



2021

**VIRTUAL
PUBLIC HEALTH LAW
CONFERENCE**

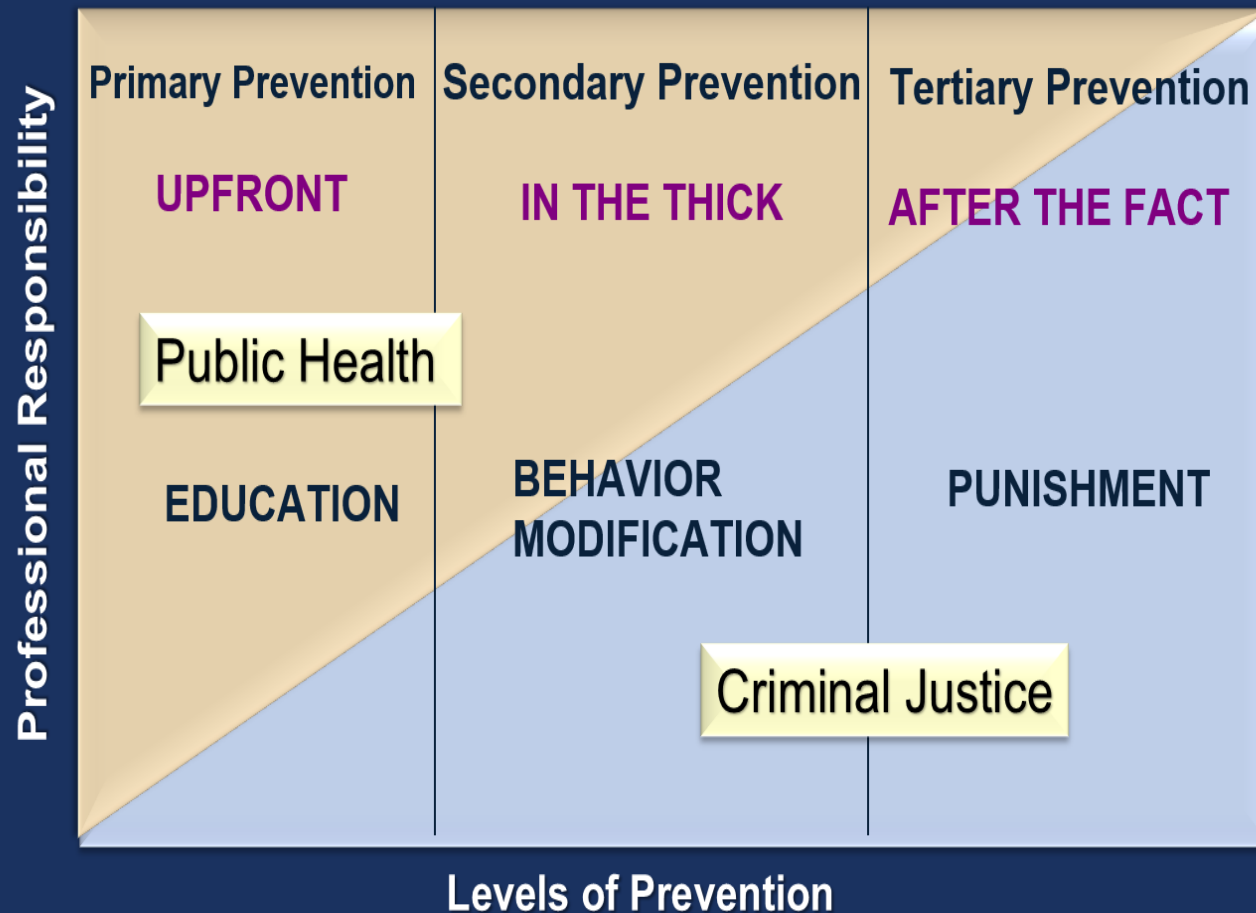
**Building and Supporting
Healthy Communities
for All**

September 21-23



Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD
Dean, College of Medicine and Professor, Internal Medicine
Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine and Science

VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM



- **Magnitude of the problem**
- **Characteristics of violence**
- **Contact health professionals have with victims and perpetrators**
- **Application of public health strategies to understanding and preventing it**

MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS VS. FIREARM DEATHS

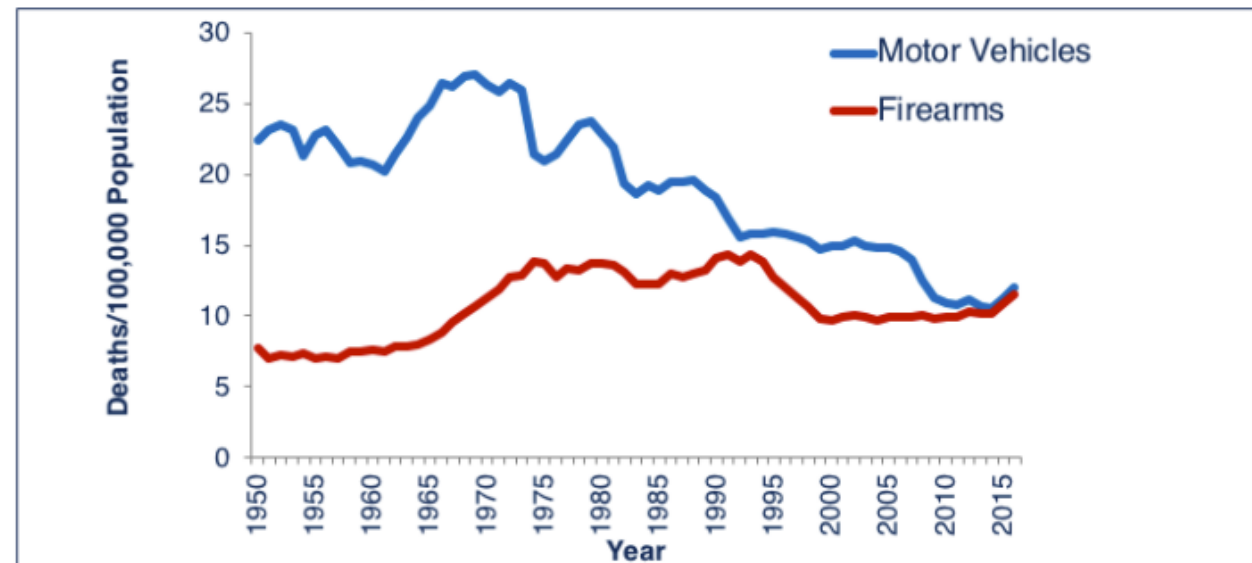
On violence:

“If it’s not a health problem,
then why are all those people
dying from it?”

- Dr. David Satcher, 1993



Death Rates from Motor Vehicle Traffic Events and
Firearm Violence, 1950-2016



2015 HEADLINE CAPTURES THE PREDICAMENT

\$1.25 · NYDailyNews.com

SPORTS FINAL

Partly sunny, 50/34. Friday, December 18, 2015

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

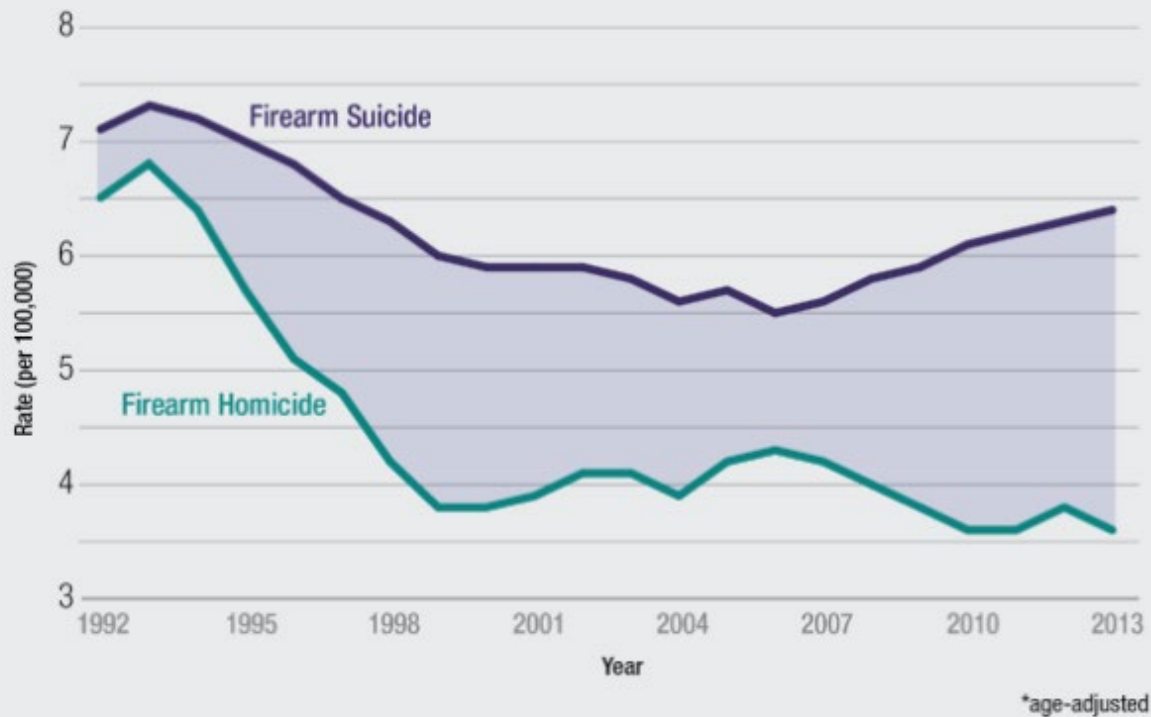
33,804 people die in **car accidents** and
Congress approves more than \$830M
for safety research. 33,636 die by guns
and these frauds sign off on a paltry \$5M.

CDU



MORE SUICIDES THAN HOMICIDES – EACH YEAR

Gun Deaths, 1992-2013



Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence

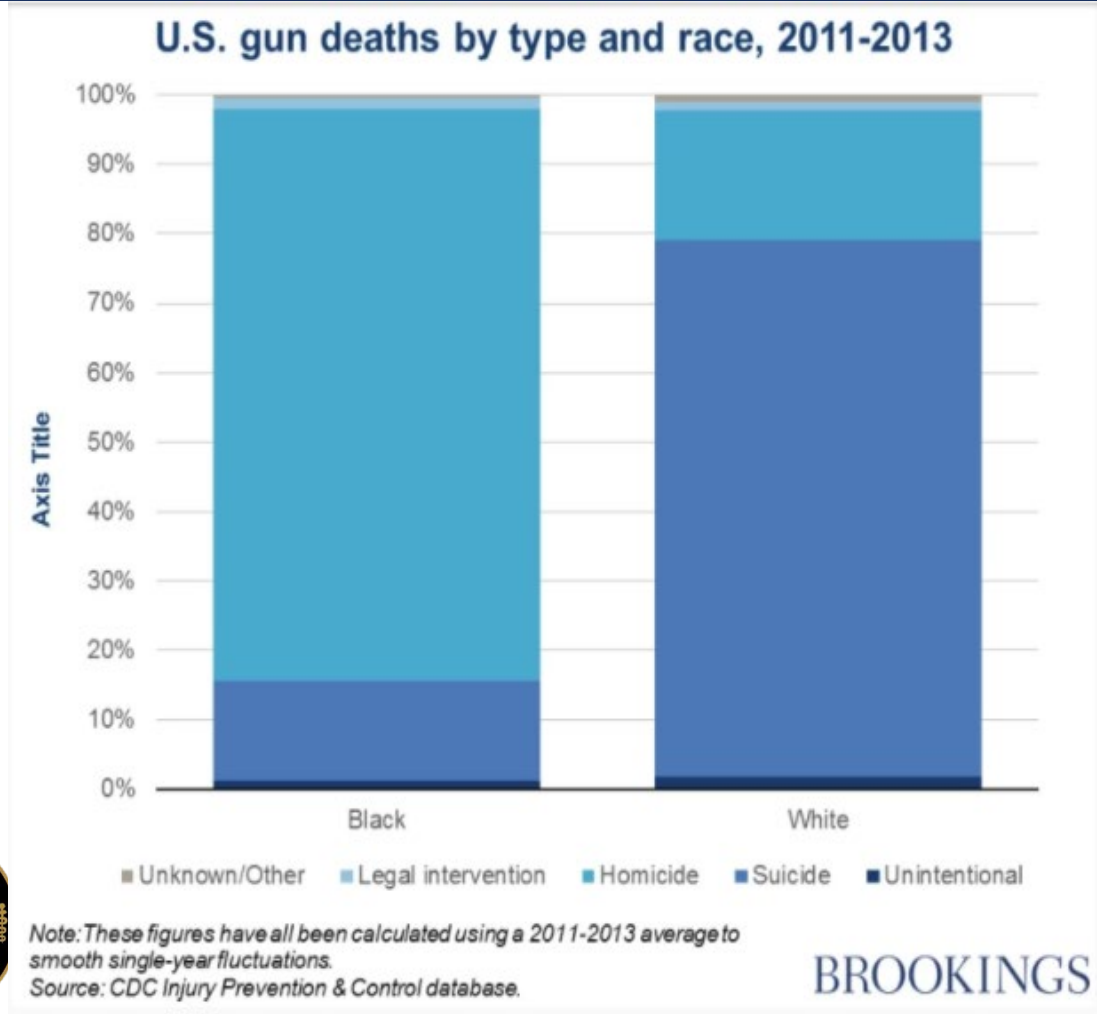
Of the total **33,594** who died in 2014 there were...



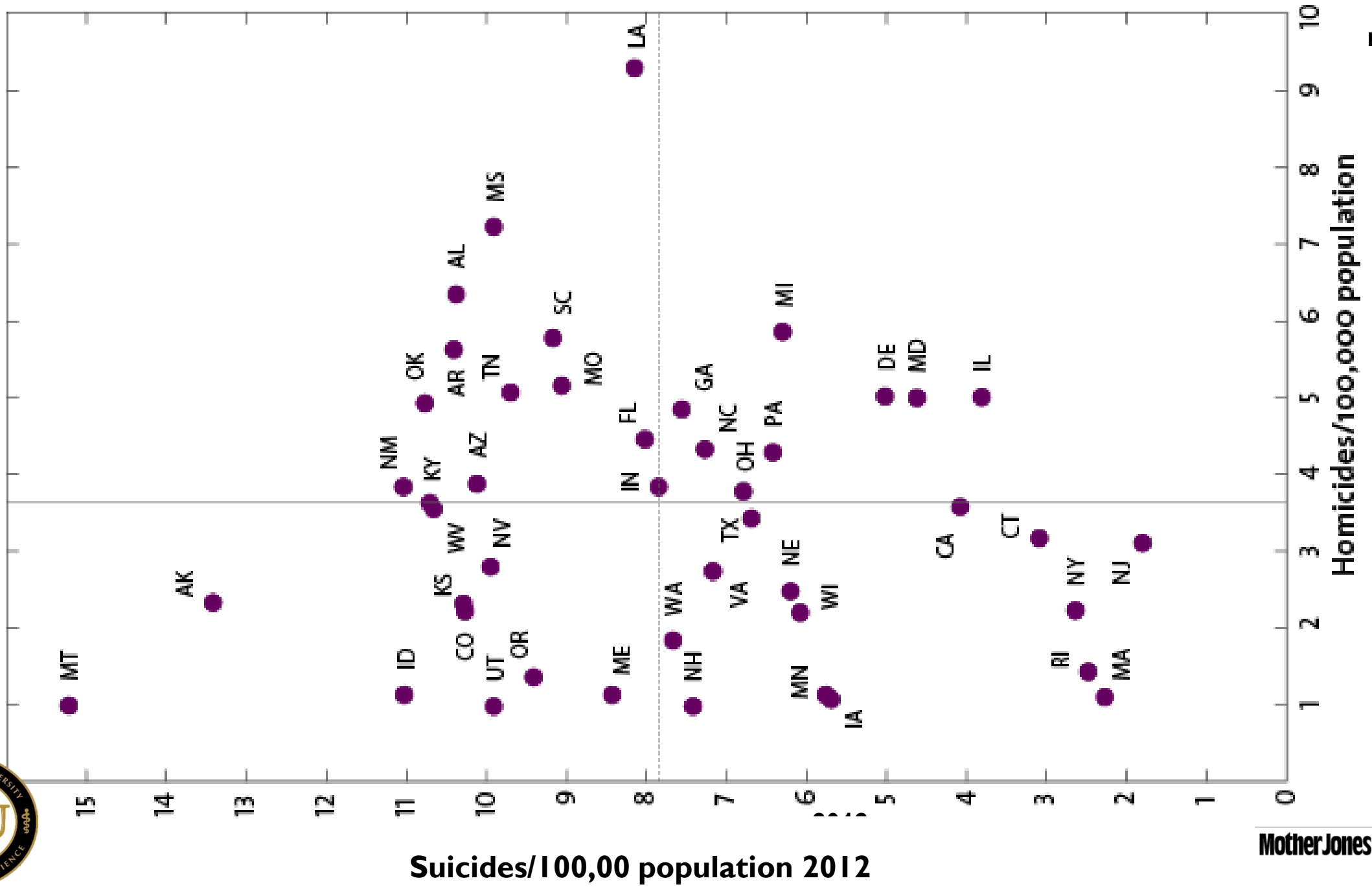
*Other includes accidental deaths and war casualties

Source: CDC/Mother Jones. All figures 2014

HOMICIDE AND SUICIDE BY RACE 2011-2013



- The vast majority (**77%**) of **white** gun **deaths** are **suicides**;
 - less than one in five (19%) is a homicide.
- It is opposite in the **black** population, where only 14% of gun **deaths** are suicides but **82%** are **homicides**



GUN OWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES

Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home

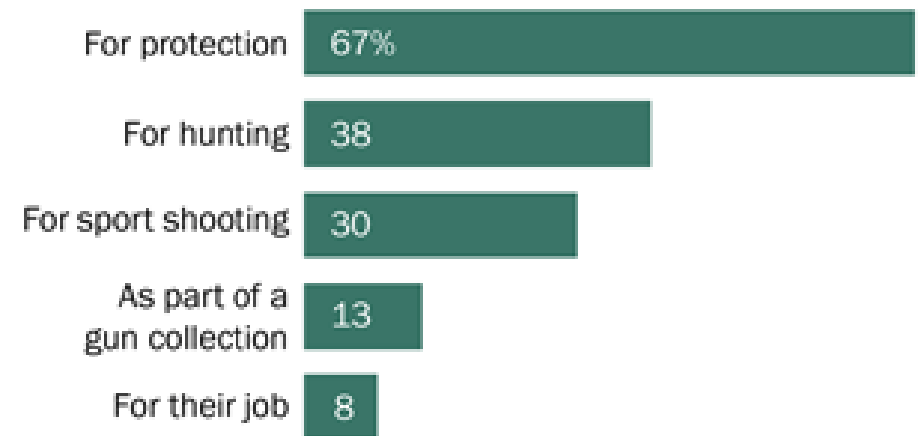
Arthur L. Kellermann, et al. N Engl J Med 1993; 329:1084-1091
October 7, 1993

“We found that keeping a gun in the home was strongly and independently associated with an increased risk of homicide (adjusted odds ratio, 2.7; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.6 to 4.4). Virtually all of this risk involved homicide by a family member or intimate acquaintance.”



Most gun owners cite protection as a major reason for owning a gun

% of gun owners saying each is a major reason why they own a gun



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-27 and April 4-18, 2017.

"America's Complex Relationship With Guns"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

FEDERAL ASSAULT BAN (1994- 2004)



1871



Dismayed by the lack of marksmanship shown by their troops, Union veterans formed the **National Rifle Association** in 1871 after being granted a charter in NY.



January
1989



The Cleveland Elementary shooting in Stockton, CA. 34 people shot, 5 children killed.



October
1991



Luby's Mass Shooting at Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen, Texas that left 23 people dead and 27 wounded



July
1993



101 California Street shooting in San Francisco, CA killed 8 people and wounded 6

September
1994



Federal Assault Ban signed by President Clinton. Prohibited the manufacture for civilian use of certain semi-automatic firearms it defined as assault weapons

Involved semi automatic rifles and handguns

DICKEY AMENDMENT (1996)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING

To carry out titles II, III, VII, XI, XV, XVII, and XIX of the Public Health Service Act, sections 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203, 301, and 501 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, and sections 20, 21 and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; including insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries; and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, \$2,262,698,000, of which \$30,553,000 shall remain available until expended for equipment and construction and renovation of facilities, and of which \$32,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 1998 for mine safety and health activities, and in addition, such sums as may be derived from authorized user fees, which shall be credited to this account: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, up to \$48,400,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act, to carry out the National Center for Health Statistics surveys: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control: *Provided further*, That the Director may redirect the total amount made available under authority of Public Law 101-502, section 3, dated November 3, 1990, to activities the Director may so designate: *Provided further*, That the Congress is to be notified promptly of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That the functions described in clause (1) of the first proviso under the subheading “mines and minerals” under the heading “Bureau of Mines” in the text of title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, as enacted by section 101 (c) of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134), are hereby transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Health

A WELL REGULATED MILITIA BEING
NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A
FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE
PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS
SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

-- THE 2ND AMENDMENT



“...That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.”



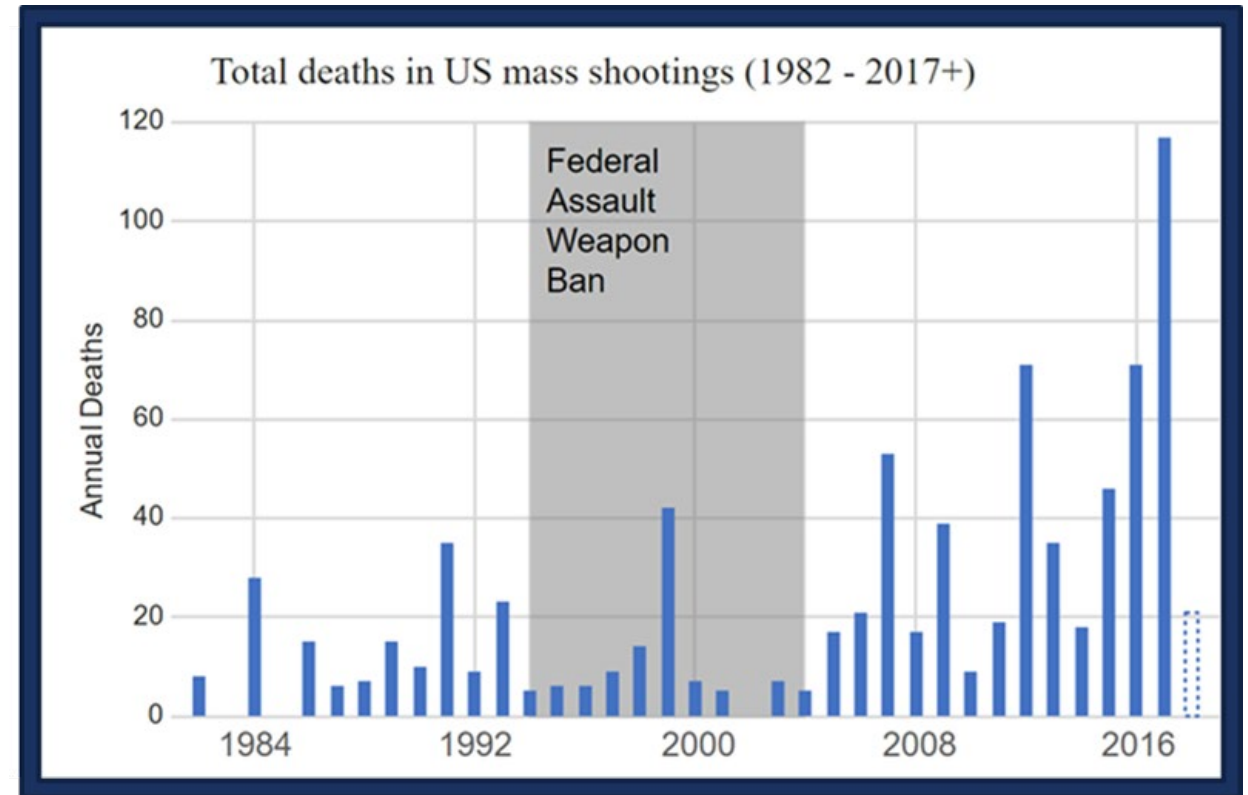
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ASSAULT BAN

“This bill won’t stop every mass shooting, but it will begin removing these **weapons of war** from our streets. The first Assault Weapons Ban was just starting to show an effect when the NRA stymied its reauthorization in 2004.”

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), 2017

“There are just more and more assault rifles out there, and it is becoming a bigger **threat** to law enforcement each day. We are **literally outgunned.**”

Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty, 2011

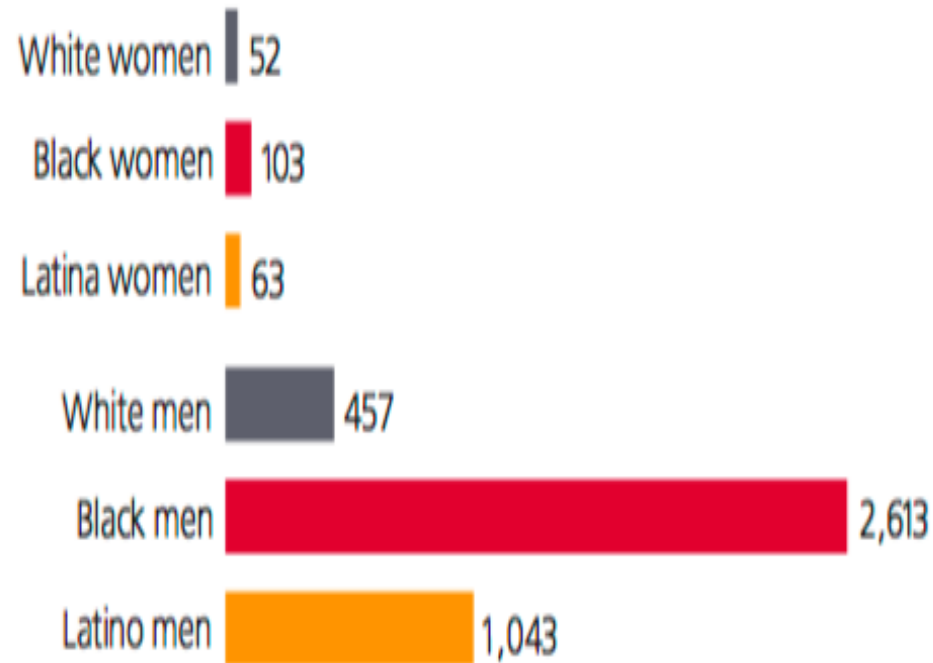


By TimSauder - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Assault_Weapons_Ban

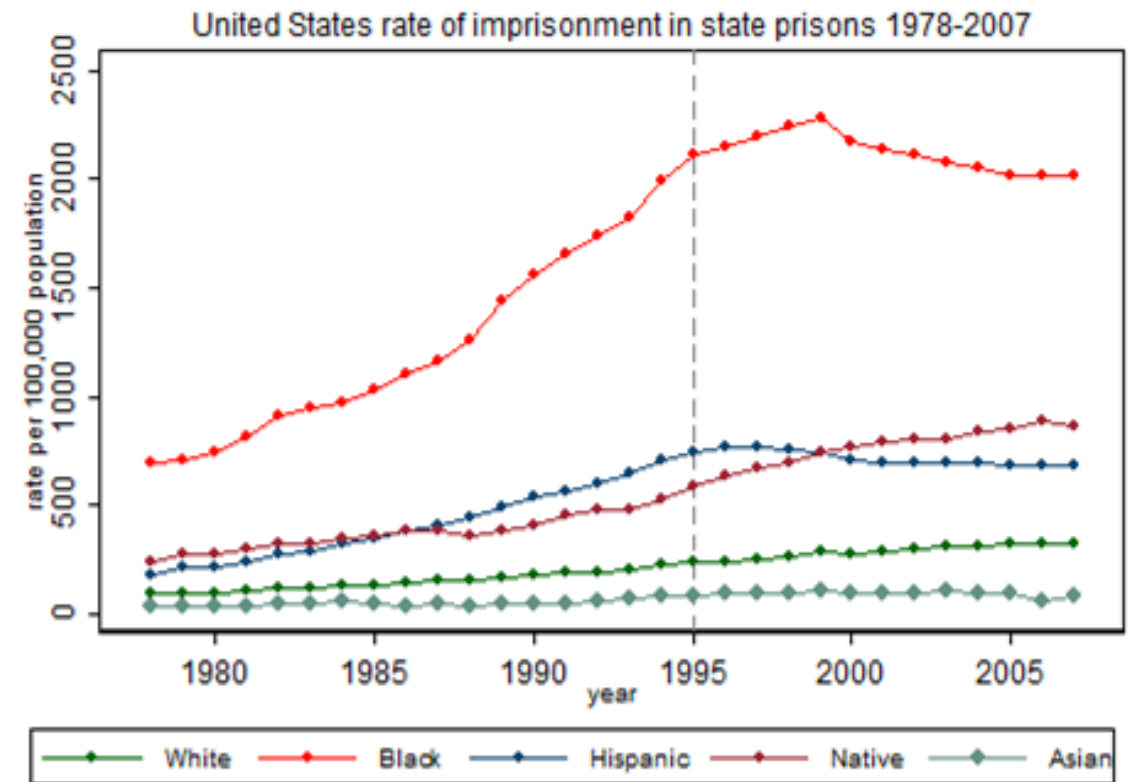
RACE BASED IMPRISONMENT IN THE US



Rate of Imprisonment per 100,000, by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity, 2015



Source: Carson, E.A. and Anderson, E. (2016). *Prisoners in 2015*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.



Source: Bureau of Justice statistics Correctional populations of the US 1978-1998 and 999-2007. Data Processed by Pamela Oliver to remove errors and estimate non- Hispanic racial counts

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

In the DOJ Uniform Crime Reports Program, justifiable homicide is defined as and limited to:

- The killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty.
- The killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.

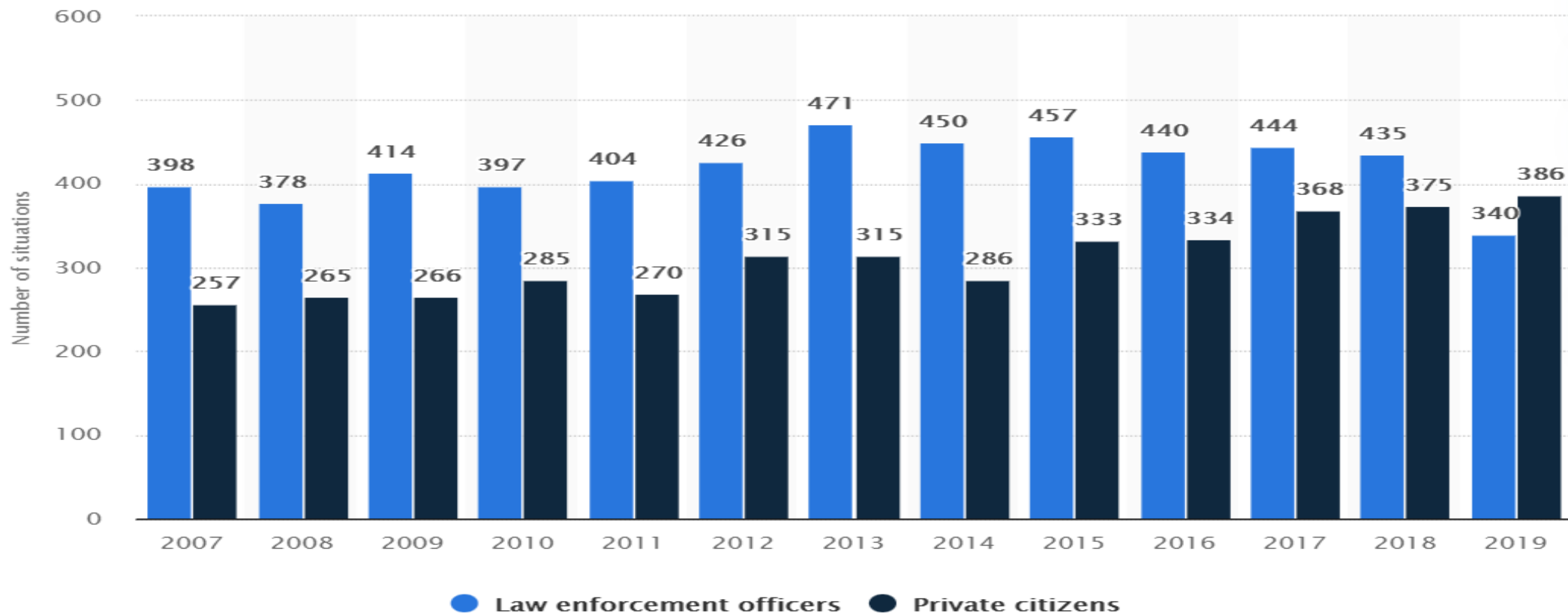


YEAR	TOTAL	TOTAL FIREARMS
2008	378	375
2009	414	411
2010	397	396
2011	404	401
2012	426	423
2013	471	467
2014	453	451
2015	459	458
2016	435	429

Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) published by the Department of Justice

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

United States from 2007 to 2019



The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Mostly sunny 82/64 • Tomorrow: Sunny 93/72 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

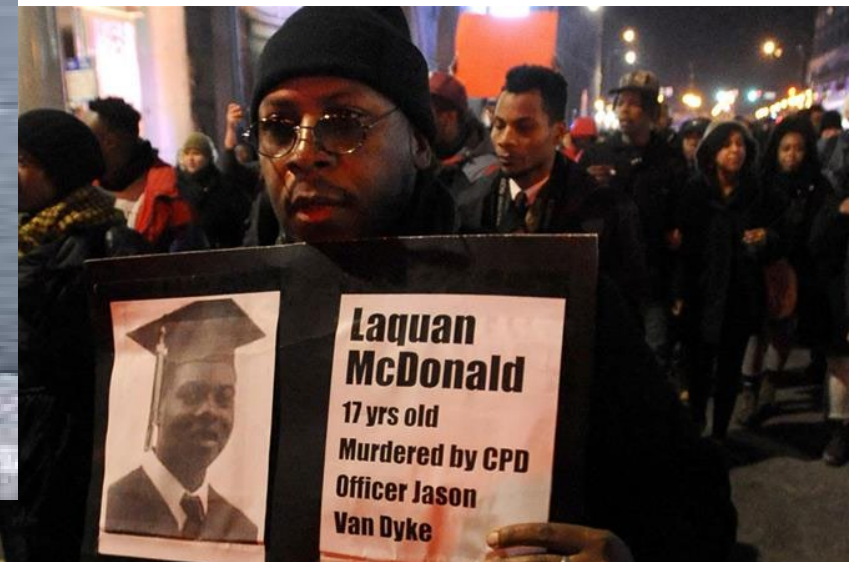
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017 • \$2

Nationwide, police shot and killed nearly 1,000 people in 2017

- Police fatally shot **987** people last year, or two **dozen more** than they killed in 2016, according to an ongoing Washington Post database
- Officers fatally **shot 94 unarmed people in 2015**, but that number has been lower in the past two years, with 51 killed in 2016 and 68 in 2017
- Black males accounted for **22 percent** of all people shot and killed in 2017, yet they are **6 percent of the total population**. White males accounted for 44 percent of all fatal police shootings, and Hispanic males accounted for 18 percent
- In 2015, police shot and **killed 36 unarmed black males**.



POLICE ON BLACK MEN



POLICING AND RACE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and
advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR &
ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in
KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING
SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY,**
and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Show*
them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS**
on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.



CANARIES IN COAL MINES



An earlier practice of taking caged canaries into coal mines as a warning for the miners, is a

If the birds stop chirping then dangerous gases were present alerting the miners.



Eric Garner: “He was complex, funny, larger-than-life, flawed. He was the kind of character that people talk about in the street. Everybody has a story about Garner. They're all funny.”



First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.

Pastor Martin Niemöller

Prior to and during World War II, Hitler's genocidal Nazi party used variations on the triangle to identify citizens and concentration camp prisoners according to religion, ideology, sexual preference and numerous other categories. Some of the symbols were:

Yellow on Yellow (Star of David): Jews
Pink Triangle: Homosexuals
Brown: Gypsies
Purple: Jehovah's Witnesses

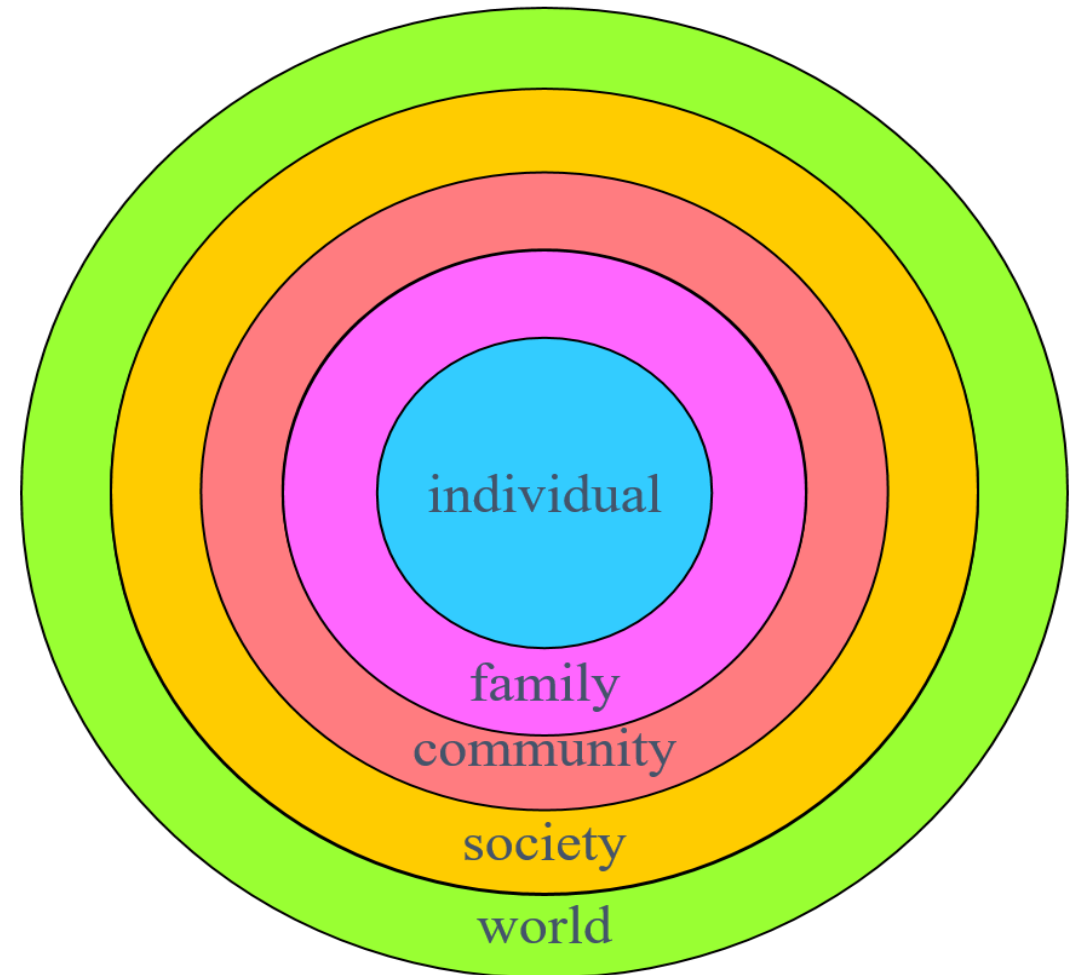


Red: German Political Prisoners—Communists, Socialists
Black: Vagrants and Lesbians
Green: Habitual Criminals
Blue: Emigrants

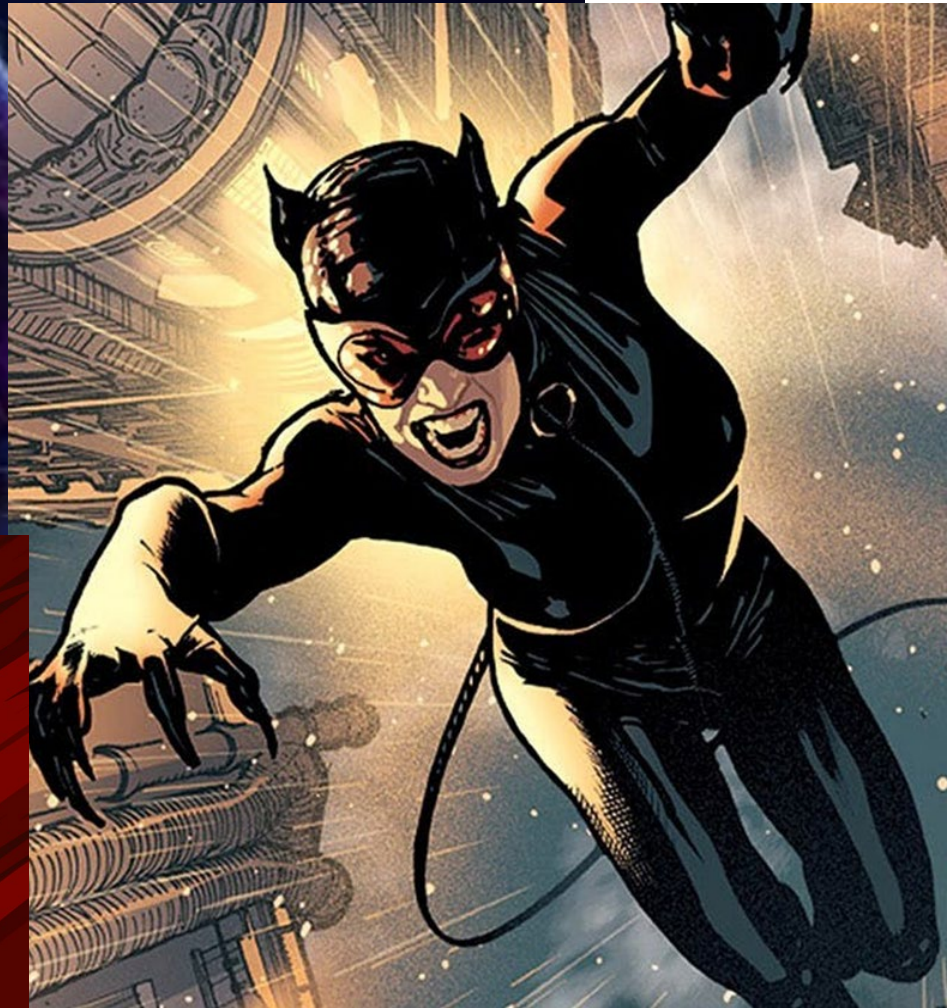
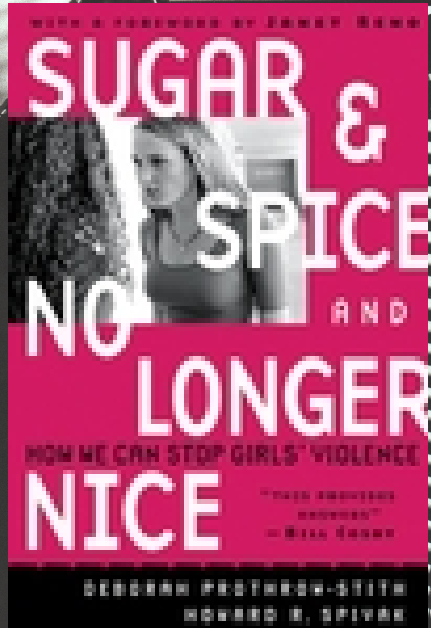
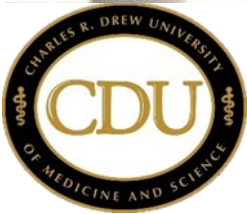


RISK FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE

- Poverty and Income Inequality
- Access to Guns
- Alcohol and Other Drug Use
- Witnessing Violence & Victimization
- Biologic/Organic Abnormalities
- **Culture of Violence**



CULTURE



CULTURE EATS STRATEGY FOR LUNCH: AMERICAN DUELING

Jack K. Williams, *Dueling in the Old South* - In Mississippi in the 1840s, duels were said to be "as plenty as blackberries."

Fox Butterfield, *All God's Children: The Boskett Family* - An "undercount" yields a rate in Edgefield, SC from 1844-1858 of 18/100,000 per year with a 1991 Louisiana rate of 17.4/100,000

Harriet Martineau, famous authoress and traveler, wrote - "It is understood that in New Orleans there were fought, in 1834, more duels than there are days in the year, fifteen in one Sunday morning; that in 1835, there were 102 duels fought in that city between the 1st of January and the end of April and no notice is taken of shooting in a quarrel..."

TO THE PUBLIC.

The object of this placard is to inform the Public that Gen. Leigh Read has declined giving to me an apology for the insult offered me at St. Marks, on the 5th inst. That he has also refused to me that satisfaction, which as an honorable man, (refusing to apologise,) he was bound to give. I therefore pronounce him a Coward and a Scoundrel.

WILLIAM TRADEWELL.

Tallahassee, Oct. 26, 1839.



AMERICAN DUELING

Alexander Hamilton's Pros and Cons:

Cons

- **Wife and Children**
- **Deeply in debt**
- **Bore Burr no ill-will**
- **Illegal in NY**
- **Condemned by Christianity**

Pros

- **Pressing necessity not to decline the call**
- **Cost him political support**
- **Essential to his ability to be useful in the future**

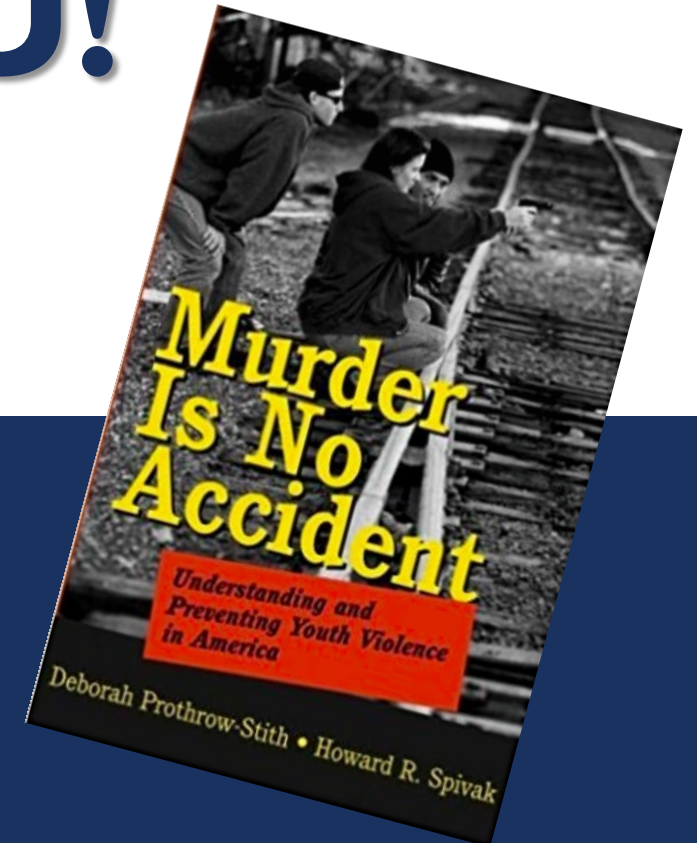
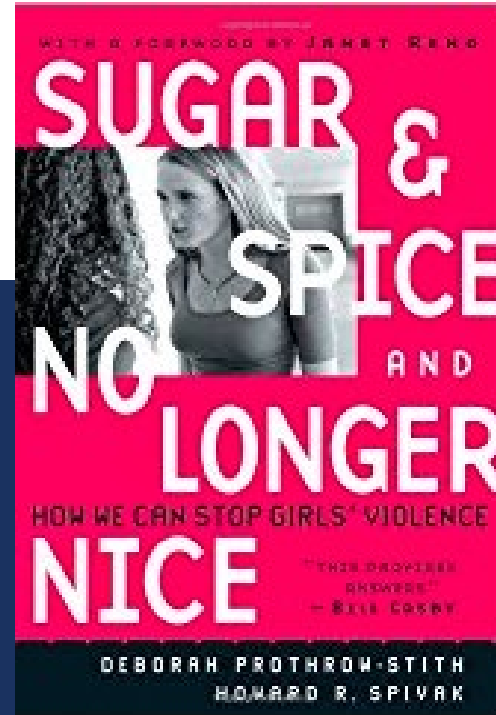
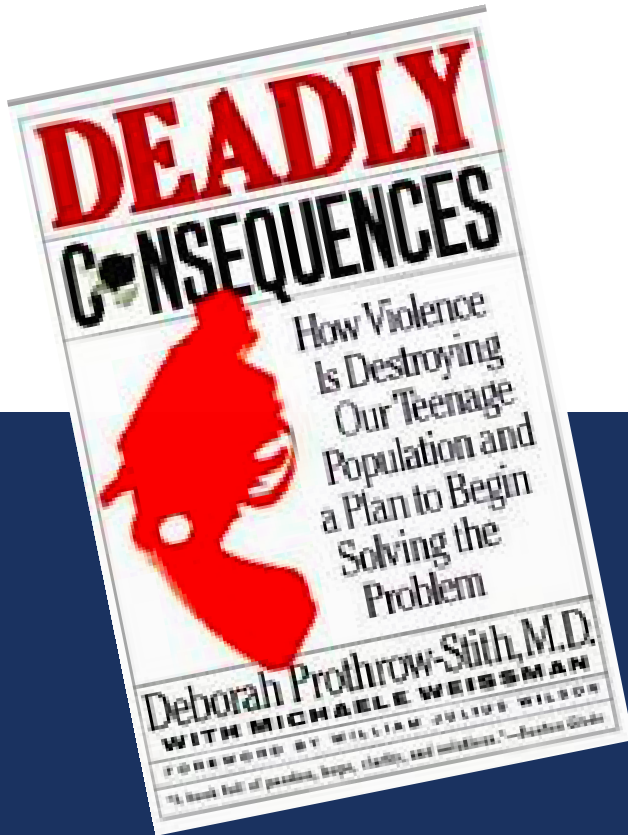




National Commission
on COVID-19 and
Criminal Justice

- Based on a review of 12 U.S. studies (multiple cities) - domestic violence incidents increased 8.1% after pandemic-related lockdown orders were imposed.
- Unlike some early reports on domestic violence trends, the studies in this review used data from crime reports, emergency hotline registries, hospital and other health records, and additional administrative documents – not just police reports.
- Lockdowns and pandemic-related economic impacts likely exacerbated factors typically associated with domestic violence, such as
 - increased male unemployment,
 - stress associated with childcare and homeschooling, and
 - increased financial insecurity.
 - increased use of alcohol and other substances, may have elevated the risk of abuse.
- The authors also conclude that COVID-19 left parents and children confined to their homes, cut off from friends, neighbors, colleagues, and others who might have reported signs of abuse and violence and intervened to help potential victims escape violent situations.

THANK YOU!



dprothrowstith@cdrewu.edu