

Asking Questions

About

GUN VIOLENCE

Before you go on...

We know that thinking about gun violence can be deeply challenging and painful.

If thinking about this topic is extremely upsetting for you and you feel like you need help, we would like to encourage you to talk with a trusted adult, friend, teacher, mentor, or mental health professional.

We understand it can sometimes be incredibly difficult or even impossible to reach out to the people in your life, so we also wanted to provide a link to access an online, confidential crisis chat service and textline, which can be accessed by clicking here: <https://www.crisistextline.org/text-us/>

You are not alone.

Introduction

This guide was made to assist DataJam teams interested in researching gun violence. Throughout the guide you will find:

- A. Definitions and Overviews of Gun Violence
- B. Potential Research Questions
- C. Resources to Datasets Exploring these Issues

What is Gun Violence?

- Gun violence is any act of violence or abuse carried out with use of a firearm
- More than 600 people globally are affected by gun violence every day
- While anyone can be a victim of gun violence, this issue disproportionately affects people of color, people from marginalized communities, and people in domestic violence situations

45,404
Car crashes

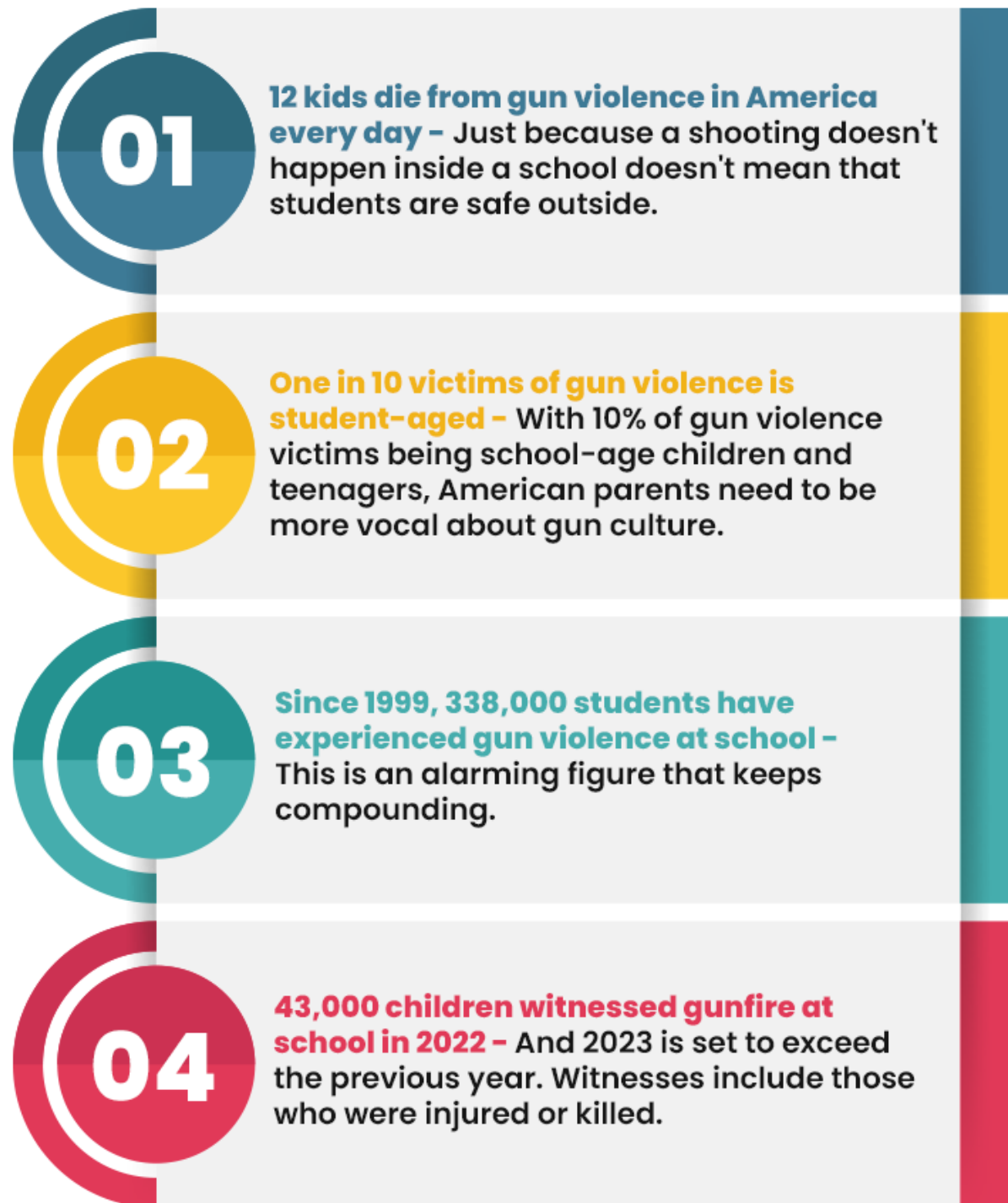


48,830
Gun deaths



Gun Violence in US Schools

- School shooting is a generalized term used to define any gun violence in or around an educational institution
- The US has had over 300 incidents of school shootings in total with the next highest documented reports being from Mexico with 8 incidents in total, followed by South Africa with 6
- In 2020, gun violence was the leading cause of death for children, teens, and young adults under the age of 25



*Data as of 2022


Example Research

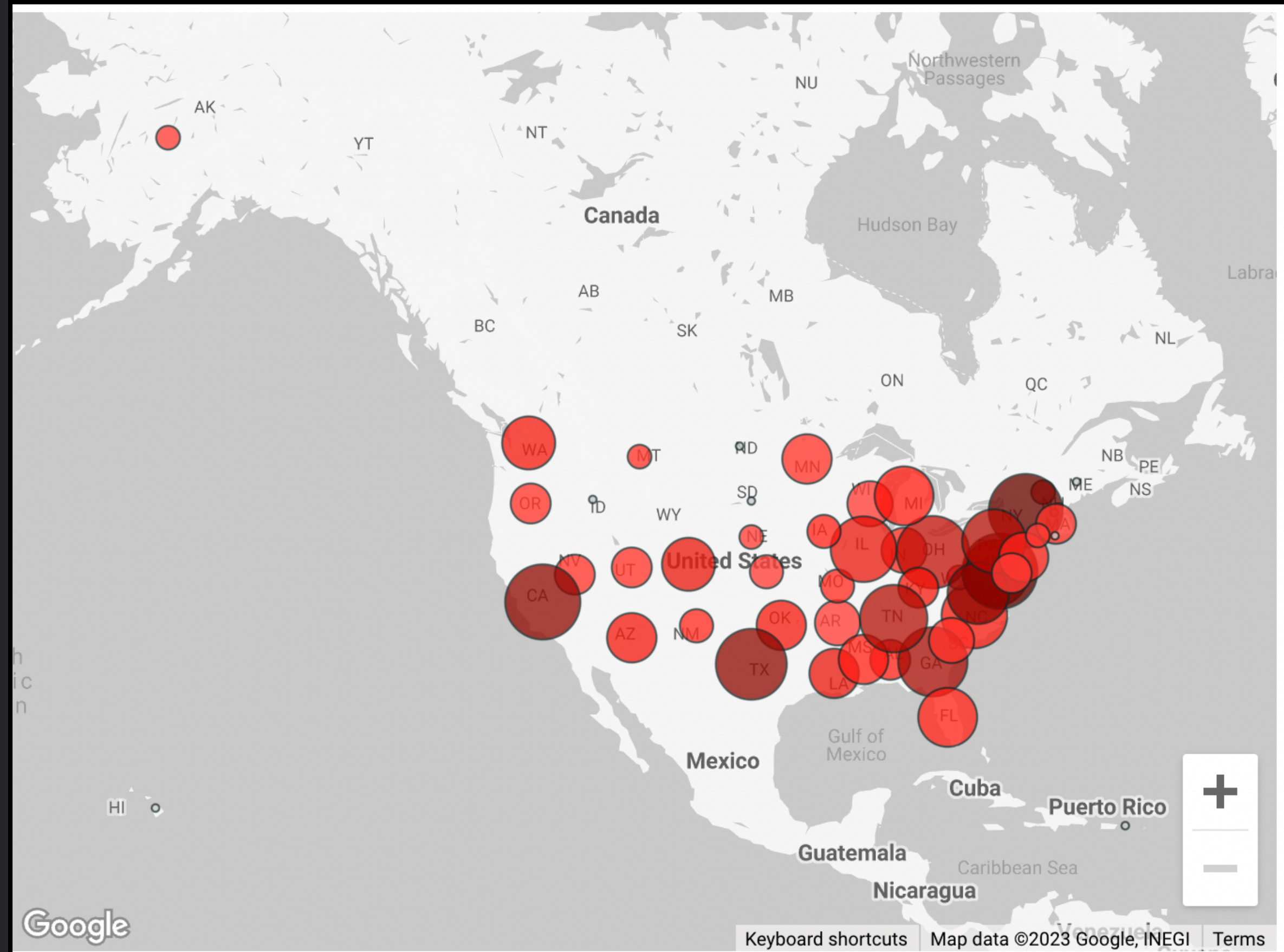
Question:

Have school shootings in the US in 2023 occurred more frequently in certain states?

K-12 School Shooting Database

How to use:

- Hover over each of the circles to see the incident and victim totals for 2023
- Larger circles and darker colors indicate more incidents per state
- To export this data, click the export button that looks like:  Export
- On this resource, you can also find other helpful data visualizations on the “Visualizations” tab under “View Data” on the dashboard, including total incidents by year since 1970, by region, etc.



When an abusive partner has access to a firearm, it is

5 TIMES

more likely that the survivor will be killed.

Each year, more than

600 AMERICAN

WOMEN are shot to death by intimate partners.

Domestic Violence and Gun Violence

- Two-thirds of all women killed by intimate partners are killed with guns
- In early 2023, a US Circuit Court ruled that domestic abusers and people who pose a considerable threat to their partners do not have to give up their guns, putting their partners at an increased risk of violence and homicide
 - The Supreme Court has agreed to review this case in the Fall of 2023

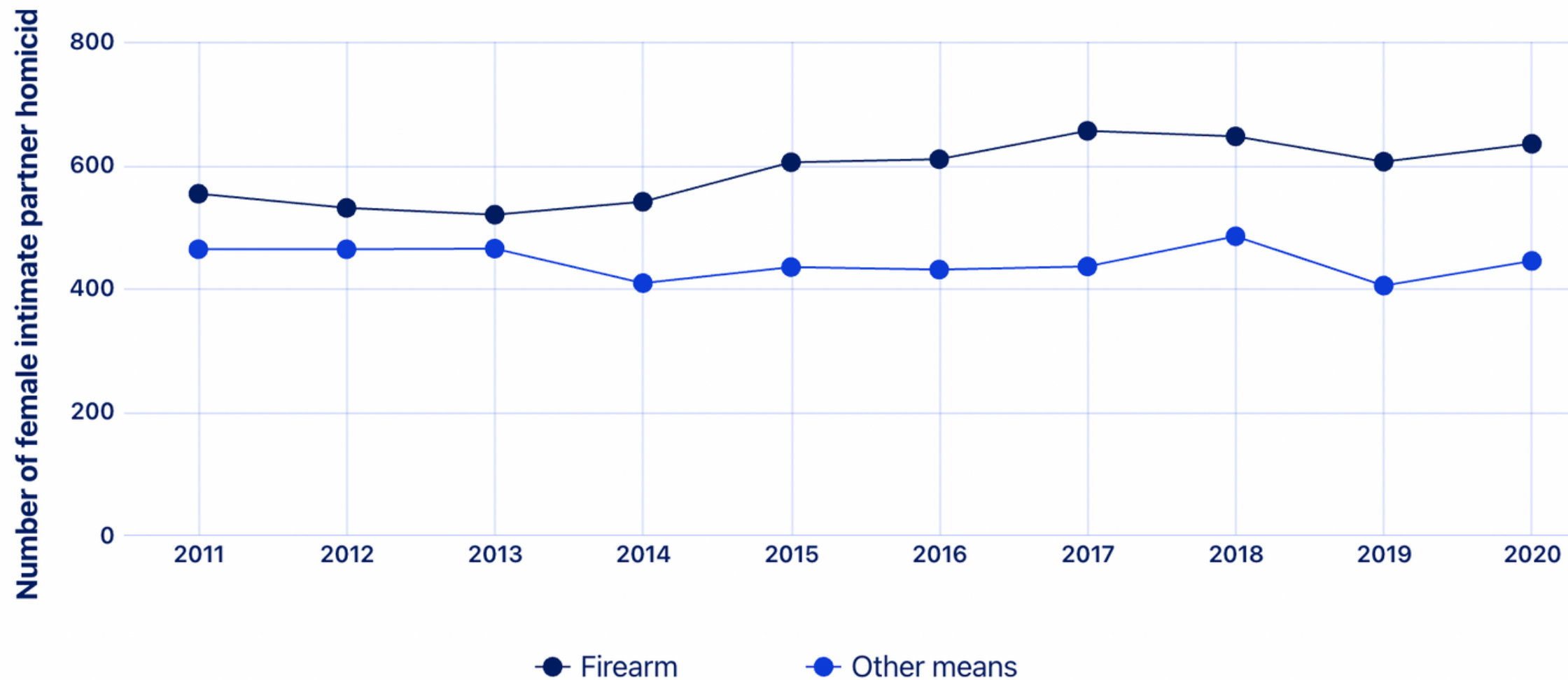
If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 available 24/7 for confidential assistance from a trained advocate.

Example Research Question:

How have trends in gun usage in intimate partner violence situations changed in the past 10 years?



Intimate partner homicides of women by guns are on the rise



How to use:

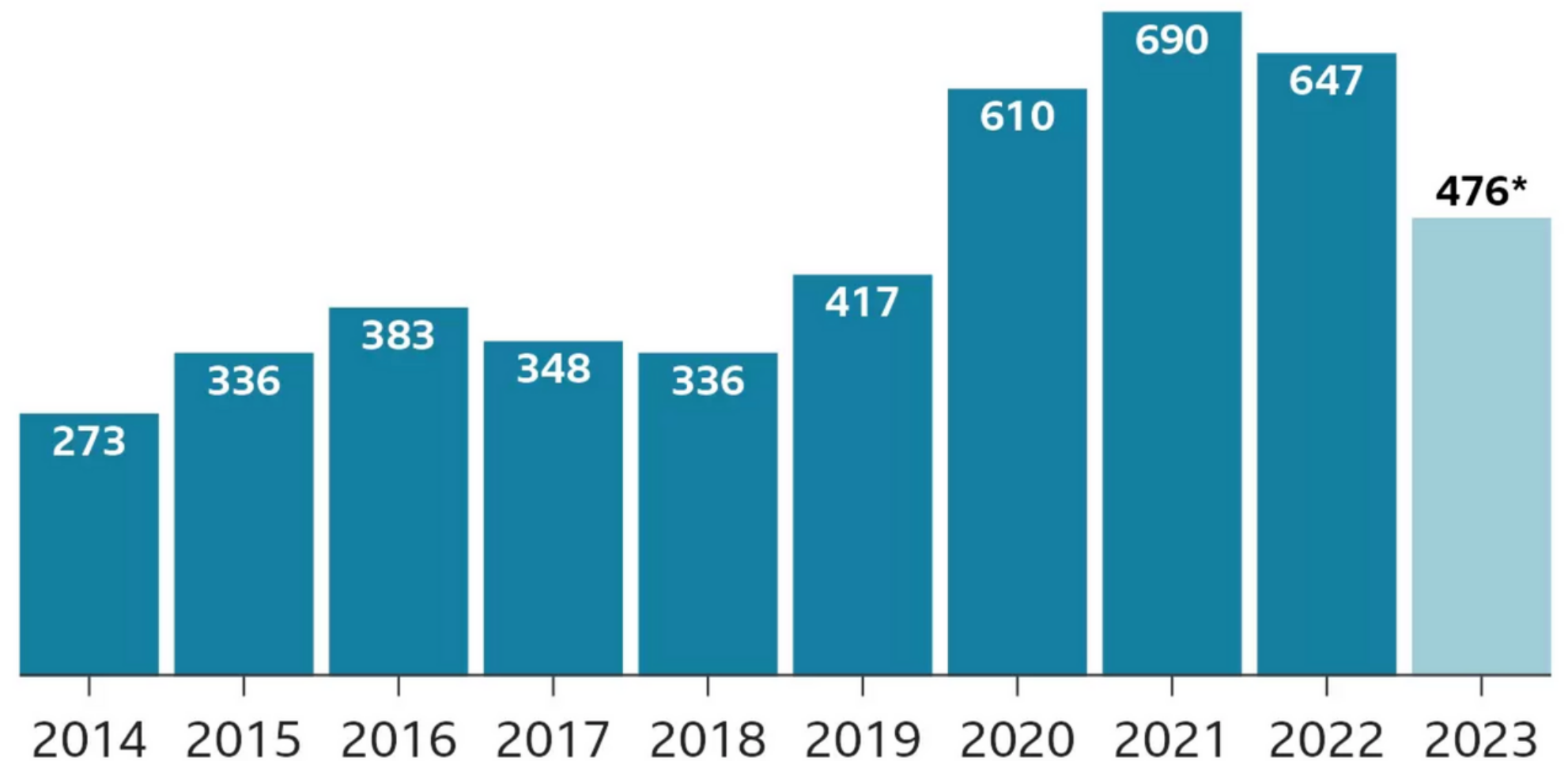
- Hover over each of the data points to see the exact number of incidents reported for firearm homicides and homicides by other means reported from that year
- Once you have the raw numbers, you can calculate the percentage change across 10 year period
- You can export the data as an excel file by clicking the “download” button in the upper right corner (click “CSV data”)

Mass Shootings

- Mass shooting is defined as a gun violence incident in which 4 or more people are injured or killed
- From January to August of 2023, there were over 470 mass shootings in the United States
- The majority of mass shootings take place in workplaces or schools

Mass shootings in the US are on the rise

Incidents in which four or more people were killed or injured



*data up to 28 August

Source: Gun Violence Archive

Example Research

Question:

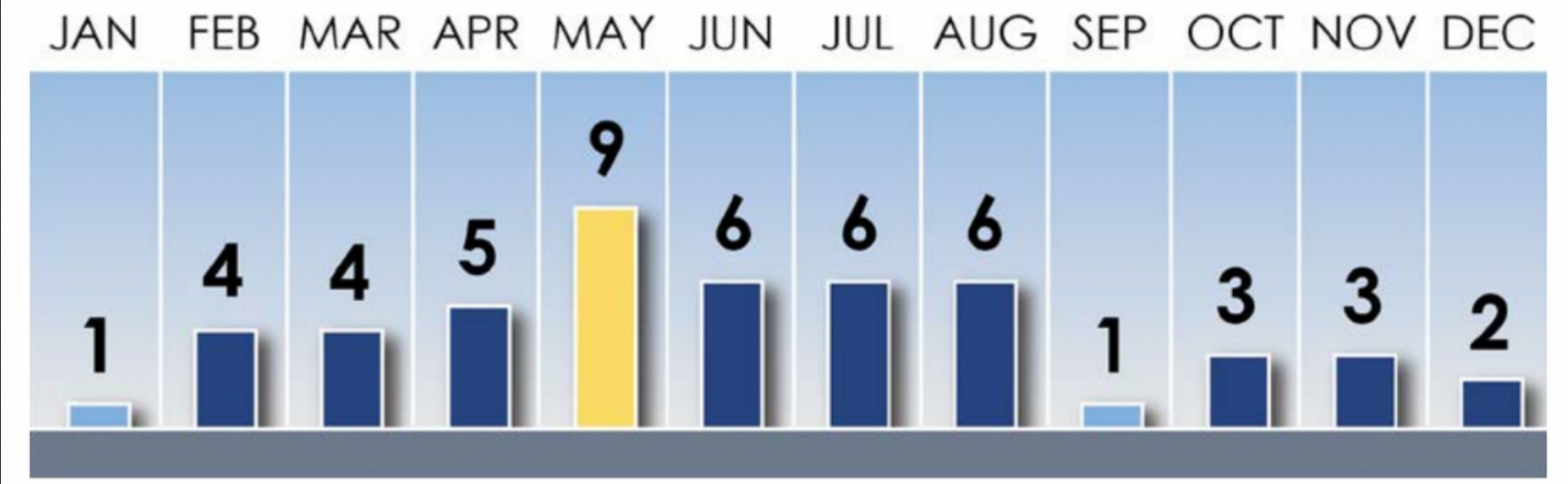
Are mass shooting incidents related to month, day of the week, or time of day?



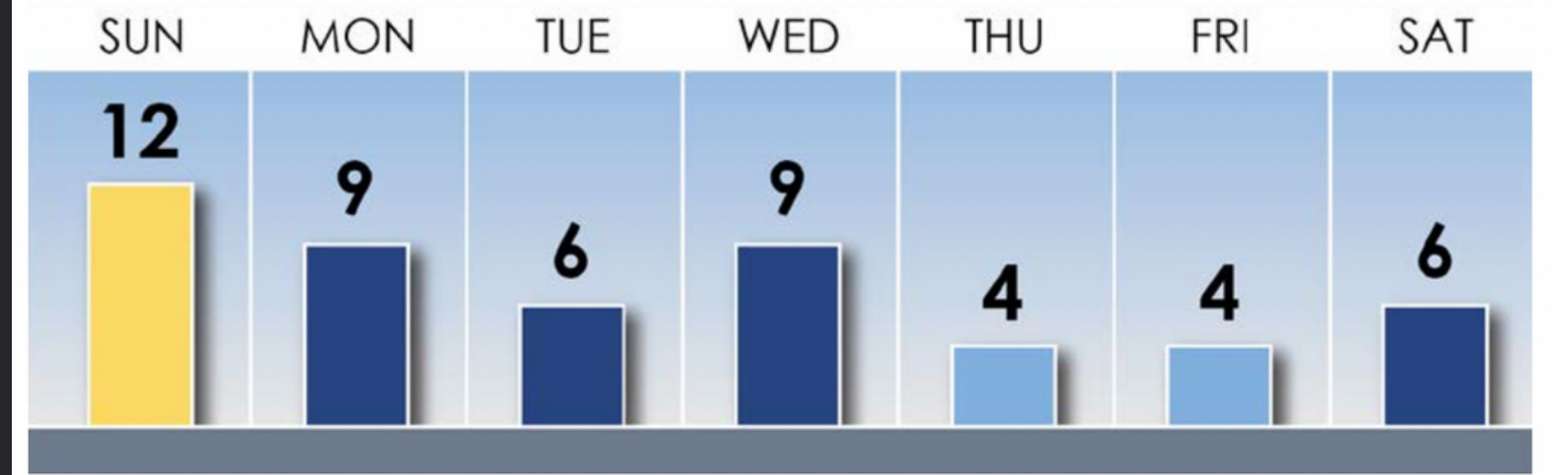
How to use:

- Scroll through the document to look for useful data visualizations on active shooting incidents in the United States in 2022
- The document is easily downloadable by clicking the “Download” located below the dataset
- Explanations of data visualizations can be found below each graphical depiction throughout the document

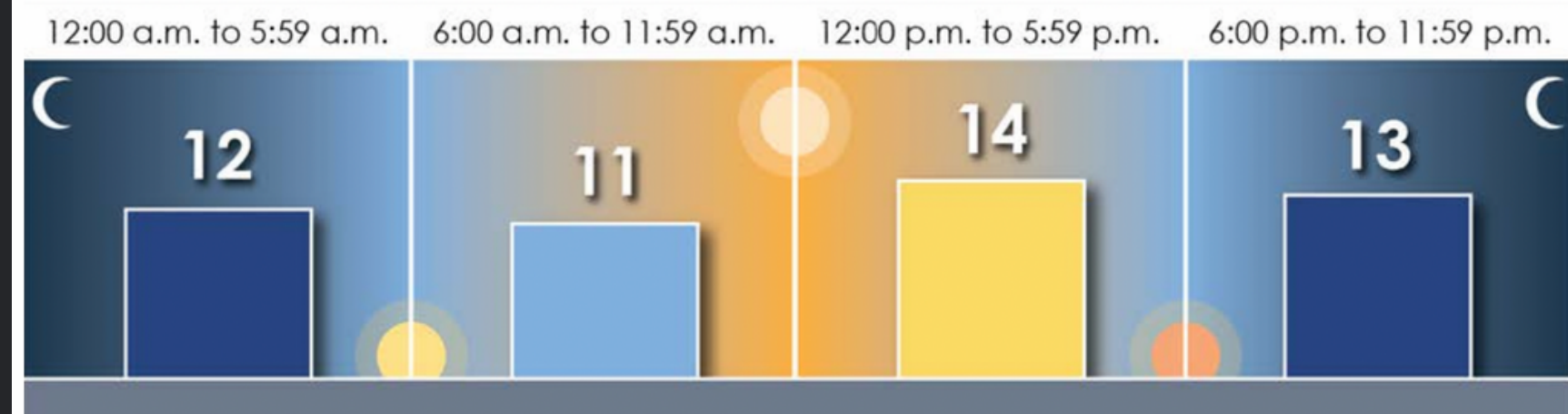
2022 Active Shooter Incidents by Month



2022 Active Shooter Incidents by Day of the Week



2022 Active Shooter Incidents by Time of Day



Mental Health and Gun Violence

- Often when incidents of gun violence occur in the US, many people blame people with mental illnesses
- Studies show that only about 4% of all gun violence incidents are due to mental health conditions
- According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, unfairly blaming gun violence on mental health stigmatizes people with mental illnesses
 - These stigmas may create barriers to receiving mental healthcare because people with mental illnesses do not want others to assume they are violent

Quick Facts about Mental Illness and Gun Violence



Approximately one in five Americans have a diagnosed mental illness in a given year.

Mental illness is not the cause of gun violence. The United States has similar rates of mental illness to other countries, but has much higher rates of gun violence.

People with mental illness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violence.

Only 4% of interpersonal violence is attributable to mental illness alone.

Past violent behavior is the best predictor of future violence, regardless of a diagnosed mental illness.

Gun Control Activists

- In response to the severity and rise of gun violence, many activist groups have begun speaking out about United States gun culture and the currently limited control on gun ownership
- The activism groups have been highly successful in organizing and giving voice to the survivors, victims, and advocates against gun violence
- There are also many groups who oppose these movements and support gun ownership

