



Mental Health Services
Oversight & Accountability Commission

Impacts of Firearm Violence on Mental Health

Project Overview

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September 28, 2022

Under the umbrella term “firearm violence”

- Exposure to firearm violence includes a broad range of experiences, including being injured by a firearm, witnessing a shooting, and hearing gunshots
- Variety of settings: homes, schools, places of worship, workplaces, shopping areas, on the street or at community events and festivals
- Firearm violence can be:
 - Fatal (death by firearm) or non-fatal (injury by firearm)
 - Self-inflicted (suicide attempt or suicide) or inflicted against others (assault or homicide)
 - Mass casualty events (multiple deaths and injuries)



Millions of Californians are exposed to firearm violence in their community.

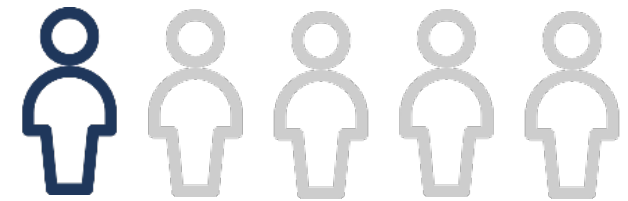


2 in 3

Report at least one exposure to violence.

28.5%

Consider gunshots and shootings a concern in their neighborhood.

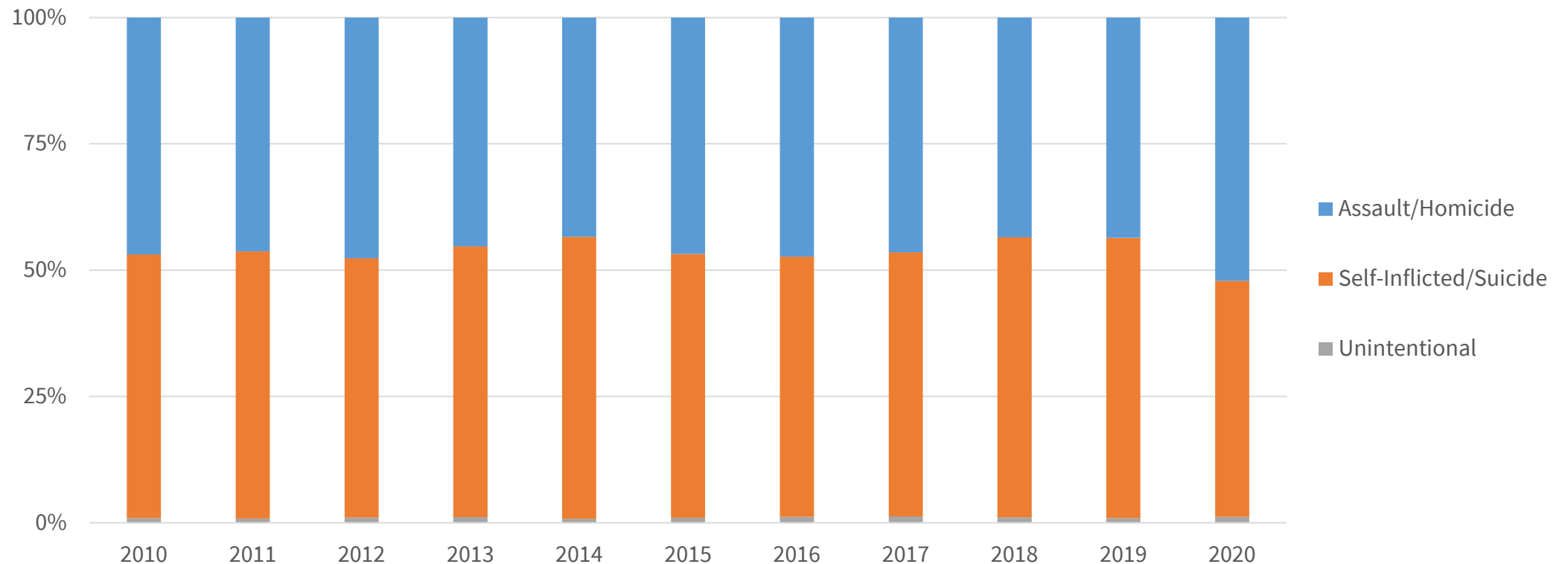


1 in 5

Know someone who has been shot by someone else on purpose.

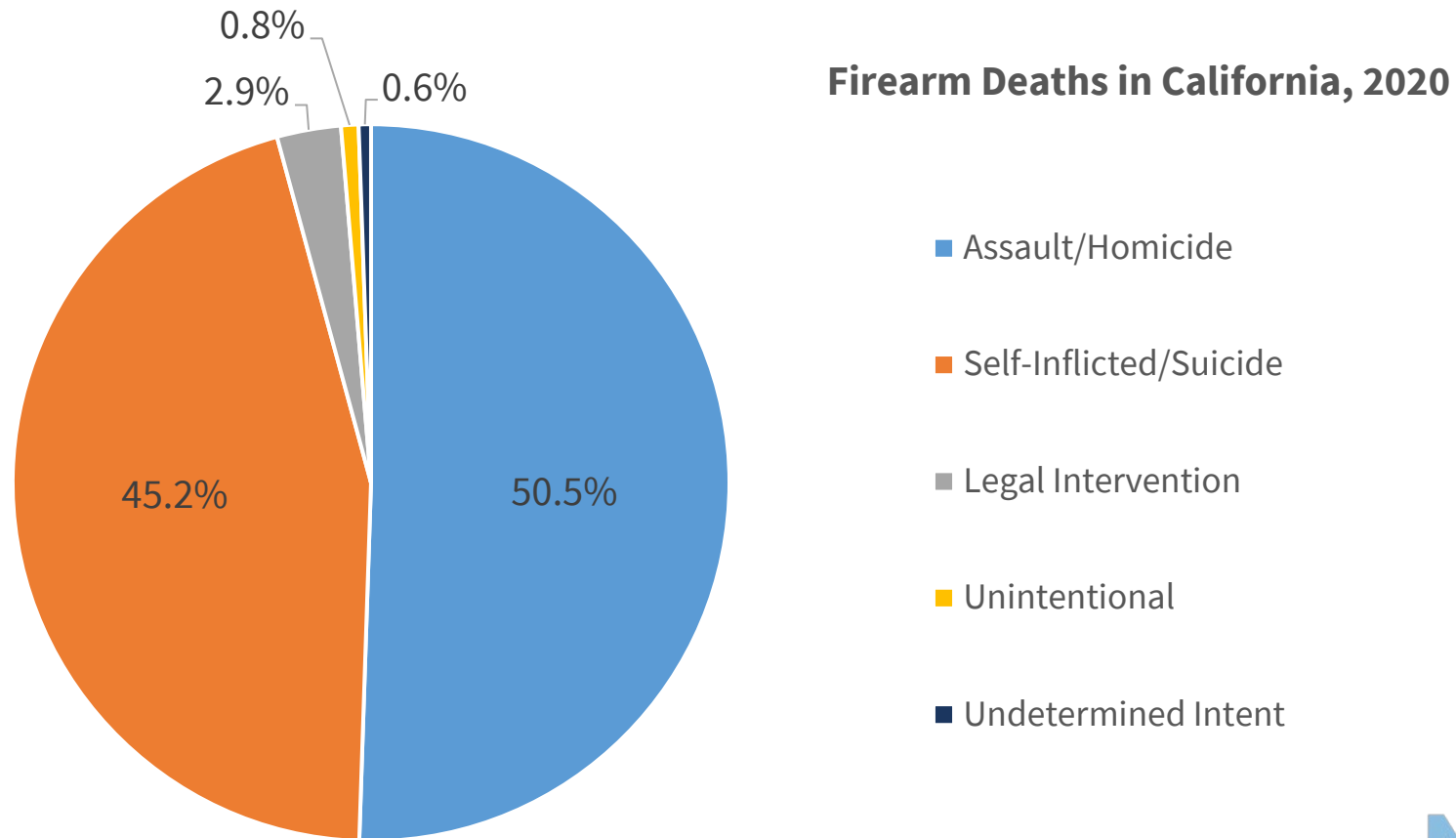
*Wintemute, G. J., Aubel, A. J., Pallin, R., Schlemier, J. P., & Kravitz-Wirtz, N. (2022). Experiences of violence in daily life among adults in California: A population-representative survey. *Injury Epidemiology*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-021-00367-1>

Most firearm deaths in California were by suicide until recently.



*California Department of Public Health. (2022, July 18). EpiCenter: California injury data online.
<https://skylab4.cdph.ca.gov/epicenter/>

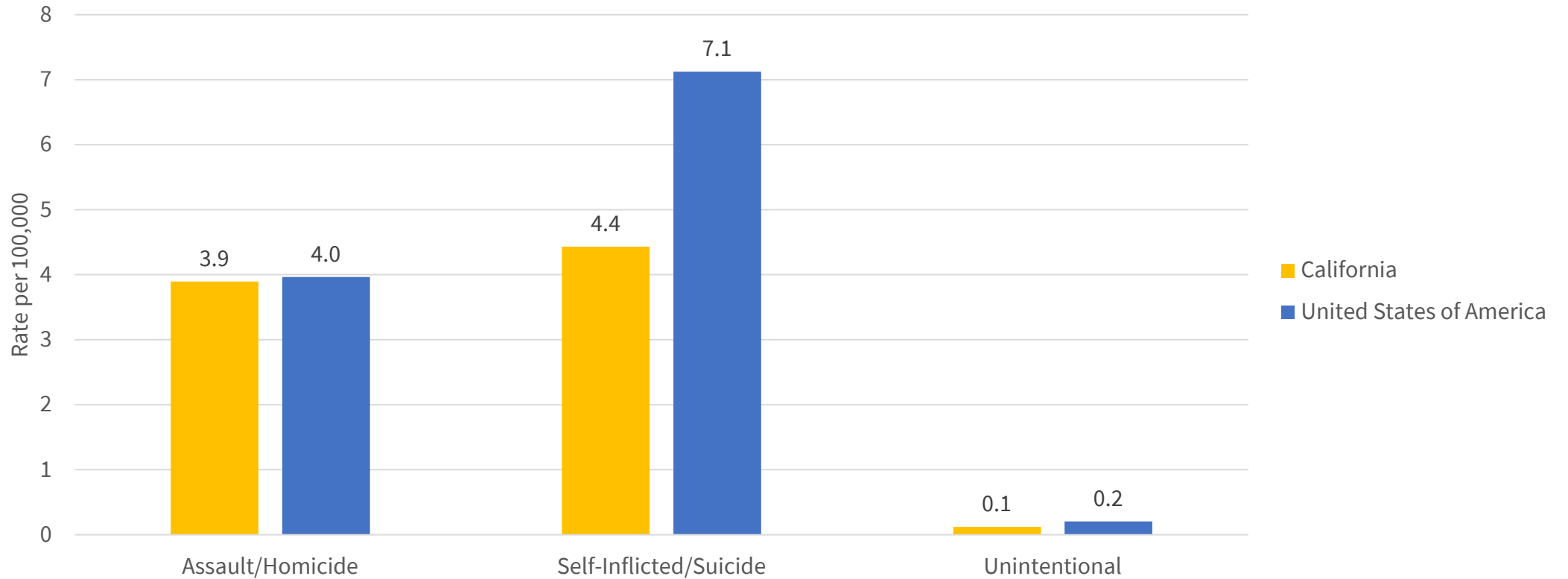
In 2020, 3,340 people were killed by firearms in California.



*California Department of Public Health. (2022, July 18). EpiCenter: California injury data online. <https://skylab4.cdph.ca.gov/epicenter/>

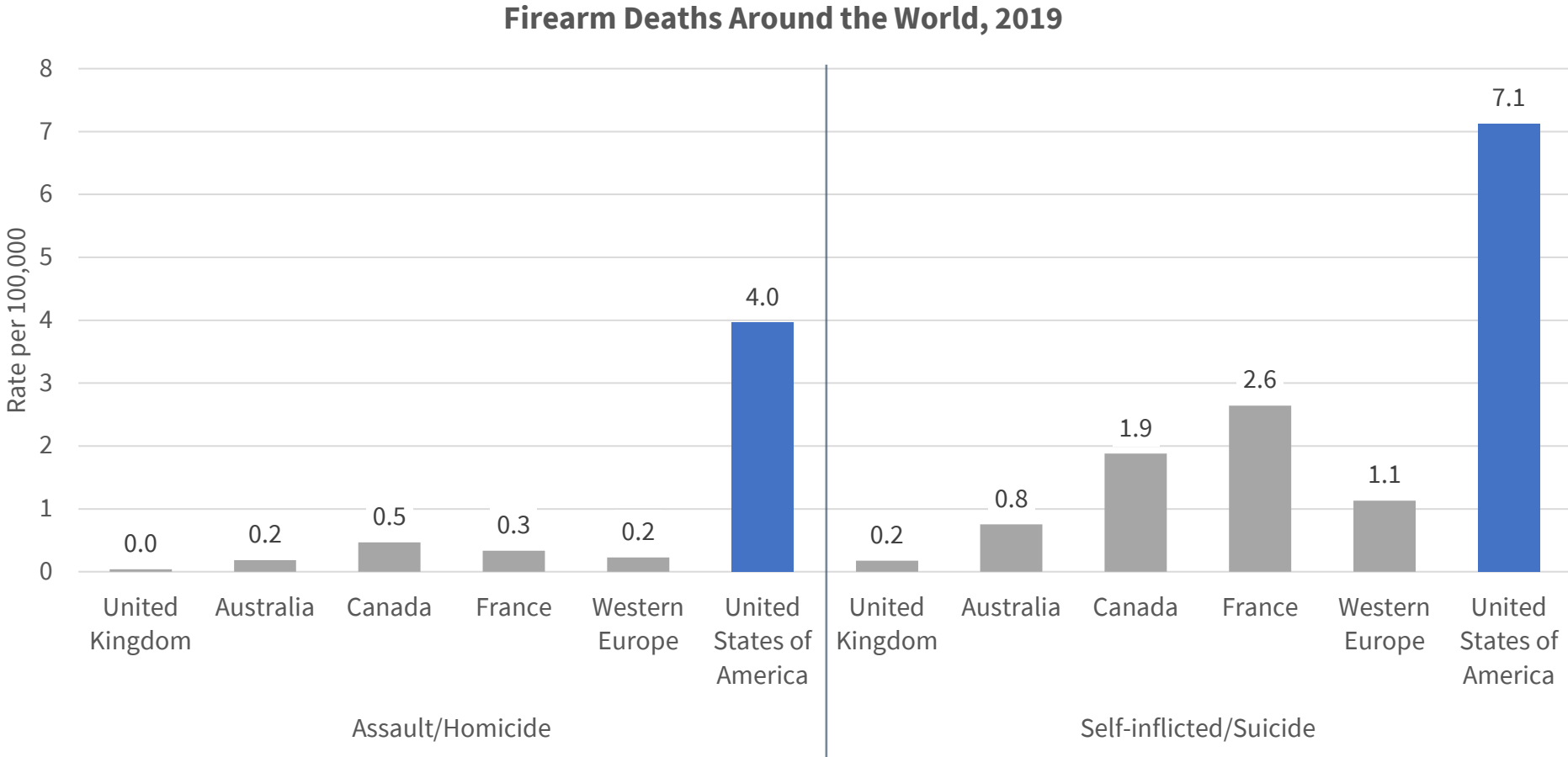
Firearm-related death rates in California are lower than the nation's average.

Firearm Death Rates in California and the United States, 2019



*Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. (2022). GBD results. *University of Washington*. Retrieved September 6th, 2022 from <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results/?params=gbd-api-2019-permalink/ee9a15de2f01c595988ddba5605f648e>

Firearm death rates vary around the world.



*Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. (2022). GBD results. *University of Washington*. Retrieved September 6th, 2022 from <https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-results/?params=gbd-api-2019-permalink/ee9a15de2f01c595988ddba5605f648e>

Firearm violence impacts individual, family, and community mental health and wellbeing.

- Violence often causes trauma, which can increase the risk for future violence.
- Traumatic experiences can create a toxic stress response.
- Toxic stress may lead to maladaptive behaviors, isolation, and long-term mental health challenges.





In addition to the tragic human costs, firearm violence also has an economic burden.

- The costs of firearm violence in the U.S. is estimated to be \$557 billion per year.*
 - Medical costs
 - Work-loss costs
 - Police and criminal justice costs
 - Employer costs
 - Quality-of-life costs
- California's estimated costs are nearly \$42 billion, or \$1,060 per person.

The State's Mental Health Commission



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WE REPRESENT

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- Families
- Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Employers
- Government
- Educators

Impacts of Firearm Violence Project

Launched in August 2022

Led by the Commission's Subcommittee on the Impacts of Firearm Violence

The project's **goals** are to:

1. Explore the impacts of firearm violence on mental health
2. Collaborate with firearm violence prevention partners
3. Develop an action agenda with research, policy, and practice recommendations

Explore the Impacts of Firearm Violence on Mental Health

- Existing Data

Collaborate with Firearm Violence Prevention Partners

- Current Initiatives

Relevant Data

Data on Exposure to Firearm Violence:

[California Health Interview Survey](#)

[California Healthy Kids Survey](#)

Criminal Justice Data:

[Department of Justice's Open Justice Data Portal](#)

Firearm Violence, Death, & Mass Shootings Databases:

[Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms National Tracing Center Firearms Trace Data](#)

[California Department of Public Health's Vital Records Data](#)

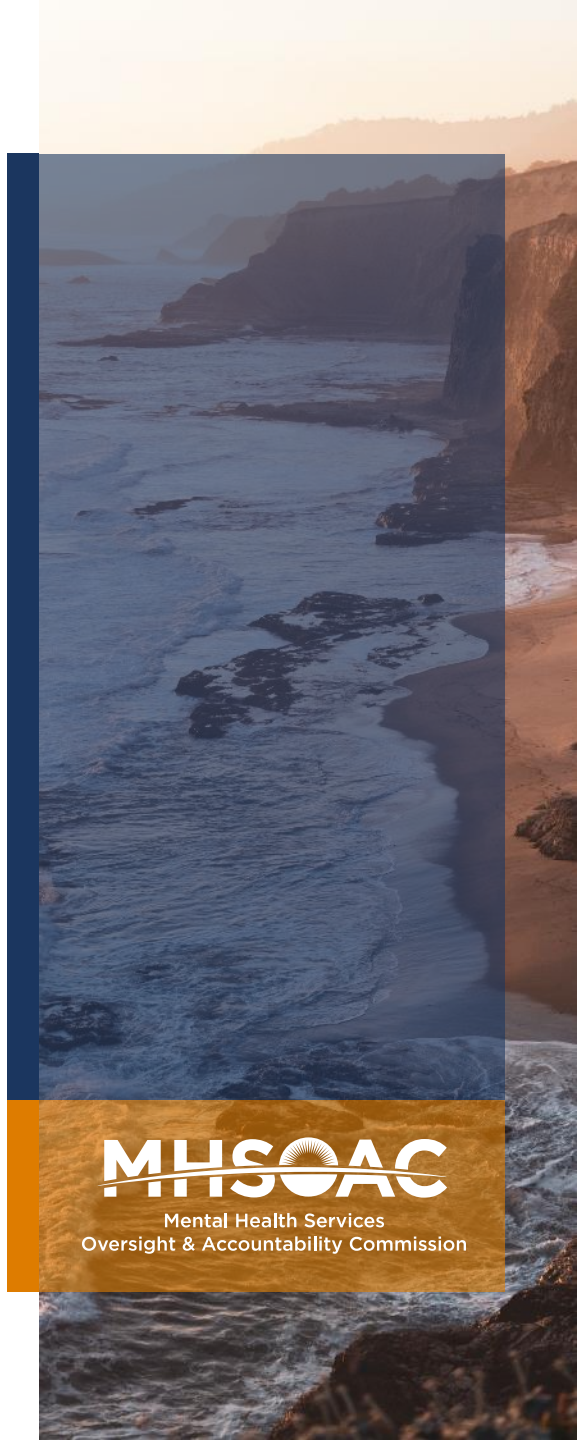
[Center for Homeland Defense and Security School Shooting Database](#)

[EpiCenter – California Injury Data Online](#)

[Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation – University of Washington](#)

[Gun Violence Archive](#)

[Mass Shooting Archive](#)



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