

DISPELLING MYTHS ABOUT FIREARM VIOLENCE

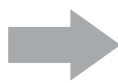
Results from the 2018 California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS)



On average, in 2017, 109 Americans died from firearms each day.



That's more people than died from prescription opioids or from motor vehicle crashes.



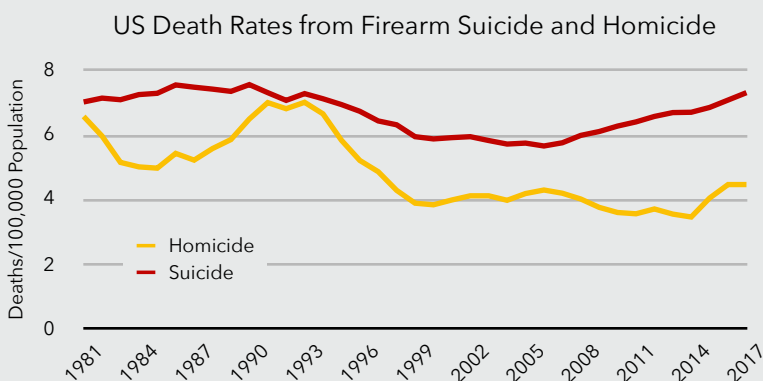
75% of homicides and 51% of suicides in 2017 in the US were from firearms.

The lack of research on firearm injury and death has led to misconceptions about the problem.

We asked Californians what they know about firearm violence and clear up some common misconceptions using data and scientific evidence.

Understanding the **nature, causes, and consequences** of **firearm violence** can inform the development of **effective policies** to prevent firearm-related harm.

1 DO MORE PEOPLE DIE FROM FIREARM HOMICIDE OR FIREARM SUICIDE?

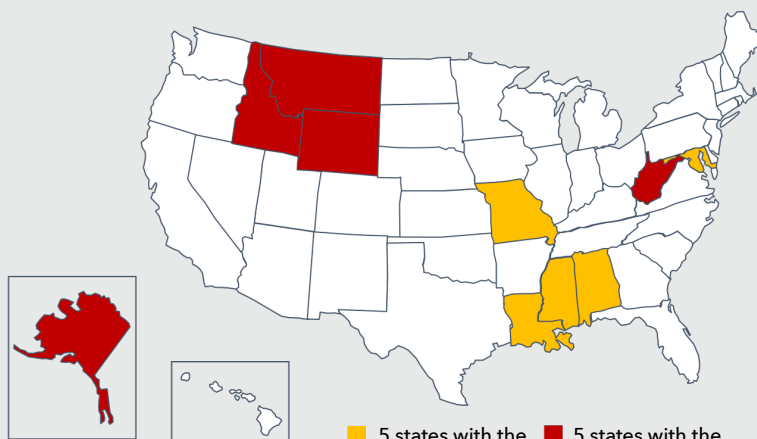


In recent years, there have been many more firearm suicides than firearm homicides in the United States. In 2017, there were 23,854 firearm suicides and 14,542 firearm homicides.



21% of Californians knew that more people die from firearm suicide than from firearm homicide in the United States.

Rural areas tend to have higher rates of firearm suicide and urban areas have higher rates of firearm homicide. Among all US states, California ranks 29th for firearm homicide and 45th for firearm suicide.



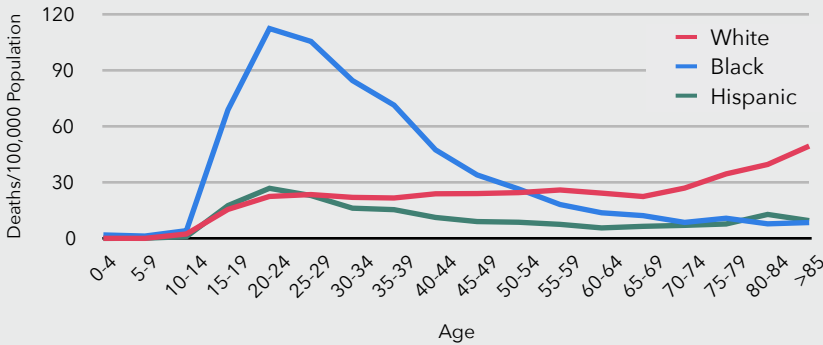
■ 5 states with the highest firearm **homicide** rates
■ 5 states with the highest firearm **suicide** rates

2 WHO DIES FROM FIREARM INJURIES?



38% knew that young men are most likely to die from gun homicide & older men are most likely to die from gun suicide.

Rates of Firearm Mortality for Males, 2017



86% of Americans who die from firearms are men. Death rates from firearms also vary by race/ethnicity and by age.

Risk peaks for black men between ages 20 and 29 largely due to homicide and peaks for white men beginning around age 50, mostly because of firearm suicide.

3 IS MENTAL ILLNESS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST FIREARM DEATHS?



38% knew that mental illness is not the cause of most deaths from firearms.

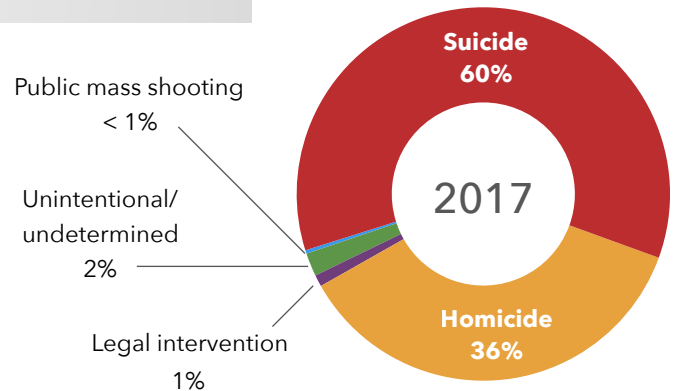
The relationship between gun violence and mental illness is complex. Mental illness accounts for less than 5% of firearm violence perpetrated against others. On the other hand, mental illness may be a factor in many suicides, which are the leading cause of death from firearms.

4 DO MASS SHOOTINGS ACCOUNT FOR MOST DEATHS FROM FIREARMS?



48% knew that most deaths from firearms don't happen in mass shootings.

Mass shootings capture media attention but most deaths from firearms are suicides, followed by homicides. Less than 1% of deaths are the result of public mass shootings.



The California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWS) is a statewide, probability-based Internet survey developed by UCFC and administered by Ipsos Public Affairs, LLC in late 2018. CSaWS asked questions on a wide range of topics related to firearm ownership and exposure to violence and its consequences. More than 2,500 California adults completed CSaWS, and their answers are weighted to be statistically representative of the adult population of the state.

Funding for CSaWS comes from the State of California.

References:

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