

Firearm Violence

It's Different This Time

California Conference of Local Health Officers

May 9, 2018

Garen Wintemute, MD, MPH

On violence:

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

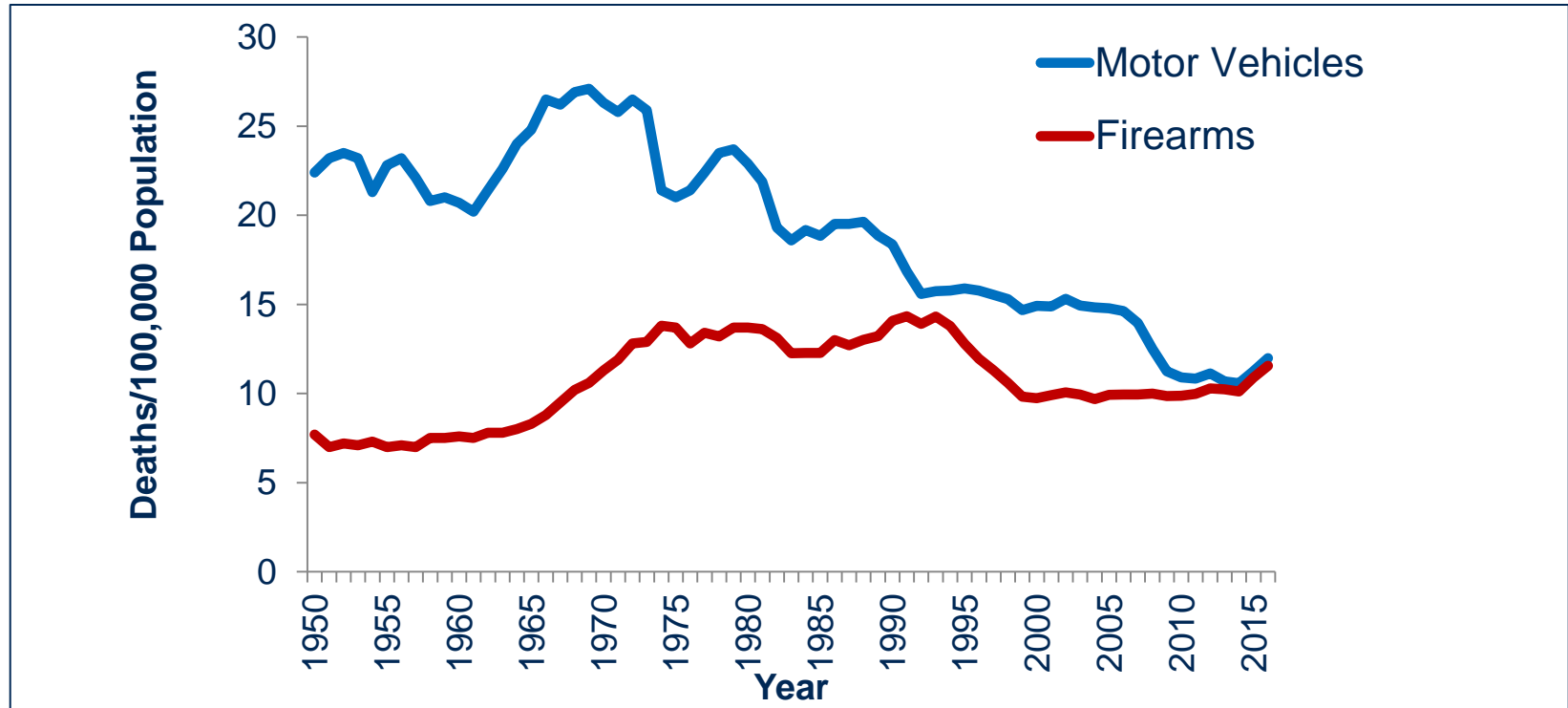
- Dr. David Satcher, 1993



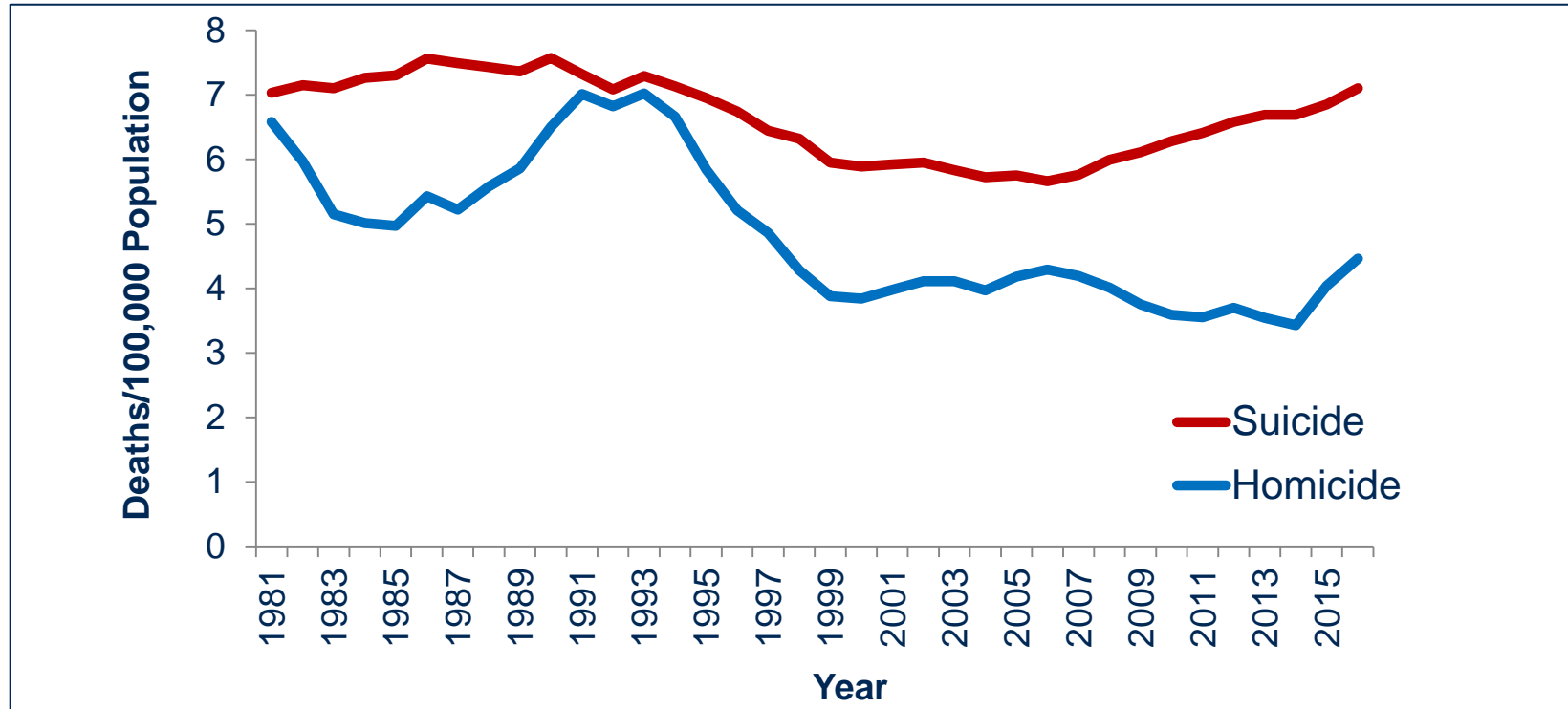
All Those People

- US, 2007-2016:
 - 321,557 deaths from firearm violence (homicide, suicide)
 - 333,890 total firearm deaths
- US, 2016:
 - 37,353 deaths from firearm violence
 - 74.4% of homicides, 51.0% of suicides involved firearms

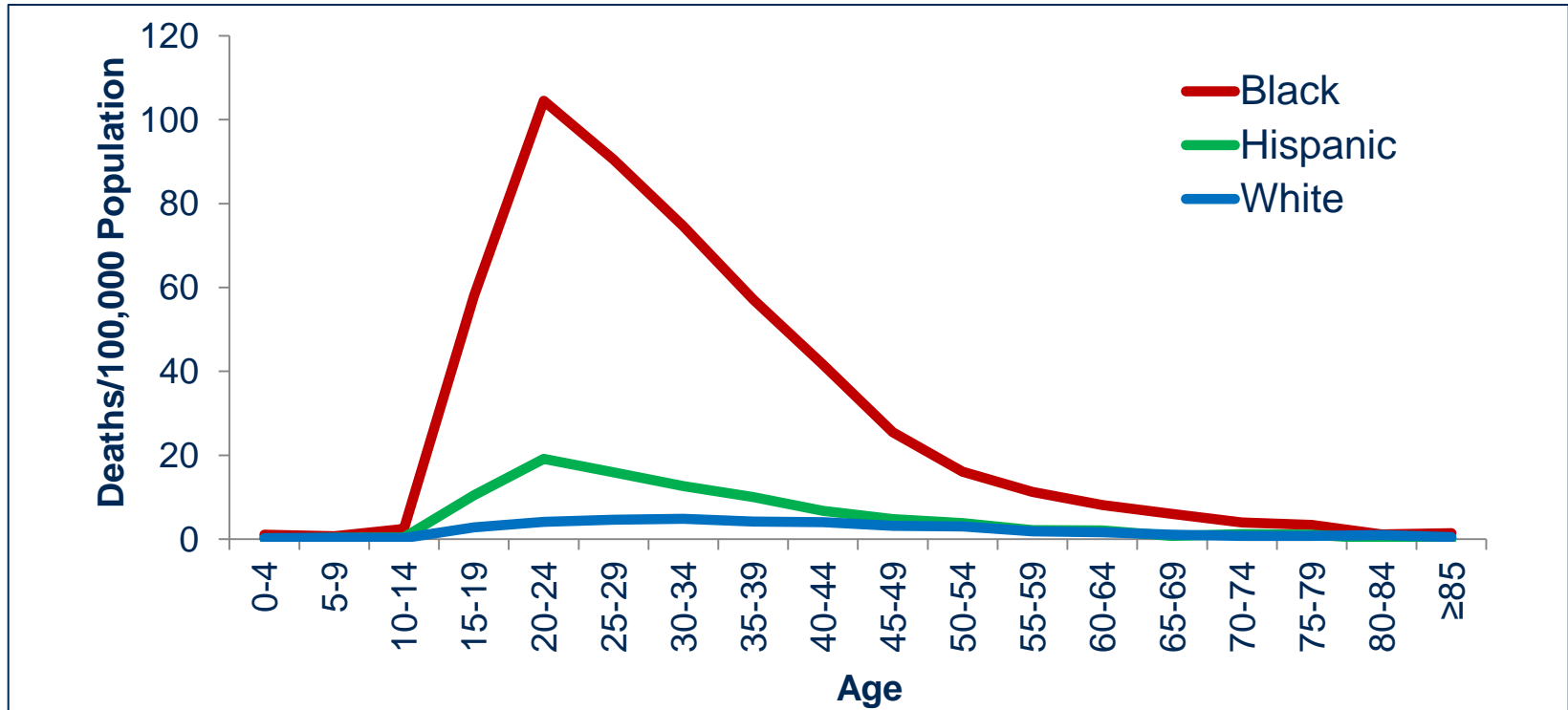
Death Rates from Motor Vehicle Traffic Events and Firearm Violence, 1950-2016



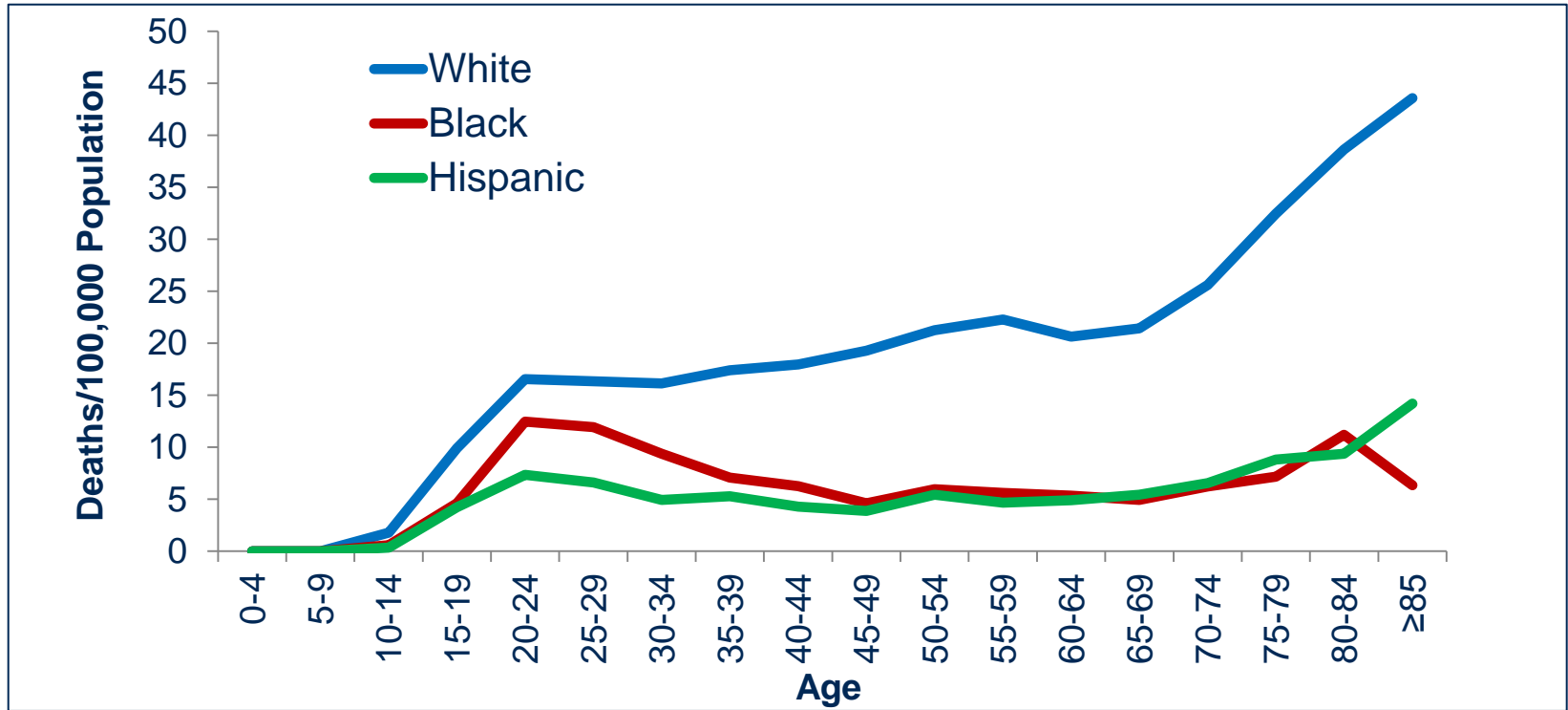
Death Rates from Firearm Suicide and Homicide, 1981-2016



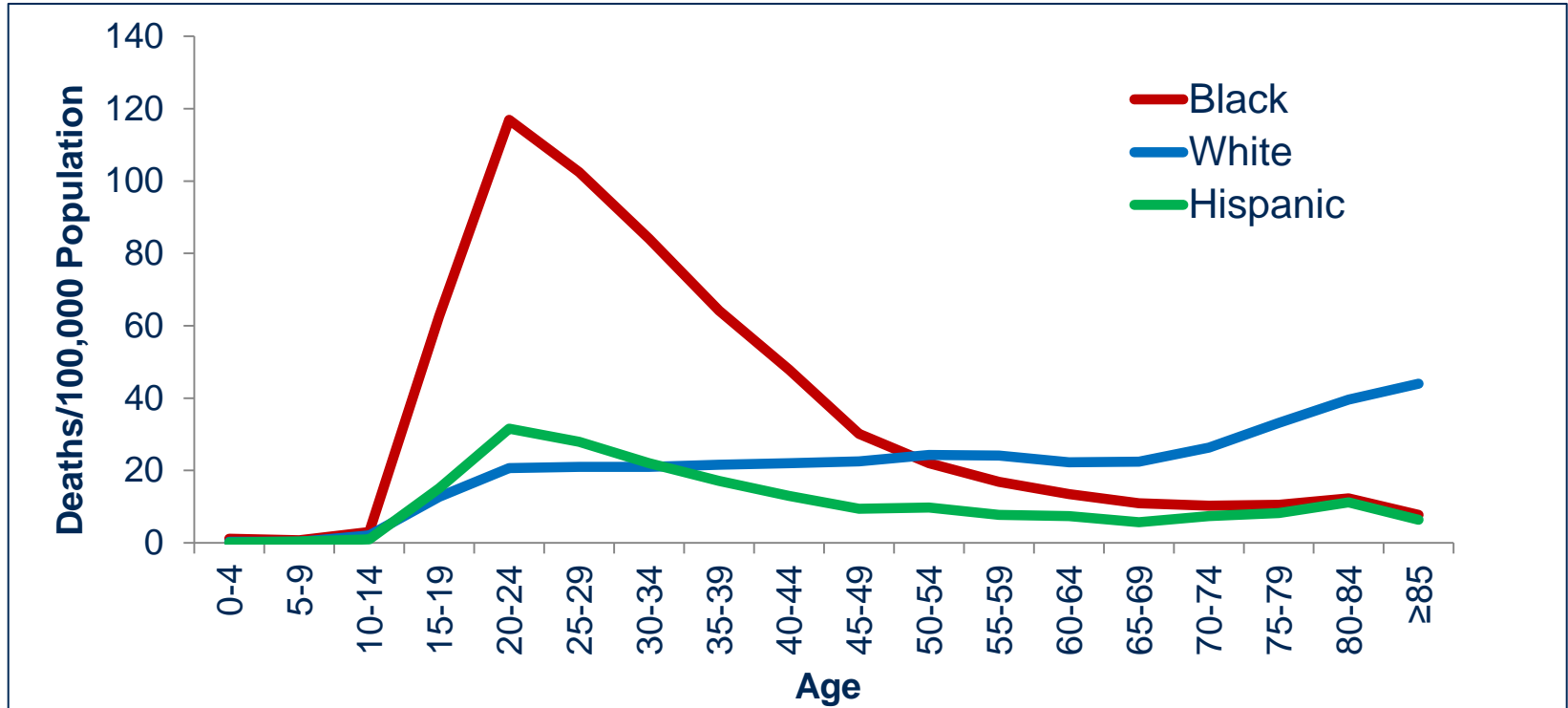
Death Rates from Firearm Homicide Males, 2016



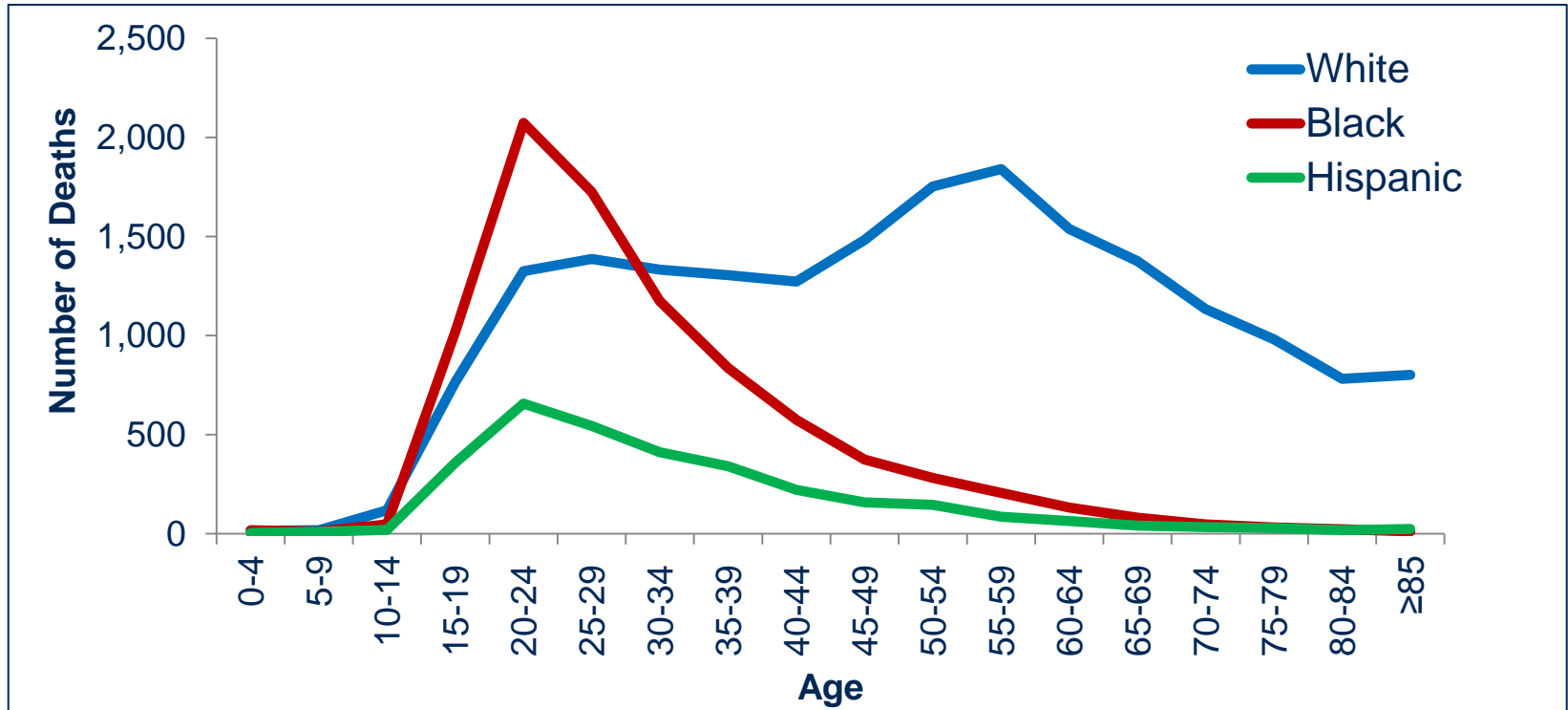
Death Rates from Firearm Suicide Males, 2016



Death Rates from Firearm Violence Males, 2016

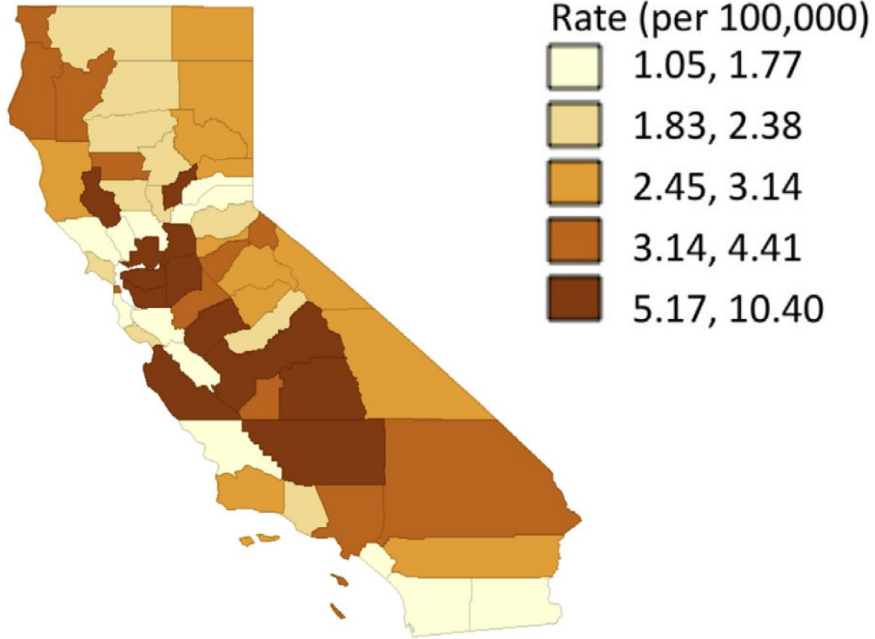


Deaths from Firearm Violence Males, 2016

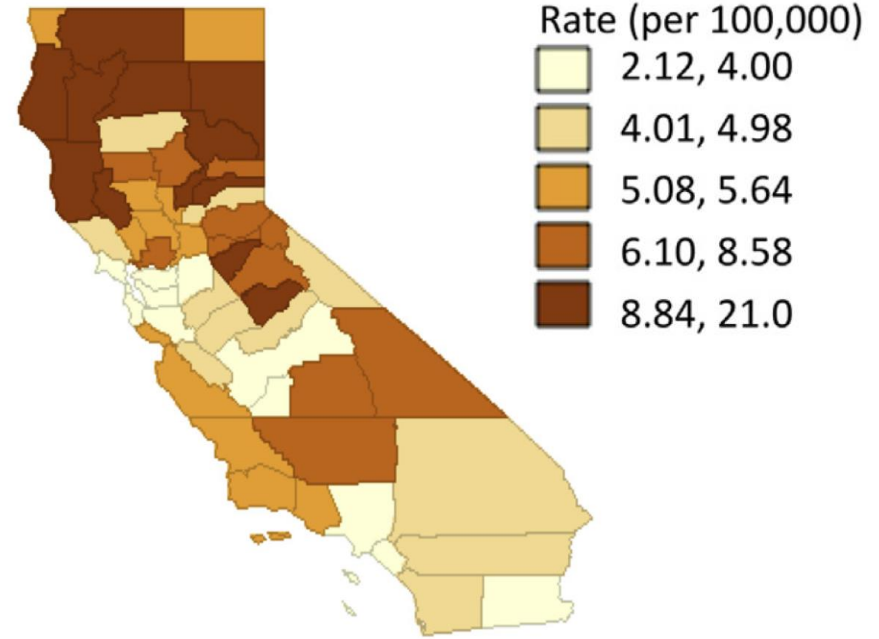


This Just in: The California Story

A Homicide



B Suicide



The Rest of the Story



ELSEVIER

Annals of Epidemiology. 2018; 28: 309-315.
Available at <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/vprp>

Original article

Firearm mortality in California, 2000–2015: the epidemiologic importance of within-state variation

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State of the Field

- Public mass shootings, law enforcement shootings
- Increased research effort
- New investigators, strong teams
- Concerns about quality
- Disappearance (again) of federal leadership
- Attention on states and private sector
- Will it last?

California as Democracy's Laboratory

- Uniquely rich data
- Practitioner-researcher collaboration
- Legislative leadership and responsiveness
- Public funding

The Lab at Work

- Background checks
- Expanded denial criteria
 - Misdemeanor violence
 - Alcohol abuse
- Firearm recovery
 - Armed Prohibited Persons System
 - Gun violence restraining orders

Coming Up

- California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWs)
 - Firearm ownership and use
 - Exposure to violence, and consequences
- Risk factors for recurrent injury
- Concealed carry policy and future violence
- Support for health professionals
 - “Yes, You Can”

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What You Can Do to Stop Firearm Violence FREE

Garen J. Wintemute, MD, MPH

[Article, Author, and Disclosure Information](#)

FULL ARTICLE

References

Figures

Comments

Access the Comments feature to see who has committed to talk to their at-risk patients about firearm safety. [Make your commitment now.](#)

Mass shootings are reshaping the character of American public life. Whoever we are, they happen to people just like us; they happen in places just like our places. We all sense that we are at risk.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO to stop firearm violence



Welcome to **What You Can Do**, a resource to support health care providers in reducing firearm injury and death.

Did you know:

- in 2016, an average of 105 people in the U.S. died from firearms each day?¹
- mass shootings account for only 1% to 2% of deaths from firearms in the U.S.?²
- many people who are involved in firearm violence have recognizable risk factors, some of which bring them into contact with health care providers before the violence happens?²

What You Can Do (WYCD) highlights the potential of a simple, focused intervention that you, as a health care provider, can implement.

Ask your at-risk patients about firearms.

Counsel them on safe firearm behaviors.

Take further action when imminent hazard is present.

The Commentary

View [Dr. Wintemute's commentary](#), What You Can Do to Stop Firearm Violence, in *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

The Commitment

If you're a healthcare provider, [click here to make the commitment](#) to ask your at-risk patients about firearms and counsel them on safe firearm practices.

