

Gun Violence in Texas: Trends, Policy, and Solutions

★ TEXAS
IMPACT



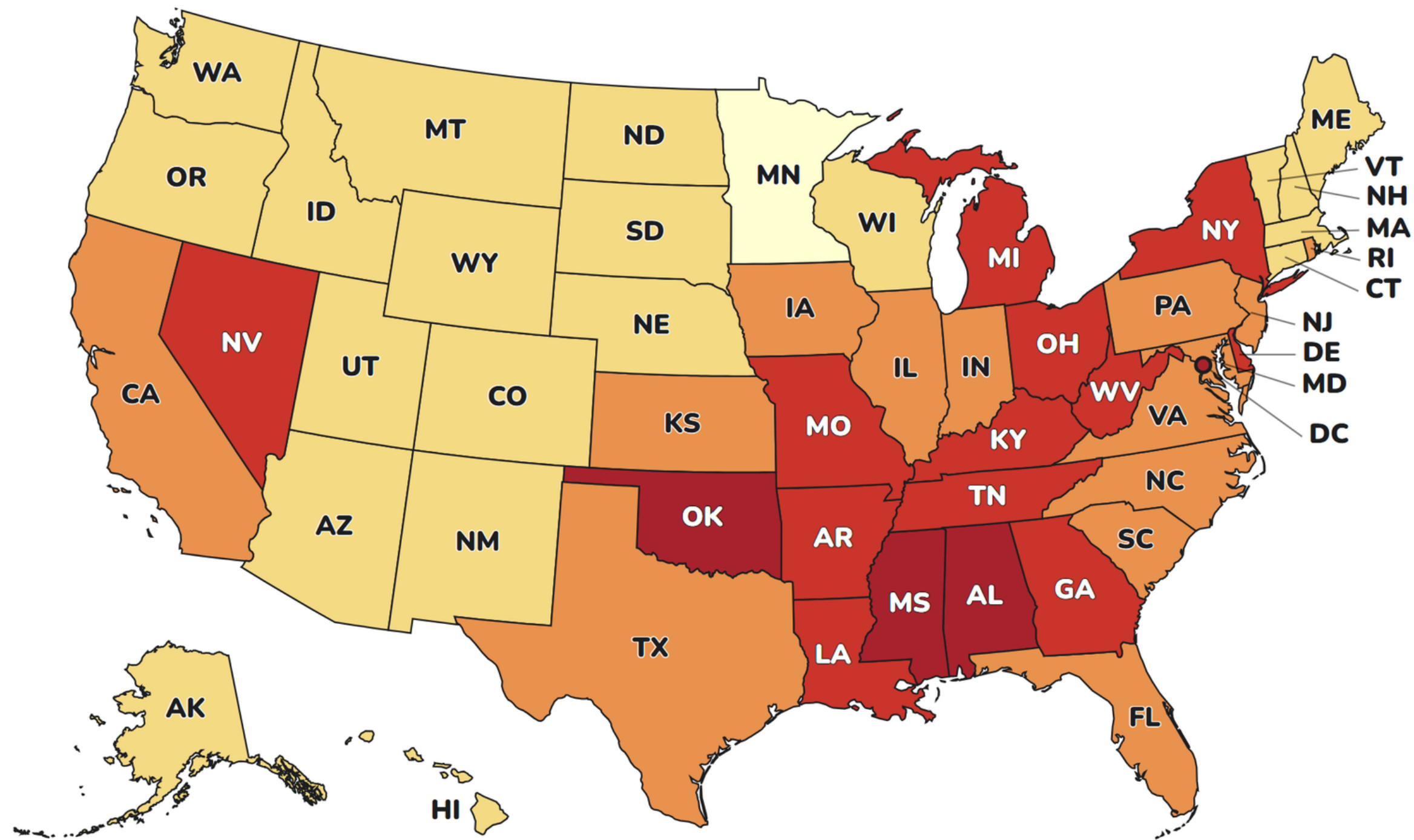
PRESENTED BY
DYLAN LE



Gun violence is a public health crisis: more than **4500** Texans die each year.

- **Suicides** constitute 63% of deaths and **are increasing**. Older, white, male, and veteran populations are overrepresented.
- **Homicides** constitute 33% of deaths and **are decreasing** (interpersonal/domestic violence). Young, black, Hispanic, and male populations are overrepresented.
- **Accidental shootings** constitute 3% of deaths and **are decreasing**.
- **Gun violence** is the **leading cause of death among ages 1-17**.

Source: [usafacts](#), [ammo](#) (2026).



2005

Heart disease deaths per 100,000 total population (age-adjusted mortality rate)

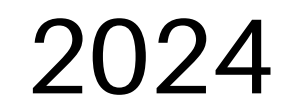
114.9 - < 153.2

153.2 - < 191.5

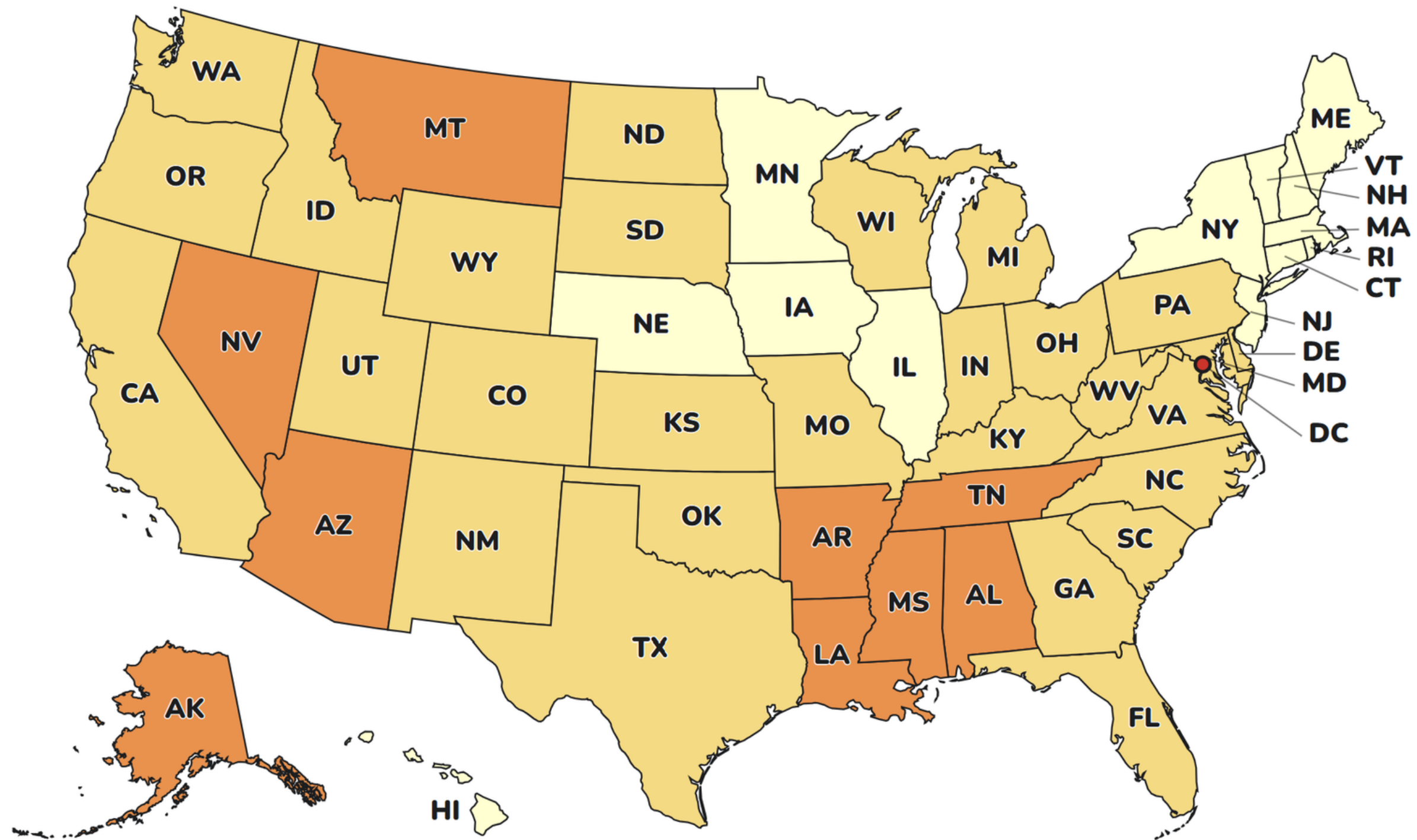
191.5 - < 229.8

229.8 - < 268.1

268.1 - < 306.4



● 268.1 - < 306.4



TEXAS RATE: (11.7/2490)

2005

Deaths by firearm per 100,000 total population (age-adjusted mortality rate)

2.1 - < 8.46

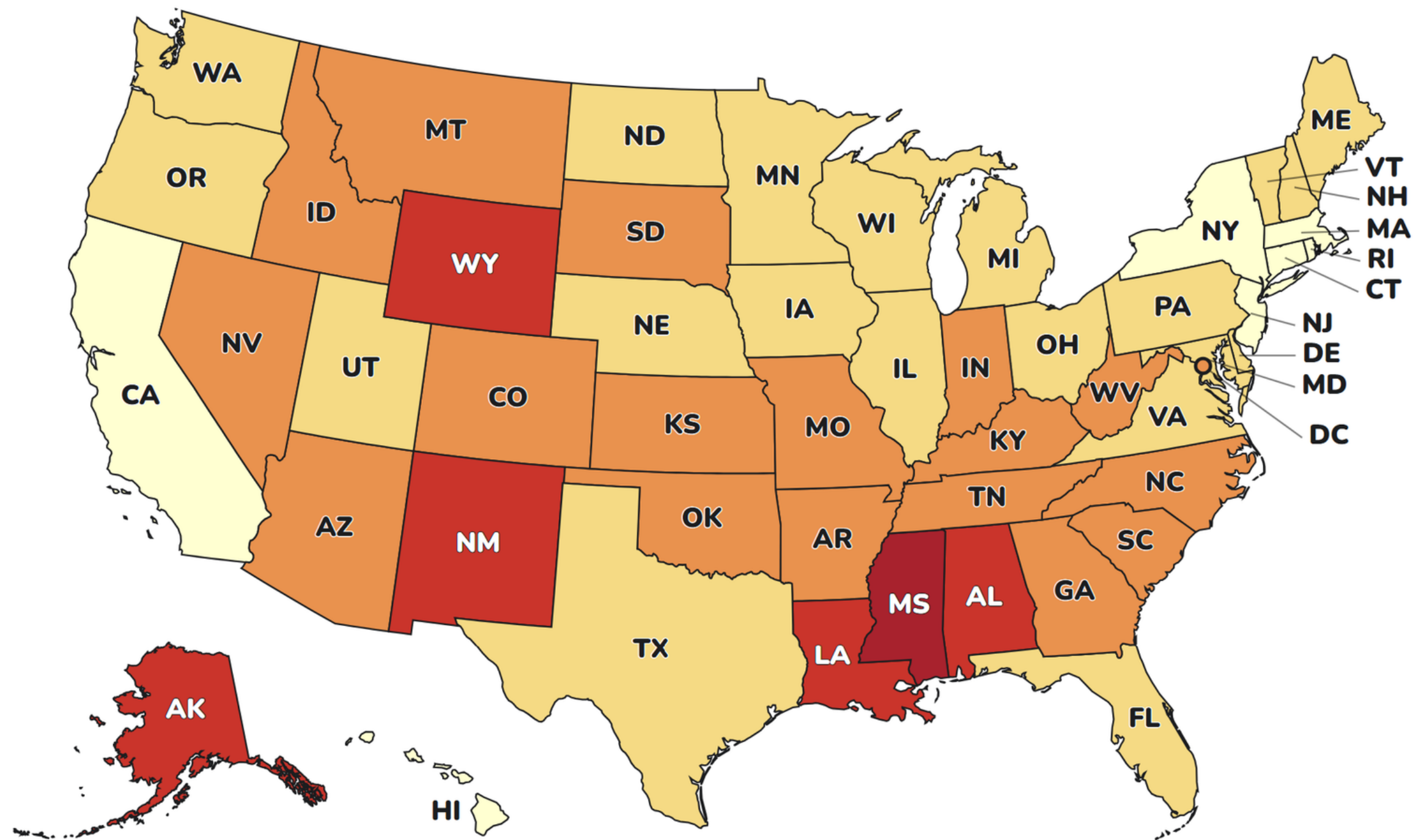
8.46 - < 14.82

14.82 - < 21.18

21.18 - < 27.54

27.54 - < 33.9

SOURCE: CDC



TEXAS RATE: (13.9/4389) **2024**

Deaths by firearm per 100,000 total population (age-adjusted mortality rate)



SOURCE: CDC



DEATHS OF DESPAIR

AND THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM

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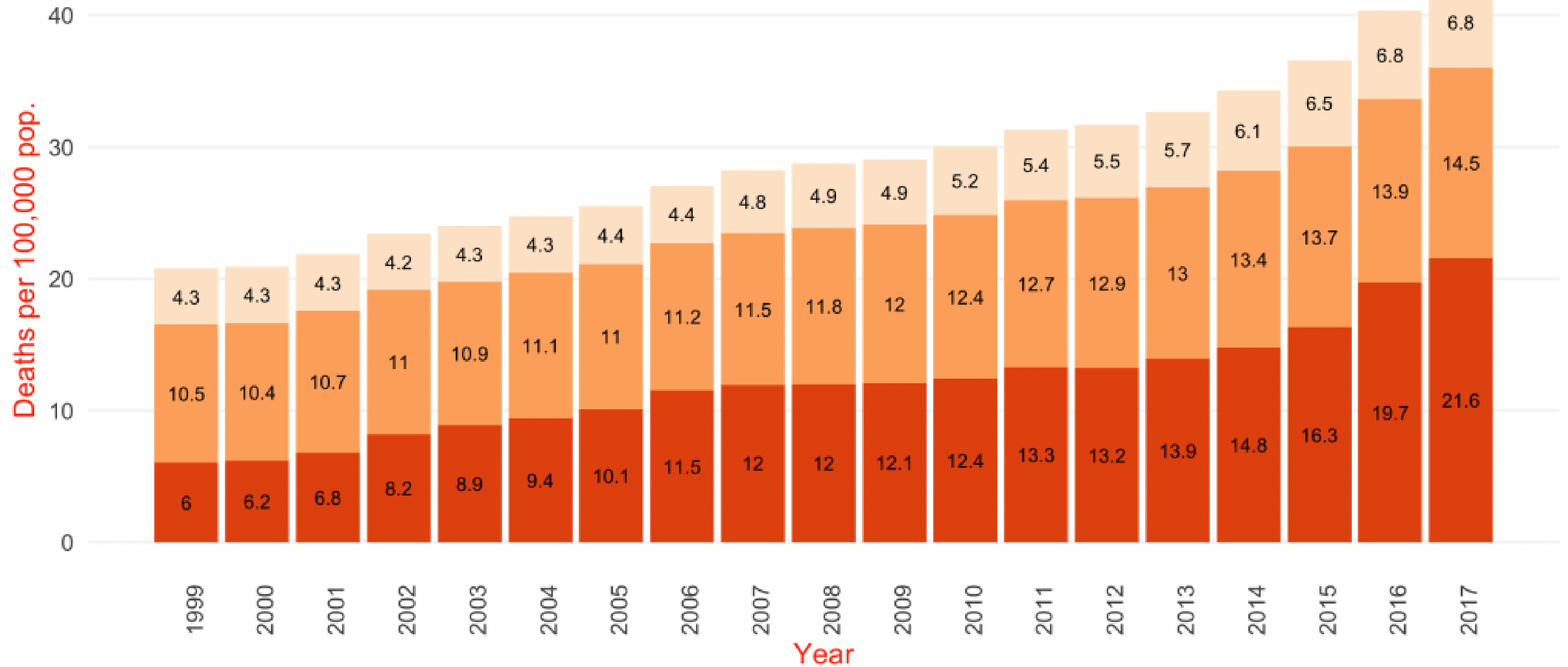
Firearm Suicide

“More Americans ages 1-44 die from injuries and violence—including overdose, suicide, or homicide—than any other cause.” (CDC 2026)

Deaths of Despair

1999 - 2017

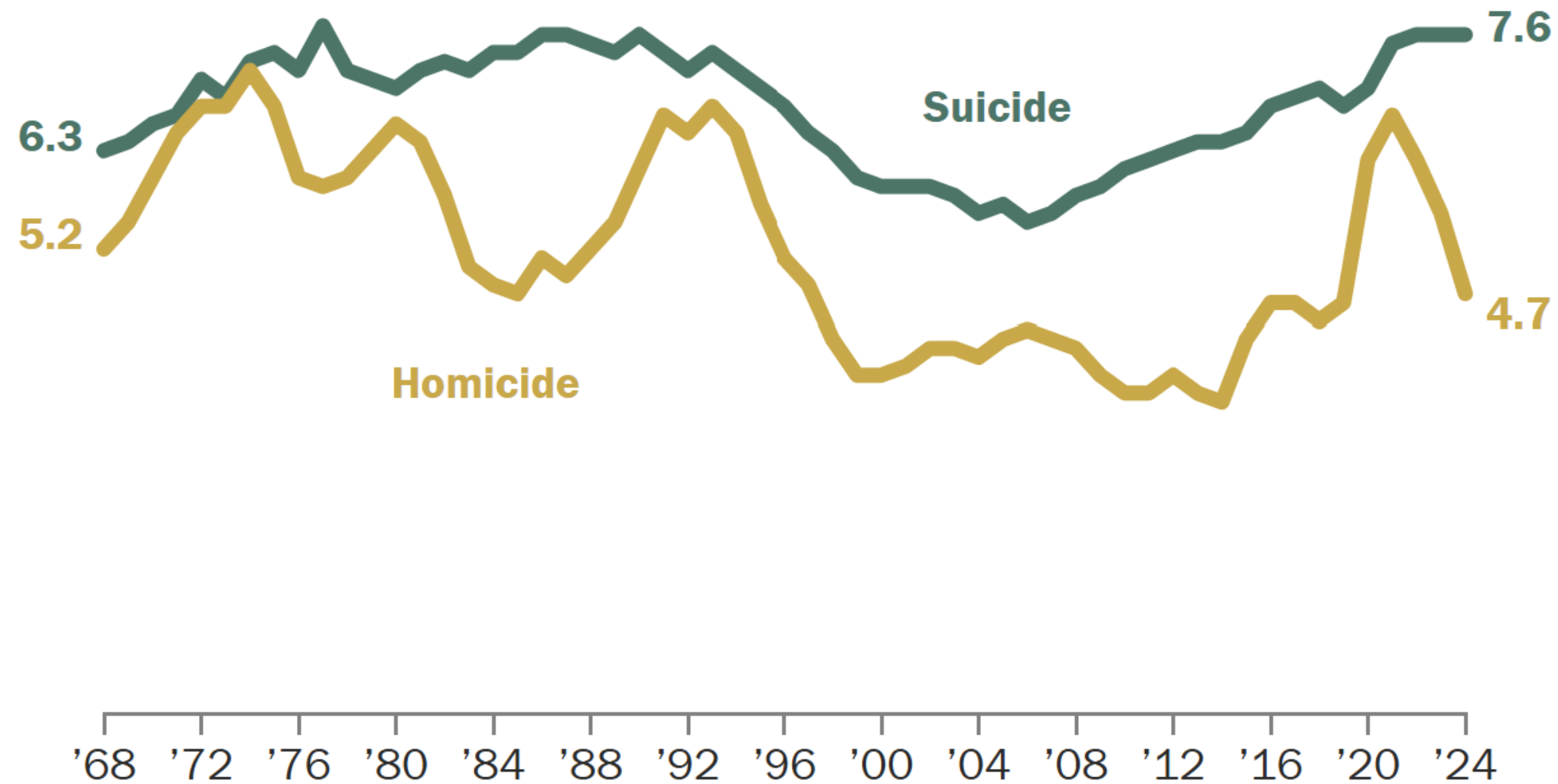
Alcohol Suicide Drugs



Source: CDC WONDER

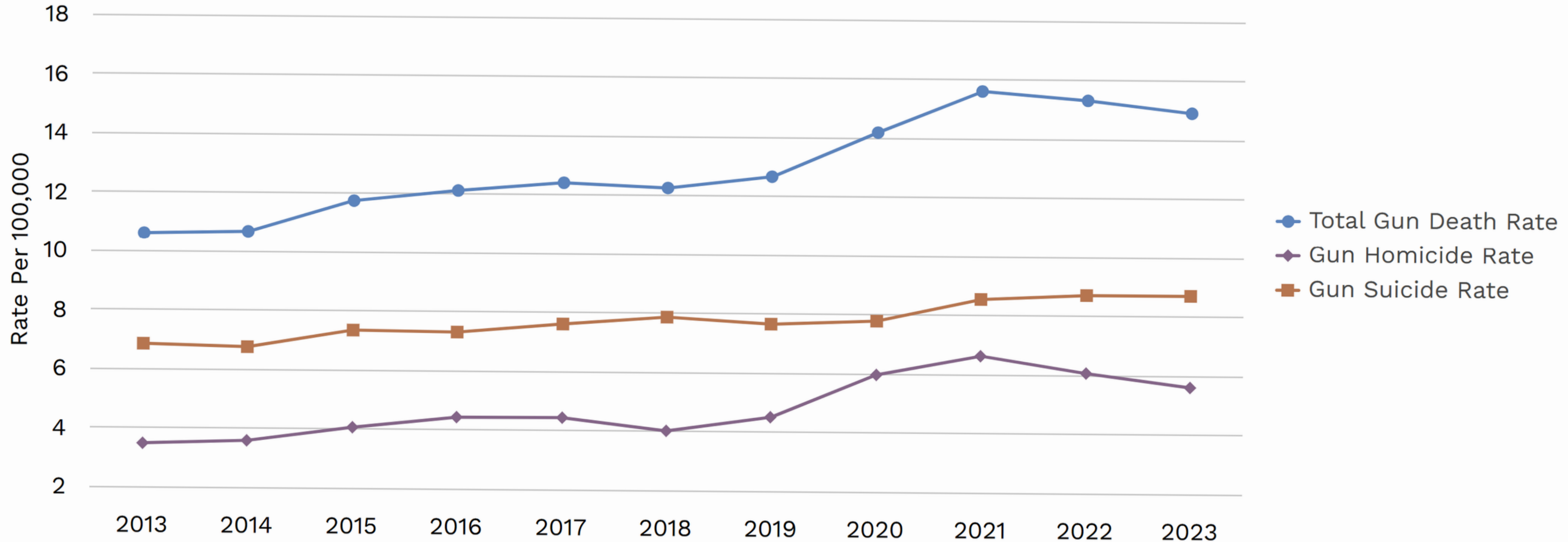
U.S. gun suicide rate is at a near-record high; gun homicide rate has dropped since 2021

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



Note: Gun suicides and murders from 1968 to 1978 are classified by the CDC as involving firearms or explosives. Those from 1979 to 2024 involve firearms only.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gun Death Rates (Per 100,000) from 2013-2023



Texas Data (Source: John Hopkins University)

Firearm access exacerbates suicide morality.

- **2,697 Texans die** from firearm suicide a year.
- Firearms account for 5% of suicide attempts, but more than half of suicide deaths.
- 90% of those who survive a suicide attempt don't go on to die by suicide, and 70% never make another attempt.
- Suicide attempts by firearm are 90% successful.

Sources: [JHU](#), [bradysunited](#)

Texas legislation addressing firearm access

- **Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO)** are civil petitions issued to temporarily limit firearm access from an individual in crisis. **Criminally prohibited by the Texas Legislature** after the passage of SB 1362, also known as the “Anti-Red Flag Act.”
- **Waiting periods** create time between the purchase and physical transfer of a firearm. Texas imposes no waiting period.
- **Secure storage** of firearms can prevent death. Texas has a safe storage public safety campaign named Keep ‘Em Safe Texas and instructs schools to send out information regarding safe storage. Texas also has a child-access prevention law.

Our policy recommendations to prevent firearm suicide

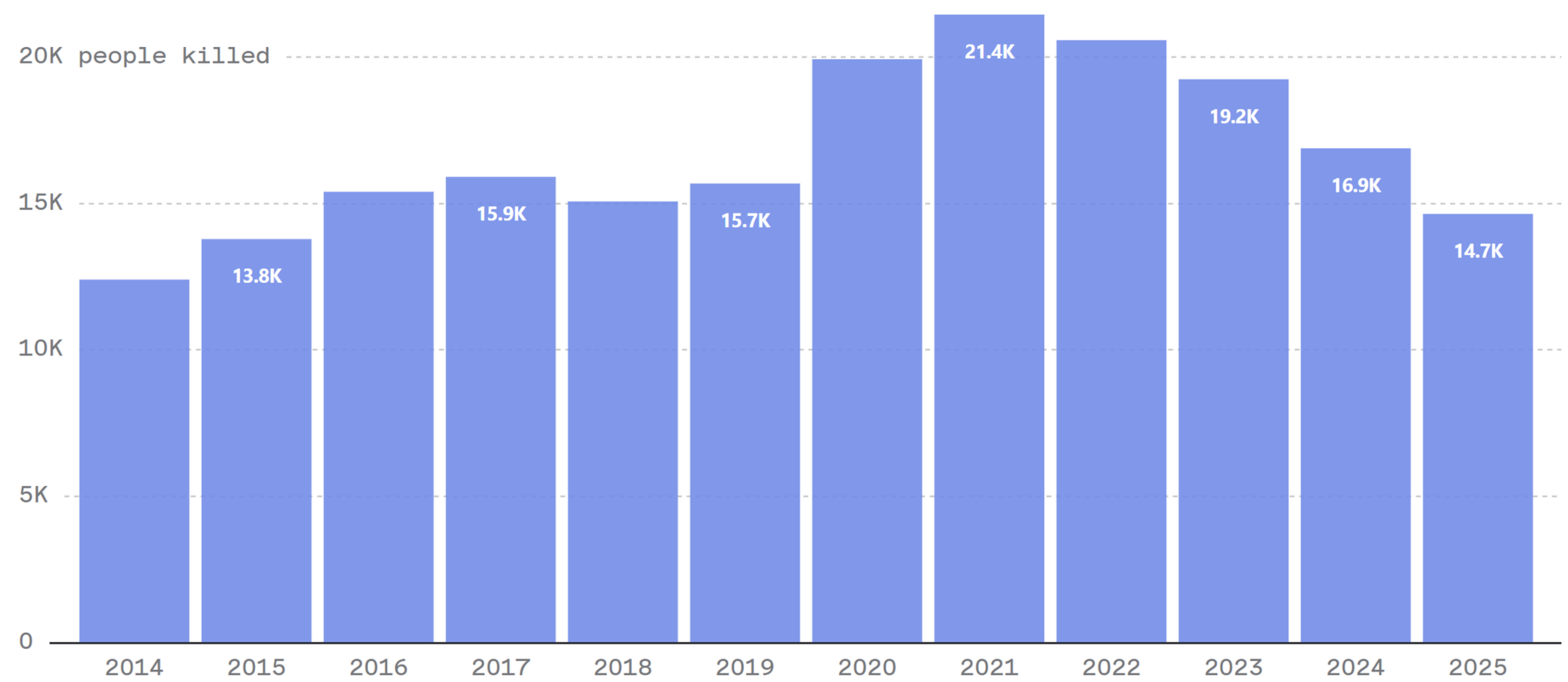
- Legalize Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO)
- Require waiting periods for the purchase of a firearm
- Expand safe storage campaigns and enforce school awareness requirements
- Raise the age of child access prevention laws to under 18 instead of under 17
- Raise the penalty for child access to a felony rather than a misdemeanor

Firearm Homicide and Mass Shootings



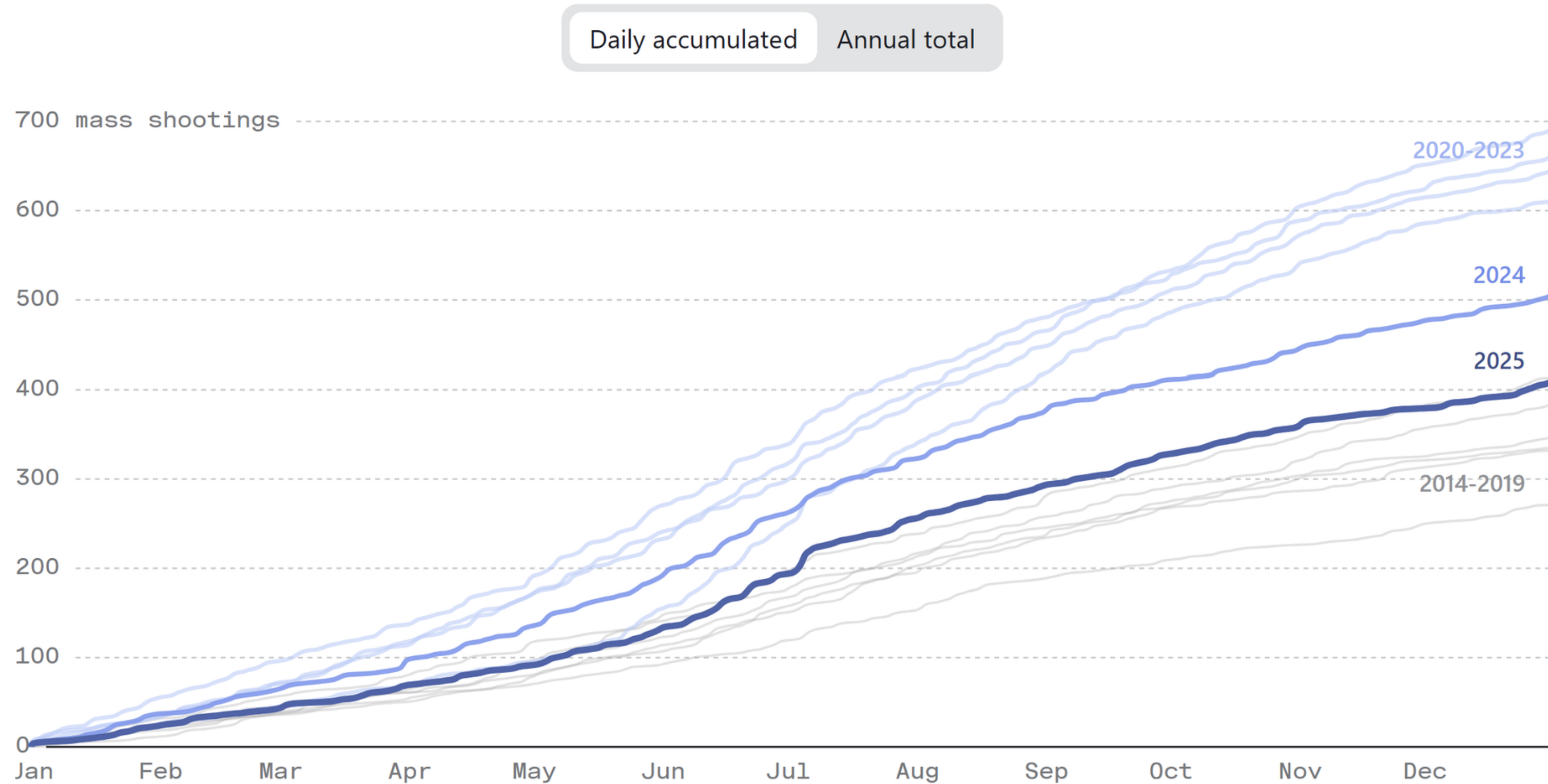
Firearm Homicides Plummeted

Firearm homicides have declined for four straight years and in 2025 were lower than any year since 2015.



There Were Fewer Mass Shootings

The Gun Violence Archive tracked fewer **mass shootings** in 2025 than any year since 2019.



Incidents Cleared¹
by Offense Category, 2021

Agency : All

Offense Category	Total Incidents ²	Incidents Cleared ³		
		Total Incidents Cleared	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Exceptional Means
Total	1,605,517	436,105	373,746	62,359
Crimes Against Person	422,495	175,944	131,716	44,228
Assault Offenses	392,080	167,653	125,650	42,003
Homicide Offenses	2,264	1,369	1,225	144
Human Trafficking	414	195	188	7
Kidnapping/Abduction	2,921	1,345	1,204	141
Sex Offenses	24,702	5,352	3,427	1,925
Sex Offenses, Non-Forcible	114	30	22	8

Incidents Cleared¹
by Offense Category, 2025

Agency : All

Offense Category	Total Incidents ²	Incidents Cleared ³		
		Total Incidents Cleared	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Exceptional Means
Total	1,501,046	460,244	403,834	56,410
Crimes Against Person	417,619	185,233	145,281	39,952
Assault Offenses	389,956	177,844	139,628	38,216
Homicide Offenses	1,666	1,033	909	124
Human Trafficking	335	84	83	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	4,120	2,195	2,032	163
Sex Offenses	21,518	4,068	2,620	1,448
Sex Offenses, Non-Forcible	24	9	9	0

Firearm homicides require continued attention

- **1,706 Texans die** from firearm homicide a year.
- **Firearm homicide is largely interpersonal**, meaning victims of homicide are mostly killed by people they already know
- **Community violence** and **domestic violence** constitute the majority of firearm homicides
- **Mass shootings**, although constituting a minority of firearm deaths, continue to **inflict great emotional and psychological distress**
- **Crime in Texas is at historic lows**, thus **interpersonal violence requires continued attention**

The Texas Legislature: Prioritizing Access over Safety

- GUNS AREN'T ANYONE'S PRIORITY
- MOST OF OUR GPV SUCCESS WERE MARGINAL, BUT THERE ARE STILL OPPORTUNITIES IN SUICIDE PREVENTION, SAFE STORAGE, AND CVI
- THERE IS STILL A PUSH FROM THE FAR RIGHT TO EXPAND ACCESS

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

Bad bills that died:

- **HB 1794 by Rep. Tepper** would have allowed individuals to carry concealed handguns at polling locations. ***Died in the Senate.***
- **HB 4201 by Rep. Schatzline** would have allowed individuals to carry concealed handguns at schools, courtrooms, and hospitals. ***Didn't make it out of House committee.***
- **SB 82 by Sen. Hall** would have made private businesses that prohibit firearms liable for damages if there is a criminal act on their premises. ***Didn't make it out of Senate committee.***
- **SB 1065 by Sen. Hall**, which was filed in direct response to the lawsuit concerning the State Fair's ban on guns following a shooting the year prior, would have prohibited private businesses that are using public land from prohibiting firearms on their premises. This would have included locations such as concert venues and potentially sports stadiums. ***Didn't make it out of House committee.***

Good Bills that died:

Missed Opportunities

- **HB 36 by Rep. Bowers** would have addressed major gaps in protections for domestic violence by creating a robust tracking system for repeat or high-risk offenders. Failed in the Senate after passing the House. ***Died in the Senate.***
- **HB 865 by Rep. Moody** would have created legal protections for firearm hold agreements, creating a safe storage option for gun owners experiencing a mental health crisis. Failed in the Senate after passing the House. ***Died in the Senate.***
- **SB 872 by Sen. Birdwell** would have increased the penalty for firearm theft from a vehicle, which has become a major problem in Texas as part of larger gun trafficking. Failed in the House after passing the Senate. ***Died in the House.***

Good Bills that died:

Ignored Priorities

- **HB 230 by Rep. Rosenthal** would have created the Texas Office of Violence Prevention, explicitly focusing on reducing violence in our communities. Failed to get a hearing.
- **HB 1556 by Rep. Moody** was one of many bills that would have raised the age to buy semi-automatic rifles to 21 years old. HB 1556 was a refile from the prior legislative session, and it continued to be the main priority of the families from Uvalde who lost their children in the Rob Elementary school shooting. Failed to get a hearing.

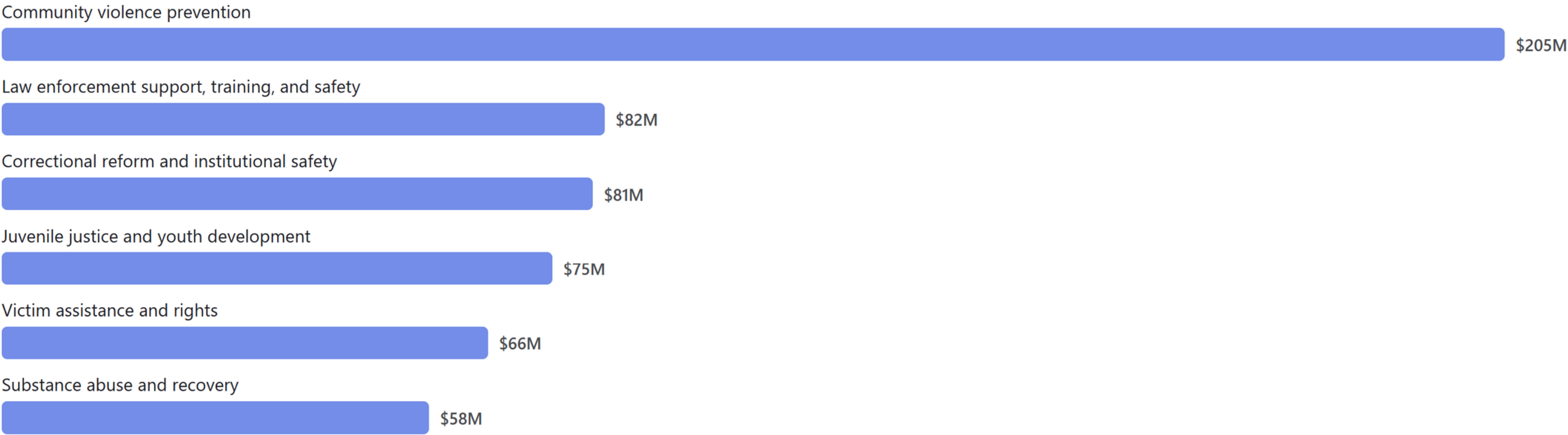
Texas legislation addressing firearm access

- **The Texas Legislature allocated \$2 million to provide grants to violence reduction initiatives, largely Community Violence Intervention (CVI). This funding is at risk.**
- **Texas funds domestic violence prevention, yet lacks a firearm surrender protocol, even though “the presence of a gun where there is family violence increases the risk of homicide by up to 500%.”**
- **The Texas Legislature’s response to mass shootings, specifically school shootings, continues to be reactive, rather than preventative**

Source: [lbbtexas](#), [tcfv](#)

Trump Has Cut More Than 400 Grants Worth \$815M

The gun violence and public safety grants covered site-based programs, training and technical assistance, and research and evaluation on the following topics.



+ Show full list

This chart shows data for 404 grants by their initial value, according to USASpending.gov. Other sources, like the Department of Government Efficiency, used different accounting mechanisms. An estimated \$340M had already been spent from these grants, with \$475M unspent at the time of termination. This data does not include cuts to a Department of Education initiative that supports mental health in schools, which would push the total amount canceled to over \$1B.

Our policy recommendations to prevent firearm homicide

- Continue and expand funding for Community Violence Intervention (CVI)**
- Implement a comprehensive firearm surrender protocol**
- Raise the age to 21 purchase semi-automatic rifles**
- Oppose the reckless expansion of firearms in public spaces**

THE INTERSECTION OF POLICY AND ADVOCACY



Vidas Robadas at the Capitol

- Over 500
- 4 different

- **Over 500 participants**
- **4 different displays in Austin**
- **Around 2,000 memorials displayed**



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

SCAN THIS CODE TO
JOIN THE ENDING
GUN VIOLENCE ISSUE
TEAM



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