

CALIFORNIA: STRONG GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES

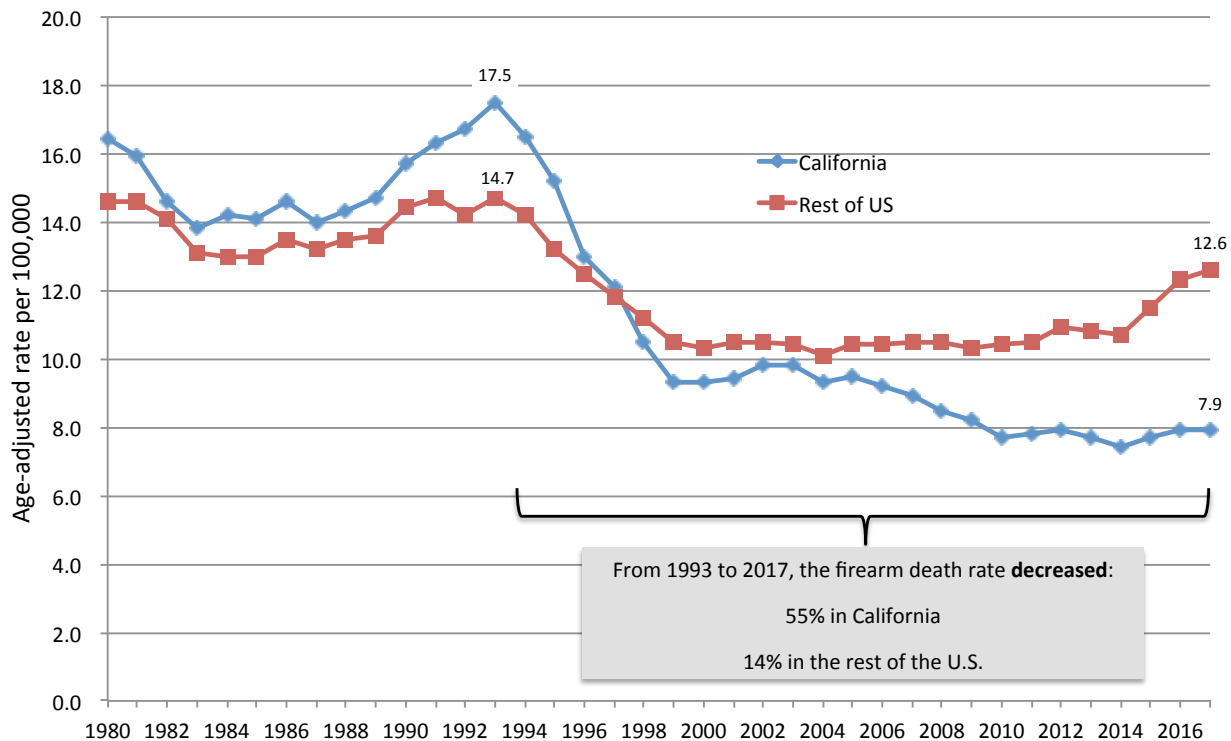
Trends in California Firearm Mortality Compared to the Rest of the U.S.

California Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence



California has the strongest firearm laws in the nation and they are making a difference. From 1993 to 2017, California's firearm mortality rate declined by **55 percent**—almost four times the decrease in the rest of the nation. Many of California's most important firearm laws went into effect in the early 1990s. As California continued to enact strong firearm laws, its firearm death rate continued to decline.

Firearm deaths in California compared to the rest of the U.S.



California has done the best job in the country of enacting laws that make it harder for people who are a danger to themselves and others to acquire dangerous firearms. These laws have helped reduce both firearm homicides and firearm suicides, and have enabled law enforcement to combat gun trafficking and seize illegally owned firearms.

However, more must be done to make our communities safe. **In 2015, California's firearm death rate began to rise again, though far less than the increase in the rest of the country.** The U.S. has the weakest firearm laws of any industrialized nation, and weak federal laws undermine California's stronger laws.

Firearm violence destroys families and communities. We must all work together to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous people. We are accomplishing this in California by enacting sensible firearm laws that save lives.