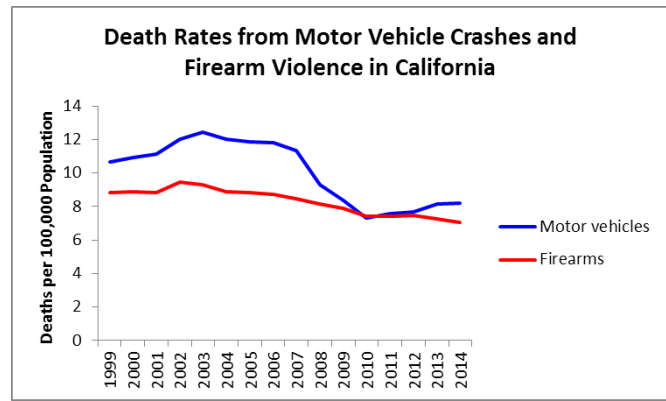


A Few Myths and Facts about Firearm Violence

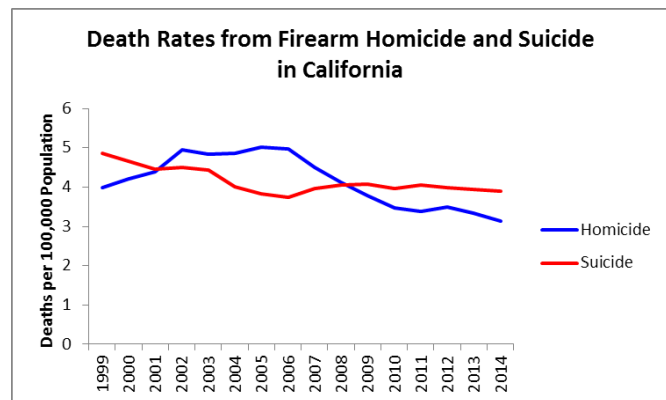
Myth: Many more Californians die from motor vehicle crashes than from firearm violence.

Fact: In recent years, death rates from motor vehicle crashes and firearm violence have been nearly equal. In the 10 years 2005-2014, 29,879 Californians died from firearm violence: 15,054 from homicide and 14,825 from suicide.



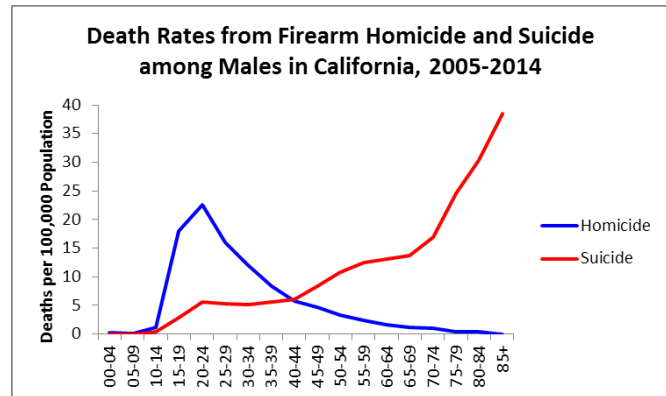
Myth: Firearm violence is just a crime problem.

Fact: In recent years, firearm suicides have outnumbered firearm homicides in California (1,582 and 1,233, respectively, in 2014). In the United States, suicides outnumber homicides by a factor of nearly 2 to 1 (21,334 suicides, 10,945 homicides in 2014). In 2014, 48% of California's firearm homicides, but just 14% of suicides, were of persons of Hispanic origin.



Myth: Firearm violence is just a young man's problem.

Fact: Firearm homicide rates are far higher for young men than for others (above 90 per 100,000 persons per year for African-American men ages 20-29). But beginning in the early 40s, the mortality rate from firearm suicide exceeds that for firearm homicide among men. Firearm violence is an important cause of death for women, particularly where intimate partner violence is concerned.



Myth: Mass shootings and mental illness are the problem.

Fact: Nationwide, public mass shootings account for less than 1% of deaths from firearm violence. Mental illness, by itself, accounts for less than 5% of interpersonal violence. (Substance abuse and prior violence are more important risk factors.) Mental illness accounts for 44% to 74% of suicide, however.

