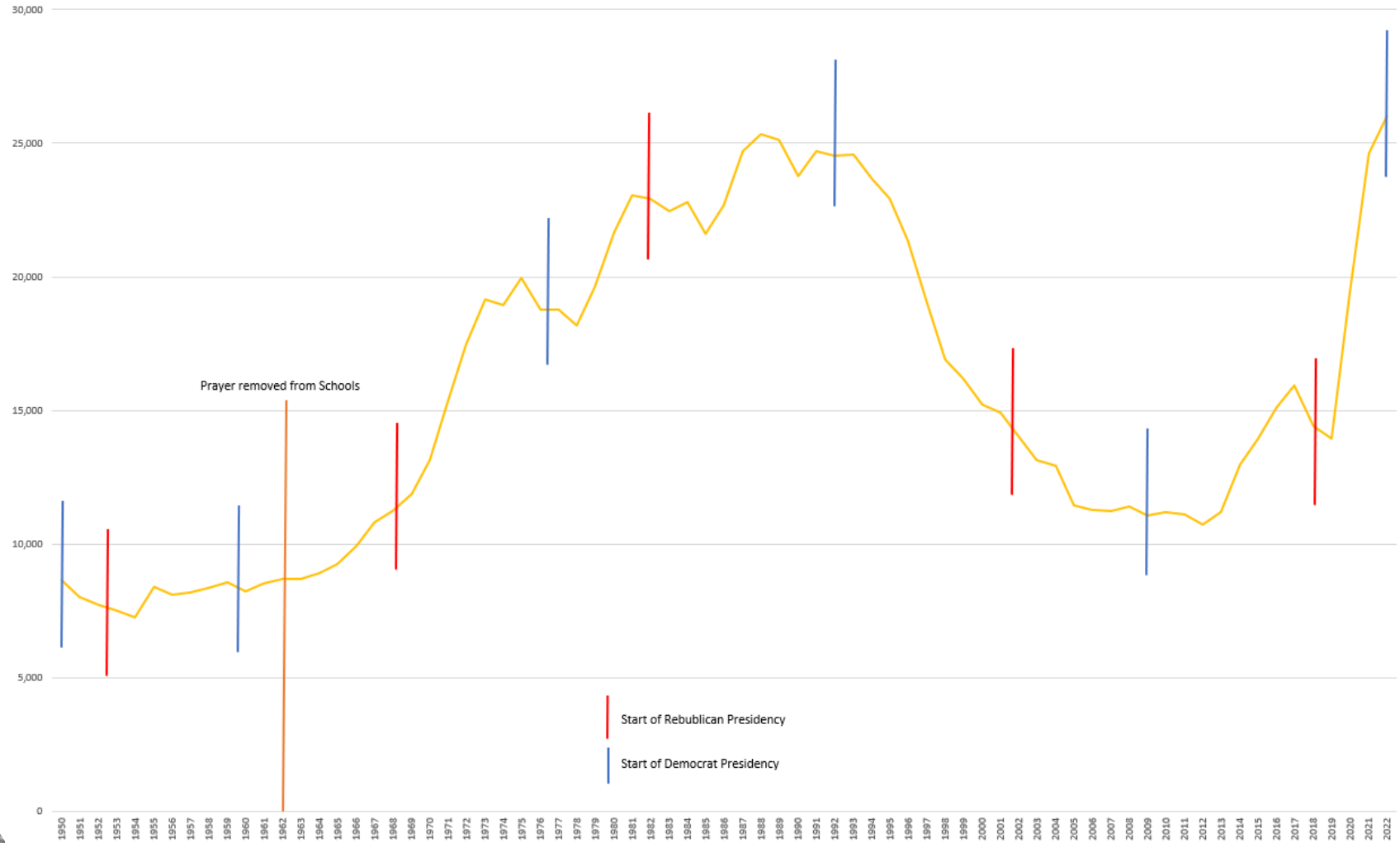


**HOW CAN WE REDUCE
THE HOMICIDE BY
FIREARM RATE IN
THE UNITED STATES?**

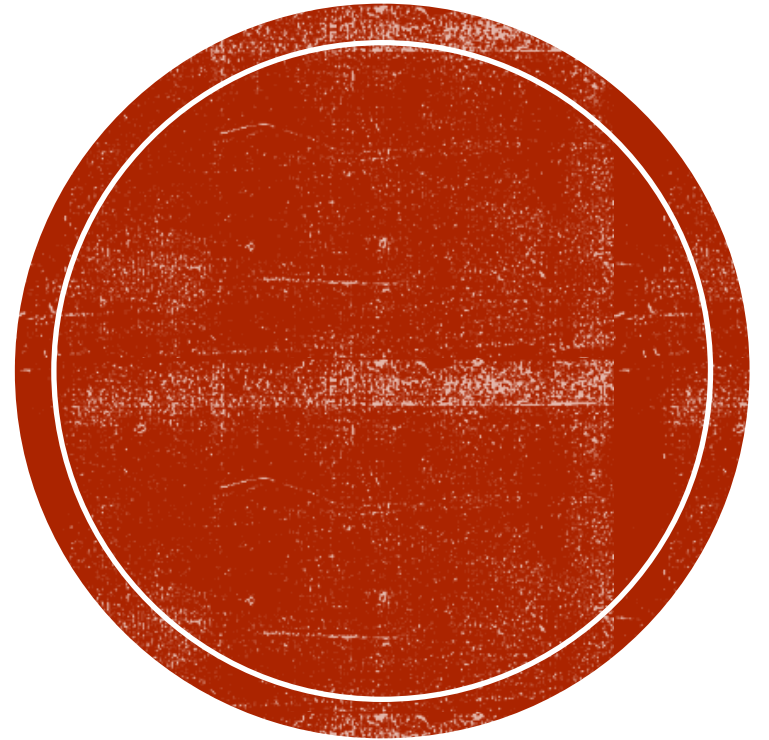


Homicide by firearm rates from 1950 - 2022
Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program



1993 - 2013

- The gun homicide rate dropped from 25,000 to 10,705. Some interesting factors during that time-period were:
- Economic Factors:
 - Substantial economic growth in the US. The US was THE economic powerhouse in the world.
 - Earned Income Tax Credit and the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which may have helped to reduce poverty and improve economic security for families.





WHAT DOES THE DATA SHOW?

- **Societal Factors:**

- The number of school counselors and social workers increased during this time-period, which may have helped to reduce violence in schools and communities.
- Schools also implemented several violence prevention programs, such as conflict resolution training and anti-bullying programs.
- The number of children in foster care decreased during this time-period, which may have led to a decrease in child abuse and neglect, which are risk factors for firearm homicides.
- The federal government also implemented several reforms to the foster care system during this time period, which may have improved the quality of care for children in foster care.
- The percentage of children living in fatherless homes decreased during this time period. Fathers play an important role in their children's lives, and children who grow up without fathers are more likely to experience poverty, crime, and violence.
- The US population also became more diverse during this time-period, and there is some evidence that diversity can lead to a decrease in crime.
- There was a decline in the use of crack cocaine during this time-period. Crack cocaine is a highly addictive drug that is associated with violence, including firearm homicides. The decline in crack cocaine use may have led to a decrease in firearm homicides.
- The percentage of Americans who said they attended religious services at least once a week increased from 54% in 1993 to 65% in 2013

- **Legal Factors:**

- The number of police officers increased during this time period, which may have led to a decrease in crime.
- The federal government also implemented a number of crime prevention programs during this time period, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.
- There was an increase in the number of people incarcerated during this time period. Incarceration can reduce crime, including firearm homicides.
- The federal government also banned assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in 1994. This ban was in effect until 2004, and there is some evidence that it may have contributed to the drop in firearm homicides during this time period. However, 90% of all homicides were carried out with a handgun therefore, the likelihood that this ban had an effect on the homicide rate is likely negligible
- Many cities and states implemented their own gun control laws during this time period. These laws varied from state to state, but they often included restrictions on gun ownership, such as waiting periods and background checks. There is some evidence that these laws may have also contributed to the drop in firearm homicides.





**WHAT DOES
THE DATA
SHOW?**

- There seems to be no hard connection between the political party and gun violence apart from 2018 – 2024
- The most significant factors for the drop in the homicide rate by firearm are societal and economic:
 - Lower poverty rate
 - Fathers in the home
 - Lower rate of children in the foster system
 - Religion
- The legal factors that were proven to be a true factor are
 - Maintaining the rule of law
 - Increase in police presence
 - Local crime prevention programs



**WHAT DOES
THE DATA
SHOW?**

- Starting in 2019 the homicide rate increased drastically. What factor possibly contributed?
 - Pandemic
 - Mental Health Crisis – Partly caused by the pandemic and the lack of people able to seek treatment
 - Racial and Social Inequities – Whether actual or perceived the media and government significantly pushed a racial divide during this period.
 - Religion - The percentage of Americans who said they attended religious services at least once a week decreased from 65% in 2013 to 20% in 2019 - 2023

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

- We know there are three areas, societal, economic and legal, that all helped lower these homicides
- STOP looking for new ways and use what has worked in the past.
 - Get government spending under control and become an economic powerhouse
 - Bring back the rule of law and INCREASE police presence
 - Double down on community policing programs. Strengthen them.
 - Do whatever it takes to ensure every child has a healthy home
 - Equip fathers to be father.
 - Provide additional counselors in schools and ensure every citizen has access to mental healthcare.
 - Encourage religious activities.

