

The OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center: What We Do and Why

Washington County Public Health
Advisory Council Meeting
June 13, 2023

Susan DeFrancesco JD, MPH
Senior Research Project Manager
OHSU-PSU School of Public Health





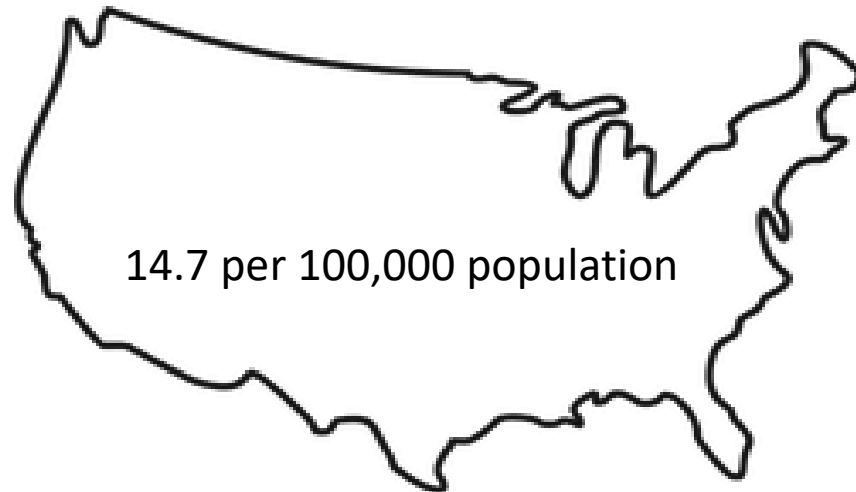
Take care...

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:**
988
- **Oregon Crisis Text Line**
(English, Spanish):
text OREGON to 741741
- **Veterans Crisis Line** (English,
Spanish):
1-800-273-8255 or 988 Press 1;
text 838255
- **The Trevor Project** (for LGBTQ
young people):
1-866-488-7386; text Start to
678-678
- **LGBT National Hotline** (all
ages):
1-888-843-4564;
help@LGBThotline.org

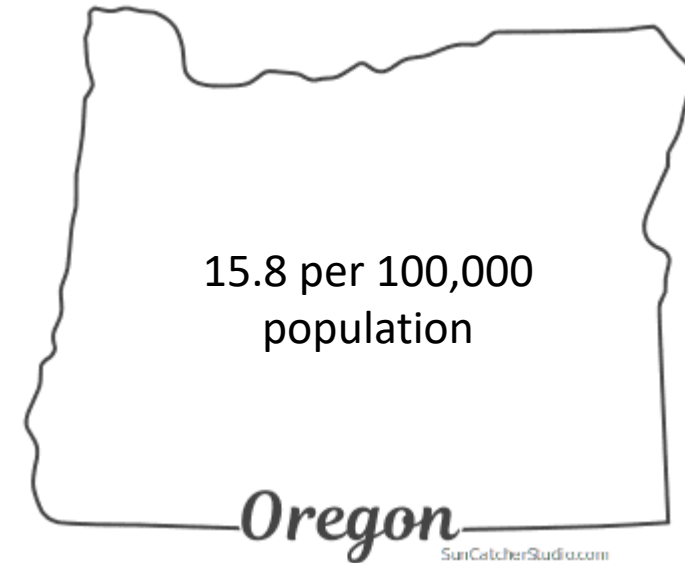
The Why...



Fatal Firearm Injuries in US and Oregon

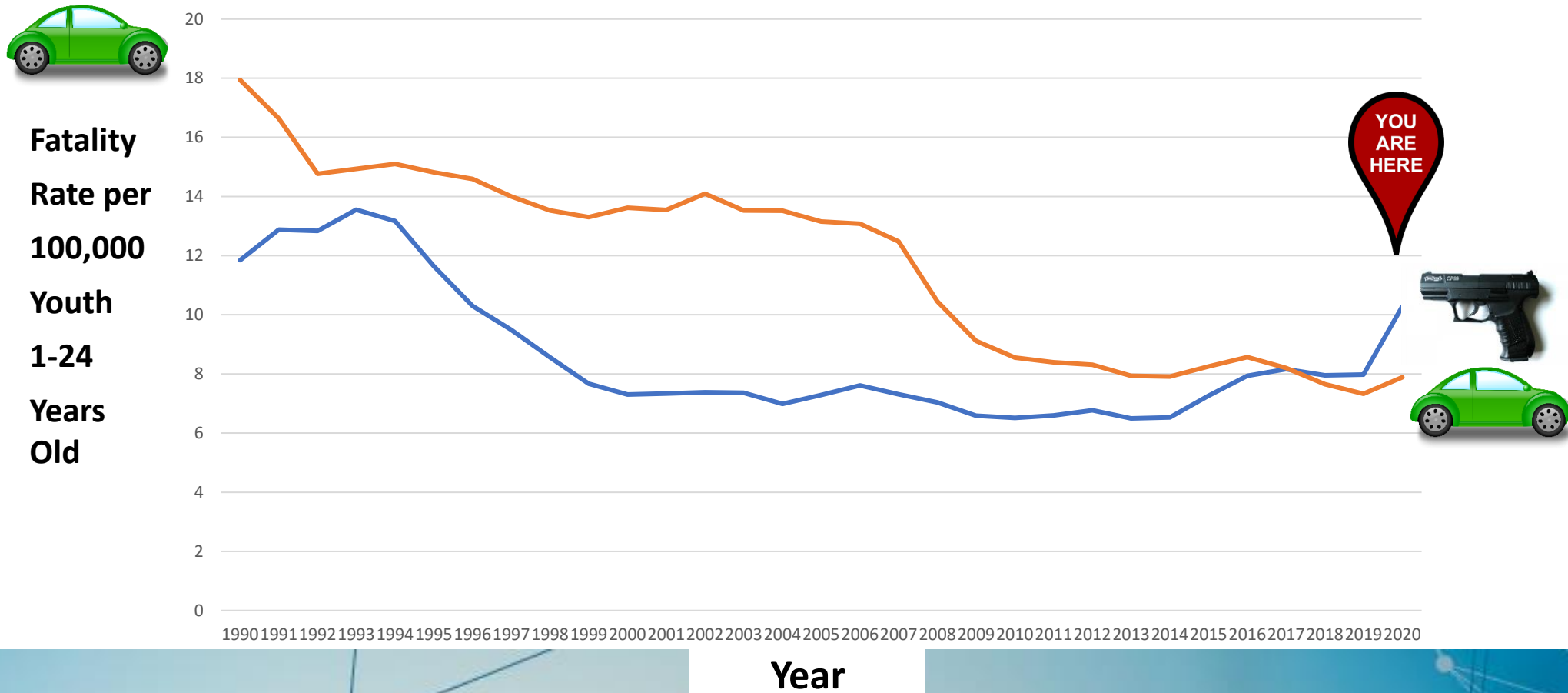


Nationally, **48,830 people died** from a firearm injury in 2021

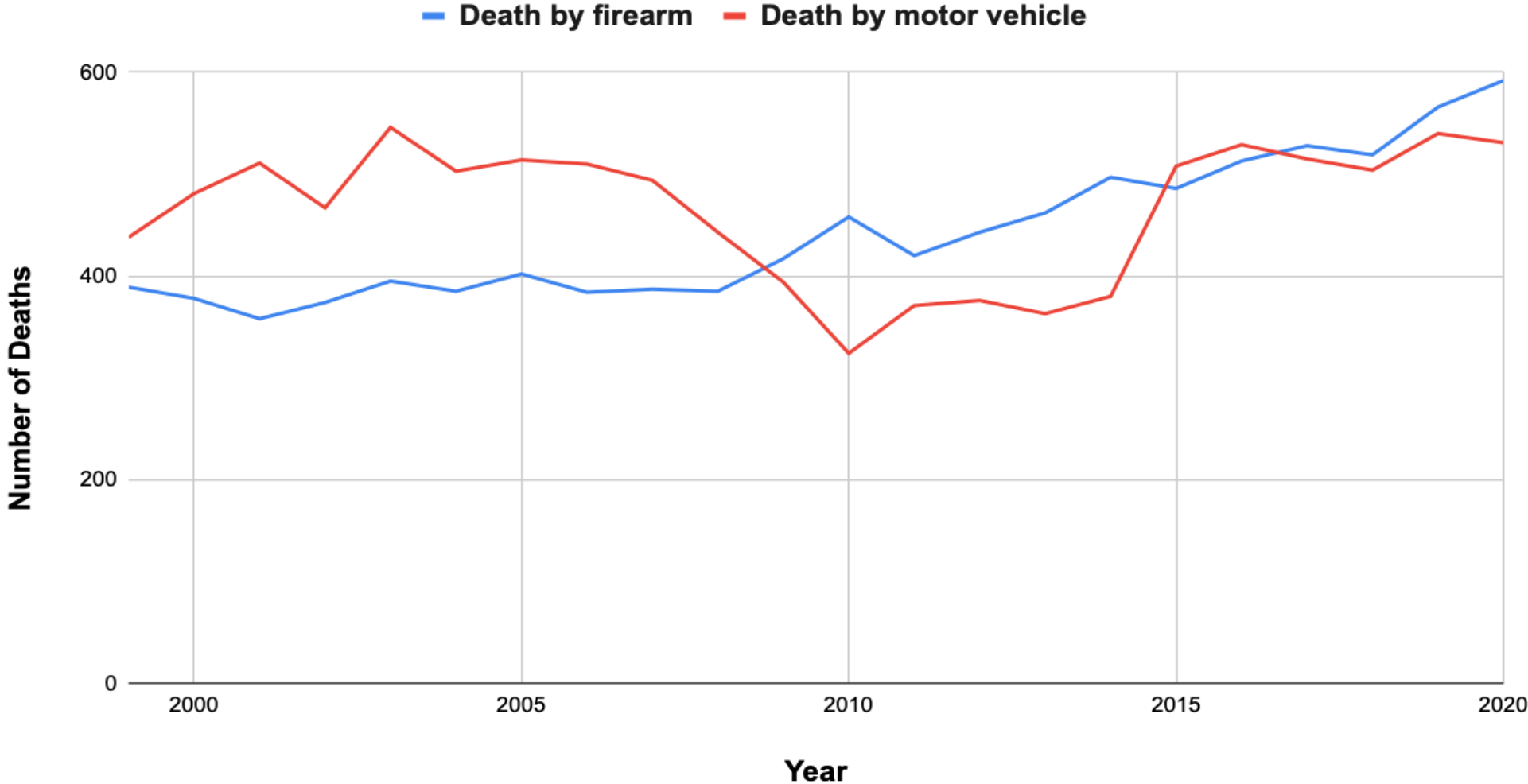


In Oregon, **670 people died** from a firearm injury in 2021

Firearm and Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Rates, Youth 1-24 Years Old, United States 1990-2020



Oregon: Firearm Deaths vs. Motor Vehicle Deaths between 1999 and 2020 (Count)

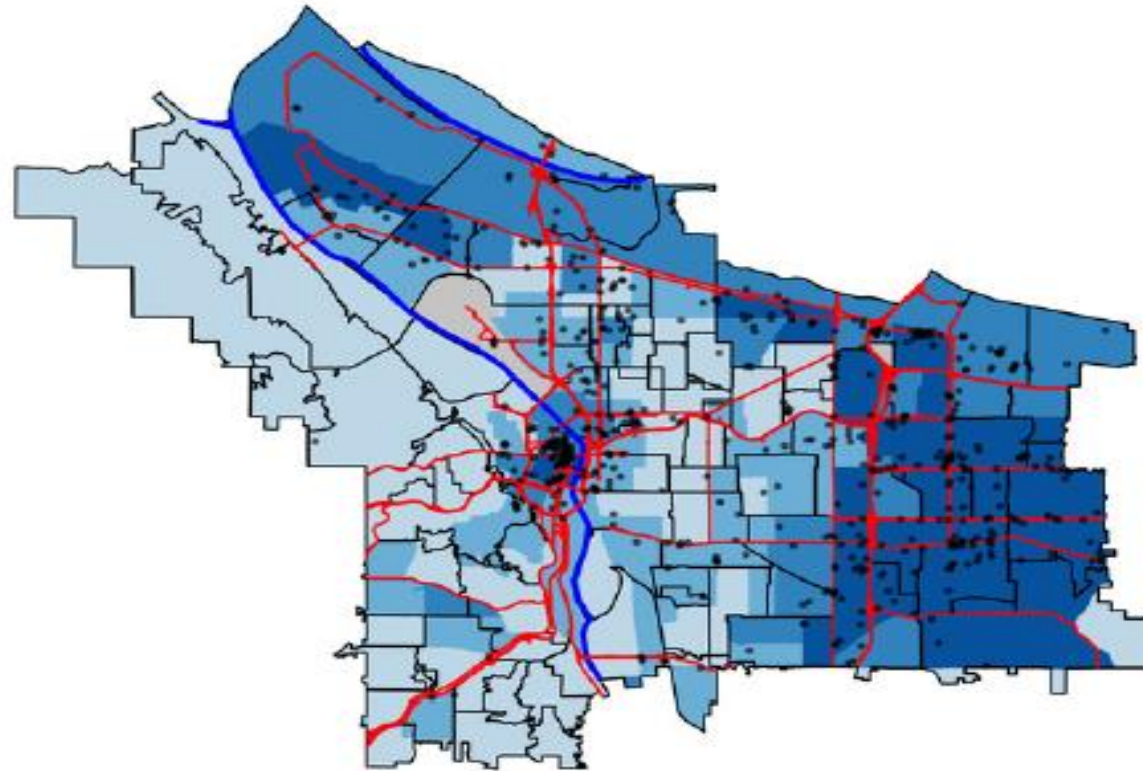


While people of all races and ethnicities in the U.S. and Oregon are impacted by the firearm injury epidemic, communities of color are disproportionately affected...

Nationally, firearm injury is the leading cause of death for black males ages 1-44.

- The firearm injury epidemic is not “new” in communities of color.
- Systemic inequities rooted in racism have contributed to high rates of poverty and a lack of economic opportunity and social mobility that puts historically marginalized populations at high risk for firearm injury and death.

Fatal and Non-Fatal Interpersonal Firearm Injuries in Portland by Neighborhood Social Vulnerability³, 2018-2021



2018 Social Vulnerability Index

No Data	Low	Low-Medium	Medium-High	High
---------	-----	------------	-------------	------

• Interpersonal Fatal and Non-Fatal Firearm Injury

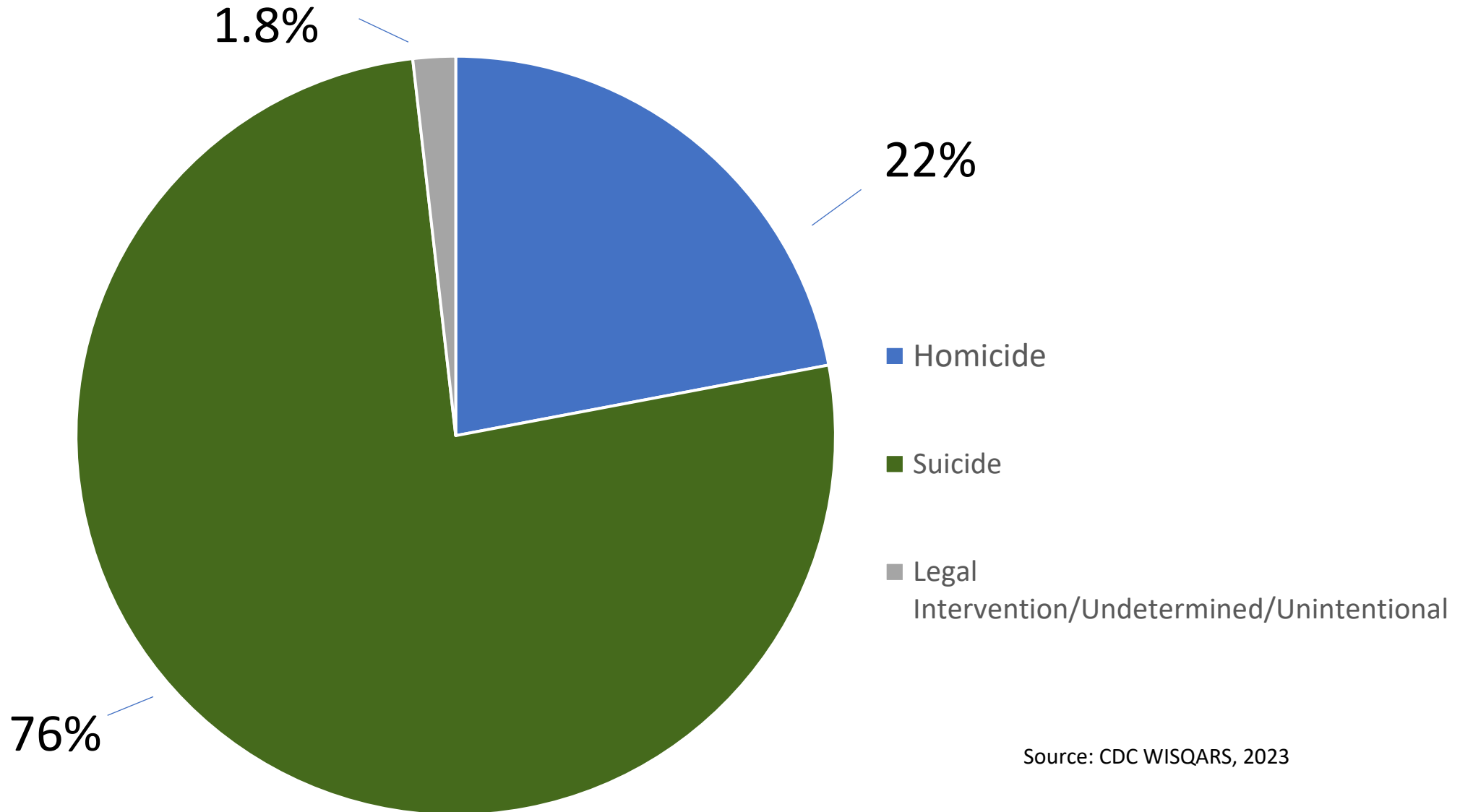
— Neighborhood Boundary — River — Major Road

No SVI data exists for Swan Island, and Maywood Park is not part of the City of Portland.

Neighborhoods with **greater social and economic disadvantage** experienced **higher interpersonal firearm injury and death.**

70% of firearm injuries in Portland occurred in census tracts with **medium-high or high social vulnerability.**

Oregon Firearm Fatalities by Intent, 2021



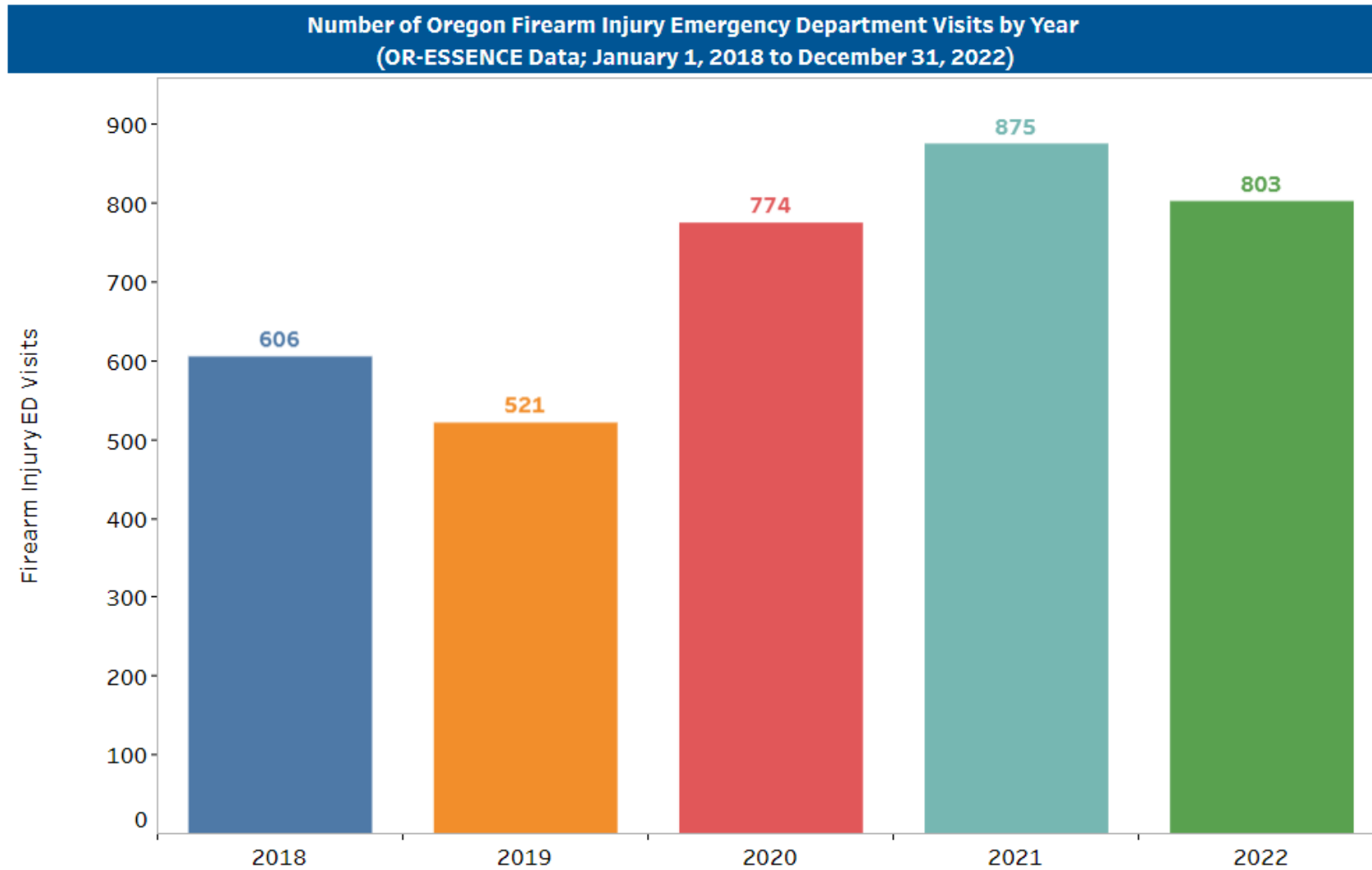
Source: CDC WISQARS, 2023

Firearm deaths are
the tip of the
iceberg

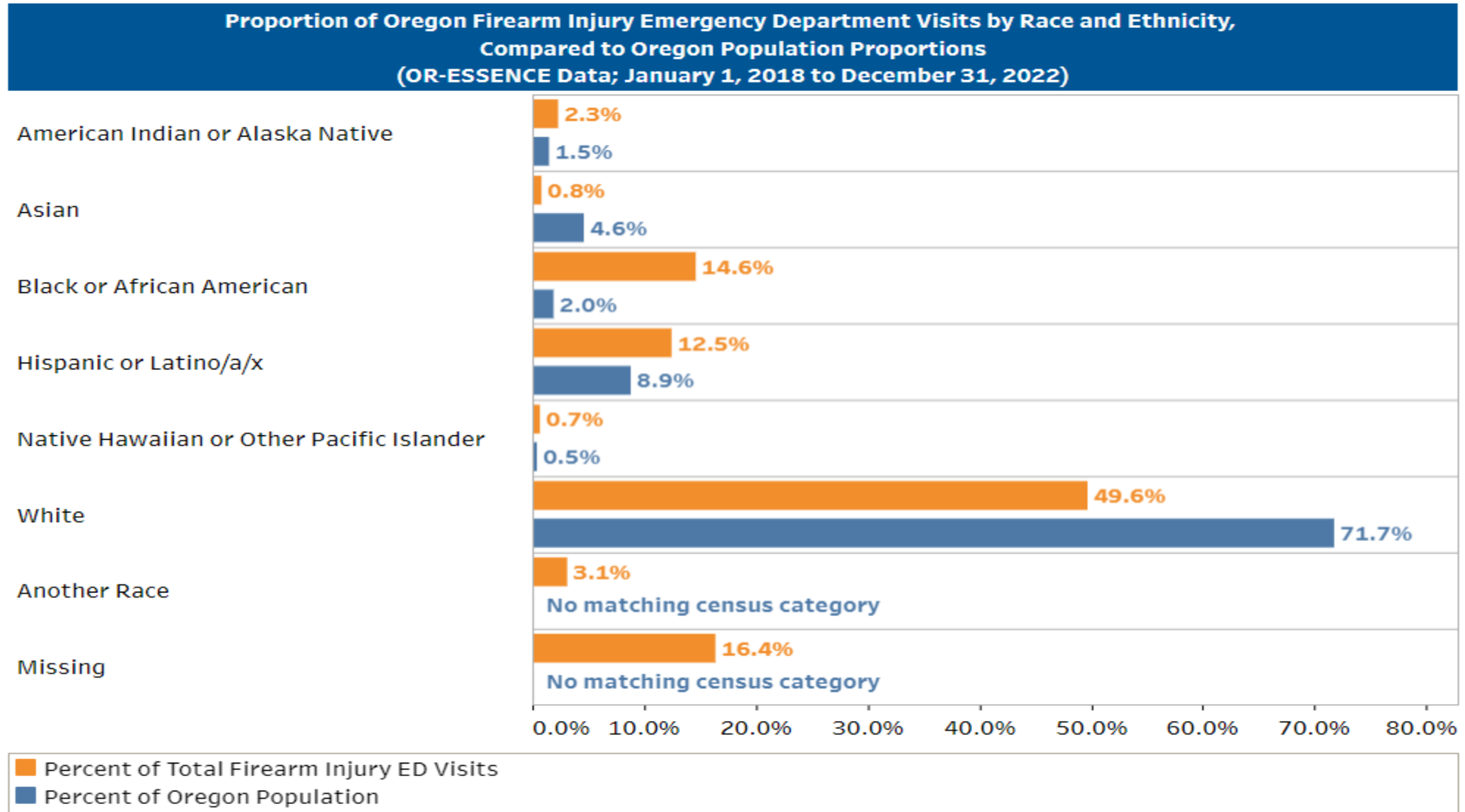
There were a total of 3,579
firearm injury ED visits between
2018-2022 in Oregon.



Firearm Injury Visits in Oregon EDs



Oregon Firearm injury ED Visits by Race/Ethnicity



Mental health
outcomes from
direct and indirect
exposure to
firearm violence...

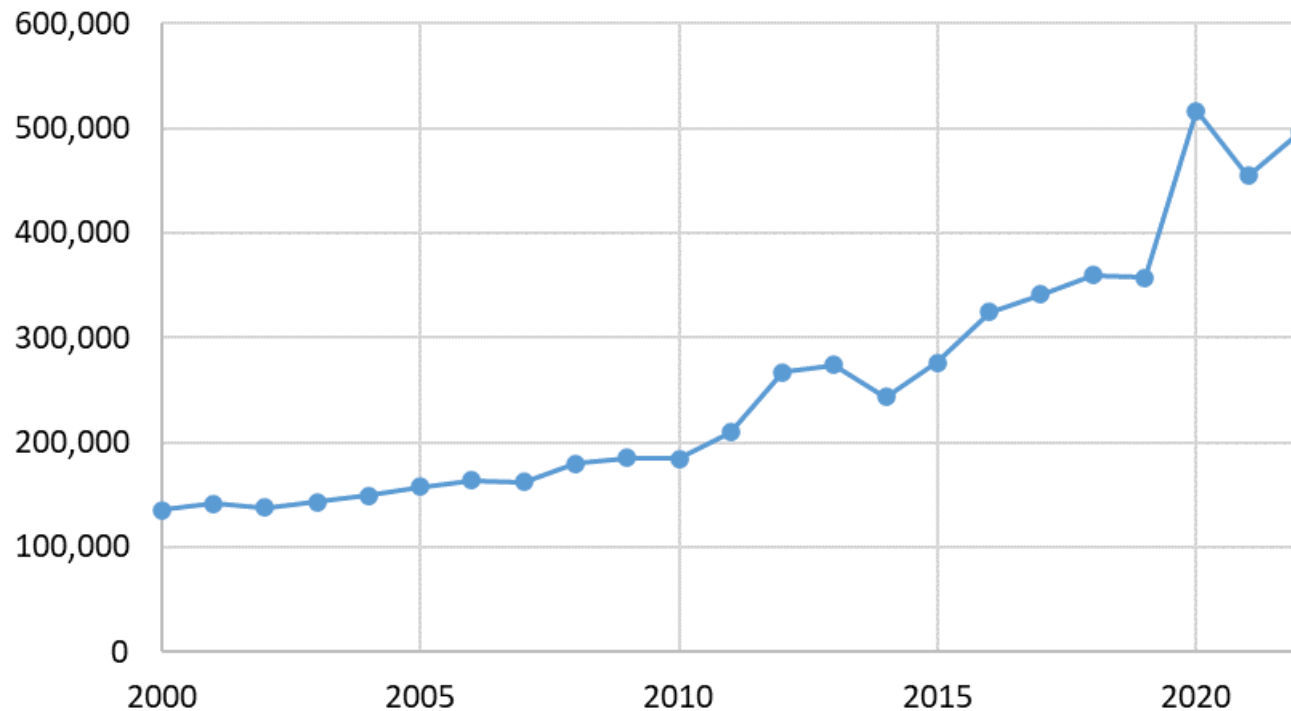
A recent study of nonfatal shooting survivors and family members in Indianapolis – linked police data (2008-2015) with Medicaid claims (2007-2016).

Youth family members (<19 years of age) of nonfatal shooting survivors in 12-month post injury period were most likely to receive a new mental health diagnosis compared to adult family members.

Most prevalent conditions for both survivors and family members were disruptive behavior disorders, stress and anxiety disorders, and depression and mood disorders.

Firearms in Oregon

NICS Firearm Checks in Oregon by Year, 2000-2022



- There were an estimated 5,860,558 total firearm sales in Oregon from 2000-2022.
- **That's 1.6 million more guns in Oregon than Oregon residents.**



**What We
Do...**

1. Define and monitor the problem

Define the violence problem through systematic data collection.

2. Identify risk factors and protective factors

Conduct research to find out why violence occurs and who it affects



3. Develop and test prevention strategies

Design, implement and evaluate interventions to see what works

4. Ensure widespread adoption of effective strategies

Scale-up effective and promising interventions and evaluate their impact and cost-effectiveness

Partners in the Public Health Approach to Firearm Violence Prevention



Community-based organizations

Policymakers/
Advocates

Criminal justice

Health care

Business

Law Enforcement

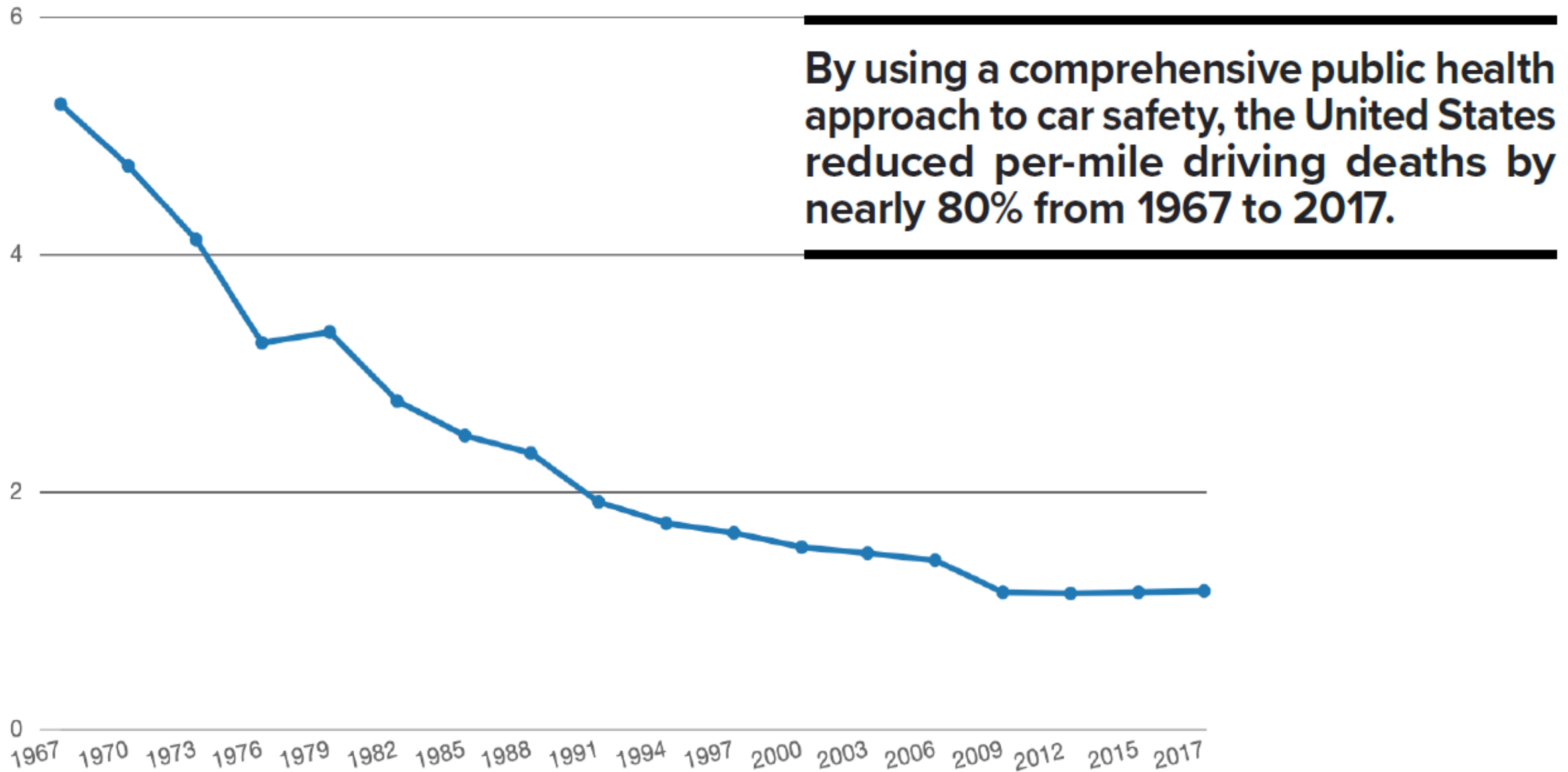
Universities/
Research institutions

Education

Government agencies

Faith community

Per Mile Car Crash Deaths, 1967-2017



By using a comprehensive public health approach to car safety, the United States reduced per-mile driving deaths by nearly 80% from 1967 to 2017.

OHSU-PSU Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Initiative

- In 2016, in the wake of the Pulse nightclub shooting, OHSU launched the Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Advisory Committee –

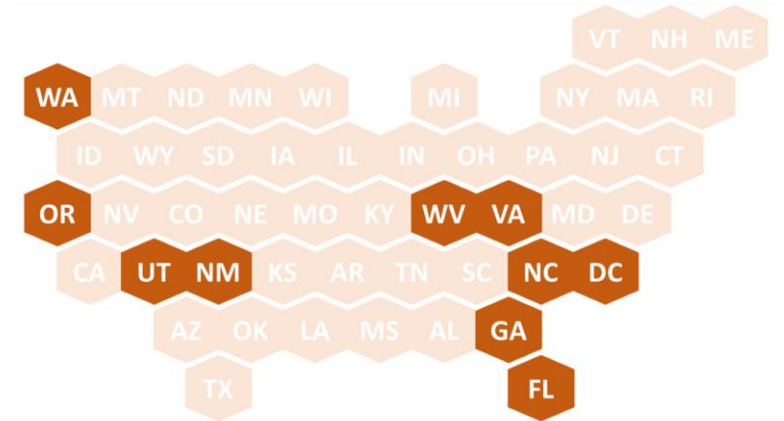
The mission of the GVPHI initiative is to prevent firearm-related violence and injuries in Oregon by applying public health approaches. We are concerned community members, health care and public health professionals, researchers, and survivors with lived experiences. Our work is guided by anti-racism, community engagement, and collaborative principles. Through research, education, advocacy and action, we will identify the causes and consequences of gun violence, and advance best practices and policies for prevention and healing.



Fire Armed injury Surveillance Through Emergency Rooms

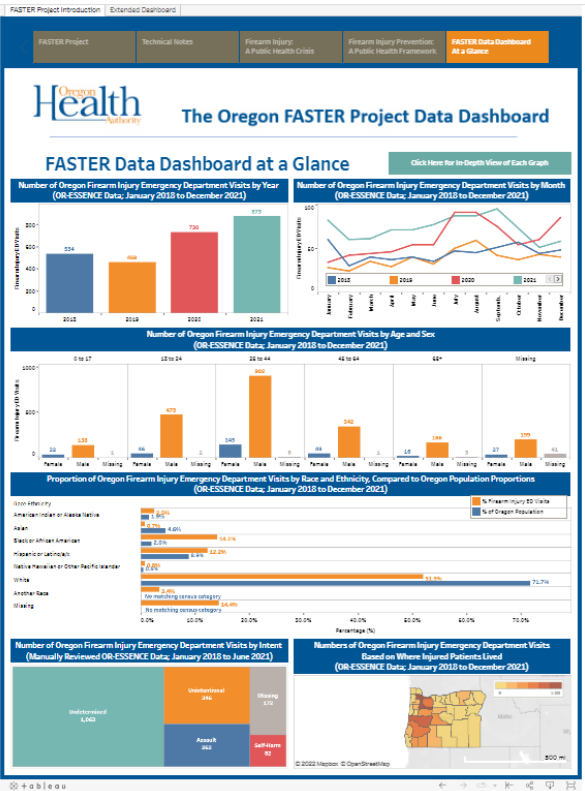
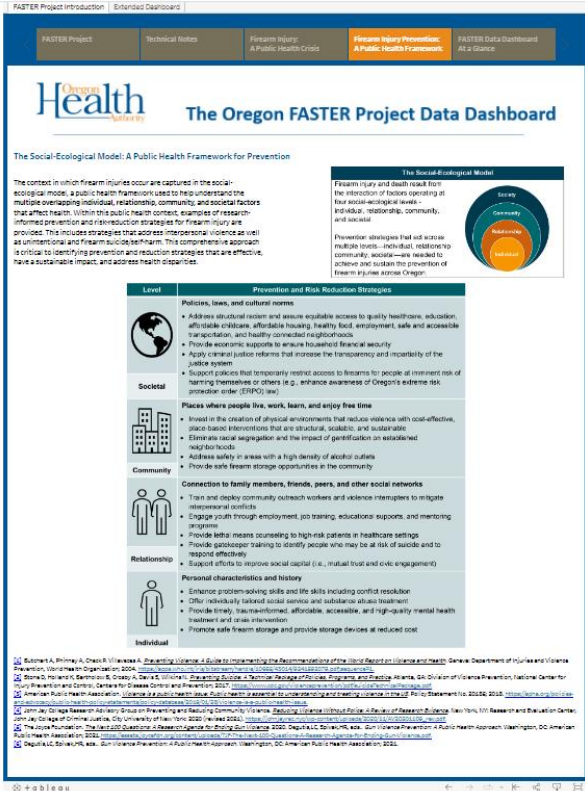
Oregon FASTER Project Goals:

- Enhance the quality, monitoring, and timely reporting of firearm injury data from OR-ESSENCE
- Share data with state and local partners working to prevent and respond to firearm injuries



FASTER Data Dashboard

- Features socio-ecological context for understanding firearm injury
- Firearm injury emergency department visits (2018-2022)
- Additional sources of firearm injury data are being added
- Updated quarterly



The Epidemiology of Firearm Injuries Treated in the Two Level 1 Trauma Centers in Oregon

- Retrospective chart review of firearm-related injuries presenting at OHSU and Legacy Emanuel Medical Center
- Our descriptive analysis will:
 - increase the understanding of the firearm-related injury burden
 - describe the characteristics surrounding firearm-related incidents
 - and provide direction for future injury prevention interventions

Evaluation of Healing Hurt People (HHP)

- Hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) operated by the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center in OHSU's emergency room and inpatient areas since March 2022
- Case managers are “credible messengers” who intervene with patients of violent injury during the “critical window” (within 4 hours of hospital arrival)
- Case managers provide 18 months of support
 - Relocation services
 - Referrals to behavioral health
 - Family needs (e.g., SNAP, childcare support)
 - Transition and recovery support (e.g., job readiness, GED completion courses)
- Serves people of color ages 10-35



Examination of the Use of Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order Law to Prevent Firearm Violence

- Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) or "red flag" law allows **family or household members** or a **law enforcement officer** to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms if the court determines that the person is at **imminent risk of causing harm to themselves or others**.
- Conducting an analysis of all ERPO petitions filed in Oregon between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2022.
- Looking at ERPO utilization, reasons cited for petitioning, and outcomes by petition characteristics.

Development of a Multnomah County Gun Violence Review Commission

The Commission will:

- Include public health professionals, law enforcement professionals, criminal justice professionals, service providers, community-based organizations, and gun violence survivors.
- Participate in an intensive examination and discussion of gun violence incidents.
- Identify patterns, in their review of the incidents, that reveal gaps and deficits as well as assets within existing systems, policies, and programs and make recommendations to decision makers to address concerns and strengthen effective efforts.

The goal is to better understand how and why firearm-related death and injury occurs and identify and help focus intervention resources and prevention strategies.

Firearm Injuries Among Rural Veterans in the U.S.

Injury Intent, Oregon	Urban	Rural	Overall
Unintentional	58.2%	68.2%	63.4%
Self -Directed/Suicide	16.5%	22.4%	19.5%

EHR chart
review:
Oregon
Veterans

Injury Context, Oregon	Urban	Rural	Overall
Cleaning Firearm	37.0%	34.5%	35.6%
Unknown Cause of Discharge	10.9%	29.3%	21.2%

Comprehensive
firearm injury
prevention
program in VA

Initial pilot strategies

Educational campaign
about secure firearm
storage

Increase access to
firearm storage devices in
real time, at reduced cost

Thank you for your interest!

Susan DeFrancesco:

defrancs@ohsu.edu

FASTER Data Dashboard

[Oregon FASTER Data Dashboard](#)

GVPHI webpage:

<https://www.ohsu.edu/GVPHI>

