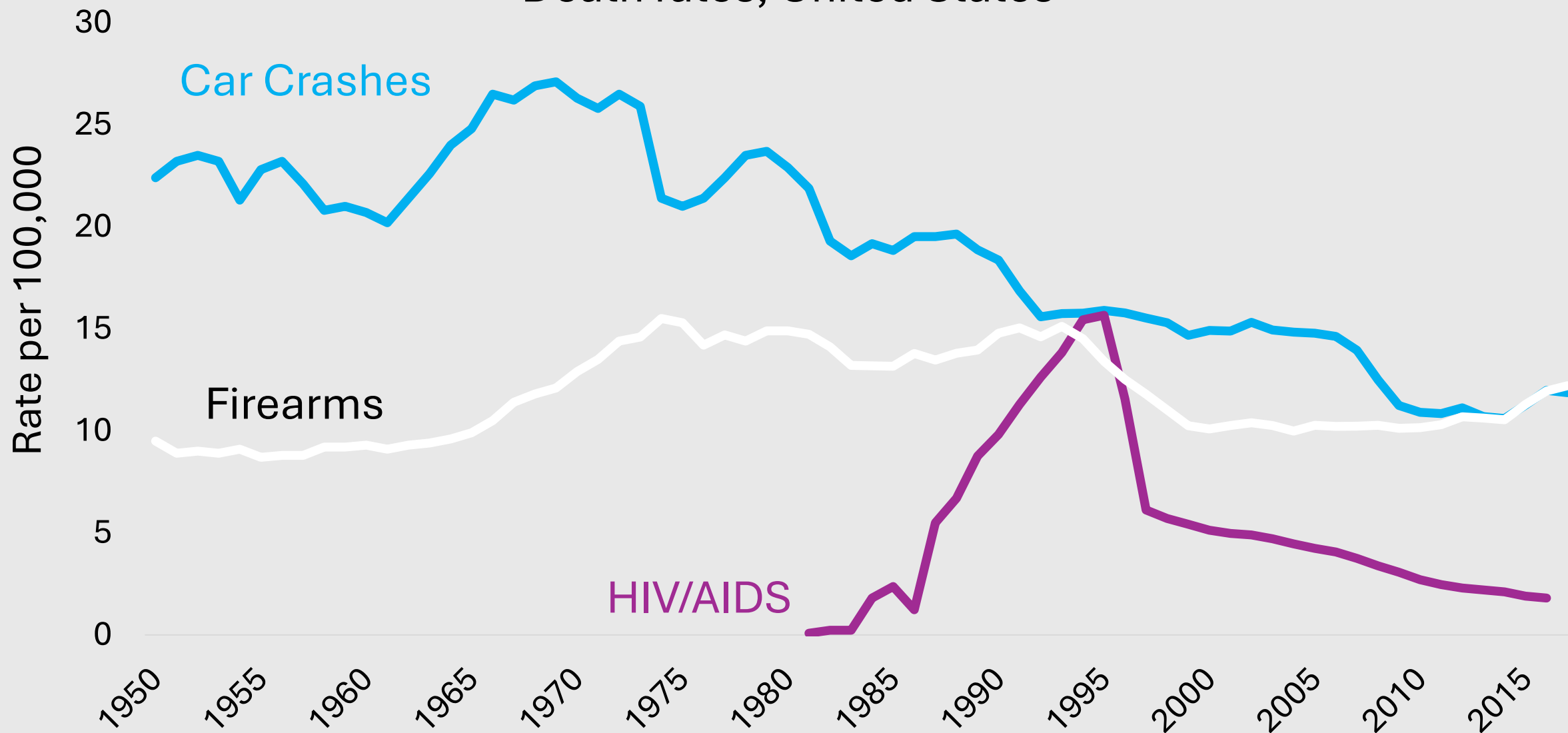
# Death rates, United States



- **Increasing**
- **Up 39% from 2012 to 2021**
- **15,267 more deaths**



# Death rates, United States

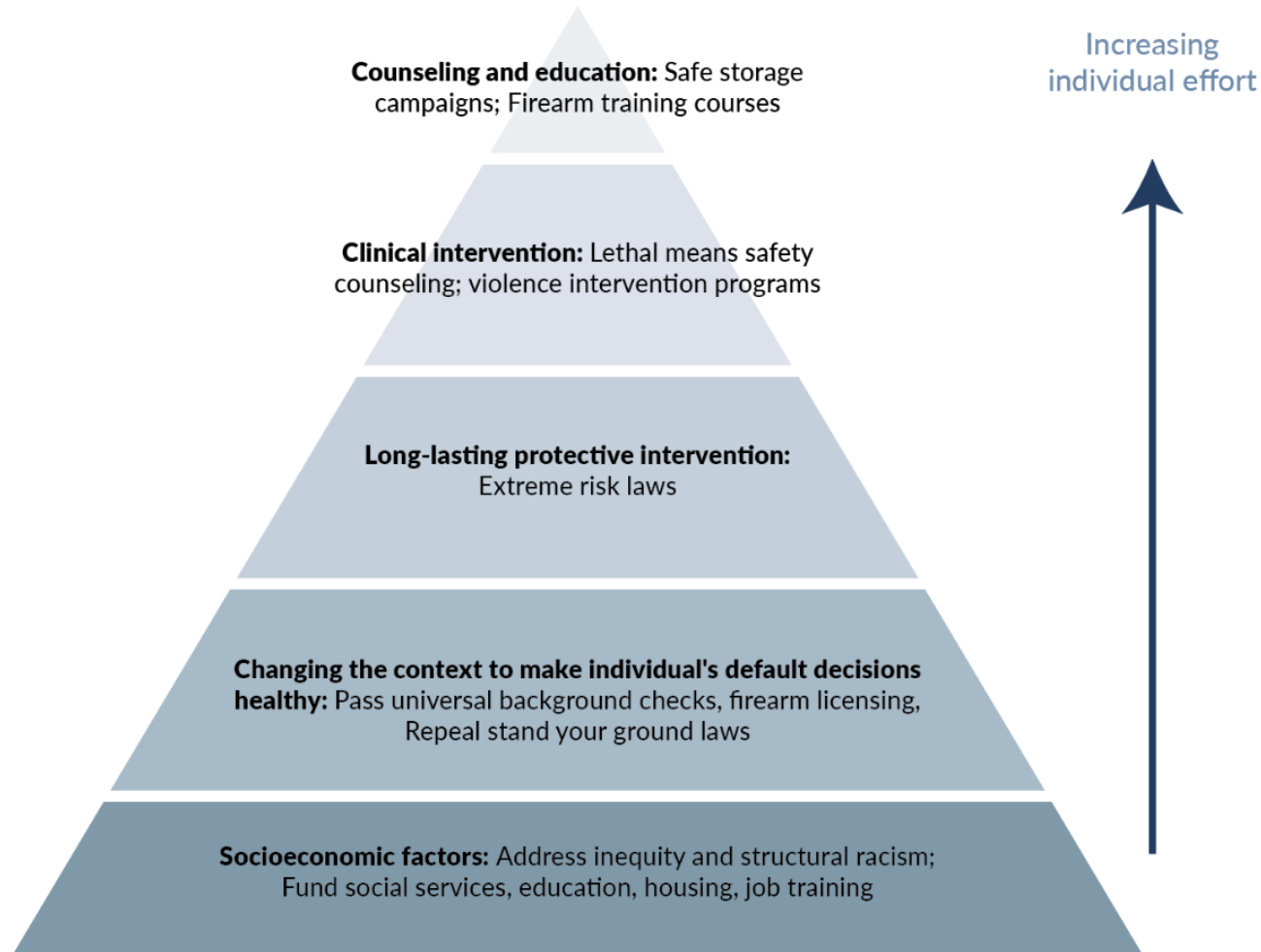


# Prevention

## Public Health Approach



# Prevention



No one  
solution!

Source: Adapted from Frieden TR. (2010). [A framework for public health action: the health impact pyramid](#). *American Journal of Public Health*.



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# Prevention

	PREVENTING CAR CRASHES	PREVENTING FIREARM DEATHS
<b>RESEARCH</b>	Allocate funds to study the epidemic of motor vehicle crashes.	Allocate funds to the CDC and the NIH to research gun violence.
<b>REGULATE</b>	Federal agencies regulate car manufacturers and ensure car safety.	Allow federal agencies to regulate firearm manufacturers and ensure gun safety.
<b>LICENSING</b>	Drivers must submit an application and pass a test to obtain a driver's license.	Require firearm purchasers to submit an application, undergo a background check, and take safety education to obtain a license to own a firearm.
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	Car registration is required at each point of sale.	Pass firearm registration laws to ensure that firearms are registered at each point of sale.
<b>PROHIBIT RISKY PEOPLE</b>	Reckless and drunk driving laws ensure that risky individuals do not endanger others on the road.	Expand firearm prohibitions to include individuals who are at elevated risk for violence.
<b>AGE REQUIREMENTS</b>	Age requirements for obtaining a driver's license, including a graduated licensing system (driver's permit) for young drivers.	Enact stronger age requirements for owning or possessing all types of firearms.



Prevention

Majority of Coloradans  
support upstream  
prevention efforts

# People DO have a common goal and can agree on solutions

81% Americans  
89% Coloradans  
support prohibiting  
firearms among persons  
with a DV restraining  
order

76% Americans  
80% Coloradans  
support prohibiting  
firearm possession by  
people at-risk of harming  
themselves or others

72% Americans  
78% Coloradans  
support support secure  
storage laws



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# Connect with Us

[jessica.buck-atkinson@cuanschultz.edu](mailto:jessica.buck-atkinson@cuanschultz.edu)

## On the Web

[cufirearminjuryprevention.org](http://cufirearminjuryprevention.org)

## LinkedIn

CU Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative

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our updates

