

# Trends in Domestic Violence and Firearm Domestic Violence During COVID-19 in Five U.S. Cities



## Summary

The associations between the start of the pandemic and reported domestic violence (DV) and firearm-involved domestic violence (FDV) varied among the five cities studied.



## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent social and economic disruptions may be related to increased risk of DV. Although gun violence increased dramatically during the pandemic, research on pandemic-era FDV is limited.

This study asked: *What are the trends in DV and FDV in five US cities before and during the COVID-19 pandemic?*



## Methods

Monthly trends in police-reported incidents of DV and FDV from 01/2018 to 12/2020 across five US cities were examined via an interrupted time series analysis, considering 03/2020 as the onset of the pandemic.

## Findings

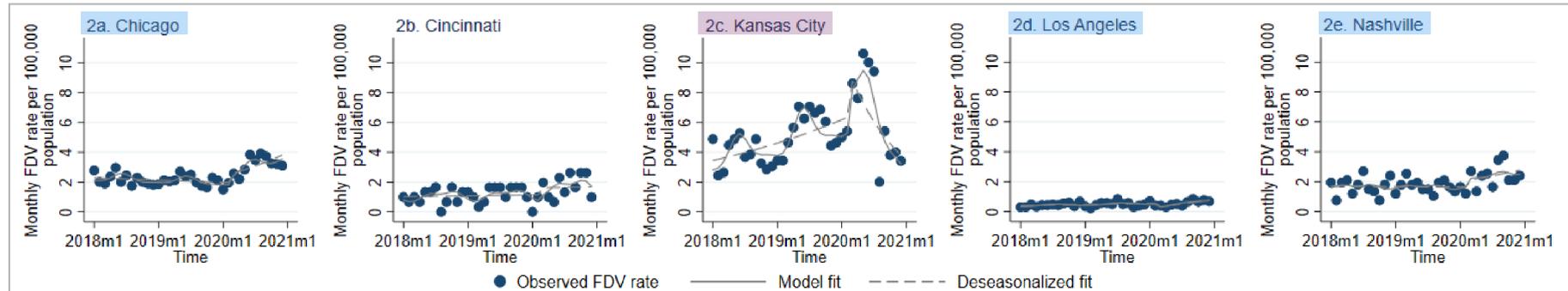


## Big Picture

The increase in FDV compared to pre-pandemic trends is concerning, as abuser firearm access is a risk factor for lethality.

**Interventions that prohibit firearm access**, such as domestic violence restraining orders and extreme risk protective orders, as well as **prohibitions associated with misdemeanor DV convictions**, may prove valuable to **address the risk of FDV**.

Monthly FDV rate per 100,000 in 2018–2020.



### Domestic violence:

After the start of the pandemic, DV trends **decreased** in **Kansas City, Los Angeles, and Nashville** compared with trends prior to the pandemic.

### Firearm-involved domestic violence:

There was a **relative increase** in FDV trends after the start of the pandemic compared to before in **Chicago, Los Angeles, and Nashville**, and a **relative decrease** in **Kansas City**.

### Proportion of domestic violence incidents that involved firearms:

Trends in firearm-involved domestic violence as a proportion of overall domestic violence **increased** after the start of the pandemic relative to trends prior in **Chicago, Los Angeles, and Nashville**.