

A photograph of a gun store with various firearms displayed on a wooden wall. A white text box is overlaid in the center. The store has a wooden slat wall with several rifles and handguns mounted on it. A price tag for \$3,499.95 is visible on the right side. A yellow warning sign is also present. Below the wall, there are shelves with boxes of ammunition.

**GUN CONTROL IN
THE UNITED STATES**

BridgeND Feb 13 2018

Just Some Numbers...

About 300 million guns in U.S. (population is about 325 million)

According to the **Congressional Research Service**, as of 2009 there were roughly twice as many guns per capita in the United States as there were in 1968

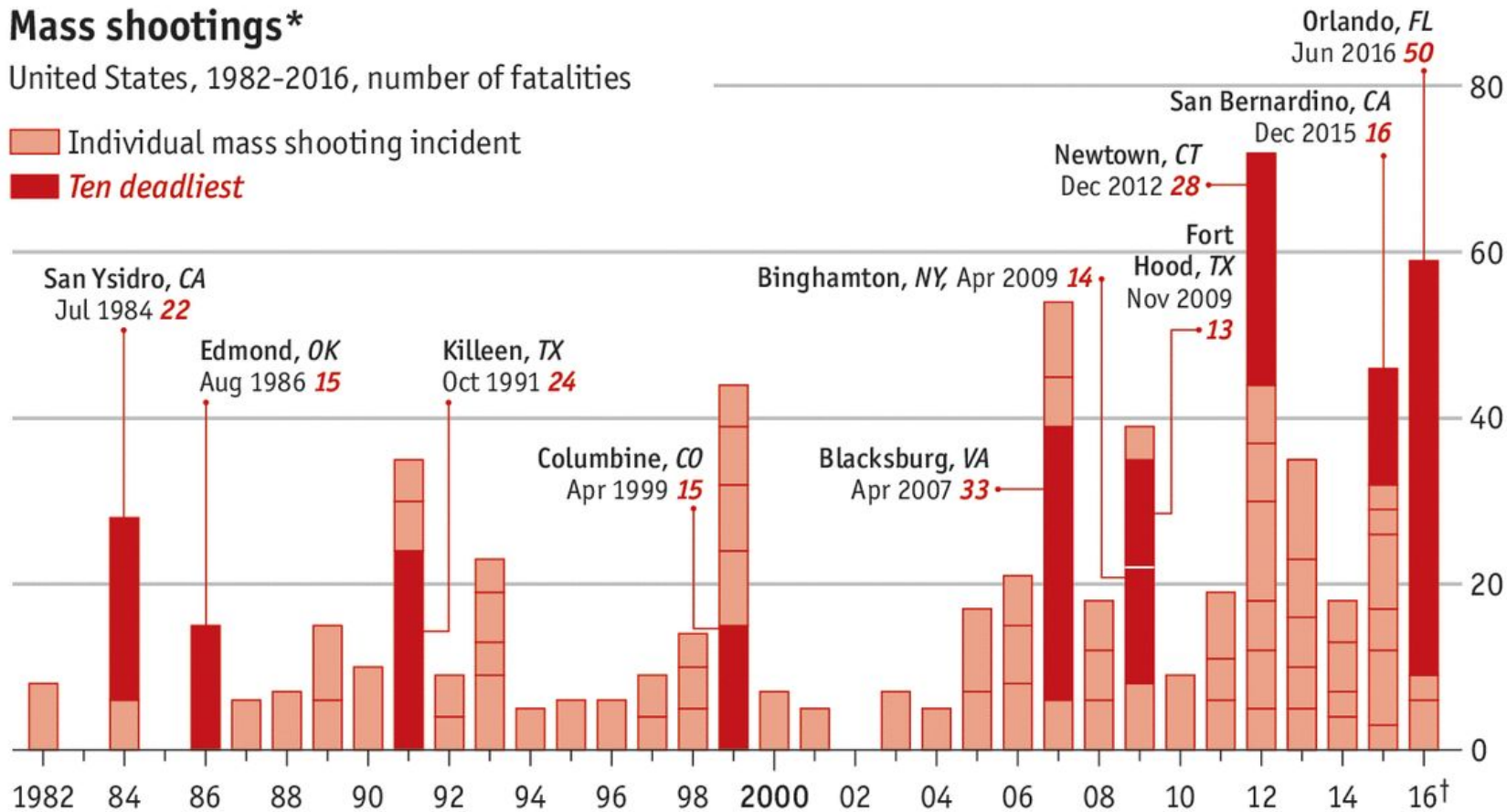
Guns per 100 residents:	1) U.S.*	101
	2) Saudi Arabia	35
	3) France*	31.2
	4) Canada*	30.8
	5) Germany*	30.3
	6) Switzerland	24.45
	7) Italy*	11.9
	8) Spain	10.4
	9) WORLD	10.2
	10) Russia	8.9
	11) Brazil*	8.0
	12) United Kingdom*	6.2
	13) China*	4.9
	14) India*	4.2
	15) Japan*	0.6

Mass shootings*

United States, 1982-2016, number of fatalities

Individual mass shooting incident

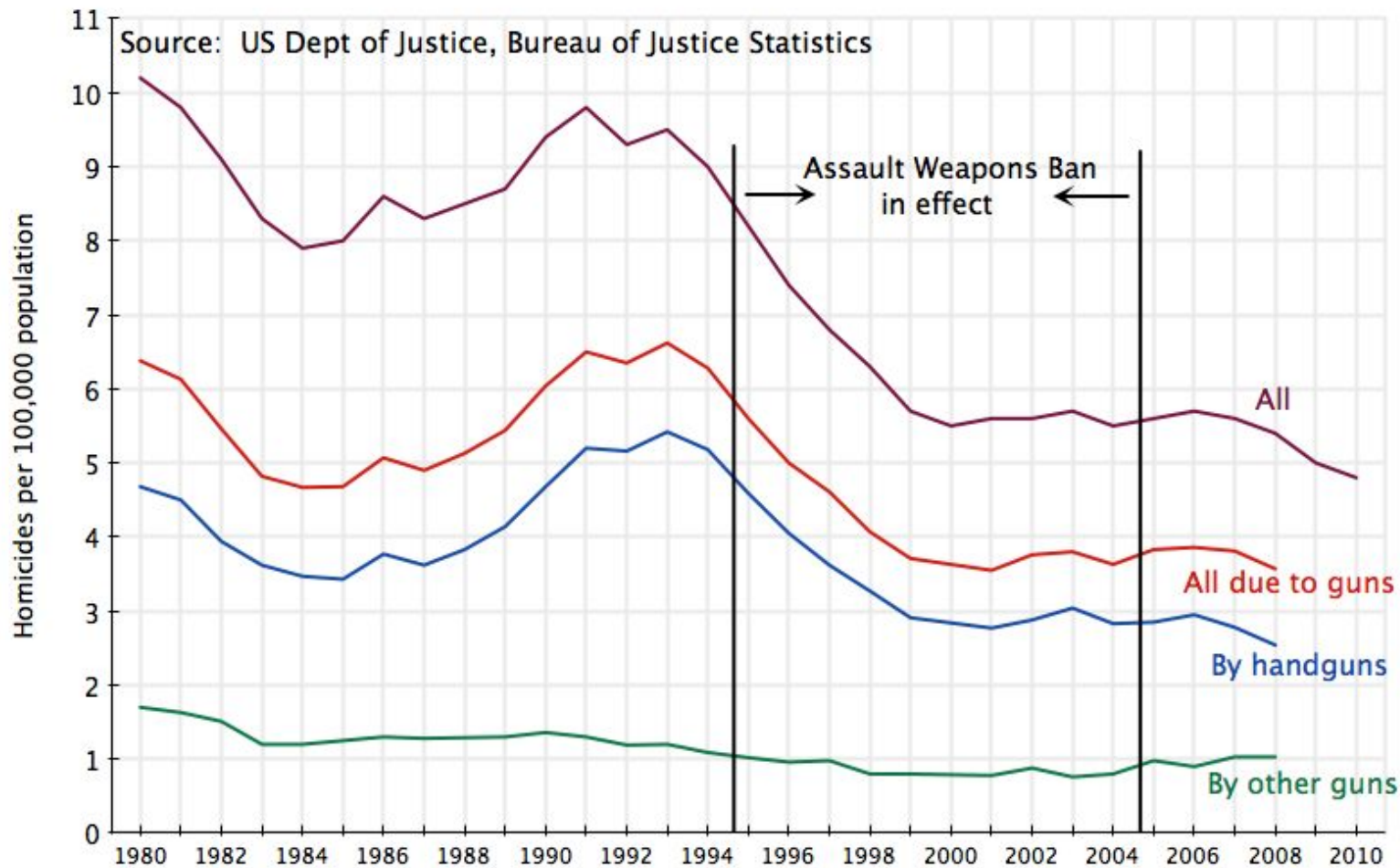
Ten deadliest



Sources: *Mother Jones*; press reports

*Shootings with three or more fatalities. Before January 2013, shootings with four or more fatalities. Not comprehensive †To June 13th

US Homicide Rates, 1980 - 2010



The Second Amendment

“A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

Militia-some non-professional fighting force (in this case, a group of civilians)

Keep and bear arms-hold and carry armed weapons

Infringed-undermined, violated, broken

Well-regulated-Should the guns or gun-owners be regulated/checked/told what to do?

Necessary-What situations constitute necessary?

Free state-What defines a free state?

The Chicago Talking Point

“I think if you look to Chicago, where you had over 4,000 victims of gun-related crimes last year, they have the strictest gun laws in the country. That certainly hasn't helped there.”

-Sarah Huckabee Sanders, White House press secretary to Donald Trump

“What the hell is going on in Chicago? ... You know what's wrong with Chicago? Weak, ineffective politicians. Democrats that don't want to force restrictions and don't, and by the way,

Chicago, for those of you that are gonna say, 'Guns, guns' - Chicago has the toughest gun laws in the United States, okay?”

-President Trump, at a rally in Pensacola, Florida

The Chicago Talking Point: Some More Context

From [NPR](#):

- Chicago did have more than **4,000 shooting victims** in 2016. Gun homicides there **rose by 61 percent** between 2015 and 2016.
- Illinois has tough gun laws (assault weapons ban in Chicago and the rest of Cook County, previously had a handgun ban in city limits, but the law was ruled unconstitutional). **California, though, is considered to have tougher laws** (state law requires guns to be safely locked away in homes with young children).
- Wisconsin and Indiana have relatively weak gun laws (neither requires a license or permit to purchase a gun, and there is no waiting period)
 - **A 2015 study found that 60 percent of new guns used in Chicago gang-related crimes and 31.6 percent used in non-gang related crimes were brought in from other states.**

Conservative Solutions to the Gun Issue

- Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pennsylvania, who is also a career psychologist) and Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) have **argued for improvements to the mental health care system.**
 - [Their bill](#) aimed to improve treatment for people with issues like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and increase the number of beds for psychiatric patients. More people would thus be entered into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and be unable to purchase guns.
- [Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz](#) have argued for **increased support for law enforcement** who might be able to stop potential killers (through spotting warning signs that could lead to further investigation). Graham has said “I don’t think this is a problem a law is going to fix by itself.”

Discussion Questions

1. **Is gun crime getting better or worse in the U.S.?**
2. **Are you content with the current status-quo gun control?**
 - a. **If not, what are ways that gun control policy can improve? Ex. Which guns should be allowed? What age? Licensing?**
3. **Do you think there's a plausible way Chicago can solve its gun/homicide issue considering many weapons that contribute to the problem come from places that Chicago's laws can't regulate (Wisconsin, Indiana, etc.)?**
 - a. **Can you think of issues of similar prominence that have had successful bipartisan/interstate solutions?**
4. **What do you think are the strengths/weaknesses of the different liberal/conservative solutions that have been mentioned?**
 - a. **Are there any other ideas you have/know about that you think could be effective in saving lives?**