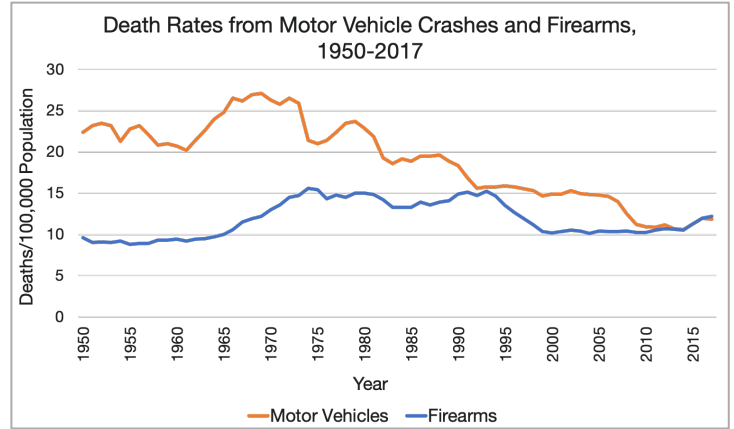


## A Few Myths and Facts about Firearm Violence

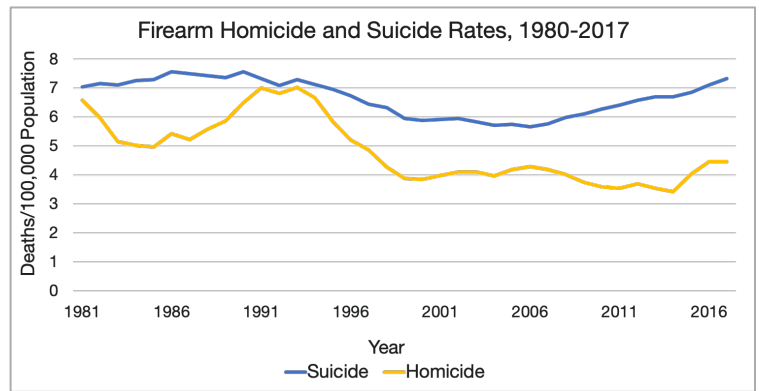
**Myth:** Many more Americans die from motor vehicle crashes than from firearms.

**Fact:** In recent years, death rates from motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) and firearms have been nearly equal and in 2017, deaths from firearms exceeded deaths from MVCs. The attention of health officials and policymakers resulted in the substantial decline in deaths from MVCs over several decades.



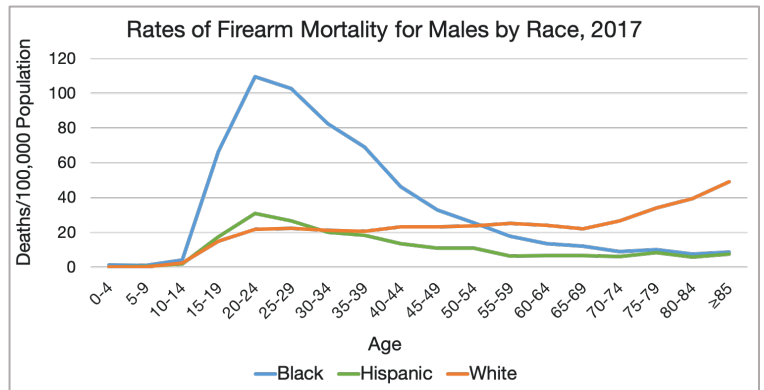
**Myth:** Firearm violence is just a crime problem.

**Fact:** In recent years, firearm suicides have greatly outnumbered firearm homicides in the US (23,854 firearm suicides compared with 14,542 firearm homicides in the US in 2017). Rates of firearm suicide and homicide vary widely between demographic groups and between geographic areas. For example, suicide rates are higher in rural areas and homicide rates are higher in urban areas.



**Myth:** Firearm violence is just a young man's problem.

**Fact:** Firearm homicide rates are far higher for young men than for others (above 100 per 100,000 persons per year for African-American men ages 20-29). But beginning just after age 40, the mortality rate from firearm suicide exceeds that for firearm homicide among men. Firearms are also a notable cause of death for women, particularly where intimate partner violence is concerned.



**Myth:** Mass shootings and mental illness are the problem.

**Fact:** Nationwide, public mass shootings account for less than 1% of deaths from firearms. Mental illness, by itself, accounts for less than 5% of interpersonal violence. Substance abuse and personal history of violence are more important risk factors. Mental illness, however, accounts for 44% to 74% of suicides.

