

The Changing Landscape of U.S. Gun Policy



STATE FIREARM LAWS

1976–2024

The Changing Landscape of U.S. Gun Policy: State Firearm Laws, 1976–2024

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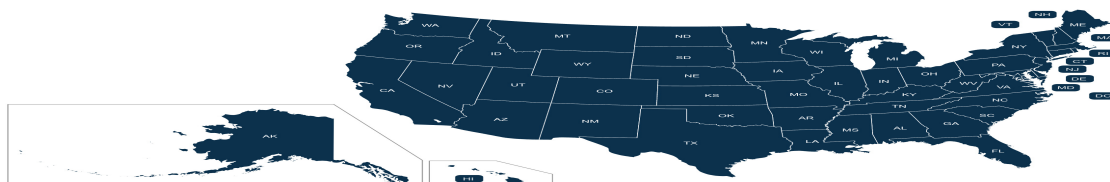
Maps

Maps for this report were created using Tableau Desktop Public Edition version 2024.1.3 (<https://public.tableau.com>).

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Foreword

Daniel W. Webster, ScD, MPH and Jon S. Vernick, JD, MPH

In the United States, there is only modest regulation of firearms at the federal level. Federal gun law consists primarily of licensing and other requirements for gun makers, distributors, and retail dealers; a set of criteria for who may not purchase or possess a firearm; and a system for conducting background checks for guns purchased from licensed dealers. Federal law, however, expressly permits states to enact their own gun laws as long as these don't conflict with federal law.

As a result, the **states have become the primary forum for innovation in gun laws**. And some, but certainly not all, states have done just that—enacting a diverse array of gun laws. Today, state gun laws range from jurisdictions whose laws largely mirror federal law to those with much more comprehensive regulation of the manufacture, distribution, sale, and possession of firearms. States establish safety standards for the design of firearms, define who can legally purchase and possess firearms, establish requirements for what sellers must do to prevent prohibited individuals from acquiring firearms, regulate firearm possession outside the home, set penalties for illegal gun possession, and require safe storage of firearms.

In addition to promoting public safety, state firearm policies represent opportunities for researchers to study the laws' impacts on interpersonal violence, suicides, and unintentional shootings. But researchers need to know—with some degree of precision—not only which gun laws states have today, but when they were enacted, and if any were repealed or substantially modified along the way.

The authors of this report, and especially the accompanying website, have performed a tremendously important service by providing just those data. As researchers who have collected and analyzed such data ourselves, we

know this is no easy task. It requires not only extensive legal research, but developing and applying definitions of what should count as a specific type of law. It also involves reconciling, where possible, discrepancies in compilations provided by others. State policy makers can also benefit from this report by better understanding what other states have done and the statutory language they've used.

Given the value of these data and the ease of their use, there may be a temptation to simply upload the information into one's preferred statistical package and begin to generate estimates of a given law's effects. We urge researchers to take the time to fully understand the laws they are evaluating. Developing a data set like this one necessarily involves making a set of choices about what to collect and what to leave out, about which laws should be grouped together under one heading, and about which to classify as distinct laws. Some groupings may mask important differences in state laws. Databases like this also, very understandably, do not address differences in how laws are implemented and enforced—something that researchers need to understand to properly interpret their findings. These are not criticisms, just the inevitable consequence of the need to simplify so complex an area.

The developers of this data set have thus provided a critical foundation for the study of state firearm policies. Yet firearm policy research poses many challenges. Some refer to state policies as “natural experiments,” but the very nonrandom process by which state gun laws are adopted, and the many ways in which states with the weakest guns laws are different from states with the strongest gun laws, makes for great challenges to developing study designs and analytic methods that will yield valid estimates of their impact.

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There is probably no better example of the complexities of gun policy research than the past two decades of research on so-called Right to Carry (RTC) laws that eliminated most barriers to citizens legally carrying concealed firearms in public places. John Lott published studies in which the data suggested that RTC laws reduced violent crime (Lott & Mustard, 1997; Lott, 1998, 2000, 2010). This controversial research has been used to dramatically expand RTC laws. Several scholars have identified and corrected numerous flaws in Lott's studies including errors in coding states' RTC laws (Ayres & Donohue, 2003; Welford, Pepper & Petrie, 2005; Aneja, Donohue & Zhang, 2014). There are other examples in which the findings of controversial research on state policies has been refuted after researchers corrected a number of errors that

had been made about the status of state laws (e.g., Zeoli, Norris, and Brenner, 2011).

Gun violence remains a pervasive public health problem. Firearm suicide rates have risen steadily for middle-aged non-Hispanic whites since 1999 and firearm homicide rates rose sharply in 2015 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). There are too few rigorous studies that provide valid estimates of the impact of state gun laws and too many times when flawed studies are used to influence new gun legislation (Webster et al., 2016; Webster & Wintemute, 2015; Hemenway & Webster, 2015). We hope that this new resource on state gun policies will facilitate research that will guide us toward strategies that have the greatest protective effect and help to turn back efforts to enact laws that actually increase gun violence.

Daniel W. Webster is Director and Jon S. Vernick is Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD.

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We obtained information from the following organizations when conducting our investigation: *Everytown for Gun Safety*, *the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence*, *the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence*, *the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives*, *the Bureau of Justice Statistics*, *the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action*, *the Legal Community Against Gun Violence*, *Legal Science, LLC*, and *the Law Atlas Project*.

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Executive Summary

Media coverage of mass shootings has rekindled the public's interest in gun violence.

Firearm-related injuries are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. In 2022, there were 48,204 firearm-related deaths, an average of 132 deaths per day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).¹ Added to those deaths were another 171,938 firearm-related injuries that resulted in hospitalization or emergency room care.¹

Between 2001 and 2022, there were 776,476 firearm-related deaths in the United States.¹ These numbers pose a significant challenge to public health. Research is needed to better understand what factors affect rates of gun violence, and why these rates vary substantially from state to state. Of particular interest to policy makers and public health professionals is the question of whether state firearm laws have played a part in reducing gun violence.

However, research on this topic has been constrained since the mid-1990s, when Congress passed an amendment to the 1996 omnibus spending bill, known as the Dickey Amendment,² that prohibited the CDC from using federal funds to “advocate or promote gun control,” effectively banning CDC gun violence research. Due to lack of federal funding for firearms research, until recently, there was no longitudinal database of state firearm laws, making it difficult to study the effectiveness of these policies. This hindered the development of evidence-based policies for firearm violence prevention. To understand the potential role of firearm policies in reducing gun violence, we must have a reliable, comprehensive source of data on state firearm laws over time.

Recently, three organizations have made great strides to improve data on state firearm laws. Giffords is now tracking state firearm legislation and its website contains comprehensive and detailed information about the current status of firearm laws in each state.³ Everytown for Gun Safety created a Gun Law Navigator, which allows users to explore firearm laws in any state during the period 1991 to the present.⁴ Finally, RAND has created a longitudinal state firearm law database that contains detailed information and citations for each law in all 50 states, covering the period 1979-2022.⁵

In 2017, we introduced the State Firearm Law Database, which covered 133 provisions of state gun laws during the period 1991-2016. Recently, we have updated this database by extending it back to 1976 and forwards through 2024. We also simplified the database so that it now catalogs the presence or absence of 72 firearm law provisions in each state from 1976 to 2024. By creating this database, we hope to stimulate research that evaluates the efficacy of state firearm laws, including their impact on firearm-related homicide and suicide rates.

We sorted the 72 provisions into 11 categories—dealer regulations, buyer regulations, prohibitions for high-risk gun possession, background checks, ammunition regulations, possession regulations, concealed carry permitting, assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines, child access prevention, domestic violence, and stand your ground laws. For each of these groups, we described any historical context or federal regulation pertaining to the topic, and outlined ways in which states have legislated that area of gun violence prevention.

This report provides highlights from our database and is being released in conjunction with a manuscript published in the *American Journal of Public Health* that summarizes the development and structure of the database, and with a website (<http://statefirearmlaws.org>) where the database may be accessed. The website also produces visualizations of the state firearm laws in any state during any year during the period 1976-2024.

From 1991 to 2016, we observed a 57% increase in the number of enacted state firearm law provisions nationwide. However, this was dominated by a few states with vast increases in their provisions (CT, CA, MA, MD, NY); most states had slight increases, and sixteen states repealed more provisions than they enacted.

Over the past twenty-five years, an increasing number of firearm-related laws have been enacted in most states, but not in all states. Trends in firearm-related violence continue to waver. By researching the efficacy of gun laws, public health can inform lawmakers, allowing them to create evidence-based firearm prevention policies that strike a balance between minimizing firearm violence and protecting the constitutional rights of gun owners.

INTRODUCTION

In 1993, the *New England Journal of Medicine* published a study linking gun ownership to homicide in the home.⁶ This study received significant media attention. In response, the gun lobby pressured Congress to prevent the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from conducting any research to “advocate or promote gun control.”² This campaign was successful, and in 1996, Congress included the Dickey Amendment in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill, redirecting \$2.6 million of the CDC’s budget that had been previously allocated for firearms injury research.² While the language in the Dickey Amendment did not specifically prohibit firearms injury research, it deterred the CDC for many years from research beyond the collection of data on firearm-related injuries and deaths.

Because of this gap in research, it has been difficult to develop evidence-based public health policies for firearm violence prevention. While state governments have implemented their own laws in attempts to promote firearm safety, lack of funding has hindered the evaluation of policy effectiveness. Public interest demands that we protect gun ownership rights while reducing firearm-related injury and death; to do this, we need to distinguish policies that effectively reduce firearm violence from those that are ineffective and therefore unnecessary.

In 2017, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we developed a comprehensive, longitudinal database of state firearm laws that covered 133 firearm law provisions for all 50 states from 1991 to 2016. In 2020, with additional funding from the National Institute of Justice, we were able to extend the database back to 1976 for 72 of these provisions. Now, with funding from Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), we have been able to extend the database forward to the present, covering 72 state firearm law provisions for the entire 49-year period 1976-2024. Thus, we now have a database of firearm laws that covers a period of five decades. Our hope is that this database will facilitate research on the impact of state firearm laws.

This report summarizes the findings from our data collection. We have outlined state trends in the presence of gun laws over time, firearm-related homicide rates, and firearm-related suicide rates. We highlight specific provisions that have been the focus of substantial policy debate over the past decade. We hope that our work will advise future research on policies to promote gun safety in the United States.

Methodology

Our longitudinal gun law database catalogs the presence or absence of 72 firearm safety laws in each of the 50 states from 1976 to 2024. It serves as the most extensive longitudinal panel of state firearm laws assembled to date. To identify provisions for inclusion in the database, we drew heavily from past research on state firearm laws¹¹ and current state gun policy resources.¹²⁻¹⁷

In updating the database, we researched the passage of state firearm laws from 2016 to 2024 using Westlaw Edge, a legal research product produced by Thomson Reuters. Laws were identified and coded by four independent research team members and the results compared and any discrepancies resolved by jointly reviewing the specific statutes in question. We relied primarily on historical state Session Laws and historical state annotated statutes. We compared our results with the Giffords website,³ which provides a comprehensive overview of current firearm laws in all 50 states.

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What makes our database somewhat unique is that before coding the laws, we developed a detailed codebook that clearly defines each law, what it must cover, what exemptions are allowed, and other details regarding the scope of the law. For example, some states prohibit firearm possession in schools, but have an exemption that allows teachers to carry guns. We did not code states that had this exemption as having a ban on firearm possession in elementary schools. However, if a state had an exemption that allows trained law enforcement or security personnel to carry firearms in schools, we did count this as a prohibition on firearm possession. Our codebook, which is available on our website, provides a similar level of detail for all 72 firearm law provisions.

It is important to note that there are two ways in which states can go beyond existing federal statutes. First, states can enact legislation that mirrors federal restrictions. While this may seem redundant, it can make a major difference by allowing states to more easily enforce these laws and prosecute violators. Second, states can enact legislation that goes beyond federal statutes. We tracked state laws in both of these categories.

The primary goal of this database is to aid researchers as they evaluate the effectiveness of various firearm laws. To do this, laws must be classified in such a way that they can be compared across state lines. However, state statutes are not uniformly written. Nuanced in language, implementation, and enforcement, each firearm law provision is unique to its state. We aimed to create a classification system that allowed us to categorize provisions using a methodology that both captured their important differences and maintained a level of comparability between states. Because of this, our database is not the most detailed nor the most comprehensive record of all state firearm policies. Other resources may provide users with a deeper understanding of individual provisions, while our database serves as an efficient way to compare the broad scope of state firearm laws across the country.

This report should not be interpreted as expressing political views about state firearms legislation. Our sole aim is to provide a comprehensive picture of the historical and current landscape of state firearm laws, so that public health researchers can identify ways to minimize firearm violence. Nothing in this report should be construed as indicating support or opposition to any specific law or policy.

The 72 provisions included in our database are segregated into 11 categories, as outlined in the following section. While we did not include every state gun law ever enacted, we attempted to incorporate the key firearm safety provisions that play a significant role in today's policy debate. We hope that this resource provides leaders in the field of gun violence prevention with data that will prove helpful in developing evidence-based policy.

Note: In the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision in *Bruen*, many state firearm laws are being challenged in court. In general, we have not revised the law coding when laws have been challenged, even if a temporary injunction was issued putting the enforcement of the law on hold. There is one major exception. In 2022, Oregon voters approved Measure 114, which required permits for the purchase of all firearms and instituted a ban on large capacity ammunition magazines. A temporary injunction was issued to halt the enforcement of this law and that injunction was upheld by the state Court of Appeals. For this reason, we decided not to include these law provisions as having been implemented. Should the state prevail, we will update the database accordingly.

STUDYING OVERALL TRENDS

To measure the effectiveness of firearm laws, researchers may examine potential correlations between the enactment of firearm legislation and subsequent changes in firearm-related homicide and suicide rates. By analyzing whether the rates of firearm violence change after the implementation of firearm statutes, researchers can distinguish laws that successfully promote gun safety from laws that unnecessarily restrict gun ownership. To protect their citizens from firearm violence without infringing on the right to bear arms, state governments require accurate data to inform their legislative decisions.

We did not analyze the effectiveness of state firearm laws in this report. However, we have compiled summary statistics for gun violence (Figure 2, Appendix A) and have identified overall trends in the enactment or repeal of firearm laws from 1976 to 2024. Researchers may choose to utilize these resources when evaluating the effectiveness of various gun laws in reducing firearm-related violence.

It is important to note that an increase in the number of enacted firearm laws does not necessarily indicate a strengthening of gun laws in that state. States may enact legislation without providing the necessary structures for implementation and enforcement of those laws, potentially rendering them ineffective. Alternately, states may choose to focus on a smaller number of laws that they believe are particularly effective at minimizing firearm-related violence. It may be more important, then, to consider the effectiveness of individual provisions rather than considering the aggregate number of laws a state has enacted in a given year. Overall, the number of firearm law provisions in a state may indicate the degree to which that state's legislature has prioritized the issue of gun violence reduction, but does not necessarily indicate success in addressing this problem.

Figures 1a and 1b display the total number of implemented firearm law provisions, by state, in 1991 and 2024. Figure 2 shows the net change in these laws between these years, indicating which states increased their total number of provisions, which states decreased their provisions, and which states held steady over this 34-year period, though specific provisions may have changed over time.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national age-adjusted rate of firearm-related homicide increased from 3.93 per 100,000 in 2001 (11,348 deaths) to 6.18 per 100,000 in 2022 (19,651 deaths).¹ The rate of firearm-related suicide also increased, but less significantly, rising from 5.91 per 100,000 in 2001 (16,869 deaths) to 7.56 per 100,000 in 2022 (27,032).

The largest observed year-to-year increase in the firearm homicide rate was from 2019 to 2020, between which the age-adjusted firearm homicide rate increased from 4.57 per 100,000 to 6.09 per 100,000. The firearm homicide rate peaked in 2021 at 6.59 per 100,000, a level 87% higher than in 2014 (Figure 3). The firearm suicide rate peaked in 2022 at 7.56 per 100,000, a level 36% higher than in 2006.

Unfortunately, there are not consistent data for non-fatal firearm-related injury rates for the early years of our study. Because of this, we are unable to provide these data as a longitudinal measure of firearm violence for researchers.

The maps on the following pages show the number of law provisions present in each state in 2024. A section in the report (entitled, "2024 Updates") summarizes state firearm laws that went into effect in 2024 or are scheduled to go into effect during 2024. The project website (<http://statefirearmlaws.org>) will be updated periodically to reflect these and subsequent changes.

Figures: Firearm Law Provisions
and Firearm Injury Rates by State

Figure 1a. Total Provisions in 2024, by State

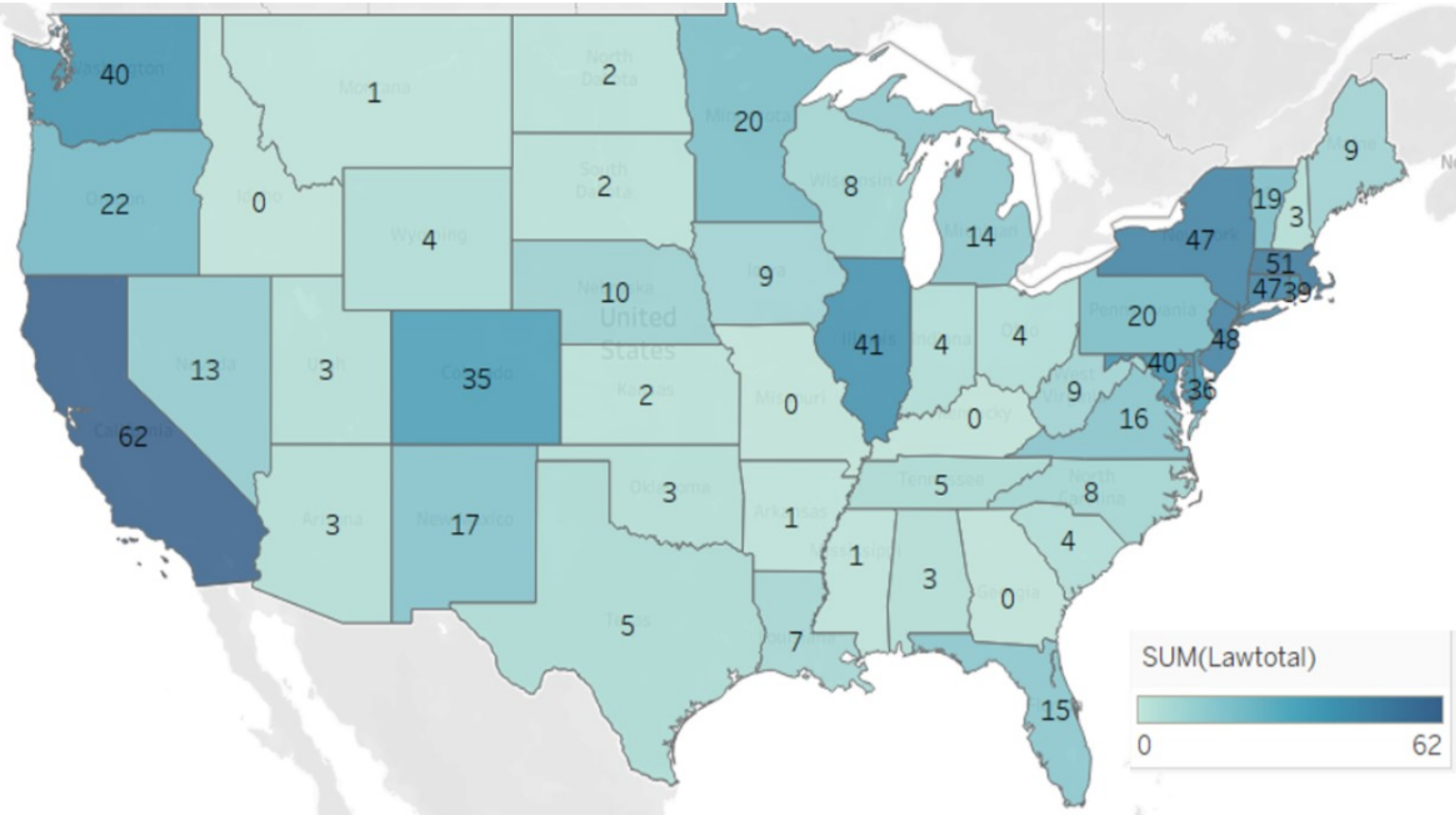


Figure 1b. Total Provisions in 1991, by State

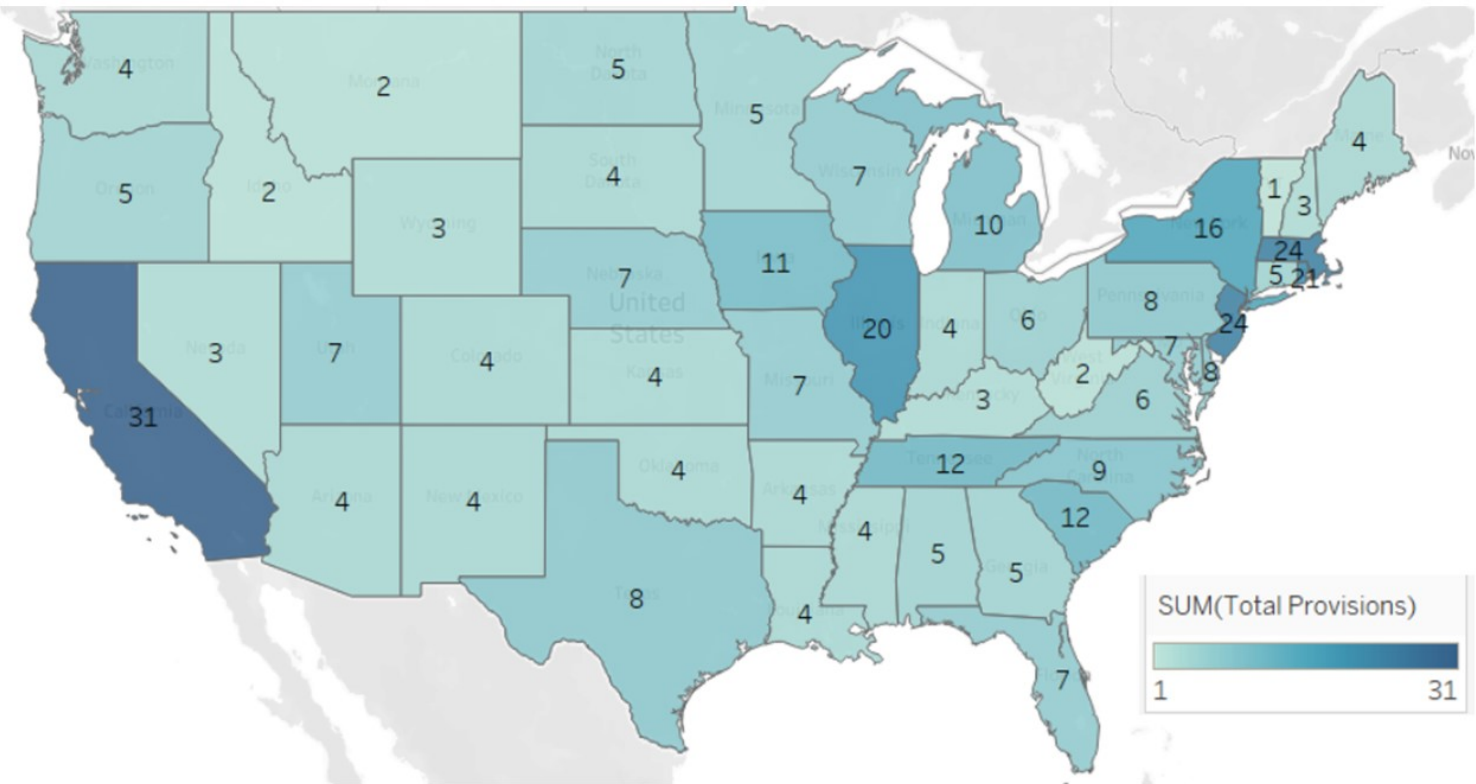
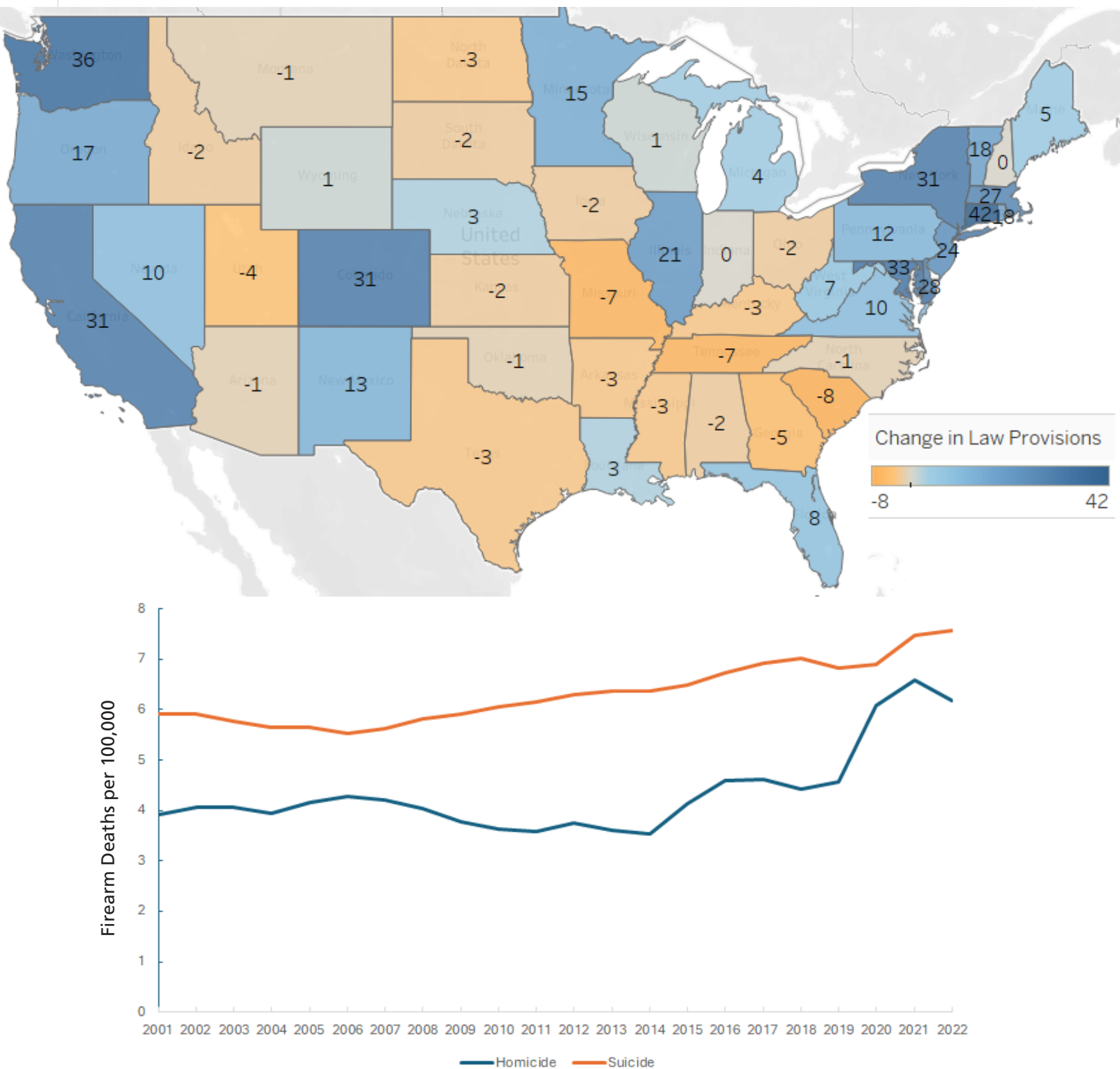


Figure 2. Change in Provisions from 1991 to 2024, by State



CATEGORIES OF FIREARM LAWS

Outlined below are the 11 categories used to classify the 72 firearm law provisions in our database. The subsequent pages provide detailed explanations of the historical context and legal scope of the provisions that fall within each of these categories.

Dealer Regulations: Establish rules for anyone in the business of selling, lending, or trading firearms.

Buyer Regulations: Laws that gun purchasers must obey in order to obtain a firearm.

Prohibitions for High-Risk Gun Possession: Prevent individuals with a history of crime, especially violent crime, from possessing firearms.

Background Checks: Establish requirements and procedures for firearm sellers to perform background checks on prospective firearm purchasers.

Ammunition Regulations: Establish rules for anyone in the business of buying or selling firearm ammunition.

Possession Regulations: Establish age limitations for firearm possession, conditions under which possession is allowed, and places where gun carrying is permitted.

Concealed Carry Permitting: Outline the process that individuals must undergo to obtain a concealed carry permit in their state.

Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazines: Outline state bans on the purchase and/or possession of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines.

Child Access Prevention: Establish rules for the safe storage of firearms in the home.

Domestic Violence: Establish conditions under which individuals convicted of domestic violence-related offenses are prohibited from possessing firearms.

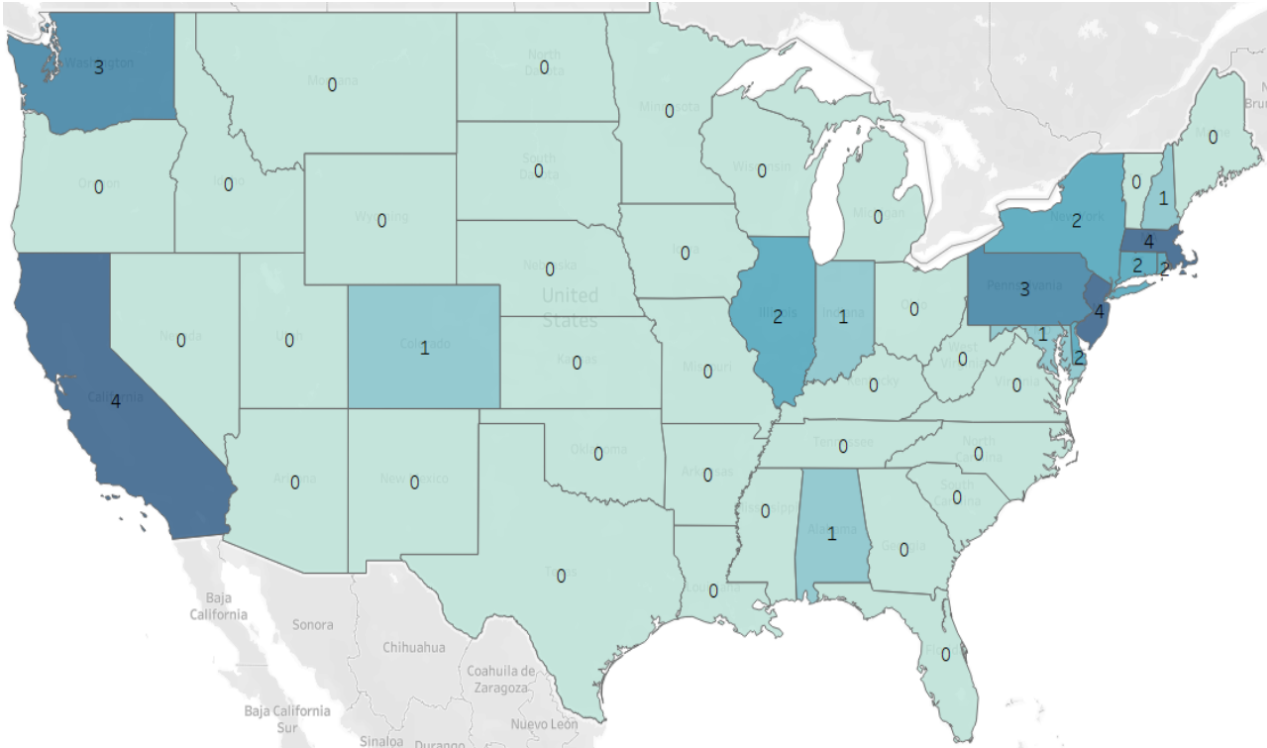
Stand Your Ground Laws: Laws that eliminate the duty to retreat as a first resort when threatened with severe bodily harm and allow a gun owner to shoot first.

Dealer Regulations

Dealer regulations establish rules for anyone in the business of selling, lending, or trading firearms.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **0.7**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 5)



These regulations may apply to federally licensed dealers and/or private sellers, depending on the scope of the law. Federally licensed dealers are subject to the rules established by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), while private, unlicensed sellers are not covered by most federal law, including requirements to conduct background checks on firearm purchasers. Private sales may occur at gun shows, through the internet, in cars, or within private residences, and are illegal in some states.

Dealer regulations protect against illegal and dangerous sales, and hold dealers accountable for their gun stock and sales practices. Because handguns are the most common type of firearm used in crime,¹⁴ many dealer regulations apply only to the sale of handguns, though states with broader firearm laws will often regulate both handgun and long gun sales.

Most common provision in 2024: 15 states required handgun dealers to obtain a license.

We tracked **5** provisions for this category. They include requirements for:

- Licensing of dealers
- Store security
- Reporting of stolen guns
- Liability for damages resulting from illegal gun sales

Dealer Regulation Provisions

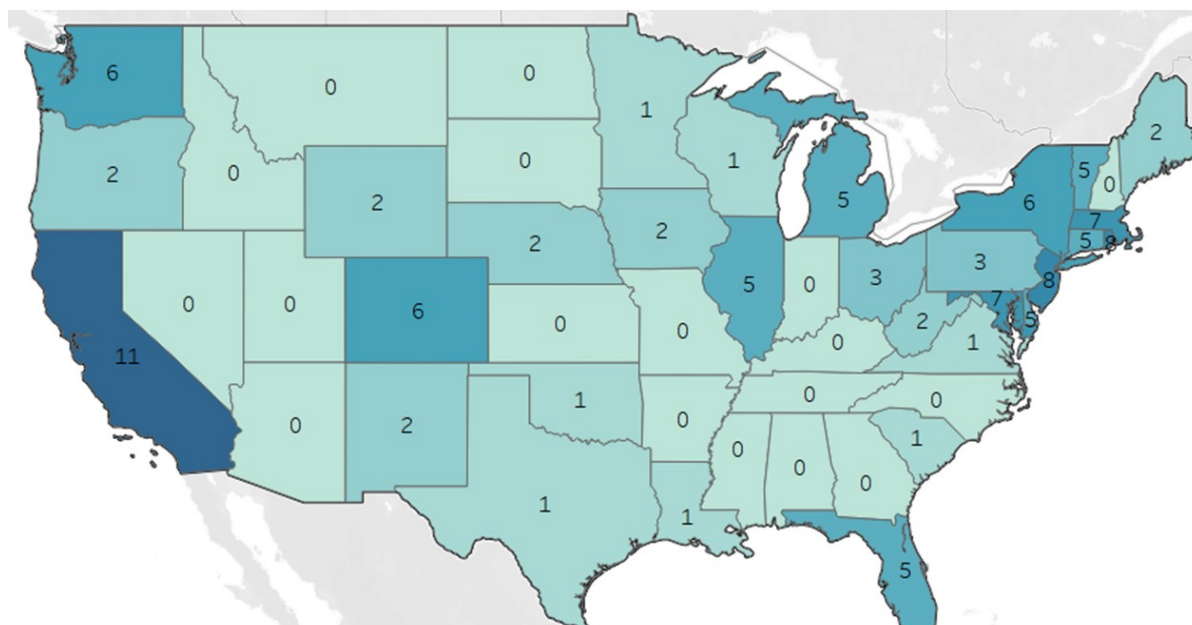
- State license required for sale of handguns.
- State license required for sale of all firearms.
- State ban on non-commercial dealers.
- Mandatory reporting of stolen guns by all firearm dealers.
- Dealers are liable for damages resulting from illegal gun sales.

Buyer Regulations

Buyer regulations are laws that gun purchasers must obey in order to obtain a firearm.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **2.5**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 13)



Federal buyer regulations place conditions on the purchase of firearms, including setting minimum age requirements for firearm purchase (Table 1). Like dealer regulations, these rules can specifically apply to the purchase of handguns or can regulate all firearm purchases.

Table 1: Minimum age requirements for firearm purchase

TYPE OF DEALER	HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS
Licensed Dealer	Age 21	Age 18
Private Seller	Age 18	No Restriction

Buyer regulations place restrictions on firearm purchase in order to prevent criminal use of firearms. Regulations may require that a person obtain a permit in order to purchase or possess a firearm. Laws may also increase federal age

limits for gun purchase or institute a waiting period before a gun may be transferred.

Most common provision in 2024: 23 states had raised the minimum age for the sale of long guns to 18.

We tracked **13** provisions for this category. They include requirements for:

- Permit protocols
- Frequent purchase limits
- Waiting periods between purchase and delivery
- Firearm registration
- Supplementary age requirements

Buyer Regulation Provisions

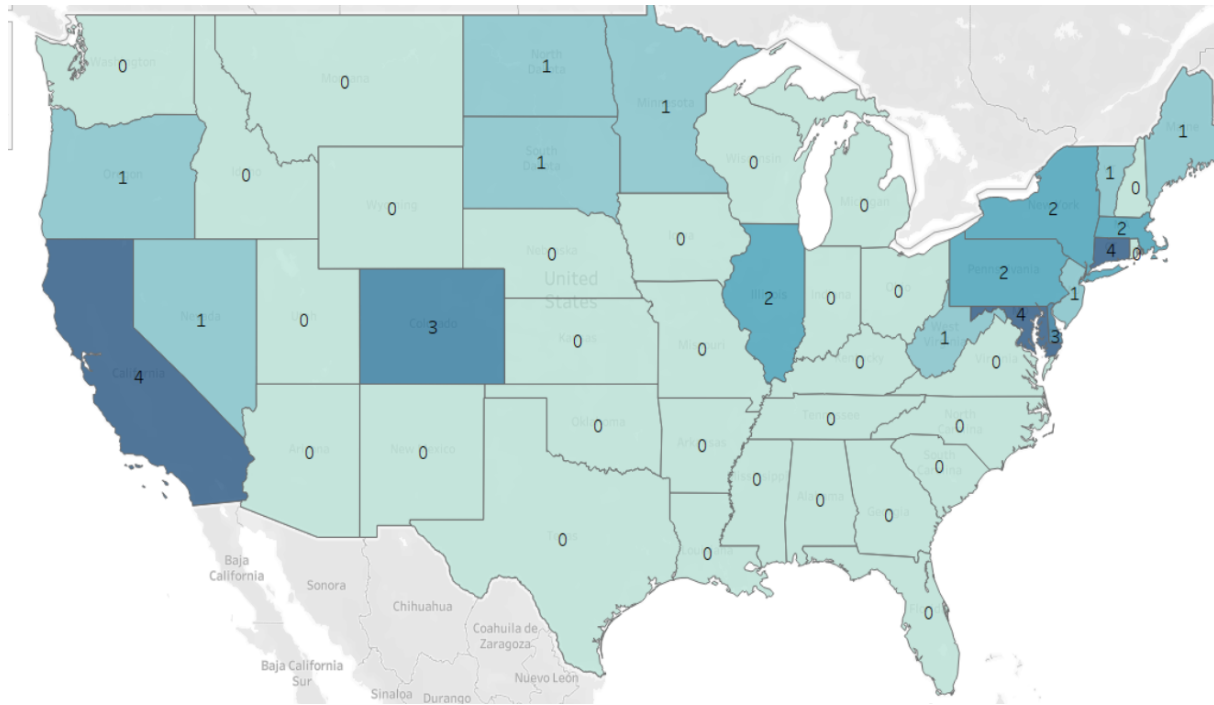
- Waiting period is required for all handgun purchases from licensed dealers.
- Waiting period is required for all firearm purchases from licensed dealers.
- A license or permit is required to purchase handguns.
- A license or permit is required to purchase all firearms.
- Gun owners must register newly purchased handguns with the state.
- Gun owners must register all newly purchased firearms with the state.
- De facto registration of handguns is in place because of a recordkeeping requirement for all handgun sales.
- De facto registration of handguns is in place because of a recordkeeping requirement for all firearm sales.
- Purchase of long guns from licensed dealers and private sellers restricted to age 18 and older.
- Purchase of long guns from licensed dealers and private sellers restricted to age 21 and older.
- Purchase of handguns from licensed dealers and private sellers restricted to age 21 and older.
- Mandatory reporting of lost and stolen firearms by owner.
- Buyers may purchase no more than one handgun per month with no or limited exceptions.

Prohibitions for High-Risk Gun Possession

Prohibitions for high-risk gun possession prevent individuals with a history of crime, especially violent crime, from possessing firearms.

Average number of provisions per state in 2016: **0.8**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 4)



Federal law prohibits gun possession by convicted felons. However, non-domestic violence-related misdemeanors are not disqualifying for gun possession under federal law.¹⁵ Some states have enacted laws making conviction for any violent crime a prohibitor for gun possession. Experts suggest that “preventing individuals who are deemed too risky or dangerous from obtaining firearms is arguably the most important objective of gun control policies.”¹⁶

Prohibitions for high-risk gun possession may help to keep firearms out of the hands of people who may be a danger to themselves or others. States may also require that any person who is found to be disqualified from gun possession must immediately relinquish all firearms in their possession.

Most common provision in 2024:
18 states prohibit gun possession by persons convicted of some violent misdemeanor crimes other than domestic violence.

We tracked **4** provisions for this category. They include requirements for:

- Disqualification for gun possession by persons convicted of any violent misdemeanor crime
- Relinquishment of guns by anyone found to be disqualified from gun possession

Prohibitions for High-Risk Gun Possession Provisions

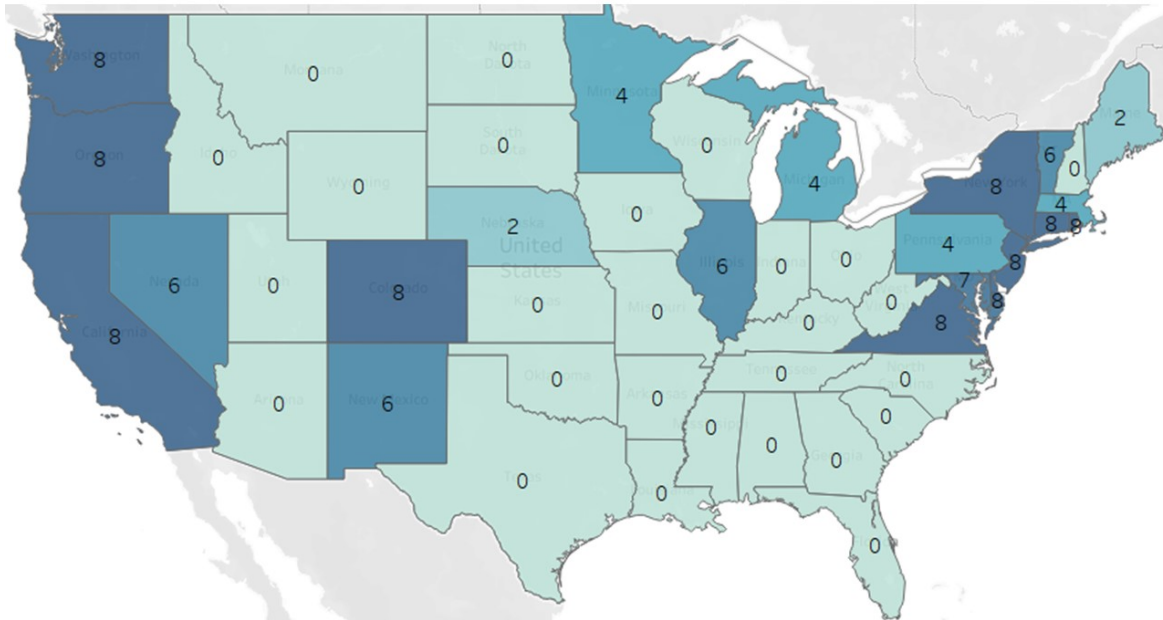
- Firearm possession is prohibited for people who have committed any violent misdemeanor, including those punishable by more less than one year of imprisonment.
- Handgun possession is prohibited for people who have committed any violent misdemeanor, including those punishable by less than one year of imprisonment.
- Firearm possession is prohibited for people who have committed some, but not all violent misdemeanors.
- People are required to relinquish their firearms immediately after they become prohibited from possessing them.

Background Checks

Background check provisions establish requirements for all firearm sellers to conduct criminal background checks on prospective firearm purchasers.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **2.7**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 8)



The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 mandates that federally licensed firearm dealers perform background checks on all gun purchasers.¹⁷ These background checks, conducted via the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which was established in 1998, use Federal Bureau of Investigation resources to determine whether a prospective firearm purchaser is legally prohibited from possessing firearms.

However, not all firearm sales are subject to this mandate. Private sellers who are not "in the business" of selling firearms may sell guns without conducting background checks. Often, unlicensed sellers attend gun shows where they can sell firearms to persons without conducting a background check.

- Most background checks occur at the federal level using the NICS database. However, the NICS database has serious limitations. Many lower-level (non-felony) crimes are not reported to the database. Reporting varies by state. Therefore, some states have improved the background check system by requiring state-level background checks, which are either conducted at point-of-purchase or through a requirement for a permit to purchase or possess a firearm.

Most common provision in 2024:
21 states require background checks for private sales of handguns.

We tracked **8** provisions for this category. They include:

- Background checks for private sales (universal background checks)
- Closing the gun show loophole
- Conducting background checks via a permit requirement
- Independent (non-NICS) state checks

Background Check Provisions

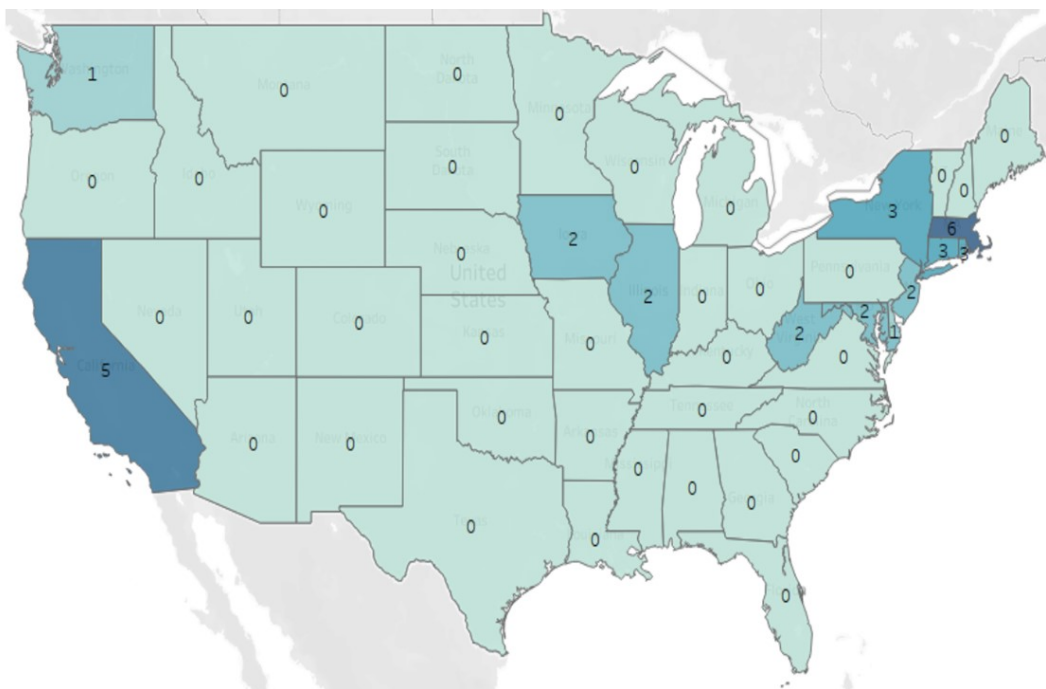
- All firearm sellers, either licensed or private dealers, are required to conduct universal background checks at the point of purchase for handguns.
- All firearm sellers, either licensed or private dealers, are required to conduct universal background checks at the point of purchase for all firearms.
- Background checks required for handgun sales at gun shows at the point of purchase.
- Background checks required for all firearm sales at gun shows at the point of purchase.
- State has either extended background check requirements to include all handgun sales, or background checks are conducted through a permit requirement for all handgun sales.
- State has either extended background check requirements to all firearm sales, or background checks are conducted through a permit requirement for all firearm sales.
- State conducts separate background checks, beyond NICS, for handgun purchases.
- State conducts separate background checks, beyond NICS, for all firearm purchases.

Ammunition Regulations

Ammunition regulations establish rules for anyone in the business of buying or selling firearm ammunition.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **0.6**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 6)



Federal regulation of firearm ammunition is usually bundled along with the regulation of firearms, rather than existing independently. For example, the federal age requirements for ammunition purchase, by type of firearm and type of dealer, are the same as those outlined in Table 1 for the purchase of firearms.

The populations that are prohibited from possessing firearms are also prohibited from possessing firearm ammunition.

Most common provision in 2024:
8 states prohibit the sale of handgun ammunition to persons under 21 and the sale of all ammunition to persons under 18.

We tracked 6 provisions for this category. They include:

- Dealer licensing and recordkeeping
- Permitting protocol for ammunition purchasers
- Supplemental age restrictions
- Background checks for ammunition purchase

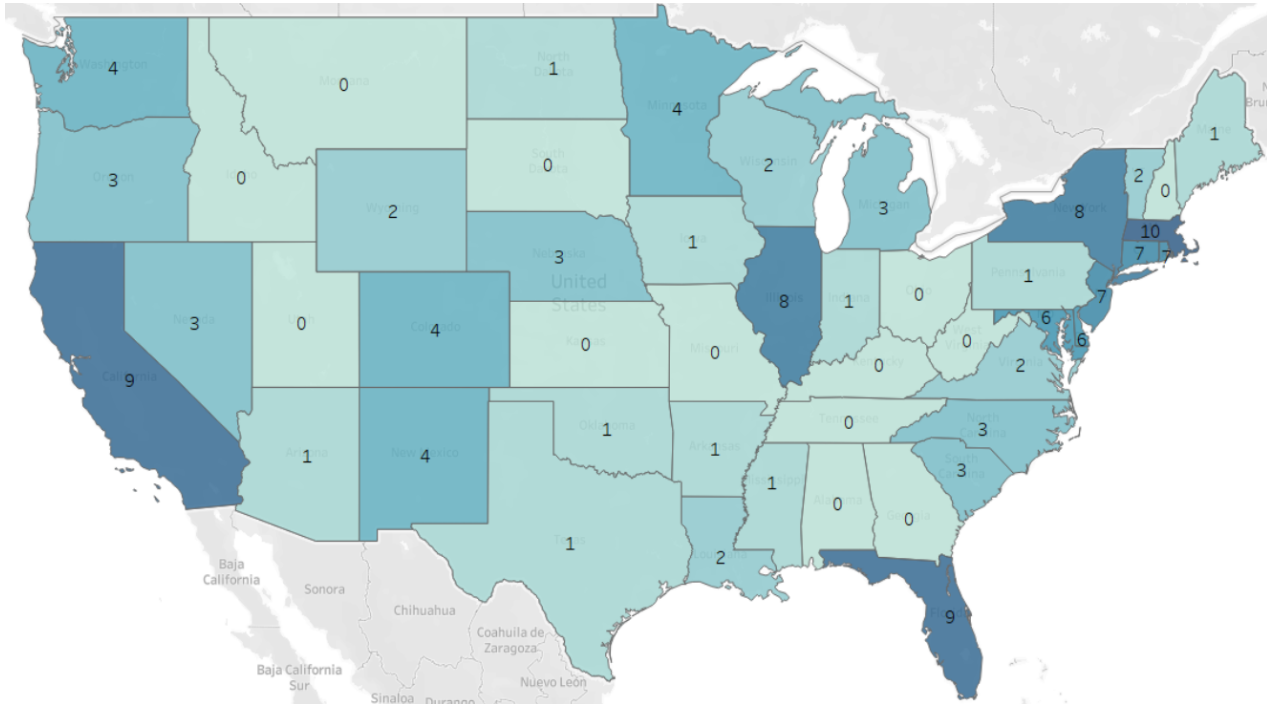
Ammunition Regulation Provisions

- Vendor license required to sell ammunition.
- Records of ammunition sales must be retained by the dealer.
- Permit required to purchase ammunition.
- Background checks required for ammunition purchases.
- Purchase of any type of ammunition restricted to those ages 18 and older.
- Purchase of handgun ammunition restricted to those ages 21 and older.

Possession Regulations

Possession regulations establish age limitations for firearm possession, conditions under which possession is allowed, and places where gun carrying is permitted. Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **2.8**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 12)



Federal firearm possession regulations have been heavily informed by the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 and the 1996 Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Lopez*. According to federal law, individuals are prohibited from carrying a firearm in a K-12 school zone without a license or permit. In addition, federal law sets minimum age requirements to possess firearms mirroring the age requirements for private firearm sales: age 18 for handguns (no restriction for long guns). Some states have extended these regulations by raising minimum age requirements and strengthening bans on firearm possession near school zones and college campuses.

Possession regulations may allow law enforcement or family members to seek an "extreme risk protection order" that temporarily removes guns from people who are found by a court to be a risk to themselves or others. These are often referred to as "red flag laws."

Most common provision in 2024: 21 states had in place red flag laws that allowed law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from a person who is deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

We tracked **12** provisions for this category. They include:

- Supplementary age restrictions
- Confiscation if threat to self or others (red flag laws)
- School zone regulations
- Open carry restrictions

Possession Regulation Provisions

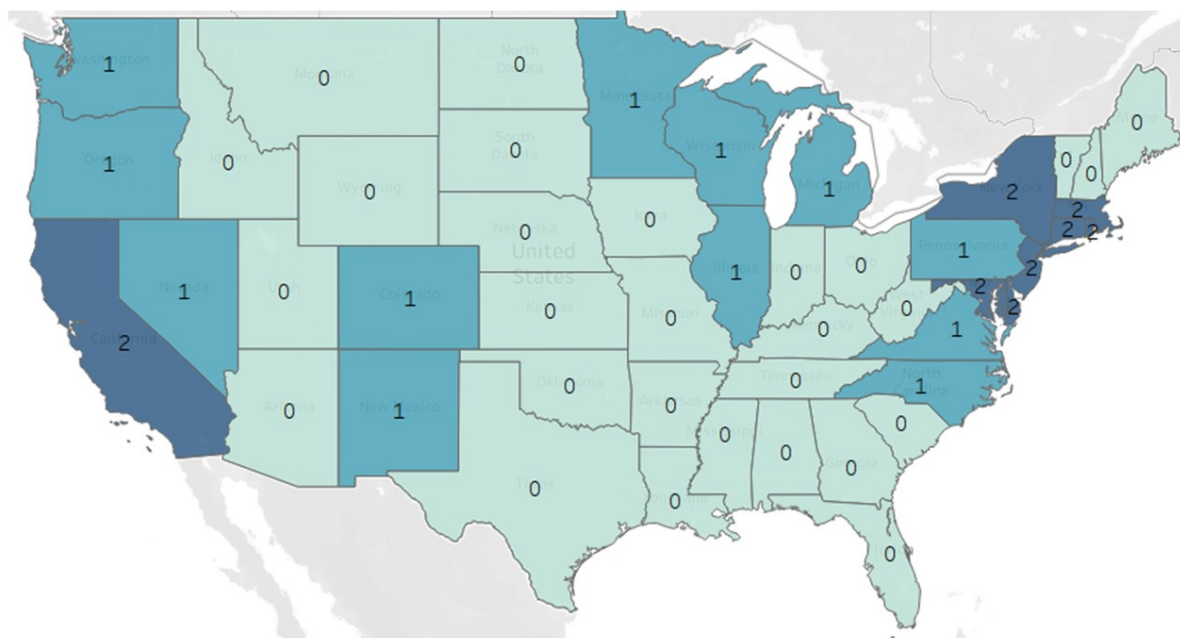
- No possession of long guns until age 18.
- No possession of long guns until age 21.
- No possession of handguns until age 21.
- Law enforcement officers may confiscate firearms from any person who is deemed by a judge to represent a threat to themselves or others.
- Family members or law enforcement officers can initiate a process for confiscation of firearms from any person who is deemed by a judge to represent a threat to themselves or others.
- No carrying of firearms on college campuses, with an exemption for concealed weapon permittees.
- No carrying of firearms on college campuses, including concealed weapons permittees.
- No carrying of firearms on elementary school property, including concealed weapons permittees
- No open carrying of long guns is allowed in public places unless the person has a permit.
- No open carrying of long guns is allowed in public places, with no exceptions.
- No open carrying of handguns is allowed in public places, concealed carrying is permitted.
- No open carrying of handguns is allowed in public places, with no exceptions.

Concealed Carry Permitting

Concealed carry provisions outline the process that individuals must undergo to obtain a permit to carry concealed firearms in their state.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **0.6**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 2)



The federal government does not regulate the concealed carry of firearms. In the absence of federal regulations, there is tremendous variation in state laws concerning concealed carry permits.

Concealed carry policy revolves around two central issues: (1) whether a permit is required to carry a concealed firearm; and (2) if a permit is required, the degree of discretion granted to state officials in making the decision of whether or not to approve or deny an application for a concealed carry permit.

States are sometimes grouped into “may issue” vs. “shall issue” categories based on whether or not concealed carry permitting authorities are allowed discretion in granting permits. In “may issue” states, authorities may withhold concealed carry permits from applicants, while in “shall issue” states, authorities must grant permits to anyone who meets state permit criteria.

Most common provision in 2024: 22 states required permits for carrying concealed weapons.

We tracked **2** provisions for this category. They include:

- Permit required to carry a concealed firearm
- Amount of discretion allowed in approving or denying a concealed carry permit application

Concealed Carry Permitting Provisions

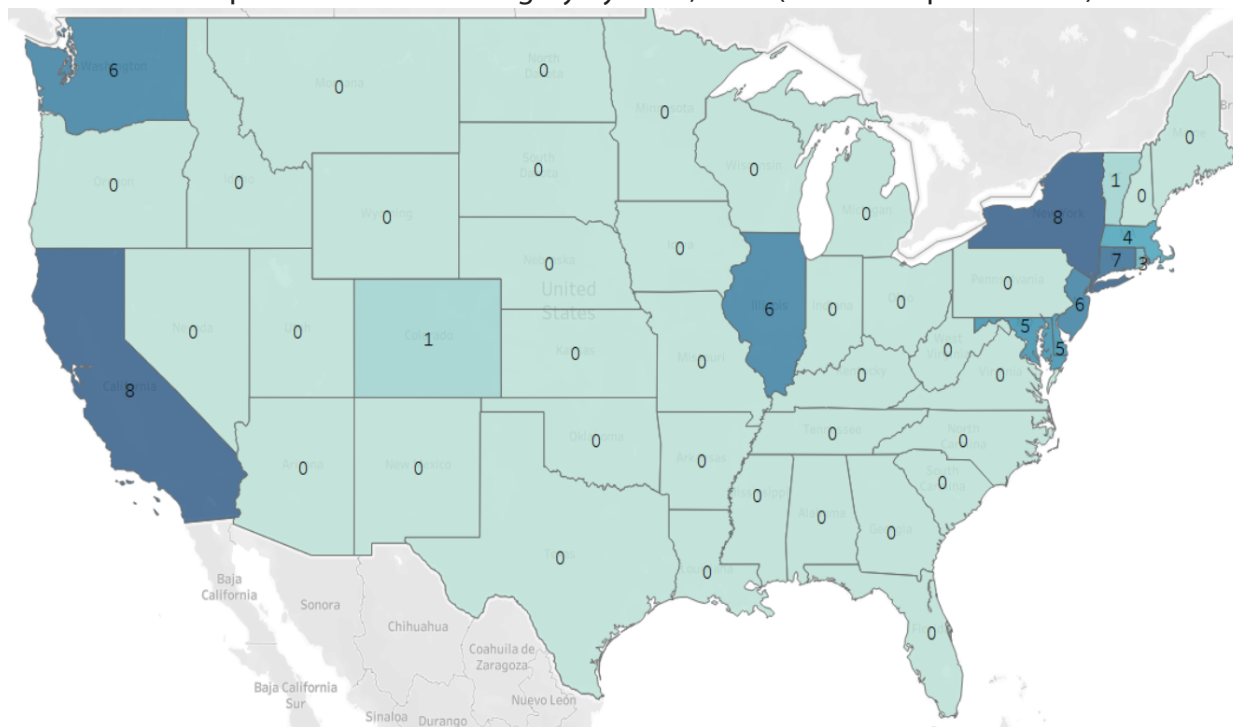
- Permit is required to carry concealed weapons.
- Law provides authorities with discretion in deciding whether to grant a concealed carry permit.

Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Magazines

This category outlines state bans on the purchase and/or possession of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **1.2**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 8)



In 1994, the Federal Assault Weapons Ban prohibited all manufacture, transfer, or possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and magazines capable of storing more than 10 rounds of ammunition. This ban expired in 2004, and Congress did not renew the law.

Most states have not implemented any limitation on the possession or purchase of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. However, some states have enacted such laws.

Most common provision in 2024: 12 states had enacted a ban on the possession of large capacity ammunition magazines.

We tracked **8** provisions for this category. They include:

- Criteria for banned weapons
- Protocol for grandfathered weapons
- Criteria for banned ammunition

Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Magazines Provisions

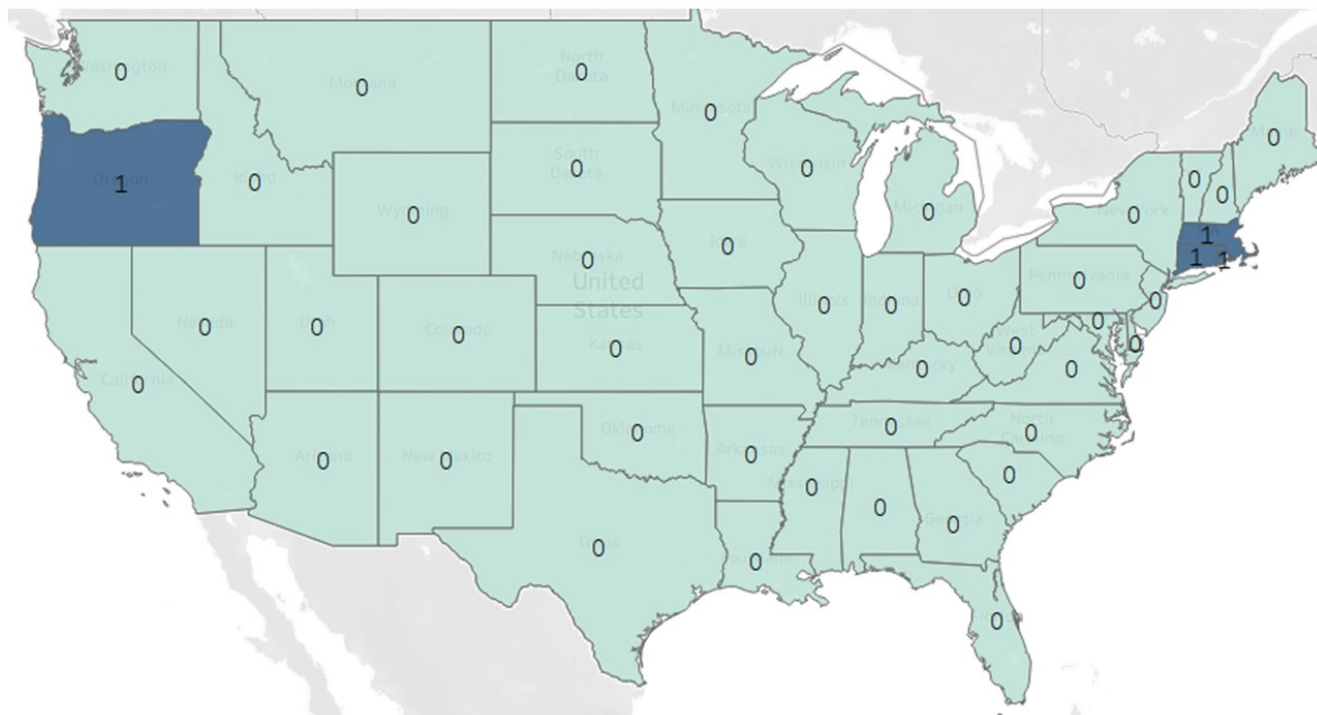
- Ban on sale of assault weapons beyond just assault pistols.
- Ban on sale of assault weapons using a one-feature definition.
- Ban on sale of assault weapons which includes a list of banned weapons.
- Law bans the sale of assault weapons. Individuals who already own assault weapons included in this ban must register their weapons.
- Law bans the sale of assault weapons. Individuals who already own assault weapons included in this ban are prohibited from selling or transferring their weapons to others.
- Ban on sale large capacity magazines beyond just ammunition for pistols.
- No magazines with a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition may be sold.
- Possession of pre-owned large capacity magazines is prohibited.

Child Access Prevention

Child access prevention regulations improve firearm safety by protecting children from accessing firearms. These policies establish firearm storage requirements.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **0.1**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 1)



The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005 (PLCAA) mandated that federally licensed dealers provide handgun purchasers with a secure storage or safety device for that handgun.¹⁸ However, while the federal government requires the provision of handgun safety locks, it does not regulate firearm storage within private residences, nor does it penalize gun owners if children gain access to their guns. Some state governments have attempted to prevent children's unsupervised access to firearms by expanding safety lock and storage requirements.

Most common provision in 2024:
3 states required that guns be stored locked in the household regardless of whether children are present.

We tracked **1** provision for this category:

- Requirement for safe and secure storage of guns in the household

Child Access Prevention Provisions

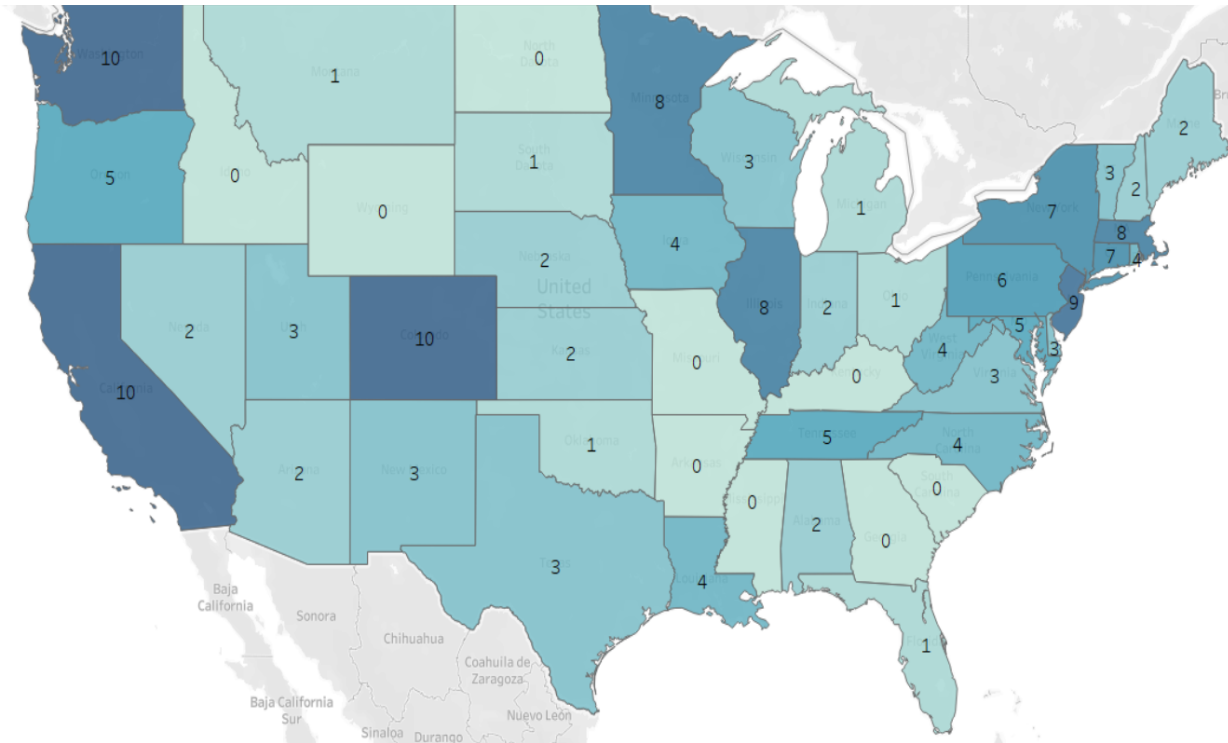
- All firearms in a household must be stored securely (locked away) at all times.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence laws establish rules that prohibit certain individuals convicted of domestic violence-related crimes from possessing firearms.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **3.4**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 12)



An estimated 44% of domestic violence-related crimes involve firearms, and domestic violence-related incidents involving a gun are more likely to result in homicide than incidents involving any other weapon. Federal law prohibits individuals convicted of domestic violence, including those subject to permanent domestic violence-related restraining orders, from purchasing or possessing firearms.

Some states have codified federal law into their own statutes, while others have expanded beyond federal law to require domestic violence perpetrators to surrender their firearms or have them confiscated by law enforcement personnel.

Most common provision in 2024: 33 states prohibited people who have been convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence from possessing firearms.

We tracked **12** provisions for this category. They include:

- Possession prohibition for misdemeanor domestic violence offenders
- Possession prohibition for subjects of domestic violence-related restraining orders
- Possession prohibition for persons convicted of stalking
- Firearm removal conditions for domestic violence offenders
- Firearm surrender conditions for domestic violence offenders

Domestic Violence Provisions

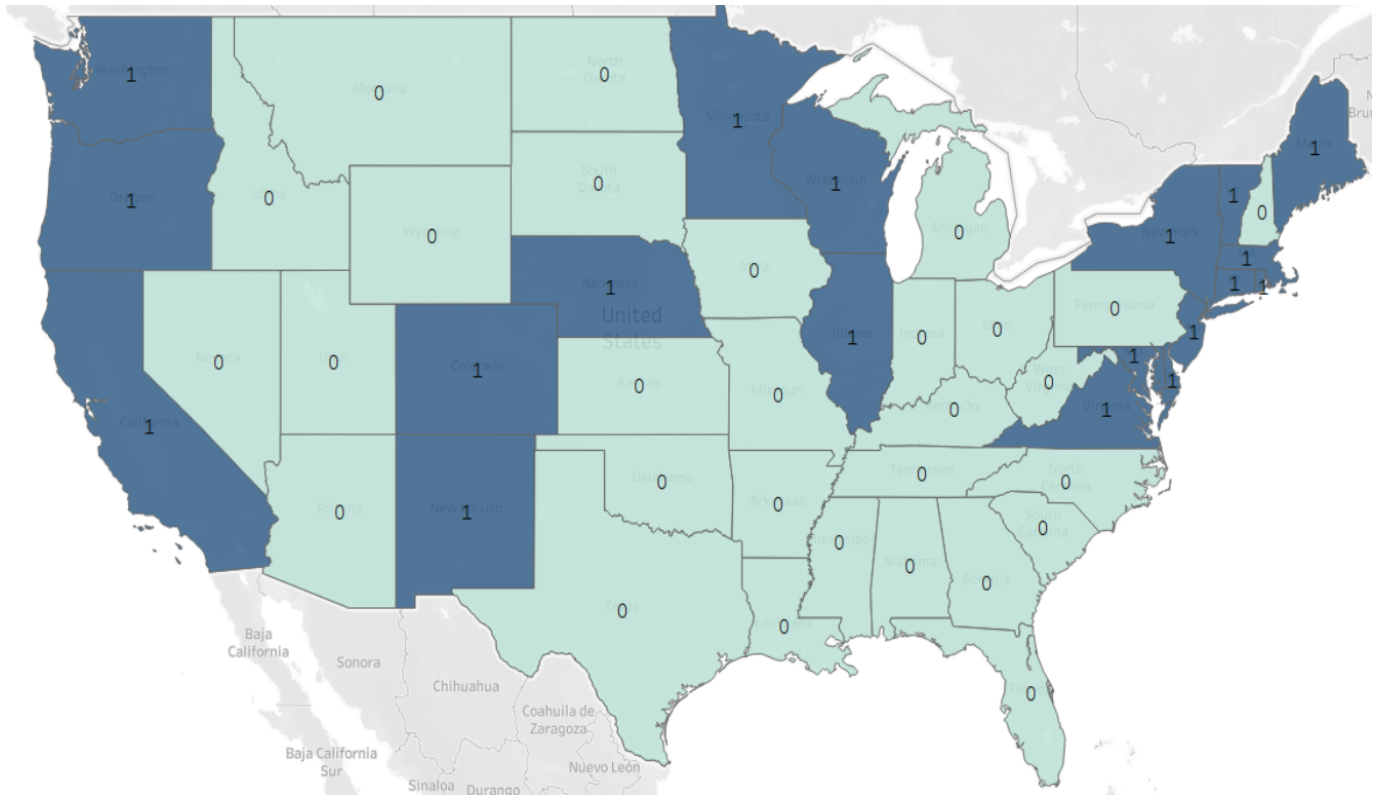
- Those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence are prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence are required to surrender their firearms.
- State law allows law enforcement to remove firearms from those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.
- State law requires law enforcement to remove firearms from those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.
- Law enforcement is required to remove firearms involved in the scene of a domestic violence incident.
- All firearms must be removed from the scene of a domestic violence incident.
- Those subject to a domestic violence-related restraining order are prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Those subject to a domestic violence-related restraining order are required to surrender their firearms.
- Those subject to an ex parte (temporary) domestic violence-related restraining order are prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Those subject to an ex parte domestic violence-related restraining order are required to surrender their firearms.
- State law requires law enforcement to remove firearms from individuals who are subject to a domestic violence-related restraining order.
- Those convicted of a stalking offense are prohibited from possessing firearms.

Stand Your Ground Laws

When a person is not inside their own home or on their own property, the law generally imposes a duty to retreat as a first resort if they are threatened with severe injury or death. Stand Your Ground laws remove this duty to retreat and allow a person to shoot first if under severe threat.

Average number of provisions per state in 2024: **0.4**

Number of provisions in this category by state, 2024 (Maximum possible = 1)



Stand Your Ground laws refer to an extension of the Castle Doctrine, which allows individuals to protect their private property when at home with immunity from the law. The extension provides this immunity for the use of deadly force as a first resort in self-defense anywhere a person has a legal right to be, rather than requiring that a person has a duty to retreat to avoid conflict.

Most common provision in 2024:
20 states had not enacted Stand Your Ground laws.

We tracked **1** provision for this category:

- Stand Your Ground law

Gun Industry and Ownership Protections Provisions

- State does not have a Stand Your Ground law

2024 UPDATES

This section summarizes changes in the 72 state firearm law provisions tracked in this report that went into effect or are scheduled to go into effect in 2024. The names of the variables and the changes in the coding of those variables are provided.

Delaware: A new law requires a permit to purchase any handgun. To obtain a permit, one must go through a state background check. The law goes into effect on September 15, 2024, although it may take longer for the state to set up the permitting system [change *permith* and *statechecksh* from a 0 to a 1].

Massachusetts: A new law requires all newly purchased firearms to be registered in a state-maintained electronic database [change *registration* and *registrationh* from a 0 to a 1]. The law also requires ammunition sellers to record sales records [change *ammrecords* from a 0 to a 1].

Hawaii: A new law raises the age of purchase for all ammunition to 21 [change *amm18* and *amm21h* from a 0 to a 1].

Louisiana: The state repealed its concealed carry permit requirement, making it a permitless carry state [change *permitconcealed* from a 1 to a 0].

Maine: The state introduced a 72-hour waiting period for the purchase of all firearms and mandated background checks for purchase of any firearm at a gun show [change *waiting*, *waitingh*, *gunshow*, and *gunshowh* from a 0 to a 1].

Michigan: Persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence are no longer permitted to purchase or possess a firearm [change *mcdv* from a 0 to a 1]. In addition, permits are now required for the purchase or possession of any gun, not just handguns [change *permit*, *universalpermit*, *statechecks*, and *statechecksh* from a 0 to a 1]. Also, Michigan enacted a red flag law which allows a family member or law enforcement to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove a gun from a person deemed to present a risk [change *gvro* and *gvrolawenforcement* from a 0 to a 1].

Minnesota: As of January 1, 2024, the state implemented a red flag law which allows a family member or law enforcement to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove a gun from possession of a person who is deemed to present a risk to themselves or others [change *gvro* and *gvrolawenforcement* from a 0 to a 1].

New Mexico: A new law that went into effect on May 15, 2024 imposes a 7-day waiting period when one purchases any firearm in the state. The NRA is challenging the law but it remains in effect pending the result of this legal challenge [change *waiting* and *waitingh* from a 0 to a 1].

Rhode Island: A new law requires all guns in the home to be locked and secured when not in the immediate possession of the owner [changed *locked* from a 0 to a 1].

South Carolina: As of March 7, 2024, anyone who experiences the loss or theft of a firearm must report it to a law enforcement agency within 10 days. In addition, a permit is no longer needed to carry a concealed weapon. Also, it is now legal to open carry a handgun, even without a permit [change *loststolen* from a 0 to a 1; change *opencarryh*, *opercarrypermith*, and *permitconcealed* from a 1 to a 0].

Washington: As of January 1, 2024, the state imposes a 10-day waiting period on the sale and transfer of all firearms [change *waiting* and *waitingh* from a 0 to a 1]. Also, a new law requires all gun owners to report the loss or theft of a firearm to law enforcement officials within 24 hours [change *loststolen* from a 0 to a 1].

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The field of public health must prioritize the prevention of gun violence. Funding deficiencies and political controversy may dissuade researchers, but policy makers need reliable data in order to find ways to mitigate the impact that gun violence has on the lives of thousands of Americans each year. Federal and state governments have taken some strides to reduce firearm violence by regulating who can sell and buy firearms, in addition to restricting the conditions under which firearms can be used. We have documented these regulations over time in order to help public health researchers and policy makers determine which of these laws

effectively reduce firearm violence, and to what degree.

Over the past 25 years, most states have enacted an increasing number of firearm-related laws. However, this is not the case in all states, and firearm-related violence rates are now increasing. Law efficacy research may inform evidence-based policies to address the growing epidemic of firearm violence. Ultimately, this may help policy makers to strike a balance between protecting the constitutional rights of gun owners and saving lives by minimizing firearm violence in the United States.

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APPENDIX A:

Age-Adjusted Firearm-Related Homicide and Suicide Rates by State, 1991 and 2022

Table 2: Firearm Violence Measures by State, 1991 to 2022

State	Firearm-Homicide Rate (per 100,000)			Firearm-Suicide Rate (per 100,000)		
	1991	2022	Rank, 2022 (1 is lowest)	1991	2022	Rank, 2022
Alabama	9.90	13.15	48	10.38	11.50	38
Alaska	2.84	5.52	27	8.85	15.56	48
Arizona	5.57	7.04	37	11.99	12.20	41
Arkansas	8.48	9.92	44	9.51	10.85	35
California	8.74	4.35	21	6.91	3.96	7
Colorado	2.94	5.24	25	9.47	11.10	36
Connecticut	3.63	3.36	17	4.40	3.42	6
Delaware	2.15	5.25	26	4.38	6.42	10
Florida	7.35	5.84	29	9.24	7.74	13
Georgia	9.01	9.61	43	10.53	9.28	25
Hawaii	1.42	1.38	3	2.95	2.89	5
Idaho	1.14	2.11	7	12.08	14.10	47
Illinois	7.91	9.15	40	4.85	4.98	9
Indiana	4.16	7.13	38	7.53	9.45	26
Iowa	1.44	2.13	8	6.54	8.51	20
Kansas	3.81	4.58	22	8.53	11.66	39
Kentucky	4.59	6.81	34	9.76	11.29	37
Louisiana	13.49	17.12	49	10.52	10.19	31
Maine	*	1.58	6	8.98	9.76	27
Maryland	8.07	9.38	42	5.38	4.01	8
Massachusetts	2.18	1.57	5	2.65	1.97	2
Michigan	7.95	6.88	35	7.21	7.89	16
Minnesota	1.45	2.66	13	5.94	6.68	11
Mississippi	10.33	18.49	50	10.89	9.88	28
Missouri	7.54	10.83	46	9.01	12.37	42
Montana	2.52	3.76	18	13.42	18.96	50
Nebraska	1.93	2.48	11	7.39	9.17	23
Nevada	7.15	5.83	28	17.46	12.51	43
New Hampshire	1.23	1.30	1	6.10	8.45	19
New Jersey	2.84	2.74	14	2.22	2.21	3
New Mexico	5.34	11.25	47	12.29	13.74	46
New York	9.57	2.87	15	3.13	2.28	4
North Carolina	8.25	7.60	39	8.87	8.59	21
North Dakota	*	2.14	9	5.80	13.63	45
Ohio	3.89	6.80	33	7.01	8.41	17
Oklahoma	4.90	6.39	31	9.70	12.98	44
Oregon	1.96	3.76	19	9.36	10.07	30
Pennsylvania	3.88	6.98	36	6.27	7.38	12
Rhode Island	2.24	1.36	2	3.07	1.79	1
South Carolina	7.34	9.95	45	8.61	10.04	29
South Dakota	*	3.22	16	8.13	10.72	32
Tennessee	7.69	9.15	41	9.99	10.80	33
Texas	10.43	6.06	30	9.57	8.67	22
Utah	1.64	1.41	4	11.40	11.77	40
Vermont	2.35	2.38	10	11.30	9.23	24
Virginia	5.54	6.66	32	8.84	7.74	14
Washington	2.39	4.06	20	8.15	7.75	15
West Virginia	4.62	5.05	23	9.64	10.83	34
Wisconsin	2.75	5.12	24	6.74	8.44	18
Wyoming	2.27	2.59	12	15.26	16.57	49

*too few deaths to report

APPENDIX B:

State Fact Sheets

In the following section are one-page highlights for each of the fifty states, which include key firearm statistics and law trends for state-specific analyses and between-state comparisons.

The “State Statistics” section of these pages includes the total number of provisions that state had in the year 2024, its firearm homicide,¹ suicide,¹ and nonfatal injury* rates per 100,000 for the most recent year of publicly available data, and each state’s population size. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not report fatality data if there are fewer than 10 events in a given state; therefore, we were unable to provide figures for states with less than 10 fatalities.

In the “Trends” section are charts that display the total number of provisions within each category that have been enacted by that state in 2024. The total number of possible provisions for each category can be found in the “Categories Firearm Laws” section of the report (p. 6). The second chart graphs the total number of that state’s law provisions by year over the entire study period from 1976 to 2024. The total possible number of provisions from our database is 72.

We also included the total reported number of both suicide and homicide deaths by firearms using the most recent year of data available (2022).

*Source for non-fatal firearm injury rates: Everytown for Gun Safety. Figure 8: Nonfatal Firearm Injury Rate by State. New York: Everytown for Gun Safety; 2024.
<https://everytownresearch.org/graph/nonfatal-firearm-injury-rate-by-state/>.

Alabama

State Statistics

3

firearm laws
2024

13.15

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

11.50

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

70.20

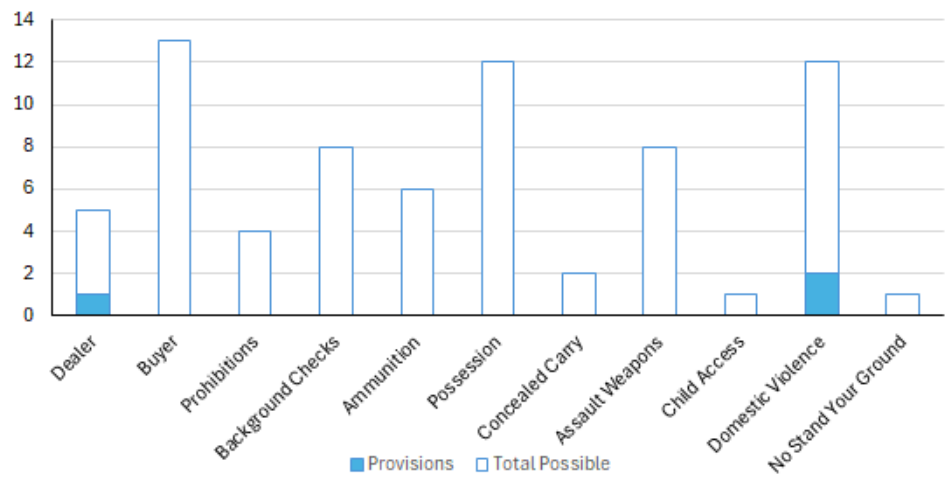
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

5,074,296

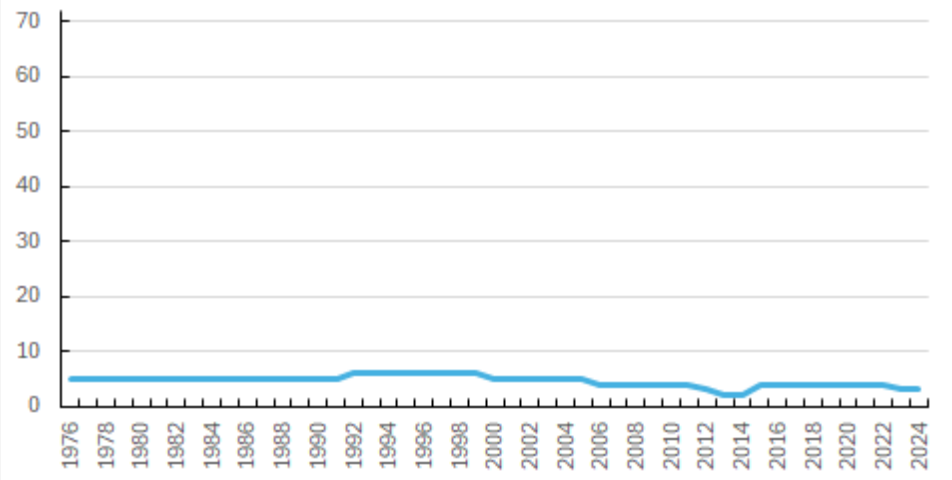
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



624 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



614 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Alaska

State Statistics

Trends

1
firearm law
2024

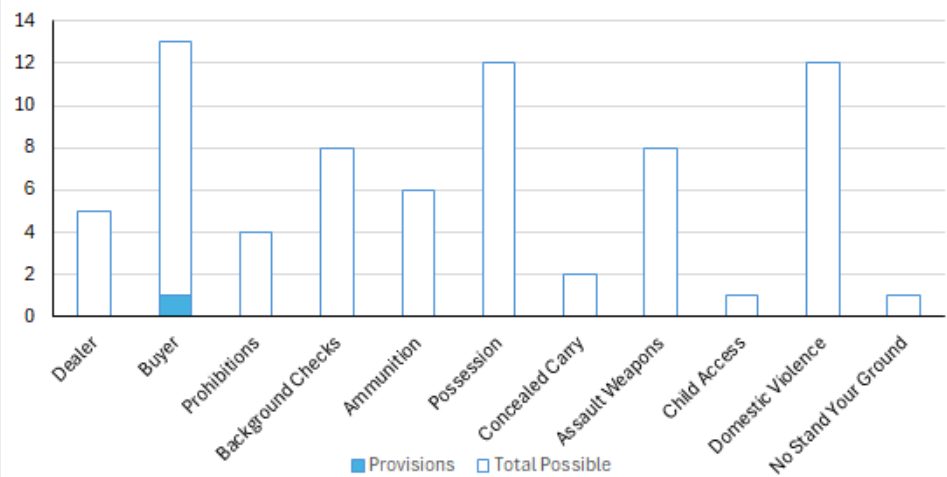
5.52
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

15.56
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

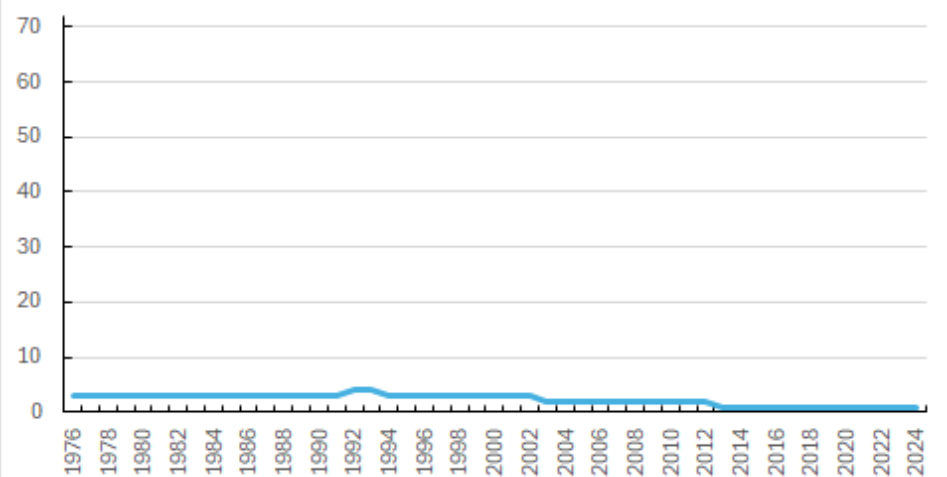
44.88
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

733,583
population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



41 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



114 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Arizona

State Statistics

3

firearm laws
2024

7.04

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

12.20

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

14.49

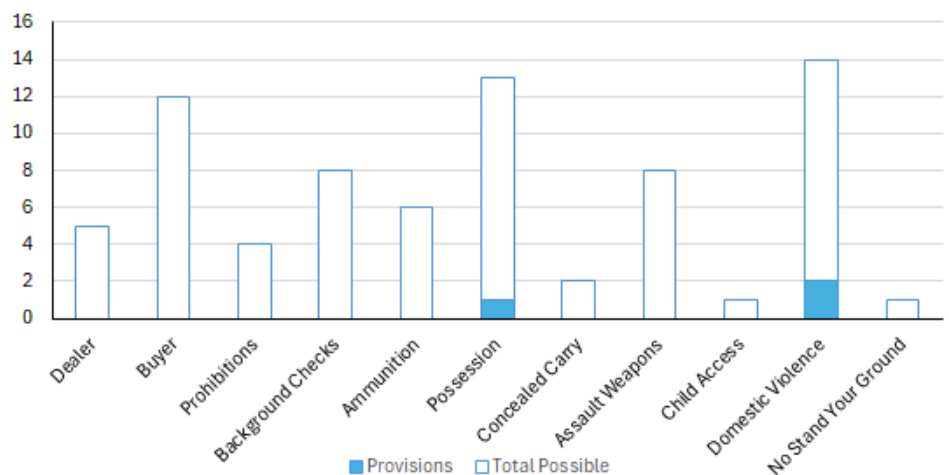
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

7,359,197

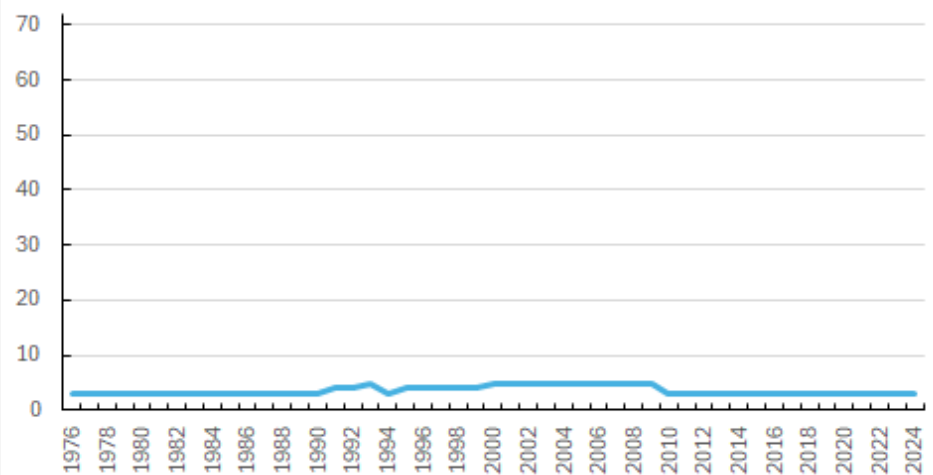
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



490 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



982 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Arkansas

State Statistics

Trends

1

firearm law
2024

9.92

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.85

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

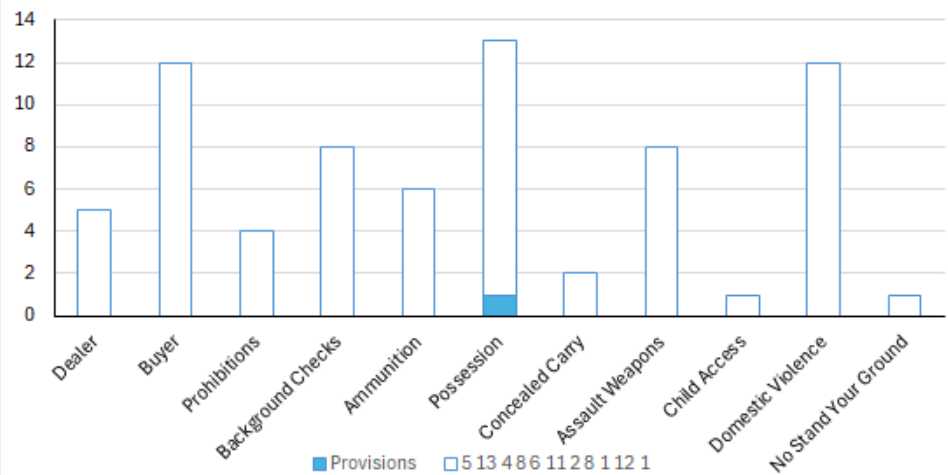
18.47

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

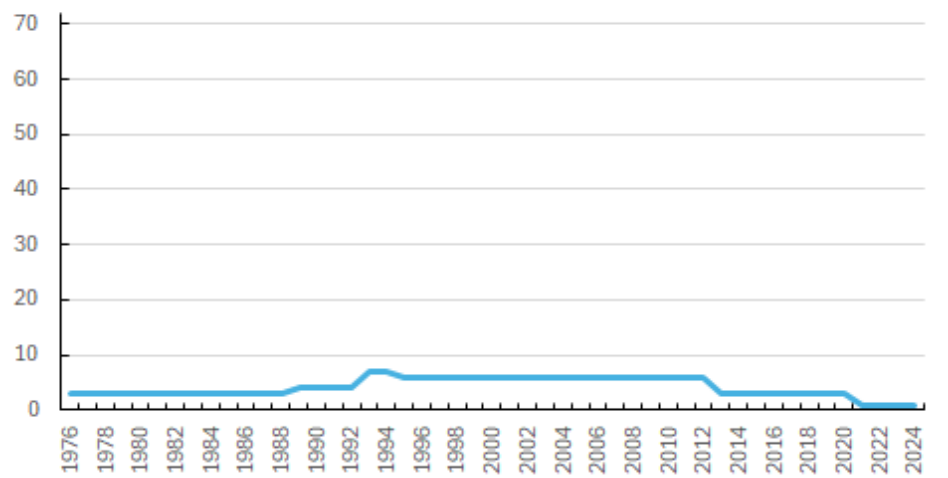
3,045,637

population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



290 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



341 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

California

State Statistics

62
firearm laws
2024

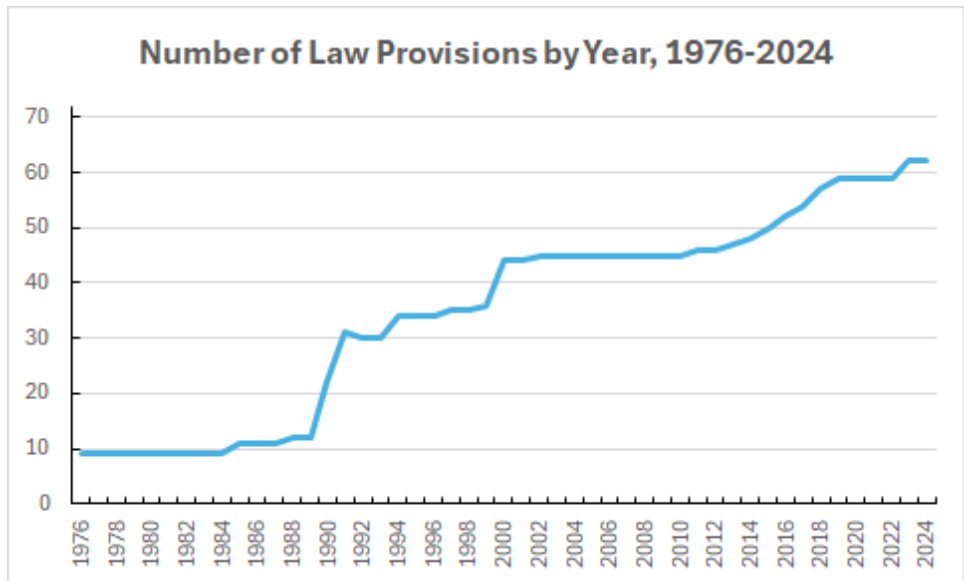
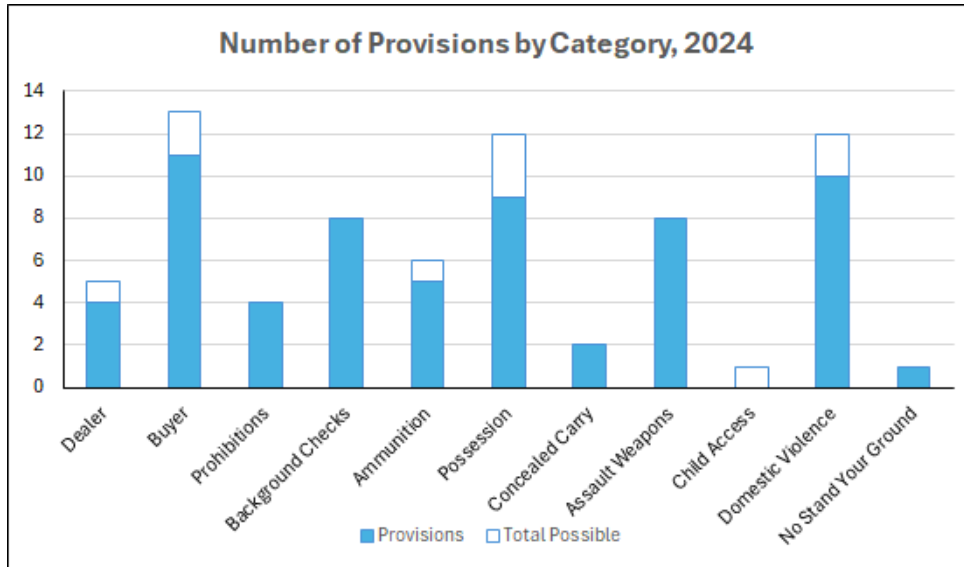
4.35
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

3.96
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

17.31
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

39,029,342
population
2022

Trends



Colorado

State Statistics

Trends

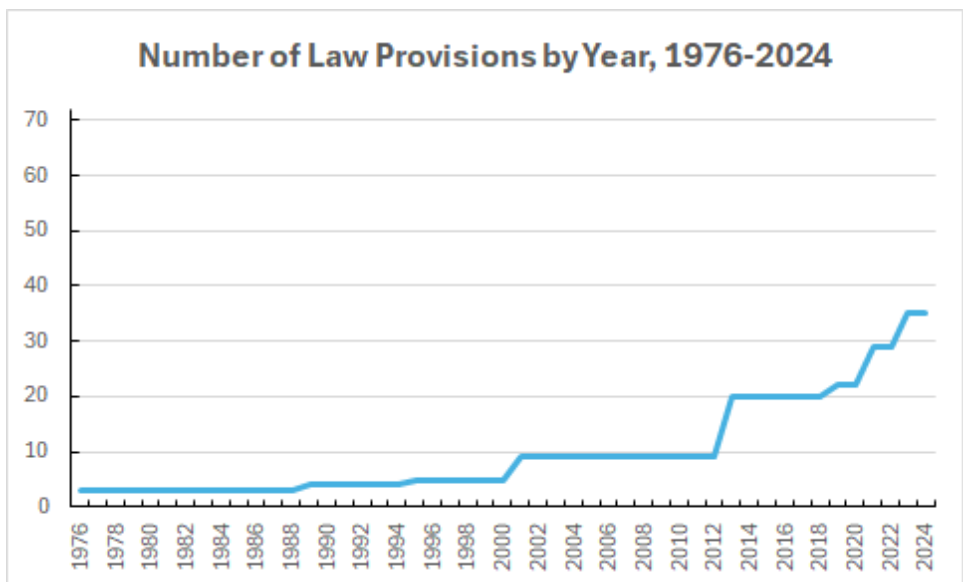
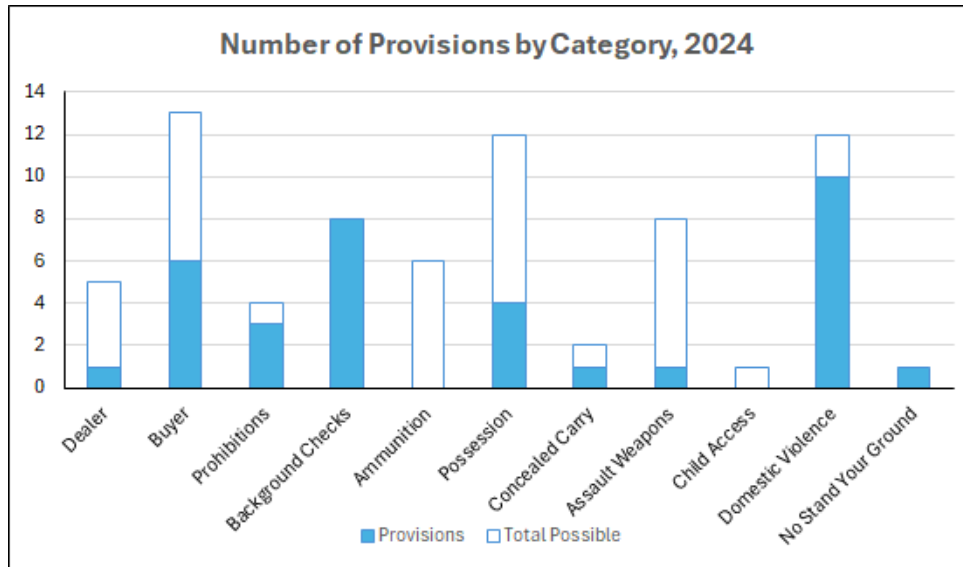
35
firearm laws
2024

5.24
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

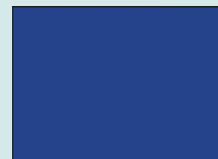
11.10
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

6.42
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

5,839,926
population
2022



304 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



691 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Connecticut

State Statistics

47
firearm laws
2024

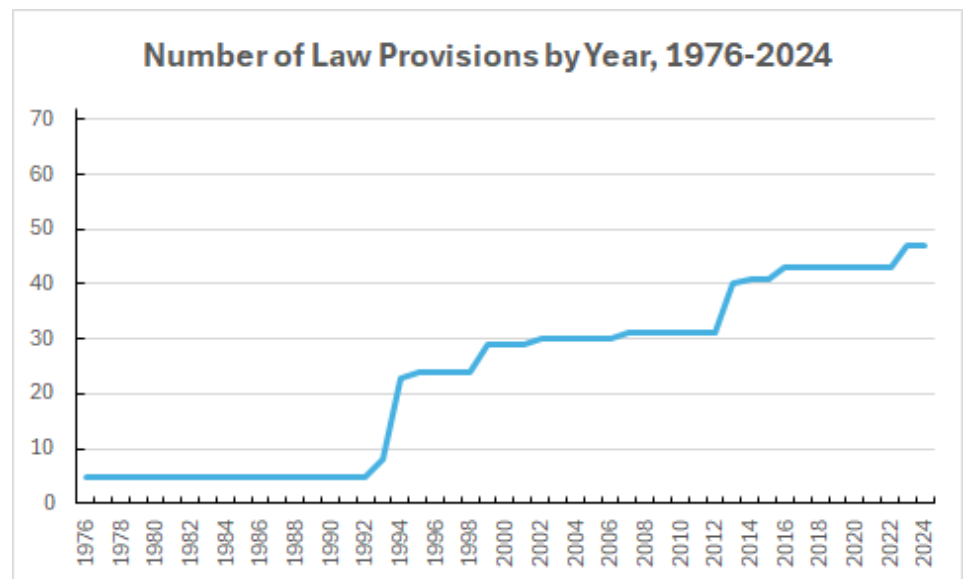
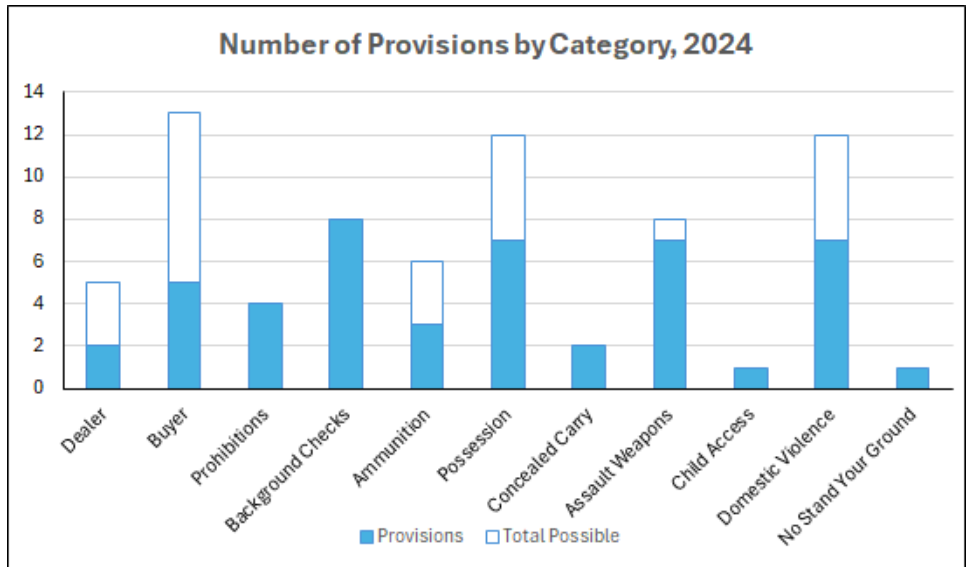
3.36
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

3.42
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

16.05
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

3,626,205
population
2022

Trends



114 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



132 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Delaware

State Statistics

36
firearm laws
2024

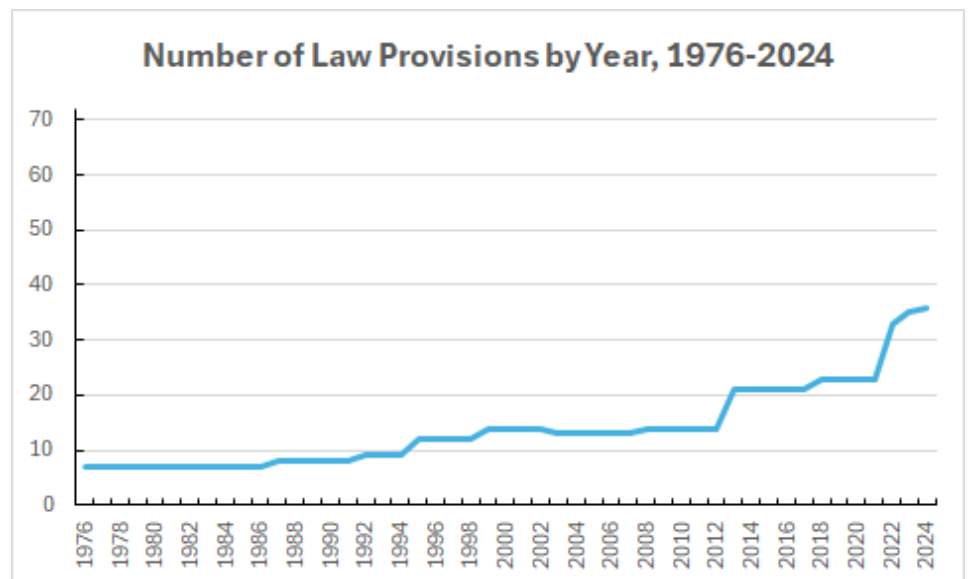
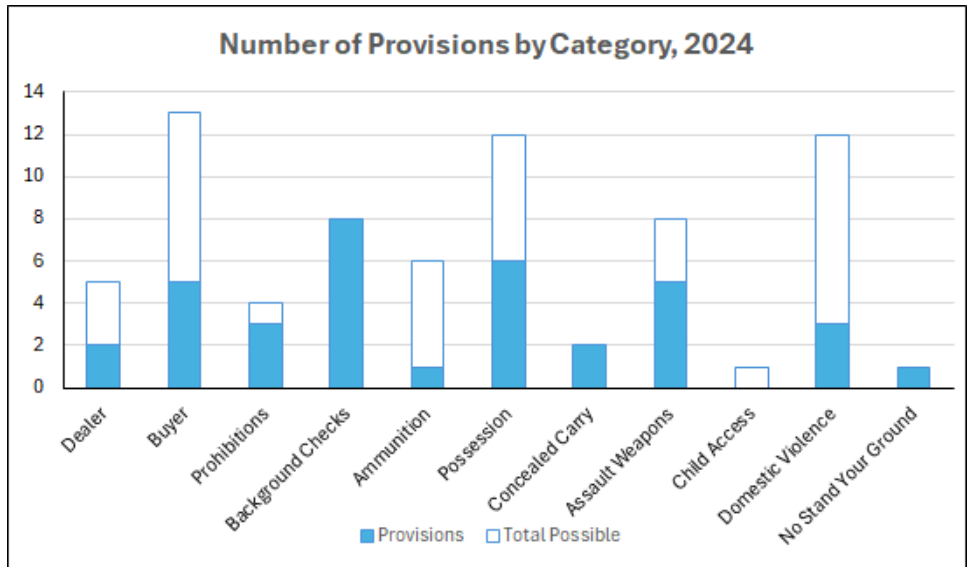
5.25
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

6.42
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

29.00
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,018,396
population
2022

Trends



48 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



74 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Florida

State Statistics

15
firearm laws
2024

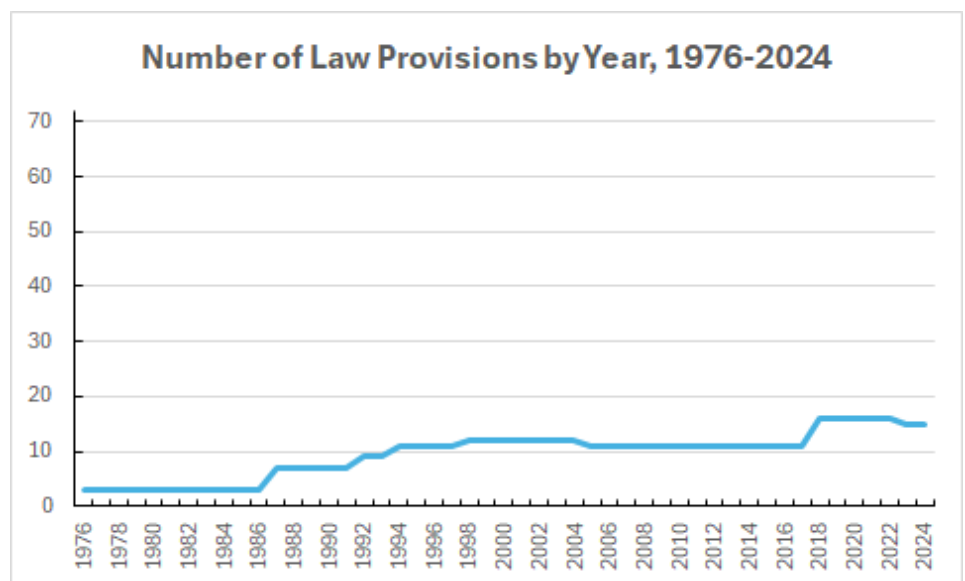
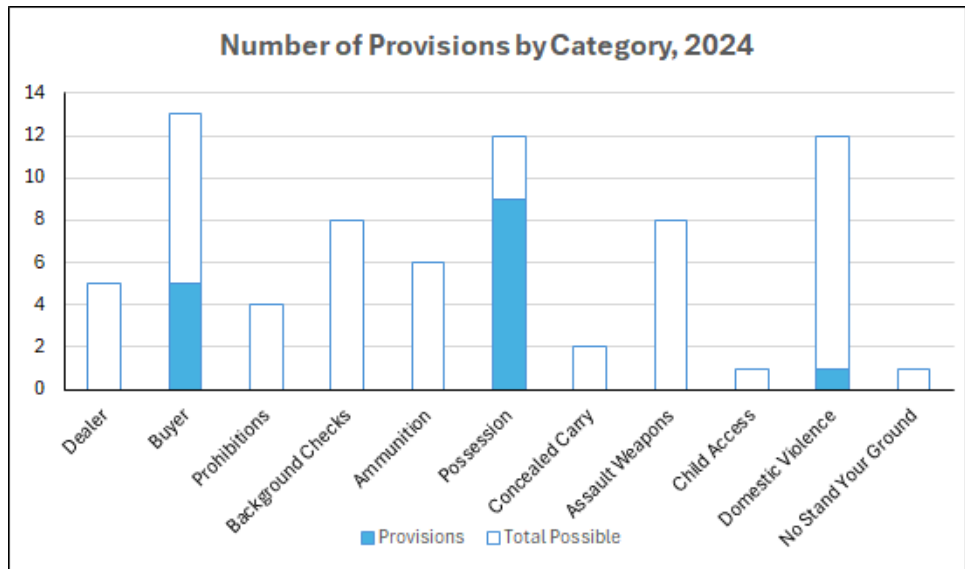
5.84
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

7.74
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

20.35
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

22,244,823
population
2022

Trends



Georgia

State Statistics

Trends

0
firearm laws
2024

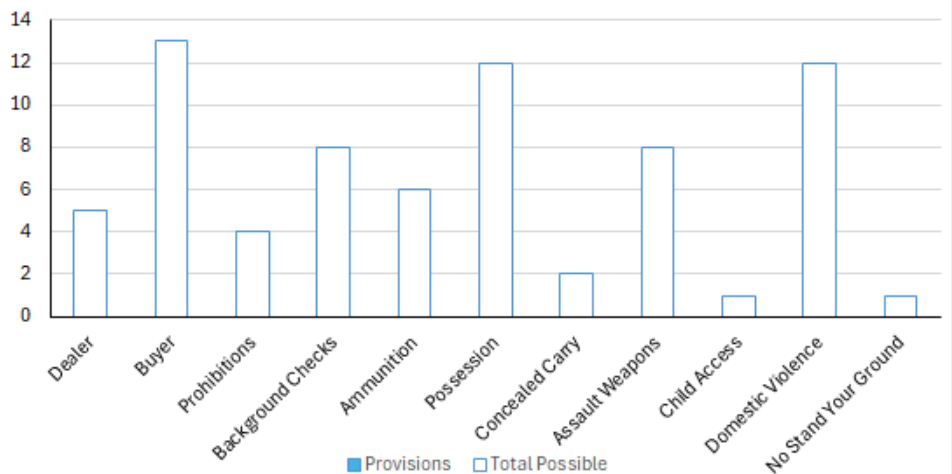
9.61
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

9.28
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

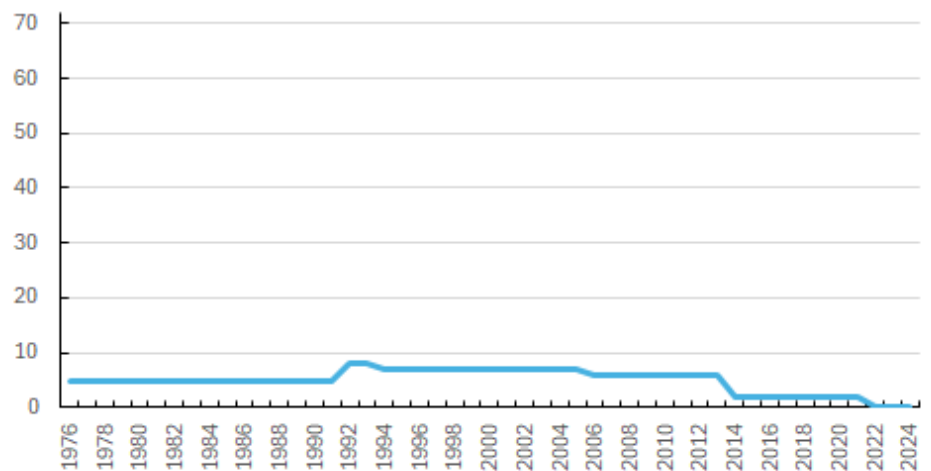
43.07
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

10,912,876
population
2022

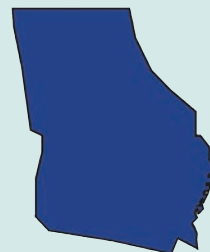
Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



1,033
people were
firearm homicide
victims in 2022



1,050
people were
firearm suicide
victims in 2022

Hawaii

State Statistics

Trends

48

firearm laws
2024

1.38

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

2.89

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

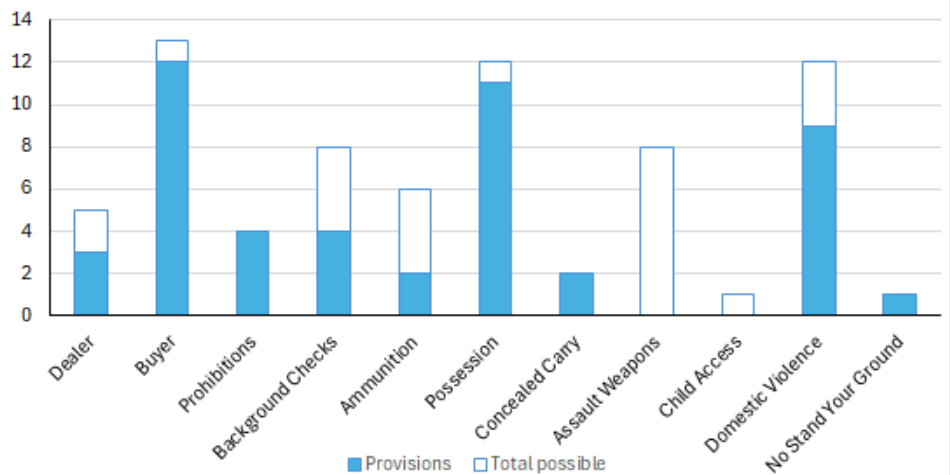
5.04

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

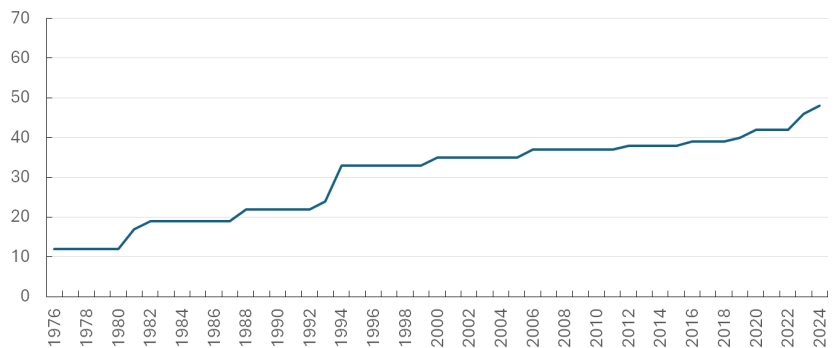
1,440,196

population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



18 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



45 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Idaho

State Statistics

0

firearm laws
2024

2.11

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

14.10

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

16.37

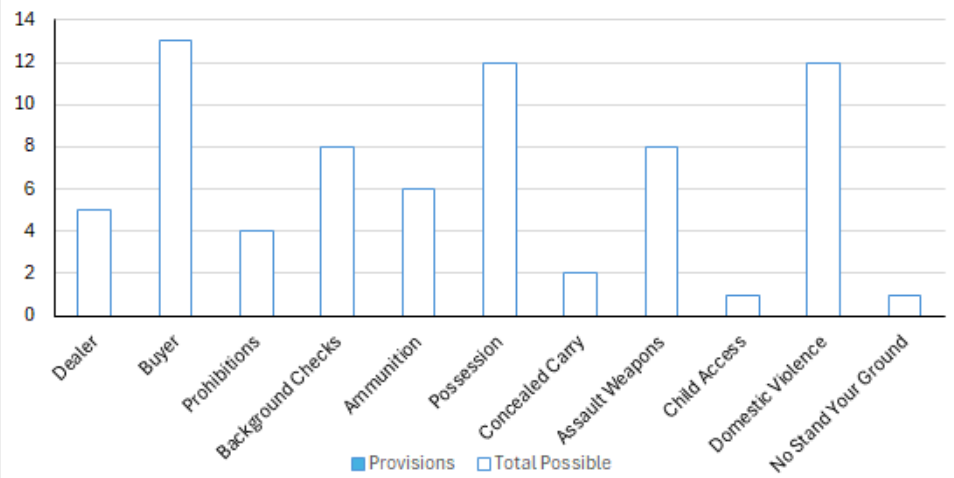
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,939,033

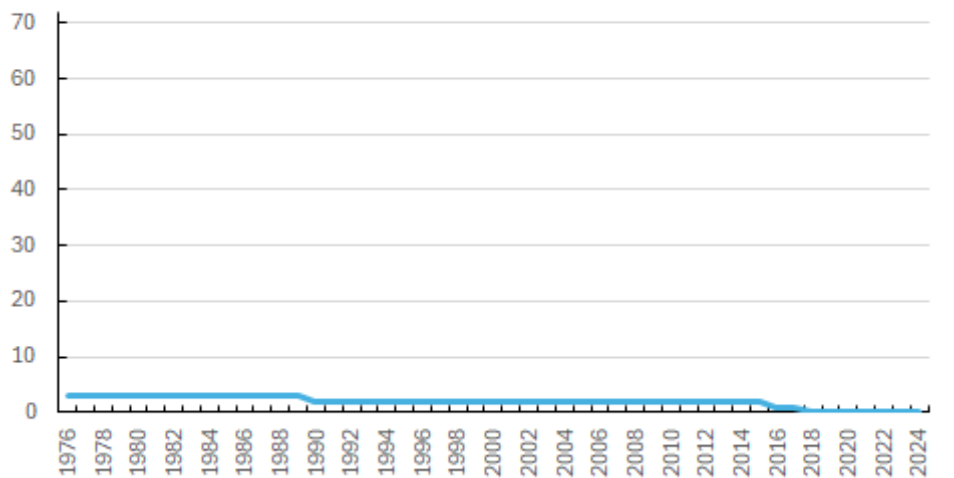
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



38 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



285 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Illinois

State Statistics

41

firearm laws
2024

9.15

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

4.98

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

32.40

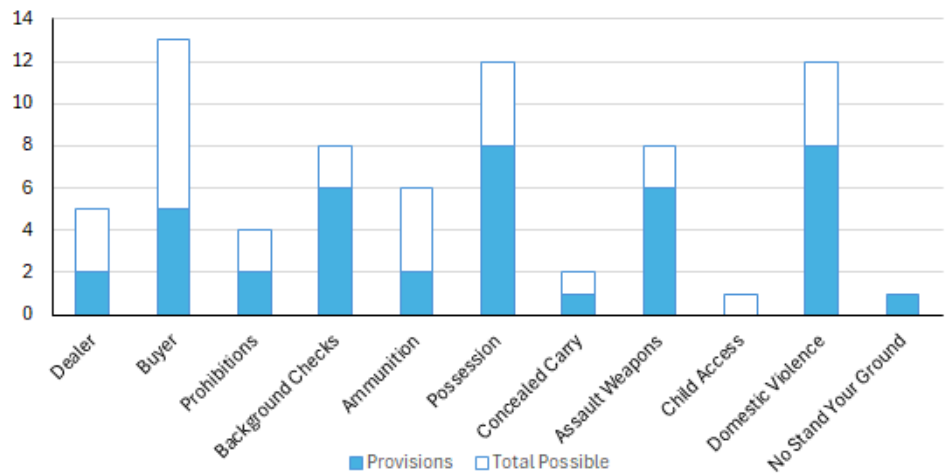
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

12,582,032

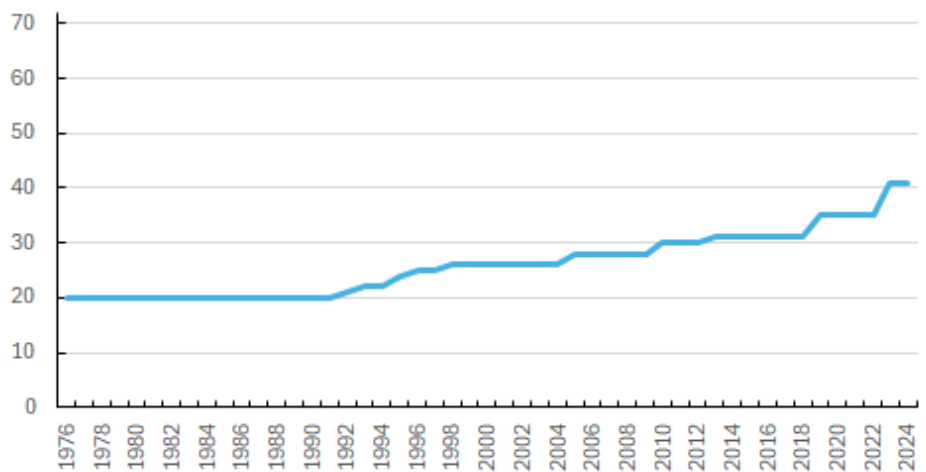
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



1,091
people were
firearm homicide
victims in 2022



676 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Indiana

State Statistics

4

firearm laws
2024

7.13

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

9.45

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

24.81

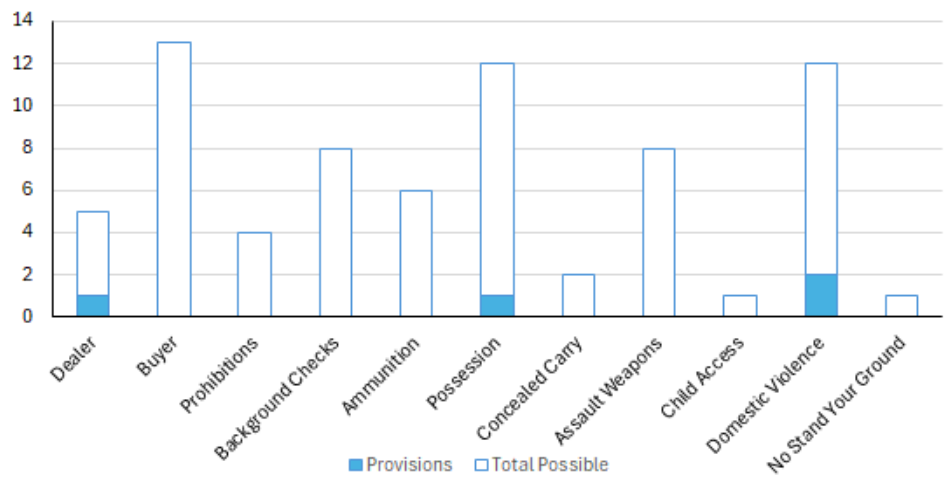
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

6,833,037

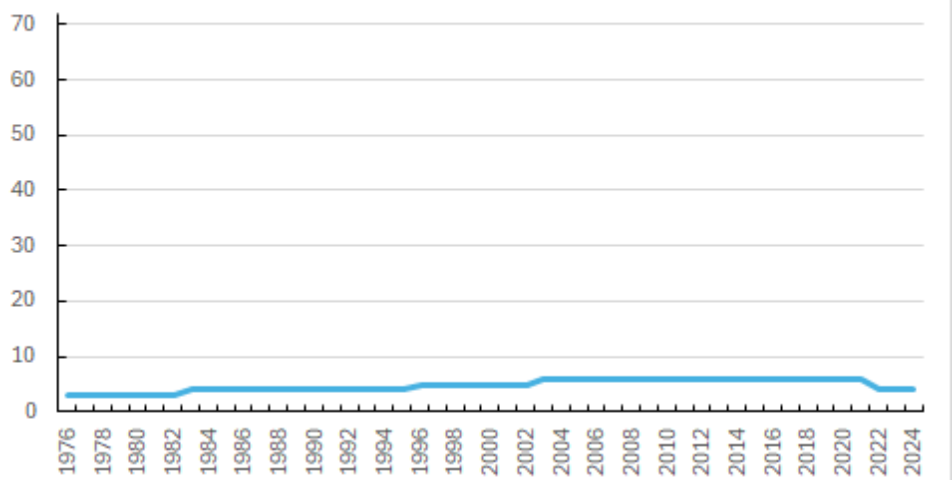
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



468 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



692 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Iowa

State Statistics

Trends

9

firearm laws
2024

2.13

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

8.51

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

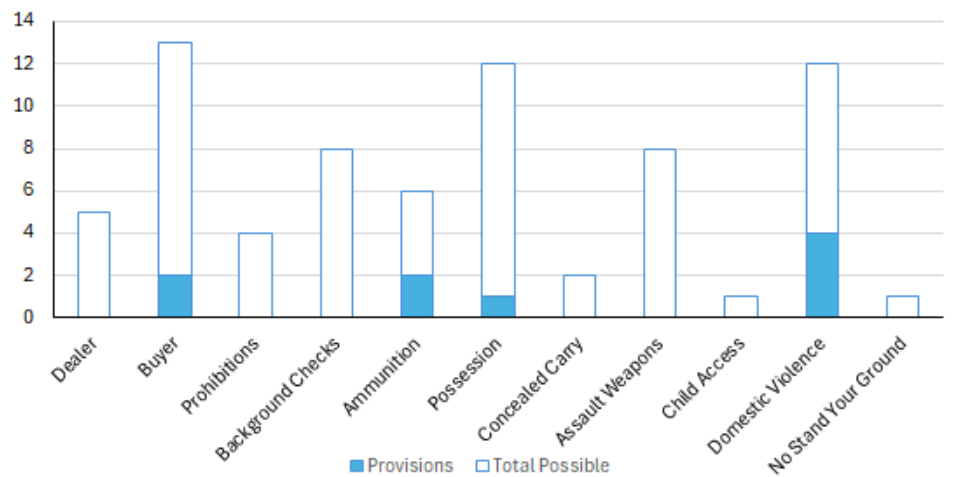
15.54

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

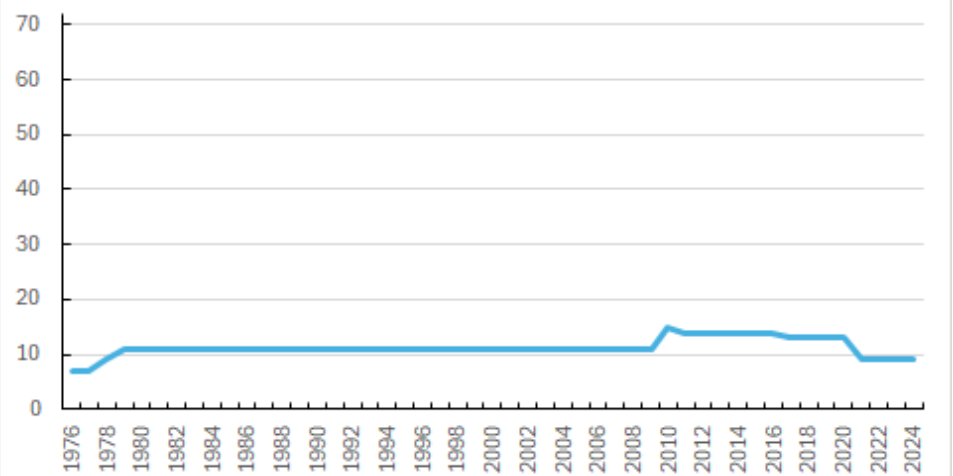
3,200,517

population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



65 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



288 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Kansas

State Statistics

2

firearm laws
2024

4.58

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

11.66

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

30.14

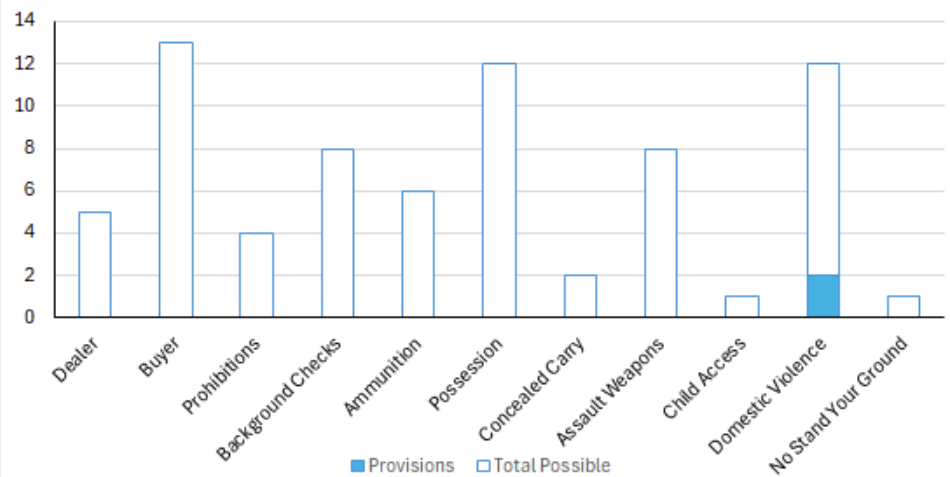
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

2,937,150

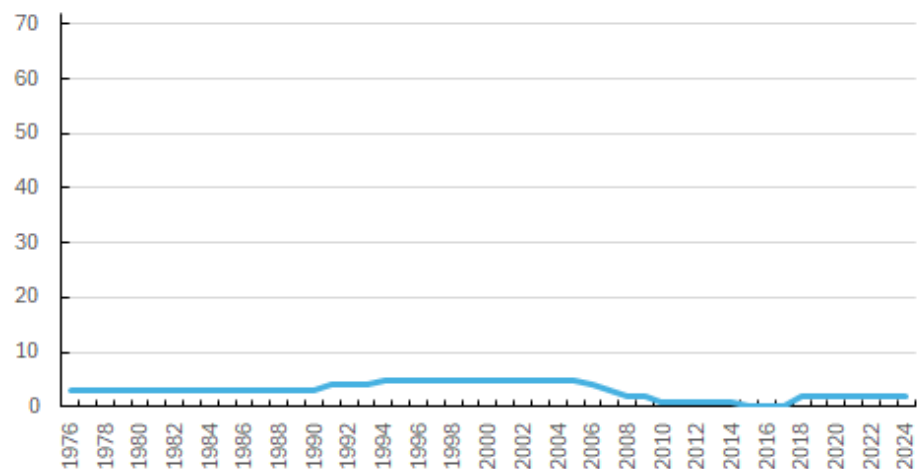
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



127 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



349 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Kentucky

State Statistics

0

firearm laws
2024

6.81

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

11.29

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

23.26

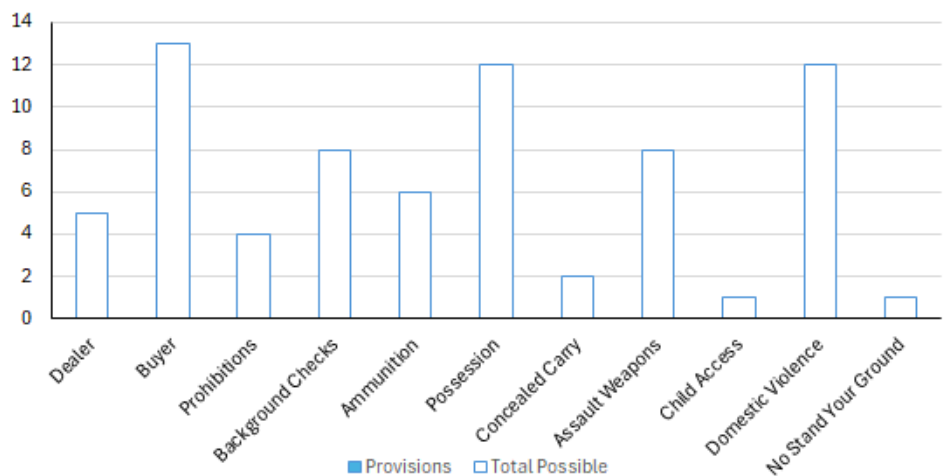
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

4,512,310

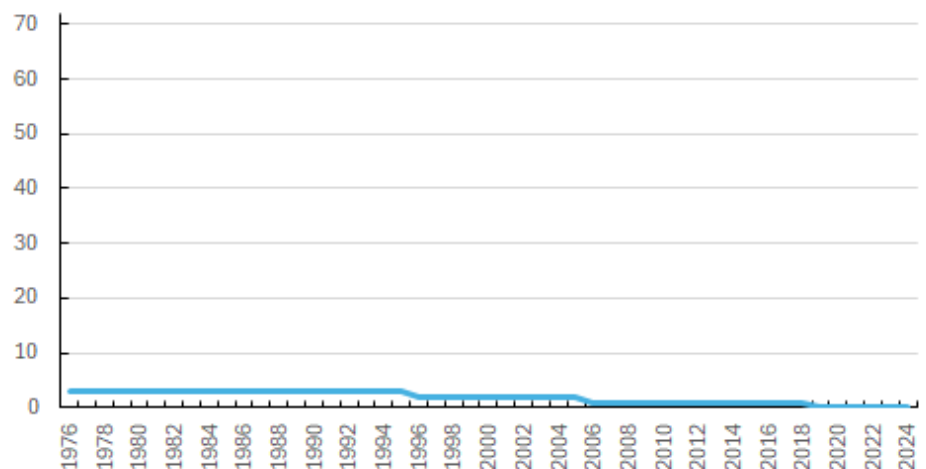
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



283 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



527 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Louisiana

State Statistics

Trends

7

firearm laws
2024

17.12

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.19

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

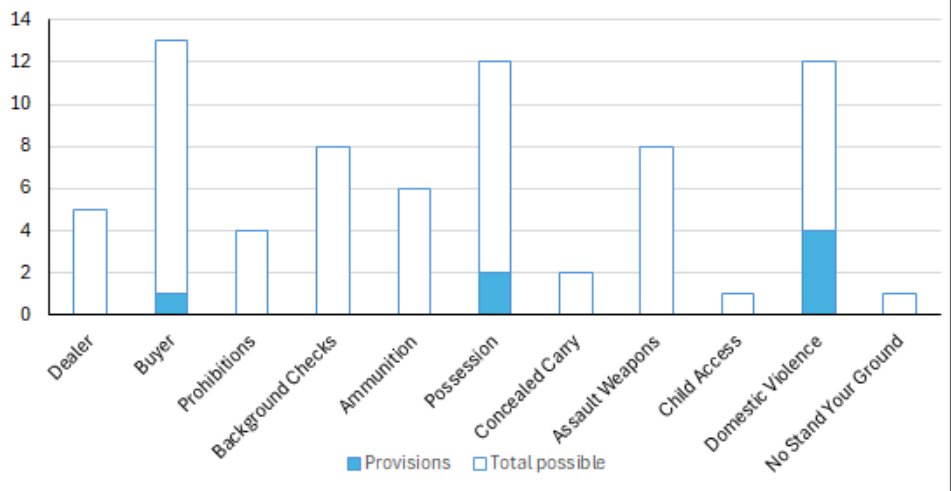
93.87

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

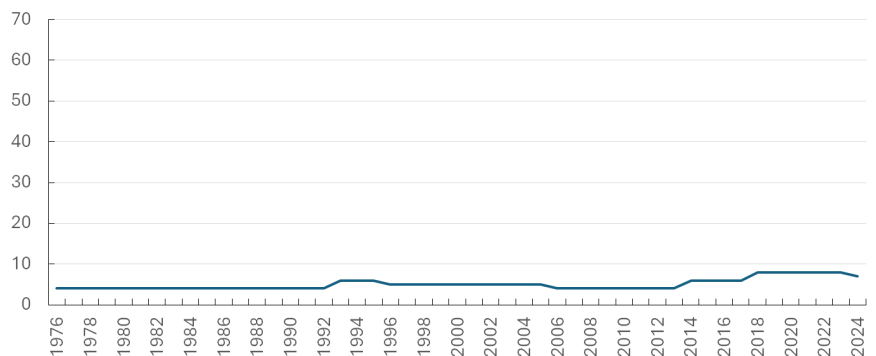
4,590,241

population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



740 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



488 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Maine

State Statistics

9

firearm laws
2024

1.58

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

9.76

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

7.26

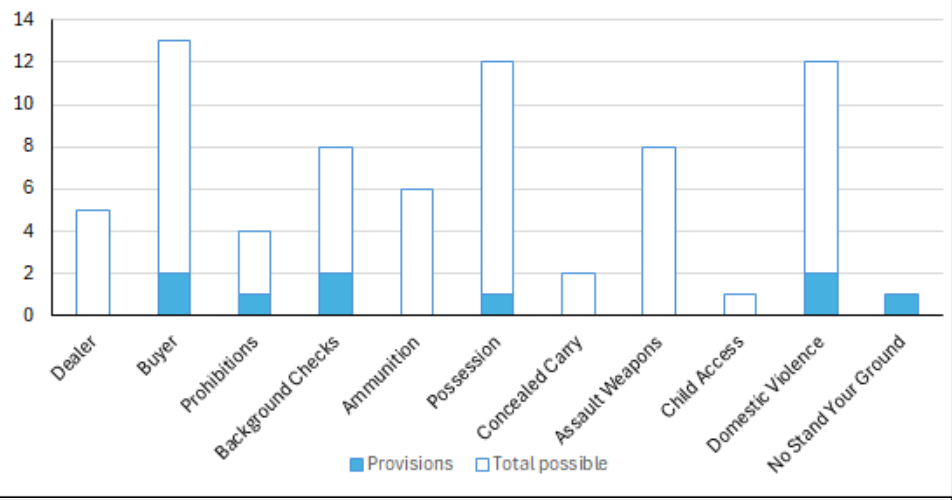
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,385,340

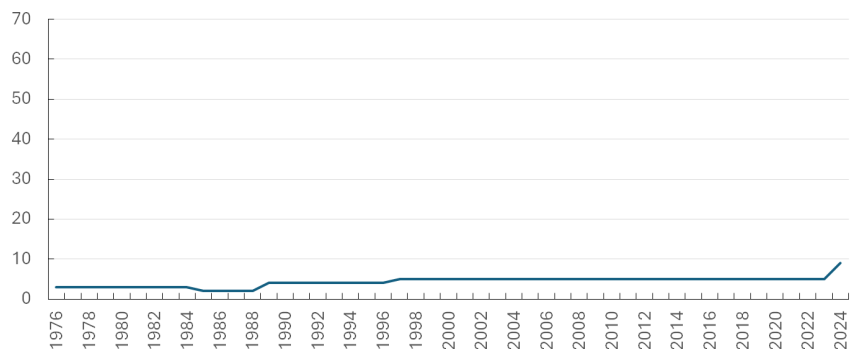
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



19 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



156 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Maryland

State Statistics

Trends

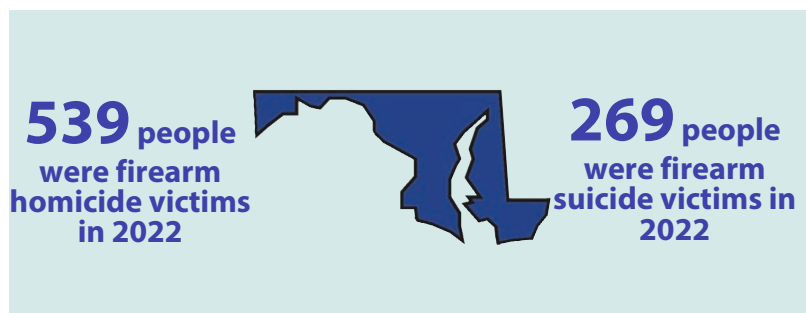
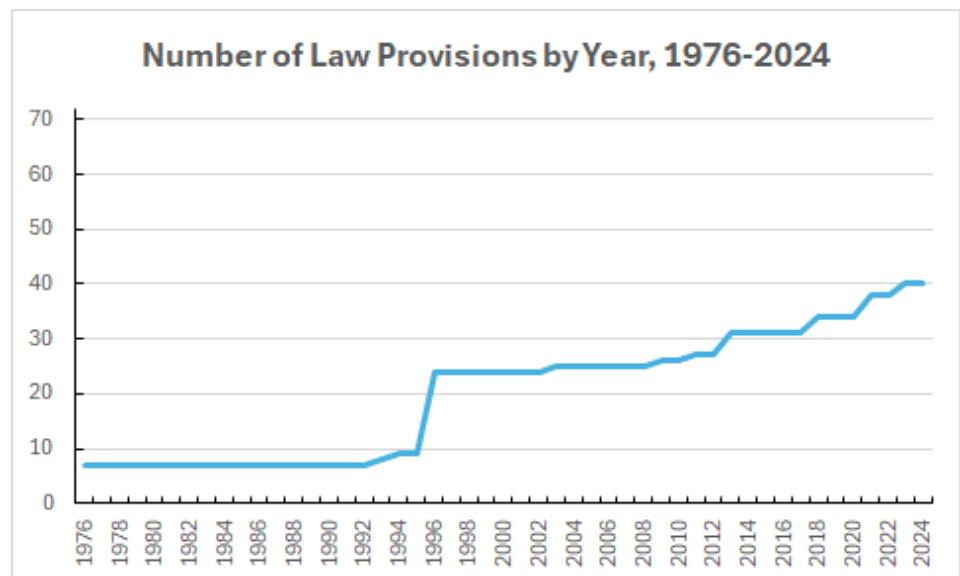
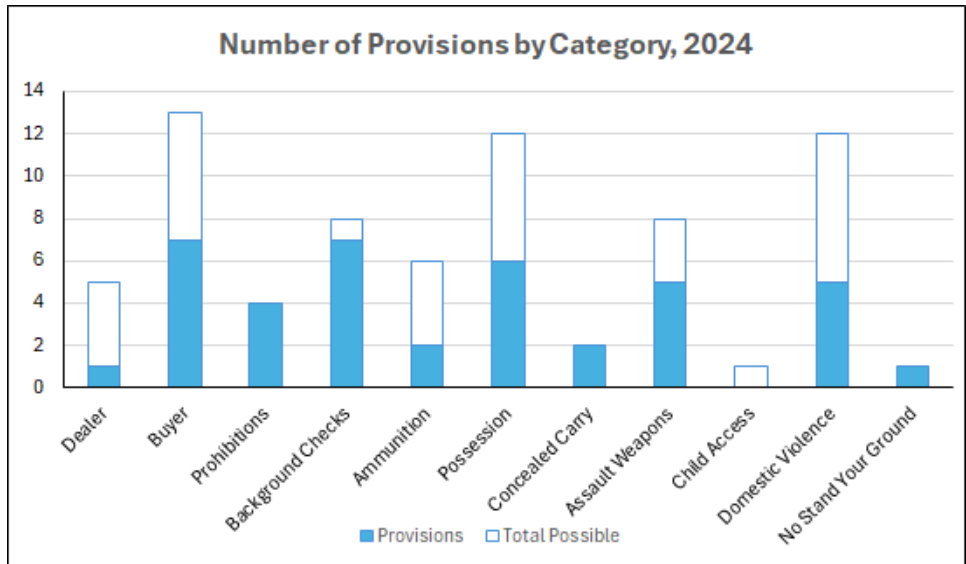
40
firearm laws
2024

9.38
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

4.01
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

28.87
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

6,164,660
population
2022



Massachusetts

State Statistics

51
firearm laws
2024

1.57
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

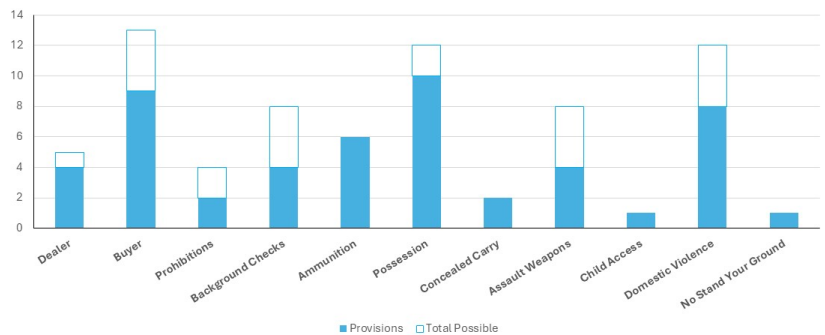
1.97
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

10.03
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

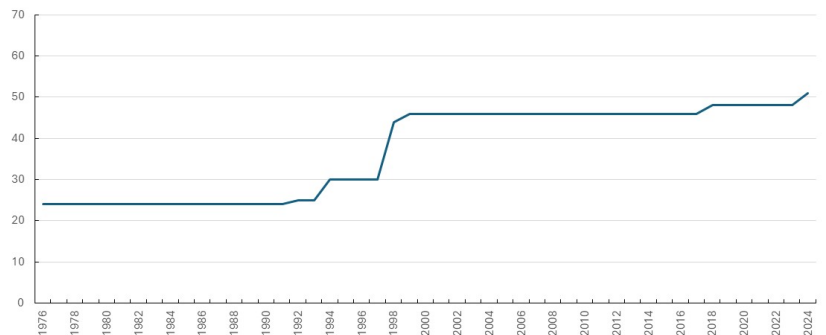
6,981,974
population
2022

Trends

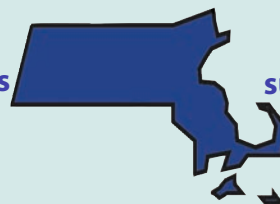
Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



106 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



149 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Michigan

State Statistics

Trends

14
firearm laws
2024

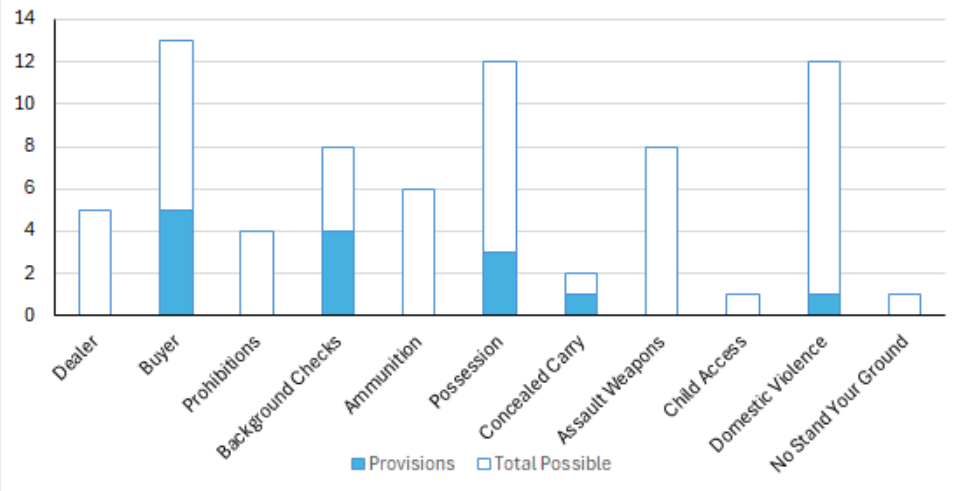
6.88
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

7.89
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

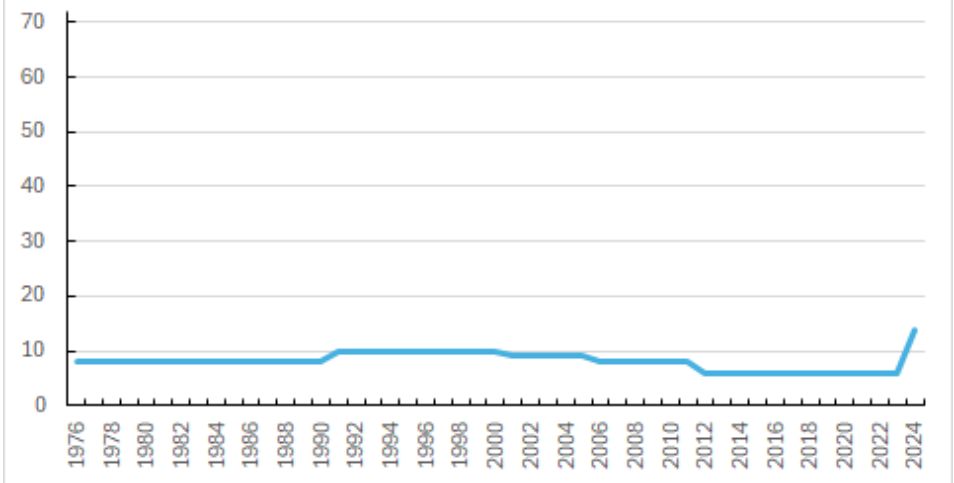
35.20
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

10,034,113
population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



640 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022

842 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Minnesota

State Statistics

20
firearm laws
2024

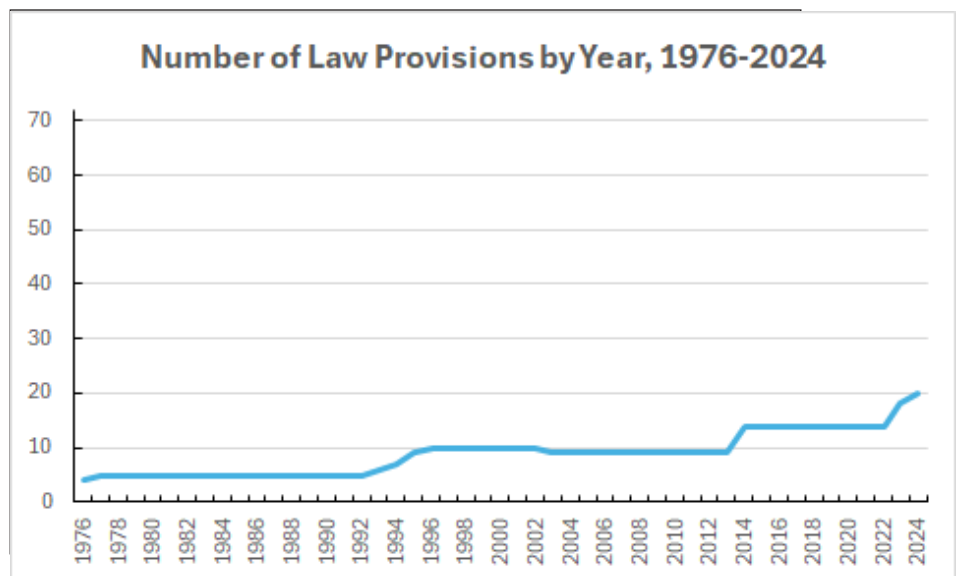
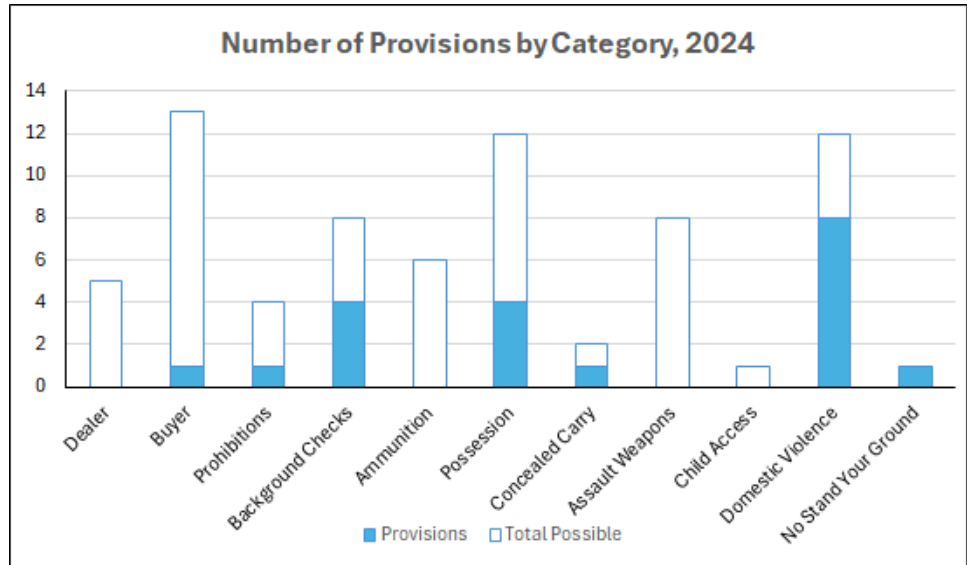
2.66
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

6.68
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

12.19
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

5,717,184
population
2022

Trends



Mississippi

State Statistics

Trends

1
firearm law
2024

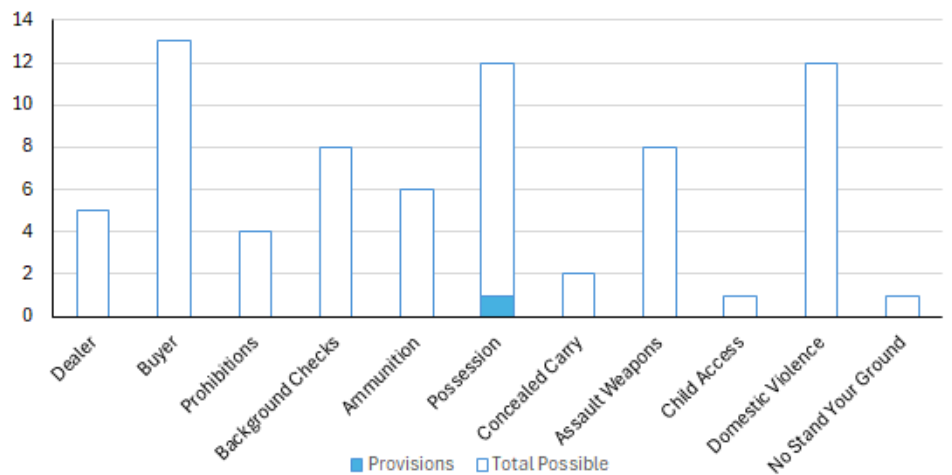
18.49
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

9.88
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

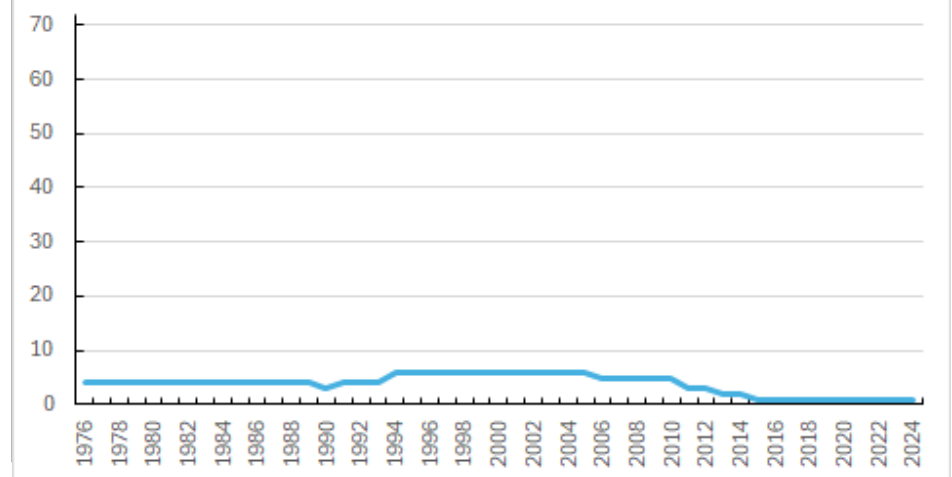
67.19
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

2,940,057
population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



511 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



300 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Missouri

State Statistics

0

firearm laws
2024

10.83

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

12.37

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

42.27

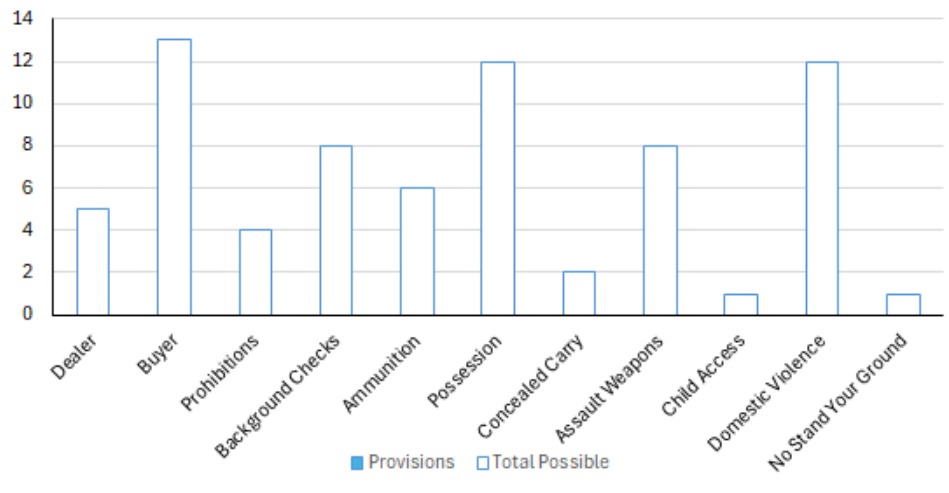
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

6,177,957

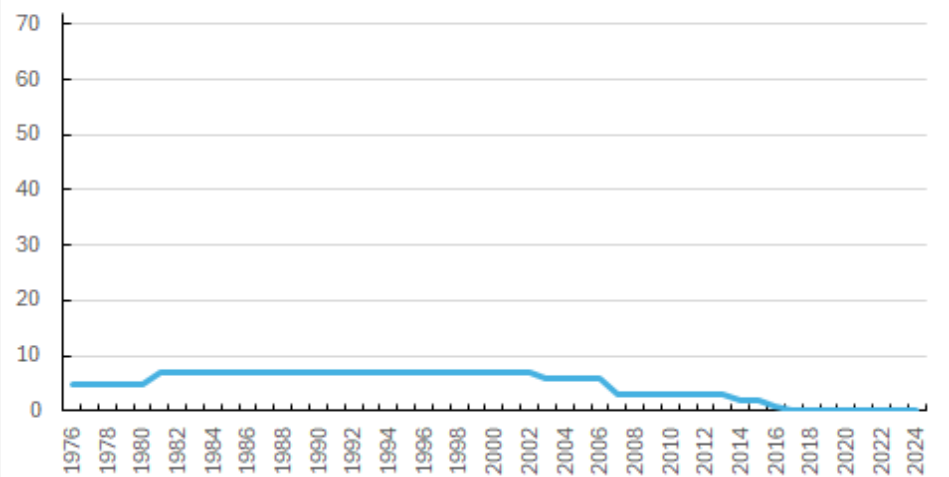
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



629 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



806 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Montana

State Statistics

1
firearm law
2024

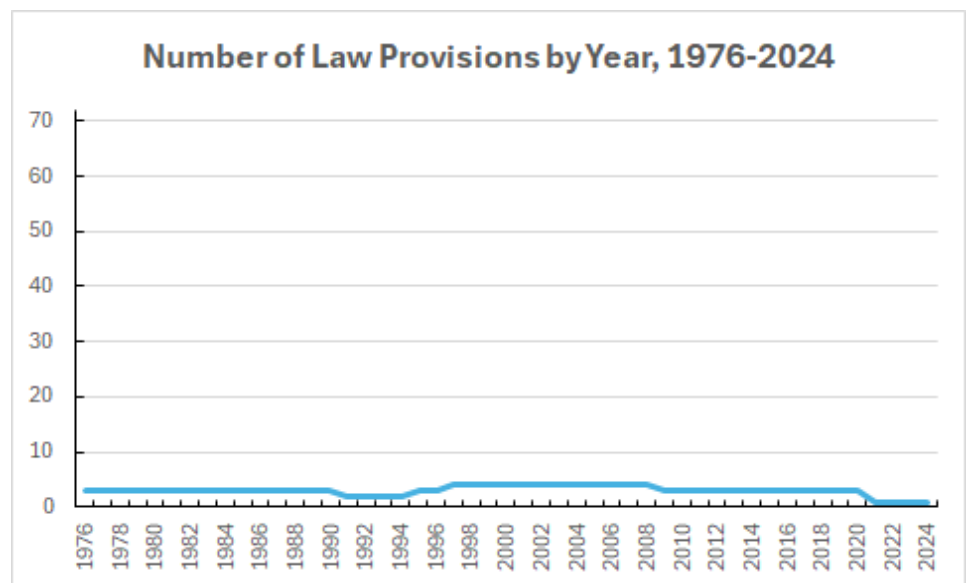
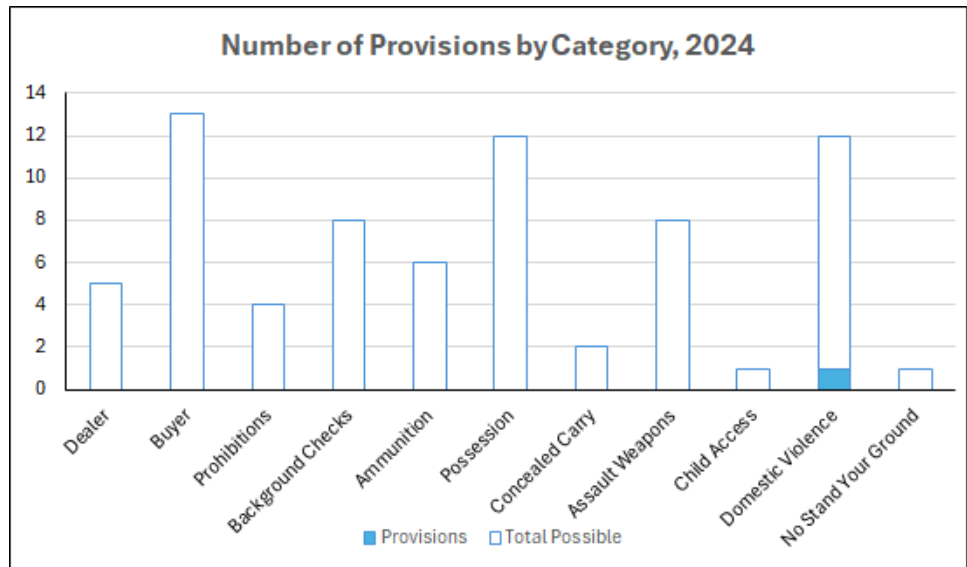
3.76
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

18.96
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

36.94
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,122,867
population
2022

Trends



39 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



221 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Nebraska

State Statistics

Trends

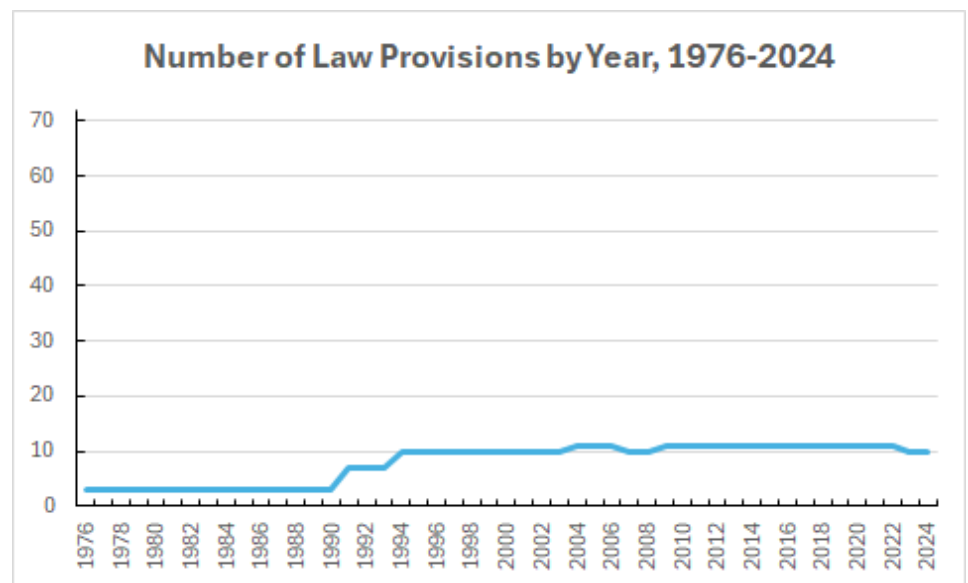
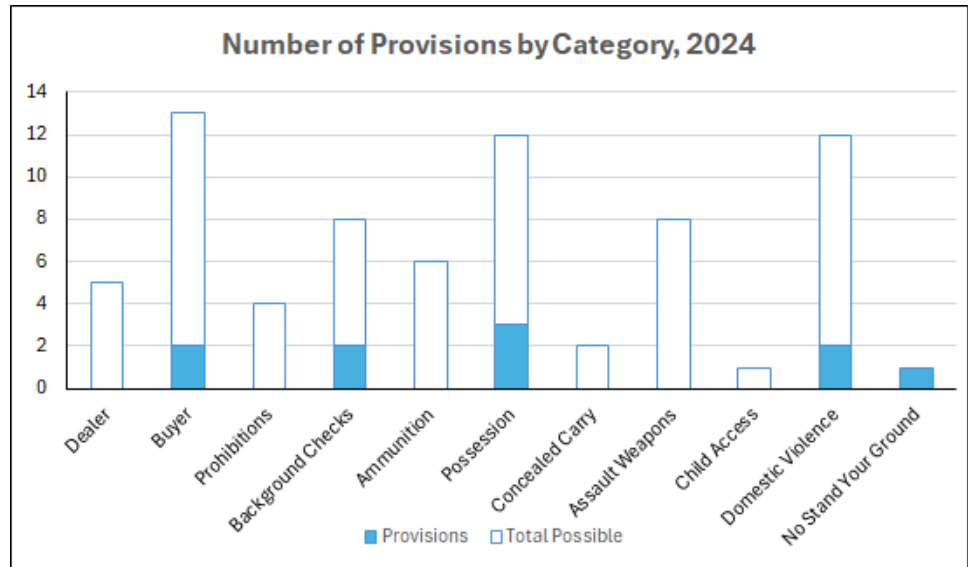
10
firearm laws
2024

2.48
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

9.17
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

18.12
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,967,923
population
2022



48 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



185 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Nevada

State Statistics

Trends

13
firearm laws
2024

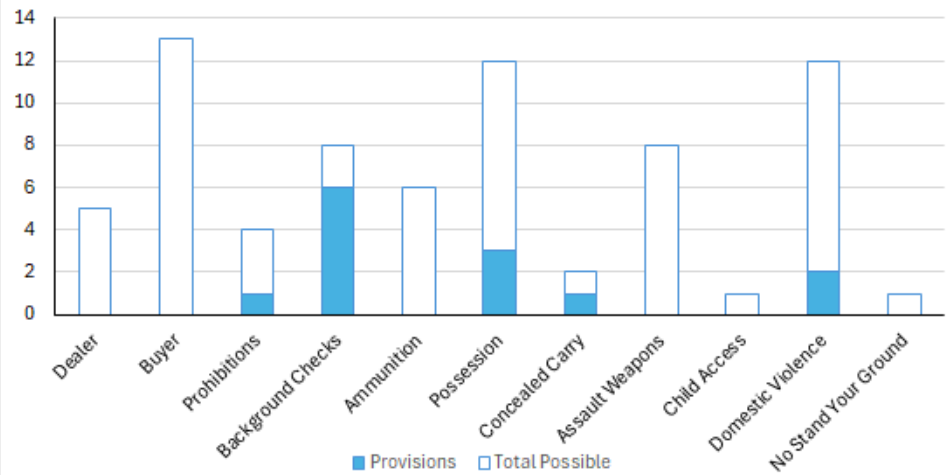
5.83
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

12.51
per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

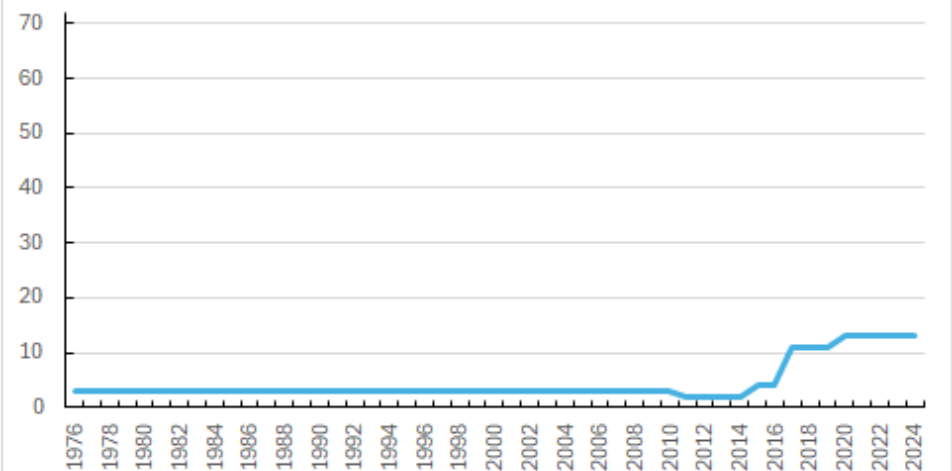
37.32
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

3,177,772
population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



180 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



422 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

New Hampshire

State Statistics

3

firearm laws
2024

1.30

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

8.45

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

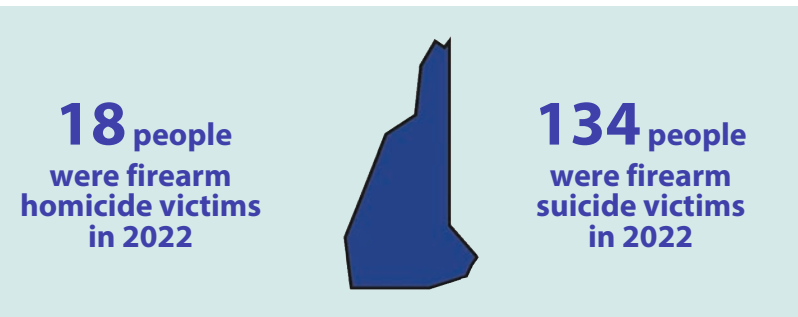
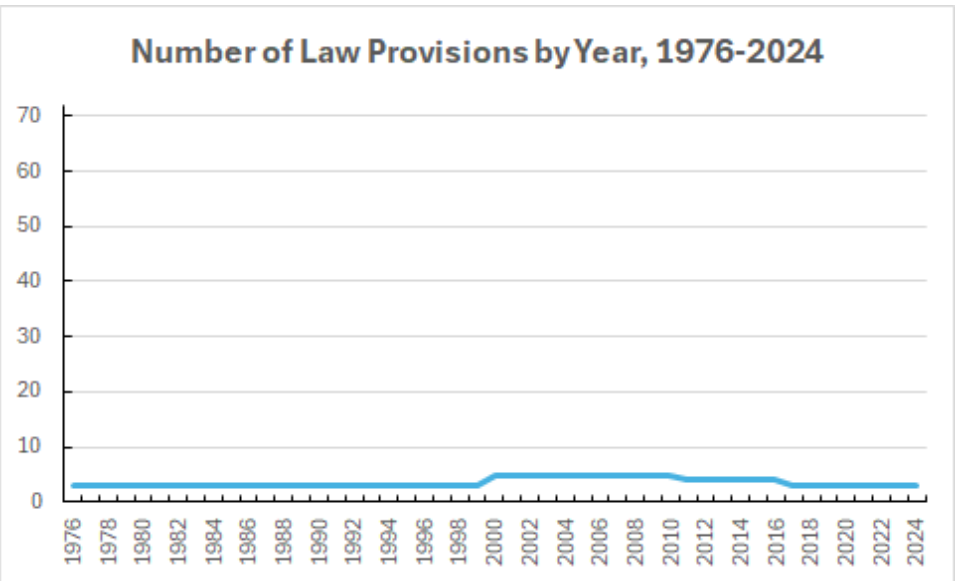
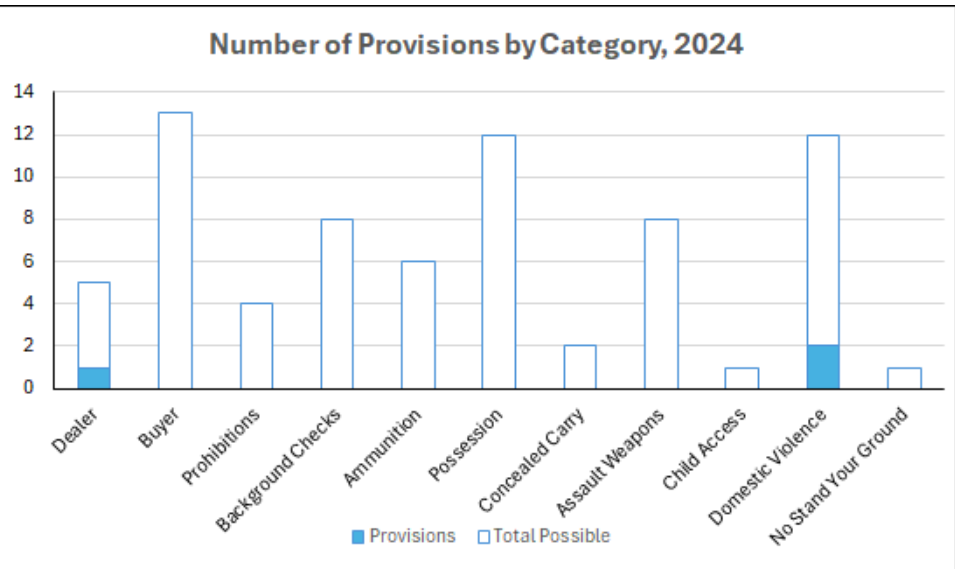
8.71

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,395,231

population
2022

Trends



New Jersey

State Statistics

Trends

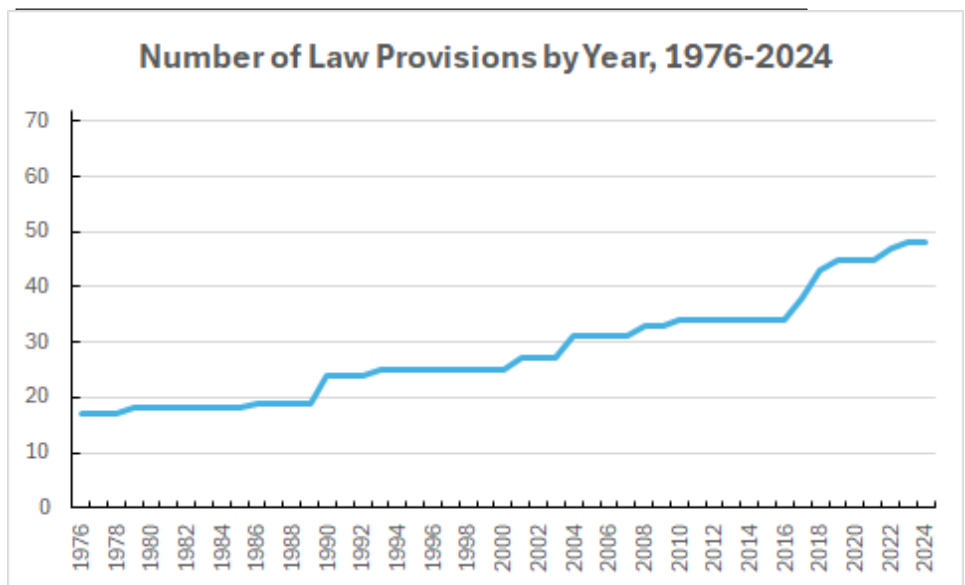
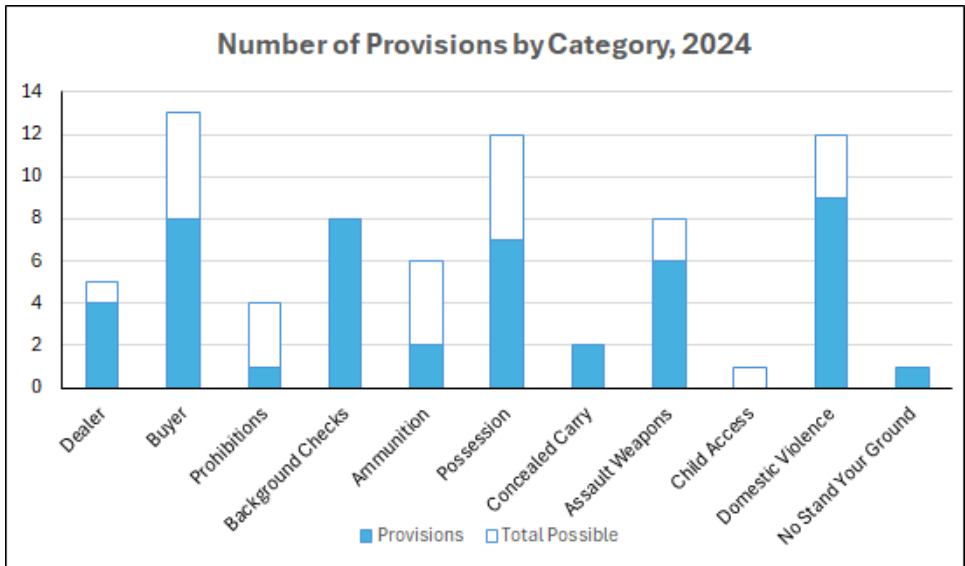
48
firearm laws
2024

2.74
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

2.21
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

15.52
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

9,261,699
population
2022



235 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



229 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

New Mexico

State Statistics

Trends

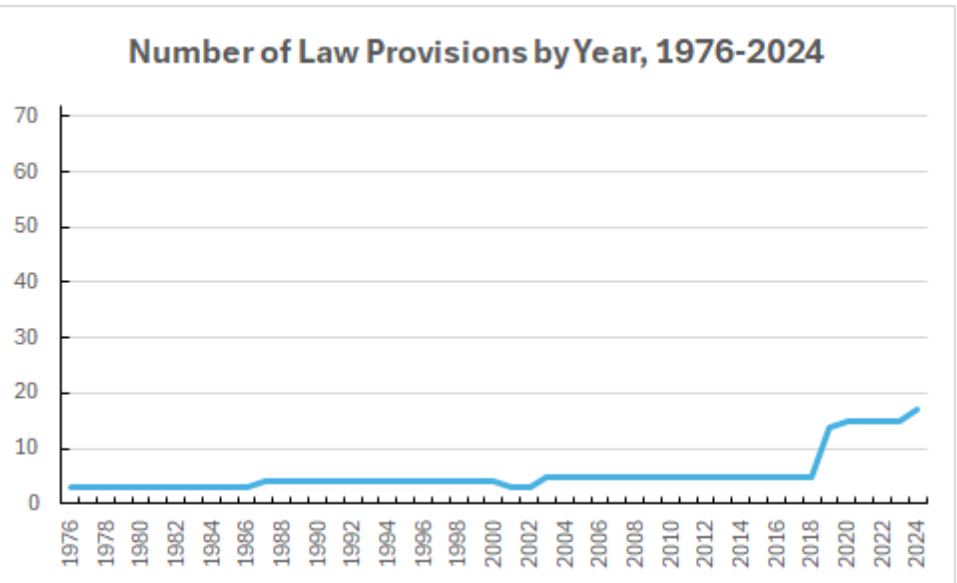
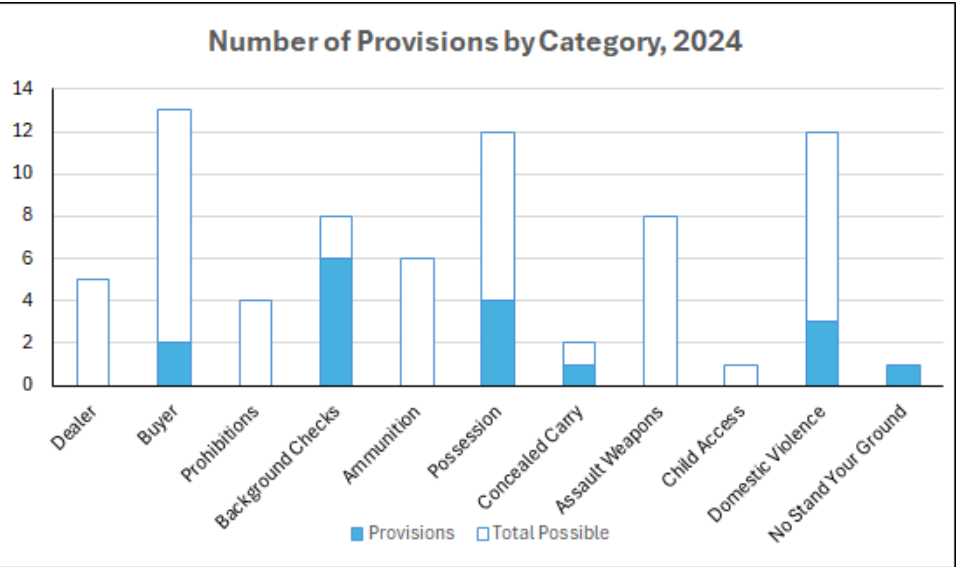
17
firearm laws
2024

11.25
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

13.74
per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

42.10
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

2,113,344
population
2015



218 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



306 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

New York

State Statistics

Trends

47
firearm laws
2024

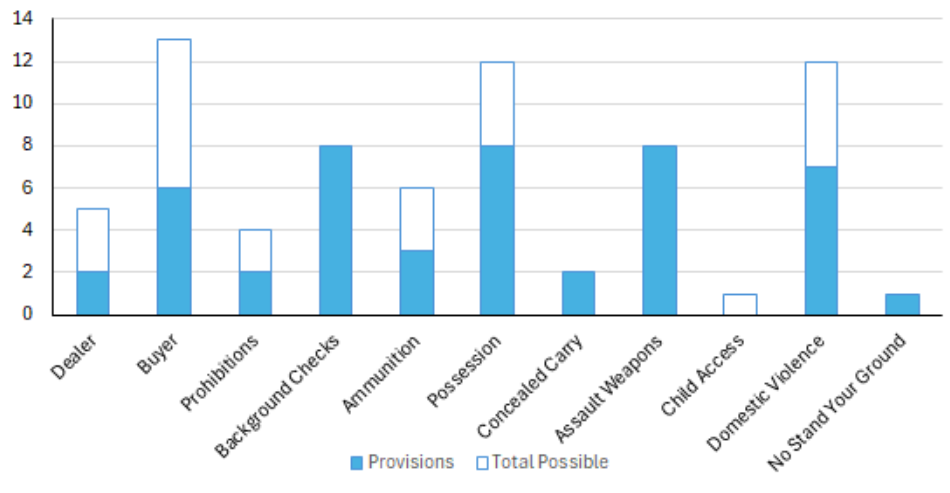
2.87
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

2.28
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

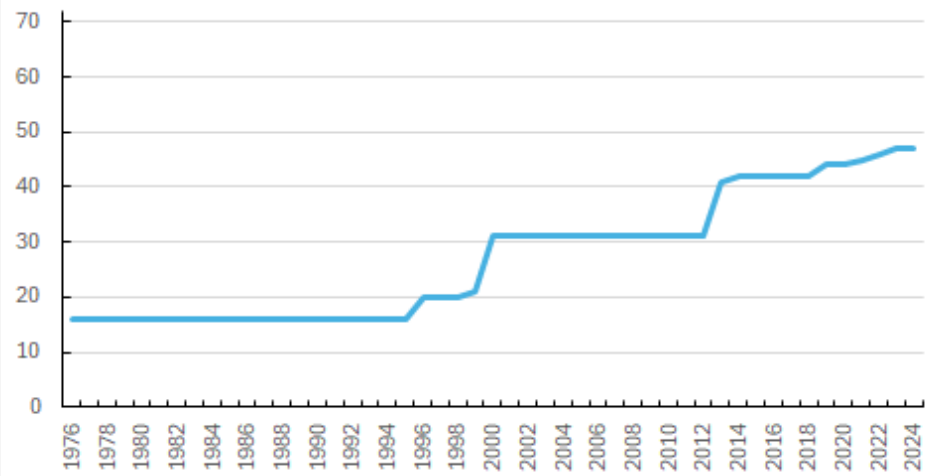
13.13
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

19,677,151
population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



528 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



492 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

North Carolina

State Statistics

8

firearm laws
2024

7.60

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

8.59

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

33.16

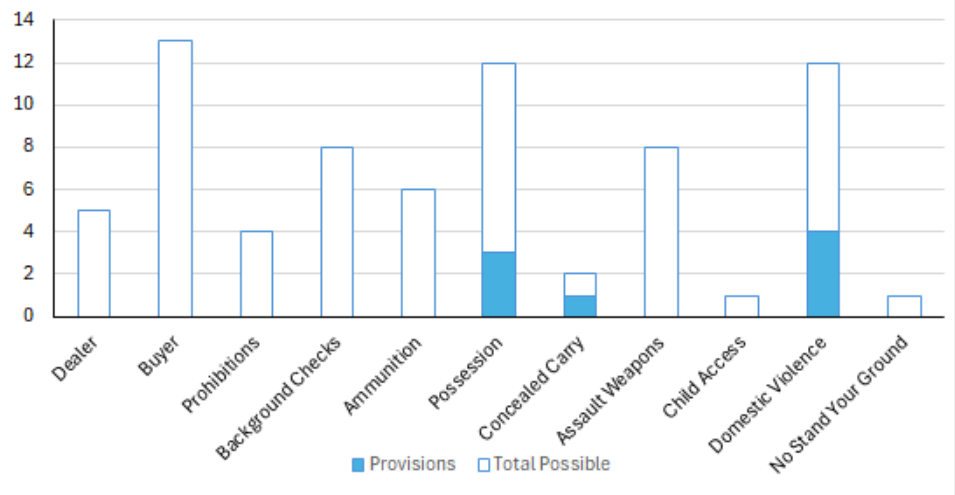
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

10,698,973

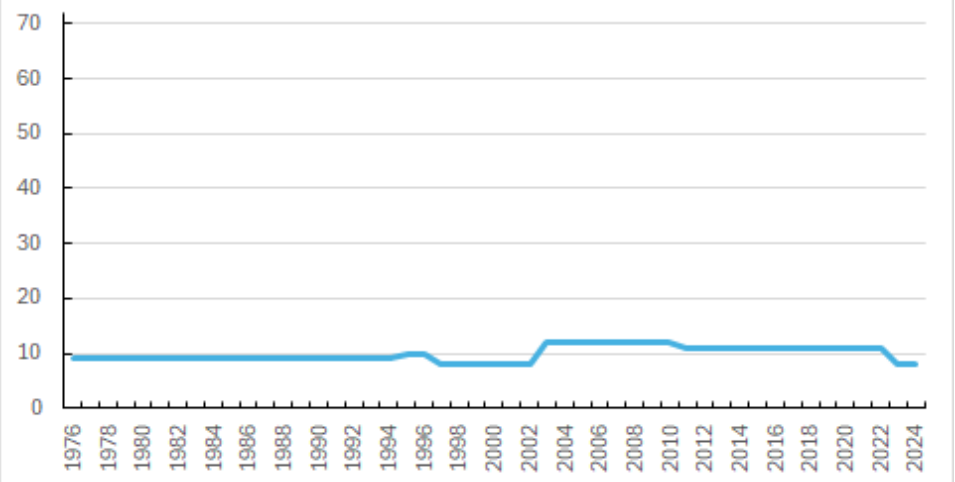
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



781 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



992 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

North Dakota

State Statistics

Trends

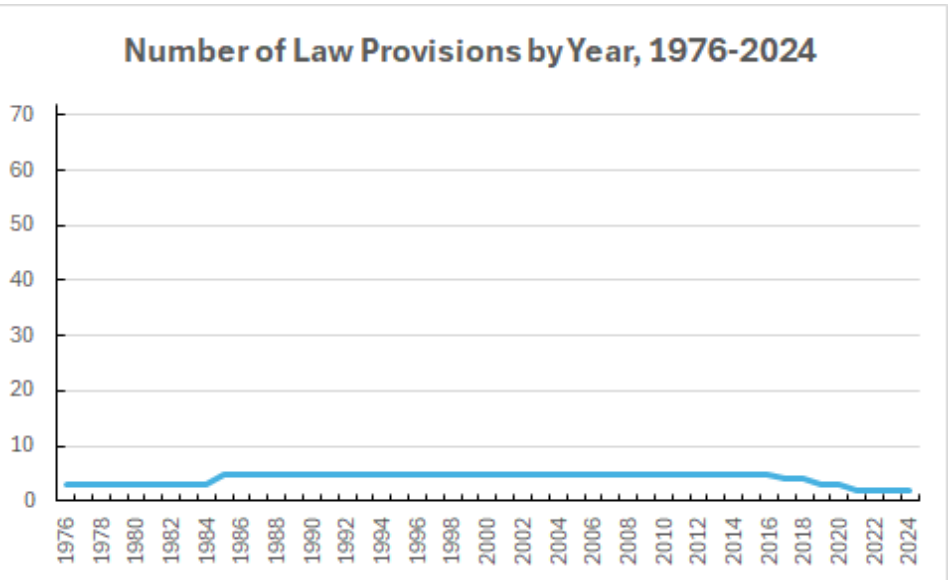
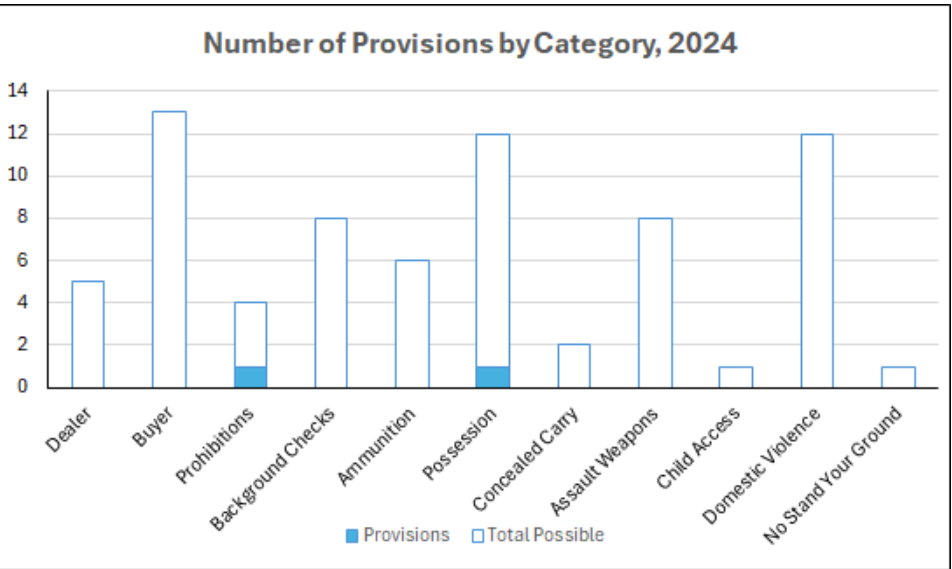
2
firearm laws
2024

2.14
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

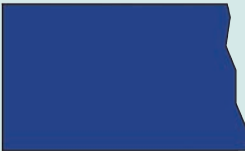
13.63
per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

24.09
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

779,261
population
2022



17 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



104 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

As of February 22, 2017, a permit is no longer required to carry a concealed firearm.

* too low to report

Ohio

State Statistics

Trends

4

firearm laws
2024

6.80

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

8.41

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

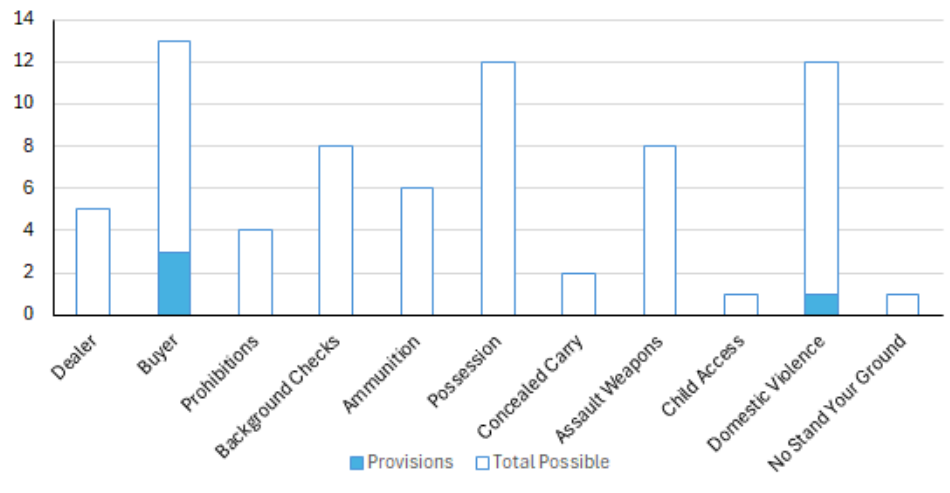
30.47

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

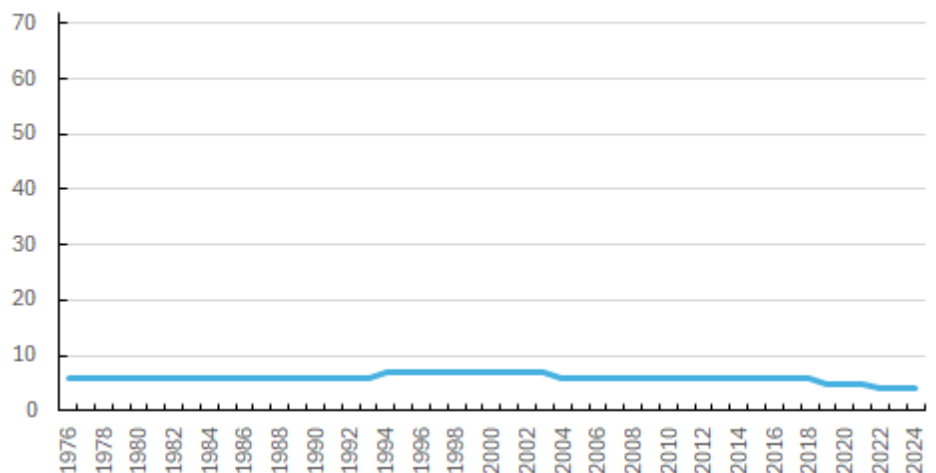
11,756,058

population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



738 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



1,046 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Oklahoma

State Statistics

3

firearm laws
2024

6.39

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

12.98

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

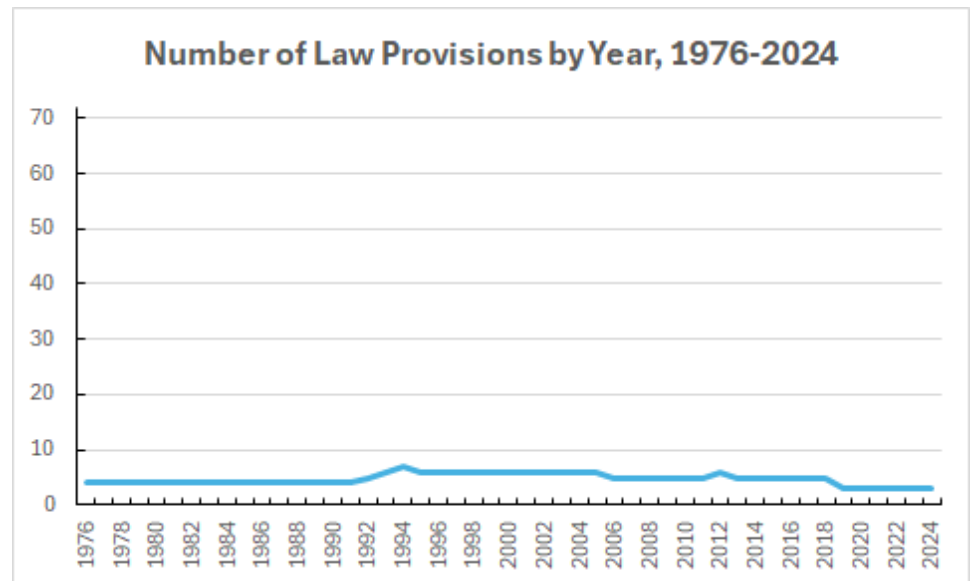
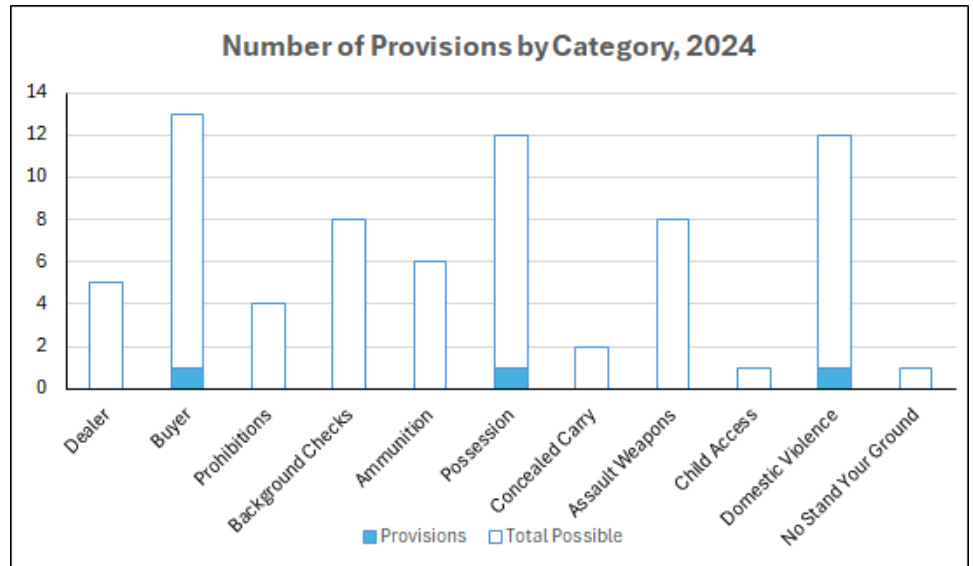
36.51

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

4,019,800

population
2022

Trends



240 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



539 people
were firearm
suicide victims in
2022

Oregon

State Statistics

22

firearm laws
2024

3.76

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.07

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

9.95

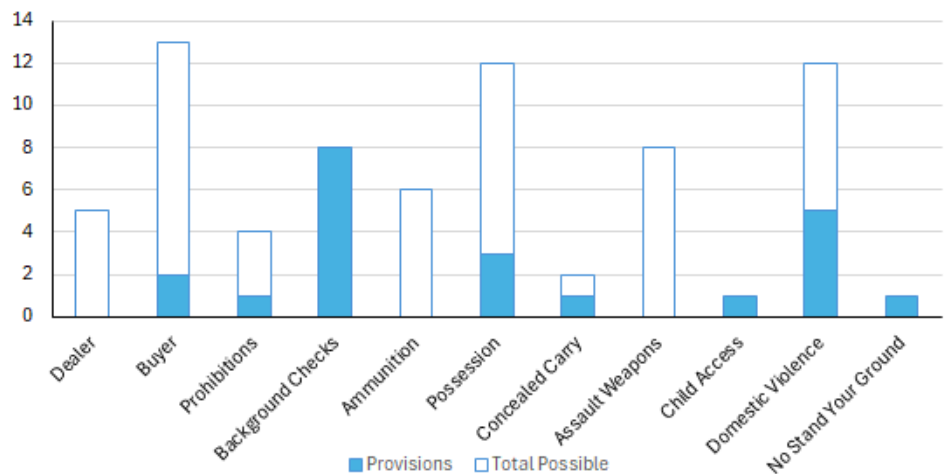
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

4,240,137

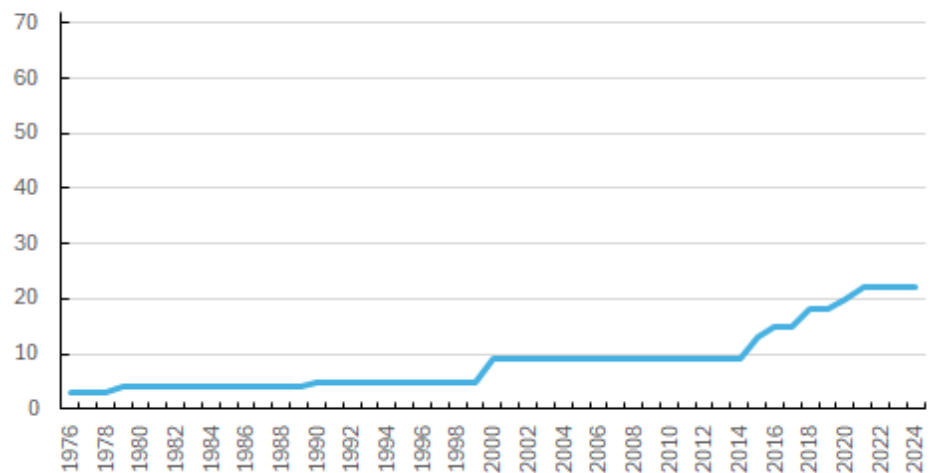
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



155 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



477 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Pennsylvania

State Statistics

20
firearm laws
2024

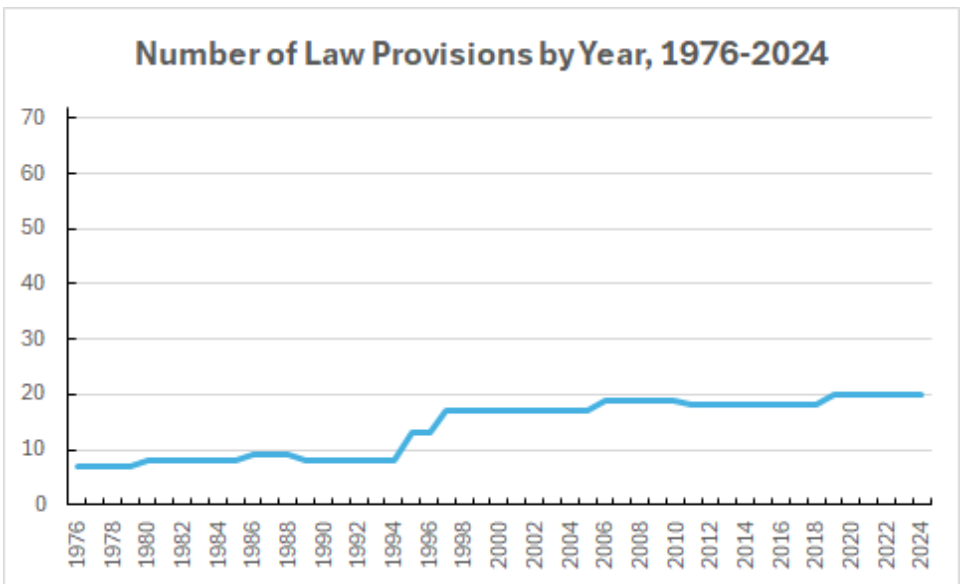
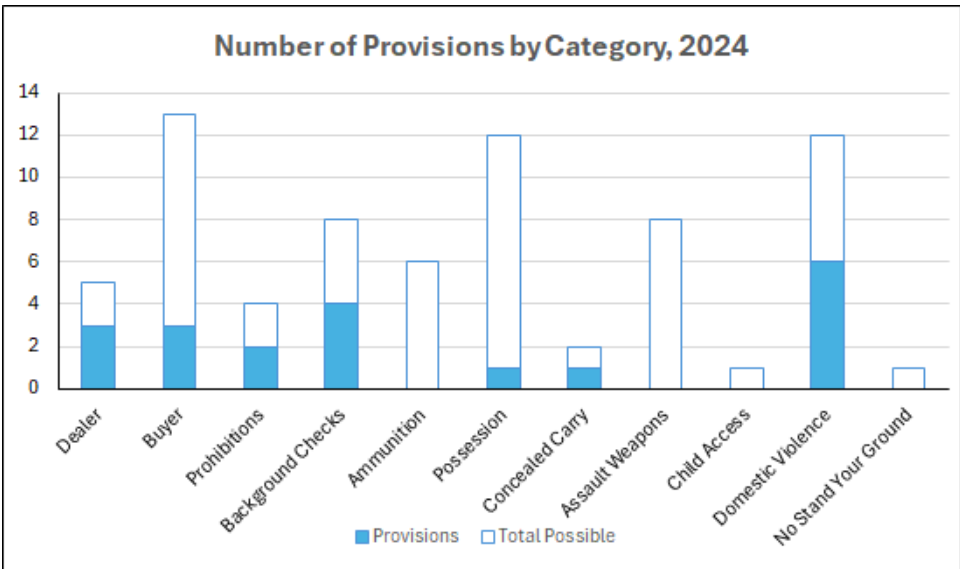
6.98
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

7.38
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

23.88
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

12,972,008
population
2022

Trends



834 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



1,060 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Rhode Island

State Statistics

39
firearm laws
2024

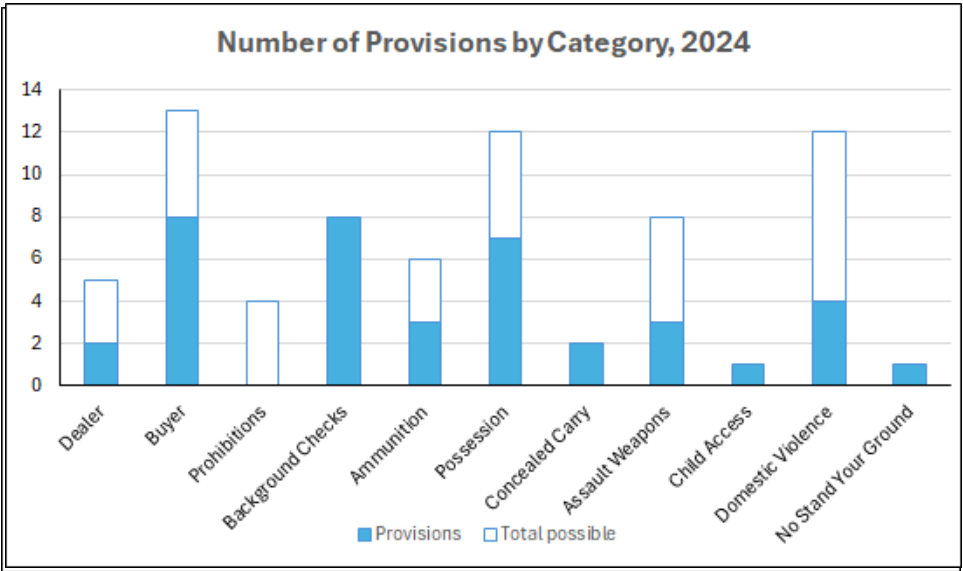
1.36
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

1.79
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

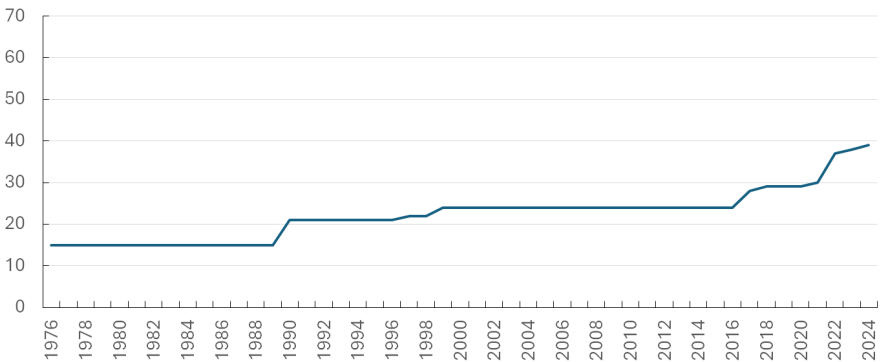
12.74
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,093,734
population
2022

Trends



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



14 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



23 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

South Carolina

State Statistics

4

firearm laws
2024

9.95

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.04

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

35.43

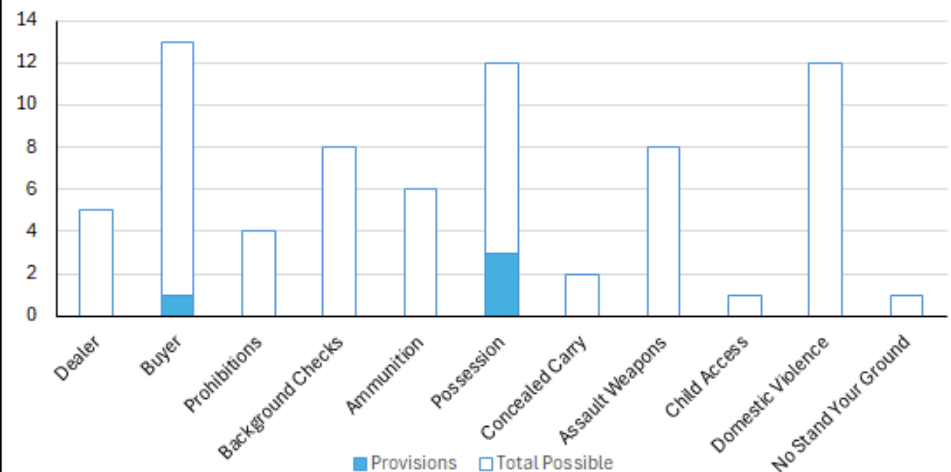
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

5,282,634

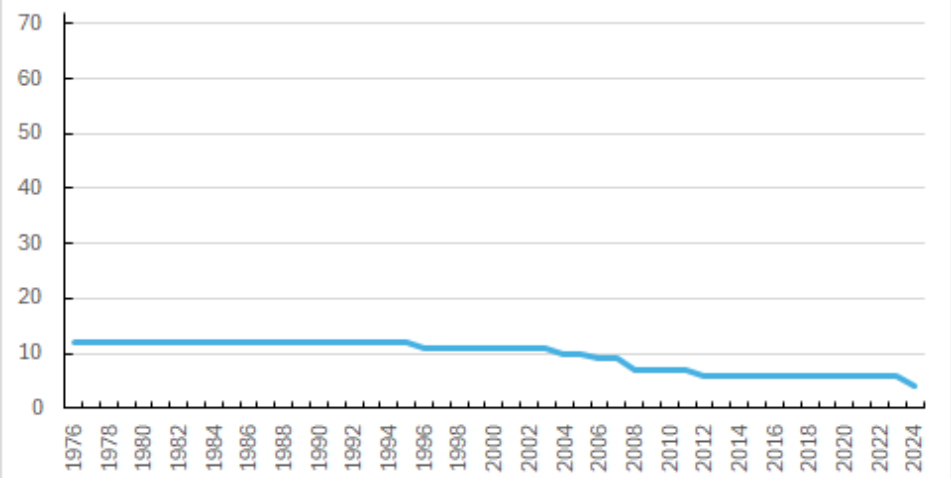
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



494 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



570 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

South Dakota

State Statistics

2

firearm laws
2024

3.22

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.72

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

34.15

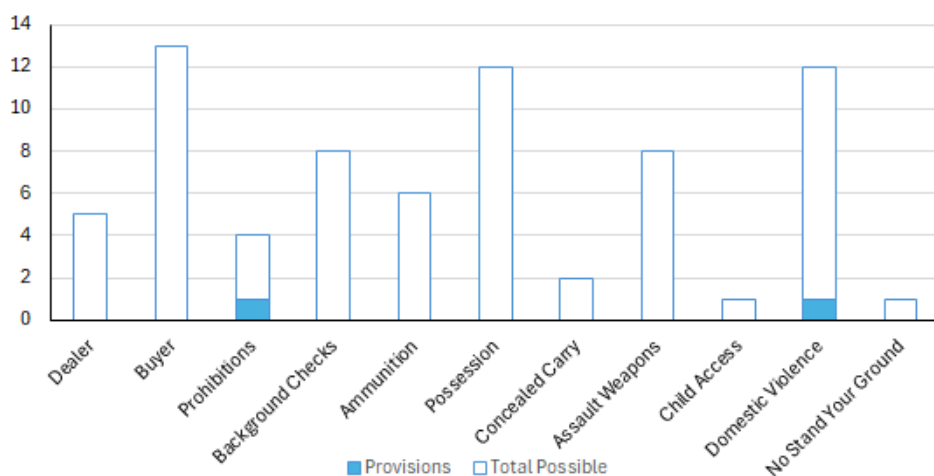
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

909,824

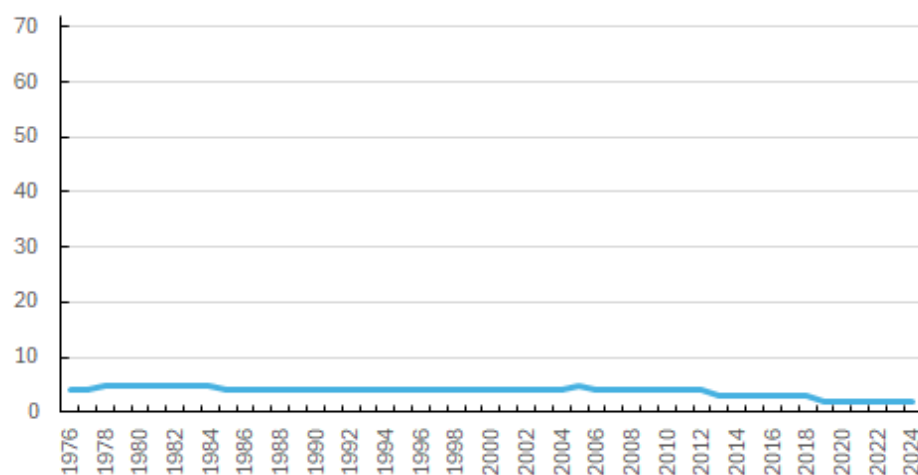
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



27 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



99 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Tennessee

State Statistics

Trends

5

firearm laws
2024

9.15

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.80

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

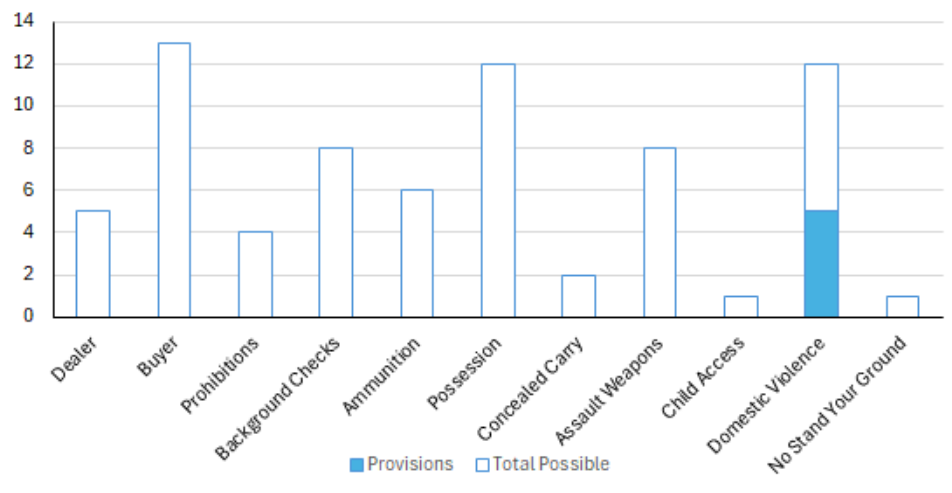
33.06

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

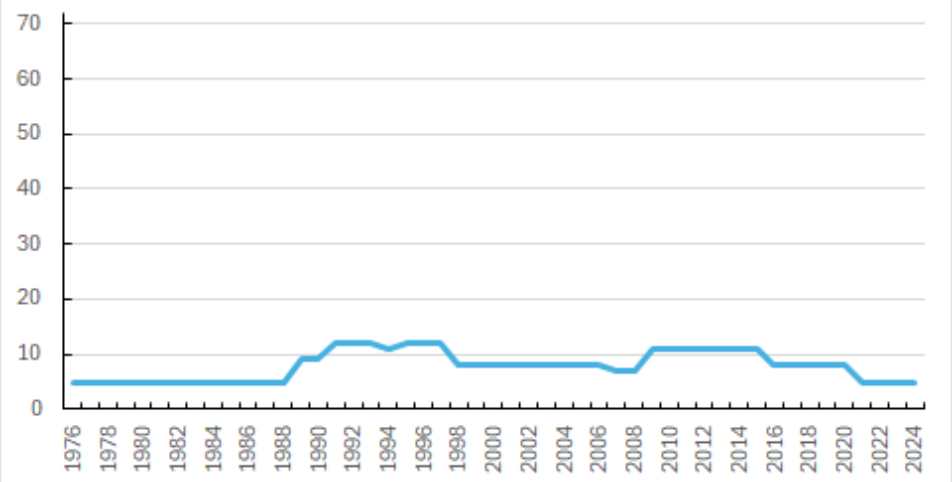
7,051,339

population
2022

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



609

people
were
firearm
homicide victims
in 2022

833 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Texas

State Statistics

Trends

5

firearm laws
2024

6.06

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

8.67

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

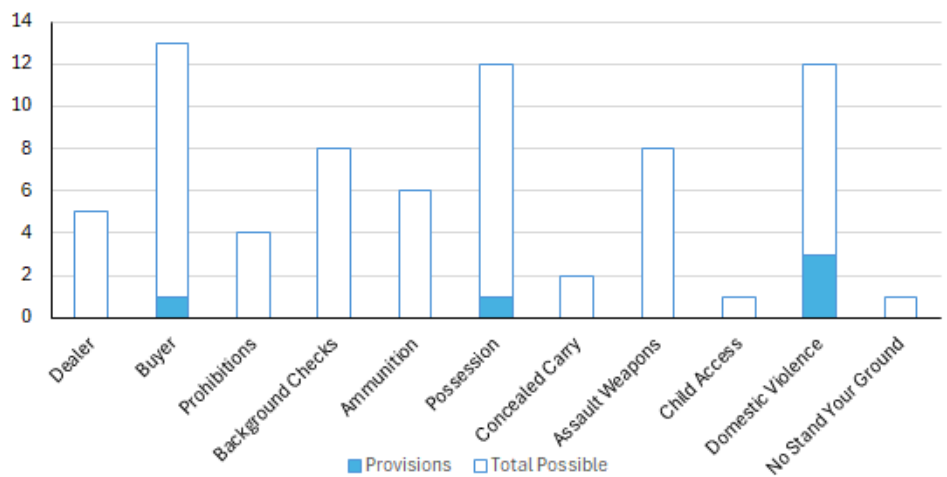
32.41

per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

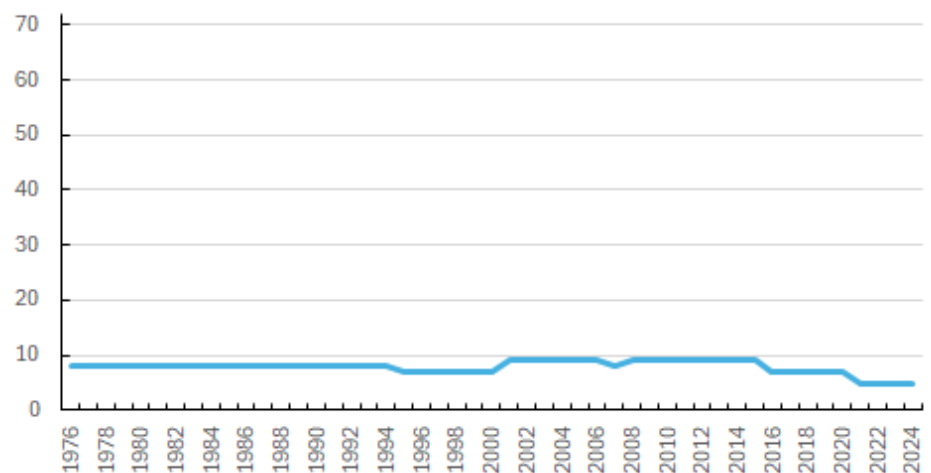
30,029,572

population
2022

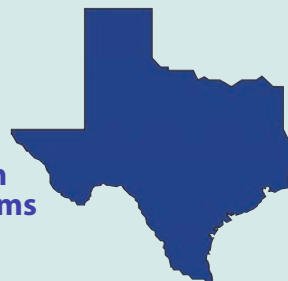
Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



1,826
people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



2,644
people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Utah

State Statistics

3

firearm laws
2024

1.41

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

11.77

per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

10.61

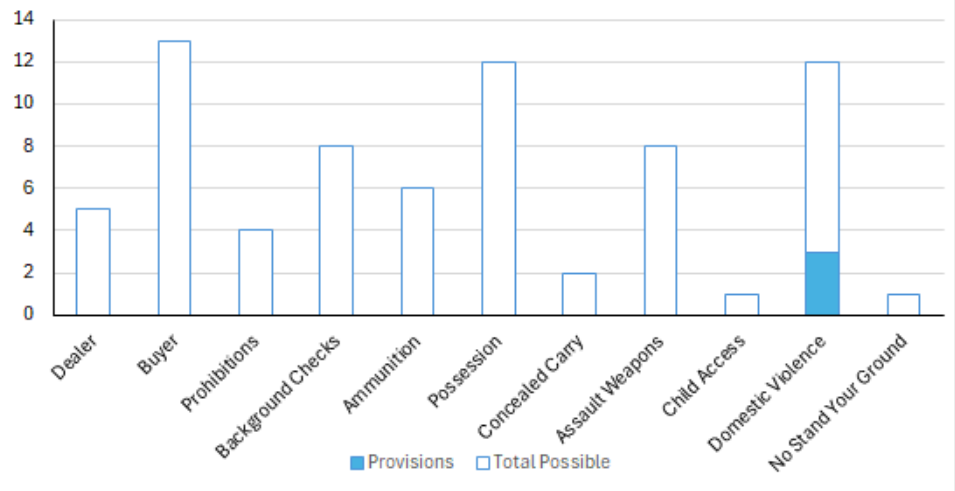
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

3,380,800

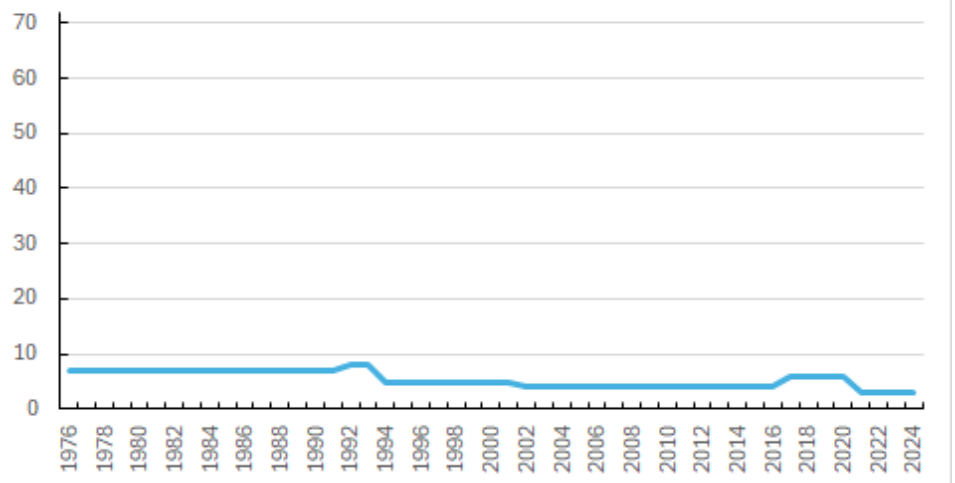
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



48 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



382 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Vermont

State Statistics

Trends

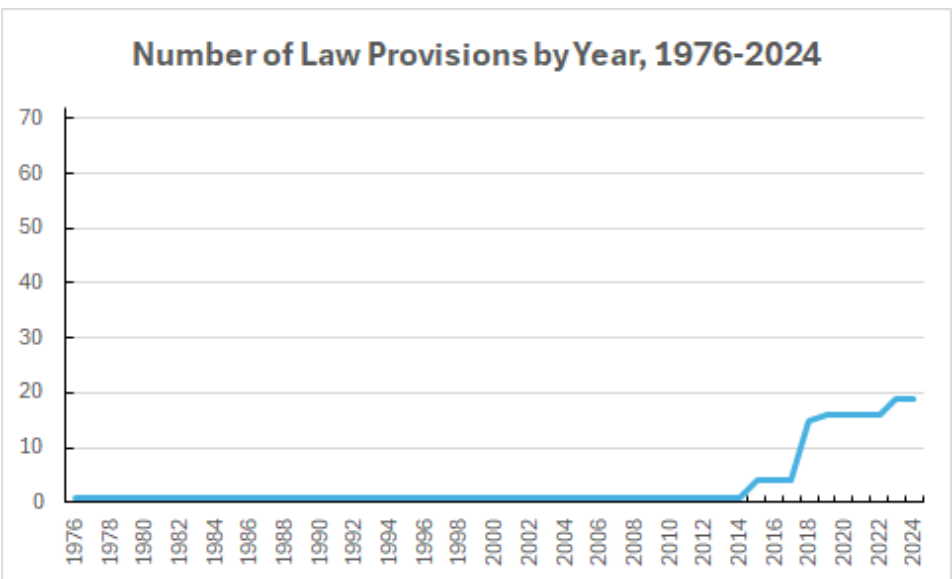
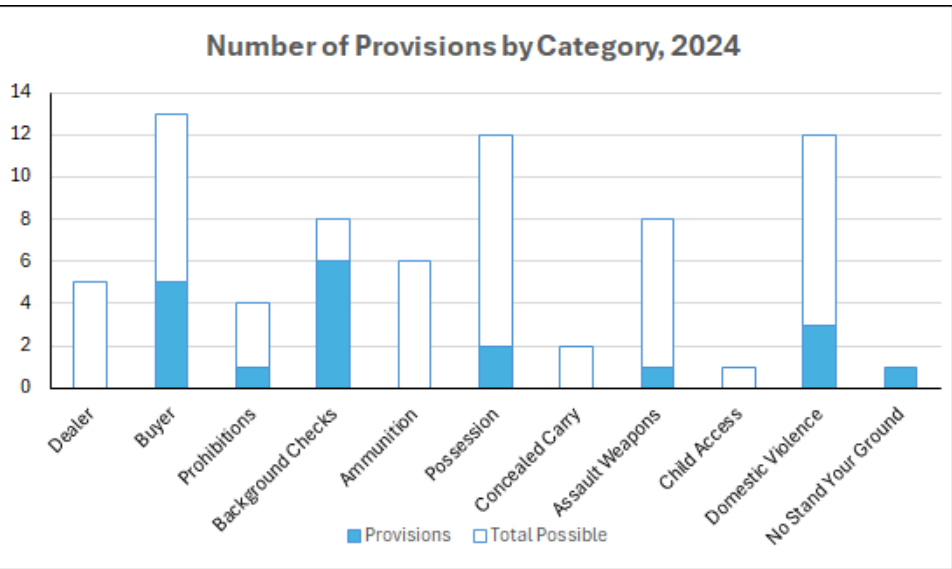
19
firearm laws
2024

2.38
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

9.23
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

13.47
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

647,064
population
2022



13 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



69 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Virginia

State Statistics

16
firearm laws
2024

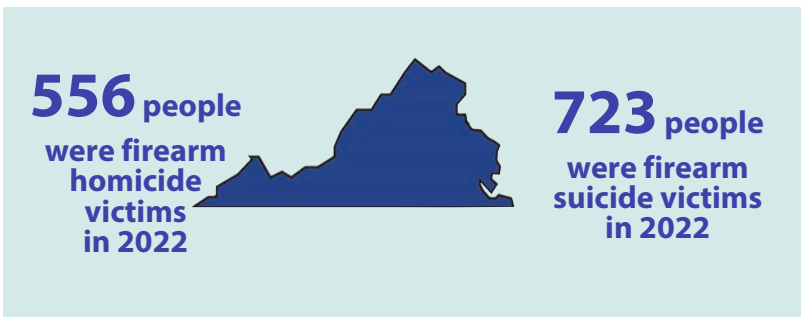
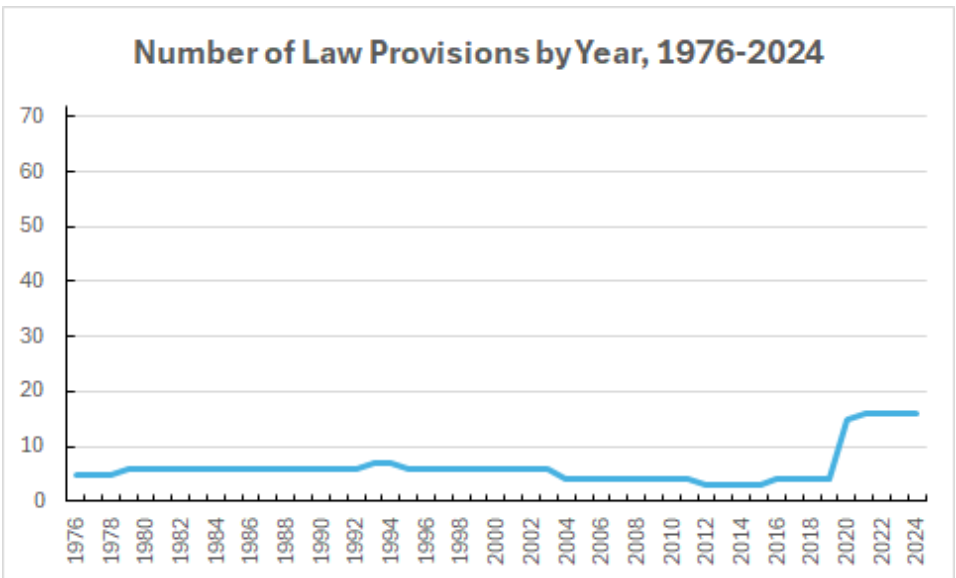
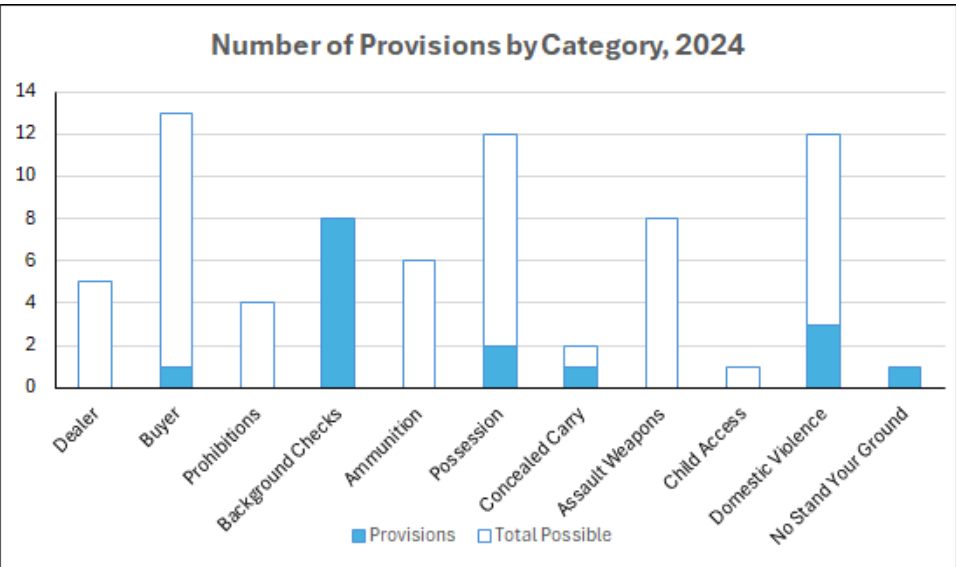
6.66
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

7.74
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

24.20
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

8,683,619
population
2022

Trends



Washington

State Statistics

40
firearm laws
2024

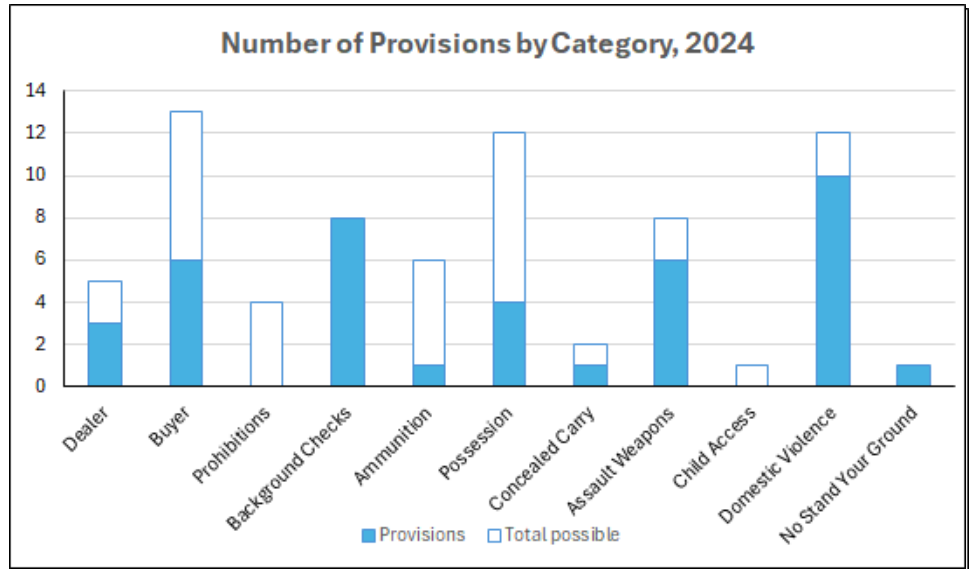
4.06
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

7.75
per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

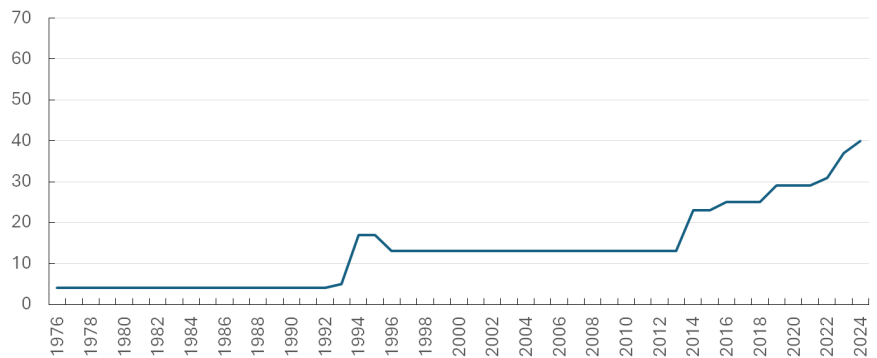
11.09
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

7,785,786
population
2022

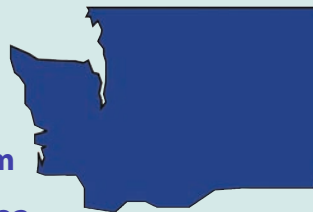
Trends



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



313
people
were firearm
homicide
victims in 2022



665 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

West Virginia

State Statistics

Trends

9
firearm laws
2024

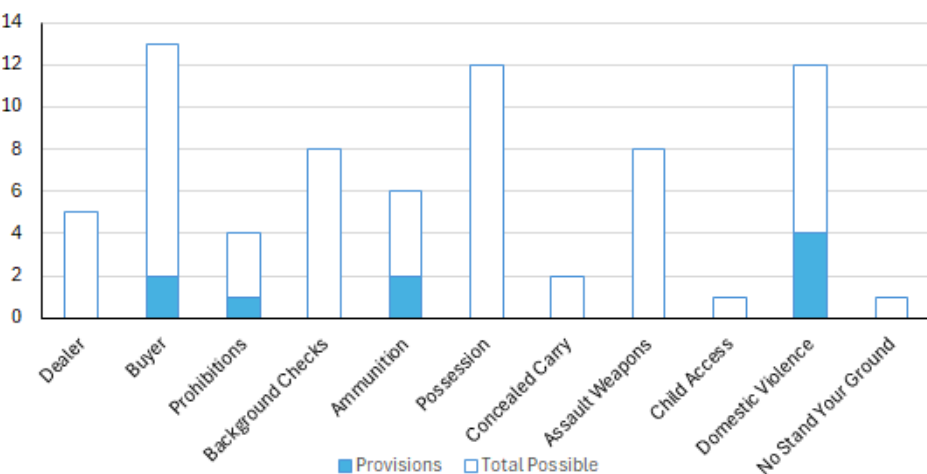
5.05
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

10.839
per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

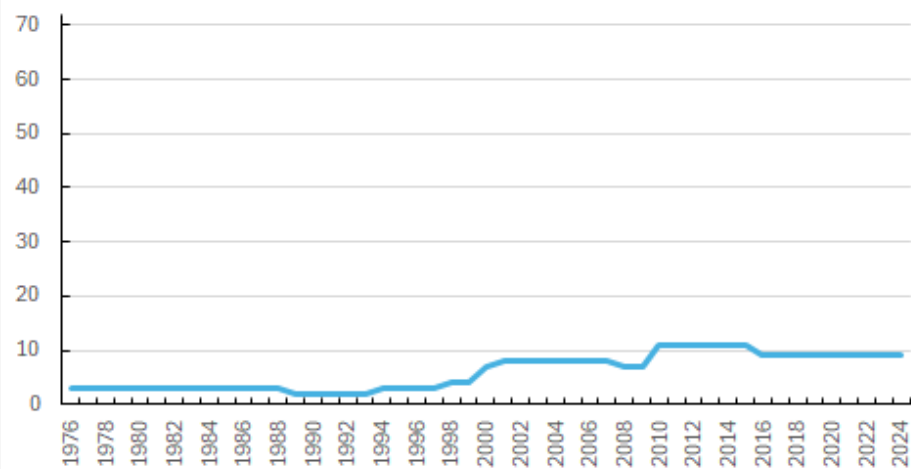
41.85
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

1,775,156
population
2022

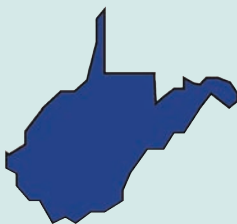
Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



81 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



223 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Wisconsin

State Statistics

8

firearm laws
2024

5.12

per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

8.44

per 100,000
firearm suicide rate
2022

18.86

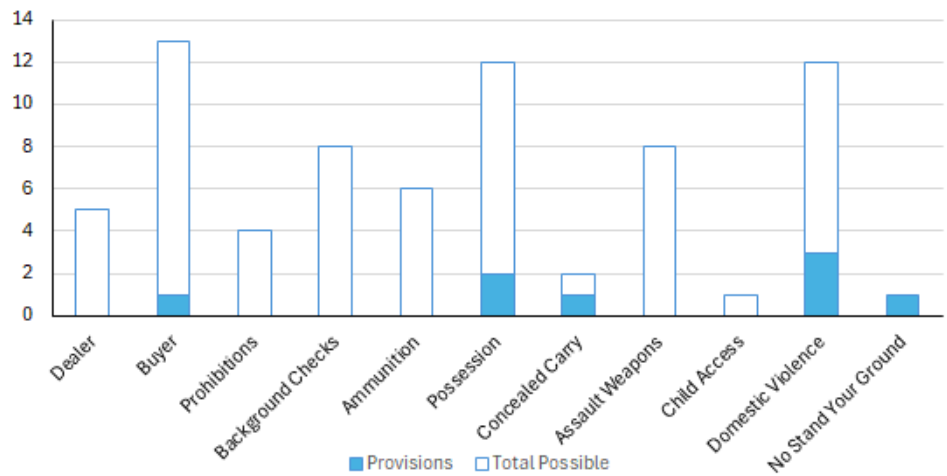
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

5,892,539

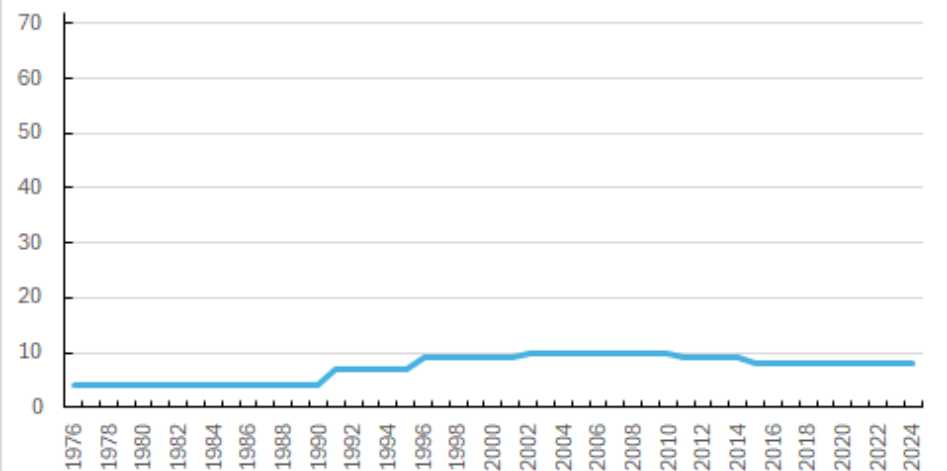
population
2022

Trends

Number of Provisions by Category, 2024



Number of Law Provisions by Year, 1976-2024



277 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



529 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022

Wyoming

State Statistics

4
firearm laws
2024

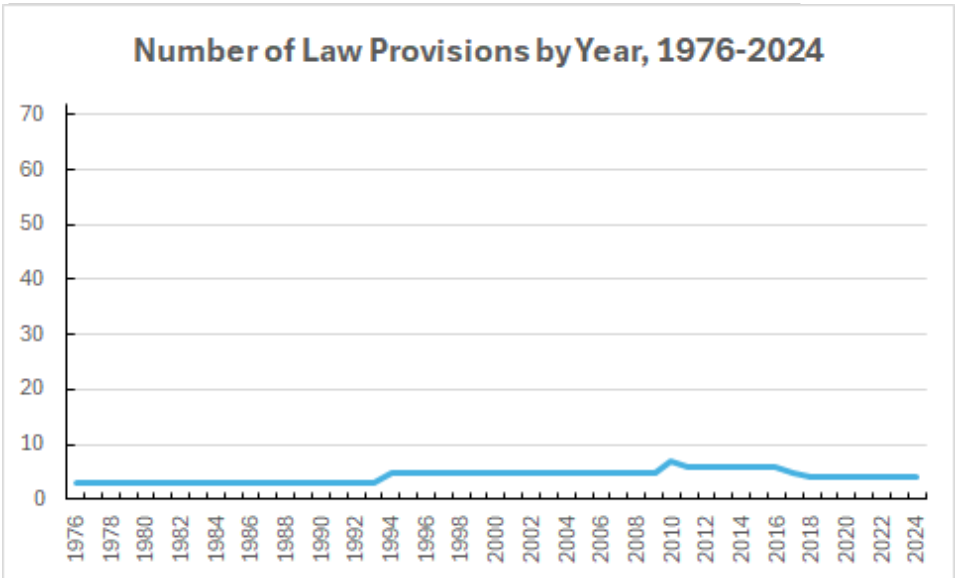
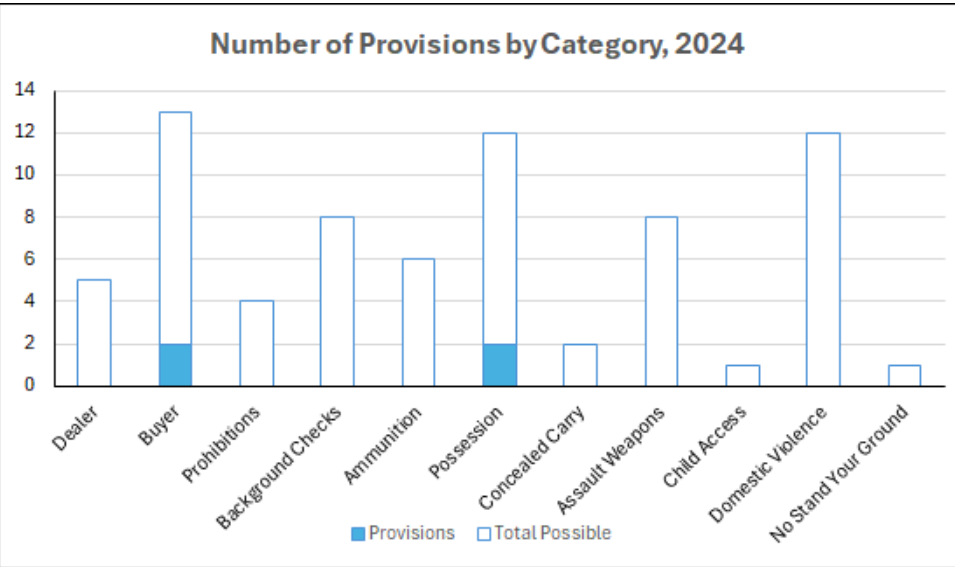
2.59
per 100,000
firearm homicide rate
2022

16.57
per 100,000 firearm
suicide rate
2022

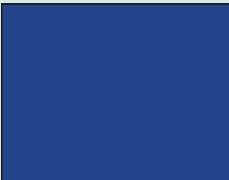
15.71
per 100,000
nonfatal firearm injury rate
2020

581,381
population
2022

Trends



14 people
were firearm
homicide victims
in 2022



104 people
were firearm
suicide victims
in 2022