

Gun violence as a public health problem:

What we know, and where we are going

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Disclosures

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Senior Strategic Advisor, AFFIRM at the Aspen Institute

Board of Directors, Nonviolence Institute

Trustee, National Opioid Abatement Trust-II



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JAMARA O'NEAL



OHQ

The Public Health Approach to Violence



Gather Data

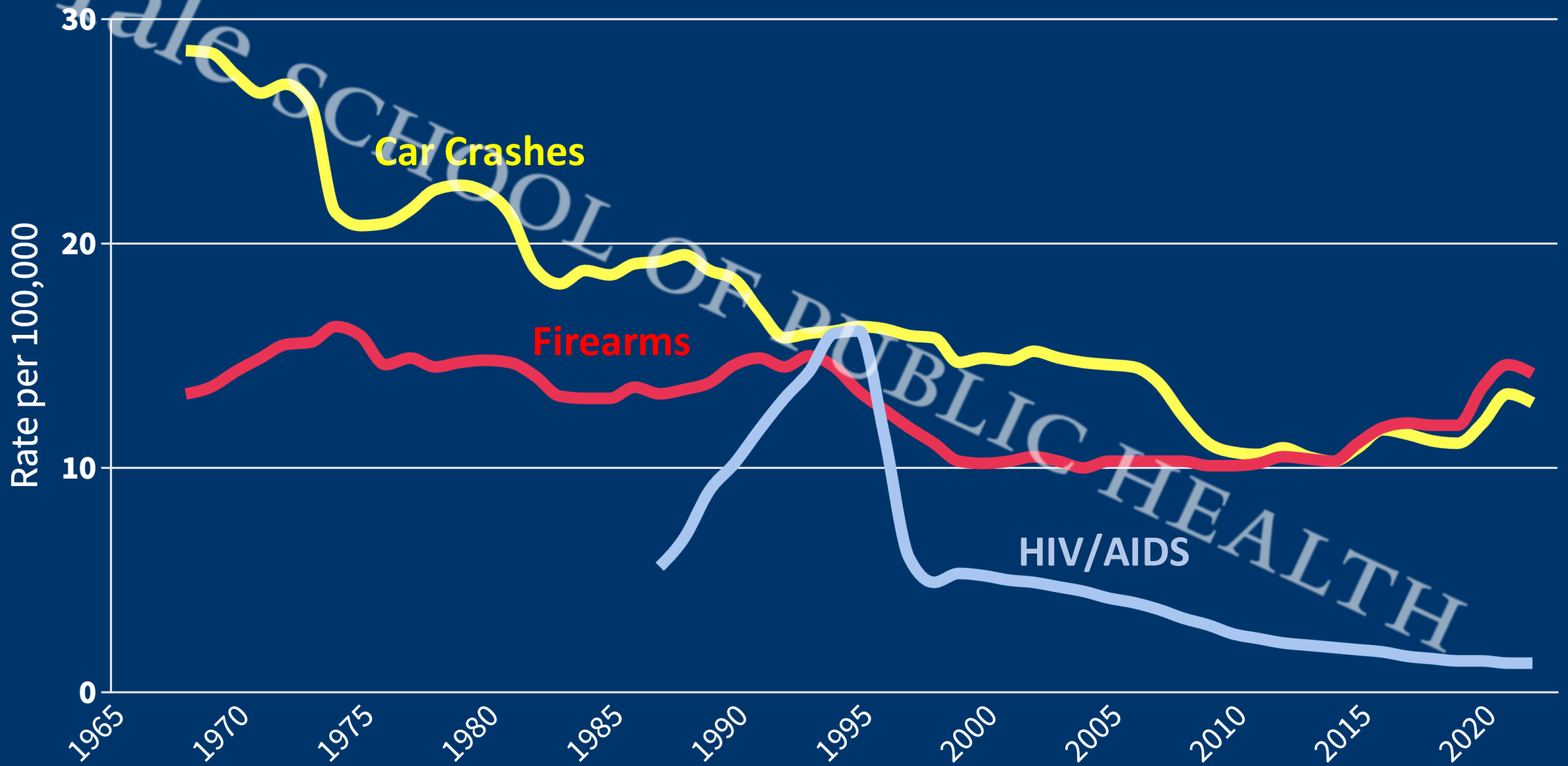
**Identify Risk
& Protective Factors**

***A Public
Health
Approach***

Implementation

**Develop & Evaluate
Interventions**

A Public Health Approach to Addressing Epidemics



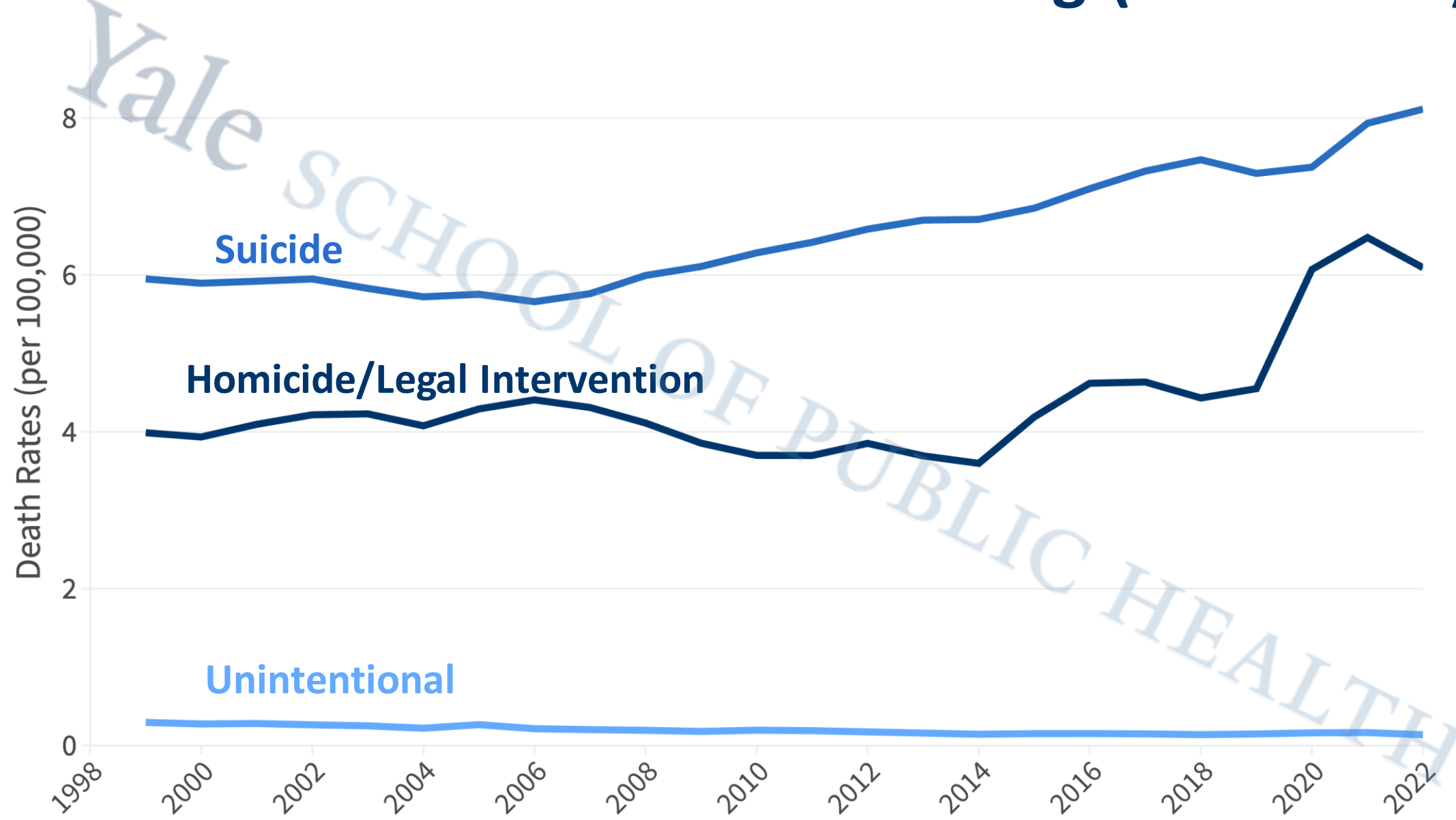


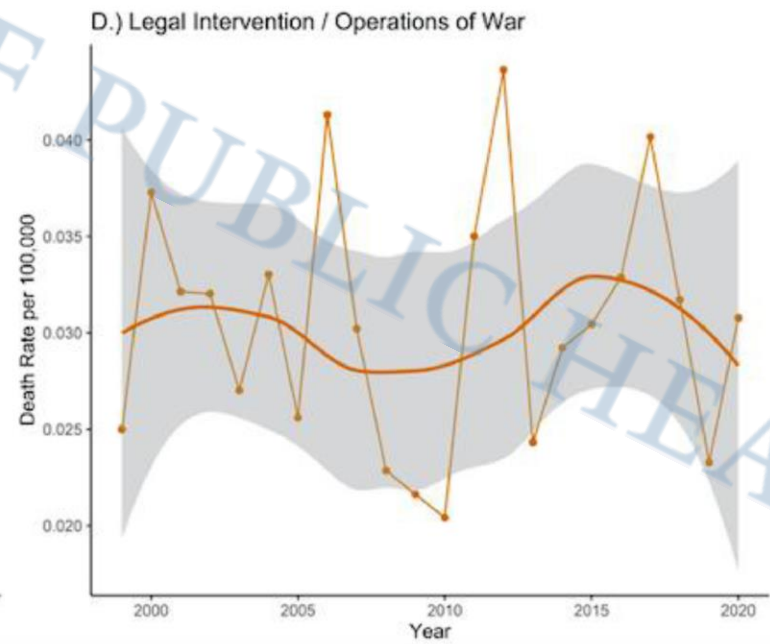
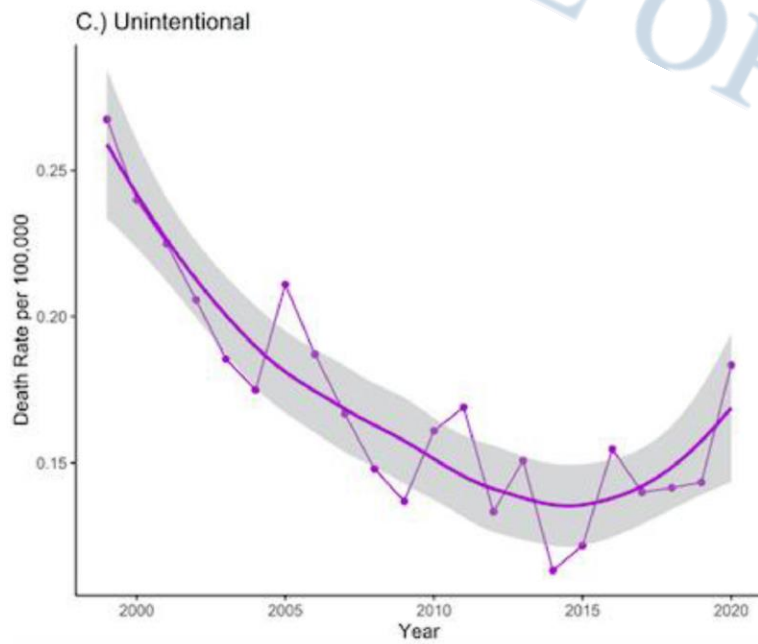
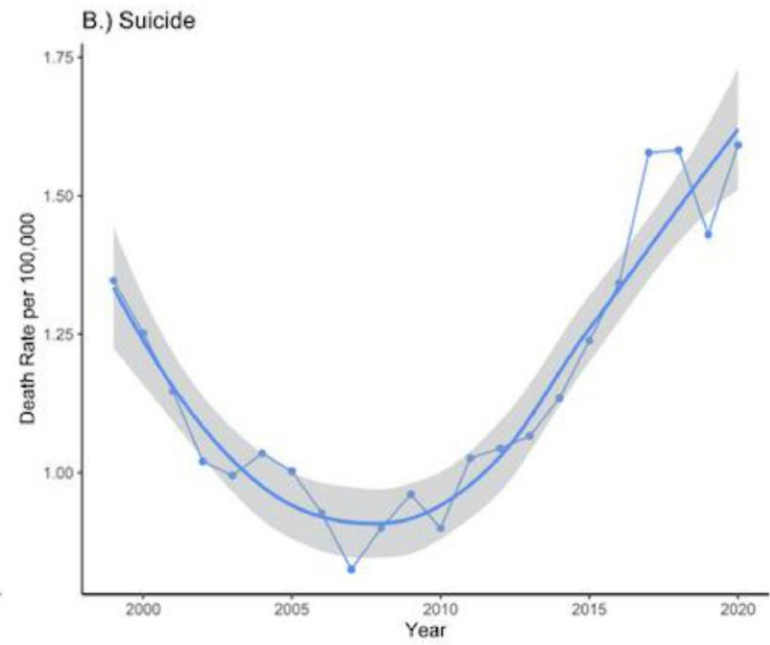
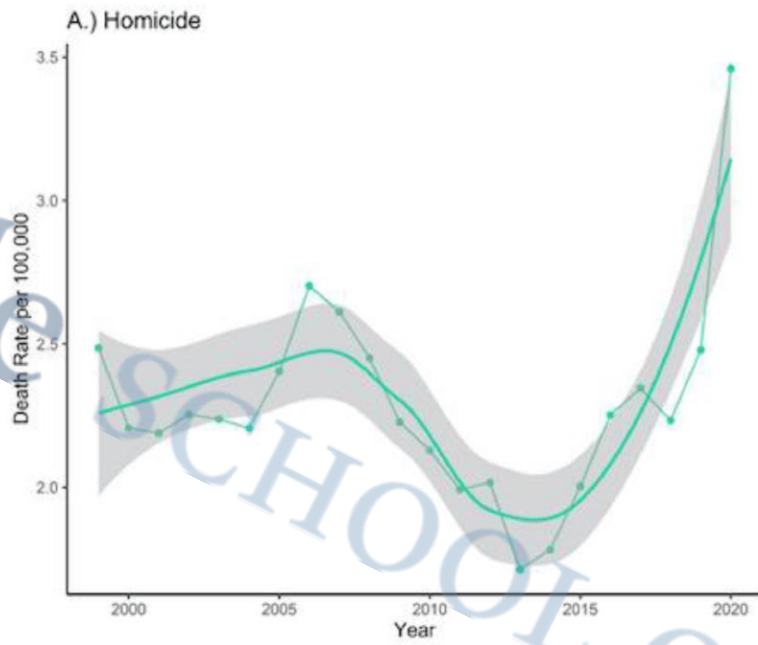
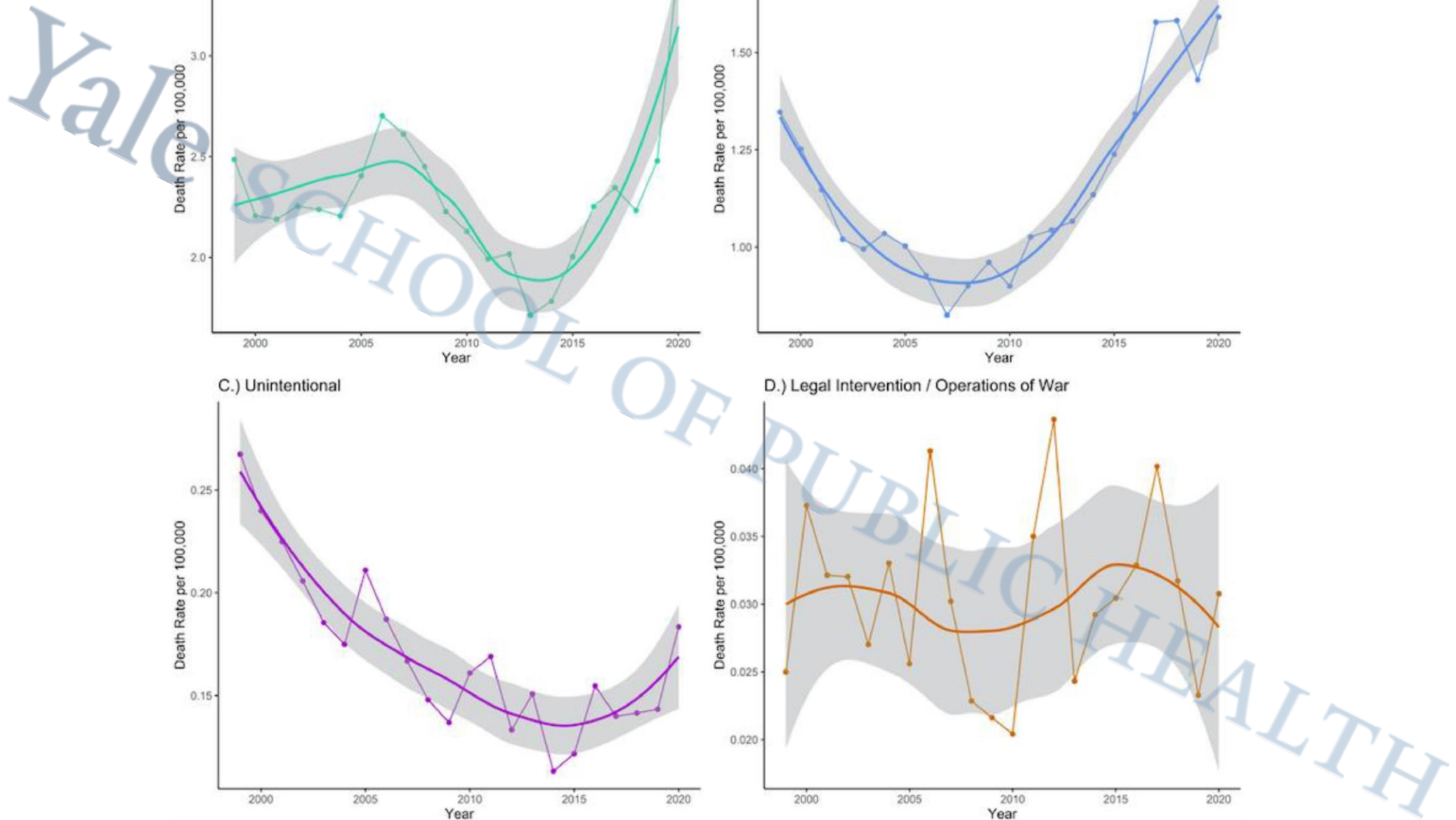
CENTERS FOR DISEASE™
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

The CDC's official
definition of an
epidemic is:

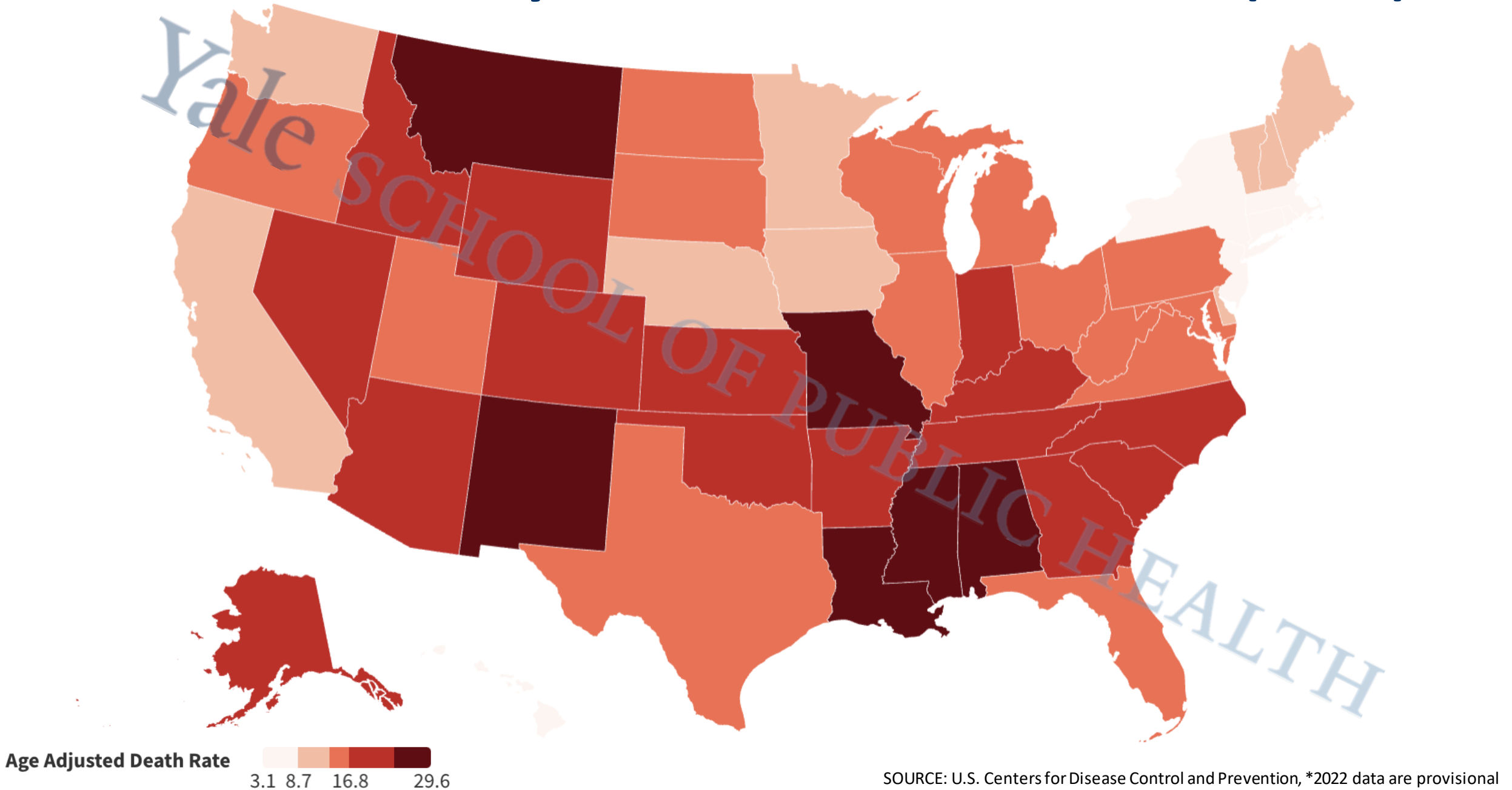
*“The occurrence of more cases
of disease than expected
in a given area or among a
specific group of people
over a particular period of time.”*

Firearm death rates are increasing (1999-2022)



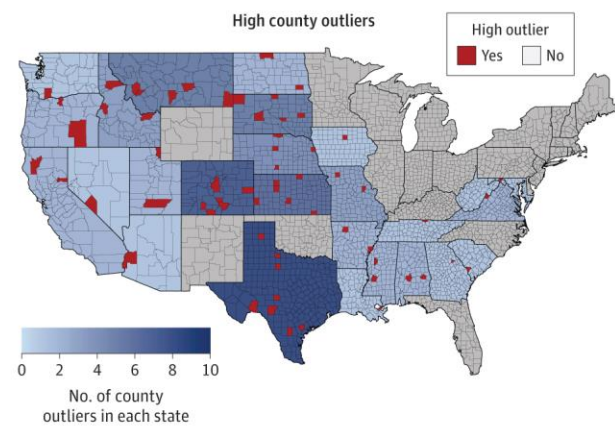
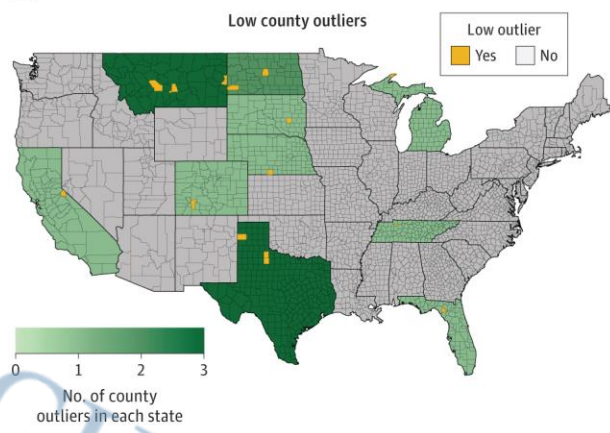


Firearm Mortality Across the United States (2022)

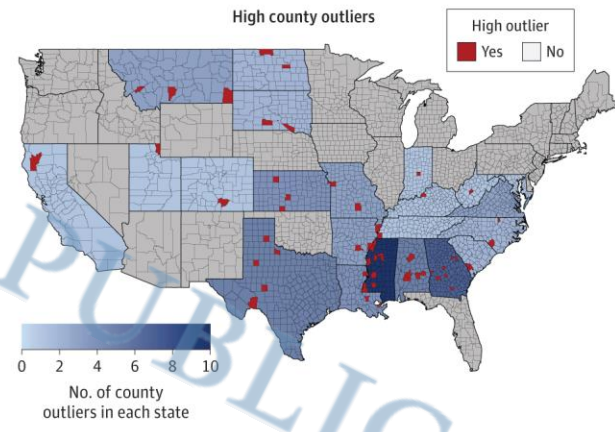
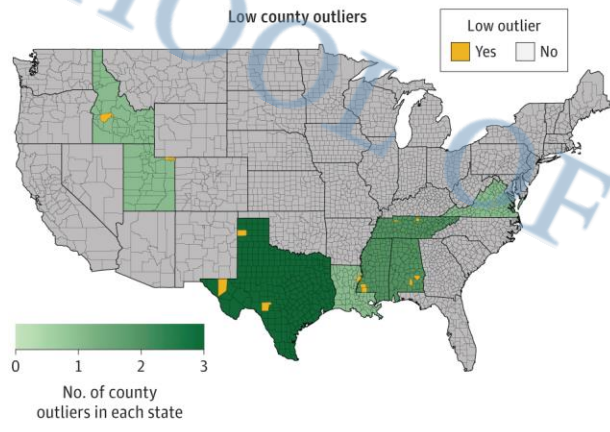


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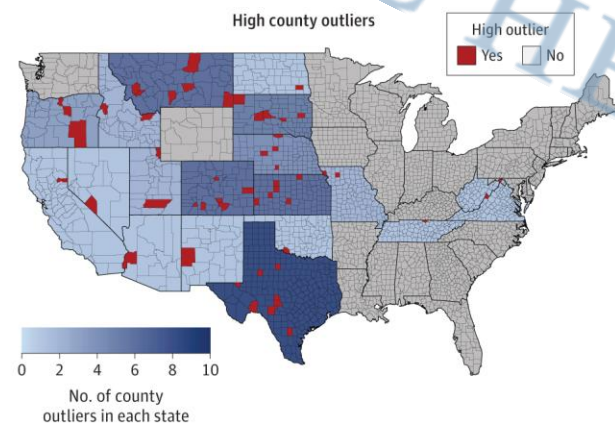
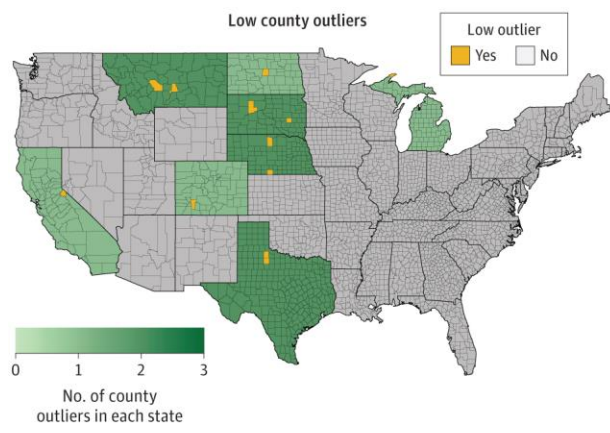
A Firearm death



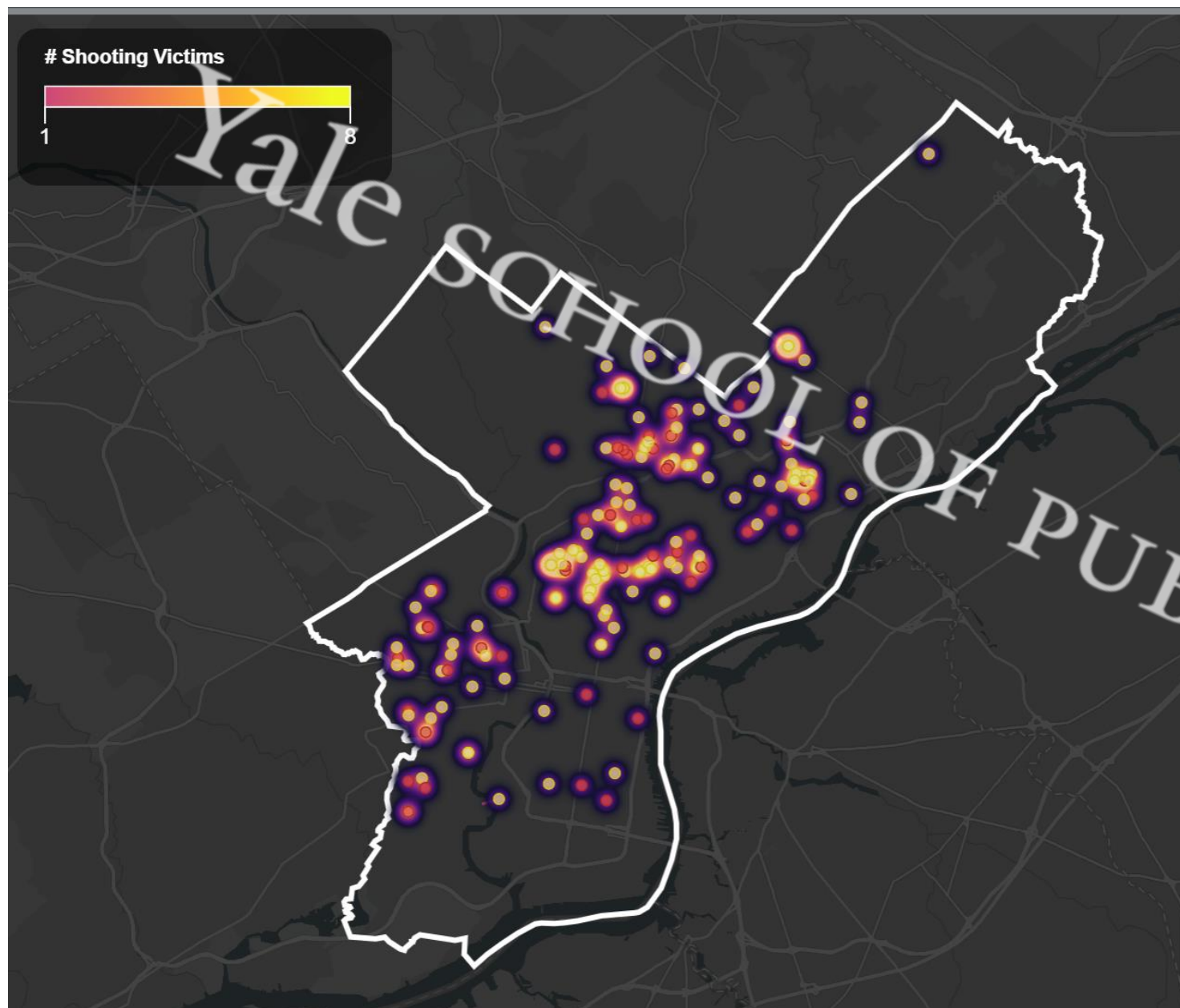
B Firearm homicide



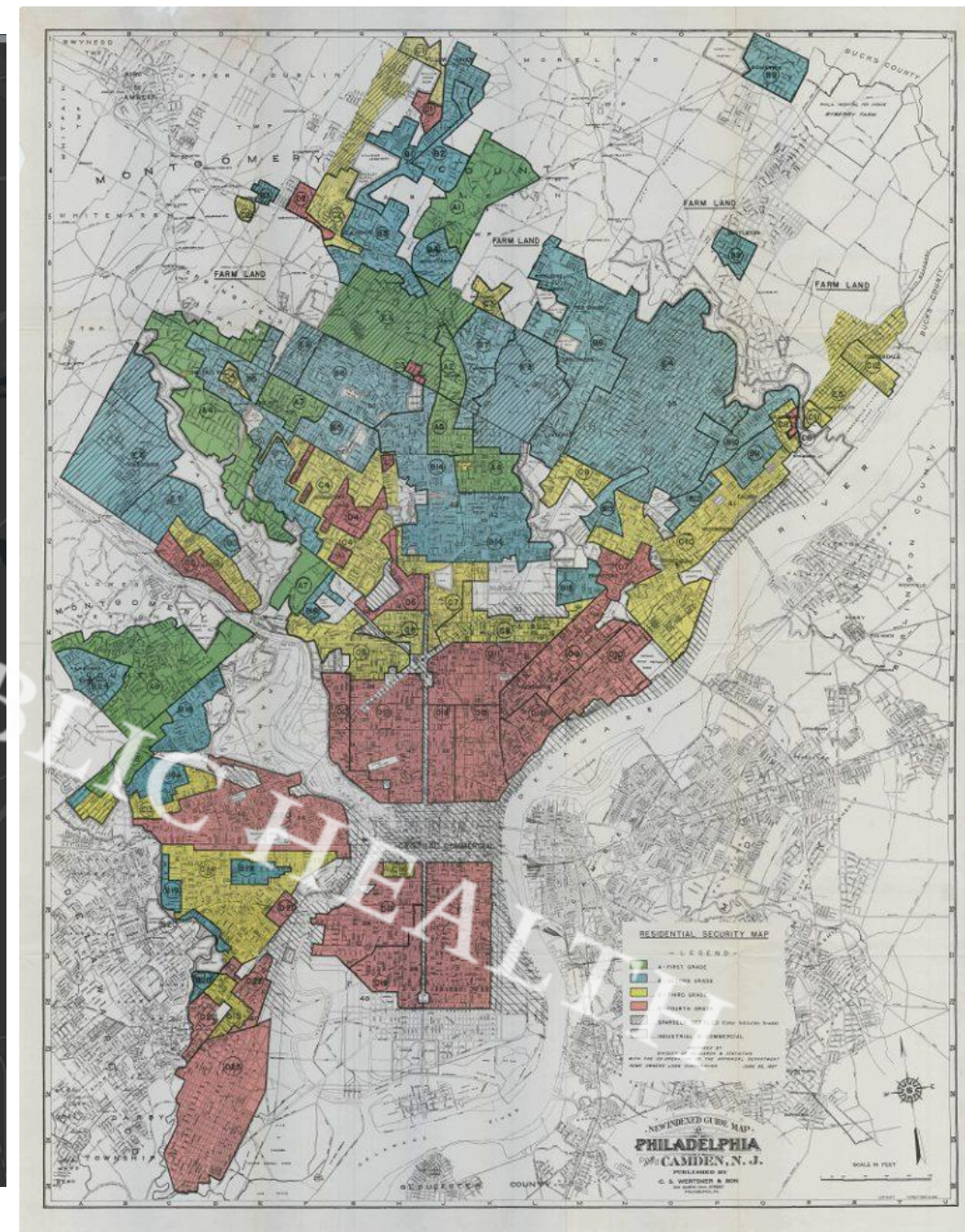
C Firearm suicide



SOURCE: JAMA Network Open. 2022; 5(6):e2215557. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.15557



SOURCE: Office of the Controller, The City of Philadelphia



SOURCE: National Archives and Records Administration



42%

of households own a gun



72%

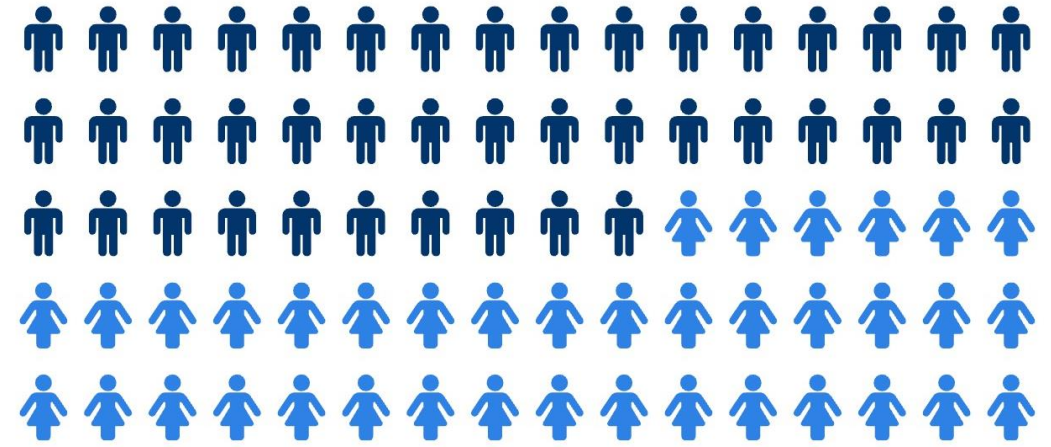
of U.S. gun owners say protection is a major reason they own a gun



7.5 million

Estimated new gun owners from 1 January 2019 to 26 April 2021

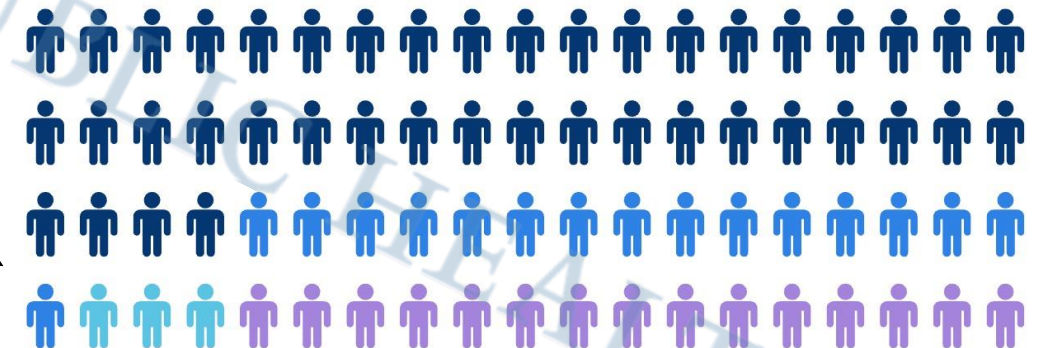
New Gun Owners, 2019-2021



● Male ● Female

48% female

21% Black



● Non-Hispanic White ● Non-Hispanic Black
● Non-Hispanic other ● Hispanic

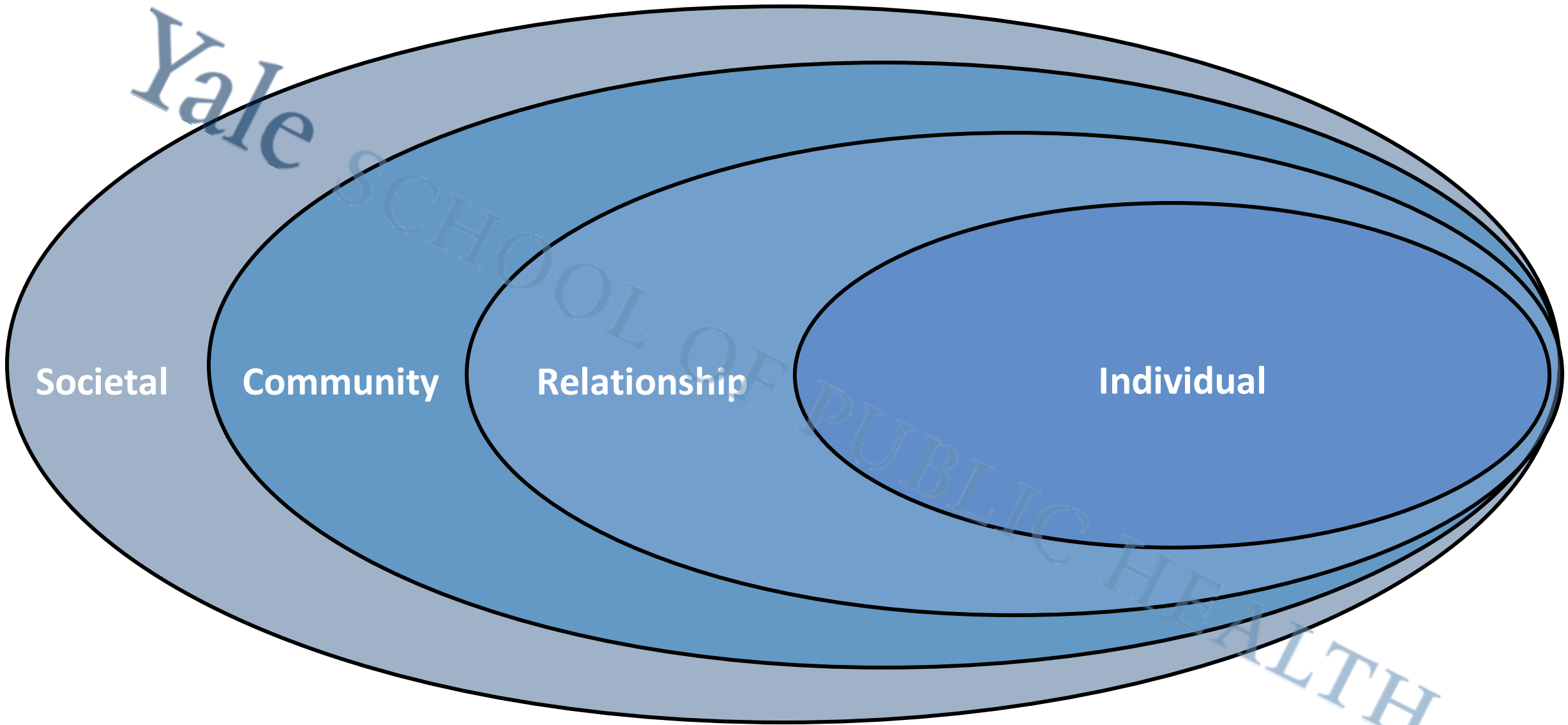
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Societal

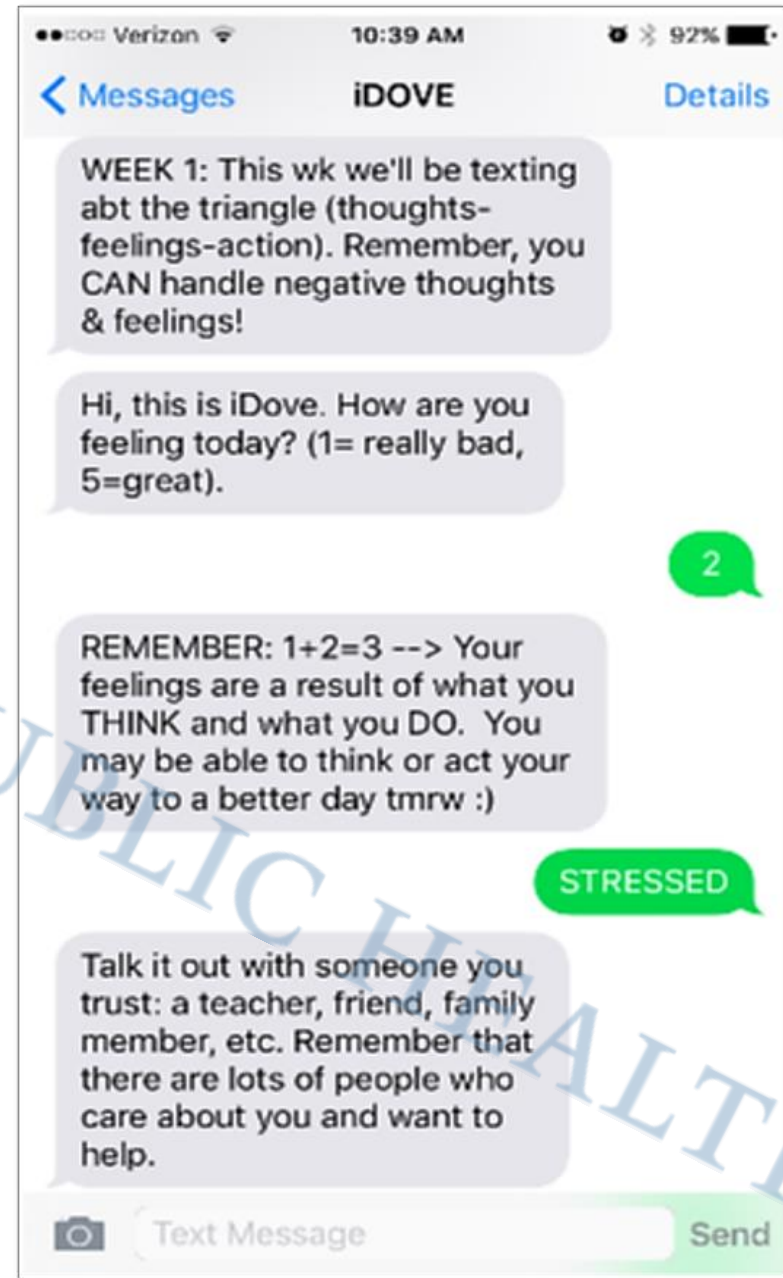
Community

Relationship

Individual

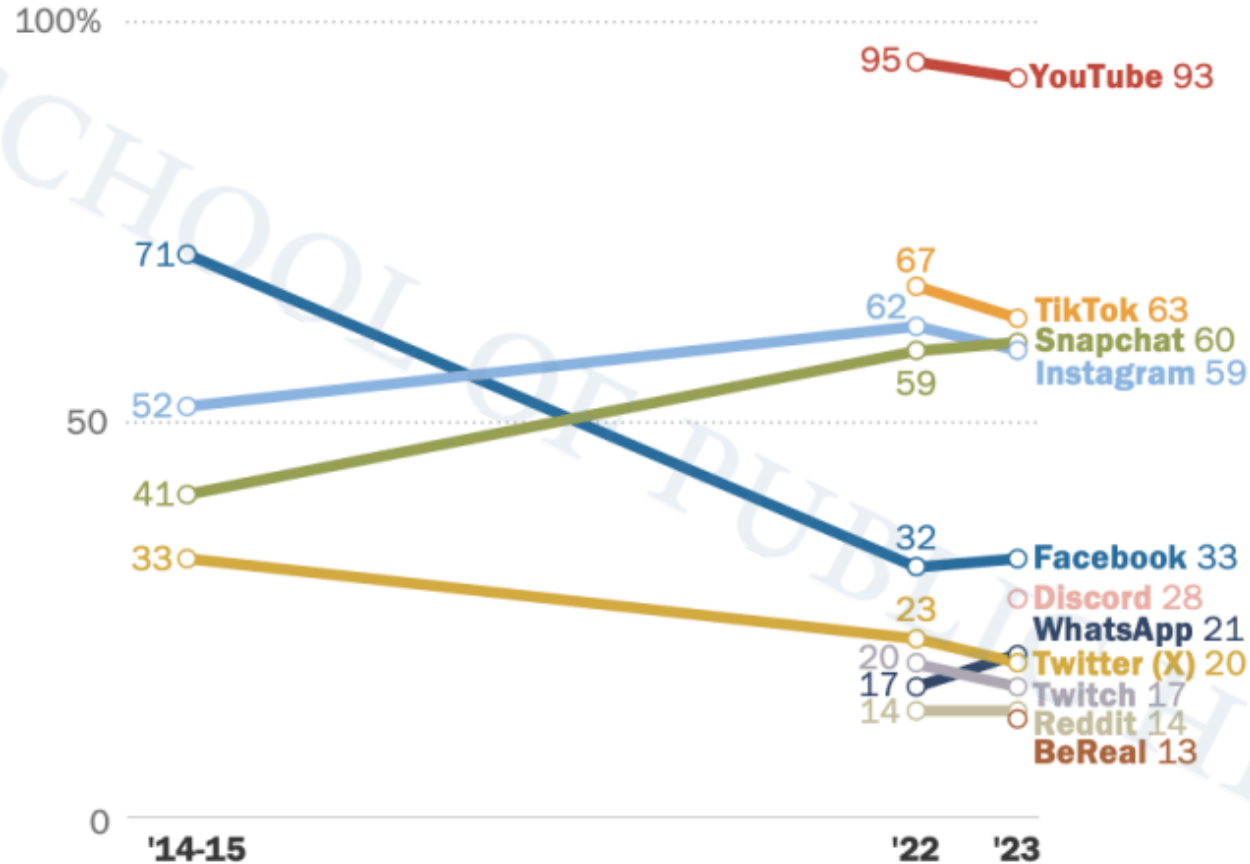


A Technology-Augmented
Intervention to Prevent Peer
Violence & Depressive
Symptoms Among At-Risk
Emergency Department
Adolescents



YouTube continues to be top platform among teens, followed by TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram

% of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who say they ever use the following apps or sites



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. teens conducted Sept. 26-Oct. 23, 2023.

"Teens, Social Media and Technology 2023"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

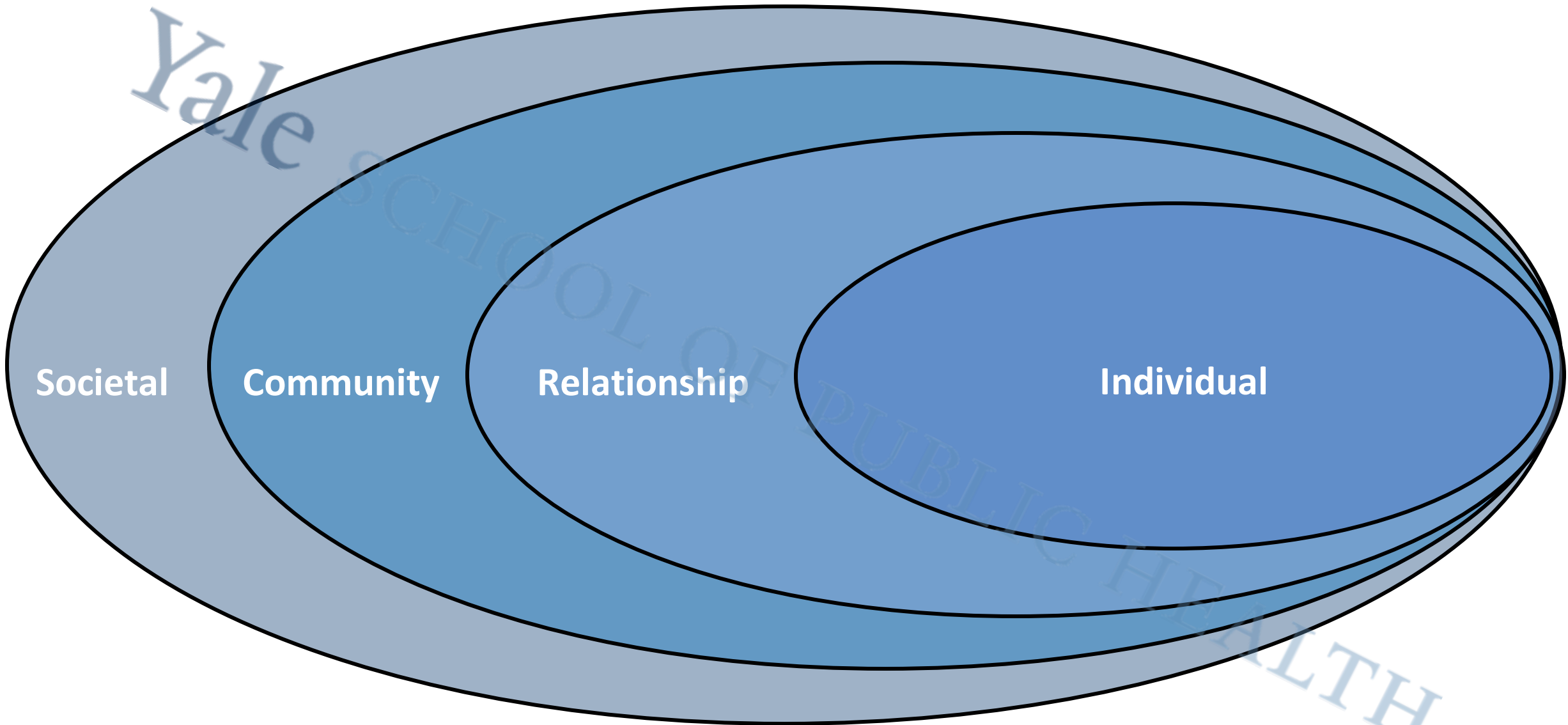


Swipe up for more info about the screening survey and larger study



- 1. Hunting & Fishing**
special interest lifestyle
- 2. Guns & Gear**
device-focused emphasis on safety & responsibility
- 3. Guns 4 Fun**
recreational and simulation “battle” games
- 4. News & Hot Takes**
centralized around shootings and gun control
- 5. Music**
primarily metaphorical and referential
- 6. Movies**
huge reach, representative of “mainstream” imagination
- 7. Games**
highly-social, collaborative, humorous



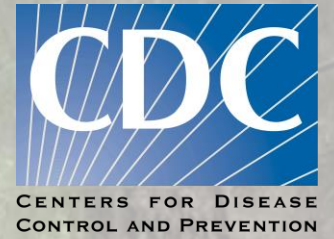


Societal

Community

Relationship

Individual



Bystander Intervention Model





Elyse J. Thulin, Alex French, Elizabeth Messman, Rachel Masi, Justin E. Heinze; Firearm-Related Tips in a Statewide School Anonymous Reporting System. *Pediatrics* February 2024; 153 (2): e2023063861. 10.1542/peds.2023-063861

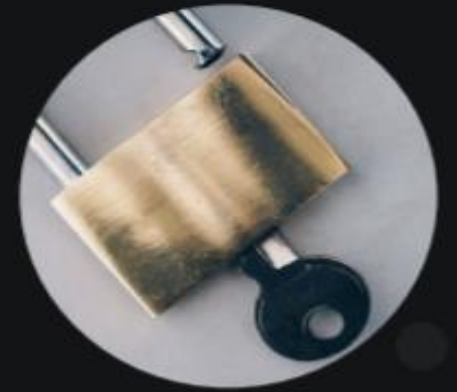
Why should I talk to patients about firearm safety?

As a health care provider, can I ask patients about firearms?

How do I bring up the topic of firearms with at-risk patients?

What are the risk factors for firearm-related harm?

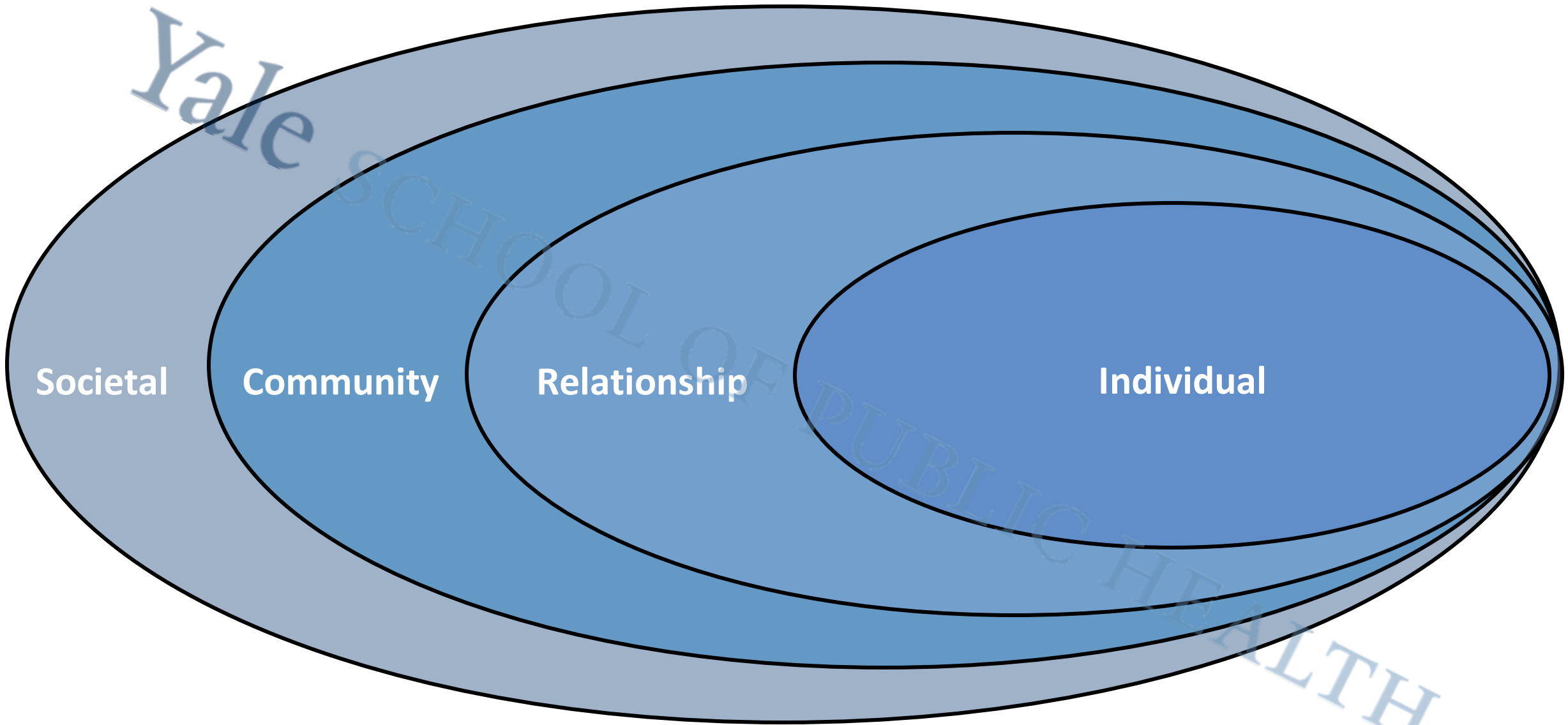
If I find out a patient who is at risk for suicide or violence has a gun at home, is there anything I can do about it?



Safe Firearm Storage

When there are firearms in the home, keeping them locked up reduces the risk of injury and death for everyone who spends time there.

For more information visit:
www.bulletpointsproject.org



Societal

Community

Relationship

Individual



**Hospital-based violence
intervention programs**



**NONVIOLENCE
PROGRAMS**



**NONVIOLENCE
INSTITUTE**



**Violence hot-spot
intervention models**



**Community mentoring and
intervention programs**



Hospital-based violence intervention programs

The Wraparound Project at San Francisco General Hospital found that the 6-year violent reinjury rate among HVIPs was **4.5%** compared with 16% for a historical control group of violently injured patients

SOURCE: Smith R, Dobbins S, Evans A, Balhota K, Dicker RA. Hospital-based violence intervention: risk reduction resources that are essential for success. J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2013;74(4):976-982. doi:10.1097/TA.0b013e31828586c9



Violence hot-spot intervention models

Cure Violence has identified major **decreases in shootings** in three major U.S. Cities

63% reduction in NYC
30% reduction in Philadelphia
48% reduction in Chicago

SOURCE: Cure Violence Global



Community mentoring and intervention programs

Through the "Advance Peace" Initiative in Richmond, CA brought its **homicide and assault rate down by 43%** compared to before it was implemented in 2010

SOURCE: Center for American Progress



Colorado Gun Storage Options



Colorado Gun Storage Options



Law Enforcement Agencies

- Dillon Police Department
- Firestone Police Department
- Broomfield Police Department
- Evans Police Department

[13 MORE](#)



Gun Shops

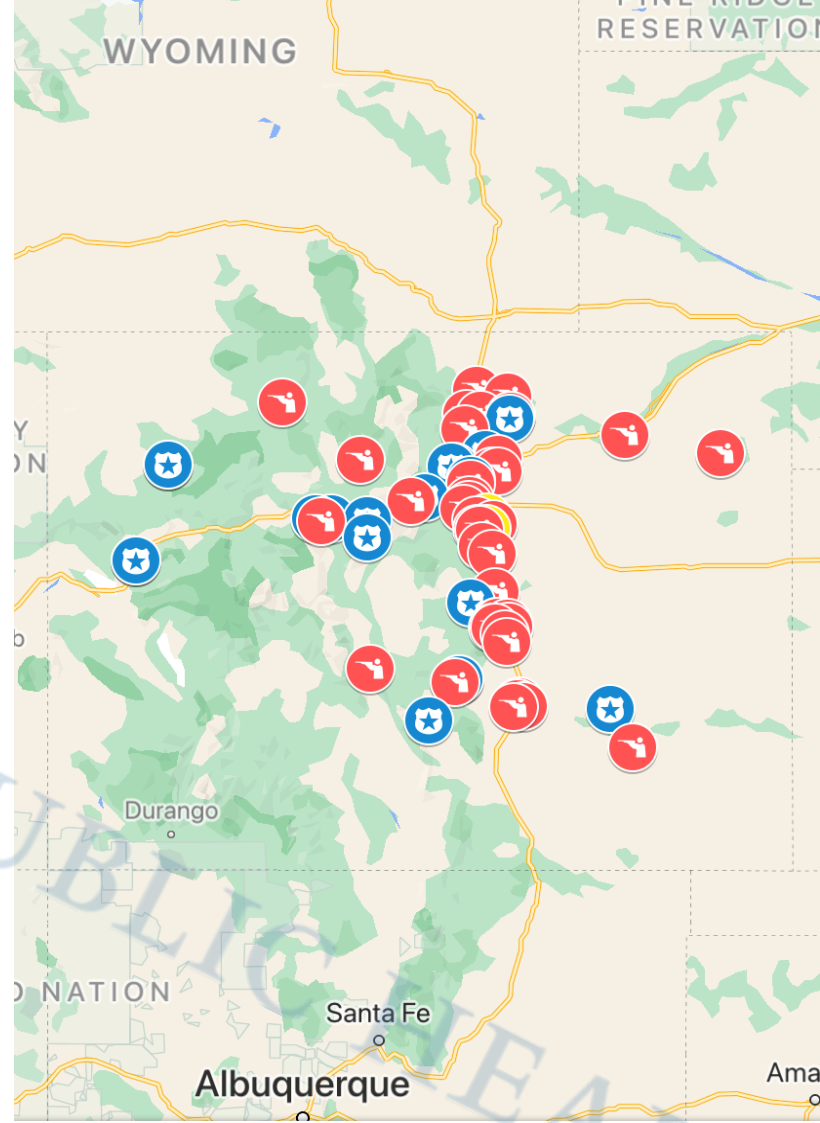
- Charlie Golf One Pawn & Gun
- The Citizen Armory LLC
- RJC Firearms LLC
- Elk River Guns

[47 MORE](#)



Other

- Colorado Vault & Safe Deposit Box Co.
- Blue Star Police Supply



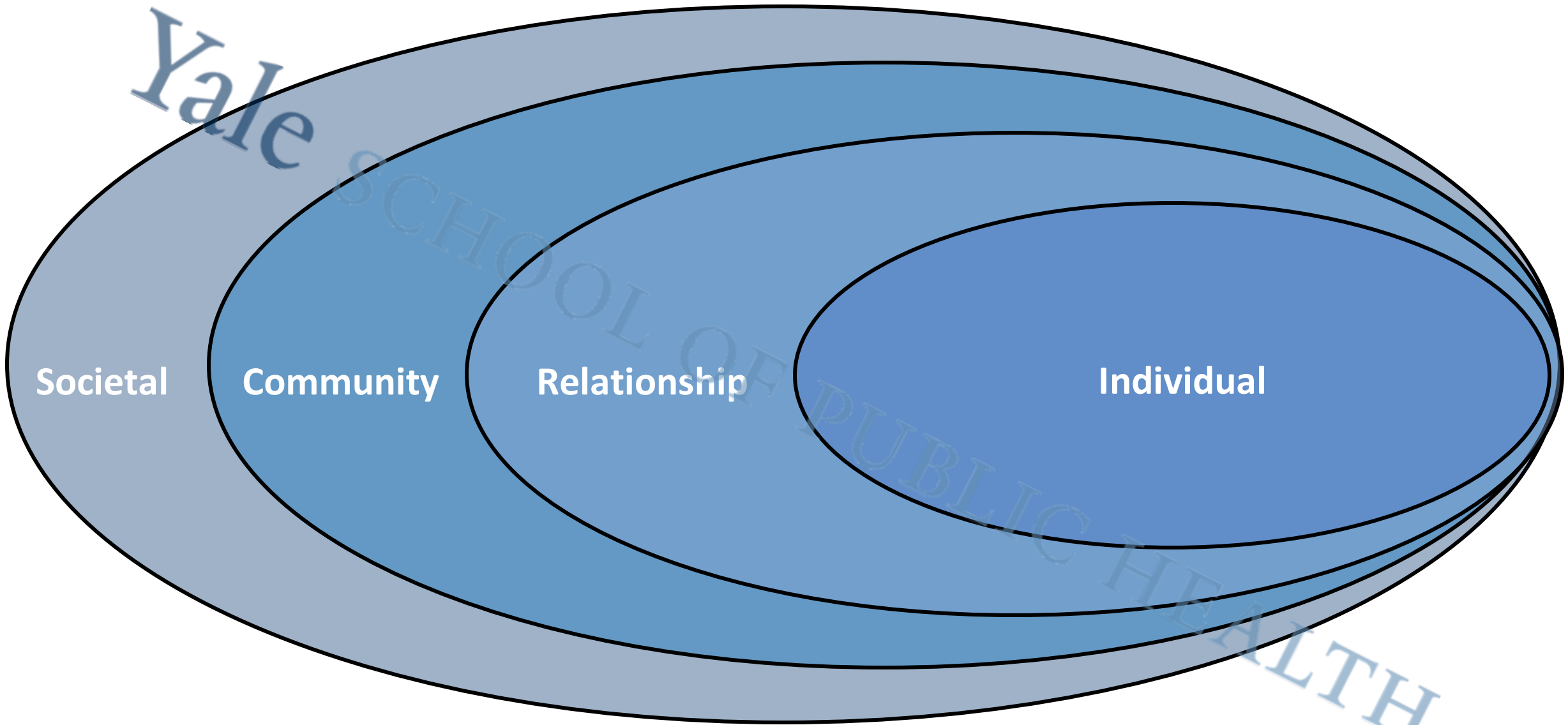
Colorado Gun Storage Options

This map is intended to help community members seeking local options for temporary, voluntary firearm storage. The businesses and law enforce...

[VIEW MAP LEGEND](#)

SOURCE: Dr. Emmy Betz /

Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative



Societal

Community

Relationship

Individual

I-Frame



S-Frame



Medication reminders (Volpp et al, 2017)



Government negotiation of prescription drug prices
(Ginsburg and Lieberman, 2021)

Calorie labels (Jue et al., 2012; Swartz, 2011)



Sugar tax (Alcott, Lockwood, and Taubinsky, 2019b)

Portion size changes (Downs and Loewenstein, 2011;
Schwartz, Riis, Elbel, and Ariely, 2011)



Subsidies for healthy food (Afshin et al, 2017)

Mass Shootings

80% were in a noticeable crisis prior to their shooting

65% had a prior criminal history, and 63% had a prior history of violence

~2/3 of mass shooters had a history of mental health concerns (vs. population average of 50%)

SOURCE: The Violence Project



GUN POLICIES THAT MAY DECREASE OUTCOMES

- Prohibitions Associated with Mental Illness
- Background Checks
- Prohibitions Associated with Domestic Violence
- Surrender of Firearms by Prohibited Possessors
- Child-Access Prevention Laws
- Waiting Periods
- Minimum Age Requirements
- Licensing and Permitting Requirements
- Bans on the Sale of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

limited evidence
moderate evidence

GUN POLICIES THAT MAY INCREASE OUTCOMES

- Bans on the Sale of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines
- Concealed-Carry Laws
- Stand-Your-Ground Laws

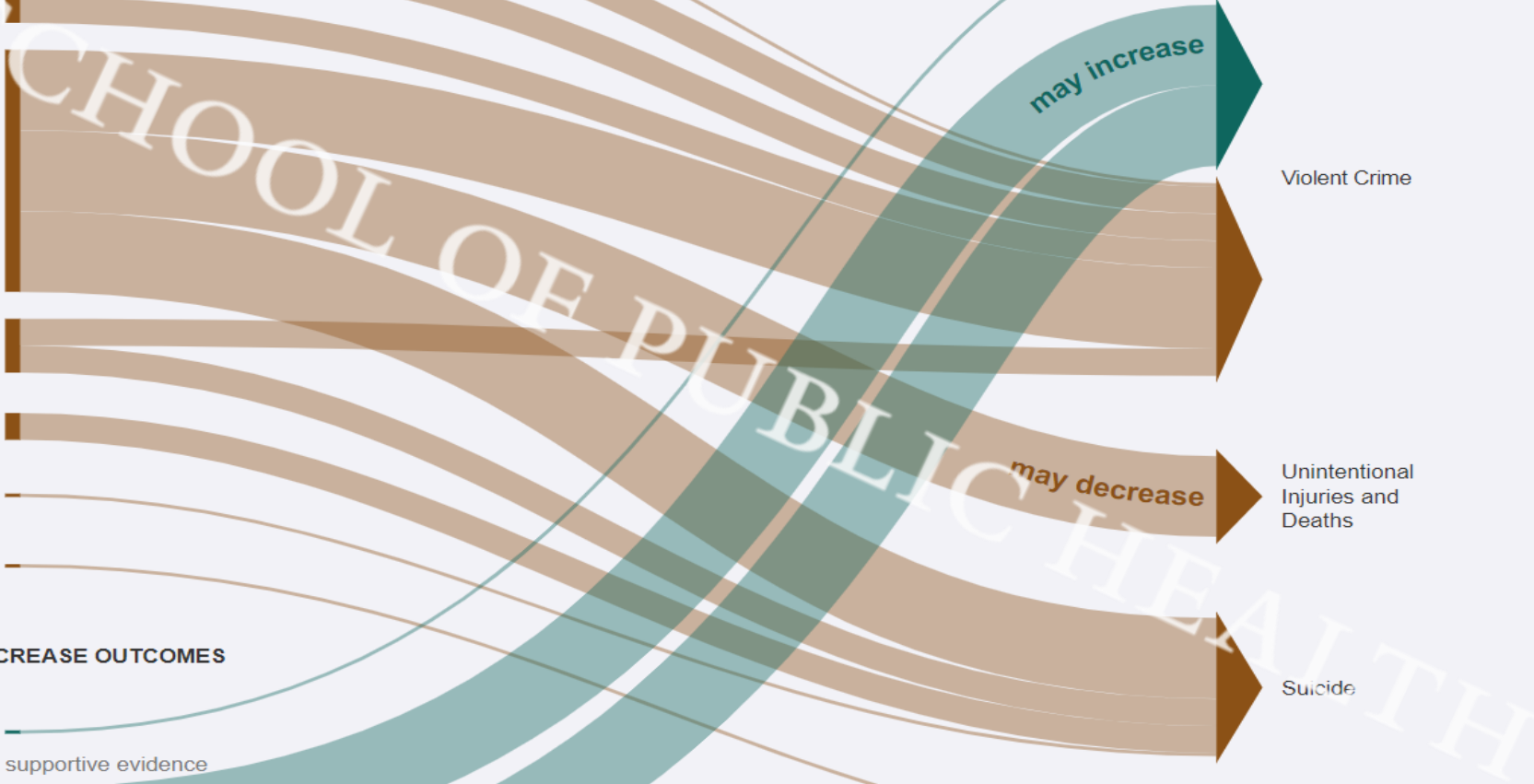
supportive evidence

OUTCOMES

- Price of Banned Firearms
- Violent Crime
- Unintentional Injuries and Deaths
- Suicide
- Mass Shootings

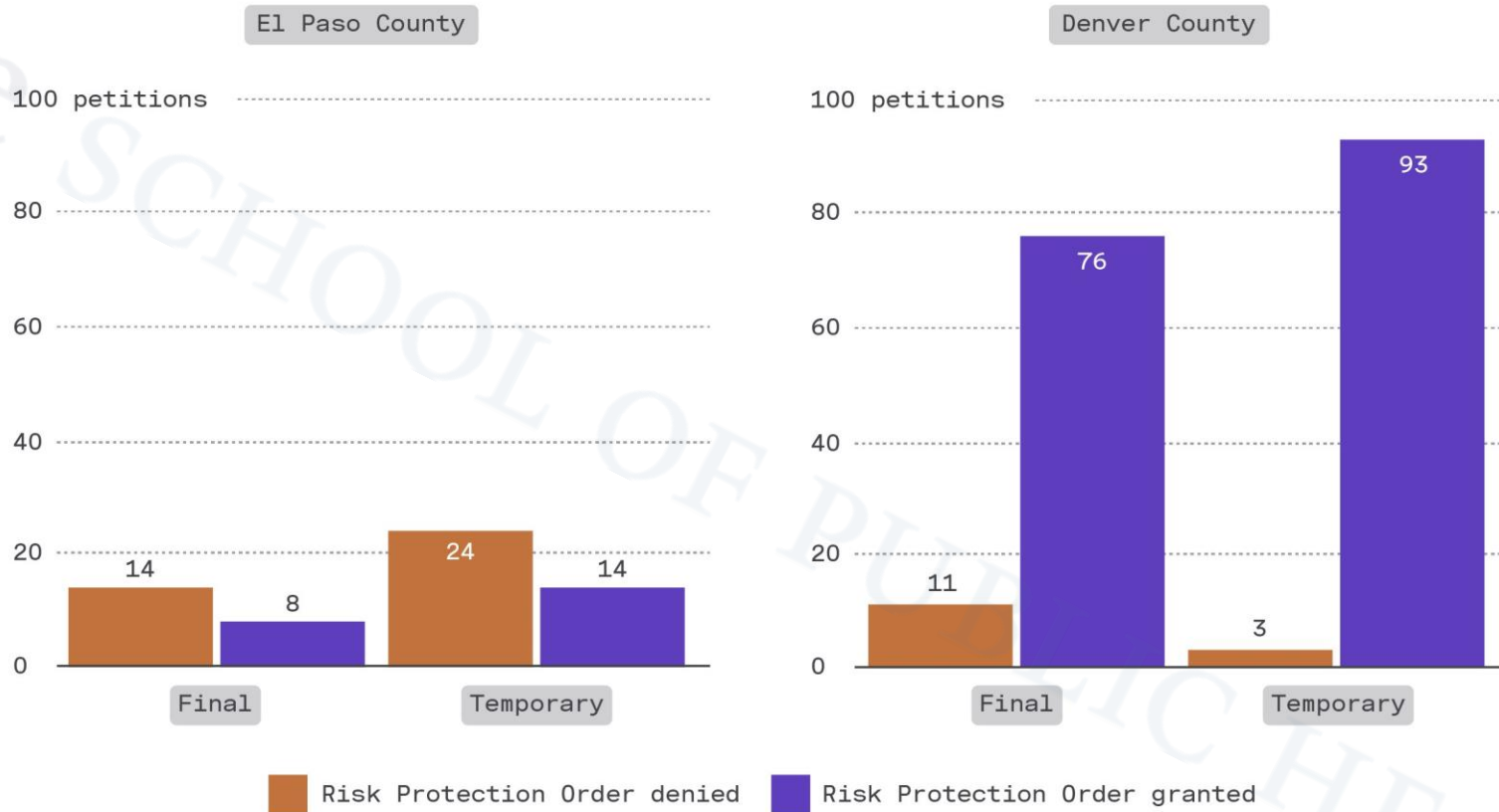
may increase

may decrease

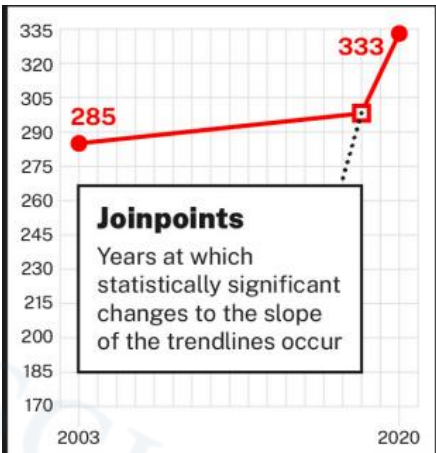


El Paso County has approved few red flag orders

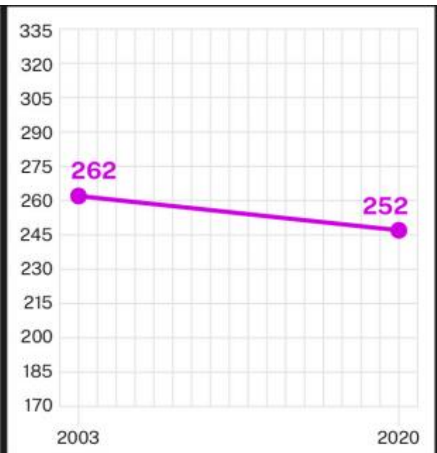
The state's most populous county, which includes Colorado Springs, has **granted** far fewer and **denied** far more red flag orders than Denver County, with roughly equal populations.



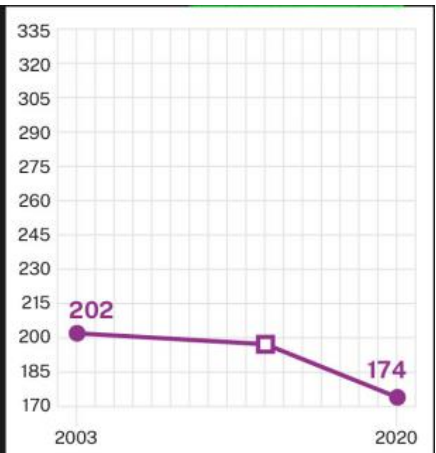
El Paso County has a population of 730,000 and Denver County has a population of 715,000. The data is from January 2020, when the state's red flag law went into effect, through November 22, 2022. Final orders last up to one year. Temporary orders last up to 14 days.



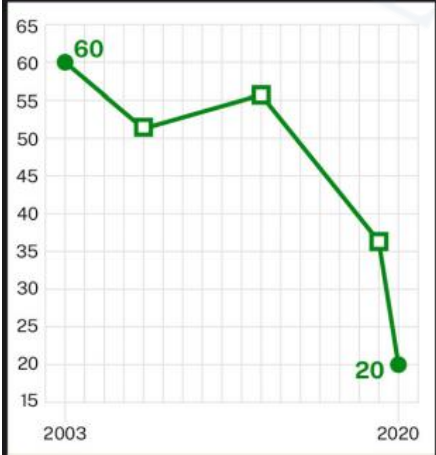
Social Isolation
an increase of **24 hours** per month



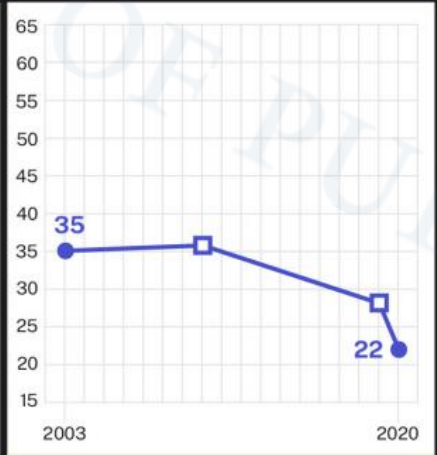
Household Family Social Engagement
a decrease of **5 hours** per month



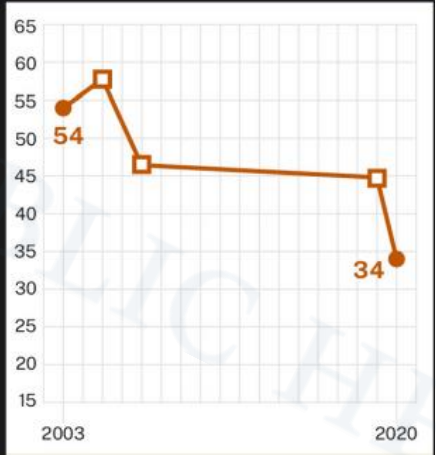
Companionship
a decrease of **14 hours** per month
Companionship refers to shared leisure for the sake of enjoyment and intrinsic satisfaction



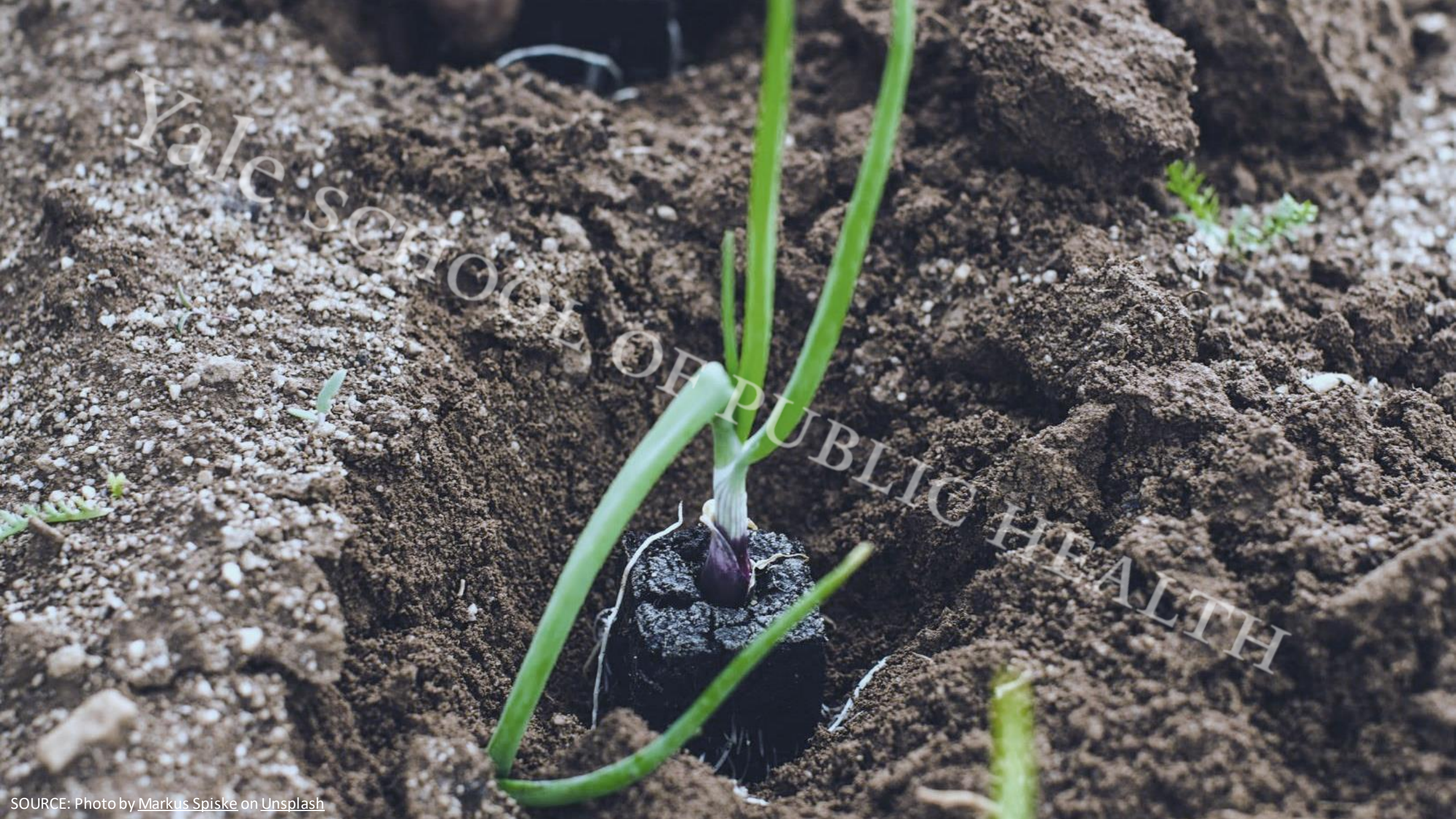
Social Engagement with Friends
a decrease of **20 hours** per month



Non-Household Family Social Engagement
a decrease of **6.5 hours** per month



Social Engagement with Others
a decrease of **10 hours** per month

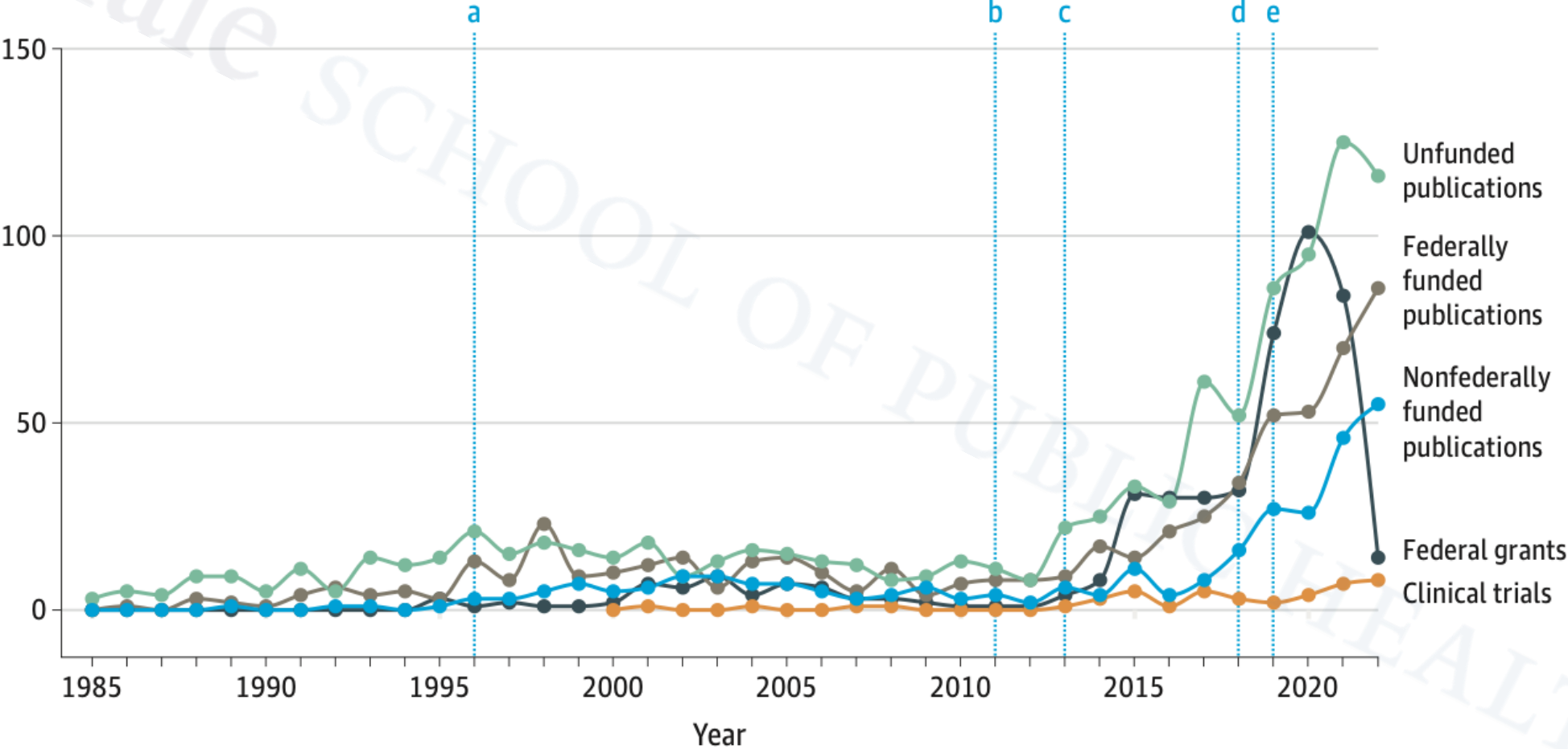


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Funding Matters



SOURCE: Lin, J. C., Chang, C., McCarthy, M. S., Baker-Butler, A., Tong, G., & Ranney, M. L. (2024). Trends in firearm injury prevention research funding, clinical trials, and publications in the US, 1985-2022. *JAMA Surgery*.

1

Learn the Facts

2

Tell Your Story

3

Take Action

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Thank You!