

# Fear Thy Neighbor: An American Commandment

By Bobby Watson

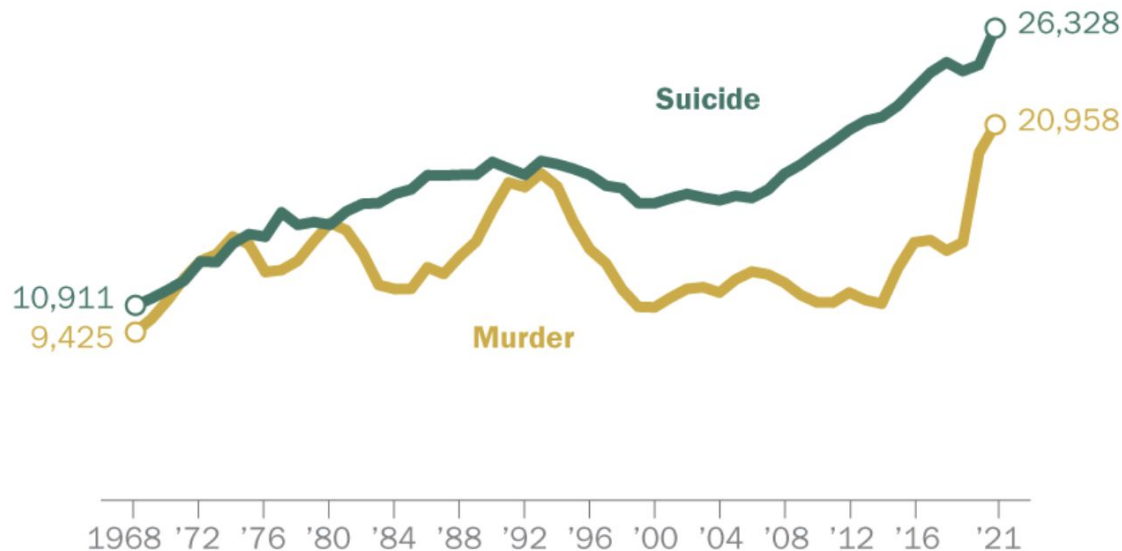
*Human Rights Fellow, Texas Impact*



★ **TEXAS IMPACT**  
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

## U.S. saw record numbers of gun suicides and gun murders in 2021

*Gun suicides and gun murders in U.S.*



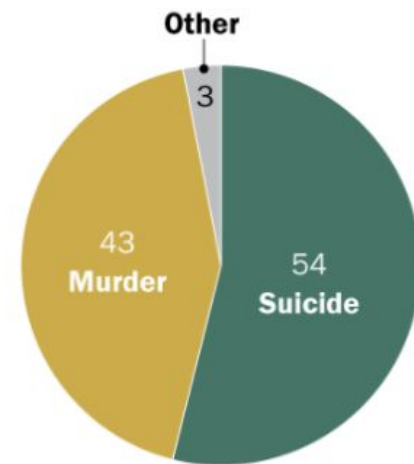
Note: Gun murders and suicides between 1968 and 1978 are classified by the CDC as involving firearms and explosives; those between 1979 and 2021 include firearms only.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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## Suicides accounted for more than half of U.S. gun deaths in 2021

*% of U.S. gun deaths, by type*



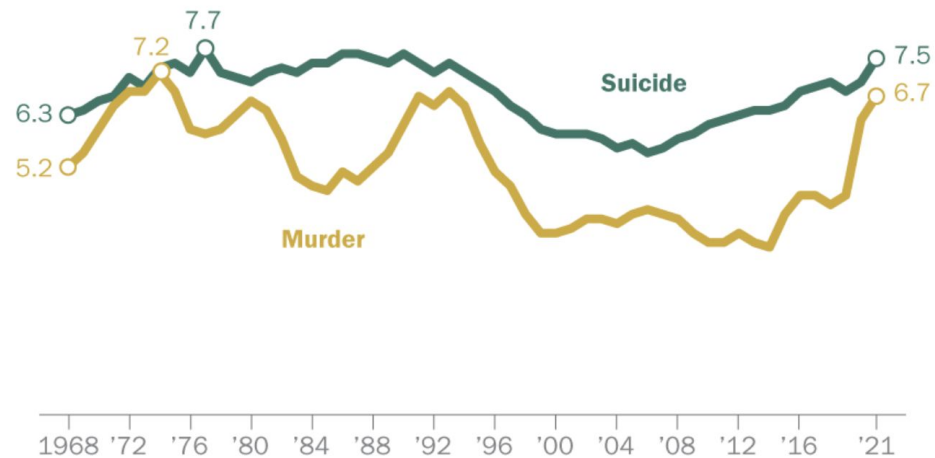
Note: "Other" includes gun deaths that were accidental, involved law enforcement or had undetermined circumstances.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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## U.S. gun suicide and gun murder rates reached near-record highs in 2021

Gun deaths per 100,000 people (age-adjusted), by type



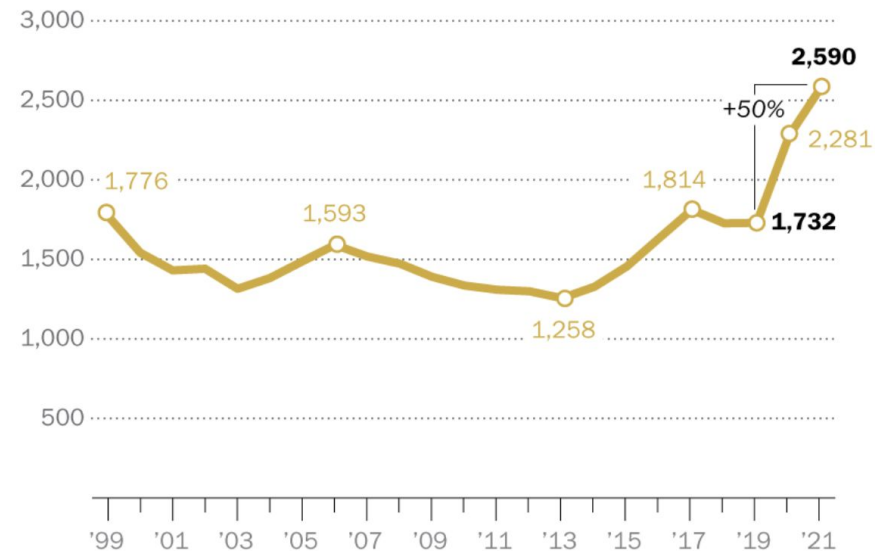
Note: Gun murders and suicides between 1968 and 1978 are classified by the CDC as involving firearms and explosives; those between 1979 and 2021 include firearms only.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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



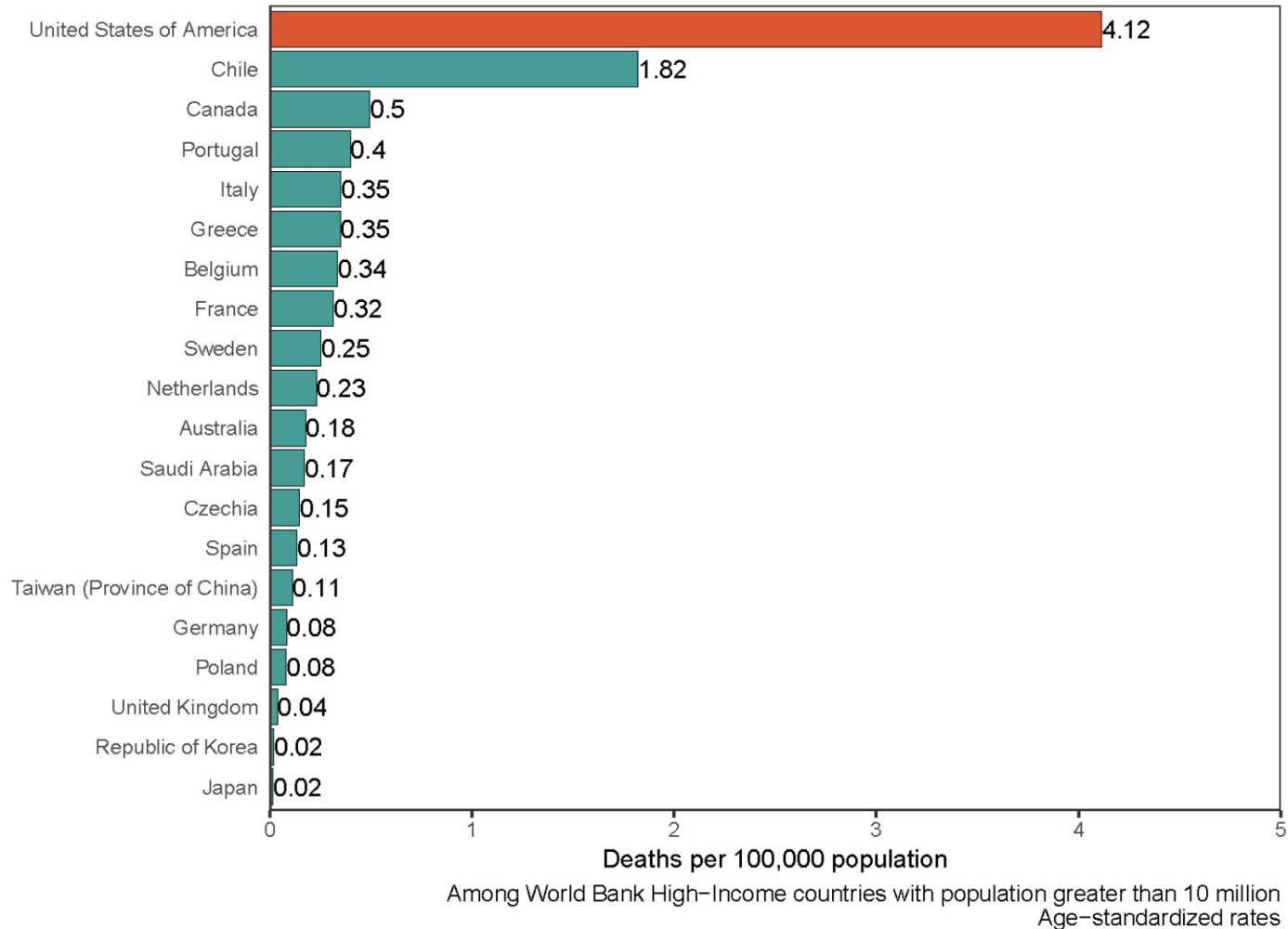
Note: Includes homicides, suicides, accidents and all other categories of gun deaths.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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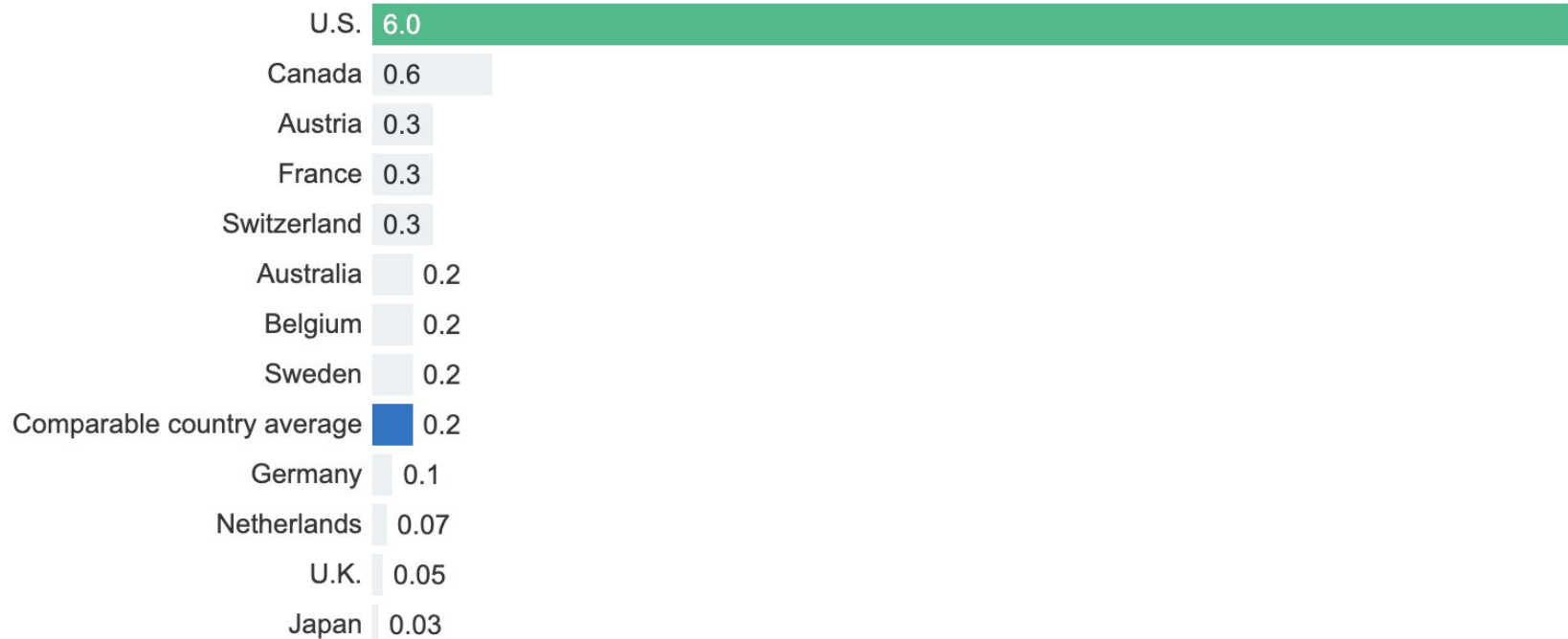


## Rates of firearm homicides per 100,000 population



# The U.S. Has By Far the Highest Child and Teen Firearm Mortality Rate Among Similarly Large and Wealthy OECD Nations

Firearm mortality rate per 100,000 for children and teens ages 1-19 years, U.S. (2021) and peer countries (2019)



NOTE: U.S. data are from 2021, all other countries are from 2019. The comparable country average does not include the U.S. Rates rounded to two decimal places when the rate is less than 0.1 and rounded to one decimal place otherwise.

SOURCE: KFF analysis of [CDC Wonder](#) and [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation \(IHME\) Global Burden of Disease data](#) • [Get the data](#) •

[PNG](#)

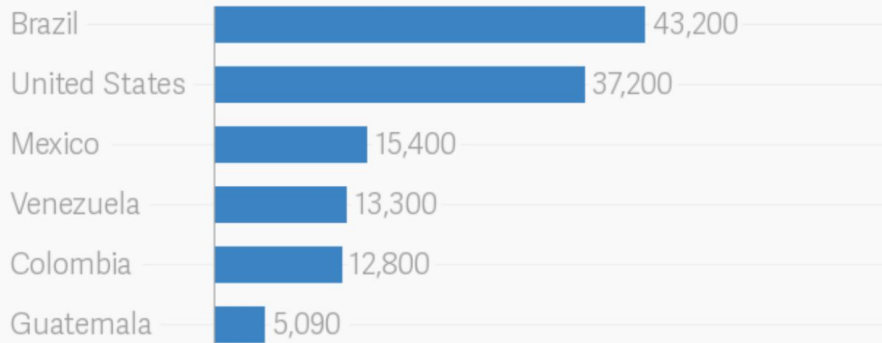
**KFF**

# Top 20 countries for firearms death rate, 2016

Rank	Country	Deaths per 100,000	Total Deaths
1	El Salvador	39.2	2,500
2	Venezuela	38.7	12,800
3	Guatemala	32.3	5,090
4	Colombia	25.9	13,300
5	Greenland	25.9	13
6	Honduras	22.5	1,780
7	Virgin Islands, U.S.	21.3	23
8	Brazil	19.4	43,200
9	Jamaica	18.1	533
10	Puerto Rico	17.1	637
11	Afghanistan	14.2	4,050
12	Belize	14.2	52
13	The Bahamas	13.6	58
14	Trinidad and Tobago	12.7	183
15	Mexico	11.8	15,400
16	Panama	11.0	450
17	Paraguay	10.7	716
18	Guyana	10.7	79
19	Dominican Republic	10.6	1,110
20	United States	10.6	37,200

These nations produced half of the world's gun-related deaths

In 2016

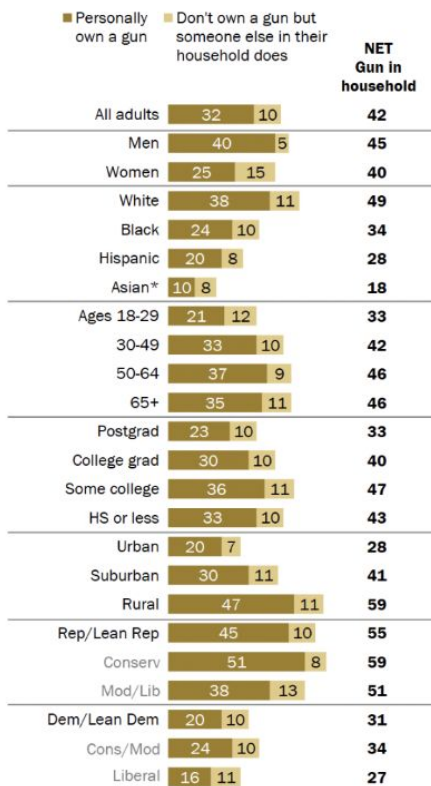


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| Data: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

## Nearly a third of U.S. adults say they personally own a gun

% who say they ...



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

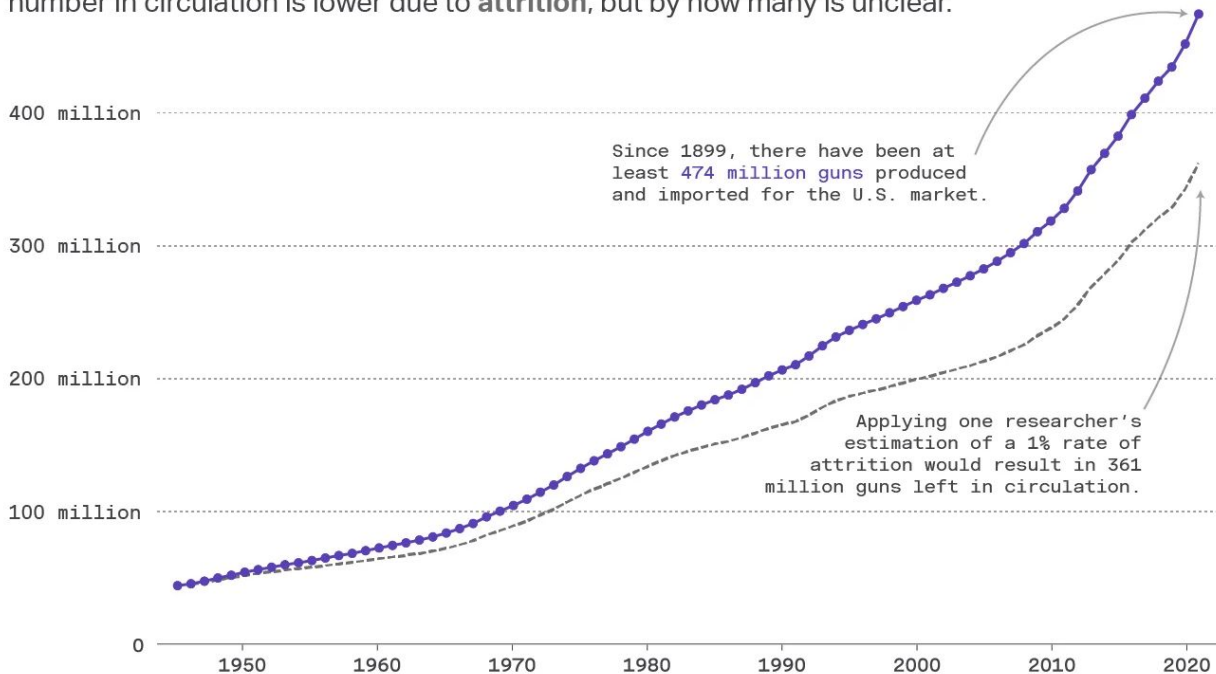
Note: White, Black and Asian adults include only those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

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## The U.S. Civilian Gun Stock Has Grown Significantly

In 2021, the total number of **guns produced** for the U.S. market reached 474 million. The number in circulation is lower due to **attrition**, but by how many is unclear.



Import data for 2021 from the ATF is not yet available. The total imports for 2021 used in chart are based on U.S. International Trade Commission import reports.

THE  
TRACE

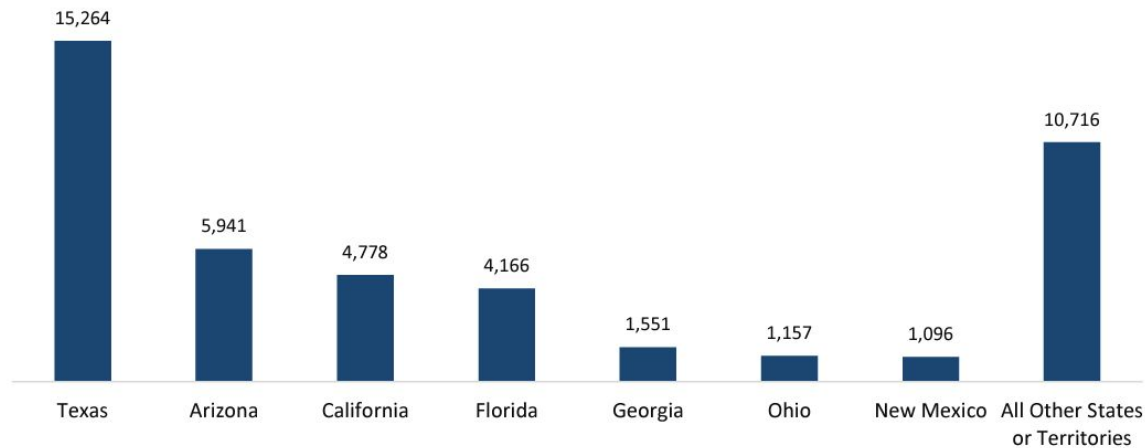
Chip Brownlee for The Trace / Source: Analysis of ATF Data

Chip Brownlee / The Trace

**Table IRT-23: International Crime Gun Traces to a Purchaser by Top 5 Source States and Recovery Country or Grouping, 2017 - 2021**

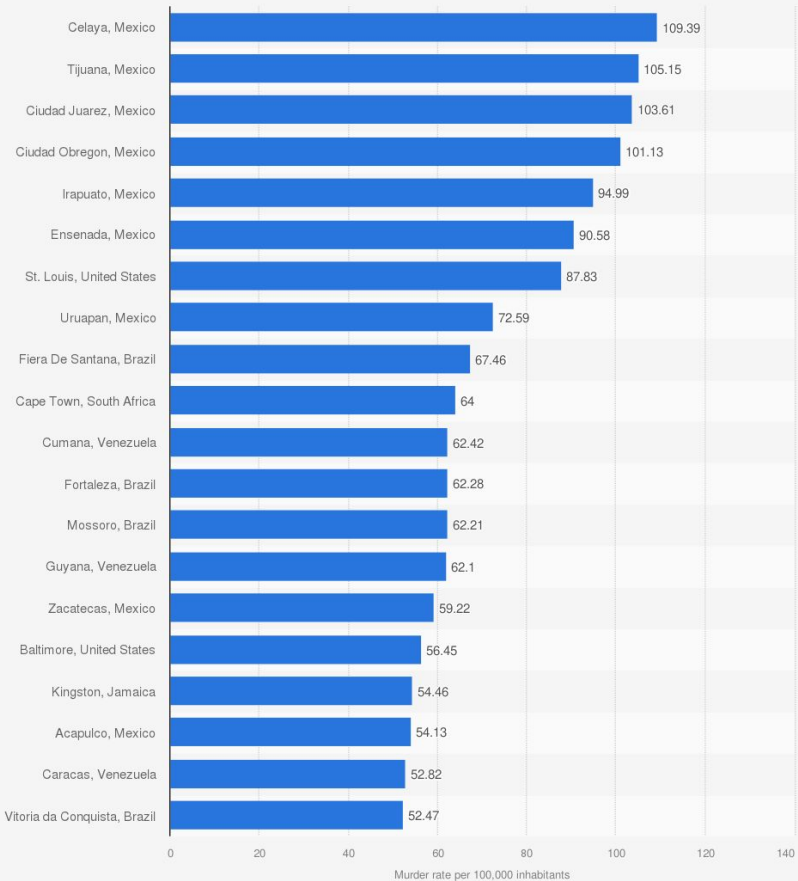
Recovery Country/Grouping	Source State 1	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 2	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 3	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 4	Trace Total	% Total	Source State 5	Trace Total	% Total
Mexico	Texas	14,216	43.0%	Arizona	5,737	17.3%	California	4,335	13.1%	New Mexico	1,051	3.2%	Florida	662	2.0%
Canada	Ohio	796	14.9%	Florida	670	12.6%	Georgia	533	10.0%	Texas	455	8.5%	Michigan	351	6.6%
Caribbean	Florida	1,846	57.1%	Georgia	437	13.5%	Texas	157	4.9%	Ohio	75	2.3%	North Carolina	68	2.1%
Central America	Florida	472	25.6%	Texas	361	18.8%	California	242	12.6%	Virginia	81	4.2%	Georgia	74	3.9%
Outside North America	Florida	516	47.0%	Texas	75	6.8%	Georgia	48	4.4%	California	45	4.1%	Virginia	39	3.6%

**Figure IRT-22: Total Crime Guns Recovered and Traced to a Purchaser by U.S. Source State or Territory, 2017 - 2021**





## Ranking of the most dangerous cities in the world in 2023, by murder rate per 100,000 inhabitants



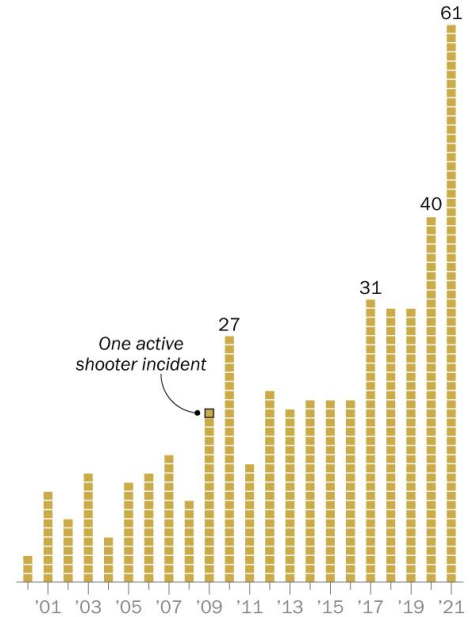
**Sources**  
 Consejo Ciudadano para la Seguridad Pública y la Justicia Penal; WorldAtlas  
 © Statista 2023

**Additional Information:**  
 Worldwide; February 2023



# Active shooter incidents have become more common in U.S. in recent years

Number of active shooter incidents, by year

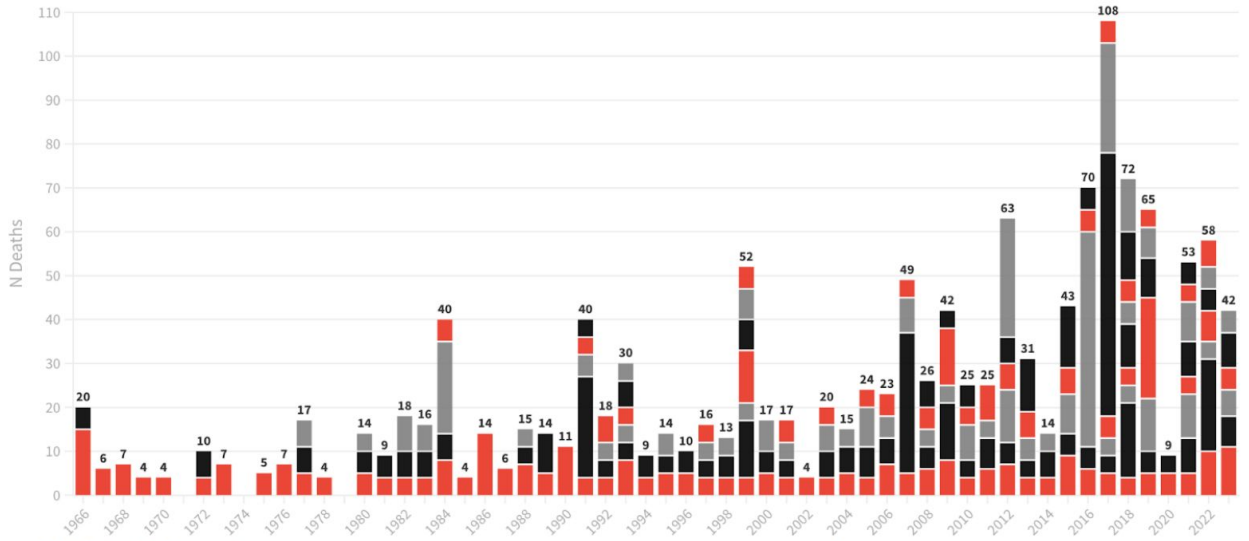


One active shooter incident

Note: "Active shooter incidents" are defined by the FBI as "one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area."  
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

# Mass Public Shooting Deaths by Incident, 1966-present

N=191 Shootings, 1,369 Deaths





# Texas Gun Legislation, 2009 to 2021

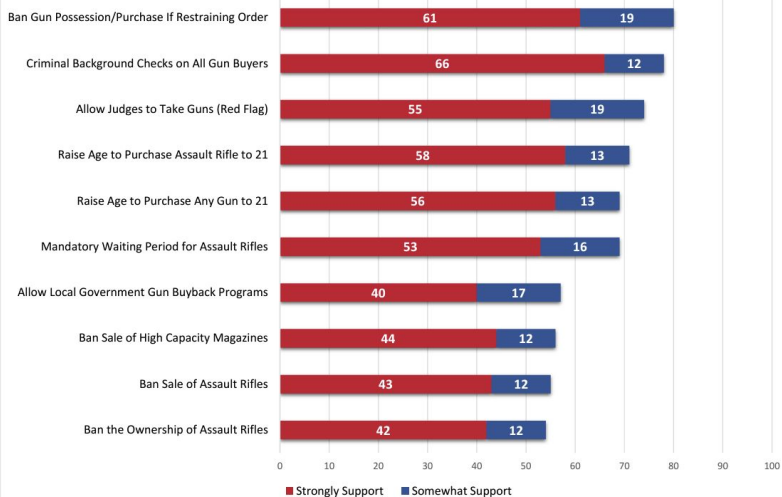
- 2009 HB 3352, clarifying that those who receive certain mental health diagnoses or care cannot own a gun.
- 2011 SB 321, preventing public and private employers from prohibiting firearm possession by employees in vehicles parked at work.
- 2013 HB 1009, creating a school marshal program. The program allowed schools to identify certain employees to receive training and carry firearms on site in case of an emergency.
- 2015 HB 910, permitting open carry in Texas. The law went into effect Jan. 1, 2016 and allowed all licensed firearm owners to carry handguns in a hip or shoulder holster.
- 2015 SB 11, requiring public universities and community colleges to allow licensed gun owners to carry concealed weapons in dorms, classrooms and campus buildings.
- 2017 HB 2908, making it a hate crime to attack police officers.
- 2017 SB 12, creating a bulletproof vest fund for law enforcement.
- 2019 HB 1387; SB 11; SB 535. The bills removed the cap on school marshalls, required the implementation of emergency plans in schools, and permitted weapons in places of worship respectively. The set of bills was a part of the larger attempt to “harden schools” as a means to protect them from mass shootings.
- 2021 HB 1927, making it legal for Texans to carry a handgun without a permit or training.
- 2021 HB 1500, eliminating the governor’s power to ban gun sales during an emergency.
- 2021 SB 20, making it legal for gun owners to bring weapons into their hotel rooms.
- 2021 SB 741, allowing school marshalls to have handguns on their person.
- 2021 SB 19, prohibiting big state and local government contracts “that discriminate against the firearm or ammunition industries.”
- 2021 HB 2622 or the “Second Amendment sanctuary state” law, exempting Texans from federal gun regulation such as required background checks.



**Table 1: Texan Support for and Opposition To 10 Potential Gun Control Reforms (%)**

Gun Control Policy Proposal	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support Nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Criminal Background Checks on All Gun Buyers	66	12	10	4	8
Ban Gun Possession/Purchase if Restraining Order	61	19	11	5	4
Raise Age to Purchase Assault Rifle to 21	58	13	11	5	13
Raise Age to Purchase Any Gun to 21	56	13	11	6	14
Allow Judges to Take Guns (Red Flag)	55	19	11	7	8
Mandatory Waiting Period for Assault Rifles	53	16	14	5	12
Ban Sale of High Capacity Magazines	44	12	15	7	22
Ban Sale of Assault Rifles	43	12	11	7	27
Ban the Ownership of Assault Rifles	42	12	11	7	28
Allow Local Government Gun Buyback Programs	40	17	21	5	17

**Figure 1: Texan Support for Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence: Proportion Strongly & Somewhat Supporting (%)**



**Figure 2: Texan Opposition to Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence: Proportion Strongly & Somewhat Opposing (%)**

