

# Gun Death in Texas



**Violence Policy Center**



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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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This study was authored by VPC Public Health Analyst Terra Wiens, MPH.

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national nonprofit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in America and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the general public.

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Texas Gun Sense is a statewide organization dedicated to preventing gun violence and other gun tragedies through education, partnerships, and policy change.

### **Texas Gun Sense**

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## Introduction

Gun violence affects all communities in the United States, but in different ways. This study, a joint project of Texas Gun Sense<sup>a</sup> and the Violence Policy Center,<sup>b</sup> offers an overview of lethal gun violence in Texas. Understanding how gun violence affects specific populations and geographic locations allows prevention efforts to be more effectively tailored to impacted communities.

This study utilizes 2022 data<sup>c</sup> from the following sources:

- Mortality data from the WISQARS database maintained by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Firearms trace data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

This report also contains the stories of family members who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Though statistics and analysis are necessary to aid in the development of effective public policy and increase public understanding of the true nature and scope of gun violence, it is imperative to never lose sight of the real-world impact of gun death and injury. The VPC and Texas Gun Sense want to express their sincere appreciation to those who shared their experiences for this report, with special thanks to Lives Robbed.

## Overall Gun Death in Texas

Gun violence has a significant impact on communities: both nationally and in Texas. In 2022, guns claimed 48,204 lives in the United States. Of these, 4,556 Texan lives were lost to guns in suicides, homicides, and other firearm deaths (Table 1)

a Texas Gun Sense is a statewide organization dedicated to preventing gun violence and other gun tragedies through education, partnerships, and policy change. For more information, please see [txgunsense.org](https://txgunsense.org).

b The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national research, education, and advocacy organization working to stop gun death and injury. For more information, please see [www.vpc.org](https://www.vpc.org).

c At the time this study was researched and written, data from the year 2022 was the most comprehensive and recently available information from these sources.

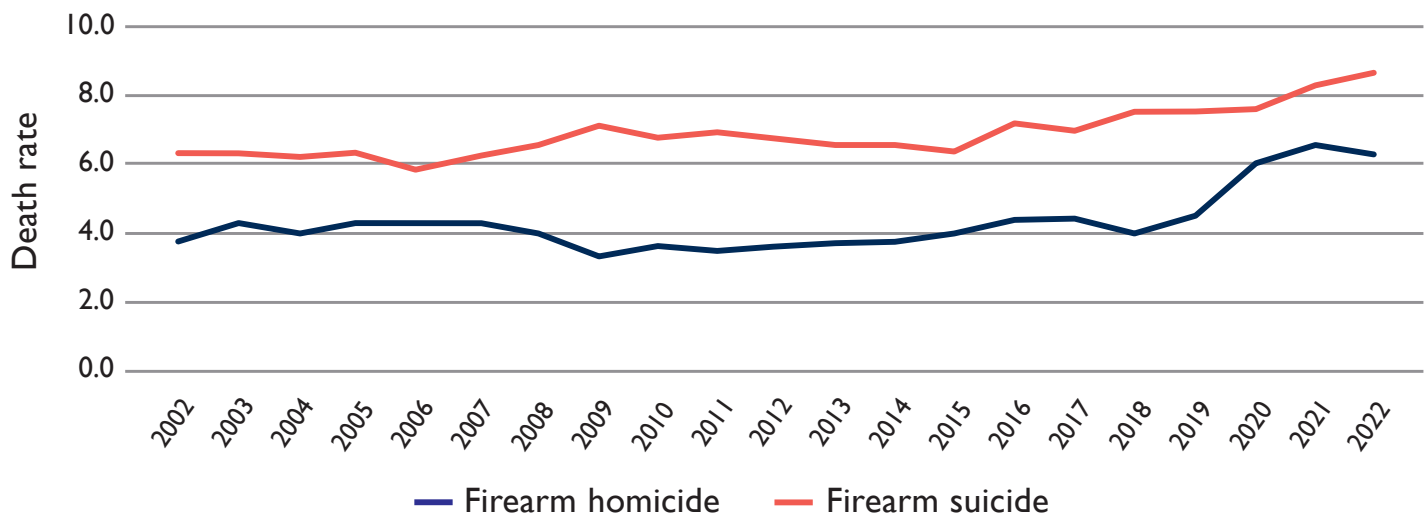
**Table 1. Firearm deaths in Texas, 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | Total firearm deaths* | Firearm homicide | Firearm suicide | Unintentional firearm deaths |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>2018</b> | 3,522                 | 1,145            | 2,263           | 37                           |
| <b>2019</b> | 3,683                 | 1,299            | 2,237           | 51                           |
| <b>2020</b> | 4,164                 | 1,734            | 2,287           | 54                           |
| <b>2021</b> | 4,613                 | 1,942            | 2,528           | 53                           |
| <b>2022</b> | 4,630                 | 1,826            | 2,644           | 45                           |

\* Total firearm deaths include homicides, legal intervention deaths, suicides, unintentional deaths, and deaths of undetermined intent

Rates of both suicides and homicides due to firearms have increased in Texas over the last two decades (Figure 1). While rates of firearm suicide have increased steadily over the years, the state has seen more drastic increases in firearm homicide rates, more than doubling between 2011 and 2021 from 3.1 per 100,000 to 6.6 per 100,000 in 2021, and then decreasing to 6.1 per 100,000 in 2022.

**Figure 1. Rate<sup>d</sup> of firearm suicide and firearm homicide in Texas, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>d</sup> All death rates presented in this report are per 100,000 and adjusted for age unless otherwise noted.



**In 2021, Dr. Durr's mother was shot and killed in a murder that remains unsolved.**

As a gun violence survivor, I know the pain of losing a loved one to senseless violence doesn't end with their life — it reverberates through the lives of everyone who has to pick up the pieces. We must recognize the value of human life at every stage and age, understanding that gun violence doesn't just steal lives — it shatters families, communities, and futures. Preventing gun violence is not just about saving lives but about protecting the dignity and dreams of those left behind.

## Suicide in Texas

In 2022, 4,368 lives were lost to suicide in Texas (Table 2). The majority of suicide victims (including those who died by firearm suicide) were male and white.

**Table 2. Demographic characteristics of all suicide victims and firearm suicide victims in Texas, 2022<sup>1</sup>**

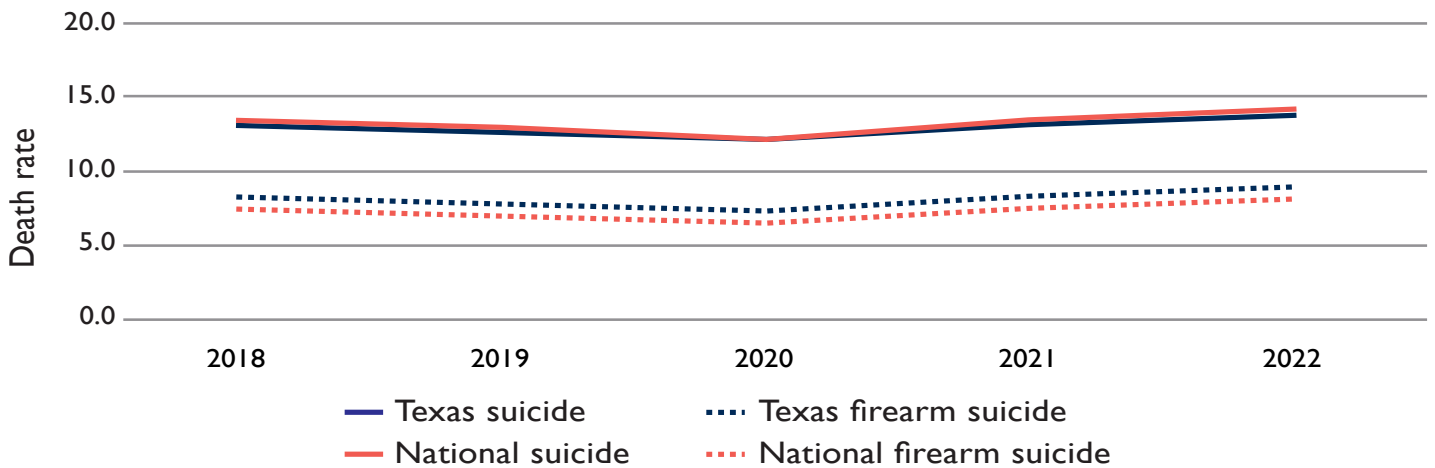
|   | All suicide victims | Firearm suicide victims |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total victims</b>                        | 4,368 (100.0%)      | 2,644 (100.0%)          |
| <b>Sex</b>                                  |                     |                         |
| Male  | 3,516 (80.5%)       | 2,285 (86.4%)           |
| Female                                      | 852 (19.5%)         | 359 (13.6%)             |
| <b>Age</b>                                  |                     |                         |
| <10   | 0 (0.0%)            | 0 (0.0%)                |
| 10-24                                       | 736 (16.8%)         | 435 (16.5%)             |
| 25-44                                       | 1,633 (37.4%)       | 879 (33.2%)             |
| 45-64                                       | 1,305 (29.9%)       | 799 (30.2%)             |
| 65+   | 692 (15.8%)         | 531 (20.1%)             |
| <b>Race and ethnicity</b>                   |                     |                         |
| American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic | --                  | --                      |
| Asian, non-Hispanic <sup>e</sup>            | 113 (2.6%)          | 36 (1.4%)               |
| Black, non-Hispanic                         | 374 (8.6%)          | 240 (9.1%)              |
| White, non-Hispanic                         | 2,826 (64.7%)       | 1,856 (70.2%)           |
| More than one race, non-Hispanic            | 18 (0.4%)           | 10 (0.4%)               |
| Hispanic                                    | 1,021 (23.4%)       | 492 (18.6%)             |

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (nine or fewer deaths)

e The "Asian, non-Hispanic" category referenced in this report includes Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders

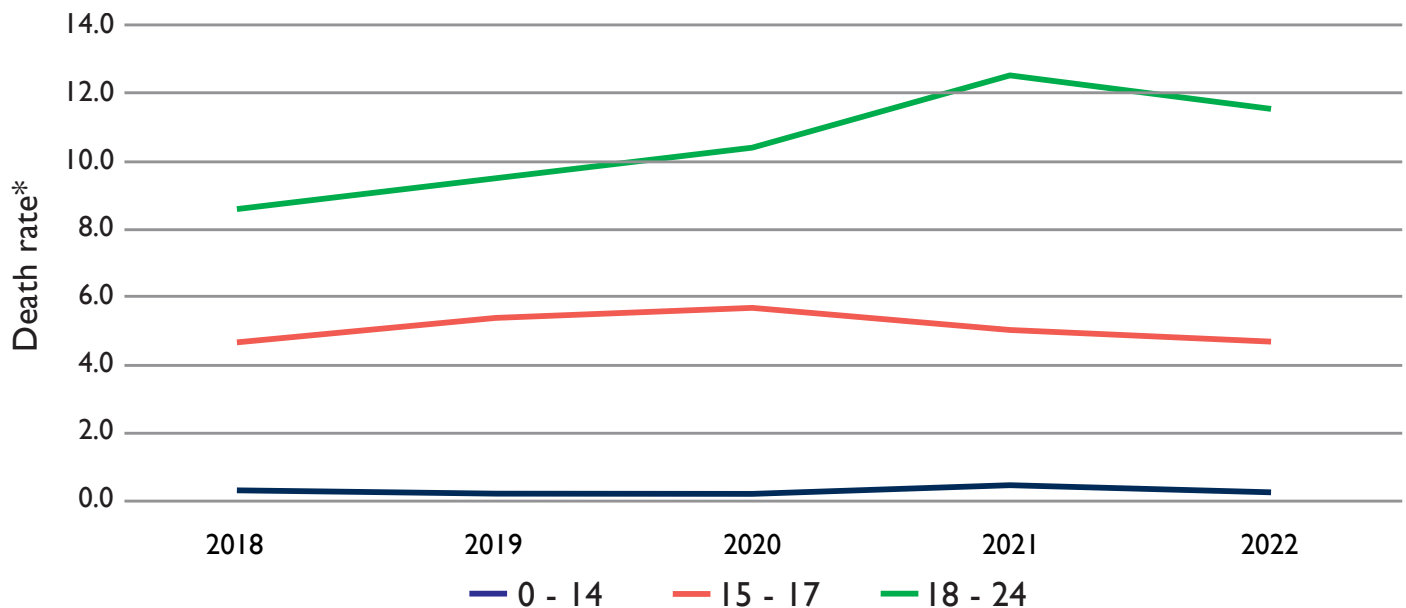
Rates of overall suicide and firearm suicide in Texas are similar to national rates (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Suicide and firearm suicide rates in Texas and the U.S., 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



Examining firearm suicide rates among the younger population in Texas reveals specific age groups needing targeted suicide prevention strategies. Texas young adults ages 18 to 24 have the highest rates of firearm suicide compared to younger Texans, representing an age group in critical need of intervention (Figure 3). Rates in this age group increased from 8.4 per 100,000 in 2018 to 12.3 per 100,000 in 2021, and then decreased slightly to 11.7 per 100,000 in 2022.

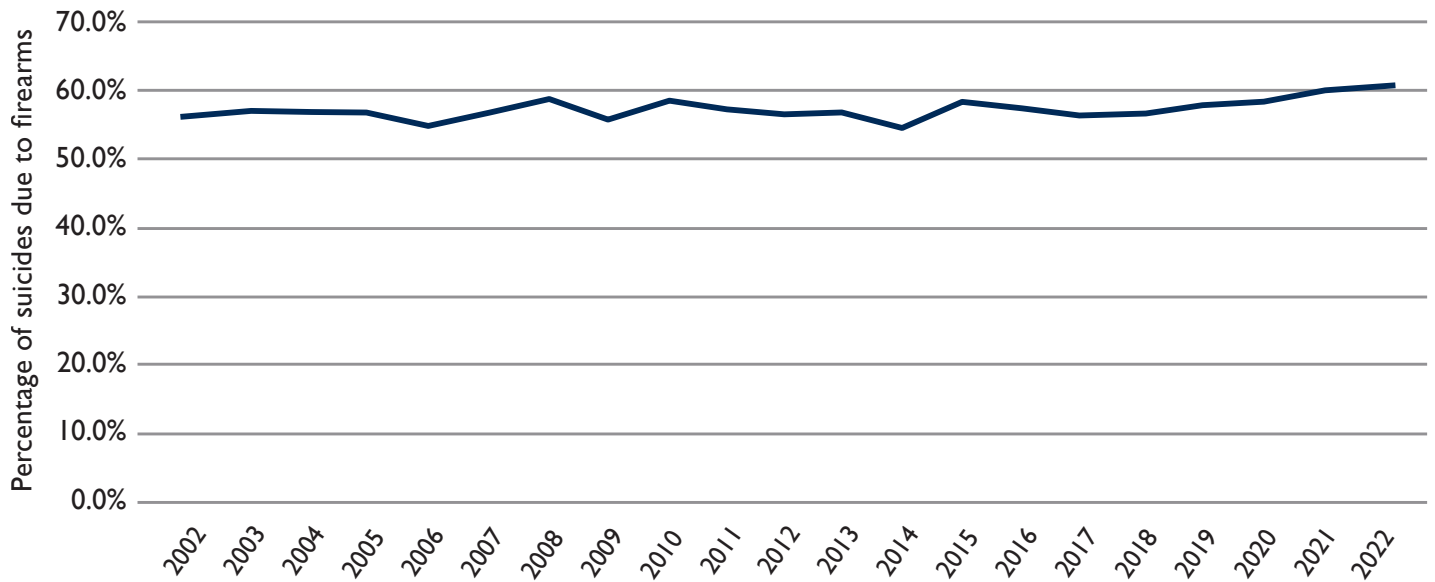
**Figure 3. Firearm suicide rates\* among Texas youth and young adults by age group, 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



\* Rates are not adjusted for age

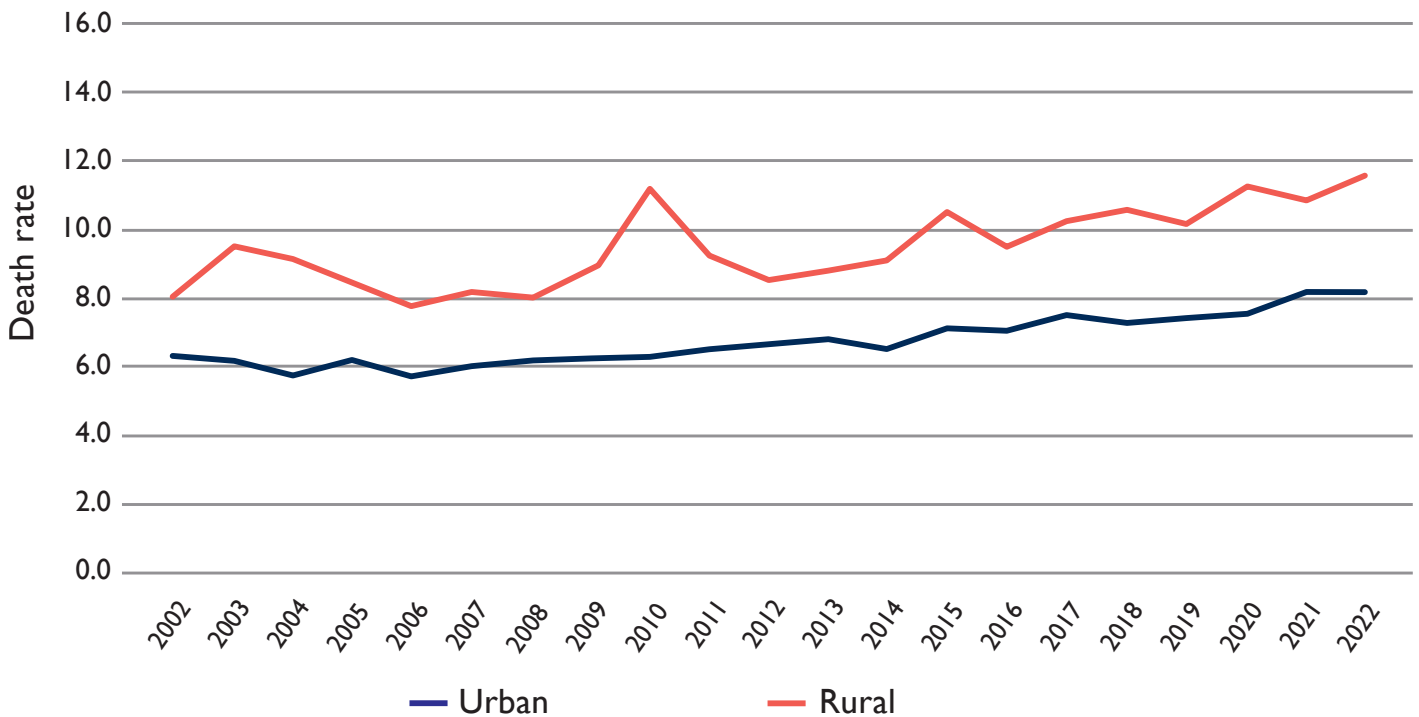
Understanding the role of firearms in suicide is important to developing suicide prevention strategies. The percentage of suicides due to firearms in Texas has remained relatively stable over the last two decades, hovering around 60 percent (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Percentage of suicides in Texas due to firearms, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



Over the last two decades, firearm suicide rates have remained higher in rural<sup>f</sup> areas of Texas compared to urban areas (Figure 5). Though firearm suicide rates have increased statewide in recent years, the increase is more pronounced in rural areas, jumping from 9.4 per 100,000 in 2016 to 13.7 per 100,000 in 2022.

**Figure 5. Firearm suicide rates in Texas by geography, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

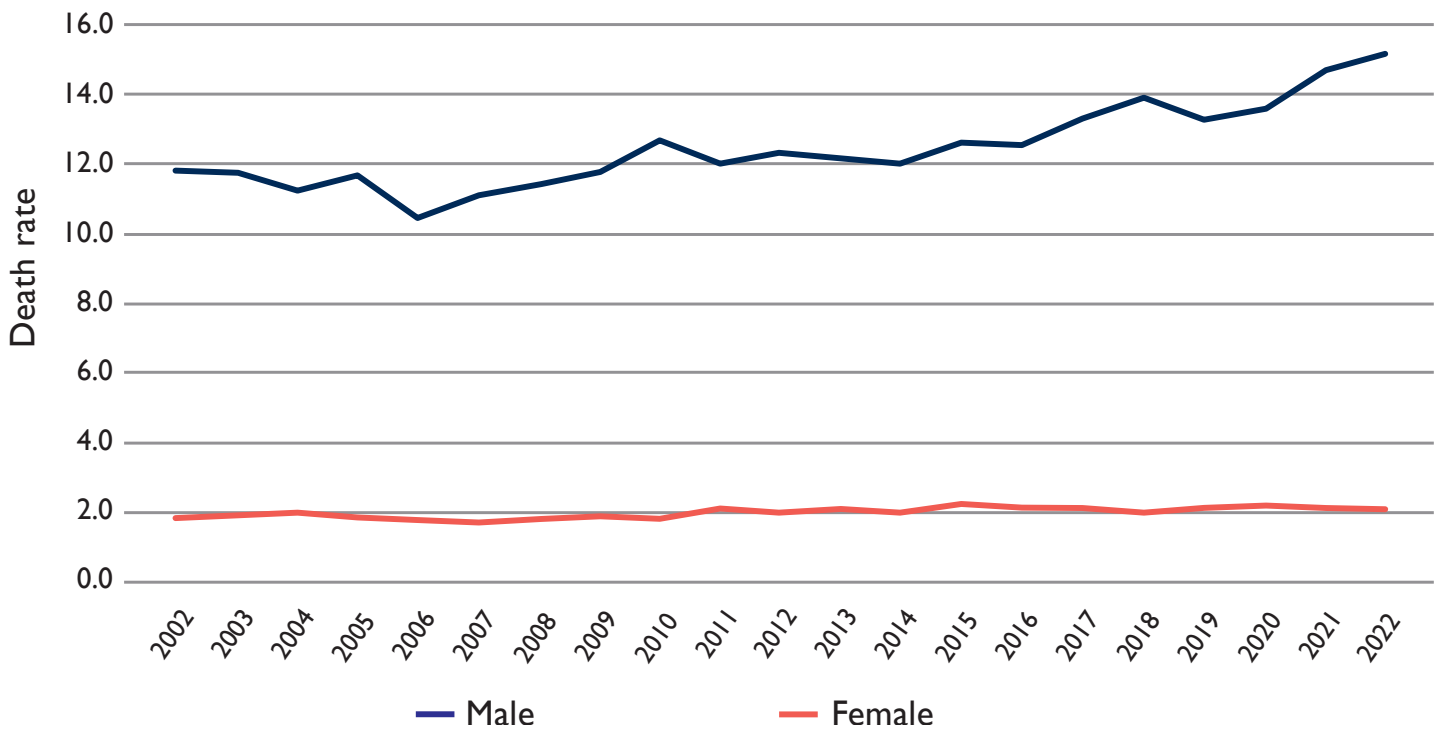


<sup>f</sup> The terms “rural” and “urban” used in this report are based on the National Center for Health Statistics’ 2013 Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties, which categorizes counties into six urbanization categories. The “rural” category (also known as “non-metro”) includes micropolitan and non-core counties and the “urban” category (also known as “metro”) includes counties considered large central metro, large fringe metro, medium metro, and small metro. More information is available at <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/help/injury-reports/#data-filters-metro-non-metro-indicator>.



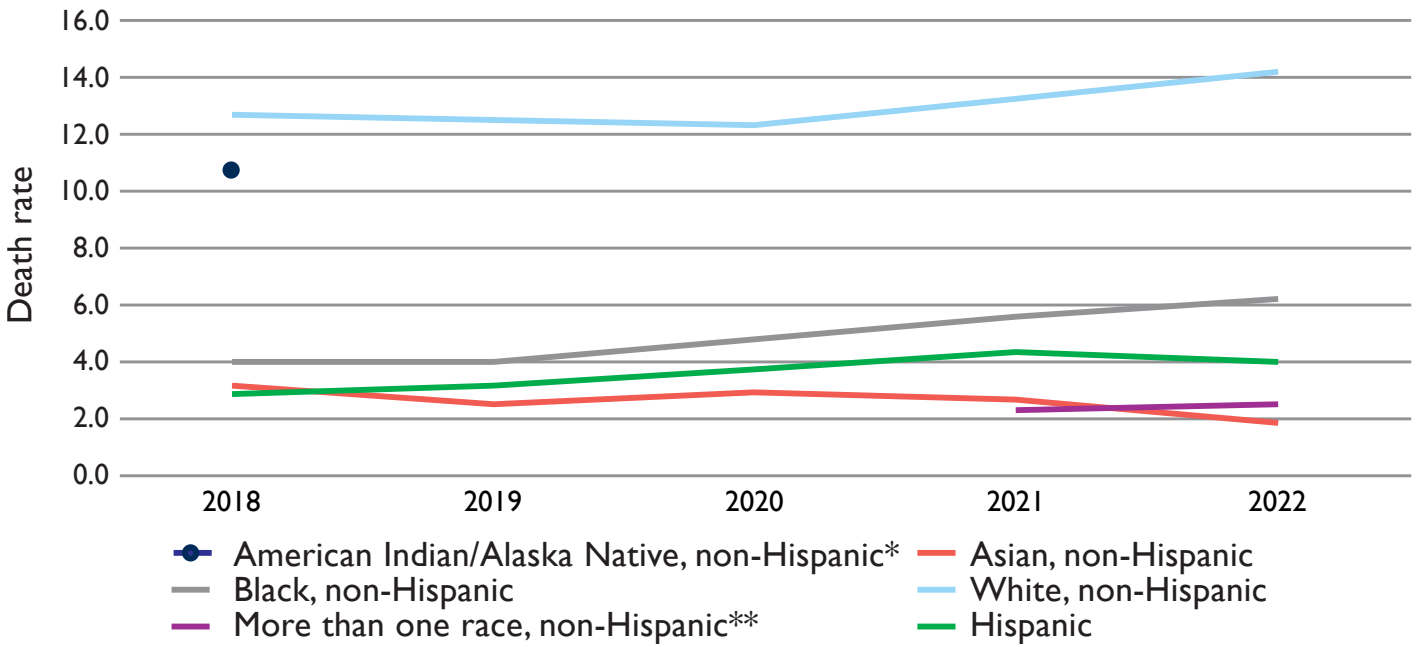
Consistent with national trends, males in Texas have significantly higher firearm suicide rates compared to females, and rates have been increasing since 2014, from 11.9 to 15.3 per 100,000 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Firearm suicide rates in Texas by sex, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



Suicide by firearm also varies by race in the state. The white, non-Hispanic population in Texas has significantly higher rates of firearm suicide compared to other races, though rates have been increasing in the Black, non-Hispanic population (Figure 7). Rates in the Black, non-Hispanic population increased from 4.1 per 100,000 in 2018 to 6.0 per 100,000 in 2022, while rates decreased in the Asian, non-Hispanic population, from 3.5 per 100,000 in 2018 to 2.0 per 100,000 in 2022.

**Figure 7. Firearm suicide rates in Texas by race and ethnicity, 2018-2022<sup>1</sup>**



\* The number of firearm suicide deaths among American Indian/Alaska Natives non-Hispanic victims was too small for the years 2019-2022 to calculate reliable death rates

\*\* The number of firearm suicide deaths among non-Hispanic victims of more than one race was too small for the years 2018-2020 to calculate reliable death rates

## Homicide in Texas

In 2022, 2,281 lives were lost to homicide in Texas (Table 3). The majority of homicide victims (including those who died by firearm homicide) were male and persons of color.

**Table 3. Demographic characteristics of all homicide victims and firearm homicide victims in Texas, 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|   | All homicide victims | Firearm homicide victims |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Total victims</b>                        | 2,281 (100.0%)       | 1,826 (100.0%)           |
| <b>Sex</b>                                  |                      |                          |
| Male  | 1,791 (78.5%)        | 1,490 (81.6%)            |
| Female                                      | 490 (21.5%)          | 336 (18.4%)              |
| <b>Age</b>                                  |                      |                          |
| <10   | 76 (3.3%)            | 17 (0.9%)                |
| 10-24                                       | 663 (29.1%)          | 612 (33.5%)              |
| 25-44                                       | 982 (43.1%)          | 849 (46.5%)              |
| 45-64                                       | 433 (19.0%)          | 291 (15.9%)              |
| 65+   | 127 (5.6%)           | 57 (3.1%)                |
| <b>Race and ethnicity</b>                   |                      |                          |
| American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic | --                   | --                       |
| Asian, non-Hispanic                         | 28 (1.2%)            | 17 (0.9%)                |
| Black, non-Hispanic                         | 879 (38.5%)          | 754 (41.3%)              |
| White, non-Hispanic                         | 487 (21.4%)          | 337 (18.5%)              |
| More than one race, non-Hispanic            | 10 (0.4%)            | --                       |
| Hispanic                                    | 872 (38.2%)          | 708 (38.8%)              |

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (nine or fewer deaths)



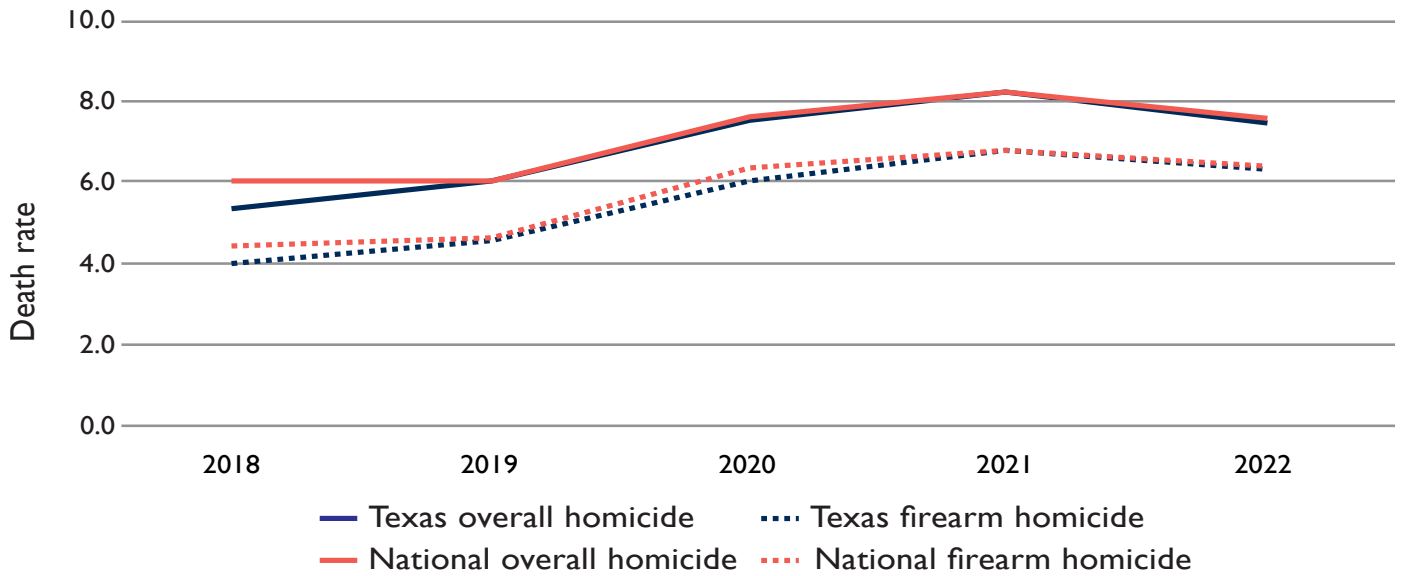
Alexandria "Lexi" Rubio

**In 2022, Kimberly's daughter Lexi was shot at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.**

My 10-year-old daughter, Alexandria "Lexi" Rubio, died in the May 24, 2022, mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Before that day, I had never been on an airplane. Since then, I have crossed the United States and Texas multiple times to advocate for stricter gun laws on the federal and state levels. Lexi was intelligent, athletic, compassionate. She wanted to play college softball, study math, and attend law school at St. Mary's University. She was interested in American politics and social justice. I will never know what contributions Lexi would have personally made to this country, to our world. I only know that she did not die in vain. I know her life has made an impact, as meaningful change followed her tragic death. But those strides are only a start. My mission is to ensure Lexi's legacy will be a safer America for all. I know that she can rest, and that, I've got this next chapter for her.

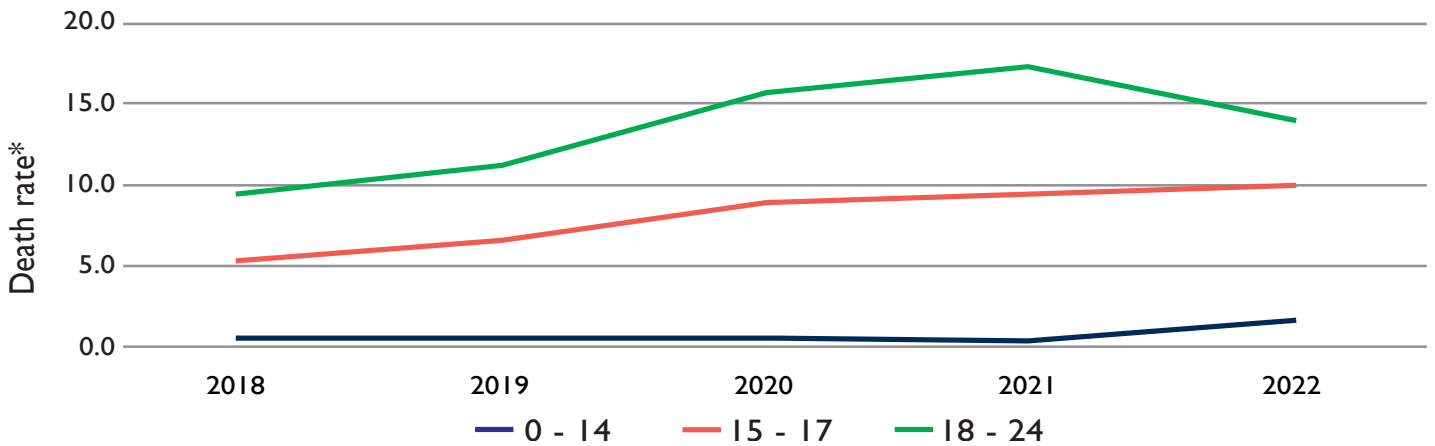
Rates of overall homicide and firearm homicide in Texas are similar to national rates (Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Homicide and firearm homicide rates in Texas and the U.S., 2018 – 2022<sup>1</sup>**

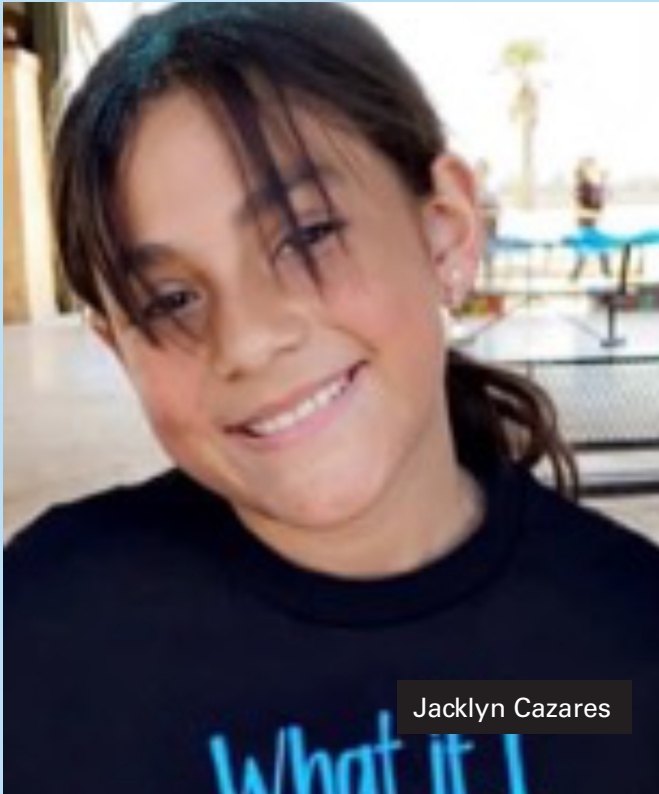


Firearm homicide rates among Texas youth and young adults are highest in the 18 to 24 year old age group (Figure 9). Rates increased from 9.9 per 100,000 in 2018 to 16.7 per 100,000 in 2021 before decreasing to 14.3 per 100,000 in 2022. Rates in the 15 to 17 year old age group have nearly doubled in the last few years, from 5.1 per 100,000 in 2018 to 9.9 per 100,000 in 2022.

**Figure 9. Firearm homicide rates\* among Texas youth and young adults by age, 2018-2022<sup>1</sup>**



\* Rates are not adjusted for age



Jacklyn Cazares

**In 2022, Gloria's daughter Jackie was shot at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.**

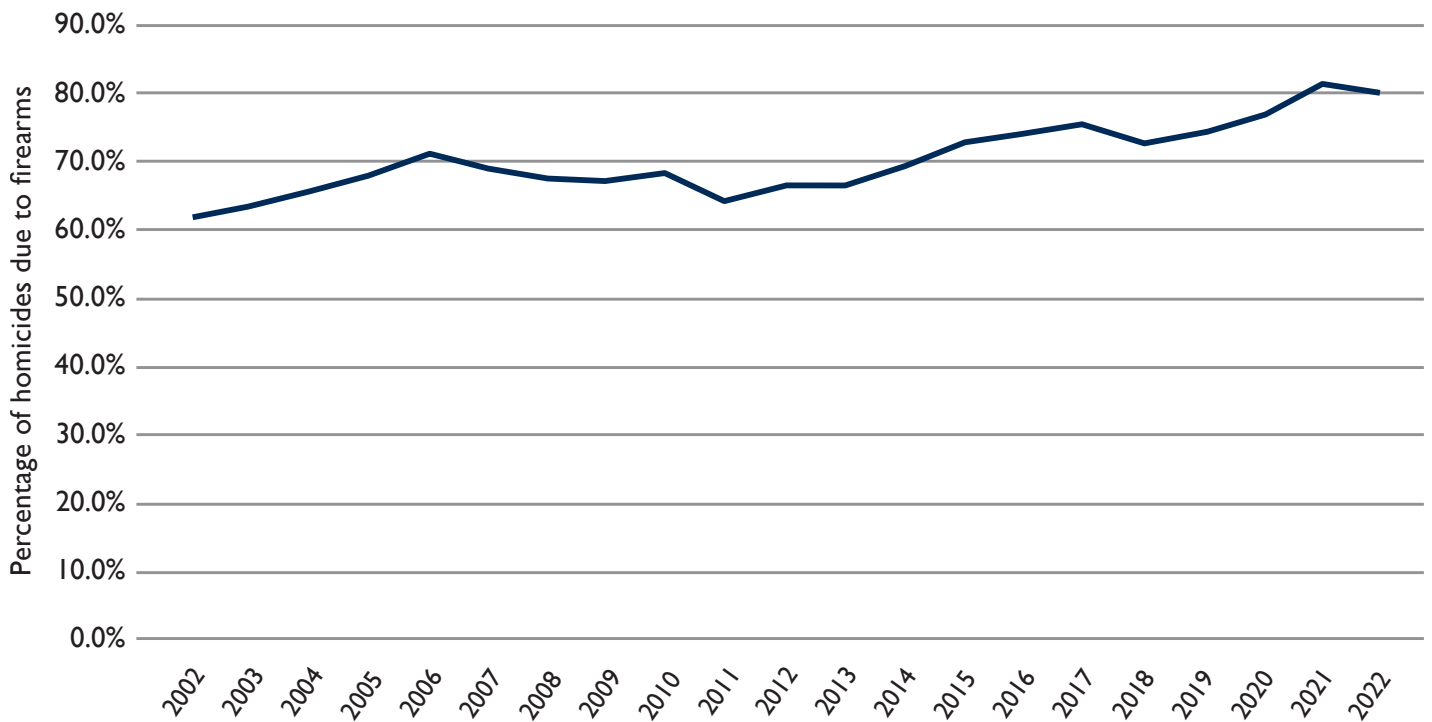
Jackie was funny, beautiful, sassy, a perfectionist, and she always spoke her mind. She wanted to travel the world and become a veterinarian. Jackie, my niece Annabell, 17 of their classmates,

and two of their teachers were murdered on May 24, 2022 when an 18 year old with a legally purchased AR-15 walked into her 4th grade classroom.

I'm going to tell you a little bit of how a parent of a child taken away too soon tries to deal with the tragedy. First thing is the way we can't find our way in life after the death of our child. This truth is my reality right now. My life was completely shattered while the rest of the world moved on. I no longer feel like a complete mother to my two other children. I feel lost and broken. I still can't face the fact that my daughter is no longer here. There are lots of emotions like anxiety, loneliness, fear, hopelessness, the unknown, disconnection and depression. The only thing that helps us get through this is overworking and staying busy. I co-founded Lives Robbed — a nonprofit gun violence prevention organization with two moms who also lost their daughters at Robb Elementary. Jackie's big sister, Jazmin, founded a nonprofit organization in honor of her little sister, Jackie's Loving Hands, which grants scholarships to future veterinarian students.

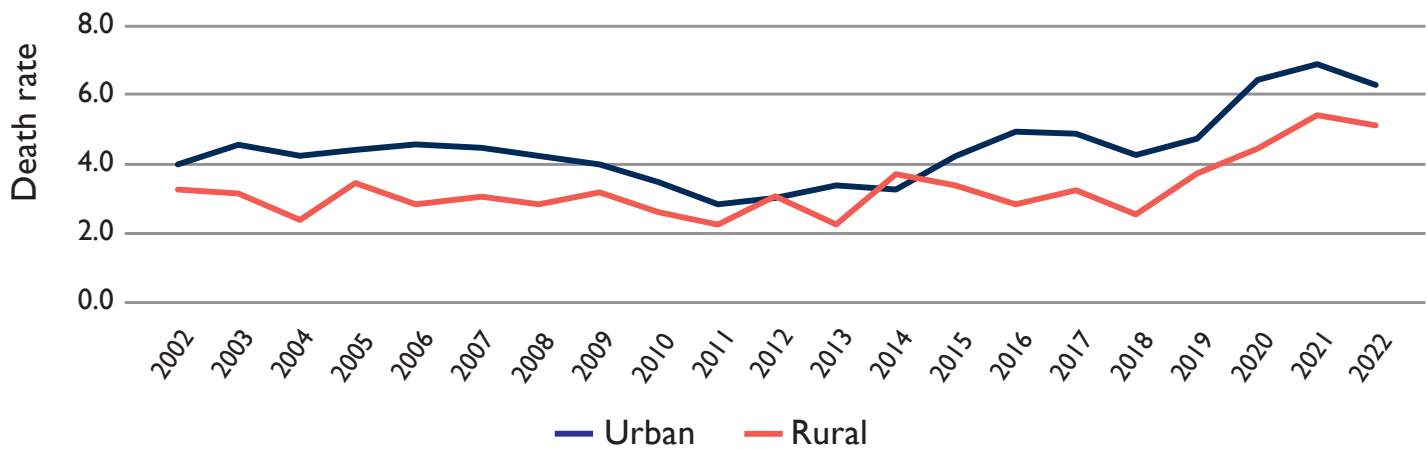
The percentage of homicides due to firearms has increased over the last two decades, from 62.6 percent in 2002 to 80.1 percent in 2022 (Figure 10).

**Figure 10. Percentage of homicides in Texas due to firearms, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



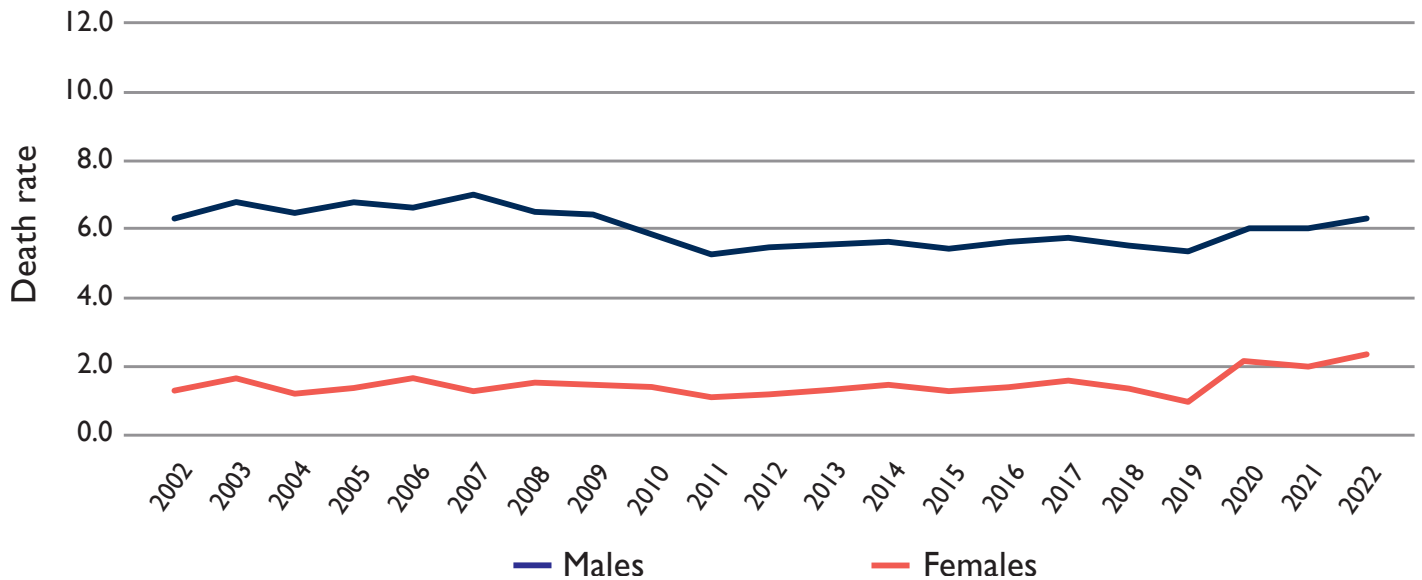
Firearm homicide rates have been increasing in both urban and rural areas of Texas (Figure 11).

**Figure 11. Firearm homicide rates in Texas by geography, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**



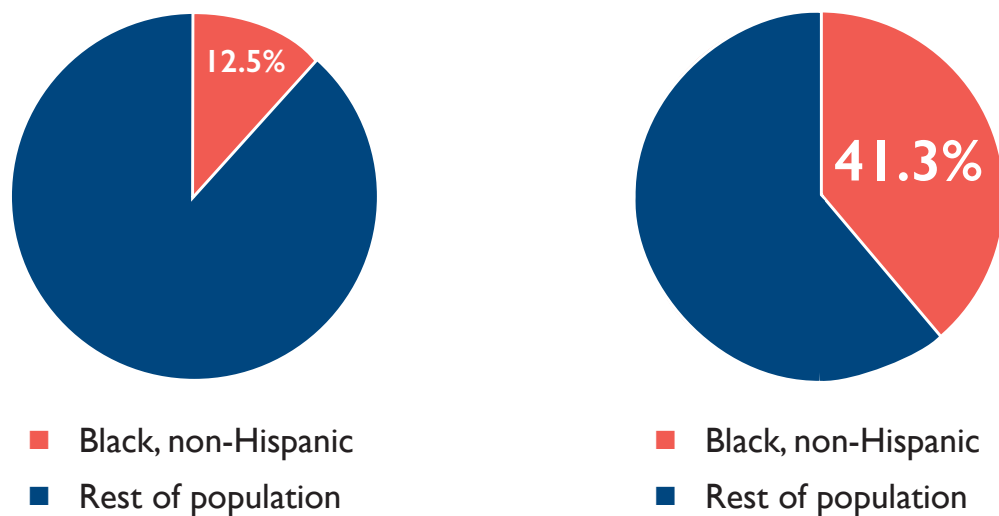
Similar to firearm suicides, males in Texas have significantly higher firearm homicide rates compared to females, and rates have increased drastically in recent years (Figure 12). Firearm homicide rates among male Texans increased from 6.5 per 100,000 in 2018 to 10.9 per 100,000 in 2021 before decreasing to 9.7 in 2022.

**Figure 12. Firearm homicide rates in Texas by sex, 2002 – 2022<sup>1</sup>**



Significant racial disparities exist in Texas regarding firearm homicide. Though only 12.5 percent of the Texas population is Black, non-Hispanic, more than four out of 10 firearm homicide victims in the state were Black, non-Hispanic in 2022 (Figure 13).

**Figure 13. Black percentage of Texas population (left figure); Black percentage of firearm homicide victims in Texas (right figure), 2022<sup>1</sup>**

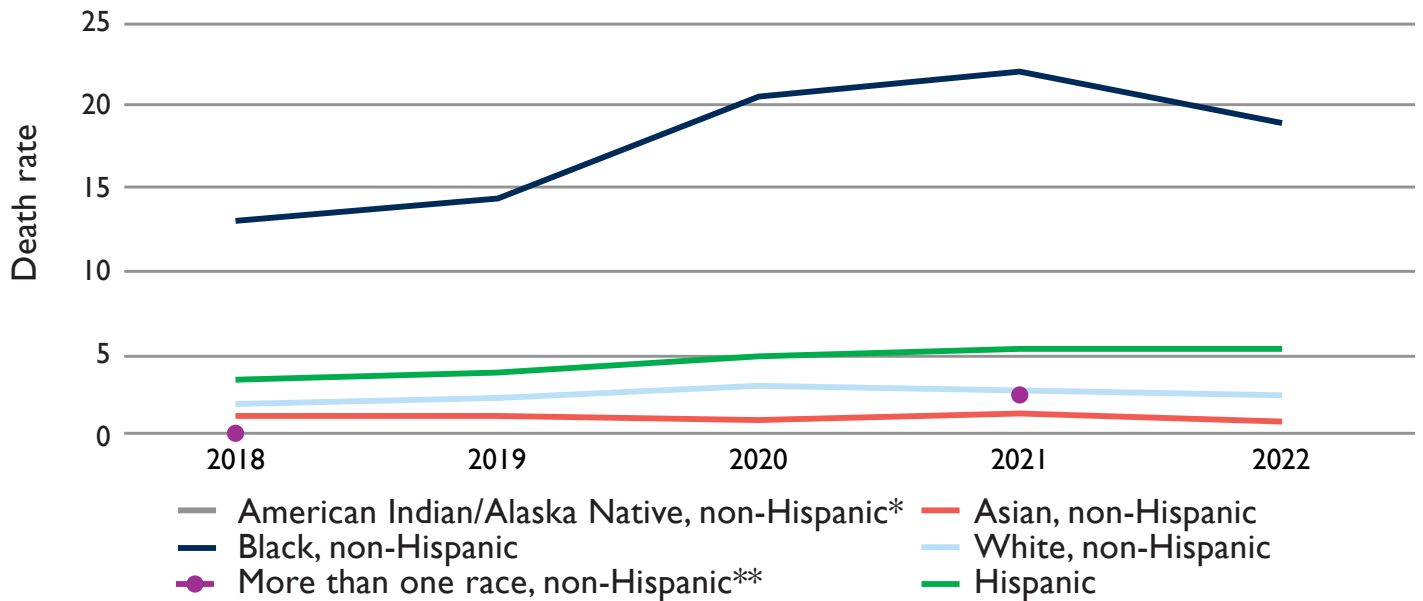


In 2022, Black Texas residents were more than six times as likely to die by firearm homicide compared to white residents. Though firearm homicide rates have remained relatively stable for the white, non-Hispanic and Asian, non-Hispanic populations in the state, rates of firearm homicide have increased drastically among the Black,



non-Hispanic population (Figure 14). Between 2018 and 2021, rates increased from 13.0 to 22.1 per 100,000 in this population, and then decreased to 19.1 per 100,000 in 2022. Firearm homicide rates are also increasing in the Hispanic population in Texas, from 3.5 to 5.5 per 100,000 between 2018 and 2022.

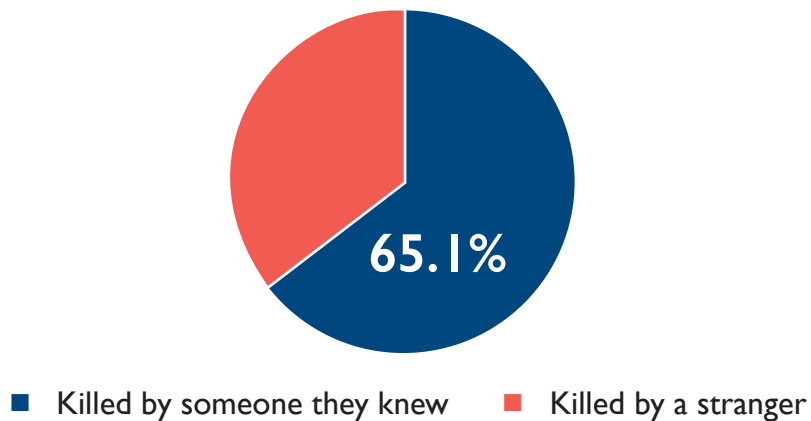
**Figure 14. Firearm homicide rates in Texas by race and ethnicity, 2018 – 2022<sup>1</sup>**



\* The number of firearm homicide deaths among American Indian/Alaska Natives was too small for the years 2018-2022 to calculate reliable death rates  
 \*\* The number of firearm homicide deaths among non-Hispanic victims of more than one race was too small for the years 2019, 2020, and 2022 to calculate reliable death rates

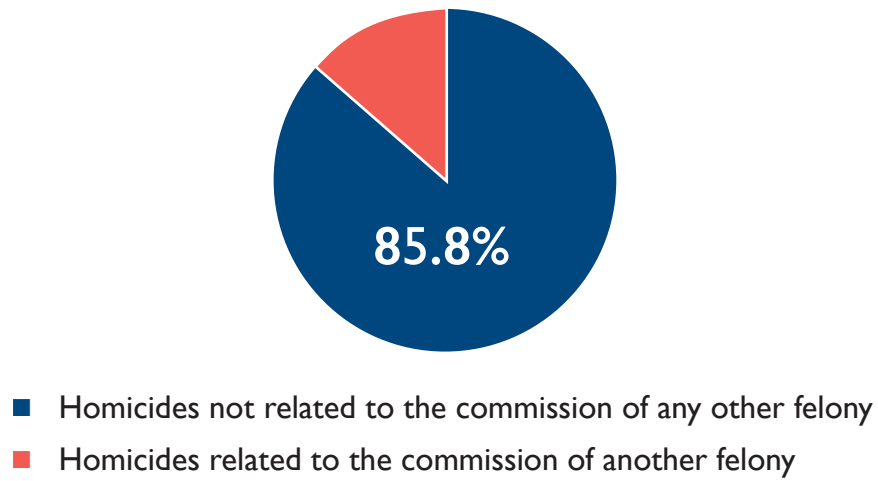
According to 2022 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime data, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 65.1 percent of Texas homicide victims were killed by someone they knew (Figure 15).

**Figure 15. Percentage of homicide victims who knew their offender, Texas, 2022<sup>2</sup>**



For Texas homicides in which the circumstances were known, 85.8 percent were not related to the commission of any other felony (Figure 16).

**Figure 16. Percentage of homicides that were not related to the commission of any other felony, Texas, 2022<sup>2</sup>**





**Austin, Texas City Council Member  
José Velásquez**

**In 2009, Francisco “Pancho” Iruegas, the brother of Austin City Council Member Velásquez, was shot and killed.**

At 1:51 AM on August 20, 2009, a man drove up to my mother’s house, opened fire, and killed my brother. My mother called me minutes later and all I could hear was her screaming, “Mijo they shot Pancho, someone shot Pancho, please get over here!” and his grown friends crying “Get up Pancho!” “Breathe Pancho!”

There was disbelief as the doctor, trying his best to muster some semblance of compassion, informed us, “I’m sorry, we did everything we could.”

There was a fight with emotions and tears and physical pain to deliver his eulogy because people needed to understand the

man that he allowed few to know. He couldn’t be just the memory of those that he kept at a distance. People needed to know about all his beauty and his kind heart.

There was an agony in hearing from a number of his friends at his wake that he was desperately trying to turn his life around. And that he was imploring them to do the same.

Love was a funeral home so packed that they had to open a second room because of the overflow of mourners. Love was a packed church. Love was visitors, some that were once enemies, showing up at your mother’s door at all hours of the day and night to pay their respects. He wants us to survive.

Legacy is working every day to honor the memory of Francisco “Pancho” Iruegas, first with a nonprofit that worked to help kids from where we grew up and now as a councilman to help to put a bigger light and resources on Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs in Austin.

There’s not a day when I don’t think about him, miss him, try to honor his memory, and work to ensure that no family will have to endure what we did.

I love you, Pancho.

## Concealed Carry

Texas is one of the few states that provides information on crimes committed by persons licensed by the state to carry concealed firearms. The Texas Department of Public Safety produces annual reports containing the number of permit holders who were convicted of specific crimes, including murder and other homicides.

Historically, the rationale for lax “shall-issue” concealed carry laws offered by the gun lobby and firearms industry is that “law abiding” citizens will help to stop crimes and aid law enforcement. As Tanya Metaksa, then-executive director of the National Rifle Association’s Institute for Legislative Action, stated at a 1996 press conference in Texas: “People who get permits in states which have fair right-to-carry laws are law-abiding, upstanding community leaders who merely seek to exercise their right to self-defense... These citizens don’t commit violent crimes.”

However, decades of experience shows that permit holders are all too often the perpetrators, not the preventers, of crime — including lethal violence.

Texas Department of Public Safety reports reveal a significant number of Texas permit holders have been convicted of homicide. Since 2008, permit holders have been convicted of at least 120 deaths<sup>g</sup> as detailed below:

- 55 convictions for Murder
- 13 convictions for Capital murder of multiple persons
- 1 conviction for Making a firearm accessible to a child resulting in death
- 7 convictions for Capital murder by terror threat/other felony
- 11 convictions for Manslaughter
- 2 convictions for Criminally negligent homicide
- 2 convictions for Capital murder while remuneration (murder for hire)
- 14 convictions for Criminal homicide
- 2 convictions for Murder under influence of sudden passion

And while these reports do not state the weapon used by the killer, these lethal actions alone fall far, far below the self-proclaimed standard that all permit holders are “upstanding community leaders” that “don’t commit violent crimes” as promised by Metaksa and other proponents of lax concealed carry laws.

The reports also show that permit holders are convicted of a variety of other serious crimes. Just in 2023 alone, there were 16 convictions for aggravated sexual assault of a child, 18 convictions for indecency with a child with sexual contact, 10 convictions for continuous sex abuse of a victim under the age of 14, and 45 convictions for assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

The report also includes the total number of convictions statewide and then presents the number of convictions by permit holders as a percentage of these *total* convictions. This statistic is misleading. In order to fairly evaluate

<sup>g</sup> There were a total of 107 convictions with at least 120 victims killed (accounting for the minimum number of people killed in a capital murder of multiple persons).

a comparison of crimes committed by the entire Texas population to permit holders, it would be necessary to calculate permit holders' rates of conviction based solely on the population of permit holders — not the *total* population. In addition, the Texas Department of Public Safety reports tally only *convictions* of permit holders. This means that both suicides and murder-suicides committed by permit holders are not reported by the agency.

In addition to tallying homicide totals as reported by Texas, the Violence Policy Center's ongoing *Concealed Carry Killers*<sup>h</sup> project also tracks examples of permit holders since 2007 who have killed in non-self-defense situations as reported by news outlets, including murder-suicides. Below are two examples of murder-suicides, a mass shooting at a child's birthday party and the murder of a law enforcement officer, that were not reported by Texas authorities because the killer took his own life — leaving no one to prosecute.

- On July 23, 2011, concealed handgun permit holder Tan Do, 35, opened fire at his son's 11th birthday party being held at the Forum Roller World in Grand Prairie, Texas, killing the boy's mother and four members of her family before taking his own life. The rink was closed for the private party which was attended by approximately 30 family and friends. Do asked his children to leave the area before he began the attack. According to news reports, Do's wife had obtained a protective order against him in December 2010 but had withdrawn it later against a prosecutor's advice "because she wanted to give him another chance." Do was reported to have been a domestic abuser who had threatened his wife with firearms. Walt Hedrick, owner of the roller rink, told reporters, "Kids were having fun and all of a sudden Bang! Bang! Bang!"<sup>i</sup>
- On April 3, 2017, concealed handgun permit holder William Francis Kenny, 64, shot and killed Assistant Chief Deputy Constable Clint Greenwood moments after Greenwood pulled into the parking lot of the courthouse where he worked in Baytown, Texas. Kenny was found dead the next day from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. A website linked to Kenny revealed a long-standing grudge against Harris County, Texas police. This apparently started after a 2012 complaint made to police about Kenny by Kenny's then father-in-law. Clint Greenwood's name was mentioned on the website several times. Ballistics confirmed that the same 9mm Taurus pistol found on Kenny was used to murder Greenwood. The photo on Kenny's concealed carry license was used to match him to surveillance video from Greenwood's murder.<sup>j</sup>

In 2021, Texas enacted a permitless concealed carry law that allows persons who can legally possess firearms to carry without a license.

<sup>h</sup> As of December 2024, *Concealed Carry Killers* documents 2,253 incidents in 40 states and the District of Columbia resulting in 2,512 deaths. In 95 percent of the incidents (2,136) the concealed carry killer committed suicide (1,505), has already been convicted (544), perpetrated a murder-suicide (64), or was killed in the incident (23). Of the 77 cases currently pending, the vast majority (62) of concealed carry killers have been charged with criminal homicide, five were deemed incompetent to stand trial, and 10 incidents are still under investigation. An additional 40 incidents were fatal unintentional shootings involving the gun of the concealed handgun permit holder. Twenty-four of the victims were law enforcement officers. Thirty-seven of the incidents were mass shootings, resulting in the deaths of 183 victims. See <https://concealedcarrykillers.org/>.

<sup>i</sup> *Concealed Carry Killers*, Violence Policy Center, <https://concealedcarrykillers.org/texas/>: "Police Offer Counseling After Roller Rink Rampage," *publicbroadcasting.net*, July 25, 2011; "I hope I'm making the right decision': Wife of Texas gunman withdrew protection order against him months before he shot her and family dead at son's roller rink birthday party," *MailOnline*, July 25, 2011.

<sup>j</sup> *Concealed Carry Killers*, Violence Policy Center, <https://concealedcarrykillers.org/texas/>: "Ballistics prove Houston cop killer used same gun on himself, investigators confirm," *www.chron.com*, April 14, 2017; "Closer look at Asst. Chief Deputy Greenwood's murder suspect," *www.abc13.com*, April 10, 2017; "Deputy constable killed in ambush mourned as 'cop's cop'," *www.houstonchronicle.com*, April 4, 2017.

# Texas Crime Gun Trace Data from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

The majority of firearms recovered in Texas originated in-state (86.4 percent, Table 4).

**Table 4. Source states for firearms with a Texas recovery, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

| Source state                 |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| In-state                     | 42,022 (86.4%) |
| Other states and Puerto Rico | 6,610 (13.6%)  |

Most of the firearms recovered in Texas were handguns — 79.6 percent were pistols and 5.3 percent were revolvers (Table 5).

**Table 5. Types of firearms recovered in Texas, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

| Type of firearm  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Pistols          | 44,968 (79.6%) |
| Rifles           | 4,685 (8.3%)   |
| Revolvers        | 3,013 (5.3%)   |
| Shotguns         | 2,203 (3.9%)   |
| Machine guns     | 1,126 (2.0%)   |
| Receivers/Frames | 204 (0.4%)     |
| Other*           | 267 (0.5%)     |

\* Other includes Derringers, Unknown Types, Silencers, Machinegun Conversion Devices, Any Other Weapons, Combinations, Destructive Devices, a Flare Gun and a Tear Gas Launcher

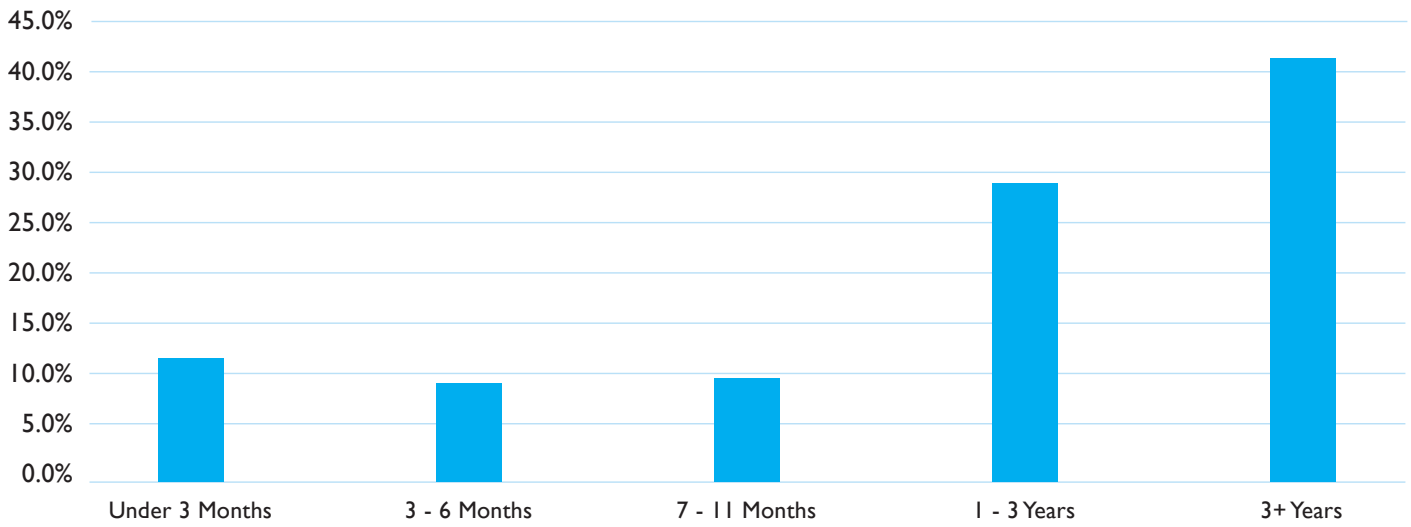
Firearms recovered in Texas were traced for a variety of reasons, including weapon offense (27.1 percent), firearm under investigation (13.7 percent), and possession of weapon (13.6 percent) (Table 6).

**Table 6. Top categories reported on firearm traces with a Texas recovery, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

| Reason for trace            |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Weapon Offense              | 15,327 (27.1%) |
| Firearm Under Investigation | 7,718 (13.7%)  |
| Possession of Weapon        | 7,668 (13.6%)  |
| Found Firearm               | 5,249 (9.3%)   |
| Dangerous Drugs             | 3,595 (6.4%)   |
| Aggravated Assault          | 3,275 (5.8%)   |
| Carrying Prohibited Weapon  | 1,860 (3.3%)   |
| Carrying Concealed Weapon   | 1,555 (2.8%)   |
| Health - Safety             | 1,479 (2.6%)   |
| Homicide                    | 1,336 (2.4%)   |
| Other                       | 7,404 (13.1%)  |

More than 40 percent of the firearms traced were first recovered by law enforcement three or more years after the weapon was originally purchased (Figure 17).

**Figure 17. Time-to-crime' percentages for firearms with a Texas recovery, 2022<sup>3</sup>**



Where information about the age of possessors was available, over one-third of possessors were age 24 or younger (Table 7).

**Table 7. Age of possessors of firearms with a Texas recovery, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

| Age of possessor |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 17 and under     | 1,618 (5.2%)   |
| 18-24            | 9,556 (30.7%)  |
| 25-30            | 6,152 (19.7%)  |
| 31-50            | 11,232 (36.0%) |
| 51+              | 2,612 (8.4%)   |

Nearly one-quarter of firearms recovered in the state were recovered in Houston (Table 8).

**Table 8. Top recovery cities for firearms with a Texas recovery, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

| Recovery city        |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Houston              | 13,331 (23.7%) |
| San Antonio          | 6,265 (11.1%)  |
| Dallas               | 5,890 (10.4%)  |
| Fort Worth           | 2,695 (4.8%)   |
| Austin               | 1,707 (3.0%)   |
| Arlington            | 1,343 (2.4%)   |
| Corpus Christi       | 1,184 (2.1%)   |
| Mesquite             | 1,002 (1.8%)   |
| Amarillo             | 864 (1.5%)     |
| Lubbock              | 850 (1.5%)     |
| Other municipalities | 21,306 (37.8%) |

## Conclusion

As described by the data in this report, the high rate of gun deaths in Texas warrants a public health response to this crisis. Rates of both firearm suicide and homicide are increasing in the state, and firearms are becoming more common in homicide deaths in Texas.

- While firearm suicide rates have increased statewide, rates have increased more drastically in rural areas of the state compared to urban areas, jumping from 9.4 per 100,00 in 2016 to 13.7 per 100,000 in 2022.
- Firearm homicide rates more than doubled between 2011 and 2021, from 3.1 per 100,000 to 6.6 per 100,000.
- Between 2018 and 2021 firearm homicide rates increased from 13.0 to 22.1 per 100,000 in the Black population in Texas, and then decreased to 19.1 per 100,000 in 2022.
- Firearm homicide rates have been increasing in the Hispanic population in Texas, from 3.5 to 5.5 per 100,000 between 2018 and 2022.
- The majority of homicide victims in Texas know their killer (65.1 percent).
- The majority of firearms recovered in Texas originated in Texas (86.4 percent) and handguns were the most common type of firearm recovered in the state and traced (79.6 percent were pistols and 5.3 percent were revolvers).

During the 89th Legislative Session, Texas Gun Sense is mobilizing partners, young people, healthcare professionals, gun owners and more to advance change. Texas Gun Sense advocates to prevent gun violence and other gun tragedies in Texas through education, partnerships, and policy change. Policy priorities include raising the age to 21 to purchase semi-automatic rifles, safe gun storage legislation, requiring background checks on all gun sales, an extreme risk protection order, and investments in prevention and intervention.

Comprehensive policy reform in Texas is an incremental process, and Texas Gun Sense has successfully led efforts to expand awareness of secure gun storage and build support for common sense gun laws. The *Keep 'Em Safe, Texas* website is a critical resource for Texans, and schools across the state now provide parents and guardians with information on the importance of securing firearms to save lives.

Texas Gun Sense brings partners together through the Texas Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and supports the Texas Invest In Us TX Coalition, amplifying the voices of advocates and experts calling for safe gun policies and investments in the communities most impacted by gun violence. In the 89th Legislative Session, Texas Gun Sense will mobilize partners, young people, healthcare professionals, gun owners and more to advance change.

The compelling data in this report highlights the urgency to continue bringing partners and stakeholders together to advocate for effective gun safety policies that protect Texas communities from the crisis of gun violence.



## References

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# Appendix

**Figure 1. Rate of firearm suicide and firearm homicide in Texas, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|      | Firearm homicide | Firearm suicide |
|------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2002 | 3.9              | 6.5             |
| 2003 | 4.3              | 6.5             |
| 2004 | 4.0              | 6.2             |
| 2005 | 4.3              | 6.4             |
| 2006 | 4.3              | 5.9             |
| 2007 | 4.2              | 6.2             |
| 2008 | 4.0              | 6.4             |
| 2009 | 4.0              | 6.6             |
| 2010 | 3.6              | 7.0             |
| 2011 | 3.1              | 6.8             |
| 2012 | 3.4              | 6.8             |
| 2013 | 3.4              | 6.8             |
| 2014 | 3.6              | 6.7             |
| 2015 | 4.0              | 7.3             |
| 2016 | 4.4              | 7.3             |
| 2017 | 4.4              | 7.6             |
| 2018 | 4.0              | 7.9             |
| 2019 | 4.5              | 7.7             |
| 2020 | 5.9              | 7.8             |
| 2021 | 6.6              | 8.5             |
| 2022 | 6.1              | 8.7             |

**Figure 2. Suicide and firearm suicide rates in Texas and the U.S., 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|      | Texas overall suicide | Texas firearm suicide | National overall suicide | National firearm suicide |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018 | 13.7                  | 7.9                   | 14.2                     | 7.0                      |
| 2019 | 13.4                  | 7.7                   | 13.9                     | 6.8                      |
| 2020 | 13.4                  | 7.8                   | 13.4                     | 6.9                      |
| 2021 | 14.1                  | 8.5                   | 14.0                     | 7.5                      |
| 2022 | 14.4                  | 8.7                   | 14.2                     | 7.6                      |

**Figure 3. Firearm suicide rates\* among Texas youth and young adults by age group, 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | Age group |       |       |
|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
|             | 0-14      | 15-17 | 18-24 |
| <b>2018</b> | 0.4       | 4.9   | 8.4   |
| <b>2019</b> | 0.3       | 5.5   | 9.4   |
| <b>2020</b> | 0.3       | 5.7   | 10.3  |
| <b>2021</b> | 0.5       | 5.0   | 12.3  |
| <b>2022</b> | 0.3       | 5.0   | 11.7  |

\* Rates are not adjusted for age

**Figure 4. Percentage of suicides in Texas due to firearms, 2002 - 2022<sup>1</sup>**

| Percentage of suicides due to firearms |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>2002</b>                            | 56.9% |
| <b>2003</b>                            | 57.1% |
| <b>2004</b>                            | 57.3% |
| <b>2005</b>                            | 57.1% |
| <b>2006</b>                            | 55.9% |
| <b>2007</b>                            | 58.0% |
| <b>2008</b>                            | 59.0% |
| <b>2009</b>                            | 56.4% |
| <b>2010</b>                            | 58.9% |
| <b>2011</b>                            | 58.1% |
| <b>2012</b>                            | 57.4% |
| <b>2013</b>                            | 58.2% |
| <b>2014</b>                            | 55.0% |
| <b>2015</b>                            | 58.6% |
| <b>2016</b>                            | 57.8% |
| <b>2017</b>                            | 57.1% |
| <b>2018</b>                            | 57.6% |
| <b>2019</b>                            | 57.5% |
| <b>2020</b>                            | 58.3% |
| <b>2021</b>                            | 60.3% |
| <b>2022</b>                            | 60.5% |

**Figure 5. Firearm suicide rates in Texas by geography, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | <b>Urban</b> | <b>Rural</b> |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>2002</b> | 6.2          | 8.0          |
| <b>2003</b> | 6.1          | 9.3          |
| <b>2004</b> | 5.7          | 9.1          |
| <b>2005</b> | 6.0          | 8.3          |
| <b>2006</b> | 5.6          | 7.8          |
| <b>2007</b> | 5.9          | 8.1          |
| <b>2008</b> | 6.2          | 7.9          |
| <b>2009</b> | 6.2          | 9.0          |
| <b>2010</b> | 6.4          | 11.3         |
| <b>2011</b> | 6.4          | 9.0          |
| <b>2012</b> | 6.6          | 8.6          |
| <b>2013</b> | 6.6          | 8.8          |
| <b>2014</b> | 6.4          | 9.3          |
| <b>2015</b> | 6.9          | 10.9         |
| <b>2016</b> | 7.0          | 9.4          |
| <b>2017</b> | 7.3          | 10.4         |
| <b>2018</b> | 7.4          | 11.1         |
| <b>2019</b> | 7.3          | 10.8         |
| <b>2020</b> | 7.4          | 11.3         |
| <b>2021</b> | 8.1          | 11.0         |
| <b>2022</b> | 8.1          | 13.7         |

**Figure 6. Firearm suicide rates in Texas by sex, 2002-2022<sup>1</sup>**

|      | Male | Female |
|------|------|--------|
| 2002 | 11.9 | 1.8    |
| 2003 | 11.7 | 1.8    |
| 2004 | 11.1 | 2.0    |
| 2005 | 11.6 | 1.8    |
| 2006 | 10.5 | 1.8    |
| 2007 | 11.2 | 1.7    |
| 2008 | 11.6 | 1.8    |
| 2009 | 11.9 | 1.8    |
| 2010 | 12.8 | 1.7    |
| 2011 | 11.9 | 2.1    |
| 2012 | 12.3 | 1.9    |
| 2013 | 12.1 | 2.1    |
| 2014 | 11.9 | 2.1    |
| 2015 | 12.7 | 2.4    |
| 2016 | 12.6 | 2.4    |
| 2017 | 13.4 | 2.2    |
| 2018 | 13.9 | 2.3    |
| 2019 | 13.3 | 2.4    |
| 2020 | 13.6 | 2.3    |
| 2021 | 14.9 | 2.3    |
| 2022 | 15.3 | 2.4    |

**Figure 7. Firearm suicide rates in Texas by race and ethnicity, 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|      | American Indian/<br>Alaska Native,<br>non-Hispanic* | Asian,<br>non-Hispanic | Black,<br>non-Hispanic | White,<br>non-Hispanic | More than<br>one race,<br>non-Hispanic** | Hispanic |
|------|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|----------|
| 2018 | 10.9  | 3.5                    | 4.1                    | 12.7                   | **                                       | 3.3      |
| 2019 | *   | 2.8                    | 4.1                    | 12.5                   | **                                       | 3.4      |
| 2020 | *   | 3.1                    | 4.8                    | 12.4                   | **                                       | 3.8      |
| 2021 | *   | 2.8                    | 5.6                    | 13.3                   | 2.5                                      | 4.4      |
| 2022 | *   | 2.0                    | 6.0                    | 14.1                   | 2.5                                      | 4.0      |

\* The number of firearm suicide deaths among American Indian/Alaska Natives non-Hispanic victims was too small for the years 2019-2022 to calculate reliable death rates

\*\* The number of firearm suicide deaths among non-Hispanic victims of more than one race was too small for the years 2018-2020 to calculate reliable death rates

**Figure 8. Homicide and firearm homicide rates in Texas and the U.S., 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | Texas overall homicide | Texas firearm homicide | National overall homicide | National firearm homicide |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>2018</b> | 5.5                    | 4.0                    | 5.9                       | 4.4                       |
| <b>2019</b> | 5.9                    | 4.5                    | 6.0                       | 4.6                       |
| <b>2020</b> | 7.6                    | 5.9                    | 7.7                       | 6.1                       |
| <b>2021</b> | 8.1                    | 6.6                    | 8.1                       | 6.6                       |
| <b>2022</b> | 7.6                    | 6.1                    | 7.7                       | 6.2                       |

**Figure 9. Firearm homicide rates\* among Texas youth and young adults by age, 2018-2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | Age group |       |       |
|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
|             | 0-14      | 15-17 | 18-24 |
| <b>2018</b> | 0.4       | 5.1   | 9.9   |
| <b>2019</b> | 0.4       | 6.4   | 11.1  |
| <b>2020</b> | 0.5       | 8.9   | 15.4  |
| <b>2021</b> | 0.4       | 9.4   | 16.7  |
| <b>2022</b> | 1.1       | 9.9   | 14.3  |

\* Rates are not adjusted for age

**Figure 10. Percentage of homicides in Texas due to firearms, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | Percentage of homicides due to firearms |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2002</b> | 62.6%                                   |
| <b>2003</b> | 63.9%                                   |
| <b>2004</b> | 65.2%                                   |
| <b>2005</b> | 67.2%                                   |
| <b>2006</b> | 70.4%                                   |
| <b>2007</b> | 68.8%                                   |
| <b>2008</b> | 67.7%                                   |
| <b>2009</b> | 66.8%                                   |
| <b>2010</b> | 67.0%                                   |
| <b>2011</b> | 64.1%                                   |
| <b>2012</b> | 67.5%                                   |
| <b>2013</b> | 67.4%                                   |
| <b>2014</b> | 69.5%                                   |
| <b>2015</b> | 72.2%                                   |
| <b>2016</b> | 73.2%                                   |
| <b>2017</b> | 75.9%                                   |
| <b>2018</b> | 73.5%                                   |
| <b>2019</b> | 76.7%                                   |
| <b>2020</b> | 78.4%                                   |
| <b>2021</b> | 81.2%                                   |
| <b>2022</b> | 80.1%                                   |

**Figure 11. Firearm homicide rates in Texas by geography, 2002-2022<sup>1</sup>**

|             | <b>Urban</b> | <b>Rural</b> |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>2002</b> | 4.0          | 3.2          |
| <b>2003</b> | 4.4          | 3.2          |
| <b>2004</b> | 4.2          | 2.6          |
| <b>2005</b> | 4.4          | 3.5          |
| <b>2006</b> | 4.5          | 2.9          |
| <b>2007</b> | 4.4          | 3.1          |
| <b>2008</b> | 4.2          | 3.0          |
| <b>2009</b> | 4.0          | 3.4          |
| <b>2010</b> | 3.7          | 2.7          |
| <b>2011</b> | 3.2          | 2.4          |
| <b>2012</b> | 3.4          | 3.4          |
| <b>2013</b> | 3.5          | 2.4          |
| <b>2014</b> | 3.5          | 3.8          |
| <b>2015</b> | 4.1          | 3.6          |
| <b>2016</b> | 4.5          | 3.1          |
| <b>2017</b> | 4.5          | 3.4          |
| <b>2018</b> | 4.1          | 3.0          |
| <b>2019</b> | 4.6          | 3.7          |
| <b>2020</b> | 6.1          | 4.2          |
| <b>2021</b> | 6.7          | 5.6          |
| <b>2022</b> | 6.1          | 5.3          |

**Figure 12. Firearm homicide rates in Texas by sex, 2002 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|      | Male | Female |
|------|------|--------|
| 2002 | 6.3  | 1.5    |
| 2003 | 6.8  | 1.7    |
| 2004 | 6.6  | 1.4    |
| 2005 | 7.0  | 1.5    |
| 2006 | 6.9  | 1.6    |
| 2007 | 7.1  | 1.3    |
| 2008 | 6.5  | 1.5    |
| 2009 | 6.5  | 1.5    |
| 2010 | 5.7  | 1.5    |
| 2011 | 5.1  | 1.1    |
| 2012 | 5.6  | 1.2    |
| 2013 | 5.6  | 1.2    |
| 2014 | 5.7  | 1.4    |
| 2015 | 6.7  | 1.4    |
| 2016 | 7.1  | 1.6    |
| 2017 | 7.0  | 1.7    |
| 2018 | 6.5  | 1.5    |
| 2019 | 7.6  | 1.4    |
| 2020 | 9.6  | 2.1    |
| 2021 | 10.9 | 2.1    |
| 2022 | 9.7  | 2.3    |

**Figure 14. Firearm homicide rates in Texas by race and ethnicity, 2018 — 2022<sup>1</sup>**

|      | American Indian/<br>Alaska Native,<br>non-Hispanic* | Asian,<br>non-Hispanic | Black,<br>non-Hispanic | White,<br>non-Hispanic | More than<br>one race,<br>non-Hispanic** | Hispanic |
|------|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|----------|
| 2018 | *   | 1.2                    | 13.0                   | 2.0                    | 0.0                                      | 3.5      |
| 2019 | *   | 1.2                    | 14.4                   | 2.4                    | *  | 3.9      |
| 2020 | *   | 1.2                    | 20.0                   | 3.2                    | *  | 4.7      |
| 2021 | *   | 1.7                    | 22.1                   | 3.2                    | 3.0                                      | 5.4      |
| 2022 | *   | 1.0                    | 19.1                   | 2.9                    | *  | 5.5      |

\* The number of firearm homicide deaths among American Indian/Alaska Natives was too small for the years 2018-2022 to calculate reliable death rates

\*\* The number of firearm homicide deaths among non-Hispanic victims of more than one race was too small for the years 2019, 2022, and 2022 to calculate reliable death rates



**Figure 17. 'Time-to-crime' percentages for firearms with a Texas recovery, 2022<sup>3</sup>**

| <b>'Time-to-crime'</b> |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Under 3 months         | 5,451 (11.3%)  |
| 3 - 6 months           | 4,451 (9.2%)   |
| 7 - 11 months          | 4,720 (9.8%)   |
| 1-3 years              | 14,028 (29.0%) |
| 3+ years               | 19,682 (40.7%) |



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