

*GUN VIOLENCE IN
THE UNITED
STATES:
IT'S (NOT JUST)
ABOUT THE GUNS*

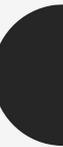
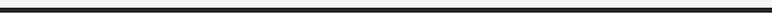
*Robert D. Winfield, M.D., FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Director of Trauma Research
University of Kansas Medical Center*

*Society of Trauma Nurses
TraumaCon 2018
March 22, 2018*

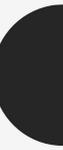
Disclosures

- No financial disclosures relevant to today's talk
 - The thoughts expressed in this talk do not represent the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Kansas Health System, the University of Kansas, the State of Kansas, or the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
 - I have treated hundreds of victims of gun violence over the last 14 years
 - I no longer own a gun; however, I was a trained and licensed firearm owner in Illinois. I last fired a shotgun in 2016
 - I have a bachelor's degree in the history and philosophy of science. My senior thesis was on the American eugenics movement.
 - You may and are encouraged to tweet any of my comments: [@rwinfield11](https://twitter.com/rwinfield11)
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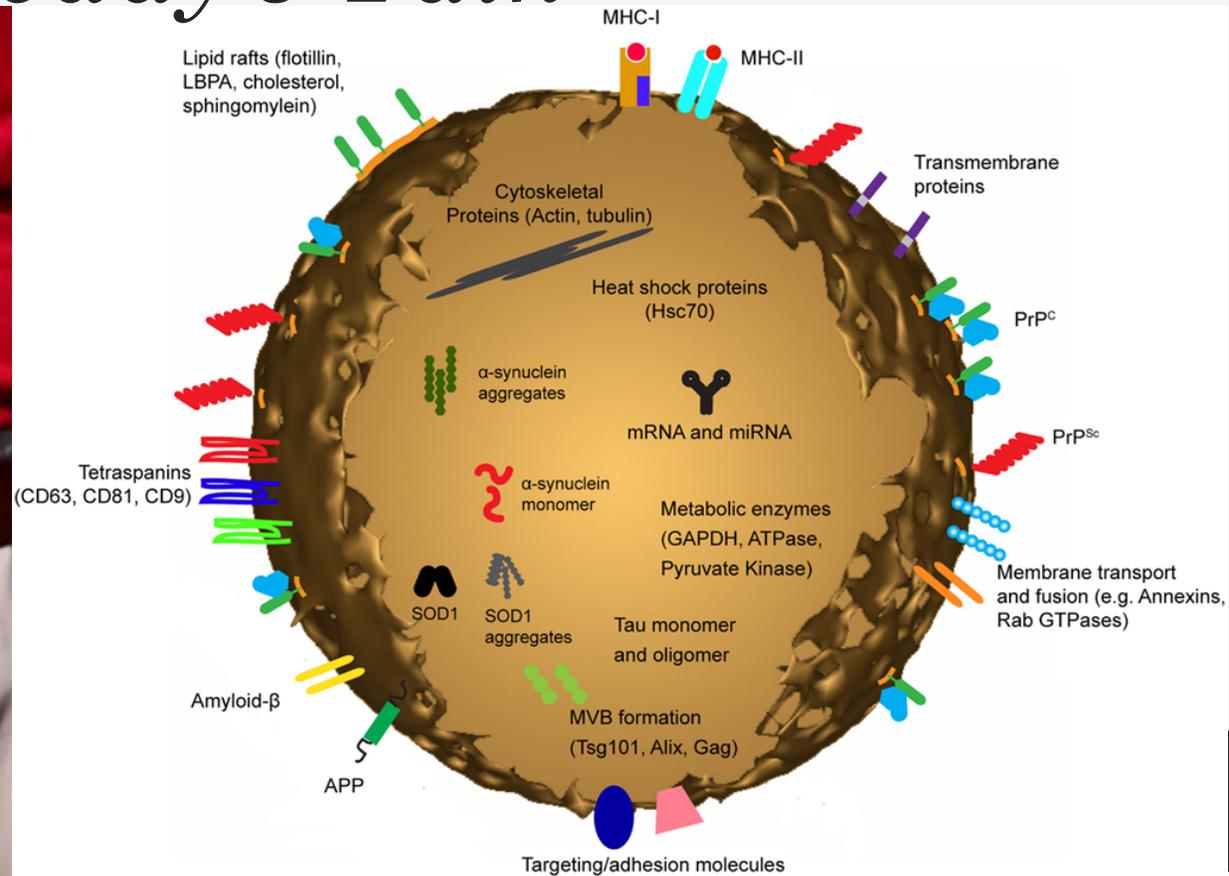
Today's Talk



Today's Talk



Today's Talk



March 12, 2015



March 12, 2015



March 12, 2015

- 6-year old Marcus Johnson goes to the park with his family
- His father is approached by several men in a car
- Recognizing danger, Marcus's parents take the family to the van, and they attempt to leave
- A rolling gunbattle between Marcus's mother and the other car ensues
- Marcus sustains lethal injuries and expires
- Other members of the family are treated for injuries

*March 13,
2015*

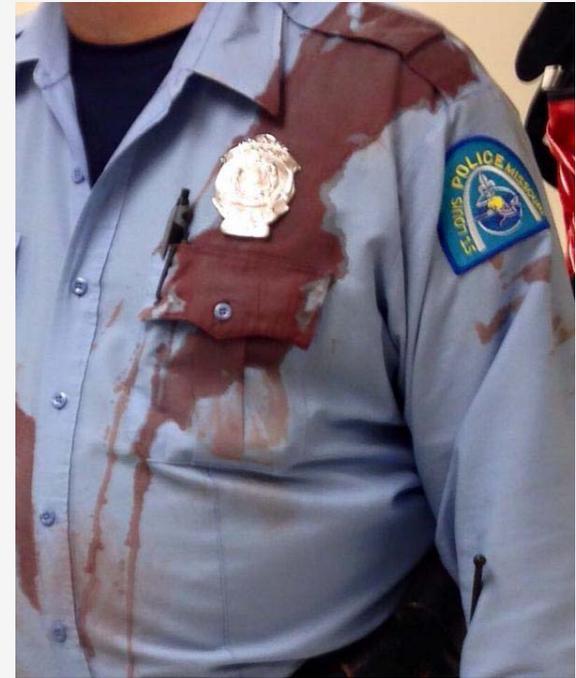


*March 14,
2015*

“We don’t have enough funds to get his outfit for his funeral,” he said choking back tears. “(My wife) took all of the income tax money to pay some of the bills, buy the van and the kids some shoes.”

Marcus Johnson, Senior, quoted in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

*What could we possibly
say and do to help?*



*"I'm sorry. We did
everything we could."*

But did we?

- Did we educate ourselves about the problem of gun violence in the United States so that we could be effective advocates for its prevention?
 - Were we familiar with the literature about known risk factors for gun violence so that we could address them in the community?
 - Did we understand and stand up against structural violence to help address this problem at its roots?
- 

Objectives

- To provide objective data on the impact of gun violence in the United States
 - To share objective data from the medical literature on the role of firearms in gun violence in the United States
 - To discuss structural violence in the United States and its role in the perpetuation of gun violence
- 

This is the part where I point out that gun violence is a problem

*IS GUN
VIOLENCE
REALLY A
PROBLEM?*

*Is gun
violence
really a
problem?*

SPECIAL ARTICLE

**Firearm Injury in the United States: An Overview
of an Evolving Public Health Problem** 

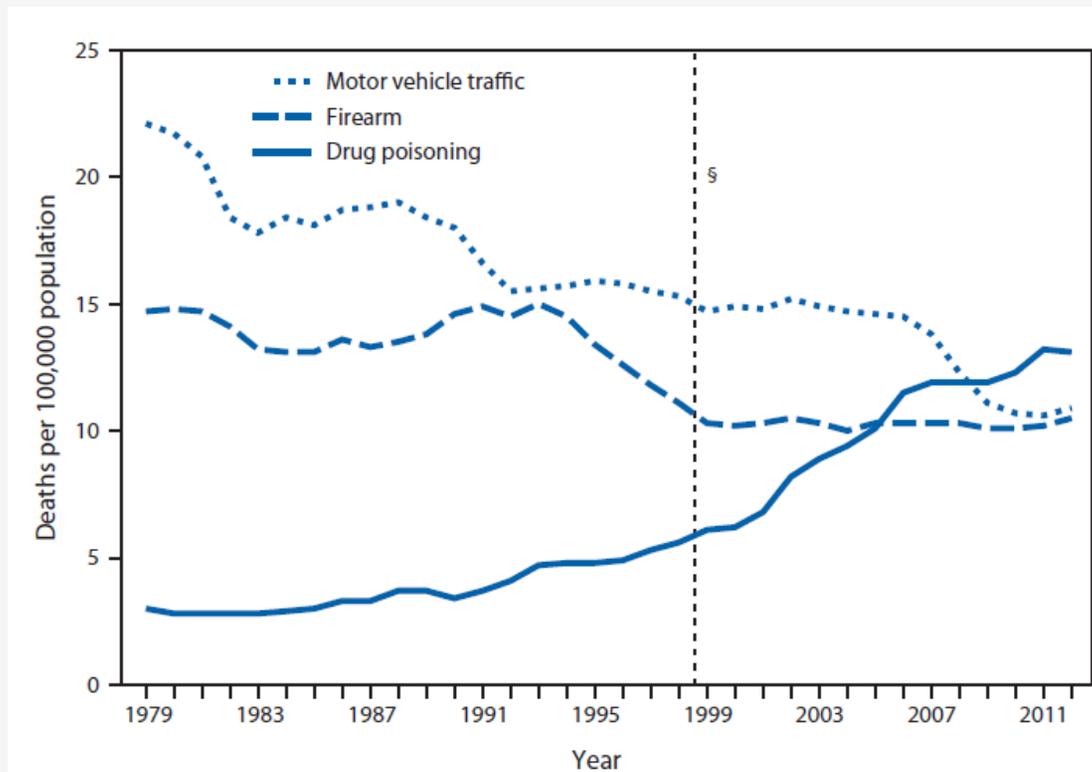
Sotirios Tasigiorgos, MS, Konstantinos P Economopoulos, MD, PhD, Robert D Winfield, MD, FACS,
Joseph V Sakran, MD, MPH, MPA

- An average day in the United States results in:
 - 88 Firearm-related Deaths
 - 202 Nonfatal firearm-related Injuries

J Am Coll Surg 2015.

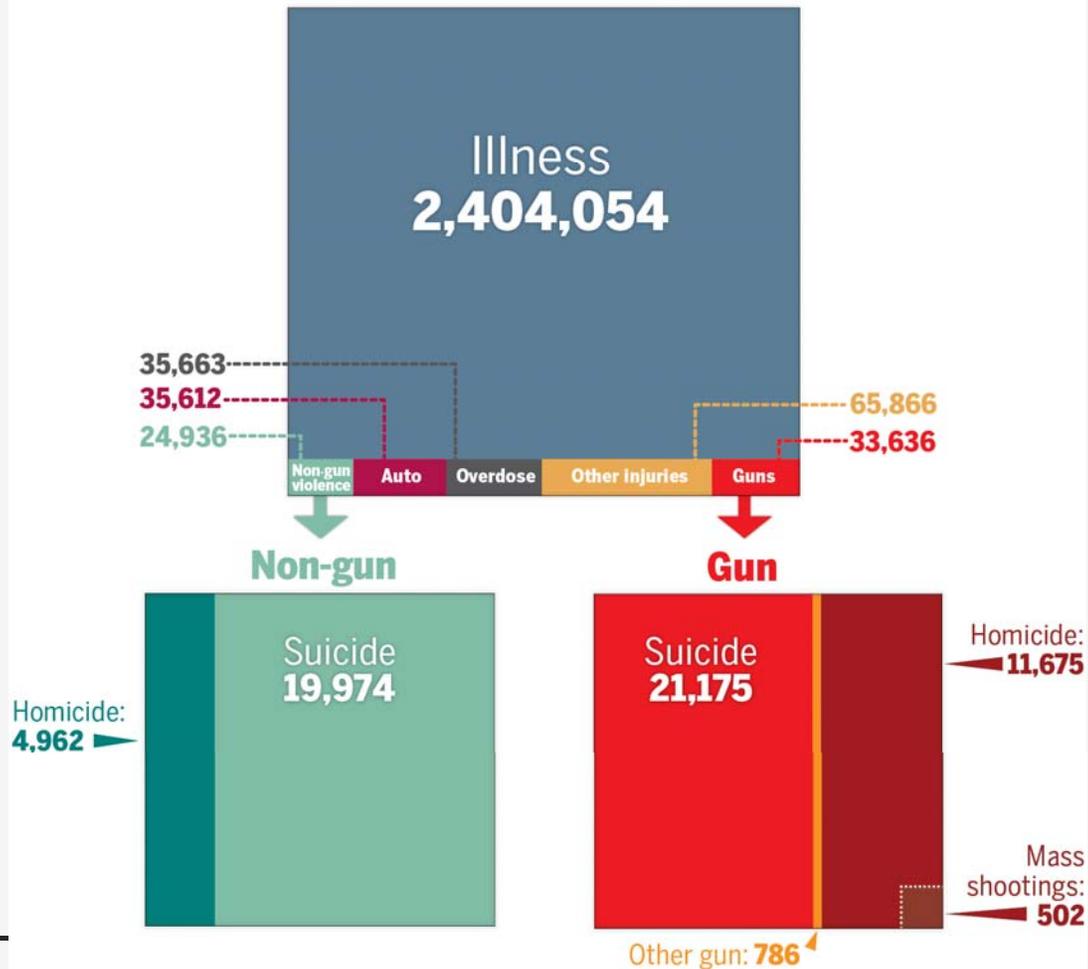


Death Rates for Three Selected Causes of Injury - United States, 1979–2012



From Centers for Disease Control. Available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6346a19.htm>

2013 U.S. deaths by cause



Notes: "Illness" includes deaths due to unknown causes or conditions. "Other injuries" includes adverse effects such as death in medical care.
Sources: Center for Disease Control; mass shooting count from shootingtracker.com

Graphic by Mark Graves, The Oregonian

DAMN IT JIM,

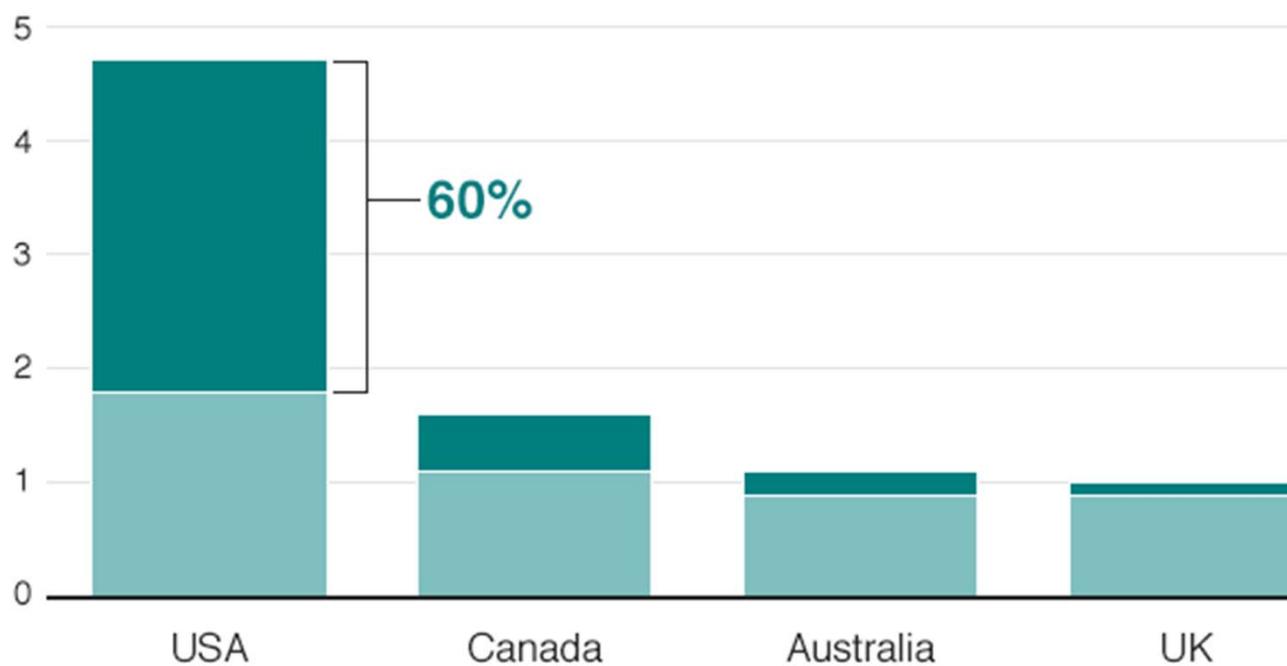
**I'M A TRAUMA SURGEON, NOT A
CARDIOLOGIST!**

memegenerator.net

Homicide rate

per 100,000 people, data from 2012

■ of which by guns



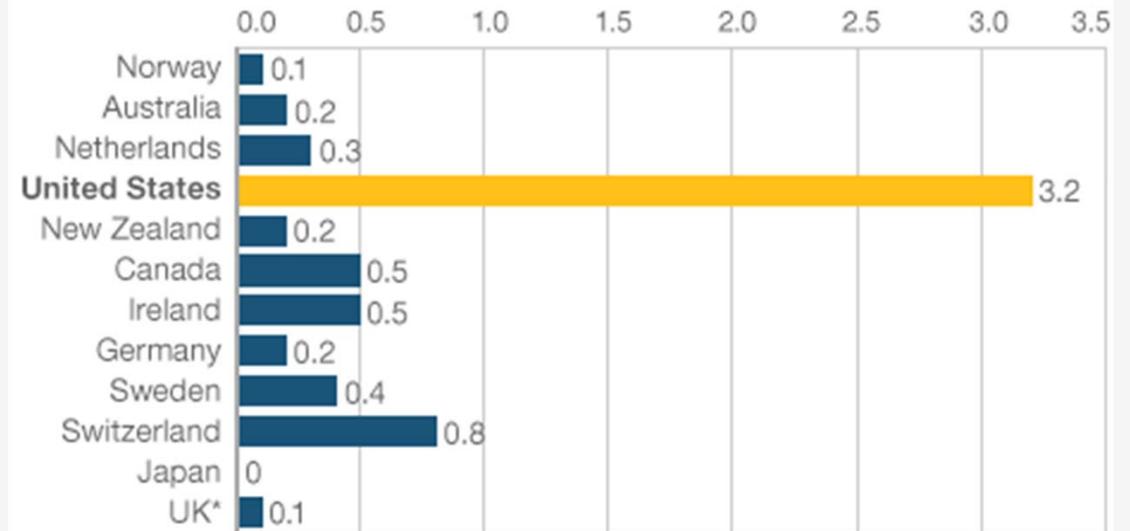
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Is gun violence really a problem?

World Rankings

Gun murders in developed countries
Listed in Human Development Index order

Rate per 100,000 of population



*England and Wales only

Source: UNODC. Latest data available for each country (2004-2010)

Is gun violence really a problem?

World Rankings

**Top 25 Countries Ranked by Gun Homicide Rate
(per 100,000 population)**

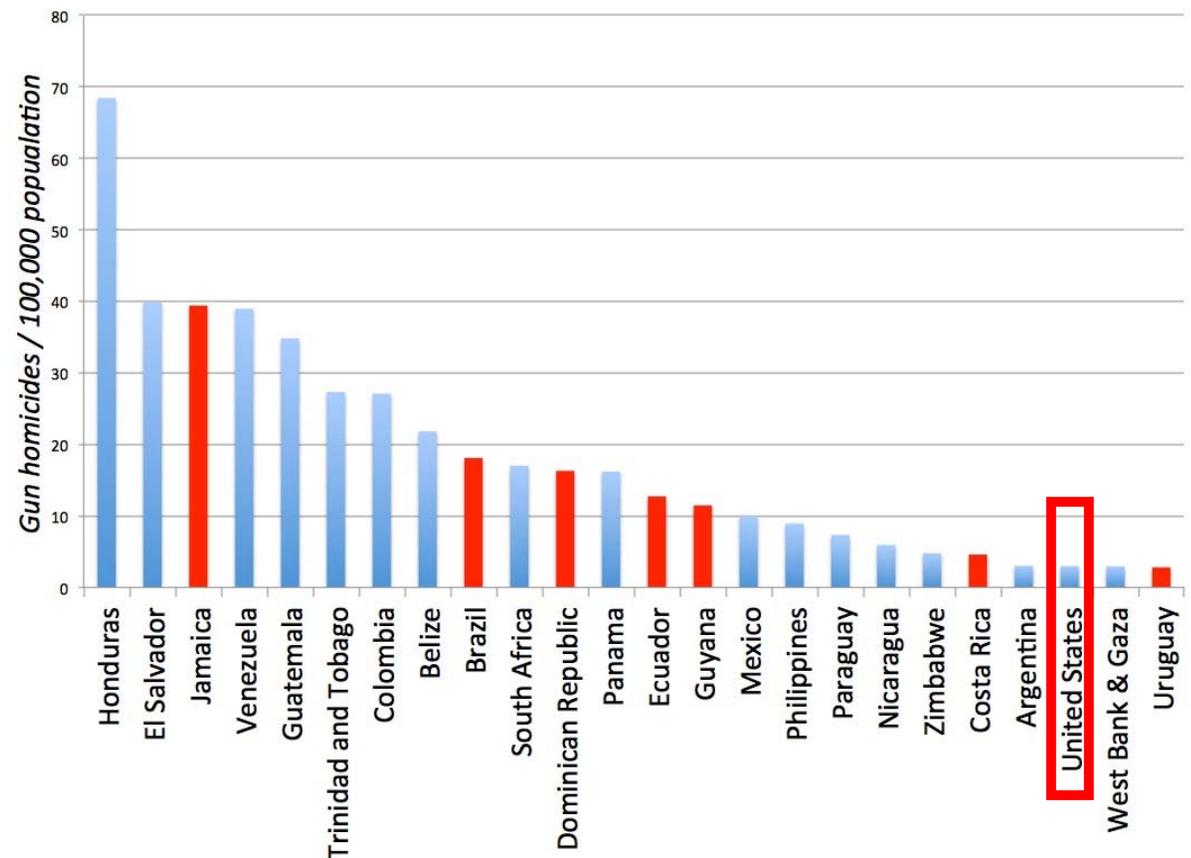


Image from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Available at: <https://www.unodc.org/>

Is gun violence really a problem?



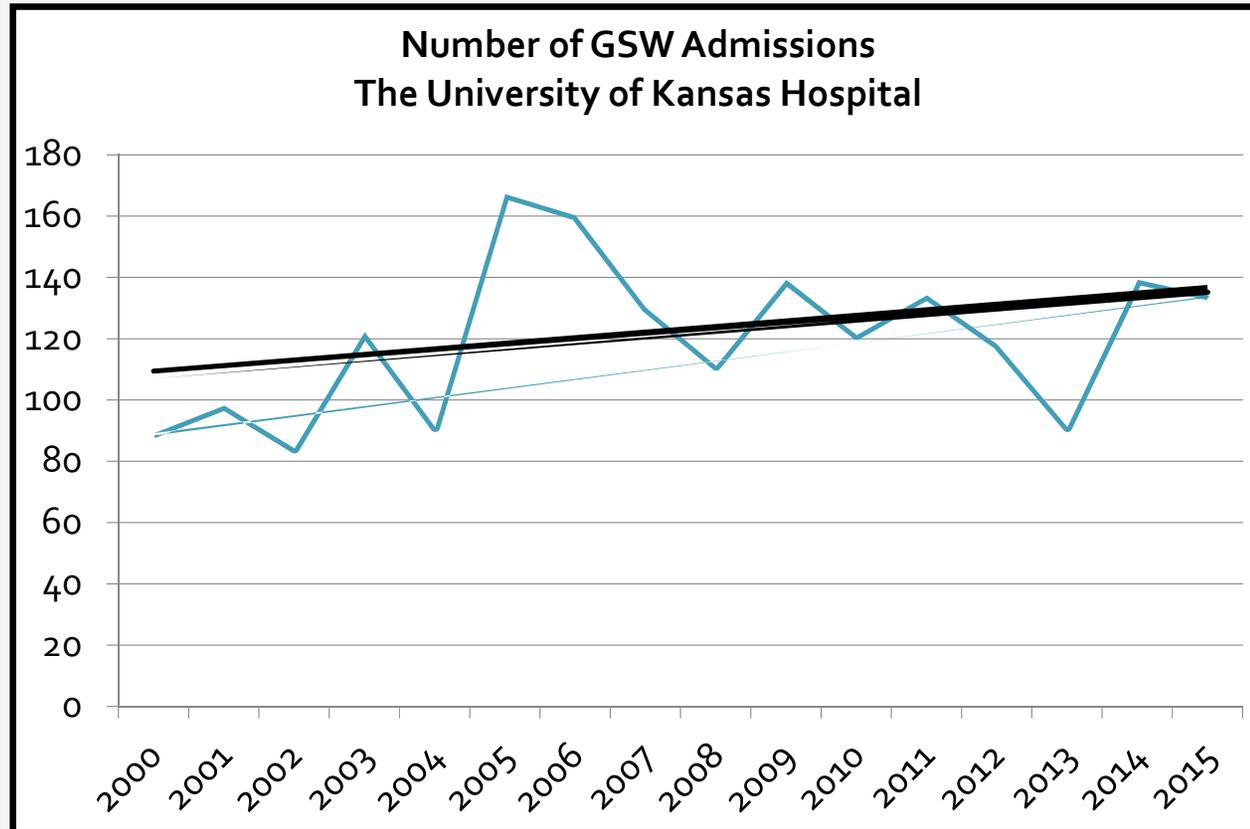
MyTown: Kansas City



Photo by JOHN ROEVER
Friday 3 August 2007

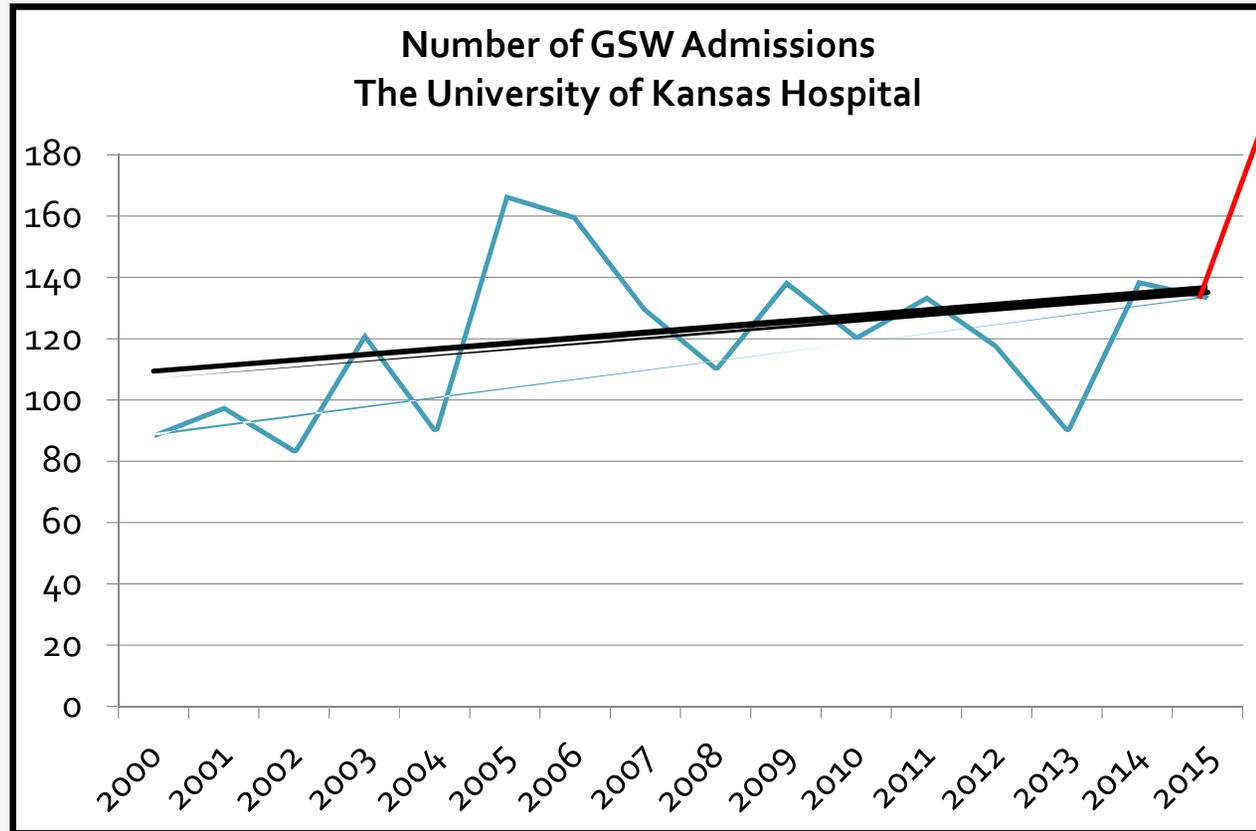
Is gun violence really a problem?

My Town “Killa City”



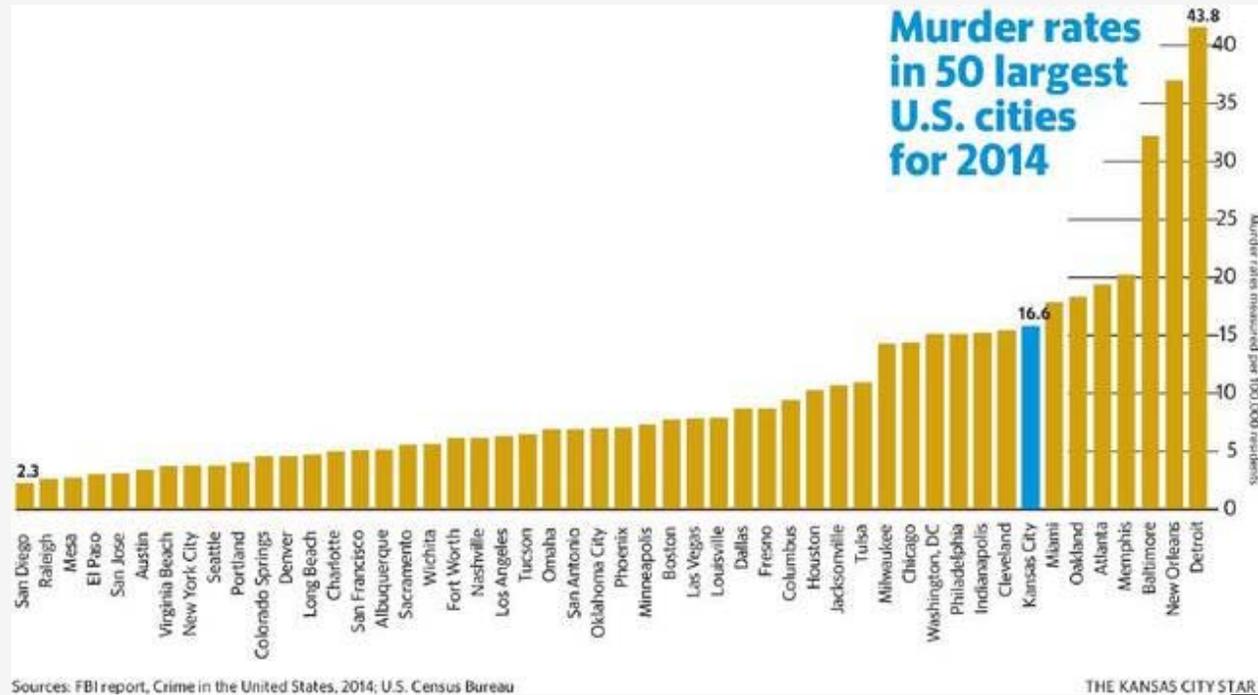
Is gun violence really a problem?

My Town “Killa City”



Is gun violence really a problem?

My Town “Killa City”



*Is gun
violence
really a
problem?*

*My Town
“Killa City”*

#26. Jackson County, MO

Murders per 100K People: 13.42

Total Murders: 91

Violent Crimes per 100K People: 1,004.8

Total Violent Crimes: 6,814

Population: 678,167

#12. Wyandotte County, KS

Murders per 100K People: 15.68

Total Murders: 25

Violent Crimes per 100K People: 705.5

Total Violent Crimes: 1,125

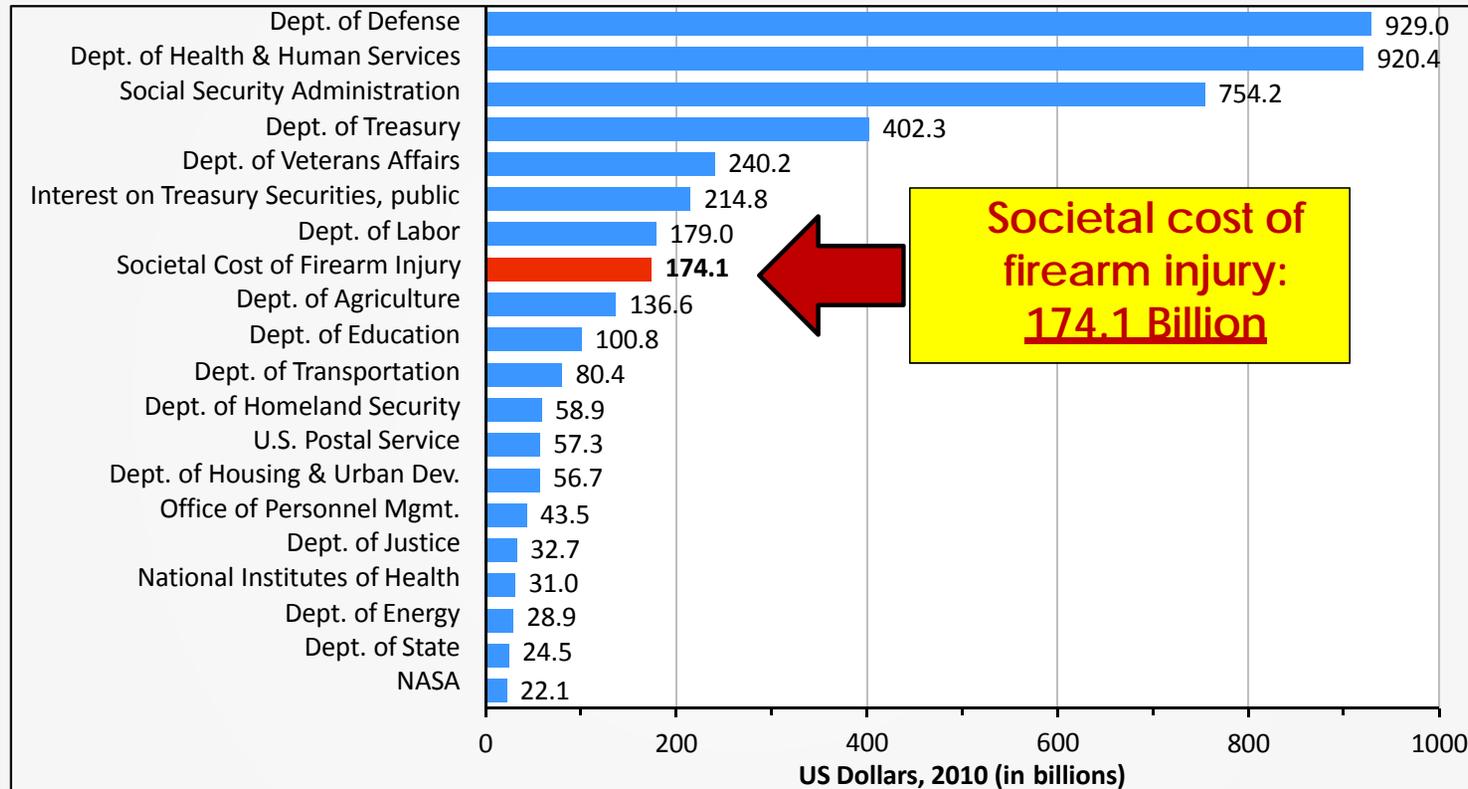
Population: 159,466

Is gun violence really a problem?

The Financial Cost

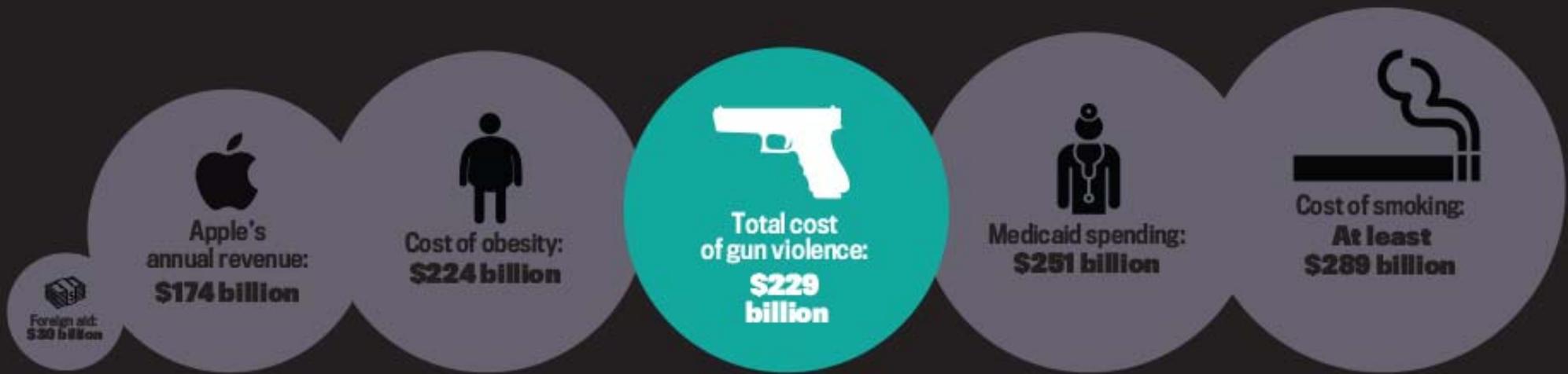
- Costs of treatment
 - \$14,541 per episode
- Estimated lifetime costs:
 - \$13.4 billion in lost productivity
 - *Mock C, et al. Comparison of the costs of acute treatment for gunshot and stab wounds: further evidence of the need for firearms control. JTrauma 1994.*
- Initial inpatient costs:
 - \$6.6 billion between 2006-2014, inflation adjusted (\$730 million annually)
 - \$2.70 billion (40.8%) and was divided between Medicaid (\$2.30 billion) and Medicare (\$0.40 billion).
 - Self-pay individuals accounted for \$1.56 billion (23.6%) in costs.
 - *Spitzer SA, et al. Costs and Financial Burden of Initial Hospitalizations for Firearm Injuries in the United States, 2006–2014. Am J Public Health. 2017 Mar 21.*

Cost of Firearm Injuries



Lee J, Quraishi SA, Bhatnagar S, Zafonte RD, and Masiakos PT The economic cost of firearm-related injuries in the United States from 2006 to 2010. *Surgery*. 2014 May; 155(5):894-898. doi: 10.1016/j.surg.2014.02.011. Epub 2014 Feb 22.

Gun violence costs more than \$700 per American a year. We spend more on it than on obesity, and almost as much as we spend on Medicaid.



Mother Jones

Image from Mother Jones

Available at: <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/04/charts-show-cost-price-gun-violence-america>

*Is gun violence
really a
problem?*

*The Financial
Cost*

- Government resources cover 40-50% of the lifetime costs of firearm injuries

Tasigiorgos S, et al. Firearm injuries in the United States: an Overview of an Evolving Public Health Problem. J Am Coll Surg 2015.

*Is gun
violence
really a
problem?*

*The Human
Cost*



IT HARMS
MORE WOMEN
THAN DIABETES, LUNG CANCER OR STROKE.
ITS VICTIMS COVER THE SPECTRUM OF AGE, RACE,
RELIGION, CULTURE, INCOME AND EDUCATION.
OCTOBER IS ITS NATIONAL
awareness MONTH.
...AND IT'S NOT Breast Cancer.

25% OF WOMEN
WILL BE VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
YET LESS THAN 1% OF
U.S. CORPORATE GIVING
GOES TOWARD THE ISSUE.* LEARN HOW
YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE DOLLARS –
AND SPREAD THE WORD – AT JWI.ORG/DVAM.

*In 2010, less than 1% of all grants from companies registered with the Foundation Center were given to anti-domestic violence efforts.

Jewish women
international
JWI VISION
VOICE
LEADERSHIP
TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

Is gun violence really a problem?

The Human Cost

- Abused women are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm.
- Domestic violence assaults involving a gun are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.
- More than two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims between 1980 and 2008 were killed with firearms.
- In 2011, nearly two-thirds of women killed with guns were killed by their intimate partners.

Campbell JC, et al. "Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study." Am J Pub Health.

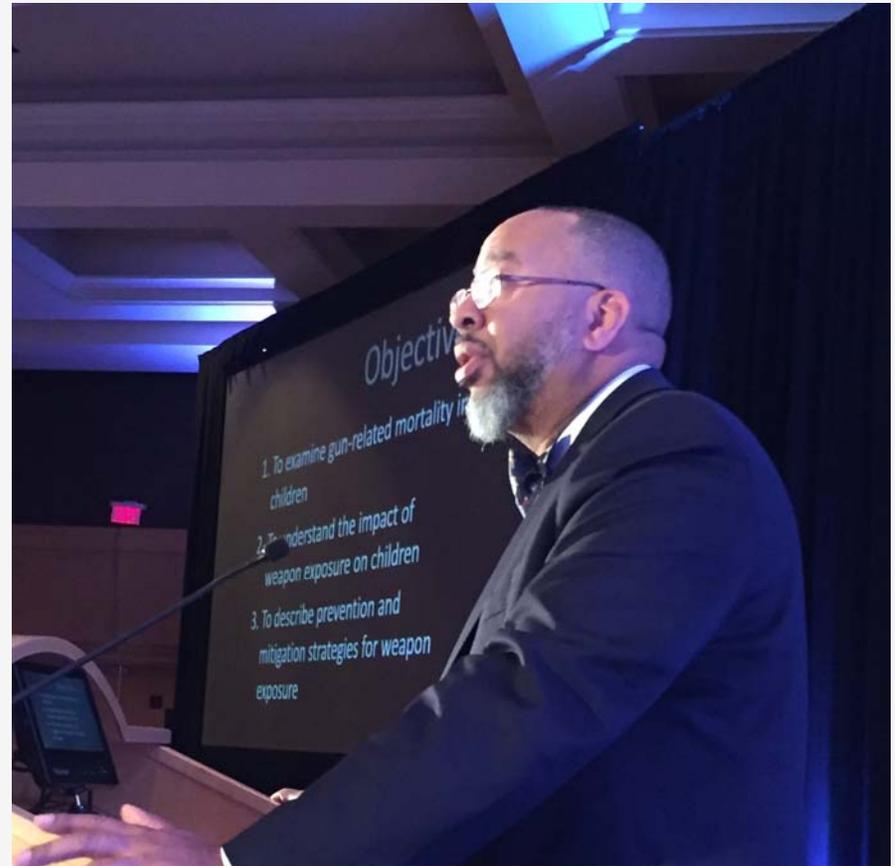
Saltzman LE, et al. "Weapon involvement and injury outcomes in family and intimate assaults." JAMA.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice. "Homicide trends in the United States, 1980-2008."

Violence Policy Center, "When men murder women: an analysis of homicide data." Available at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf>

*Is gun
violence
really a
problem?*

*The Human
Cost*



"If there is any disagreement on our country's greatest resource, we live in very troubled times."

-Jeffrey S. Upperman, M.D., FACS, FAAP

January 12, 2017

Is gun violence really a problem?

The Human Cost

- 1,300 Children (0-17 years) die annually from firearm-related injuries
 - 53% homicides, 38% suicides, 6% unintentional
 - 82% male
 - Male:Female homicides – 4:1
 - African-American children are at the greatest risk for homicides
 - 2x higher than American Indian
 - 4x higher than Hispanic
 - 10x higher than White

Fowler KA, et al. Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. Pediatrics. 2017.

*Is gun
violence
really a
problem?*

*The Human
Cost*



Hemenway D, Grinshteyn E. Violent death rates: the US compared with other high-income OECD Countries, 2010. Am J Med. 2016.

Is gun violence really a problem?

The Human Cost

- 5,790 children suffer nonfatal firearm injuries annually
 - 84% male
 - 5x the rate of females
 - 71% assault
 - Primarily older children (13-17)
 - 19x the rate of children <13 years

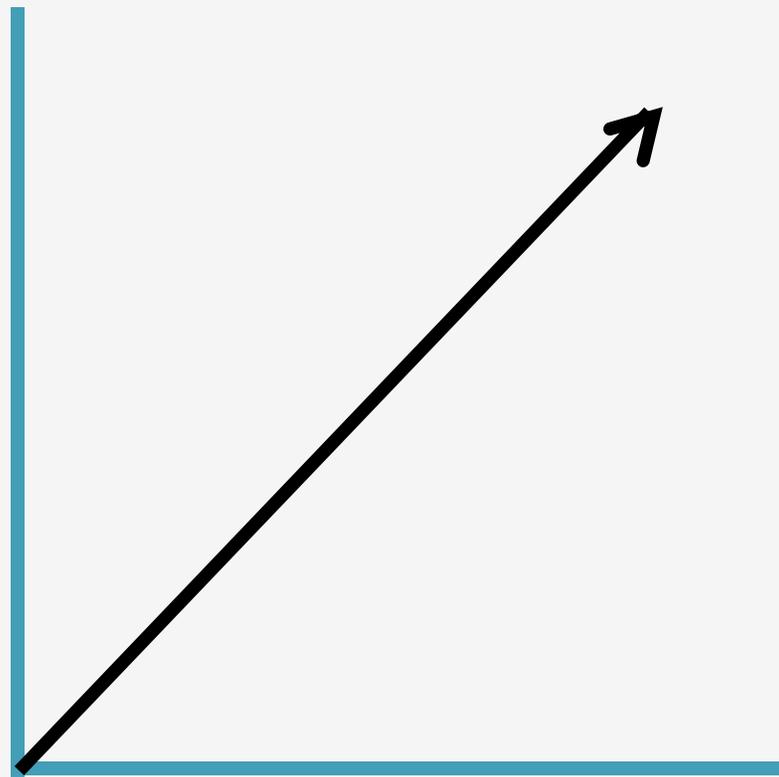
Fowler KA, et al. Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2017.

*17.5 million youth in the US have been
exposed to violence involving
a weapon in their lifetimes as witnesses or
victims*

*4.2% of all American children have
witnessed a shooting*

More than 1 in 4 youth (26.5%)
reported at least 1 victimization
that involved a weapon in their
lifetime, such as a knife, **gun**,
stick, or rock
12.5% reported at least 1 direct
victimization with a weapon

victimization



Adverse outcomes

Appleyard 2005

Effects of Victimization With Weapon

Depression

Anxiety

Anger/Aggression

$P < .001$

*Is gun
violence
really a
problem?*

- If you want to discuss raw numbers and the relative relationship of gun violence to other causes of death, maybe not.
 - If you find it embarrassing that we are an outlier among developed nations, you would prefer to divert \$700 of your taxes to something other than providing healthcare to gunshot victims, and you think that we can do better for women and children, maybe so.
- 

*This is the part where I gently suggest that guns are a part of the problem using
existing data rather than conjecture*

ARE GUNS THE PROBLEM?

*Are guns
the
problem?*



"Ignoring guns is to be deliberately obtuse."

-Marie L. Crandall, M.D., FACS

January 18, 2017

*But first, this
public service
announcement*

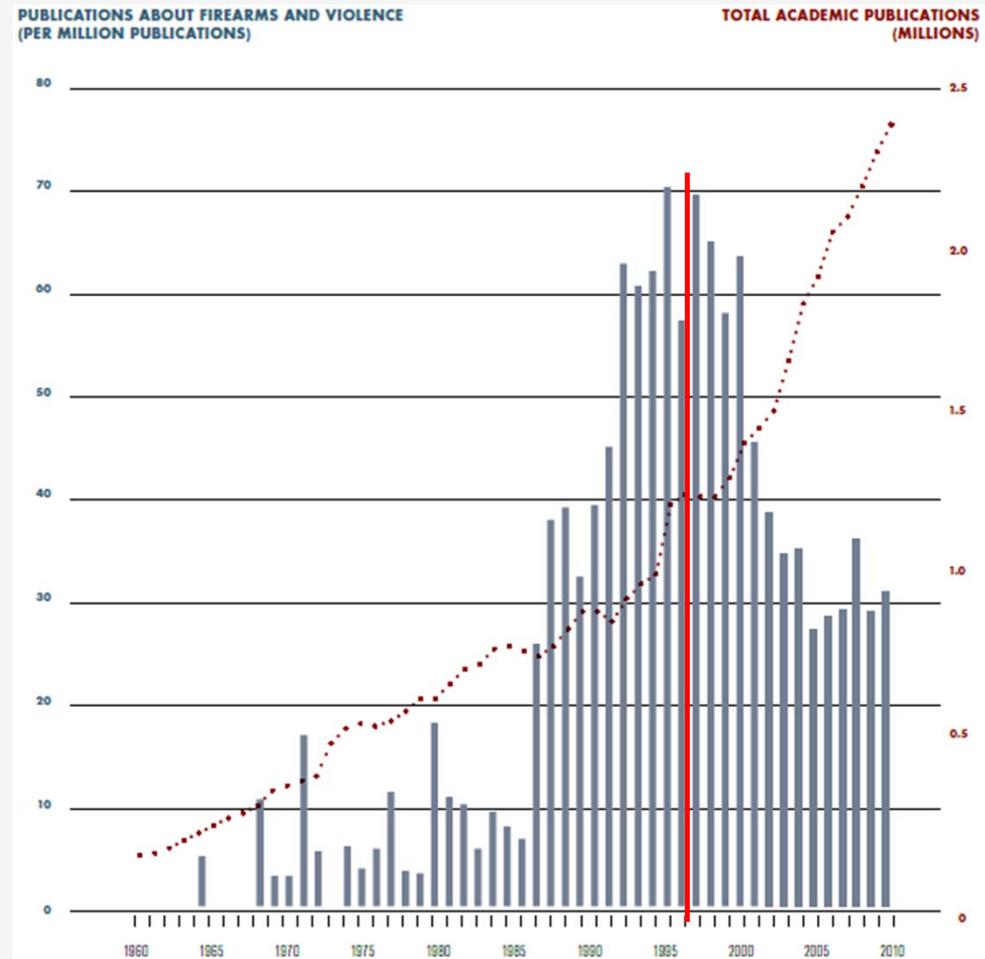
**GUNS DON'T
KILL PEOPLE.
PEOPLE KILL
PEOPLE.**

*The NRA
effectively
eliminated
injury
prevention
research for
gun violence*

- “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.”
 - Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill, 1996

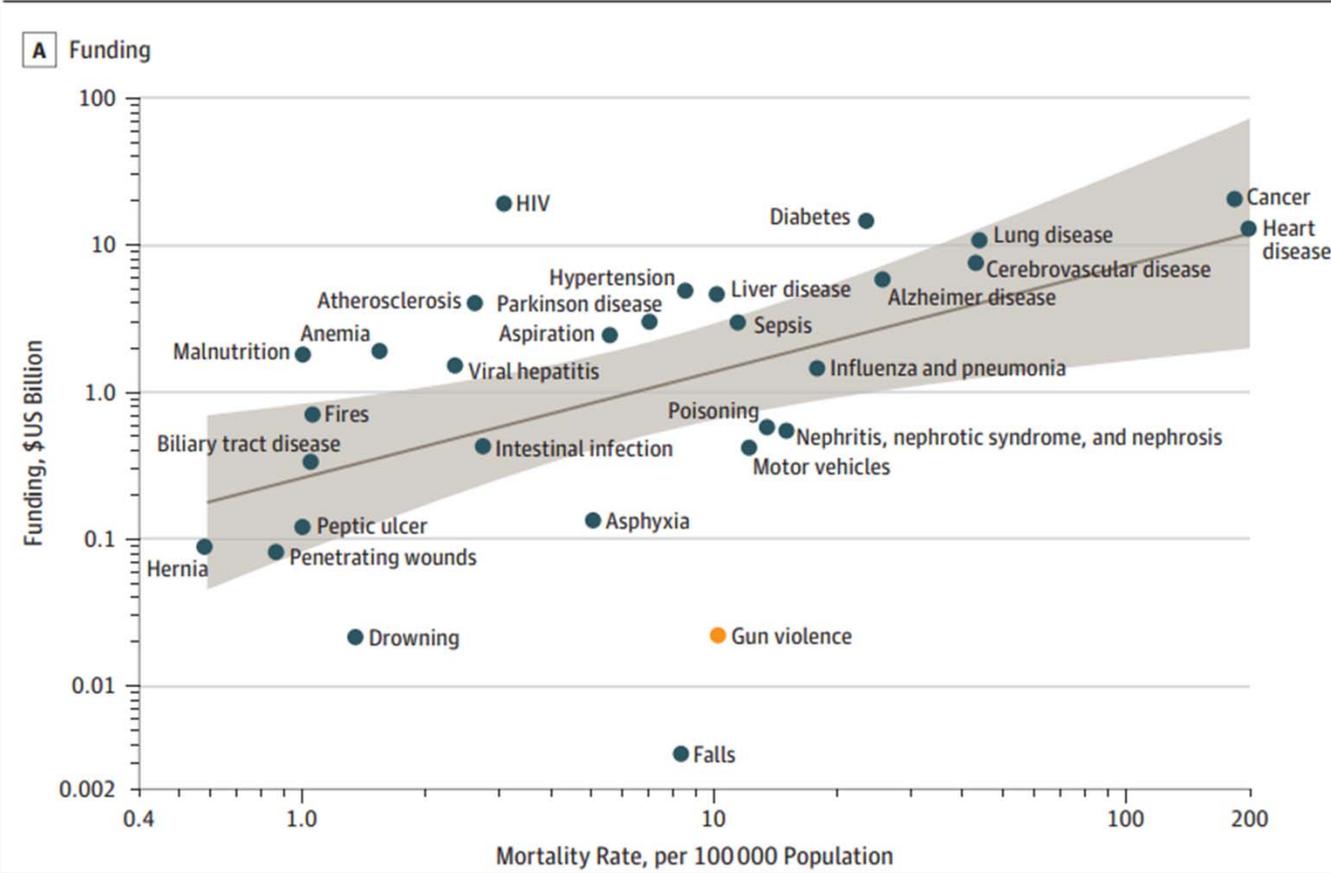
<http://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2013/02/gun-violence.aspx>

Funding effect on publications



Mayors against illegal guns: Access Denied. Jan 2013

Figure 1. Mortality Rate vs Funding and Publication Volume for 30 Leading Causes of Death in the United States



Research Articles

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Australia's 1996 gun law reforms: faster falls in firearm deaths, firearm suicides, and a decade without mass shootings

S Chapman, P Alpers, K Agho, M Jones

Injury Prevention 2006;12:365–372. doi: 10.1136/ip.2006.013714

Background: After a 1996 firearm massacre in Tasmania in which 35 people died, Australian governments united to remove semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns and rifles from civilian possession, as a key component of gun law reforms.

Objective: To determine whether Australia's 1996 major gun law reforms were associated with changes in rates of mass firearm homicides, total firearm deaths, firearm homicides and firearm suicides, and whether there were any apparent method substitution effects for total homicides and suicides.

Design: Observational study using official statistics. Negative binomial regression analysis of changes in firearm death rates and comparison of trends in pre-post gun law reform firearm-related mass killings.

Setting: Australia, 1979–2003.

Main outcome measures: Changes in trends of total firearm death rates, mass fatal shooting incidents, rates of firearm homicide, suicide and unintentional firearm deaths, and of total homicides and suicides per 100 000 population.

Results: In the 18 years before the gun law reforms, there were 13 mass shootings in Australia, and none in the 10.5 years afterwards. Declines in firearm-related deaths before the law reforms accelerated after the reforms for total firearm deaths ($p=0.04$), firearm suicides ($p=0.007$) and firearm homicides ($p=0.15$), but not for the smallest category of unintentional firearm deaths, which increased. No evidence of substitution effect for suicides or homicides was observed. The rates per 100 000 of total firearm deaths, firearm homicides and firearm suicides all at least doubled their existing rates of decline after the revised gun laws.

Conclusions: Australia's 1996 gun law reforms were followed by more than a decade free of fatal mass shootings, and accelerated declines in firearm deaths, particularly suicides. Total homicide rates followed the same pattern. Removing large numbers of rapid-firing firearms from civilians may be an effective way of reducing mass shootings, firearm homicides and firearm suicides.

See end of article for authors' affiliations

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Accepted 6 November
2006

Research Articles

Effect of a Ban on Carrying Firearms on Homicide Rates in 2 Colombian Cities

Andrés Villaveces, MD, MPH

Peter Cummings, MD, MPH

Victoria E. Espitia, MSc

Thomas D. Koepsell, MD, MPH

Barbara McKnight, PhD

Arthur L. Kellermann, MD, MPH

IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, an estimated 102 000 homicides occurred in 1990 (46.0 per 100 000 person-years).¹ From 1983 to 1993, the annual rate of homicide in Colombia increased 366%, from 24 to 88 per 100 000.² In contrast, the crude homicide rate in the United States in 1993 was 9.5 per 100 000.^{3,4} Two thirds of all deaths of Colombian men aged 15 to 44 years were due to homicide in 1993.⁵ Much of the recent increase in fatal interpersonal violence in Colombia has been concentrated in the country's 3 largest cities, Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali. These cities contain 23% of the country's population and account for nearly 31% of its homicides.⁶ In

Context Homicide is a leading cause of death in Colombia, with much of the fatal interpersonal violence concentrated in the country's largest cities. Firearms are involved in as much as 80% of homicides in Colombia.

Objective To evaluate the effect of an intermittent police-enforced ban on carrying firearms on the incidence of homicide in urban Colombia.

Design Interrupted time-series study with multiple replications.

Setting Cali, Colombia, during 1993 and 1994 and Bogotá, Colombia, from 1995 through August 1997.

Participants The populations of Cali and Bogotá.

Intervention Carrying of firearms was banned on weekends after paydays, on holidays, and on election days. Enforcement included establishment of police checkpoints and searching of individuals during traffic stops and other routine law enforcement activity.

Main Outcome Measure Homicide rates during intervention days were compared with rates during similar days without the intervention; estimates were based on comparisons within the same month, day of week, and time of day.

Results There were 4078 homicides in Cali during 1993 and 1994 (114.6 per 100 000 person-years). In Bogotá, 9106 homicides occurred from 1995 through August 1997 (61 per 100 000 person-years). The incidence of homicide was lower during periods when the firearm-carrying ban was in effect compared with other periods (multivariate-adjusted rate ratio, 0.86 [95% confidence interval (CI), 0.76-0.97] for Cali, and 0.87 [95% CI, 0.77-0.98] for Bogotá).

Conclusion An intermittent citywide ban on the carrying of firearms in 2 Colombian cities was associated with a reduction in homicide rates for both cities.

JAMA. 2000;283:1205-1209

www.jama.com

Research Articles

GUN OWNERSHIP AS A RISK FACTOR FOR HOMICIDE IN THE HOME

ARTHUR L. KELLERMANN, M.D., M.P.H., FREDERICK P. RIVARA, M.D., M.P.H.,
NORMAN B. RUSHFORTH, Ph.D., JOYCE G. BANTON, M.S., DONALD T. REAY, M.D.,
JERRY T. FRANCISCO, M.D., ANA B. LOCCI, Ph.D., JANICE PRODZINSKI, B.A.,
BELA B. HACKMAN, M.D., AND GRANT SOMES, Ph.D.

Abstract Background. It is unknown whether keeping a firearm in the home confers protection against crime or, instead, increases the risk of violent crime in the home. To study risk factors for homicide in the home, we identified homicides occurring in the homes of victims in three metropolitan counties.

Methods. After each homicide, we obtained data from the police or medical examiner and interviewed a proxy for the victim. The proxies' answers were compared with those of control subjects who were matched to the victims according to neighborhood, sex, race, and age range. Crude and adjusted odds ratios were calculated with matched-pairs methods.

Results. During the study period, 1860 homicides occurred in the three counties, 444 of them (23.9 percent) in the home of the victim. After excluding 24 cases for various reasons, we interviewed proxy respondents for 93 percent of the victims. Controls were identified for 99

percent of these, yielding 388 matched pairs. As compared with the controls, the victims more often lived alone or rented their residence. Also, case households more commonly contained an illicit-drug user, a person with prior arrests, or someone who had been hit or hurt in a fight in the home. After controlling for these characteristics, 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.

Conclusions. The use of illicit drugs and a history of physical fights in the home are important risk factors for homicide in the home. Rather than confer protection, guns kept in the home are associated with an increase in the risk of homicide by a family member or intimate acquaintance. (N Engl J Med 1993;329:1084-91.)

Research Articles

Investigating the Link Between Gun Possession and Gun Assault

Charles C. Branas, PhD, Therese S. Richmond, PhD, CRNP, Dennis P. Culhane, PhD, Thomas R. Ten Have, PhD, MPH, and Douglas J. Wiebe, PhD

Among a long list of issues facing the American public, guns are third only to gay marriage and abortion in terms of people who report that they are “not willing to listen to the other side.” In concert with this cultural rift, scholarly discussion over guns has been similarly contentious.¹ Although scholars and the public agree that the roughly 100 000 shootings each year in the United States are a clear threat to health, uncertainty remains as to whether civilians armed with guns are, on average, protecting or endangering themselves from such shootings.^{2–4}

Several case–control studies have explored the relationship between homicide and having a gun in the home,^{5,6} purchasing a gun,^{7,8} or

Objectives. We investigated the possible relationship between being shot in an assault and possession of a gun at the time.

Methods. We enrolled 677 case participants that had been shot in an assault and 684 population-based control participants within Philadelphia, PA, from 2003 to 2006. We adjusted odds ratios for confounding variables.

Results. After adjustment, individuals in possession of a gun were 4.46 ($P < .05$) times more likely to be shot in an assault than those not in possession. Among gun assaults where the victim had at least some chance to resist, this adjusted odds ratio increased to 5.45 ($P < .05$).

Conclusions. On average, guns did not protect those who possessed them from being shot in an assault. Although successful defensive gun uses occur each year, the probability of success may be low for civilian gun users in urban areas. Such users should reconsider their possession of guns or, at least, understand that regular possession necessitates careful safety countermeasures. (*Am J Public Health.* 2009;99:2034–2040. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2008.143099)

Research Articles

Effects of domestic violence policies, alcohol taxes and police staffing levels on intimate partner homicide in large US cities

April M Zeoli,¹ Daniel W Webster²

ABSTRACT

Objective To assess the relationships between intimate partner homicide (IPH) and public policies including police staffing levels in large US cities.

Design The research uses a multiple time-series design to examine the effects of statutes aimed at restricting access to firearms for perpetrators of domestic violence, allowing or mandating arrest for violators of domestic violence restraining orders (DVROs), beer excise taxes, and police staffing levels on IPH in 46 of the largest US cities from 1979 to 2003. Both total IPH and IPH committed with a firearm are analysed. Generalised estimating equations using a Poisson distribution are used to regress IPH on the policies and potential confounders.

Results State statutes restricting those under DVROs from accessing firearms, and laws allowing the warrantless arrest of DVRO violators, are associated with reductions in total and firearm IPH. Police staffing levels are also negatively associated with total and firearm IPH. There was no evidence that other policies to restrict firearm access to domestic violence offenders or alcohol taxes had a significant impact on IPH.

Conclusions Reducing access to firearms for DVRO defendants, increasing police staffing levels and allowing the warrantless arrest of DVRO violators may reduce the city-level risk of IPH. Future research should evaluate factors that may mediate the effects of these laws and increased police staffing levels on IPH to determine whether there are opportunities to increase their protective effects. Further research is needed on firearm law implementation to determine why the other tested laws were not found effective.

however, causal connections between alcohol, forms of abuse and IPH are not entirely clear.⁷ A meta-analysis of 112 studies that assessed the effects of alcoholic beverage taxes and prices on drinking reported that increasing taxes and prices decreases alcohol use.⁸ An increase in alcohol price or tax could lower consumption among drinkers who are at risk of committing IPV. Higher state excise taxes on beer are associated with lower overall and severe violence against children.⁹ Furthermore, alcohol price is negatively associated with the risk of violence against wives; however the results regarding violence against husbands are mixed.¹⁰

Over 65% of intimate partner femicide victims are physically abused by their perpetrators prior to the homicide.¹¹ Roughly half of violent incidents between partners are reported to the police by female victims.¹² About half of all female victims of IPH and near-lethal IPV obtained a domestic violence restraining order (DVRO), had their abuser arrested, or reported stalking or threatening behaviours to the police during the year preceding the lethal or near-lethal event.¹³ Furthermore, IPV perpetrators are less likely to recidivate after a police report is made regardless of whether an arrest occurred.¹⁴ These statistics suggest that the police have opportunities to intervene in IPV and prevent future homicide.

The current study is an investigation of the impacts of targeted IPV policies, alcohol taxes and police staffing levels on IPH. Movement on many of these policies occurred around the same period, the early to mid 1990s, and there could not be

Injury Prevention 2010;16:90-95.

Research Articles

Children are safer in states with strict firearm laws: a National Inpatient Sample study.

Safavi A, et al. J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2014.

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Firearm control laws vary across the United States and remain state specific. The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between variation in states' firearm control laws and the risk of firearm-related injuries in pediatric population. We hypothesized that strict firearm control laws impact the incidence of pediatric firearm injury.

METHODS: All patients with trauma Ecodes and those 18 years or younger were identified from the 2009 Nationwide Inpatient Sample. Individual states' firearm control laws were evaluated and scored based on background checks on firearm sales, permit requirements, assault weapon and large-capacity magazine ban, mandatory child safety lock requirements, and regulations regarding firearms in college and workplaces. States were then dichotomized into strict firearm laws (SFLs) and non-strict firearm laws (non-SFLs) state based on median total score. The primary outcome measure was incidence of firearm injury. Data were compared between the two groups using simple linear regression analysis.

RESULTS: A total of 60,224 pediatric patients with trauma-related injuries across 44 states were included. Thirty-three states were categorized as non-SFL and 11 as SFL. Two hundred eighty-six (0.5%) had firearm injuries, of which 31 were self-inflicted. Mean firearm injury rates per 1,000 trauma patients was higher in the non-SFL states (mean [SD]: SFL, 2.2 [1.6]; non-SFL, 5.9 [5.6]; $p = 0.001$). Being in a non-SFL state increased the mean firearm injury rate by 3.75 (β coefficient, 3.75; 95% confidence interval, 0.25-7.25; $p = 0.036$).

CONCLUSION: Children living in states with strict firearm legislation are safer. Efforts to improve and standardize national firearm control laws are warranted.

Research Articles

Firearm legislation and firearm mortality in the USA: a cross-sectional, state-level study



Bindu Kalesan, Matthew E Mobily, Olivia Keiser, Jeffrey A Fagan, Sandro Galea

Summary

Background In an effort to reduce firearm mortality rates in the USA, US states have enacted a range of firearm laws to either strengthen or deregulate the existing main federal gun control law, the Brady Law. We set out to determine the independent association of different firearm laws with overall firearm mortality, homicide firearm mortality, and suicide firearm mortality across all US states. We also projected the potential reduction of firearm mortality if the three most strongly associated firearm laws were enacted at the federal level.

Lancet 2016; 387: 1847-55

Published Online

March 10, 2016

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01026-0)

[S0140-6736\(15\)01026-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01026-0)

- Cross-sectional Study
 - State level data-set, CDC WISQRS
 - 25 state firearm laws
 - 3 of them were associated with reduced firearm mortality
 - Universal Background Checks
 - Ammunition Background Checks
 - Identification requirement for firearms
-

Research Articles

Handgun waiting periods reduce gun deaths

Michael Luca^{a,1}, Deepak Malhotra^a, and Christopher Poliquin^a

^aHarvard Business School, Boston, MA 02163

Edited by Philip J. Cook, Duke University, Durham, NC, and accepted by Editorial Board Member Kenneth W. Wachter September 21, 2017 (received for review December 3, 2016)

Handgun waiting periods are laws that impose a delay between the initiation of a purchase and final acquisition of a firearm. We show that waiting periods, which create a “cooling off” period among buyers, significantly reduce the incidence of gun violence. We estimate the impact of waiting periods on gun deaths, exploiting all changes to state-level policies in the United States since 1970. We find that waiting periods reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%. We provide further support for the causal impact of waiting periods on homicides by exploiting a natural experiment resulting from a federal law in 1994 that imposed a temporary waiting period on a subset of states.

gun policy | gun violence | waiting period | injury prevention

also suggest that waiting periods reduce gun homicides by 17%. The results of both analyses confirm a large and robust effect of waiting periods on homicides. We also find a negative effect of waiting periods on suicides, but the magnitude and statistical significance of the suicide effect vary across model specification.

Data and Research Design

We construct a panel of every change to waiting period laws in the United States between 1970 and 2014, which we obtained from state statutes and session laws. We combine these changes with annual data on firearm-related deaths from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fig. 1 shows the number of states with waiting periods over time. Overall, 44 states (including the District of Columbia) have had a waiting period for at least some time

Significance

Waiting period laws that delay the purchase of firearms by a few days reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%. Our results imply that the 17 states (including the District of Columbia) with waiting periods avoid roughly 750 gun homicides per year as a result of this policy. Expanding the waiting period policy to all other US states would prevent an additional 910 gun homicides per year without imposing any restrictions on who can own a gun.

PNAS. 2016.

Research Articles

The Impact of Right to Carry Laws and the NRC Report: The Latest Lessons for the Empirical Evaluation of Law and Policy

Abhay Aneja, John J. Donohue III, Alexandria Zhang¹

Abhay Aneja: School of Law, Stanford University, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, CA 94305 (email: aaneja@stanford.edu); John J. Donohue III: School of Law, Stanford University, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, CA 94305 (email: donohue@law.stanford.edu); Alexandria Zhang: Department of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, 440 Mergerthaler Hall, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 (azhang4@jhu.edu).

September 4th, 2014

Findings:

Using national, county and state data, and covariates including incarceration rates, homicide rate fluctuations, crack cocaine epidemic trends, and others, the authors found a 3% increase in homicide rates and up to a 38% increase in rape and aggravated assault rates in states with Concealed Carry Laws.

Research Articles

Prevention of Firearm-Related Injuries with Restrictive Licensing and Concealed Carry Laws

PICO 1: **We recommend the use of restrictive licensing to reduce firearm-related injuries.**

PICO 2: **We recommend against the use of concealed carry laws to reduce firearm-related injuries.** This committee found an association between more restrictive licensing and lower firearm injury rates. All 14 studies were population-based, longitudinal, used modeling to control for covariates, and 11 of the 14 were multi-state. **Twelve of the studies reported reductions in firearm injuries, from 7% to 40%.** We found no consistent effect of concealed carry laws. Of note, the varied quality of the available data demonstrates a significant information gap, and this committee recommends that we as a society foster a nurturing and encouraging environment that can strengthen future evidence based guidelines.

Crandall ML, et al. JTrauma. 81(5):952-960, November 2016

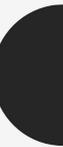
Are guns the problem?

- Guns don't kill people, people kill people.
 - Limitations in access to firearms seems to have protective effects across a variety of settings.
- 

*Gun violence is absolutely a gun problem,
but structural violence drives gun violence in America*

*IT'S NOT JUST
ABOUT THE
GUNS*

*Two things
will reduce
firearm
deaths in
the United
States:*



*Two things
will reduce
firearm
deaths in
the United
States:*

A healthcare system that provides adequate mental health services will reduce suicides, which represent the majority of firearm-related deaths.

*Two things
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deaths in
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States:*

A healthcare system that provides adequate mental health services will reduce suicides, which represent the majority of firearm-related deaths.

A long-term commitment to the elimination of *structural violence* will reduce homicides, which represent the second-leading cause of firearm-related deaths.

What is structural violence?



"Trauma should be treated with a world-view that recognizes oppressive power structures and opposes them."

-Tanya L. Zakrisson, M.D., MHSc, FRCSC, FACS, MPH

February 2, 2017

Structural Violence - Johan Galtung

- A form of violence where some social structure or social institution harms people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs.
 - Institutionalized elitism, ethnocentrism, classism, racism, sexism, adultism, nationalism, heterosexism and ageism
- “Avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs”

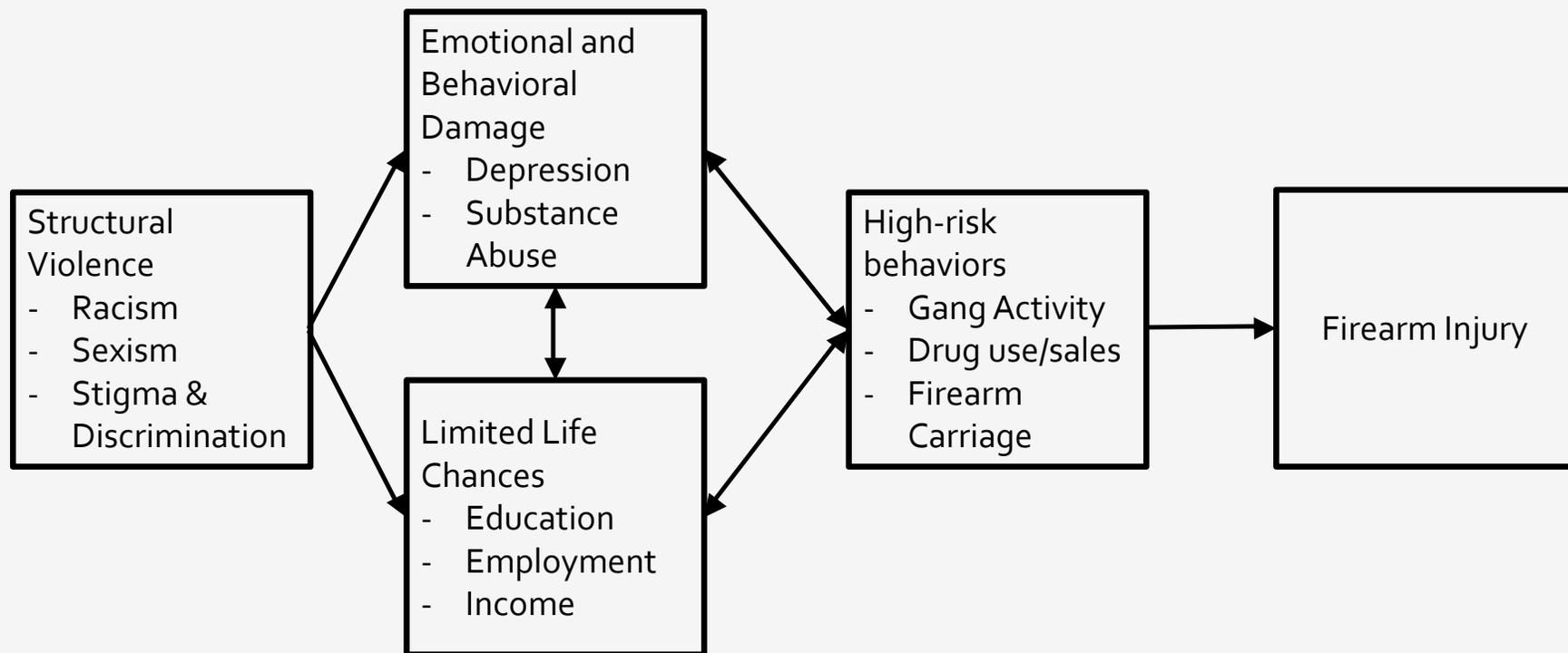
“Violence, Peace, and Peace Research” Journal of Peace Research, Vol. 6, No. 3 (1969), pp. 167-191



Structural Violence – Why is it harmful?

- **This leads to alienation:** a lack of self-worth, the absence of meaning in one's life, consequent to being coerced to lead a life without opportunity for self-fulfillment, without the opportunity to become actualized, to become one's Self
- It leads to direct violence & premature death

Structural Violence – How does it work?



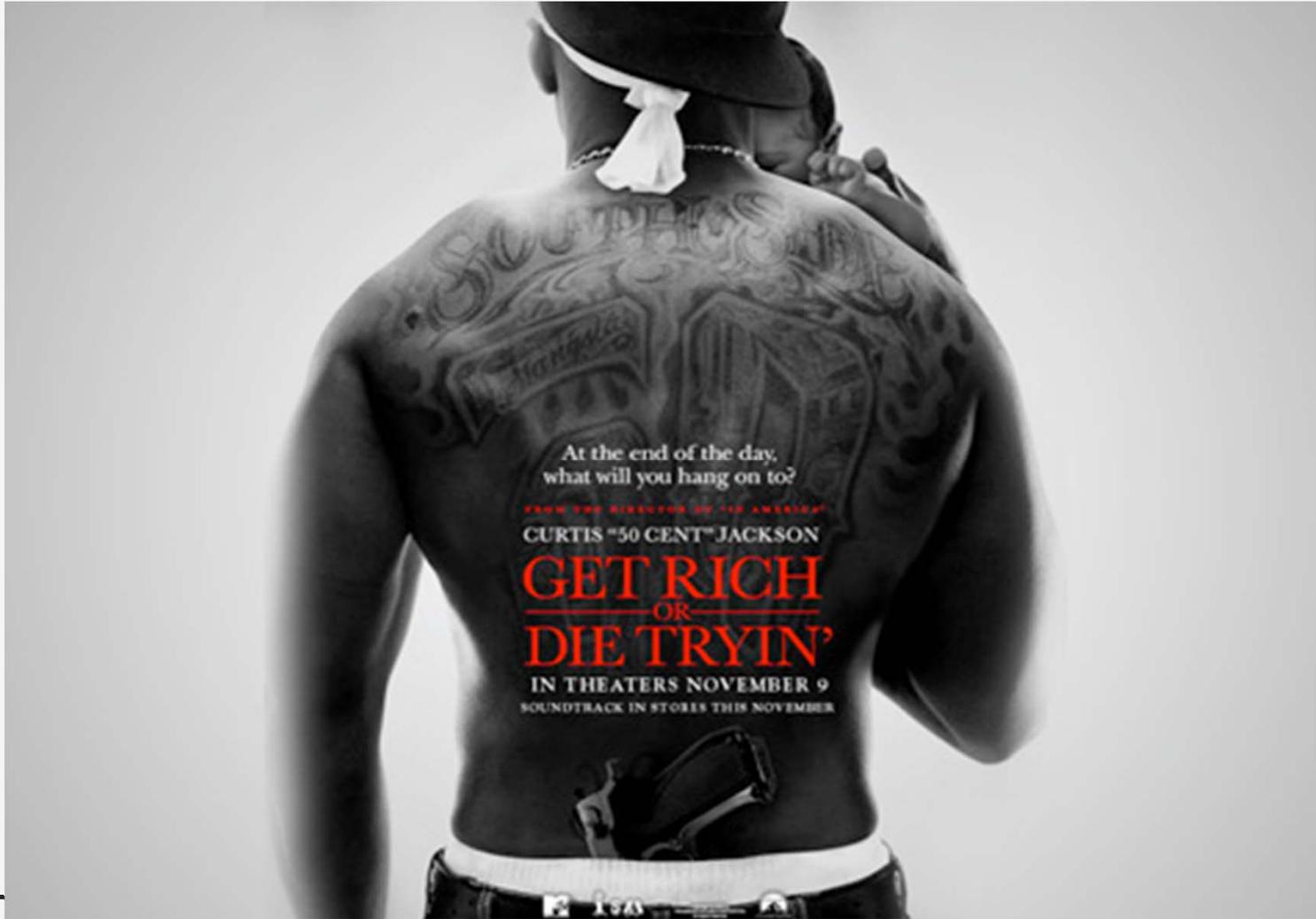
Structural Violence – Where is it?

Structural violence is often embedded in longstanding “ubiquitous social structures, normalized by stable institutions and regular experience”.

Because they seem so ordinary in our ways of understanding the world, **they appear almost invisible.**

Cultural Violence

- Aspects of culture that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence, and may be exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science.
 - Cultural violence makes direct and structural violence look or feel "right", or at least not wrong.
- 



At the end of the day,
what will you hang on to?

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "16 AMERICA"

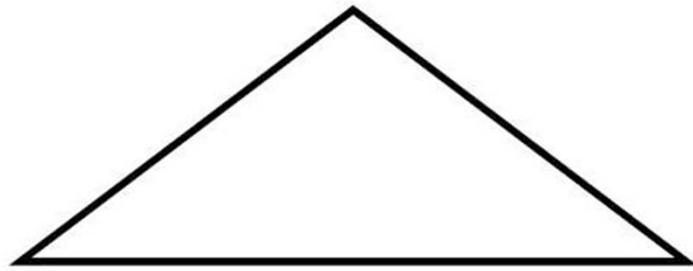
CURTIS "50 CENT" JACKSON

GET RICH
OR
DIE TRYIN'

IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 9

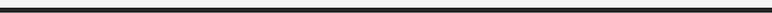
SOUNDTRACK IN STORES THIS NOVEMBER

Direct violence

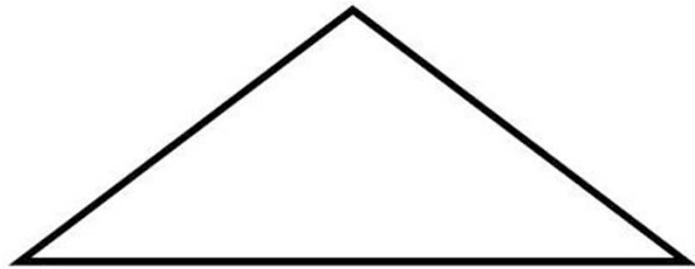


Cultural Violence

Structural Violence

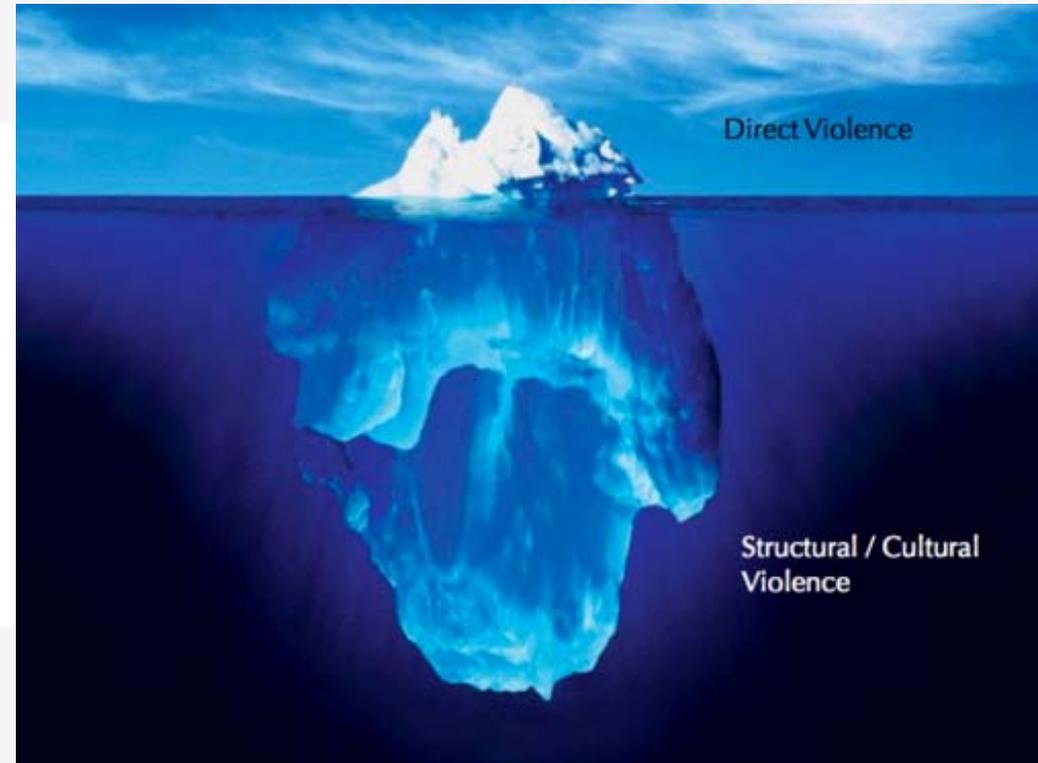


Direct violence



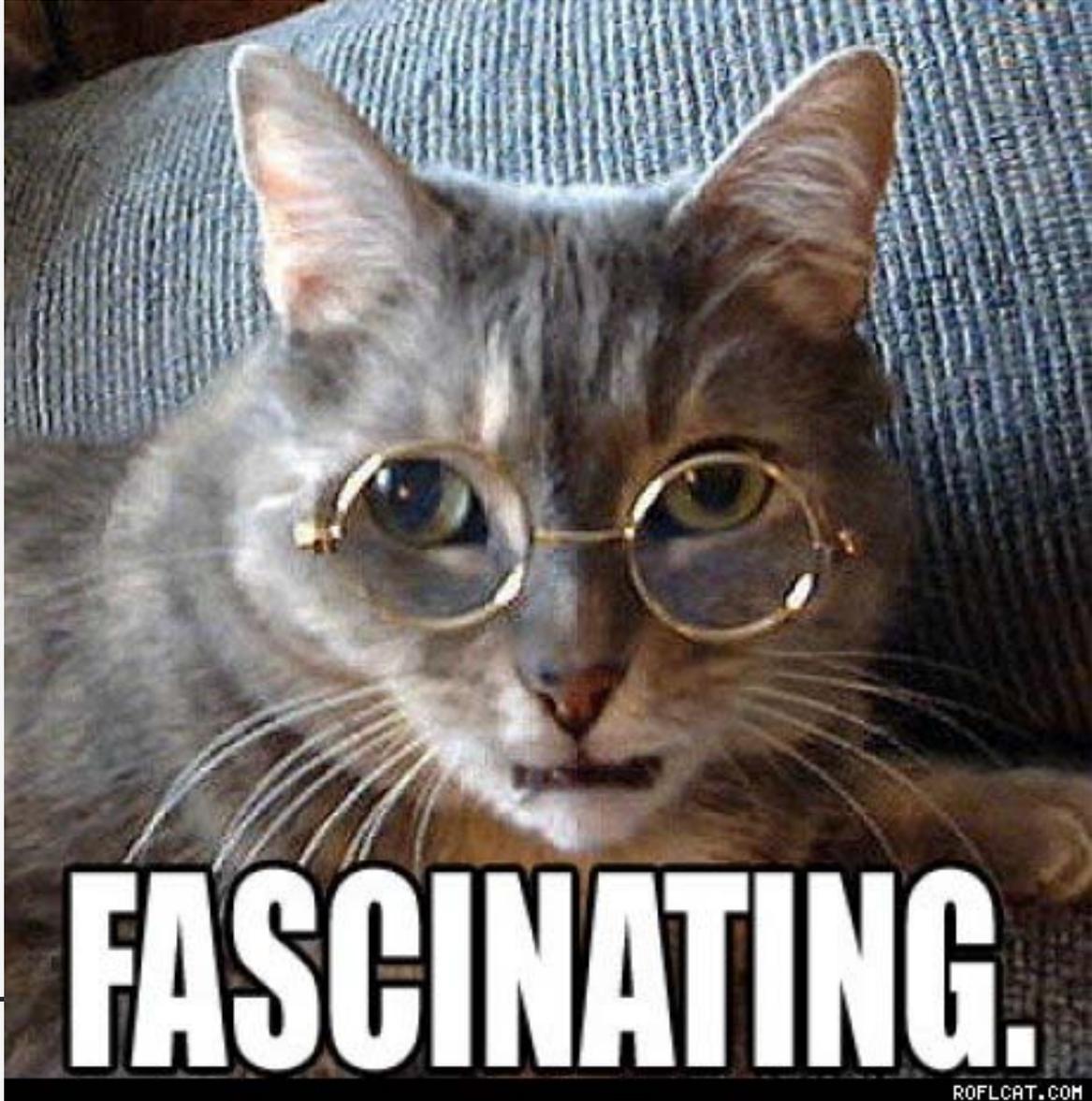
Cultural Violence

Structural Violence



Direct Violence

Structural / Cultural
Violence





"True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence – 1967

*Paraphrasing
Dr. King for a
Trauma
Audience*

*True compassion is more than
patching the bullet holes. It is
recognizing that a society in which
people are shot by one another needs
restructuring.*

Gun violence is structural violence: Our role as trauma surgeons

To the Editor:

It is with uncanny and disturbing timing that we read the *Journal's* June editorial statement "Gun Violence in the United States: A Call for Action."¹ Since its publication, this country has witnessed further shootings of African-American men during routine traffic stops, retaliatory murders of law enforcement officials, the largest mass shooting in American history (which targeted the Hispanic LGBT community), and the incessant daily and nightly deaths caused by firearm-related violence throughout America. In July, an unarmed African-American behavioral therapist was shot by police when lying supine in the street, with arms raised, while caring for his troubled autistic patient in Miami. We could not agree more with the authors that, as trauma surgeons, we indeed occupy a unique space in society and that "further research is needed," but we strongly urge our colleagues to join us to do more. We commend your proposed conceptual areas of gun violence research—an academic niche that has been eschewed for two decades now. In fact, a recent American College of Surgery Committee of Trauma Survey found that 92% of trauma surgeons support this initiative. We also strongly support your statement that gun violence "cannot be decoupled from the social and political circumstances in which they have arisen." This is fundamental to understanding, and thus successfully ending, gun violence. These circumstances, unique to the United States, arise from more than a second amendment debate but also from the social, political, and often institutionalized upstream causes of gun violence.

The "why" of gun violence is complex, subject to strong opinion, and complicated to study empirically. However, societal disparities are well known, repeatedly documented, and not new. Implicit biases and systemic discrimination in medicine have led to worse outcomes for patients who are minorities, poor, or women. Trauma surgeons, in particular, have been increasingly interested in public health and disparities outcomes research as part of injury prevention initiatives. In fact, these studies represent one of the most common epidemiologic types submitted for publication to this leading journal. A recent systematic review and random-effects

meta-analysis published by trauma disparities thought leaders indicated that insurance status and black race are independent predictors of worse outcomes, including death.² The association of gun violence with disparities in outcomes for race and social class is clear, in addition to most other modifiable risk factors. The United States leads the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries in our abysmal outcomes and underperformance in a variety of health (and educational) metrics. This is, in part, due to a widening gap between the rich and poor, with clear overlap between social class and race.³ African Americans are disproportionately affected by unemployment, poverty and hunger. Subpar education by design (with property tax funding public schools) leads to illegal activity to generate a livable income for many. African Americans are also killed by law enforcement officers at a rate 2.5 times higher than whites, creating a contemporary public health crisis of unprecedented proportions, since the days of rampant, state-sanctioned lynching. The United States has the largest incarcerated population in the world. We comprise 5% of the global population, yet 25% of the global incarcerated population with 2.3 million persons behind bars (500,000 more than China) and 3.2% of Americans under some form of correctional control. The majority of incarcerated individuals are women and men of color. Issues, such as the school to prison pipeline, the war on drugs, political apathy for regulatory laws for gun use and increasing profound societal inequalities are all leading to worse outcomes for all Americans.⁴ We cannot understate the impact these disparities have on the physical, mental, and psychological health of individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. Trauma surgeons see the direct violence that occurs to our patients as a result of this structural violence daily.

We wholeheartedly agree that a strident "call to action" is needed, and needed now. The senseless and preventable loss of life from gun violence must cease if we are to have an enlightened society based on an inclusive value system. Surgeons have always been leaders in quality improvement, the hallmark of the establishment of the American College of Surgeons since 1912. Equity, defined as providing care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic status, has been one of the six tenets of quality, highlighted over 15 years ago by the Institute of Medicine.⁵ As trauma surgeons, we must lead our broader surgical community, because we care for patients everyday who are

affected by structural violence and inequity. We treat patients from Baton Rouge, Dallas, Minnesota, and Orlando to Nice, Ankara, Aleppo, and beyond. To be true patient advocates, we cannot turn a blind eye to the political causes of trauma. Failing to act is failing our patients and society as a whole. It is our professional responsibility to be national and, in fact, global leaders directing an inclusive and urgent dialogue on the upstream "causes of the causes" of gun violence as a component of structural violence. We need solutions now.

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J Trauma Acute Care Surg
Volume 82, Number 1

VIEWPOINT

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Structural Causes of Urban Firearm Violence A Trauma Surgeon's View From Philadelphia

As trauma surgeons in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, we care for patients with gunshot wounds every day. We rush to the trauma bay to see them as they are brought in, often by local police officers, and quickly assess their injuries. We teach our medical students and residents to tape paperclips to their wounds, shoot x-rays, resuscitate, and operate if needed. We are experts on the incredible damage firearms cause to the human body and have worked for decades to define the management of these deadly injuries.

When we save a patient, we congratulate ourselves. We discuss our great cases at conferences, and yet, despite our hard work, the patients keep coming. In trauma surgery, we meet patients at the distal-most point of a constellation of factors, including poverty, racism, limited access to mental health services, environmental exposure, and sometimes downright bad luck, that culminate in violent firearm injury. We feel powerless to address these more proximal problems and, in our current health care system, we often are.

In August 2007, Pryor¹ wrote about "The War in West Philadelphia" for *The Washington Post*, likening his worst days of carnage in Iraq to just "another Friday night in West Philadelphia." Pryor's almost 10-year-old description still rings true today. In 2016, 4 people were injured or killed each day by firearm violence in our city.² In Philadelphia and throughout the urban United States, we as trauma surgeons continue to witness this daily, senseless, and unremitting violence. How did we get here?

A Brief History of Firearm Injury Research

In the early 1990s, the University of Pennsylvania and several other academic institutions were on the cutting edge of firearm injury research. In 1996, a congressional ban on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding nearly halted these research efforts.³ It's difficult to recall another time in recent history when science has been so dangerously tampered with and censored. Today, the study of firearm violence remains a taboo research subject. With little to no funding and no reliable data source, we struggle to obtain even basic information on firearm injury epidemiology.

Social Mechanisms of Urban Firearm Violence

Mass shootings have become a near daily occurrence in our country. These dramatic events grip headlines, inspire sympathy, and generate fear in us, and they have resulted in organized action from our surgical community, such as the Hartford Consensus and the Stop the Bleed Campaign. However, the morbidity and mortality from these events represent a relatively small por-

tion of the burden of disease from firearm injury in the United States.

In Philadelphia, most individuals who experience firearm violence are not injured by active shooters in high-profile events. In fact, the stories of firearm violence in this city rarely make national or even local news reports. On the contrary, there is a stigma of guilt associated with being injured by a firearm in an urban setting. But we as trauma surgeons know that many of our patients are educated, employed, and support their families and children. An important proportion of our patients are children themselves. Some were in the wrong place at the wrong time, born into extremely violent circumstances that most of us could never imagine, though we live and work only a few miles away. Most of our patients would not have been shot if they lived in a different part of the city or a different country. What leads to the continued endemic levels of urban firearm violence in our society?

The elephant in the room of firearm injury epidemiology is the incredible racial/ethnic disparity that exists in the incidence of firearm assaults. In the June 2016 issue of the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* focused on firearm injury, race/ethnicity was barely mentioned as a determinant of firearm violence. In 2012, firearm homicide was the leading cause of death for black males ages 15 to 34 years.⁴ According to Philadelphia police data, 81.6% of the 2633 individuals injured violently by firearms since 2015 in the city were black. The rest were mostly Hispanic, and just 5.6% were non-Hispanic white people.²

Race itself is not the cause of firearm violence. Rather, it serves as an indicator of social factors and resources that are differentially allocated by race in our society. While our medical colleagues are beginning to discuss the effects of structural racism on health, it has not yet entered our dialogue in trauma surgery.⁵ In Pennsylvania, higher rates of county-level segregation are associated with increased odds of violent injury beyond individual risk, illustrating a link between structural racism and violence exposure in our state.⁶

In Philadelphia, we found that black people are 5 times more likely than white people to be violently injured by firearms and substantially more likely to live in areas with the highest incidence of firearm violence.⁷ Residing in a census block group with higher median income mitigates the risk for violent firearm injury for white people to a much greater extent than for black people. In fact, black people living in the wealthiest block groups in Philadelphia have the highest relative risk for firearm injury.⁷

In the urban United States, the vestiges of institutionalized racism endure, including housing discrimina-

Structural violence and gun violence in the United States:

A CASE STUDY

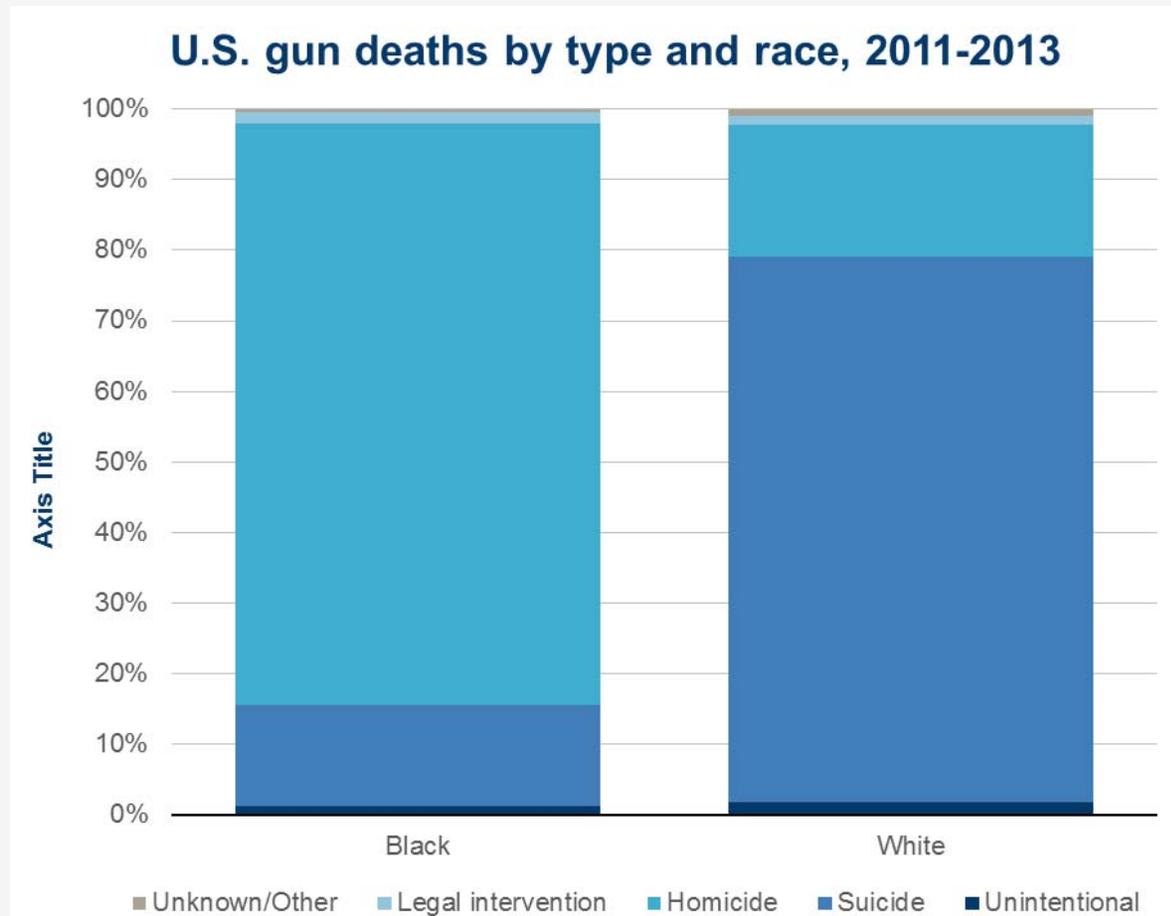
Epidemiology of Gun Violence

- Firearm Death Rates:
 - 22 per 100,000 African-Americans
 - 4.7 per 100,000 Whites

 - 28.4 per 100,000 African-American Males
 - 6.3 per 100,000 White Males

Centers for Disease Control. National Vital Statistics Report (NVSR), Deaths: Final Data for 2009, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/deaths_2009_release.pdf

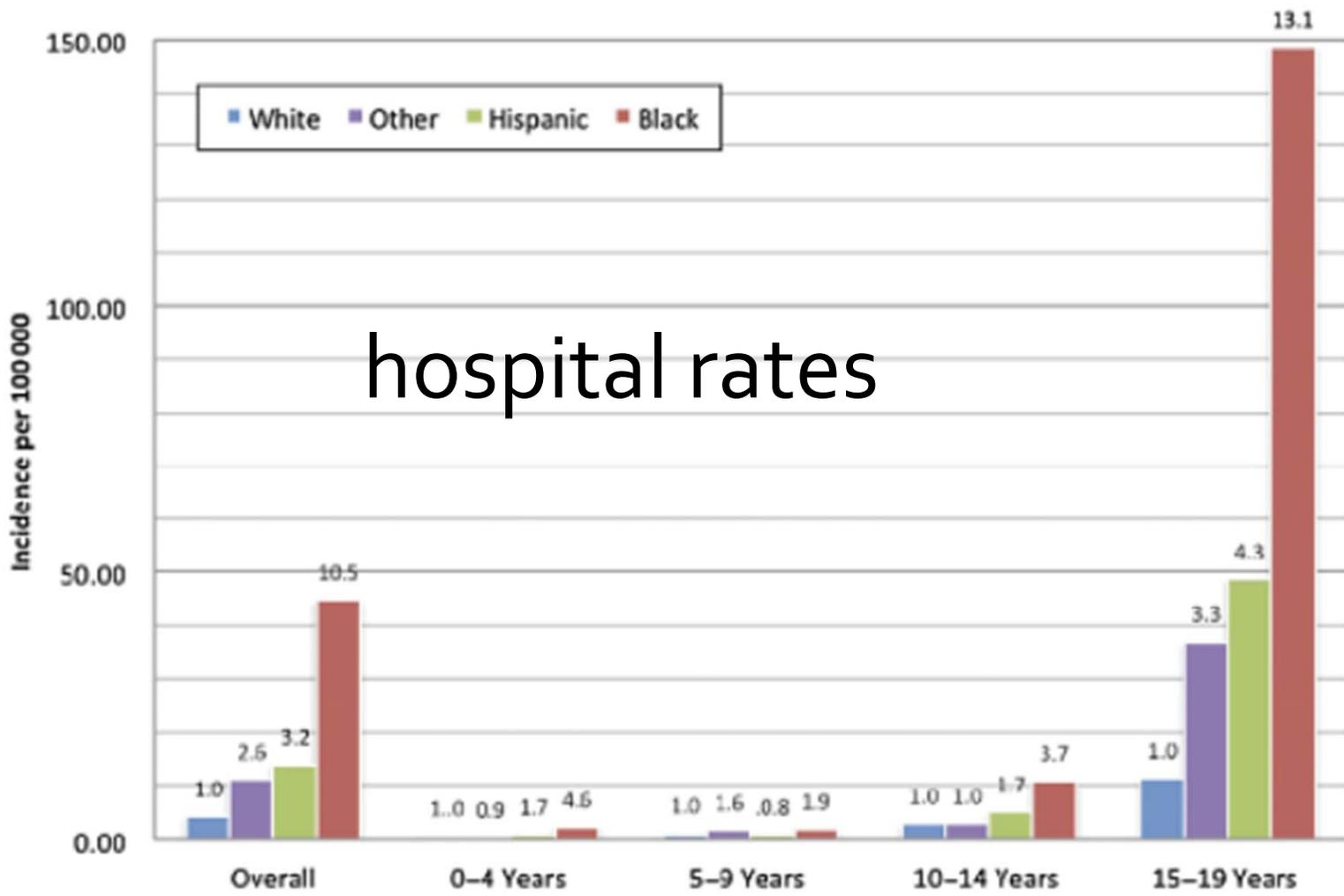
Epidemiology of Gun Violence



Note: These figures have all been calculated using a 2011-2013 average to smooth single-year fluctuations.

Source: CDC Injury Prevention & Control database.

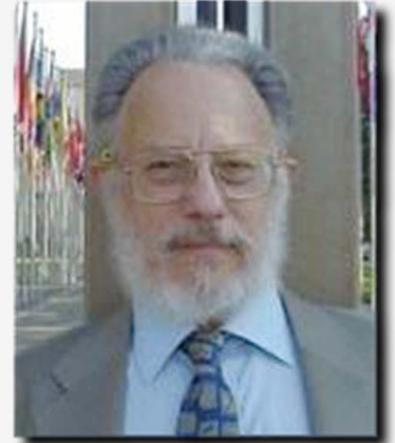
hospital rates



Leventhal 2014

Kates and Mauser

- Donald B Kates
 - Attorney
 - Gun rights activist



- Gary Mauser
 - Criminologist
 - Gun rights activist



Kates- Mauser Theory

Kates DB, Mauser G. "Would banning firearms reduce murder and suicide? A review of international and some domestic evidence". Harvard J Law Public Policy. 2007; 30(2):649-694.

- Kates and Mauser argue that murderers are not ordinary citizens: "There is no reason for laws prohibiting gun possession by ordinary, law-abiding responsible adults because such people virtually never murder." They also review existing data showing negative correlations between gun ownership and violence: "That is 'where firearms are most dense violent crime rates are lowest, and where guns are least dense, violent crime rates are highest.'"
- "Per capita, African-American murder rates are much higher than the murder rate[s] for Whites. If more guns equal more death, and fewer guns equal less, one might assume gun ownership is higher among African-Americans than among Whites, but in fact African-American gun ownership is markedly lower than White gun ownership."

Kates- Mauser Theory

Kates DB, Mauser G. "Would banning firearms reduce murder and suicide? A review of international and some domestic evidence". Harvard J Law Public Policy. 2007; 30(2):649-694.

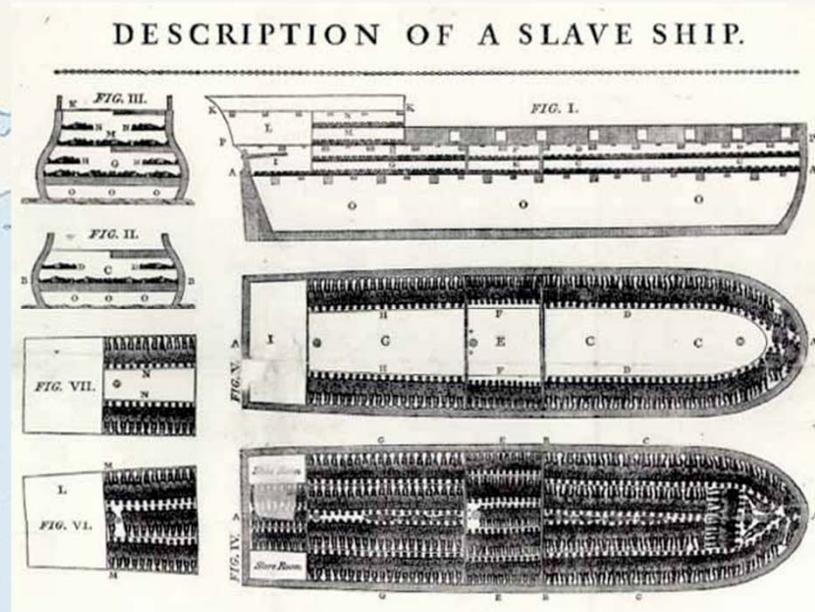
- Based on this concept, murderers are, "A small minority of extreme antisocial aberrants who manage to obtain guns whatever the level of gun ownership in the African American community."
- Normal people don't commit murder and murder cannot be explained by gun ownership, so *murder is more common among African Americans for one of two reasons: either "extreme antisocial aberrants" are more common among African Americans or "social aberrants" in the African American community, while not more common, are particularly lethal.*

What is the history of structural violence in the US?

“Structural violence is one way of describing social arrangements that put individuals and populations in harm’s way... The arrangements are structural because they are embedded in the political and economic organization of our social world; they are violent because they cause injury to people.”

- PIH co-founder Paul Farmer,
Pathologies of Power

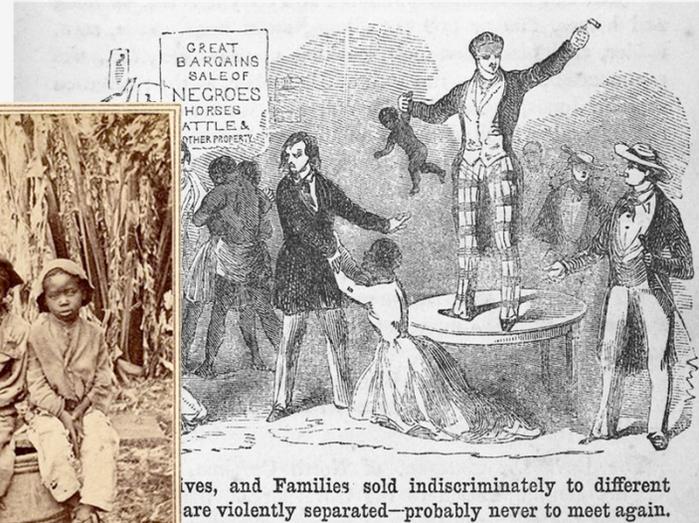
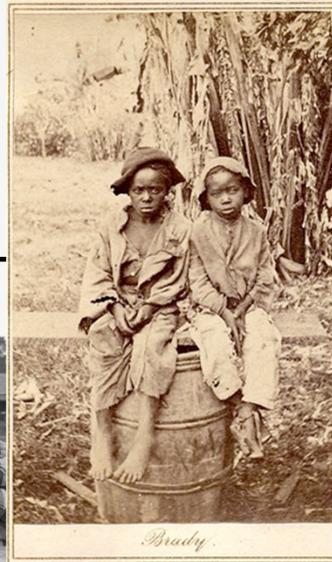
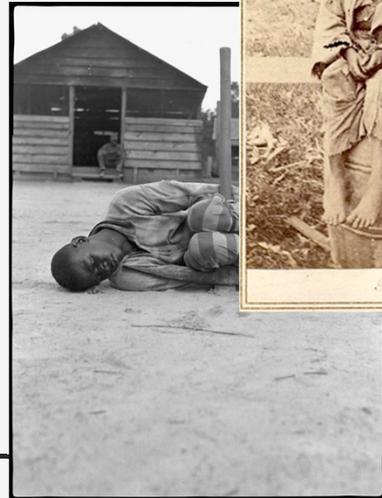
The Slave Trade



What in the world are you talking about?

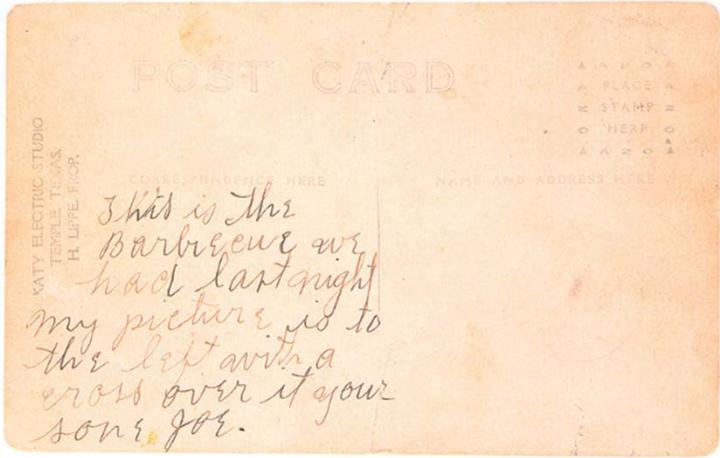


12 million slaves in the history of the United States



ives, and Families sold indiscriminately to different are violently separated—probably never to meet again.

Slaves were regulated in service & while walking in public by legally authorized violence



- 4,743 people were lynched in the US between 1888 and 1968
- 3,446 (72.7 percent) of them black, 73 percent of them in the south, around 150 of them women
- Pre-lynching torture was commonplace

The Lynching of Emmett Till



Emmett Till's mother, Mamie Till Mobley

Woman Linked to 1955 Emmett Till Murder Tells Historian Her Claims Were False

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA JAN. 27, 2017

The woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, spoke to Timothy B. Tyson, a Duke University professor — possibly the only interview she has given to a historian or journalist since shortly after the episode — who [has written a book](#), “The Blood of Emmett Till,” to be published next week.

In it, he wrote that she said of her long-ago allegations that Emmett grabbed her and was menacing and sexually crude toward her, “that part is not true.”

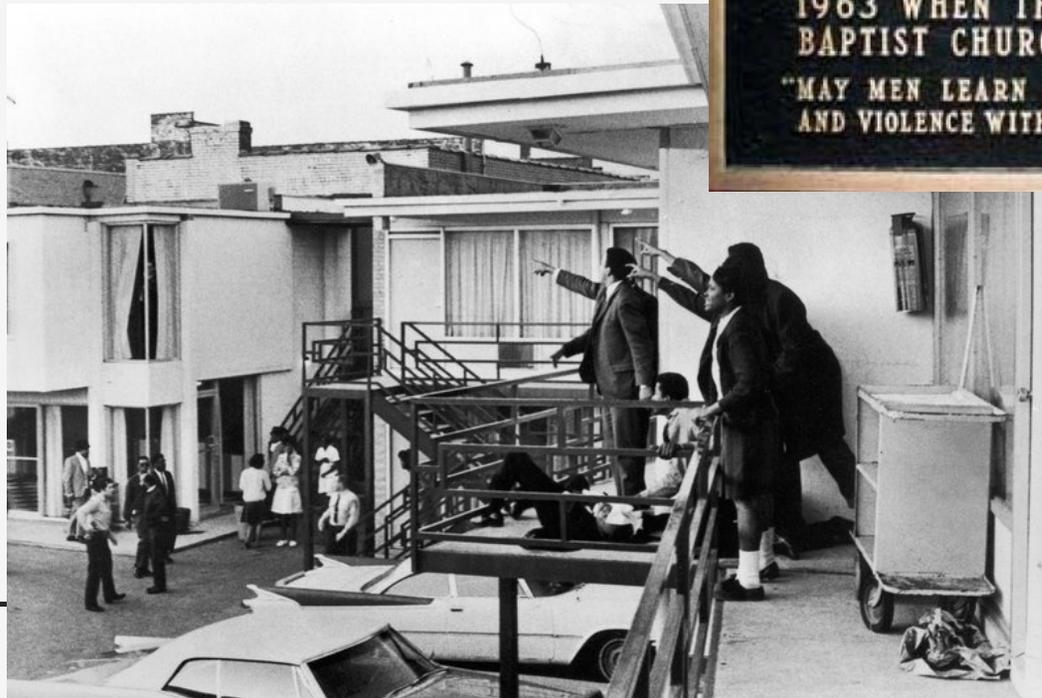
The New York Times

The Civil Rights Movement

- In spite of progress (e.g., *Brown v. Board of Ed, Topeka*), legal means of segregation and the suppression of black voter rights existed well into the 1960s



The Civil Rights Movement



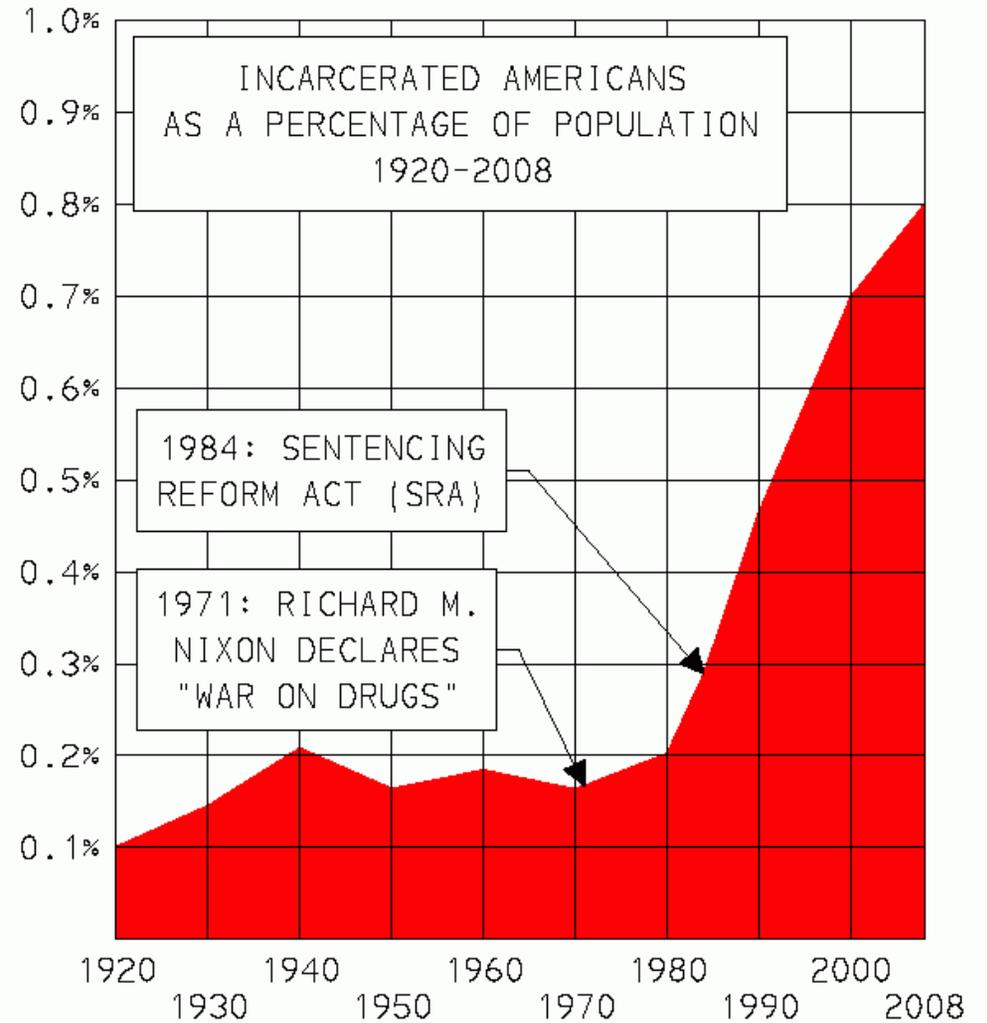
*John
Ehrlichman
(Nixon Adviser) -
1994*



“You want to know what this was really all about? The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: **the antiwar left and black people**. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, **but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities.** We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. **Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”**

Dan Baum, Harper’s Magazine 2016.

“The War on Drugs”



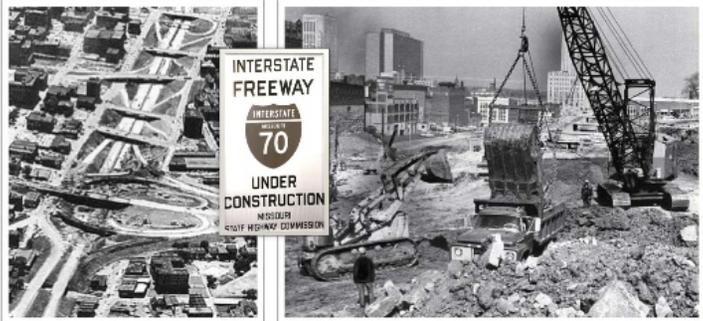
“The War on Drugs”

- Initially, only a minor increase in incarcerations
- By 1980, drug arrests increase 126%, causing a strain on the prison system, leading to privatization
- In 1986, sentencing laws create a 100:1 sentencing disparity for crack trafficking/possession relative to powder cocaine
- Effect on African-Americans by 1998:
 - 13x more likely to go to prison for drug offenses than other races
 - 35% of drug arrests
 - 55% of all convictions
 - 74% of prisoners on drug possession offenses

Urban “Renewal”/ Urban Decay

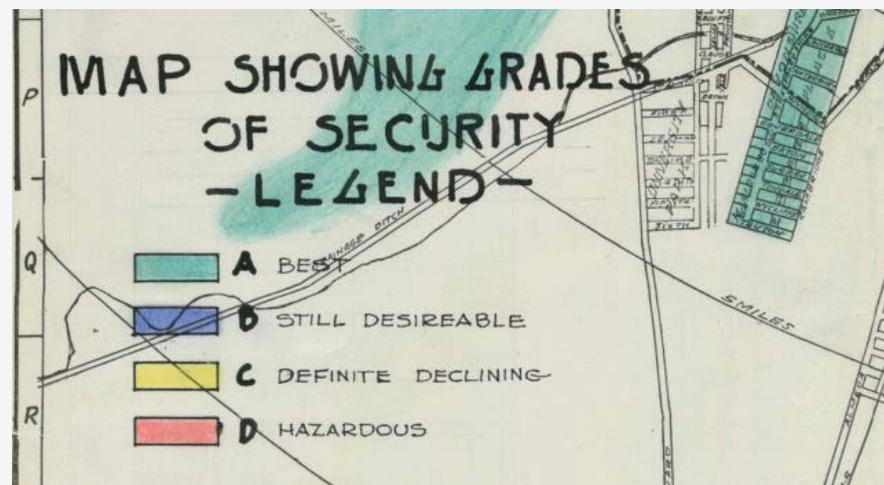
- The black population in US Cities increases from 6.1 million to 15.3 million between 1950-1980
- Housing Act of 1949 allows cities to acquire “slums”
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 promotes the building of roads designed to get people in and out of urban centers quickly
- This leads to the destruction and disruption of urban neighborhoods

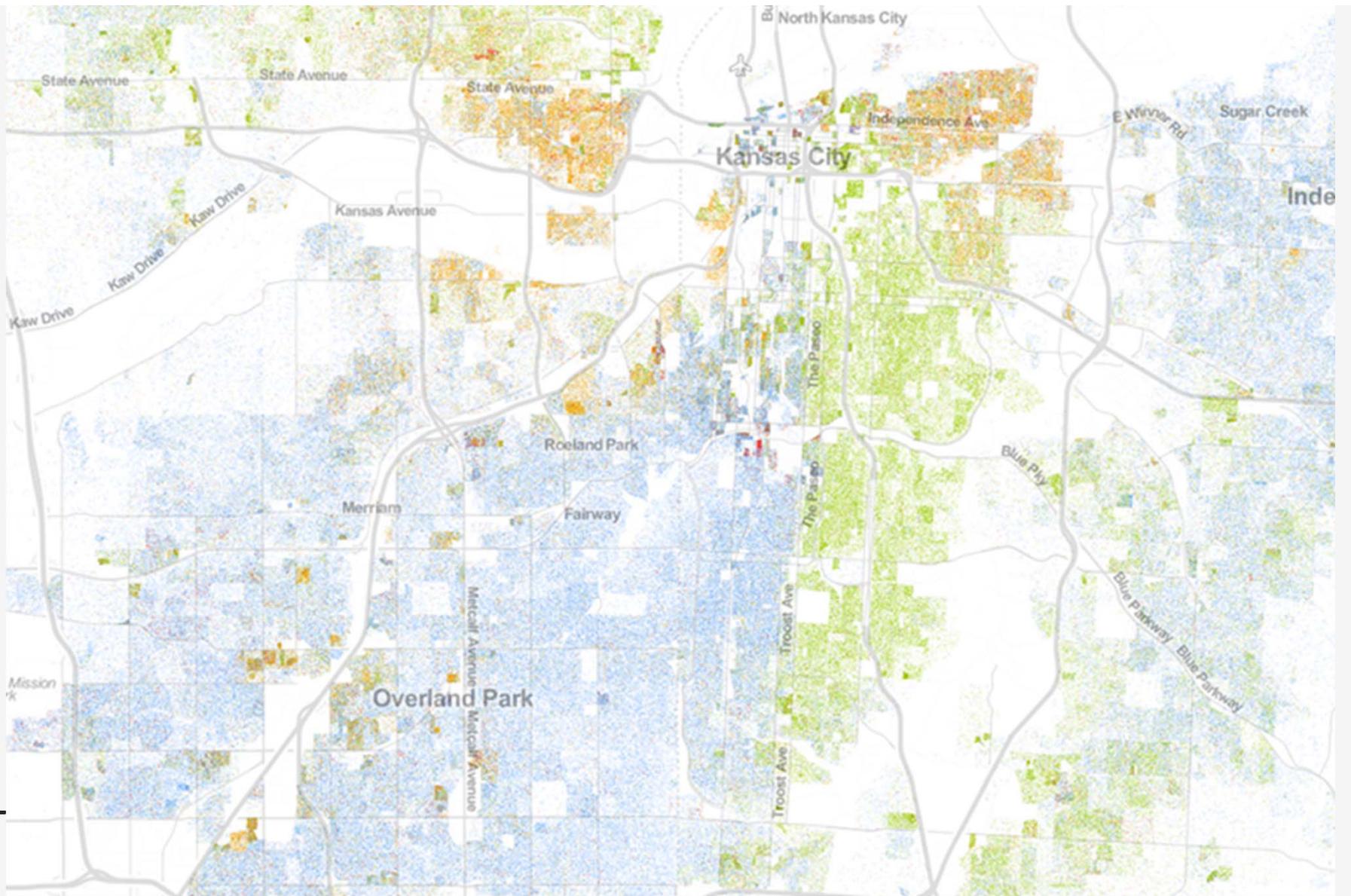
URBAN RENEWAL
Construction of the Downtown Loop

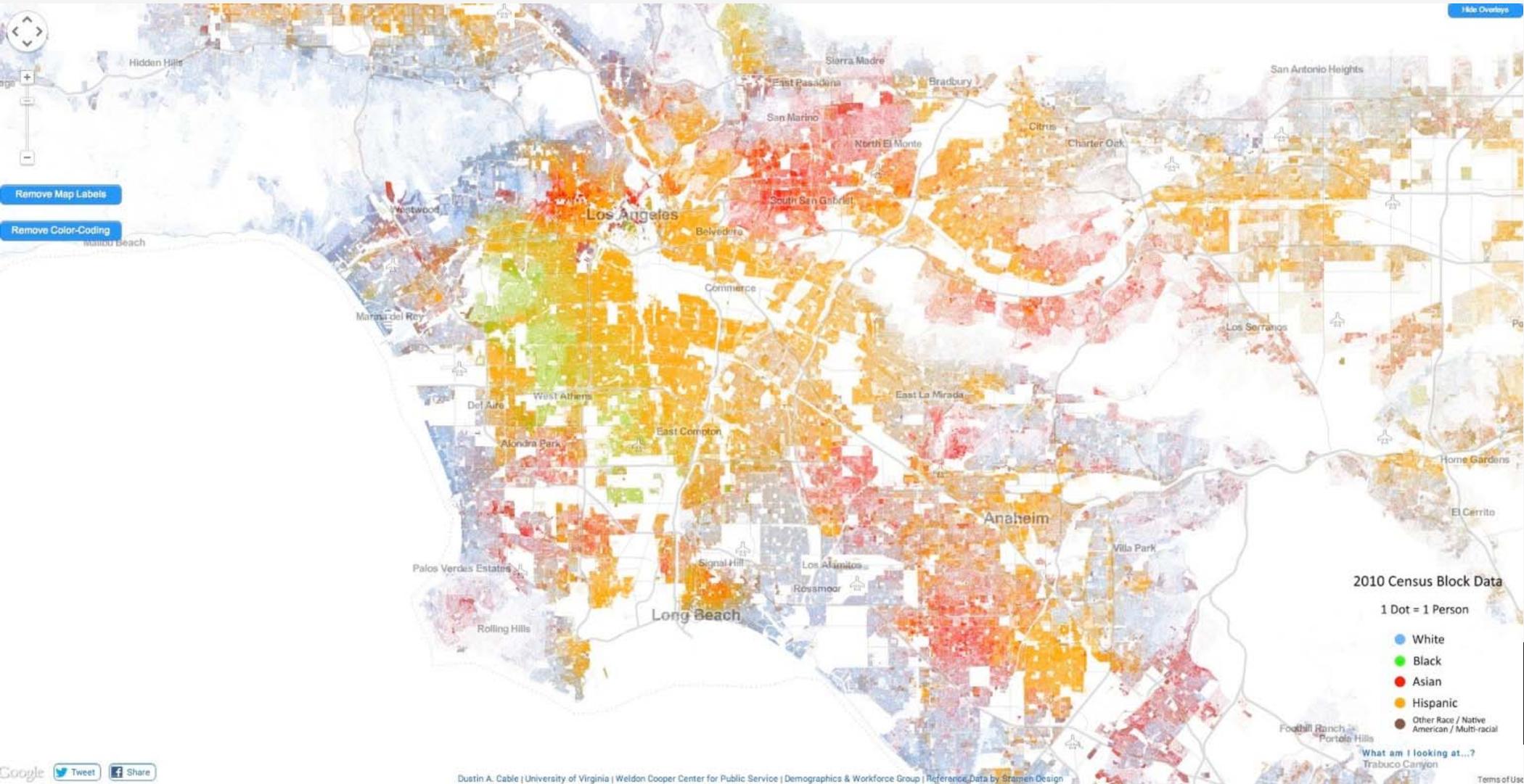


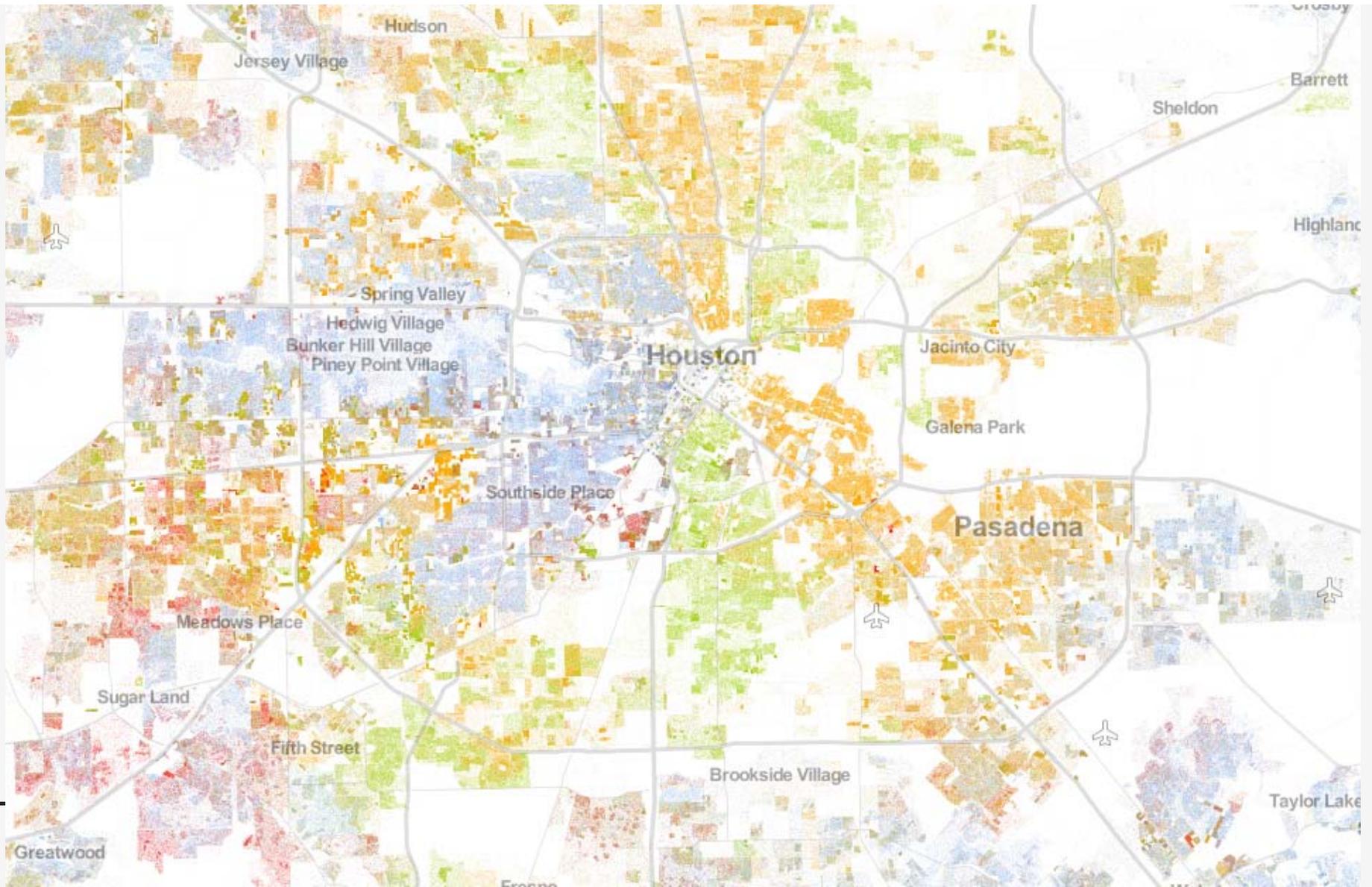
Urban “Renewal”/ Urban Decay

- Redlining limits integration of communities
- The net effect is to concentrate blacks in poor areas or newly constructed public housing (part of urban renewal efforts) and separate them from new, white suburban communities
- The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination in housing rental and sale, legally eliminating the practice of redlining









Hudson

Jersey Village

Crosby

Barrett

Sheldon

Highland

Spring Valley

Hedwig Village

Bunker Hill Village

Piney Point Village

Houston

Jacinto City

Galena Park

Southside Place

Pasadena

Meadows Place

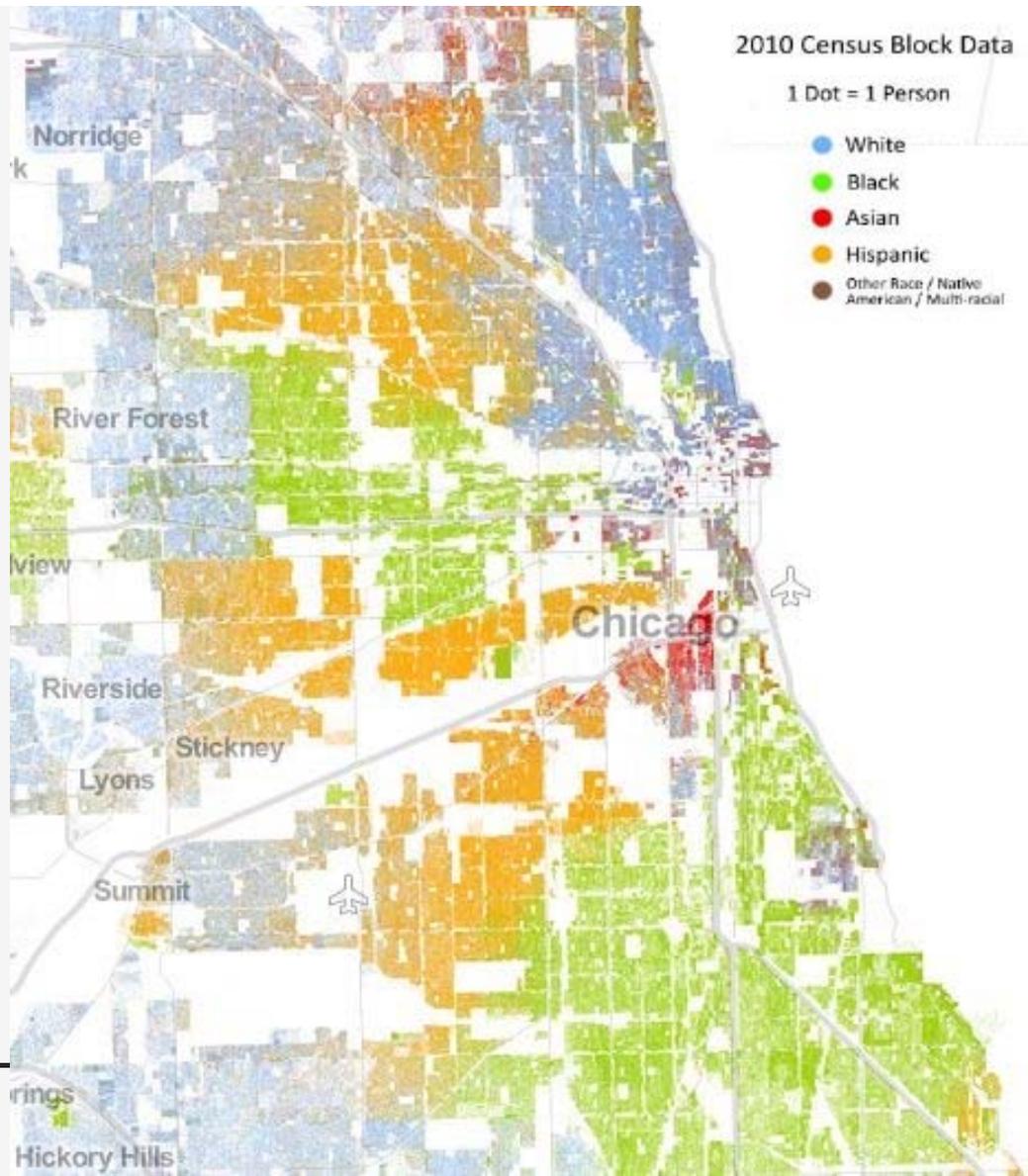
Sugar Land

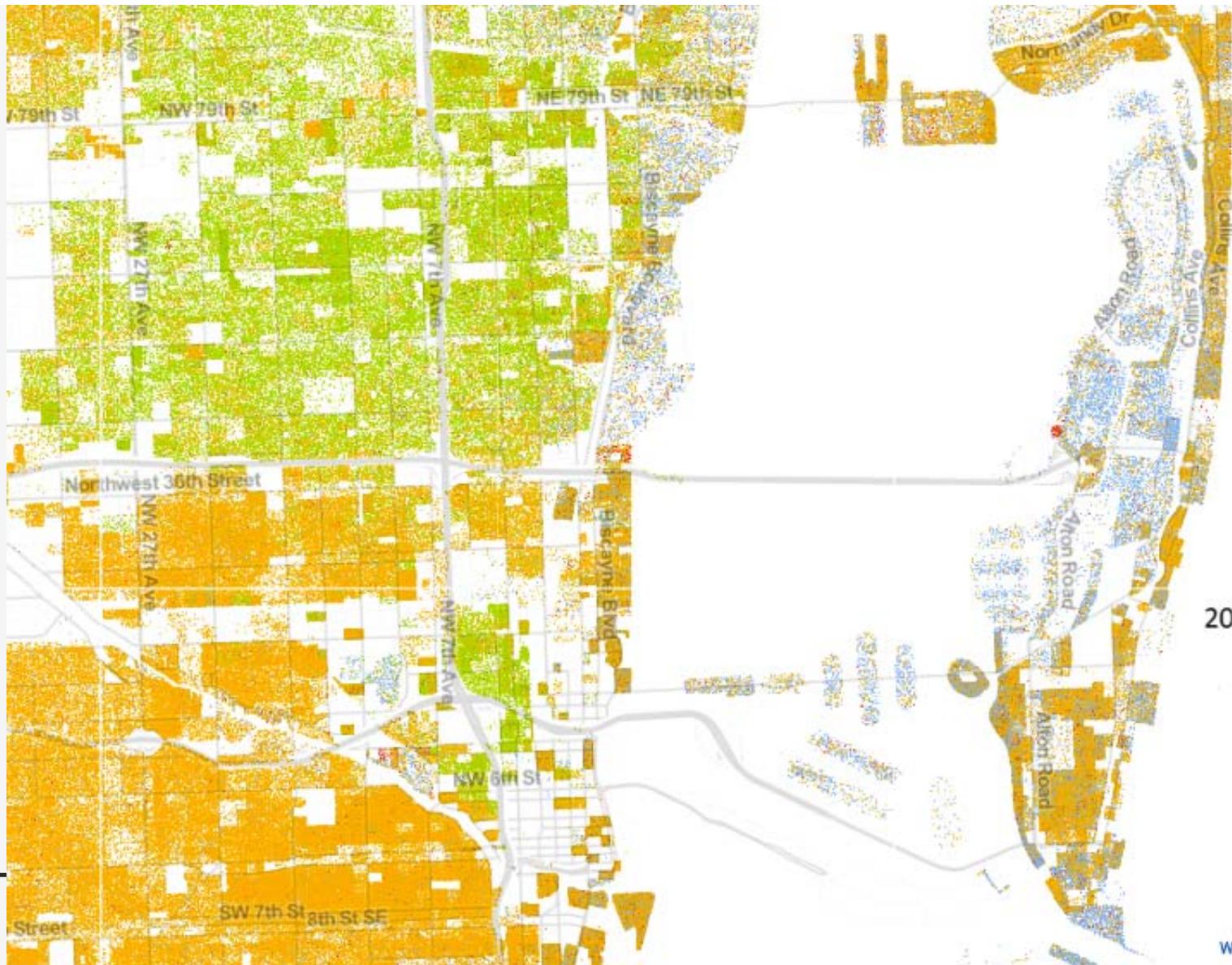
Fifth Street

Brookside Village

Taylor Lake

Greatwood



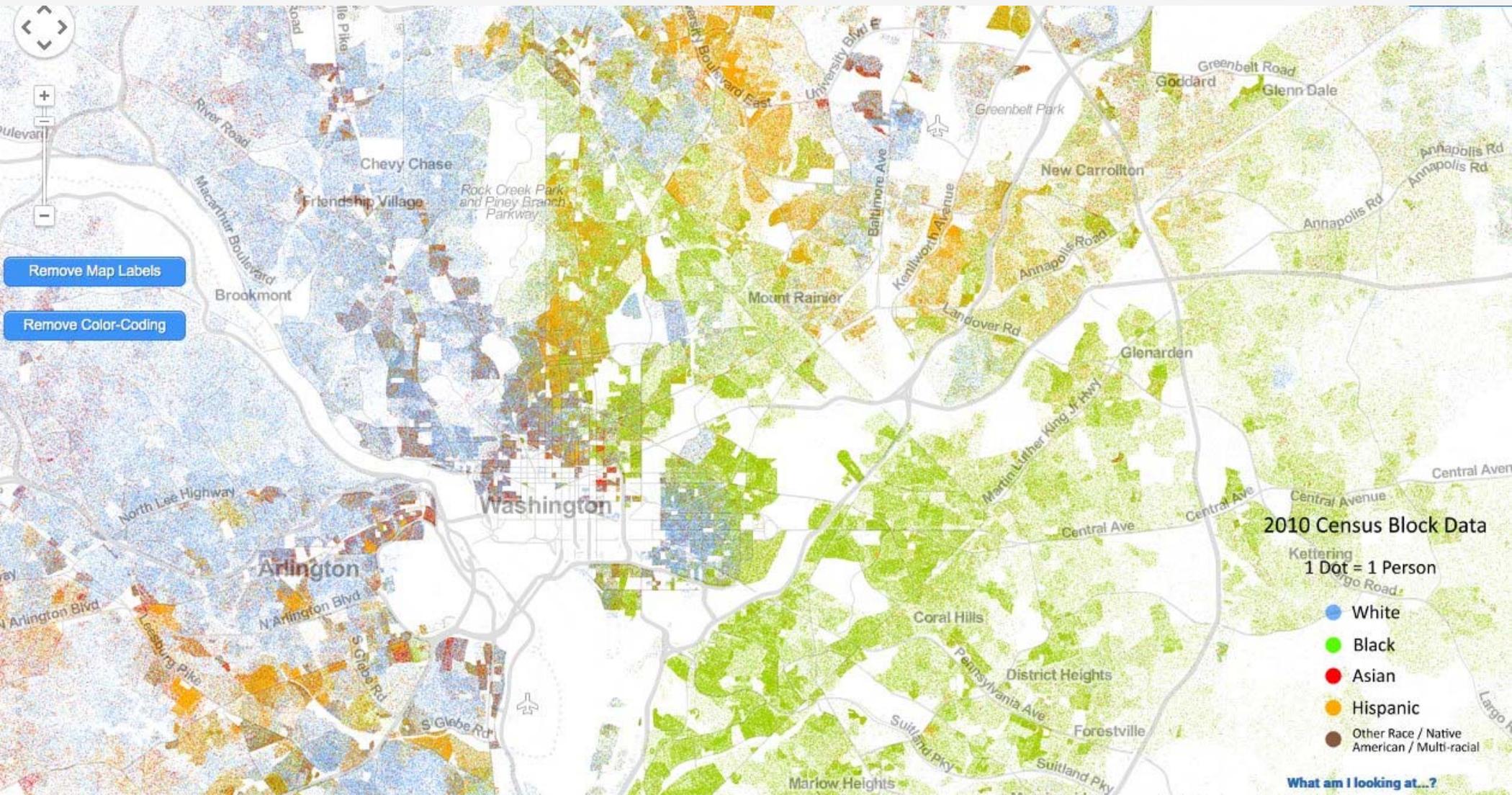


2010 Census Block Data

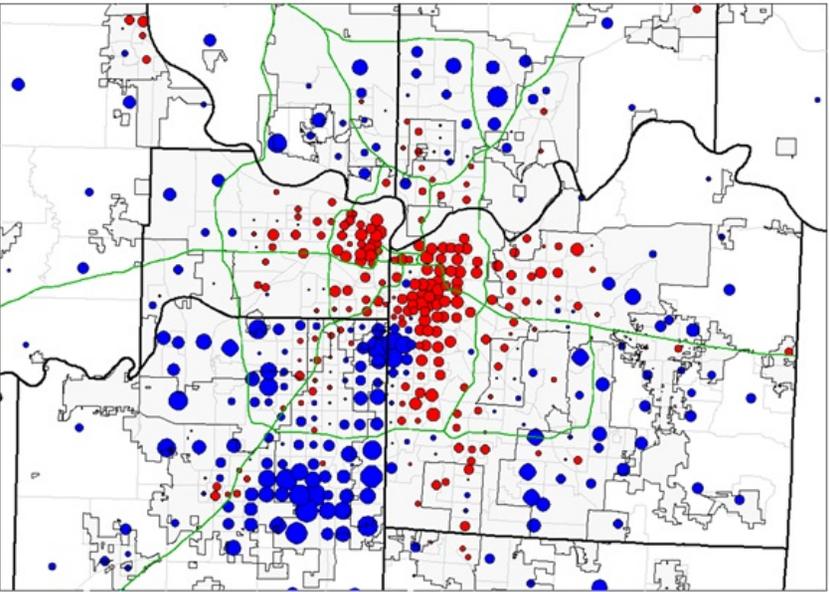
1 Dot = 1 Person

- White
- Black
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other Race / Native American / Multi-racial

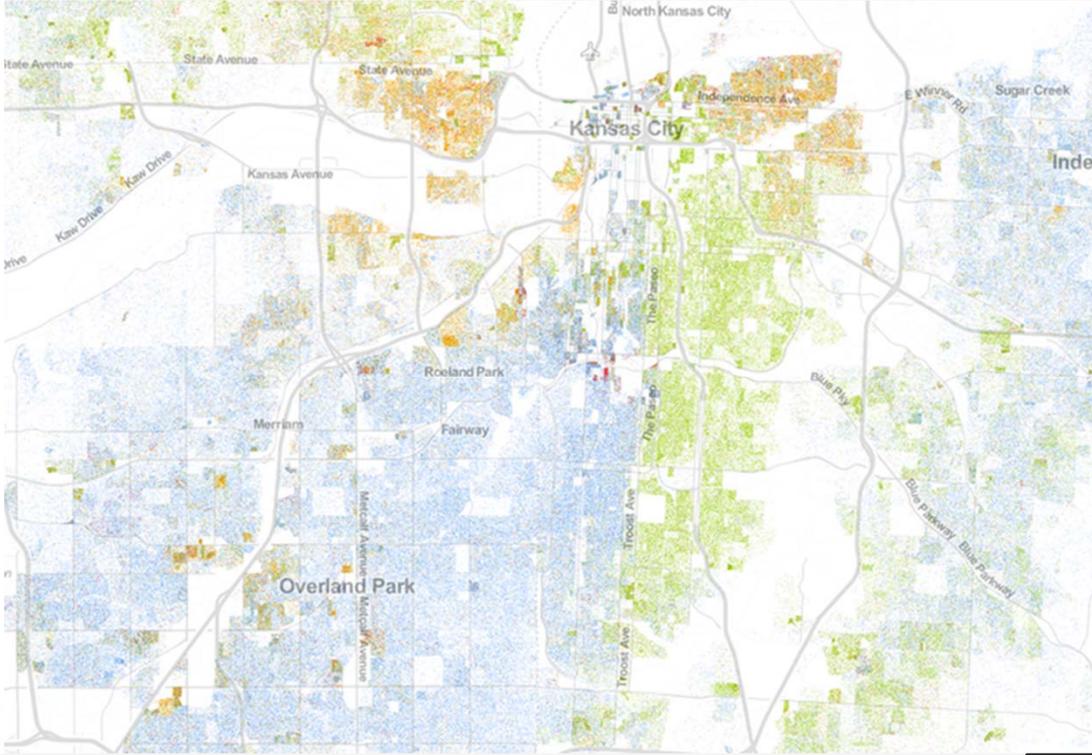
What am I looking at...?



2011 Tract Median Household Income Minus Metro Median Household Income (\$53,376*)



* All Dollars 2011



If You're Born Poor, You'll Probably Stay That Way

- N= 800 low-income, Baltimore children
- Followed for 25 years
- 4% of poor children received a college degree and escaped poverty (N=33)
- 89% of white men who dropped out of high school found employment vs. 40% black men
- White men more likely to find employment despite:
 - Higher rates of binge drinking and drug use
 - Similar rates of conviction (41% vs. 49%)

The Long Shadow - Karl Alexander et al.

SPENDING PER STUDENT, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adjusted for regional differences, for primary and unified school districts

National average: \$11,841

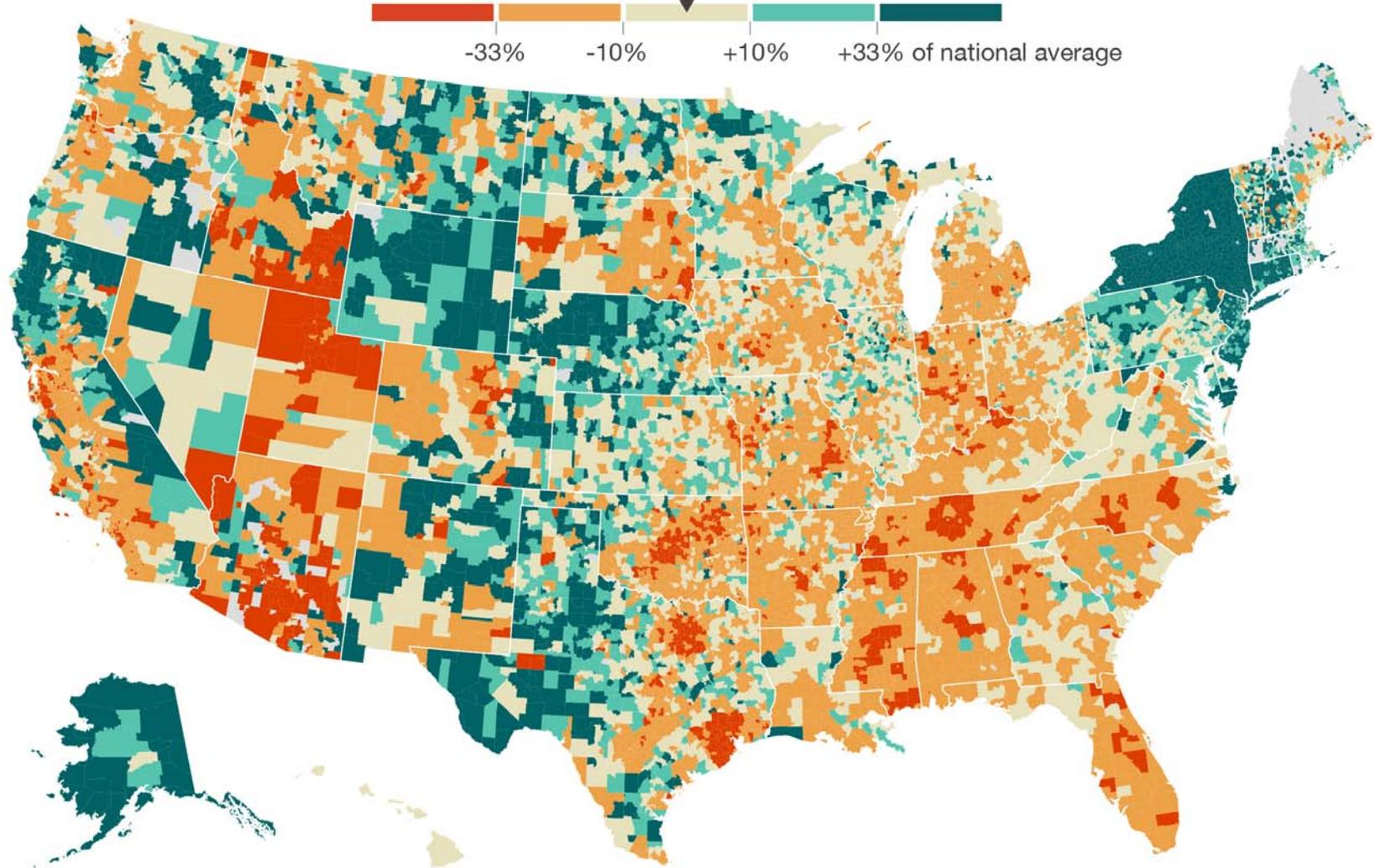


Fig. 14. Violent crime rate and percentage of population black and Hispanic for 50 states and DC

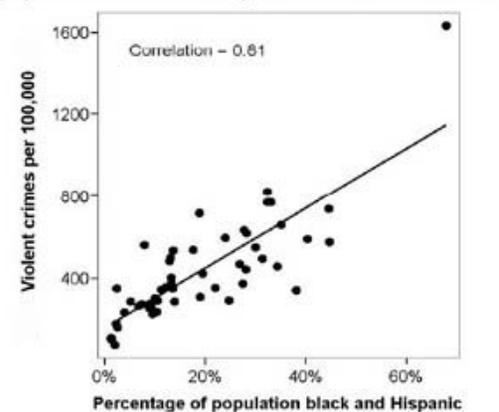


Fig. 15. Violent crime rate and percentage of population in poverty

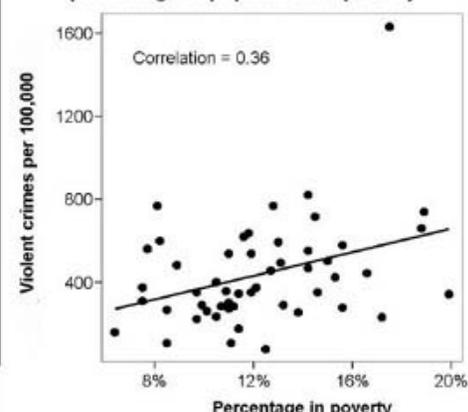


Fig. 16. Violent crime rate and percentage of population unemployed

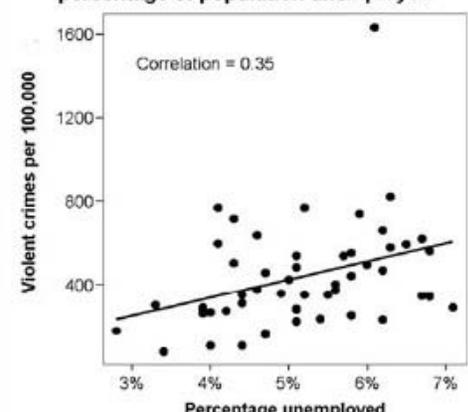
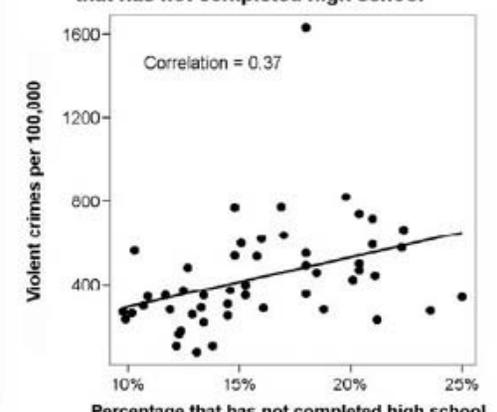


Fig. 17. Violent crime rate and percentage that has not completed high school



SOURCE: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 2002* (USGPO, 2003), pp. 68-76. Census Bureau, 2002 American Community Survey, "Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (State Level)" (Census Bureau), <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Ranking/2002/R01T040.htm>. Accessed July 9, 2005. US, Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Regional and State Employment and Unemployment: December 2002" (Washington, DC: US, Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003), http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/lasus_01282003.pdf. Accessed July 11, 2005. Census Bureau, 2002 American Community Survey, "Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School (State Level)" (Census Bureau), <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Ranking/2002/R01T040.htm>. Accessed July 9, 2005. "Minorities, Crime, and Criminal Justice," in *The Handbook of Crime & Punishment*, ed. Michael Tonry (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 66. All the above as cited in *The Color of Crime: Race, Crime and Justice in America*, 2nd ed. (Oakton, Virginia: New Century Foundation, 2005). Additional note from *The Color of Crime*: The square of the correlation coefficient indicates the strength of the relationship between two variables. The correlation between percent black-and-Hispanic and the violent crime rate is 0.81; the square is 0.66. The correlation between high school education and violent crime rate is 0.37; the square is 0.14. Racial mix predicts the violent crime rate more than four times better than lack of a high school education.

*New York
Daily News
May 1, 1989*

ADVERTISEMENT

BRING BACK THE DEATH PENALTY.

BRING BACK OUR POLICE!

What has happened to our City over the past ten years? What has happened to law and order, to the neighborhood cop we all trusted to safeguard our homes and families, the cop who had the power under the law to help us in times of danger, keep us safe from those who would prey on innocent lives to fulfill some distorted inner need. What has happened to the respect for authority, the fear of retribution by the courts, society and the police for those who break the law, who wantonly trespass on the rights of others? What has happened is the complete breakdown of life as we knew it.

Many New York families — White, Black, Hispanic and Asian — have had to give up the pleasure of a leisurely stroll in the Park at dusk, the Saturday visit to the playground with their families, the bike ride at dawn, or just sitting on their stoops — given them up as hostages to a world ruled by the law of the streets, as roving bands of wild criminals roam our neighborhoods, dispensing their own vicious brand of twisted hatred on whomever they encounter. At what point did we cross the line from the fine and noble pursuit of genuine civil liberties to the reckless and dangerously permissive atmosphere which allows criminals of every age to beat and rape a helpless woman and then laugh at her family's anguish? And why do they laugh? They laugh because they know that soon, very soon, they will be returned to the streets to rape and maim and kill once again — and yet face no great personal risk to themselves.

Mayor Koch has stated that hate and rancor should be removed from our hearts. I do not think so. I want to hate these muggers and murderers. They should be forced to suffer and, when they kill,

they should be executed for their crimes. They must serve as examples so that others will think long and hard before committing a crime or an act of violence. Yes, Mayor Koch, I want to hate these murderers and I always will. I am not looking to psychoanalyze or understand them, I am looking to punish them. If the punishment is strong, the attacks on innocent people will stop. I recently watched a newscast trying to explain the "anger in these young men". I no longer want to understand their anger. I want them to understand our anger. I want them to be afraid.

How can our great society tolerate the continued brutalization of its citizens by crazed misfits? Criminals must be told that their **CIVIL LIBERTIES END WHEN AN ATTACK ON OUR SAFETY BEGINS!**

When I was young, I sat in a diner with my father and witnessed two young bullies cursing and threatening a very frightened waitress. Two cops rushed in, lifted up the thugs and threw them out the door, warning them never to cause trouble again. I miss the feeling of security New York's finest once gave to the citizens of this City.

Let our politicians give back our police department's power to keep us safe. Unshackle them from the constant chant of "police brutality" which every petty criminal hurls immediately at an officer who has just risked his or her life to save another's. We must cease our continuous pandering to the criminal population of this City. Give New York back to the citizens who have earned the right to be New Yorkers. Send a message loud and clear to those who would murder our citizens and terrorize New York — **BRING BACK THE DEATH PENALTY AND BRING BACK OUR POLICE!**



Donald J. Trump

THE COMING OF THE SUPER-PREDATORS

By John J. Dilulio, Jr.

Lynne Abraham doesn't scare easily. Abraham is the no-nonsense Democratic district attorney of Philadelphia. The city's late tough-cop mayor, Frank Rizzo, baptized her "one tough cookie." The label stuck, and rightly so. Abraham has sent more mafiosi to prison than Martin Scorsese, stood up (all 5'2" of her) to violent drug kingpins, won bipartisan

elementary school youngsters who pack guns instead of lunches. We're talking about kids who have absolutely no respect for human life and no sense of the future. In short, we're talking big trouble that hasn't yet begun to crest.

And make no mistake. While the trouble will be greatest in black inner-city neighborhoods, other

The Weekly Standard,
November 27, 1995

'The only victim in this case is dead': Mourning for 5-year-old Eric

CRIME

'Superpredators' Arrive

Should we cage the new breed of vicious kids?

BY PETER ANNIN

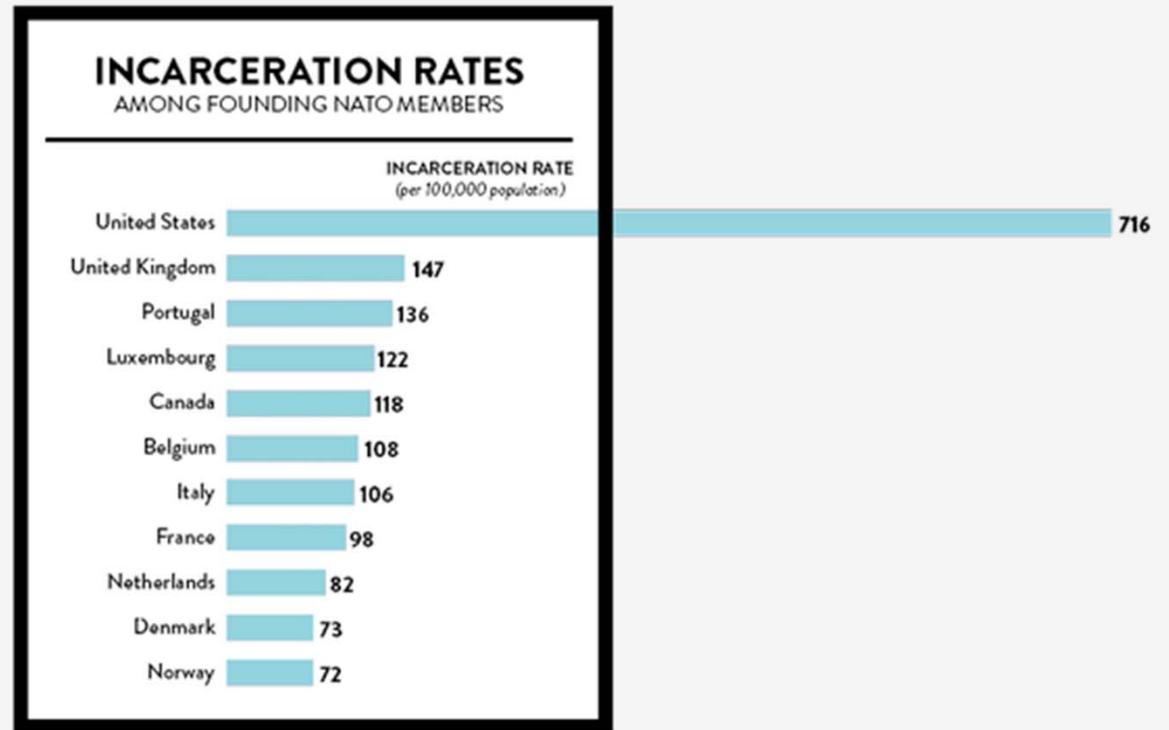
ON OCT. 13, 1994, 5-YEAR-OLD ERIC Morse and his 8-year-old brother, Derrick, ran into two of the toughest bullies their South Side Chicago neighborhood had to offer. The intimidating boys lured the brothers to a vacant

where is the state supposed to put these two killers? A judge is scheduled to rule in the case next week. Around the country, other states are watching. They have their own predators to worry about.

It wouldn't be a problem if Illinois's special 30-bed "kiddie prison" weren't still un

Newsweek, January 22, 1996

US Incarceration Rates



Source: <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/>

The Prison System – Good Business?

Private Prison Stock Prices



Source: NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

HUFFPOST BUSINESS

PRISON LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO



HOURLY INMATE WAGES

\$1.15

COMPANIES THAT HAVE USED PRISON LABOR



\$0.40

\$0.23

OUTSIDE EMPLOYERS

\$0.12

IN PRISON LABOR

FROM SLAVE TO CRIMINAL WITH ONE AMENDMENT

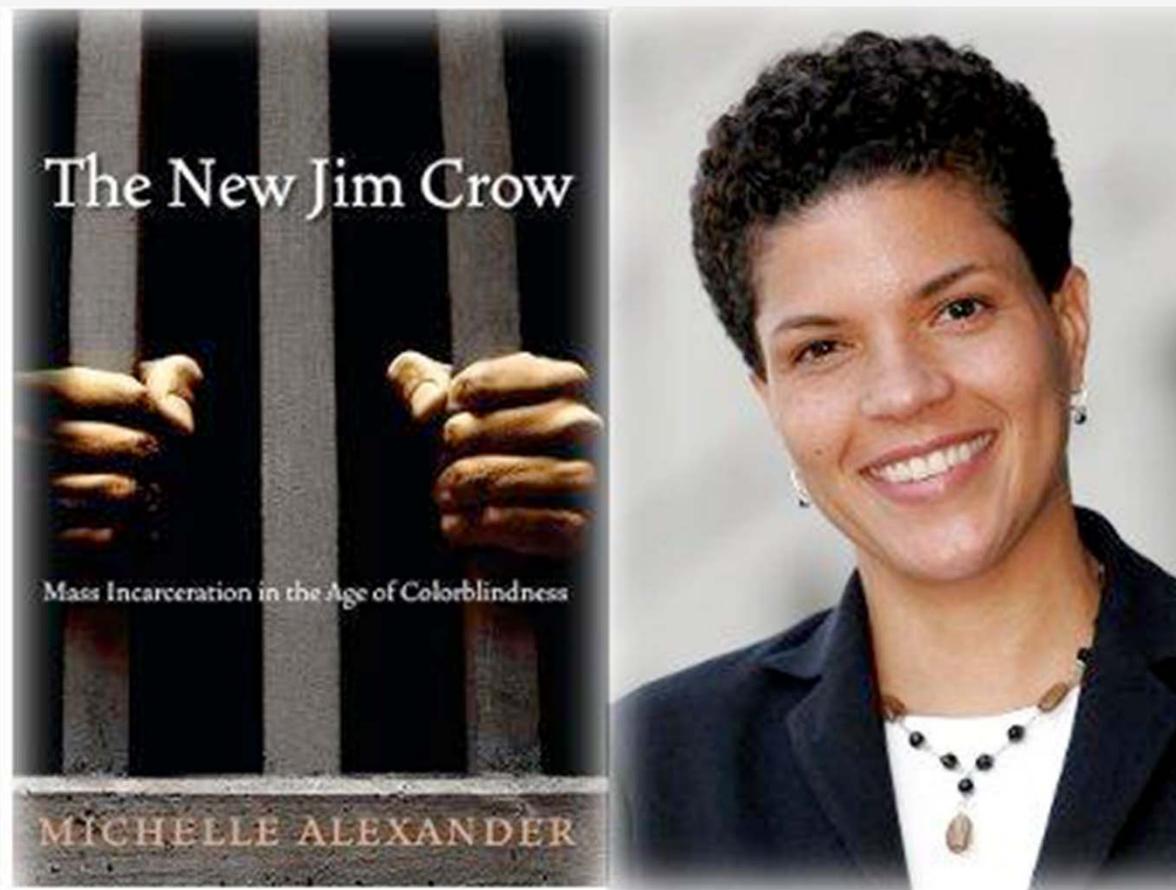


13TH



| OCTOBER 7

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, *except as a punishment for crime* whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."



“Like Jim Crow (and slavery), mass incarceration operates as a tightly networked system of laws, policies, customs, and institutions that operate collectively to ensure the subordinate status of a group defined largely by race.”

— Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Michelle Alexander

- There are more African Americans under correctional control today -- in prison or jail, on probation or parole -- than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War began.
 - In 1972, fewer than 350,000 people were being held in prisons and jails nationwide, compared with more than 2 million people today
 - No other country in the world imprisons so many of its racial or ethnic minorities. The United States imprisons a larger percentage of its black population than South Africa did at the height of apartheid.
- 

The Post- Prison Effect

- In 2012, 5.6 million Americans were not permitted to vote due to State laws restricting voting rights for those convicted of serious crimes
 - About 1.4 million can't vote due to incarceration (48/50 States)
 - 30 States deny voting rights to those on probation
 - 35 States deny voting rights to parolees
 - 11 States deny voting rights to ex-felons completely
- Job prospects are limited by:
 - Employer bias
 - Felony Conviction Status
 - Liability for damages

*Solomon AL, et al. From Prison to Work: The
Employment Dimensions of Prisoner Reentry, 2004*

Intra-Community Violence

*R. L'Heureux Lewis-
McCoy - professor of
sociology and black
studies, City College of
New York*



- “Given the high levels of segregation that many Black males grow up in, the decreased employment opportunities, long term unemployment, and failing schools, **the chances for young Black males to develop a sense of healthy self-worth are limited...**
- Instead, material possessions and contestation over space like corners can be the spaces where worth and value are determined.”

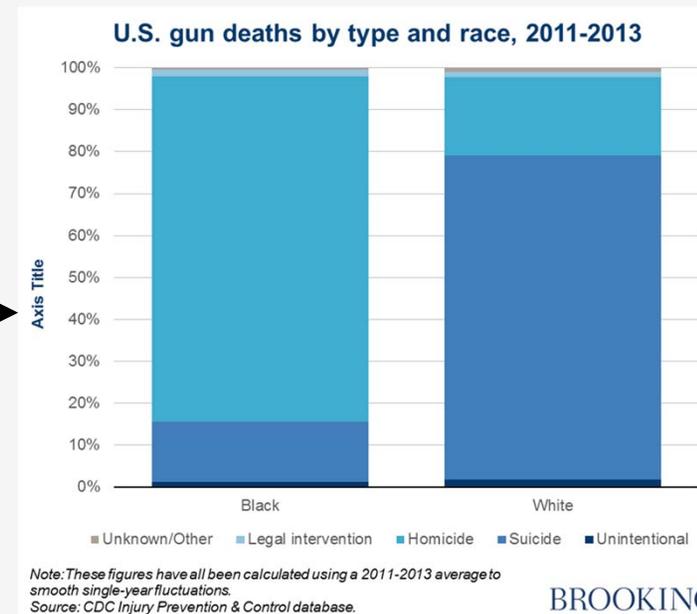
Intra-Community Violence

*R. L'Heureux Lewis-
McCoy - professor of
sociology and black
studies, City College of
New York*



- “Black males, we cannot forget, are members of an American society which glorifies material wealth. But they are some of society’s members with the fewest routes available to gain that wealth without putting their own and others’ lives in danger.”
- “This (violent) behavior is reflective of deep emotional, psychological and spiritual scars.”

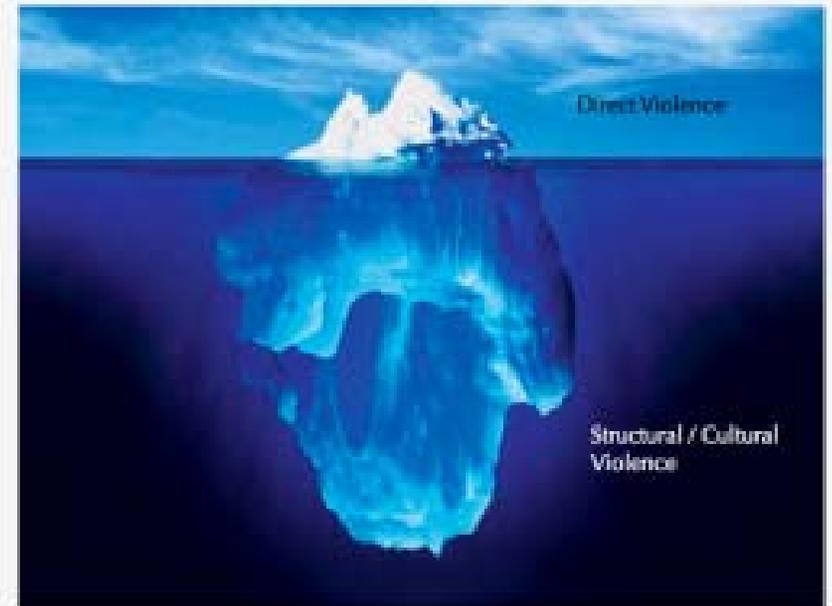
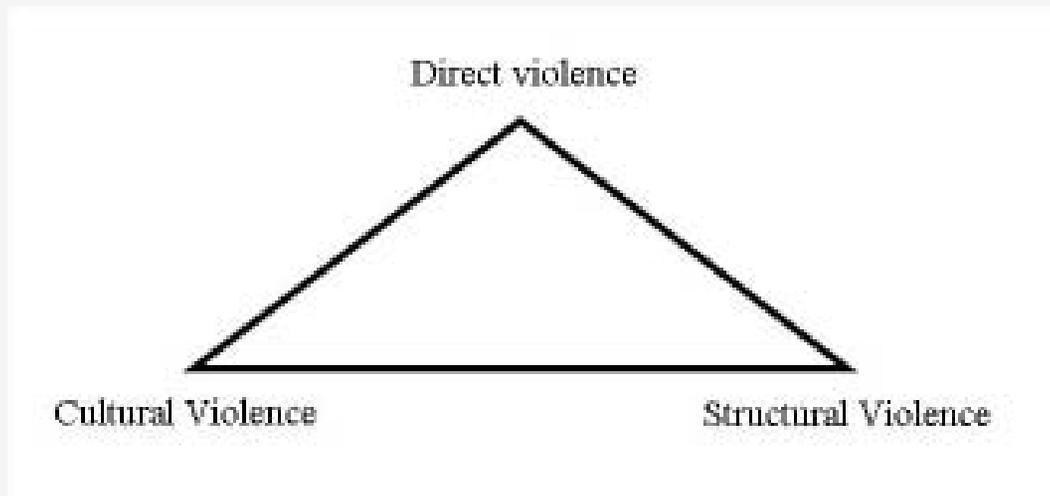
The Connection, Hidden in Plain Sight



The Connection, Hidden in Plain Sight

Trump vows law and order crackdown to combat
'menace' of crime

The Guardian, Feb 9, 2017



*Gun
Violence is
not just
about the
guns.*

- Black men are disproportionately likely to be victims of gun violence in the United States.
- Black men are the principle (but certainly not the only) example of structural violence in the United States, with a history of systemic inequality, mass incarceration, and overt racism perpetuating this phenomenon.
- Structural violence, combined with cultural violence (making the structural violence seem normal), must be overcome to reduce deaths from gun violence.

*HOW DO WE STOP
GUN VIOLENCE
IN THE UNITED
STATES?*

*How do we
stop gun
violence in
the United
States?*

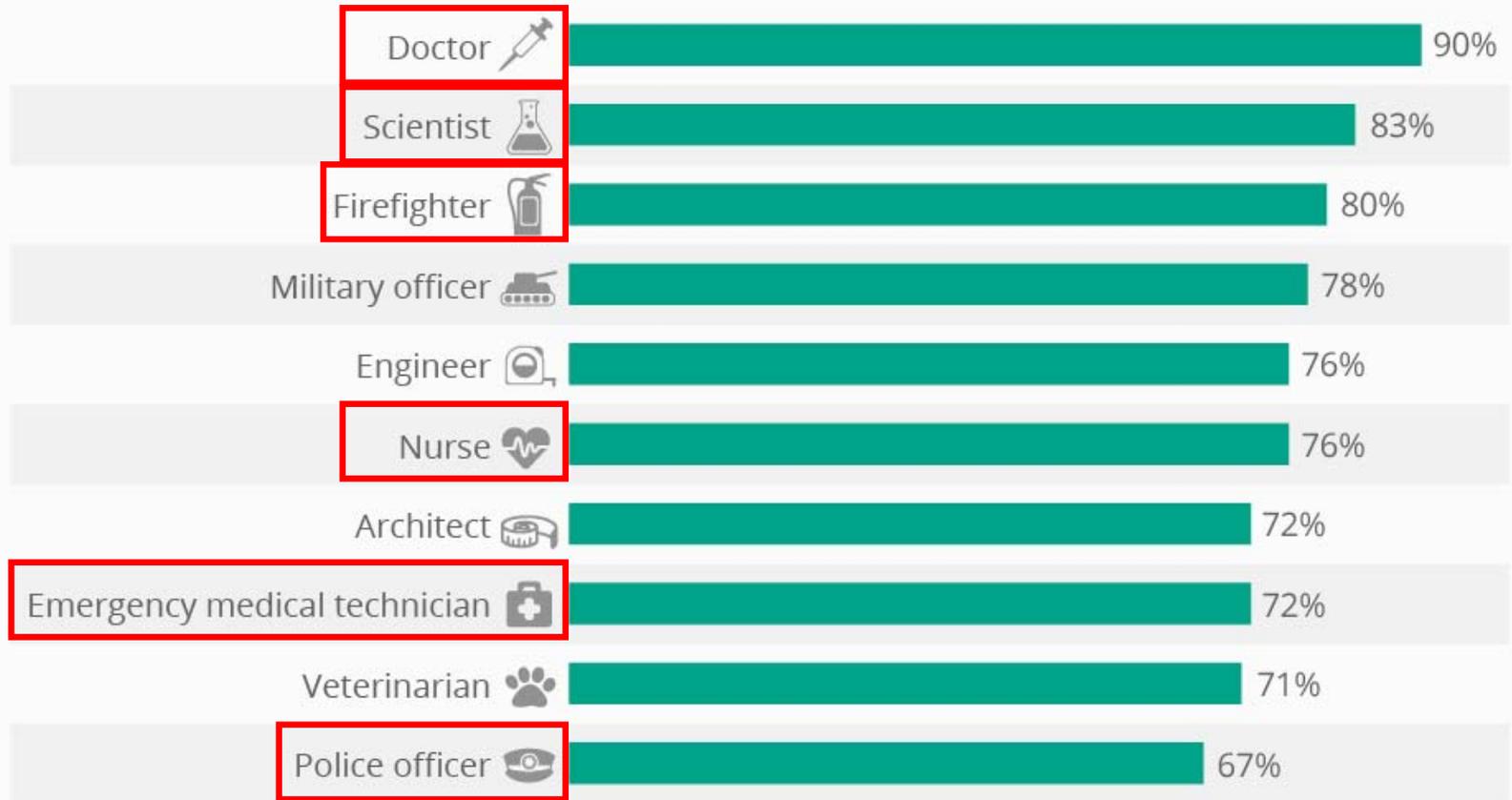
- Accumulate, and then share, knowledge about gun violence
 - Know about existing research that explains why gun violence occurs in our society and what steps we might take to address it both through direct legislation and social reform
 - Challenge existing paradigms by asking difficult questions and involving disproportionately affected people
- 

*How do we
stop gun
violence in
the United
States?*

- Acknowledge structural violence as a principal cause of direct violence
- Internal reform
 - Lack of diversity...everywhere
 - Identify this to challenge it
- Public advocacy / activism
 - To end structural violence
 - To ensure the safety of all people

The Most Prestigious Professions In America

% of people finding the following occupations prestigious in 2016



Source: The Harris Poll

Broader Solutions

- Forgetting history leads to structural violence
 - Never knowing (or denying it) it is a form of (self)-oppression
 - Identify the cultural violence
 - Truth +/- Reconciliation
- 

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