

Beyond Thoughts & Prayers

How Policy in Action Saves Lives



COALITION FOR A
SAFER
DELAWARE



We work across sectors to identify and advance solutions to this uniquely American epidemic

DELAWARE



Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis

By using a public health approach, we can prevent gun violence and strive towards health equity, where everyone can live free from gun violence

GUN VIOLENCE IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIC.

In 2023, 46,728 people died by guns, marking the third-highest number of gun-related deaths ever recorded in the United States.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

addresses the many forms of gun violence by focusing both on firearm access and underlying risk factors that contribute to gun violence.

THIS APPROACH IS DIVIDED INTO 4 STEPS:

1. define & monitor the problem
2. identify risk + protective factors
3. develop prevention strategies
4. ensure widespread adoption of effective strategies

What does the data tell us?

**In
2023:**

46,728

PEOPLE DIED FROM FIREARMS IN THE U.S.

The third-highest total ever recorded

27,300

27,300 people died by firearm suicide, the highest number ever recorded.

6/10

Nearly 6 out of every 10 gun deaths were suicides in the United States.

245%

Overall gun suicide rates among Black and Hispanic/Latino young people (ages 10-19) surged from 2014 to 2023—tripling among young Black people (245% increase) and nearly doubling among young Hispanic/Latino people (98% increase).

10X

Wyoming's overall gun suicide rate was 10x higher than Massachusetts' overall gun suicide rate.

Firearm Suicide in Delaware

8X

Males were eight times as likely to die by gun suicide as females from 2019 to 2023.

58%

White males over the age of 34 made up nearly 19% of the population in Delaware but accounted for 58% of all gun suicide deaths in 2023.

51%

More than half (51%) of all gun suicide deaths in 2023 were over the age of 54.

Firearm Homicide in Delaware

5X

Males were five times more likely to die by gun homicides than females from 2019 to 2023.

63%

Young people ages 15-34 accounted for 63% of all gun homicide deaths in 2023.

16X

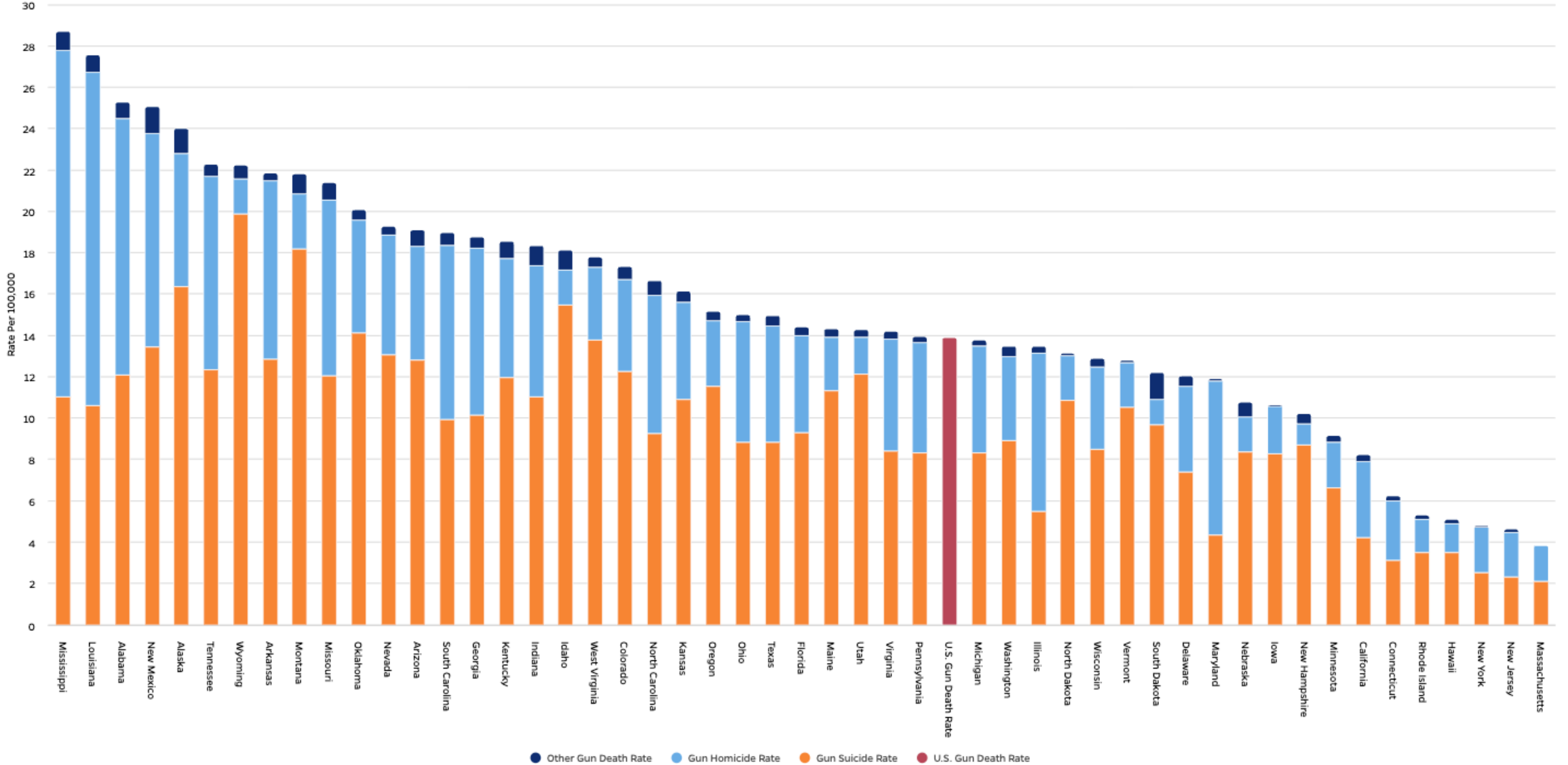
Black people were 16 times more likely to die by gun homicide compared to their white counterparts from 2019 to 2023.

40%

Young Black males ages 15-34 made up 3% of the state's population but accounted for 40% of all gun homicide deaths in 2023.

Gun Death Rates by State, Highest to Lowest, 2023

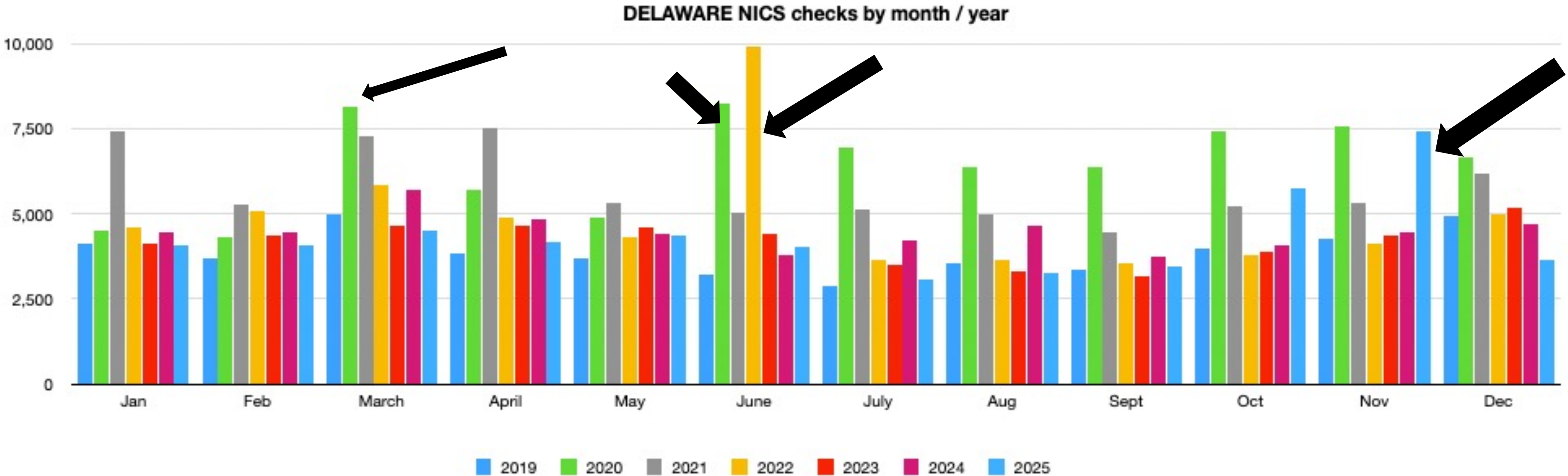
National Average: 13.9



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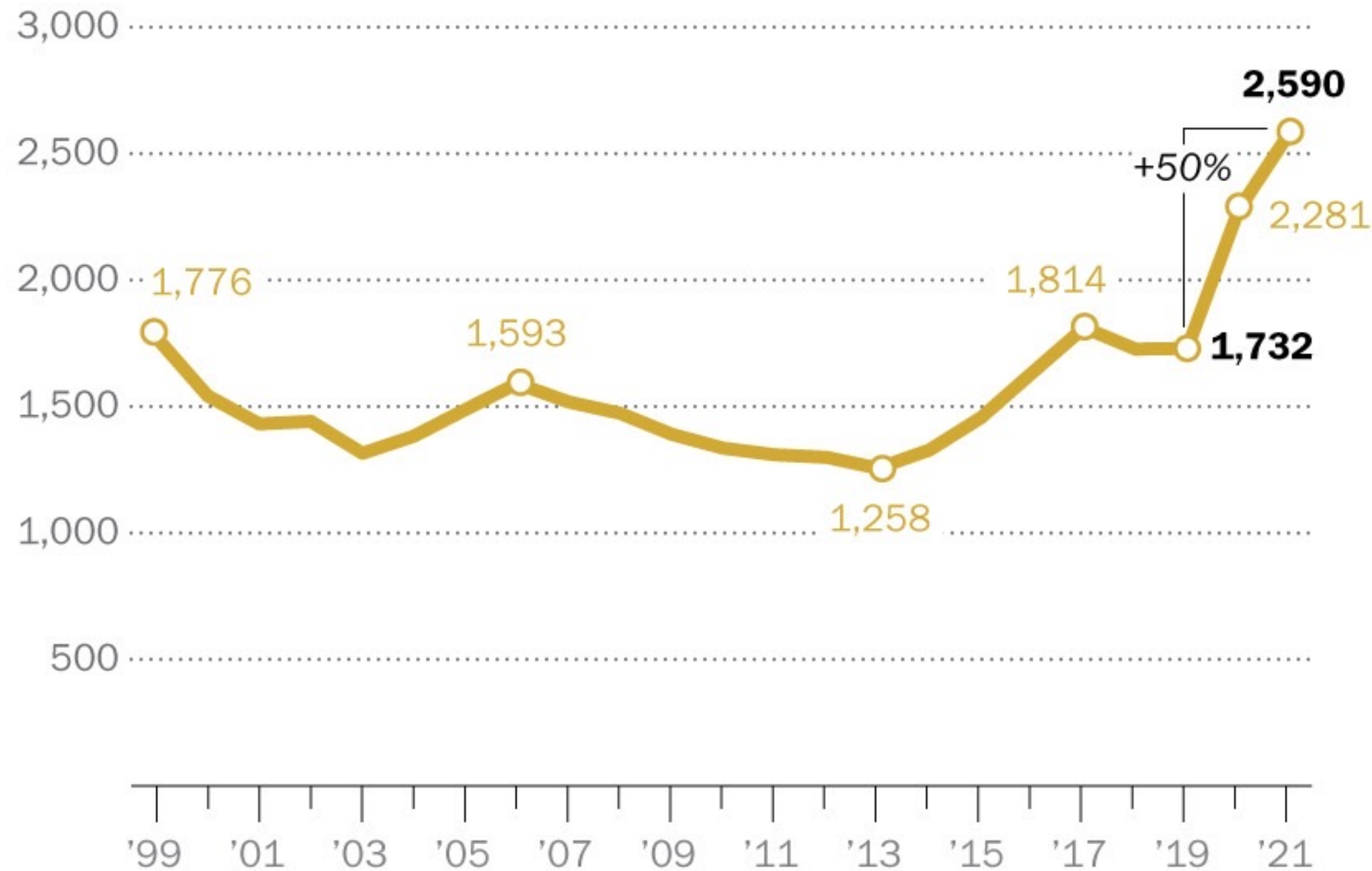
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	4,119	4,482	7,408	4,596	4,099	4,474	4,045
Feb	3,682	4,321	5,245	5,088	4,350	4,440	4,074
March	4,985	8,123	7,280	5,828	4,650	5,710	4,504
April	3,807	5,701	7,514	4,877	4,650	4,810	4,183
May	3,694	4,858	5,308	4,322	4,610	4,387	4,336
June	3,204	8,225	5,009	9,891	4,379	3,787	4,017
July	2,873	6,935	5,141	3,639	3,497	4,205	3,047
Aug	3,547	6,367	4,978	3,654	3,291	4,653	3,275
Sept	3,356	6,381	4,469	3,555	3,155	3,725	3,440
Oct	3,982	7,430	5,221	3,786	3,869	4,064	5,765
Nov	4,258	7,568	5,334	4,122	4,368	4,434	7,405
Dec	4,920	6,666	6,161	4,965	5,162	4,681	3,614
TOTAL	46,427	77,057	69,068	58,323	50,080	53,370	51,705

What prompts increases in firearms sales?



Gun deaths among U.S. kids increased 50% between 2019 and 2021

Gun deaths among U.S. children and teens under 18



Note: Includes homicides, suicides, accidents and all other categories of gun deaths.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearms accounted for 30% of all the deaths that occurred among individuals ages 15-17

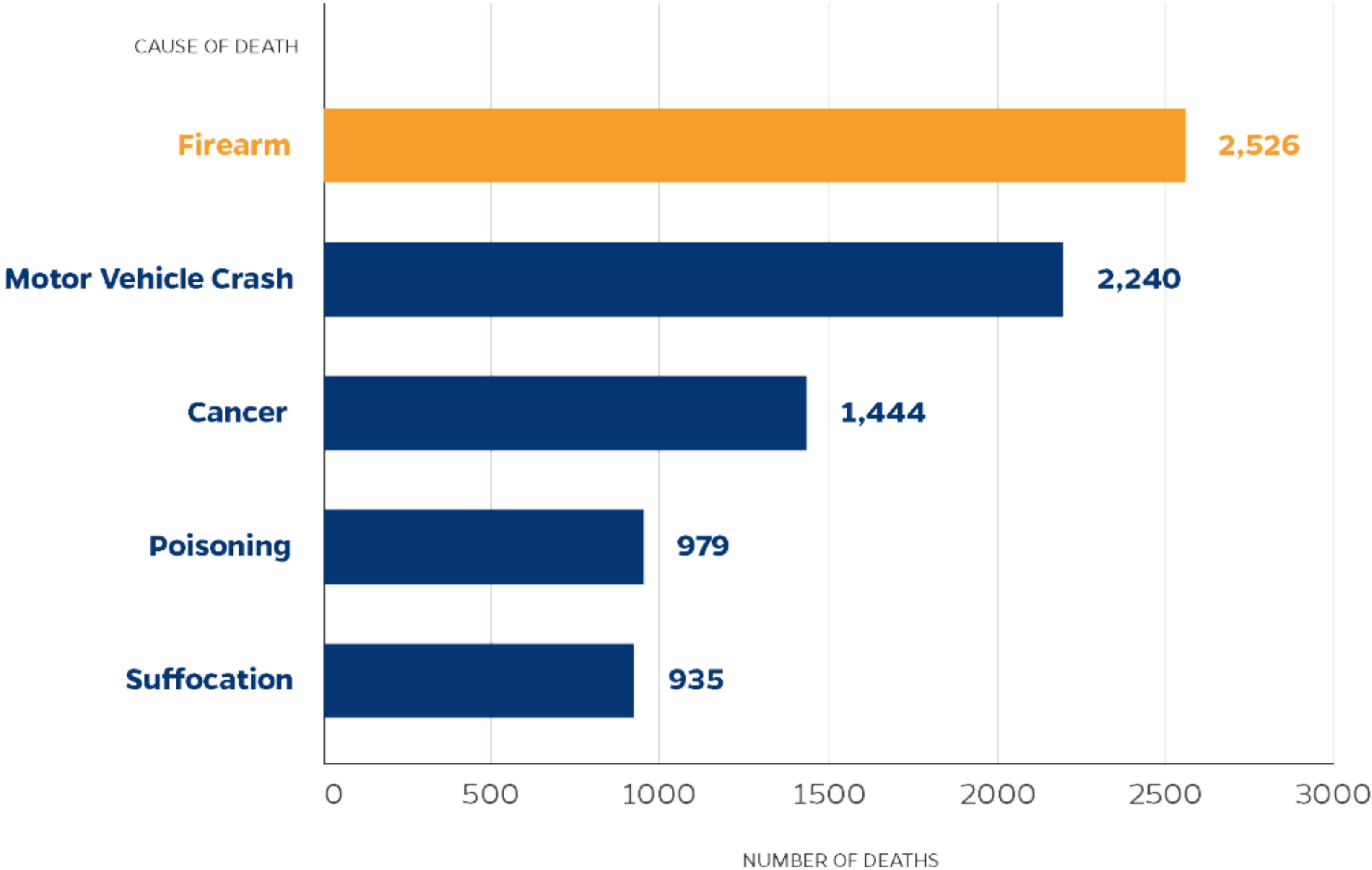


Firearms were the leading cause of death for children and teens (ages 1 - 17)



an average of 7 young people dying every day

Leading Causes of Death for Youth (Ages 1-17) in 2022*



* We chose not to include infant deaths in our analysis, as infants (under age 1) are at a unique risk for age-specific causes of death, including perinatal period deaths and congenital anomalies. In 2022, 16 infants were killed by firearms. Additionally, there were 1,606 deaths classified as “all other diseases” making it the third leading cause of death behind motor vehicle traffic crashes, but we chose to exclude it in the graph.

Each year, **more than 600 American women** are shot to death by intimate partners

Women are more likely to be murdered with a gun than by **all other means combined**

Most **mass shootings** are related to domestic violence

A woman is **5x more likely to be murdered** if her abuser has access to a gun

Women in the US are **11 times** more likely to be killed with guns than women in other high-income countries

How does policy help?

Gun laws save lives ... but how?

Policy curbs violence by regulating sales, restricting access for high-risk individuals, and investing in preventative community services.

Firearms Regulations

- background checks
- permits / training requirements
- law enforcement review
- weapons capacity regulation



Safety Technologies

- child access laws
- investments in secure storage



Risk-based interventions

- Red Flag laws (LVPO)
- waiting periods
- Gun Shop Project
- voluntary Do Not Sell
- age-based requirements



CVI Investments

- funding for community based interventions / resources



PFA – Protection from Abuse Order

- protect victims
- criminal order
- Family Court
- requires a relationship – family, household, dating partners etc.

LVPO – Lethal Violence Protective Order

- removes firearms
- civil order
- JP or Superior Court
- Law Enforcement can file directly; no relationship needed

Permit to Purchase – prohibits dangerous people from buying guns; prevents impulsive purchases

FTAP – makes sure the most up-to-date Delaware data is included in point of sale background checks

Ex Parte Restraining Order – bans abusers from having guns while subject to short term emergency orders

Prohibited Purchaser – persons convicted of a DV misdemeanor or under a PFA, or convicted stalkers, are banned from purchasing firearms/ammunition

Charleston Loophole – in DE, gun sales may not happen if a background check is incomplete



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About

Issues

Resources ▾

Take Action

Join The Coalition

Donate

Gun Safety

IS YOUR HOME AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE?

Children as young as **3 years old**



may be strong enough to **pull the trigger** on a handgun.

Delaware law requires

secure gun storage

when a child is present:

- ✓ Unloaded
- ✓ Locked
- ✓ Stored away from bullets



SAFE STORAGE ALONE CAN REDUCE YOUTH FIREARM FATALITIES BY **32%.**



<https://coalitionforasaferdelaware.org/secure-storage/>

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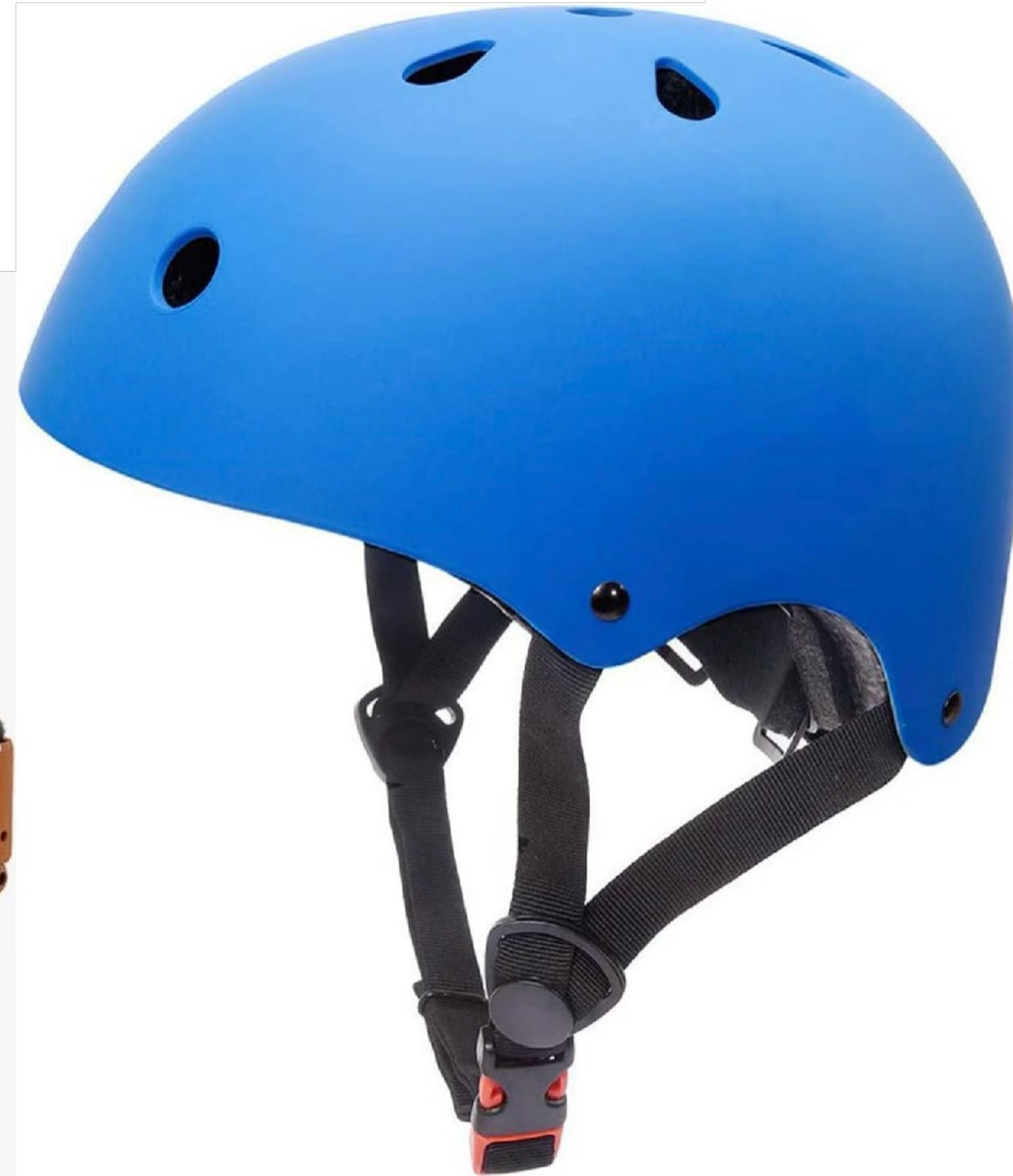
CHILD IN CRISIS?

**Safely and temporarily remove firearms from
the home: saferde.org/LVPO.**

What's possible?

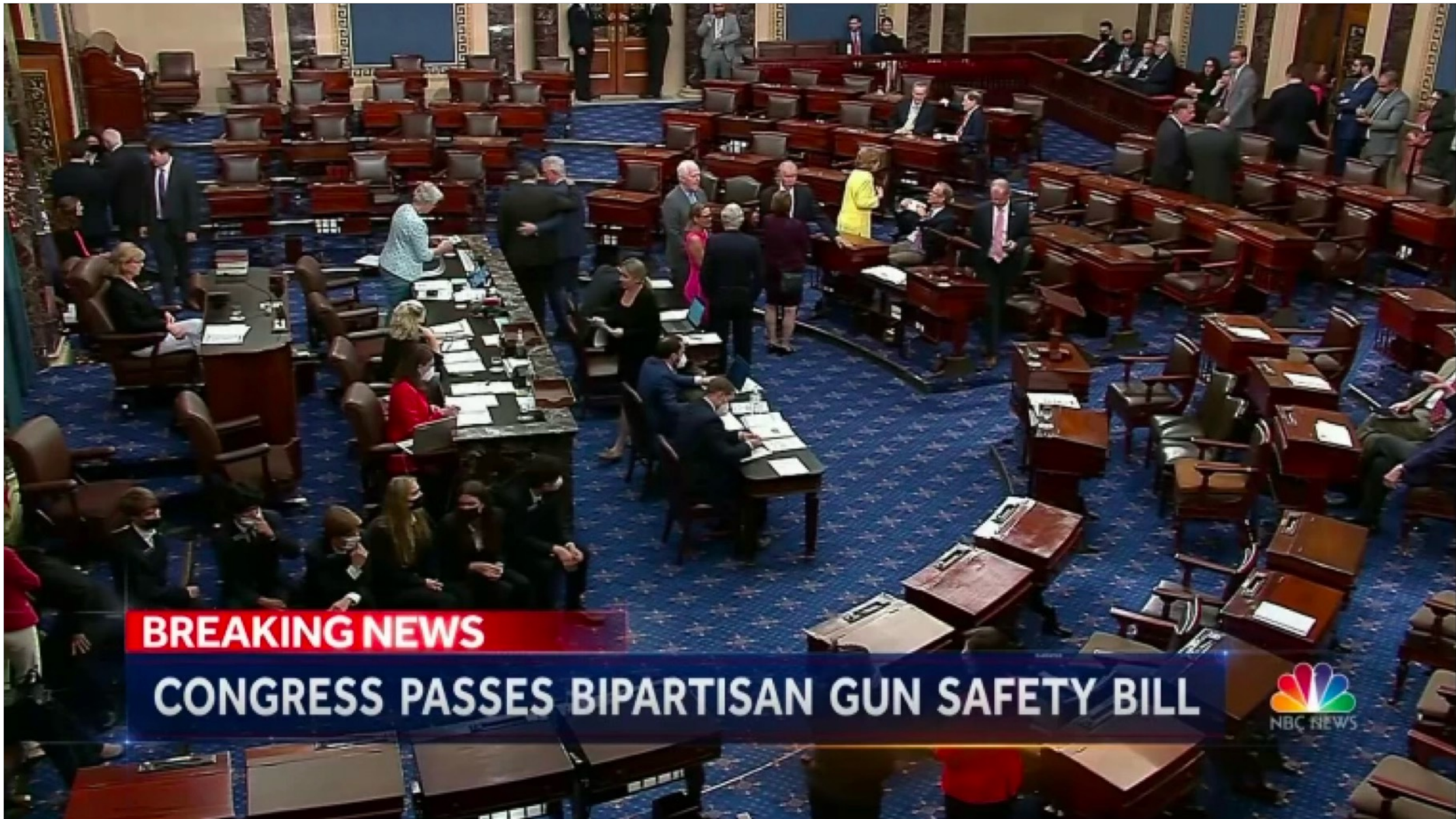


But ... isn't it too late?





What progress looks like.



**When leaders, advocates, systems
come together, we can build the
safer communities, safer schools,
and safer homes that we all deserve.**



HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY.



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