OGVP Data Report:
The Impact of Gun Violence in California
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

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

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)

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)

Top 5 Counties:
1. Trinity
2. Mariposa
3. Amador
4. Siskiyou
5. Calaveras

Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDPH EpiCenter, firearm suicide rate by county for 2016-2021 (crude rate per 100,000) (Data not available for counties with <11 gun suicides over this period).
In 2019, CA had its lowest gun death rate ever recorded for the state in CDC records.
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.
In 1993, CA had the 3rd highest gun homicide rate out of all 50 states.

Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDC WONDER for 1993-2022 (2022 data preliminary); Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.
In 1993, CA had the 3rd highest youth gun homicide rate out of all 50 states.

It wasn’t just the 90’s:
From 2006-2022, youth gun homicide rates fell by 50% in California as they increased by 37% across the rest of the 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.

Gun Homicides in California by Month

January 2021

February 2020

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guns</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>4,671</td>
<td>12,388</td>
<td>12,894</td>
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Number of Firearms Without Serial Numbers Recovered as Crime Guns in CA by Year
(Incl. suspected ghost guns, obliterated serial numbers, antiques)

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<tr>
<td>Guns</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>1,763</td>
<td>1,733</td>
<td>1,877</td>
<td>2,208</td>
<td>2,808</td>
<td>3,139</td>
<td>4,241</td>
<td>5,572</td>
<td>13,524</td>
<td>23,559</td>
<td>21,933</td>
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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.

Source: OGVP analysis of CA DOJ Hate Crimes data from OpenJustice Data Portal.
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)

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

Source: CDPH EpiCenter firearm suicide rate and self-harm hospitalization rate per 100,000 by single-year age group for 2016-2021.
Gun Suicide Death Rate by Age in CA

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

Source: CDPH EpiCenter firearm suicide death rate per 100,000 by single-year age group for 2016-2021; OGVP analysis of CDPH EpiCenter data for firearm-related suicide and self-harm deaths and hospitalizations (combined) by age group for 2016-2021.
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

Source: OGVP analysis of gun violence incident records from Gun Violence Archive and firearm homicide data from CDC WONDER (2019-2021)(The Gun Violence Archive classifies an incident as a “mass shooting” when four or more people were shot or killed in a single incident, not including the shooter); National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, “Domestic Violence & Firearms” (2022), at https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/guns_and_dv_2022.pdf.
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.

Source: OGVP analysis of mass shooting incident (4+ victims shot or killed) records from Gun Violence Archive and firearm homicide data from CDC WONDER (2019-2021).
% 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).
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

Source: OGVP analysis of data from CDPH EpiCenter for 2020-2021. (References to “teenaged” indicates those between the ages of 13-19.)
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