

Preventing Firearm Injury

The Role of Evidence-Based Research

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RESEARCH
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Diverse Perspectives, Common Goals

To decrease injuries and deaths by firearm



Democrat



Hunter



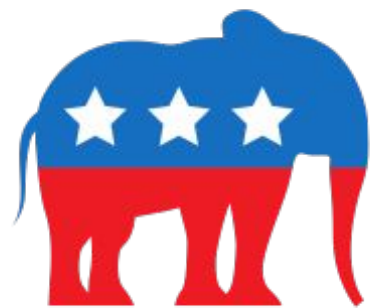
High-school Student



Parent



Neighborhood Watch Leader



Republican



Law Enforcement



Teacher



Grandparent



Business Owner

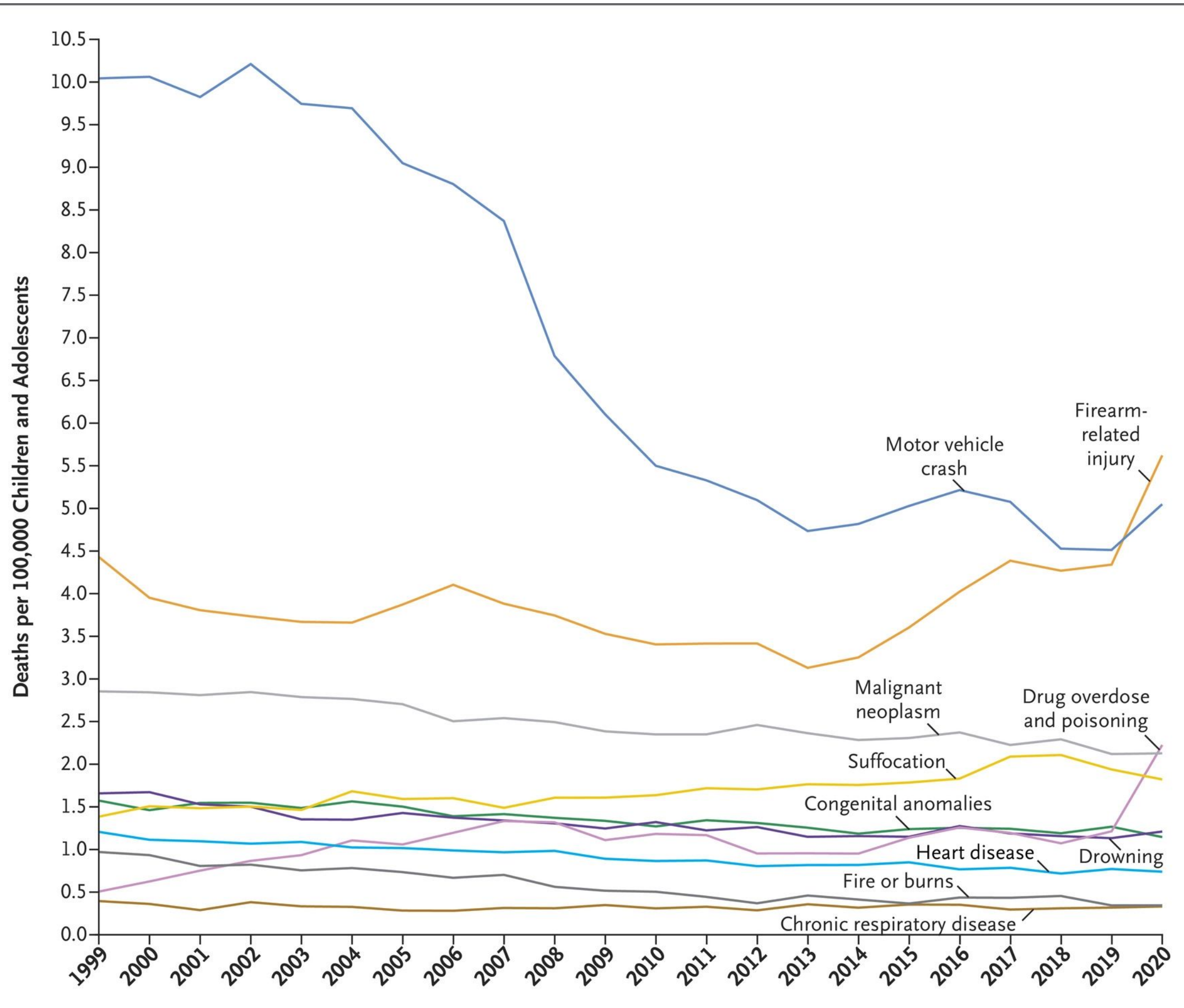
What We Know

Leading Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the U.S.

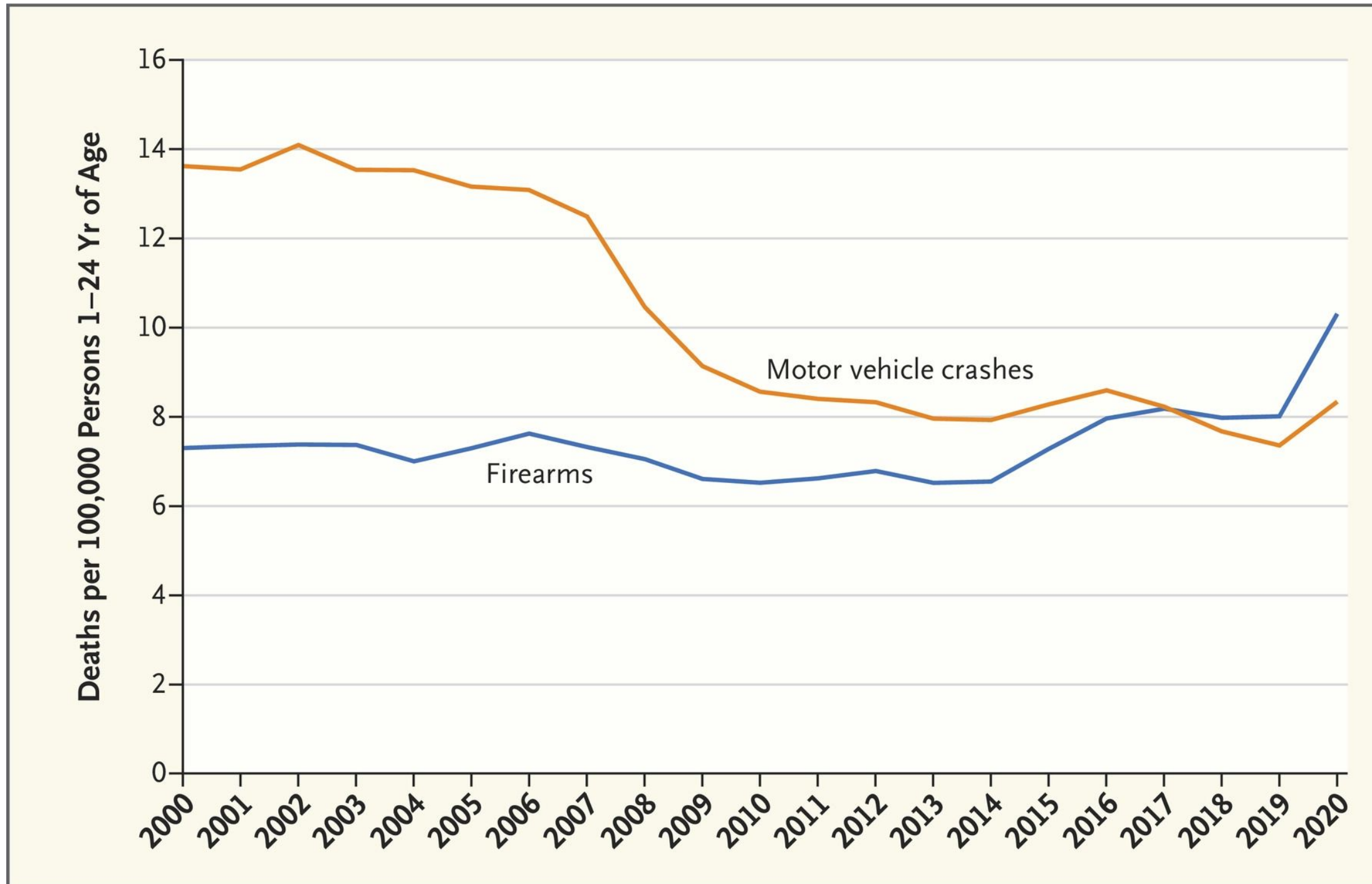
1999-2020

New England Journal of Medicine

Goldstick, Cunningham, Carter



A National Public Health Problem



48,830 U.S. fatalities in 2021

54% Suicide / 44% Homicide

↑ 30% since 2014

2017: Firearms > MVC

Suicides

65-70% suicides military / veterans
(50% higher overall suicide rate)

Mass shootings

2000 – 2009: 8.6 incidents/year (mean)

2010 – 2019: 21.9 incidents/year (mean)

Increasing fatalities per incident

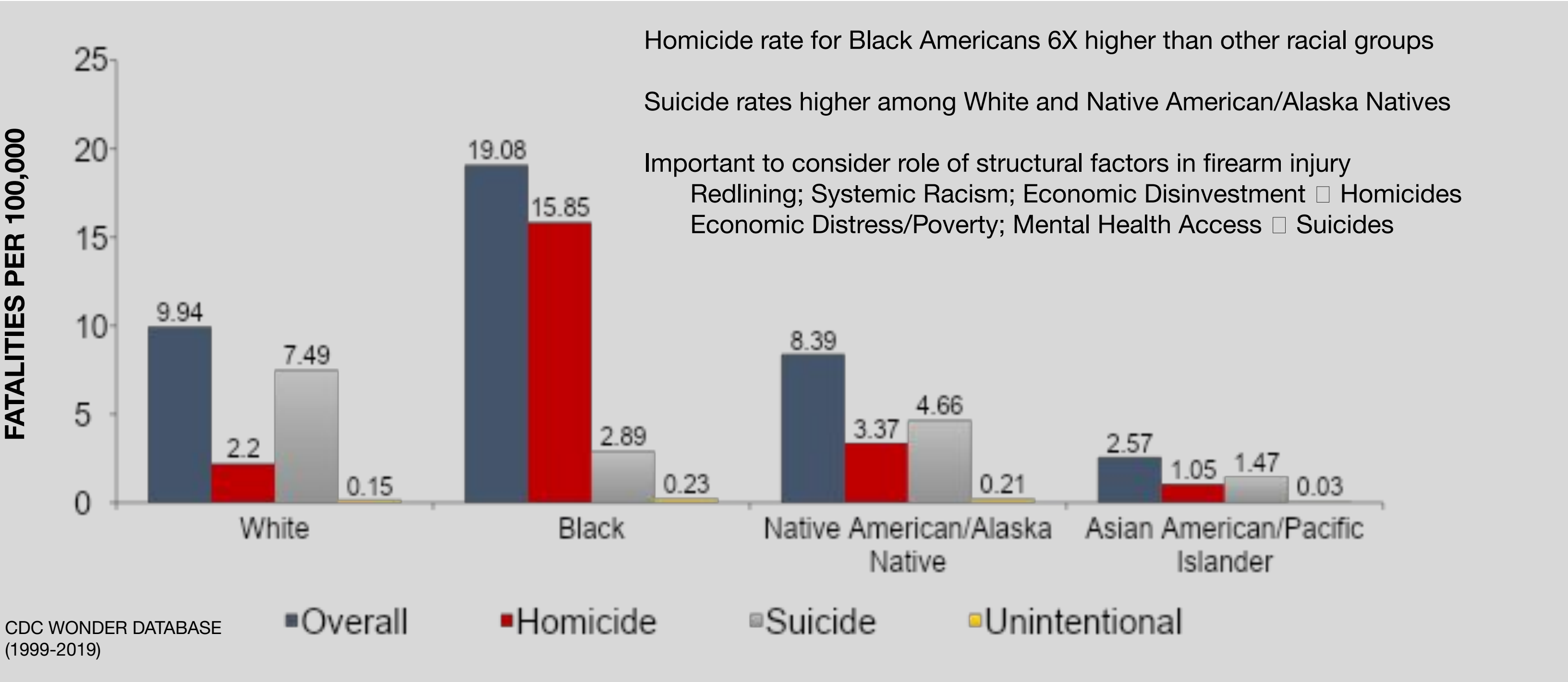
2021-61 incidents-52.5%

increase in incidents from 2020 to 2021

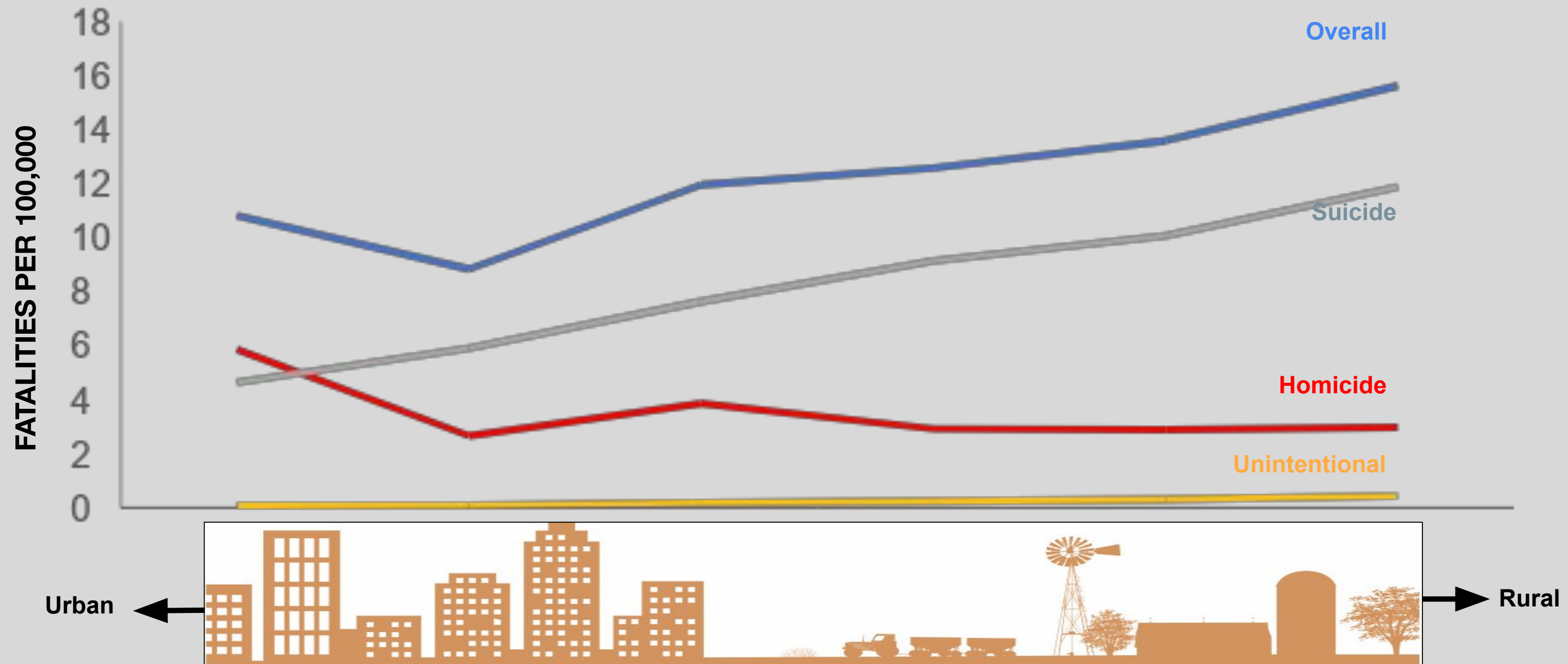
\$229 Billion Societal Cost/Annually

\$8.6 Billion/annually direct medical costs

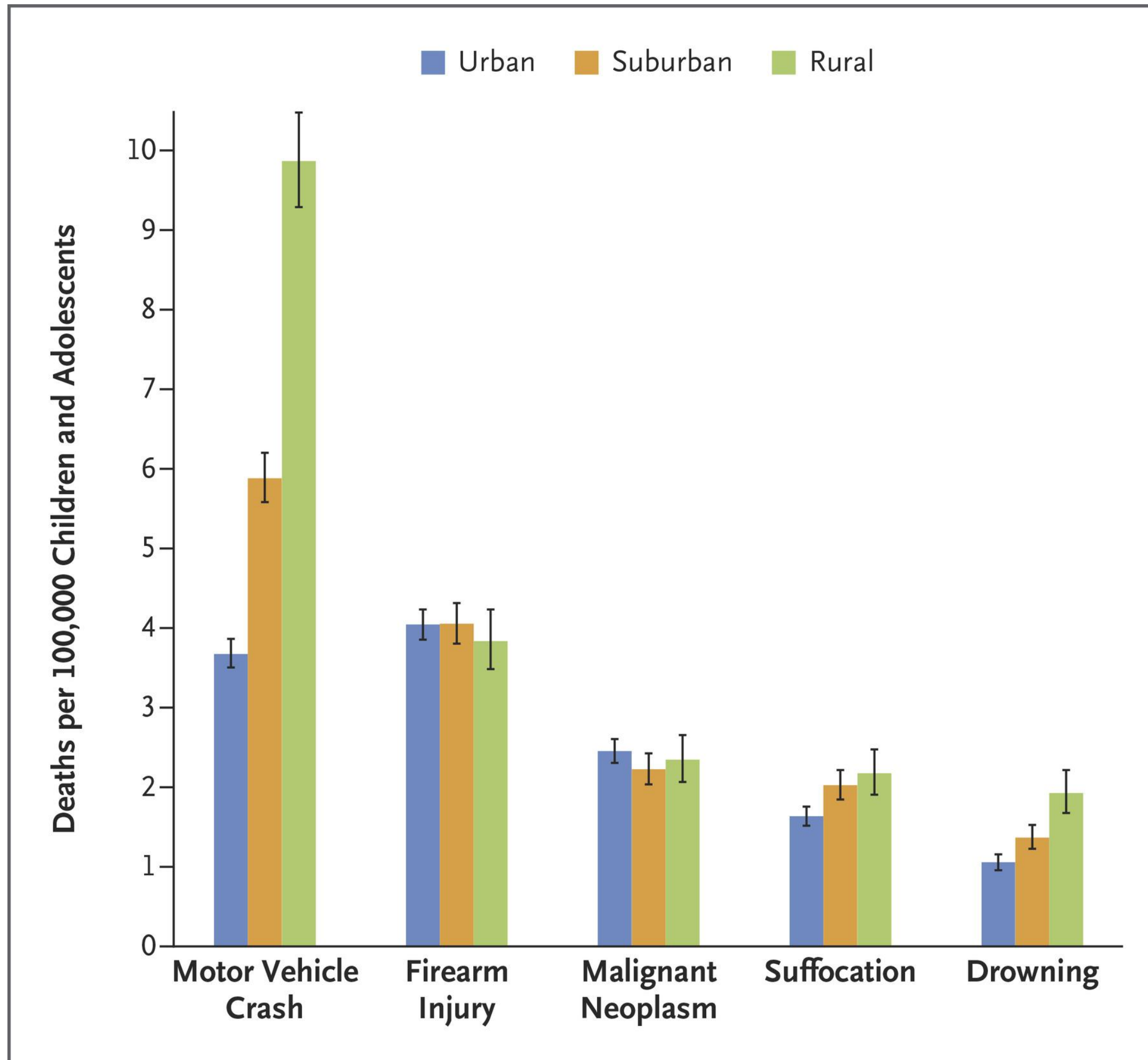
Racial/Ethnic Disparities



Rural/Urban Differences



CDC WONDER DATABASE (1999-2019)



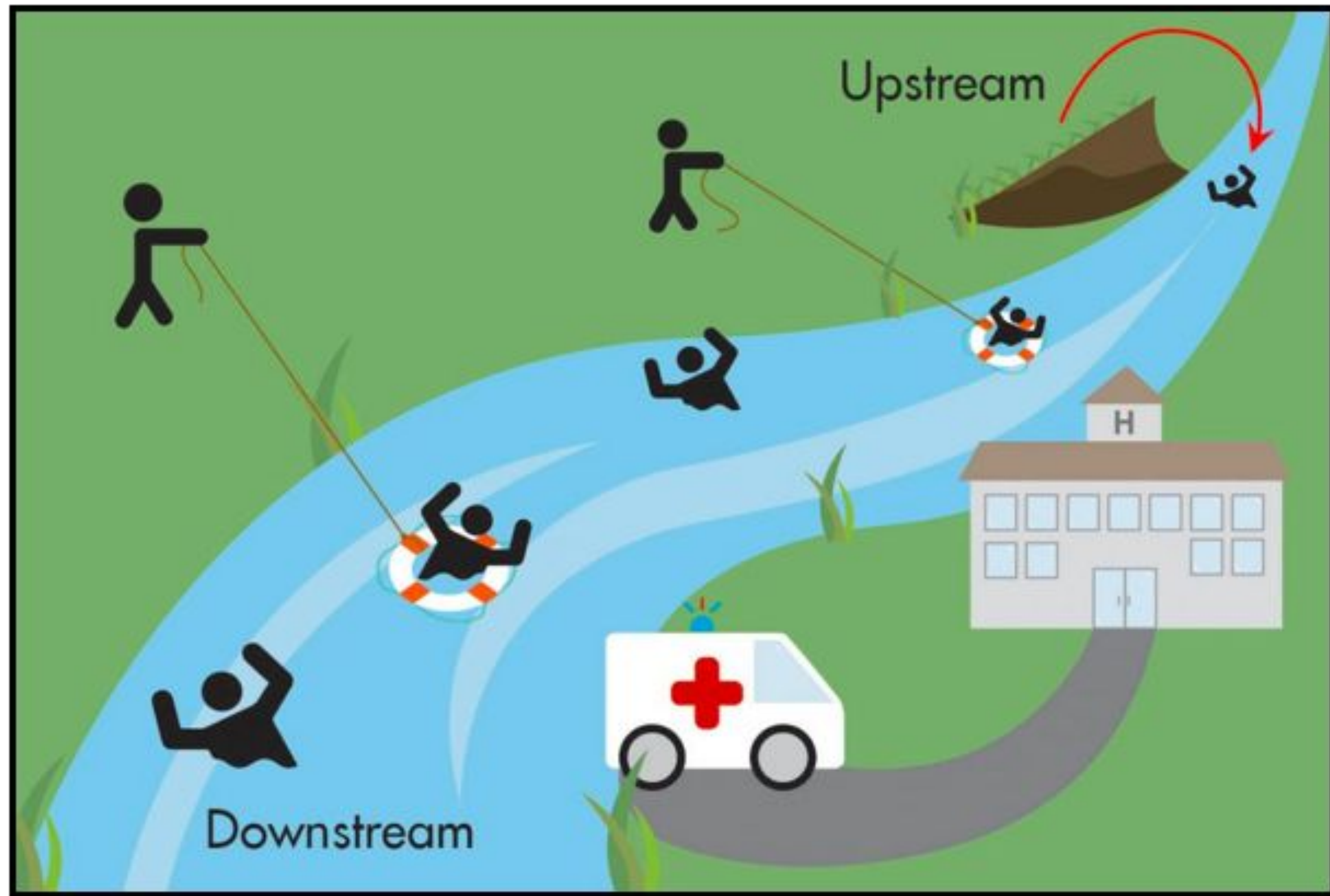
Mortality for the Five Leading Causes of Child and Adolescent Death in 2016

According to Rurality

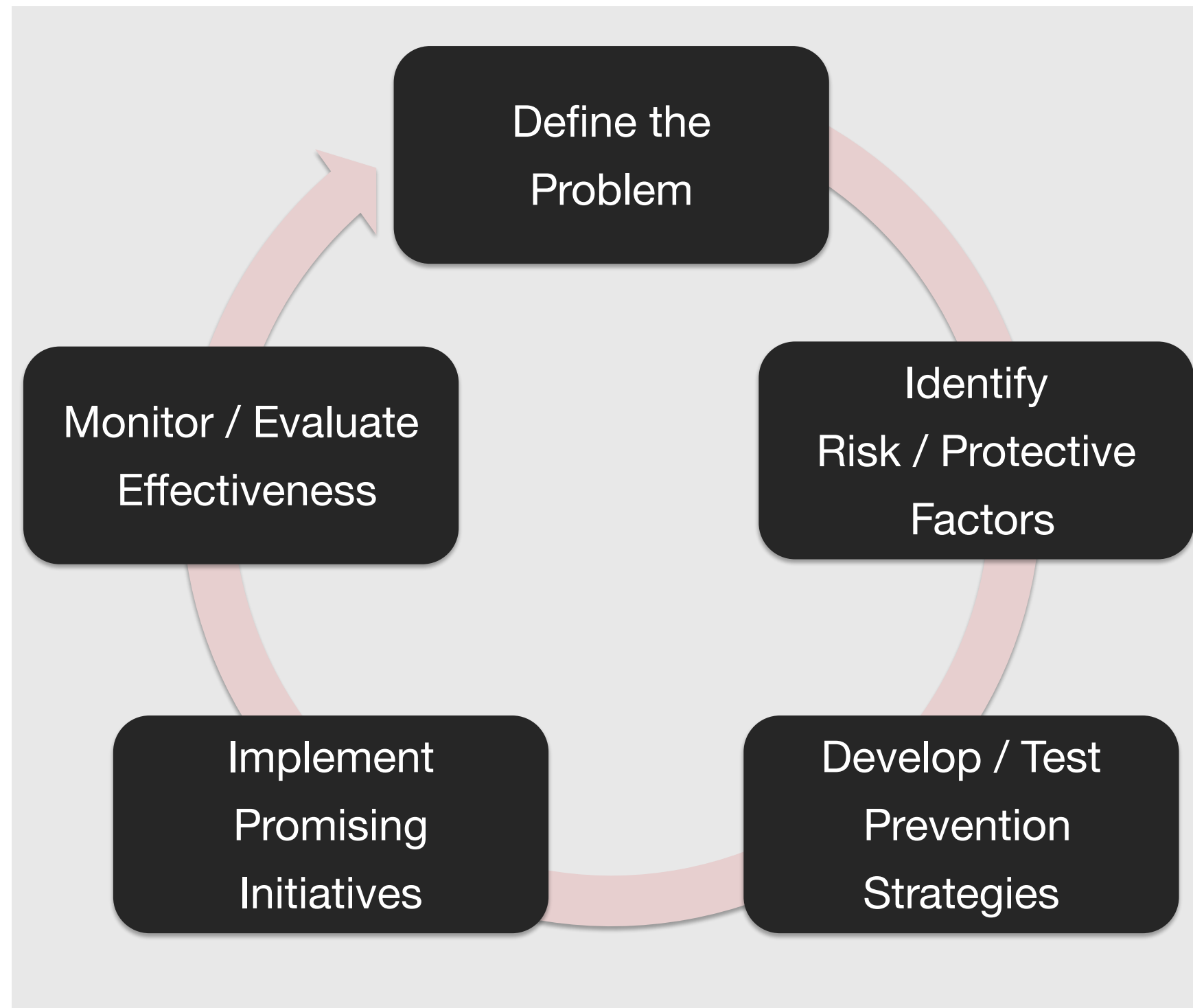
1999-2020

New England Journal of Medicine

Cunningham, Carter



Framework for Developing Solutions



Where Did We Get Off Track?

1996

Dickey
Amendment
passed

2010

Total federal
research on gun
deaths among
children was
\$135K for the
entire nation

2011

Only a handful
of firearm injury
researchers in
the U.S.

2017

Gun deaths surpass
car deaths for
teenagers in many
states, and most of
us don't know
because there are
no scientists
counting

Federal Research Awards and Corresponding Peer-Reviewed Publications Focusing on Selected Causes of Mortality

Ages 1-18, 2008- 2017

Cause of mortality	Deaths	Research awards ^a	Funding for research (\$)	Mean funding per year (\$ millions)	Research dollars per death (\$)	Publications
Motor vehicle crash ^b	33,577	186 ^a	877,589,272	88	26,136	2,223
Firearm injury ^c	20,719	32	12,368,889	1	597	540
Cancer	17,111	5,168	3,345,352,670	335	195,508	50,235
Opioid overdose	3,385	234	114,354,067	11	33,782	2,193
Congenital abnormalities	9,627	759	357,597,201	36	37,145	7,716



HAROLD'S PLANET by Swerling and Lazar



haroldspianet.com © 2010

History as a Guide

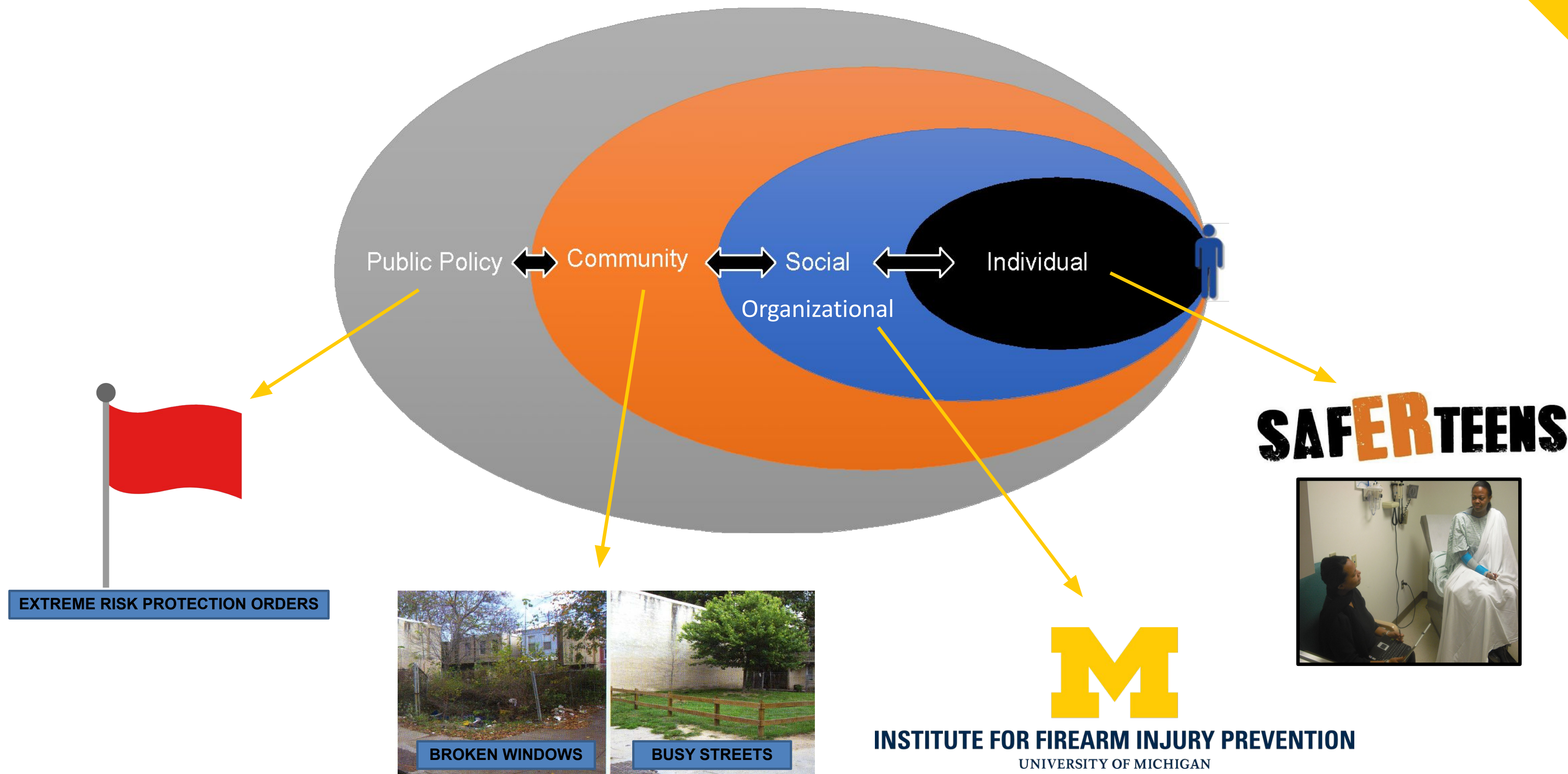
Not an “Accident”

Motor Vehicle Crashes and Injury Prevention



An Evidence-Based Path Forward

Evidence-based Solutions: Socio-Ecological Spectrum



What Can We All Do As Individuals?

In your community, schools and workplace: the Basics

- Know the firearm facts and myths
- Know that gun deaths are preventable
- Support evidence-based prevention programs
 - Remember the DARE program?
- Start talking about firearm violence
- Silence solves nothing

Reframe: ~~Gun Control~~ Gun Safety

- Change the narrative
- Cars and pools are here to stay
- “The safest home is one without a pool?”
- Respect views and values on firearm ownership
- Focus on safety and harm reduction
- Meet people where they are
- Coalition Building



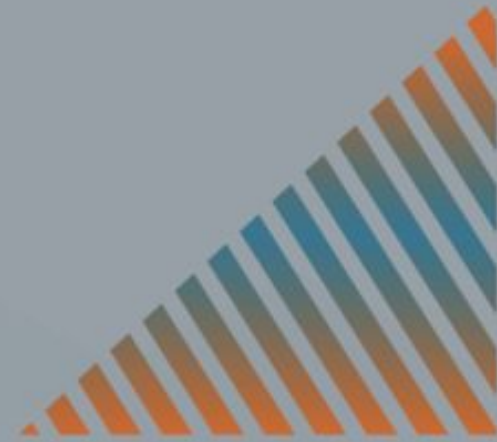
Culture Change is Possible

And hope is not a strategy ...

Research to Action is a strategy



SAVE THE DATE



**2023 NATIONAL
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**
FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION

November 1-3, 2023
Chicago, IL

Organized by:

The Research Society for the
Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms



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