

# The Extent of Gun Violence in Cape Town, South Africa

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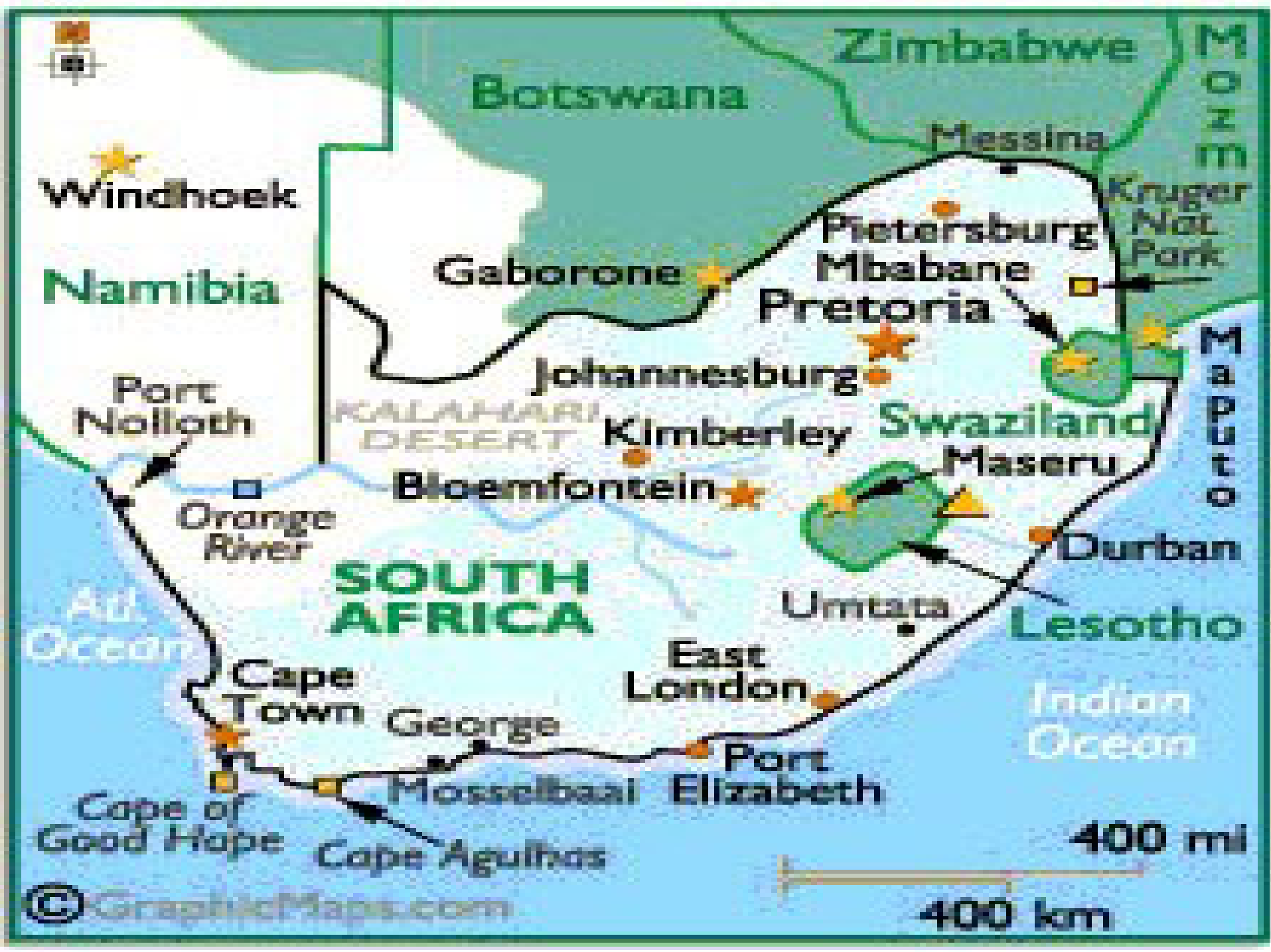
MRC-UNISA

Crime, Violence and Injury

Lead Programme



UNISA





# Topics

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1. What is the magnitude of gun violence in Cape Town?
2. Who are the victims and perpetrators?
3. Where in CT does gun violence mostly occur?
4. Prevention Implications



# Data Sources

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- National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS)
- National Non-Fatal Injury Surveillance System (NANFISS)
- World Health Organization (WHO) Mortality Database

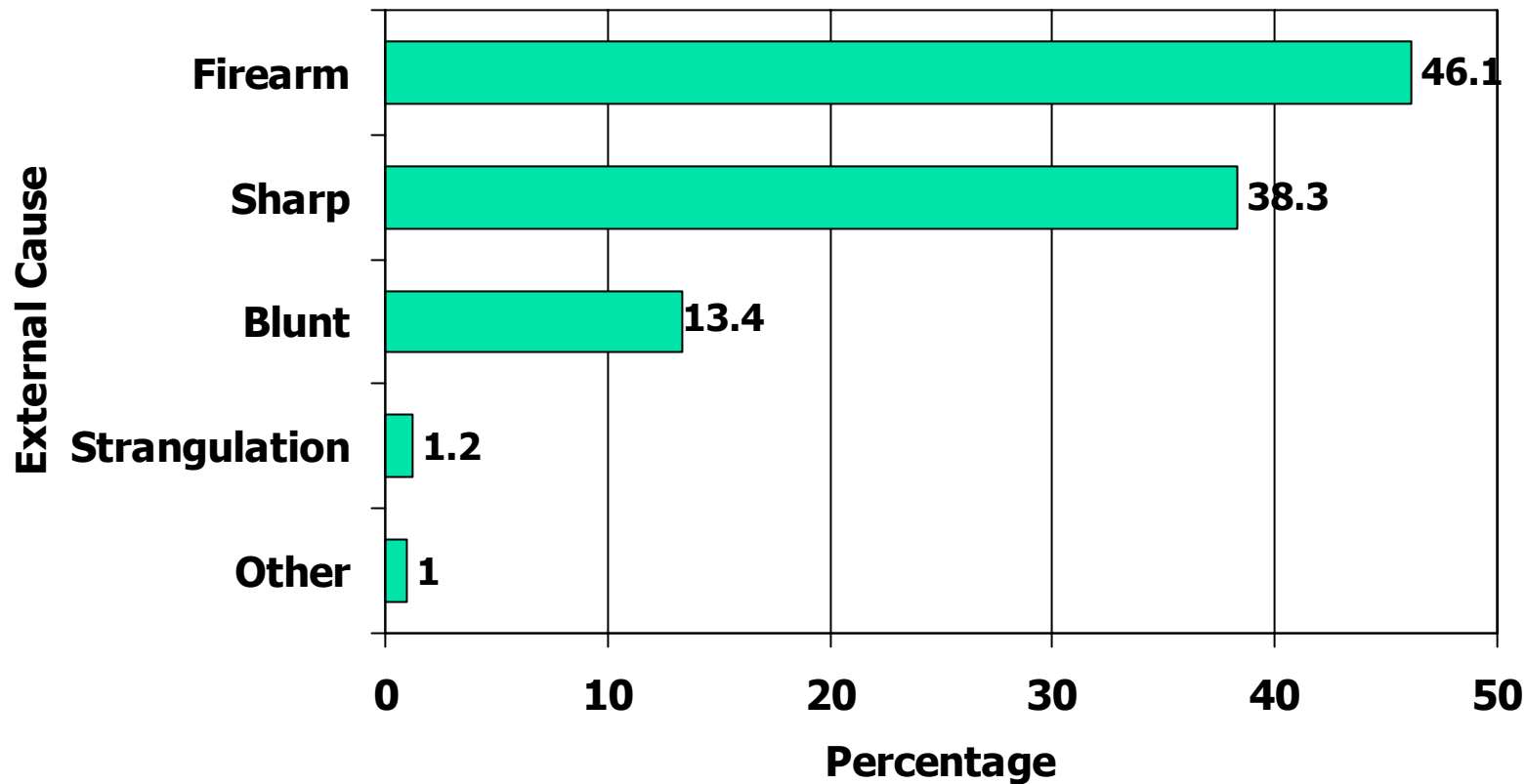


# 1. What is the magnitude of Gun Violence in Cape Town?

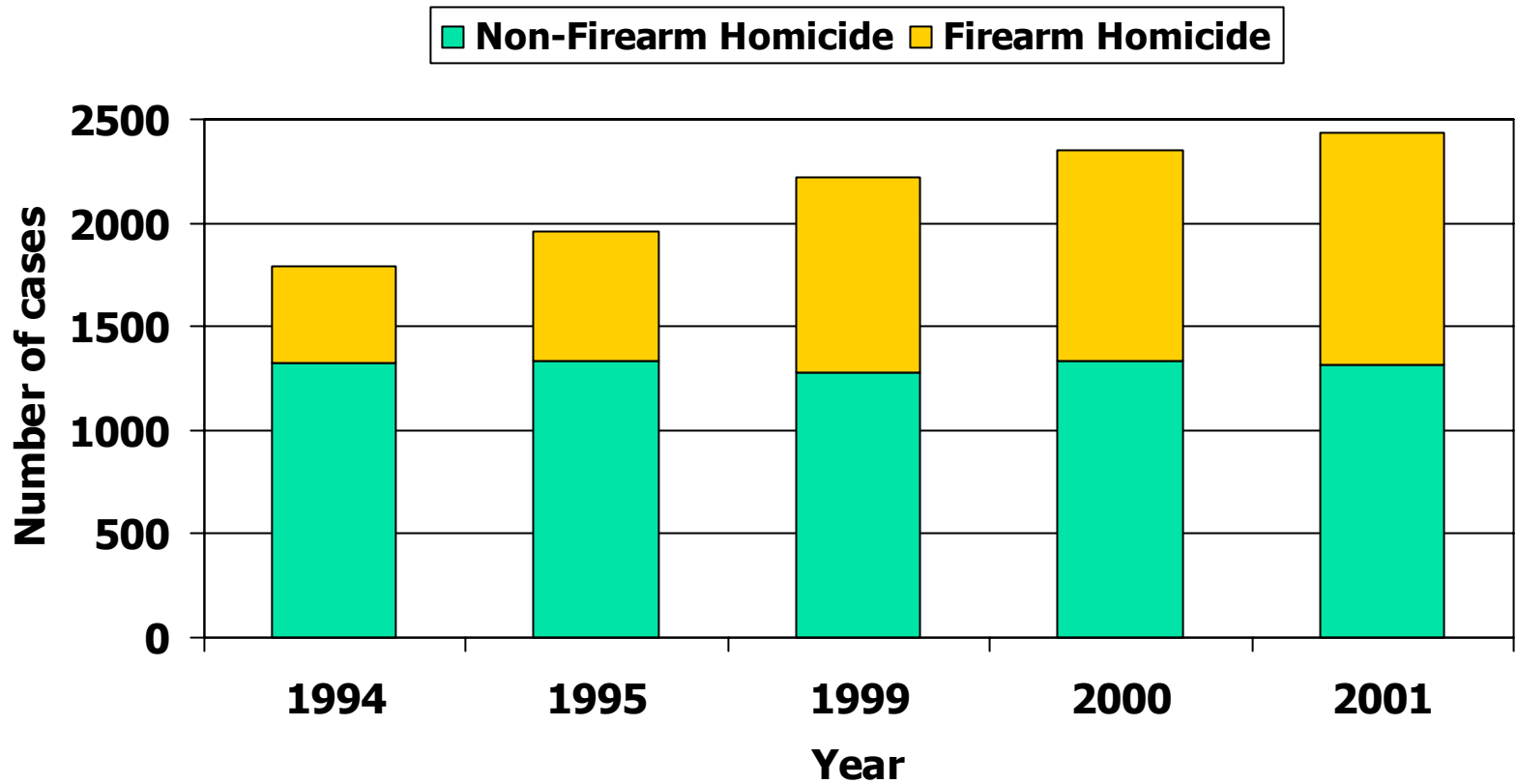
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- Firearm Homicide as a proportion of all Homicide
- Annual Rates for Cape Town
- Inter-City comparative Rates

# External Causes of Homicide, 2001 (n= 2436)



# Firearm vs Non-Firearm Homicide, 1994-1995 & 1999-2001





# Annual Homicide Rates, Cape Town

	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
Homicide	68	67	84	87	88
- firearm homicide	18	21	36	38	40
- non-firearm homicide	50	46	48	49	48

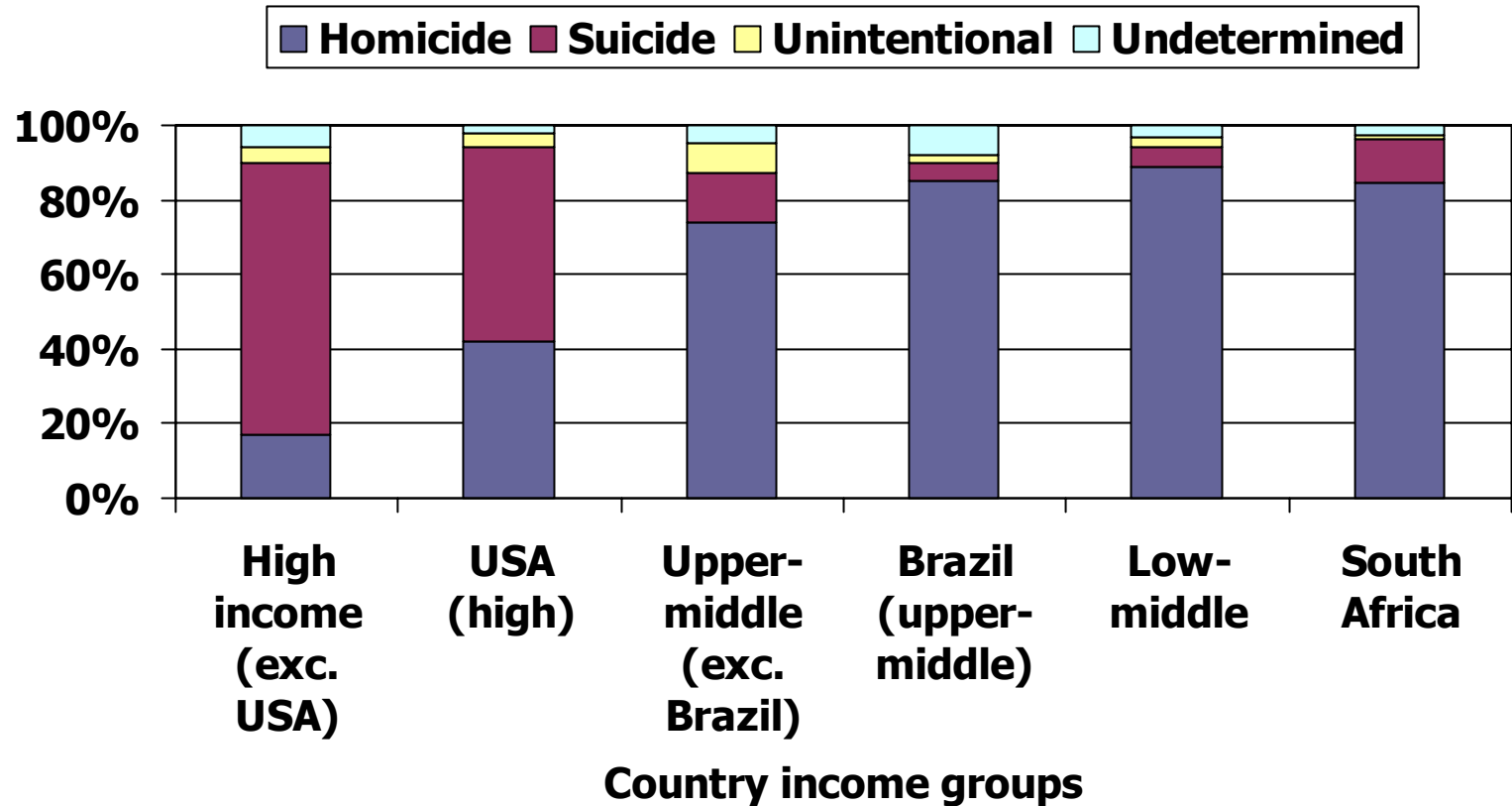


# Cape Town vs other SA cities, 2001

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	<b>Cape Town</b>	<b>Durban</b>	<b>East London</b>	<b>Port Elizabeth</b>	<b>Pretoria</b>
Homicide	88	80	100	71	41
- firearm homicide	40	48	29	16	25
- non-firearm homicide	48	32	71	55	16

# How does South Africa compare Internationally?



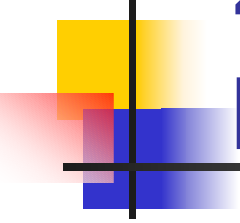
Source: WHO Mortality Database, 2000



# International Cities' Firearm Homicide Rates (per 100 000)

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- Hong Kong (1997): 0.01
- Singapore (1994): 0.07
- Cape Town (2001): 40
- Cali, Columbia (1997): 105

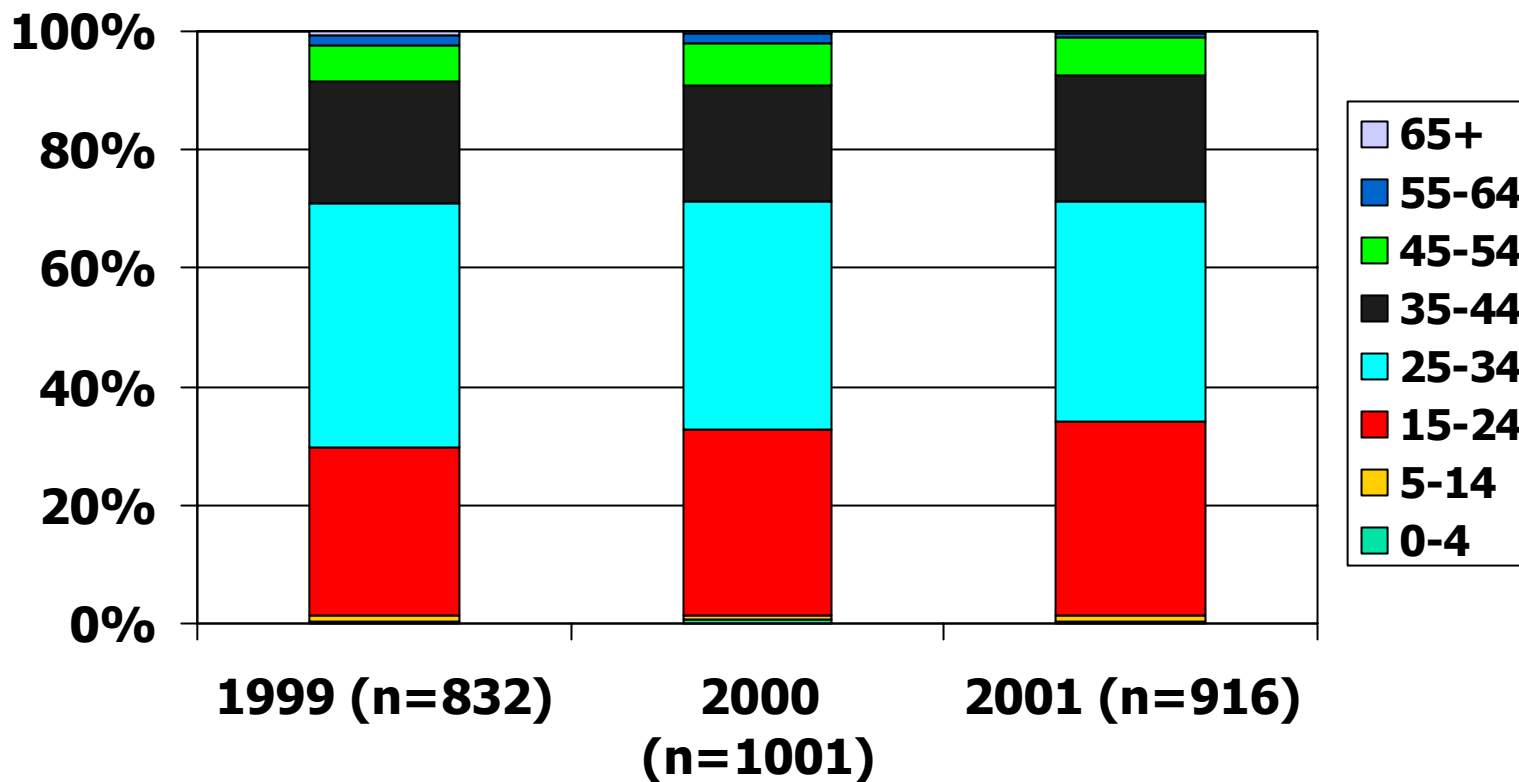


## 2. Who are the victims and perpetrators?

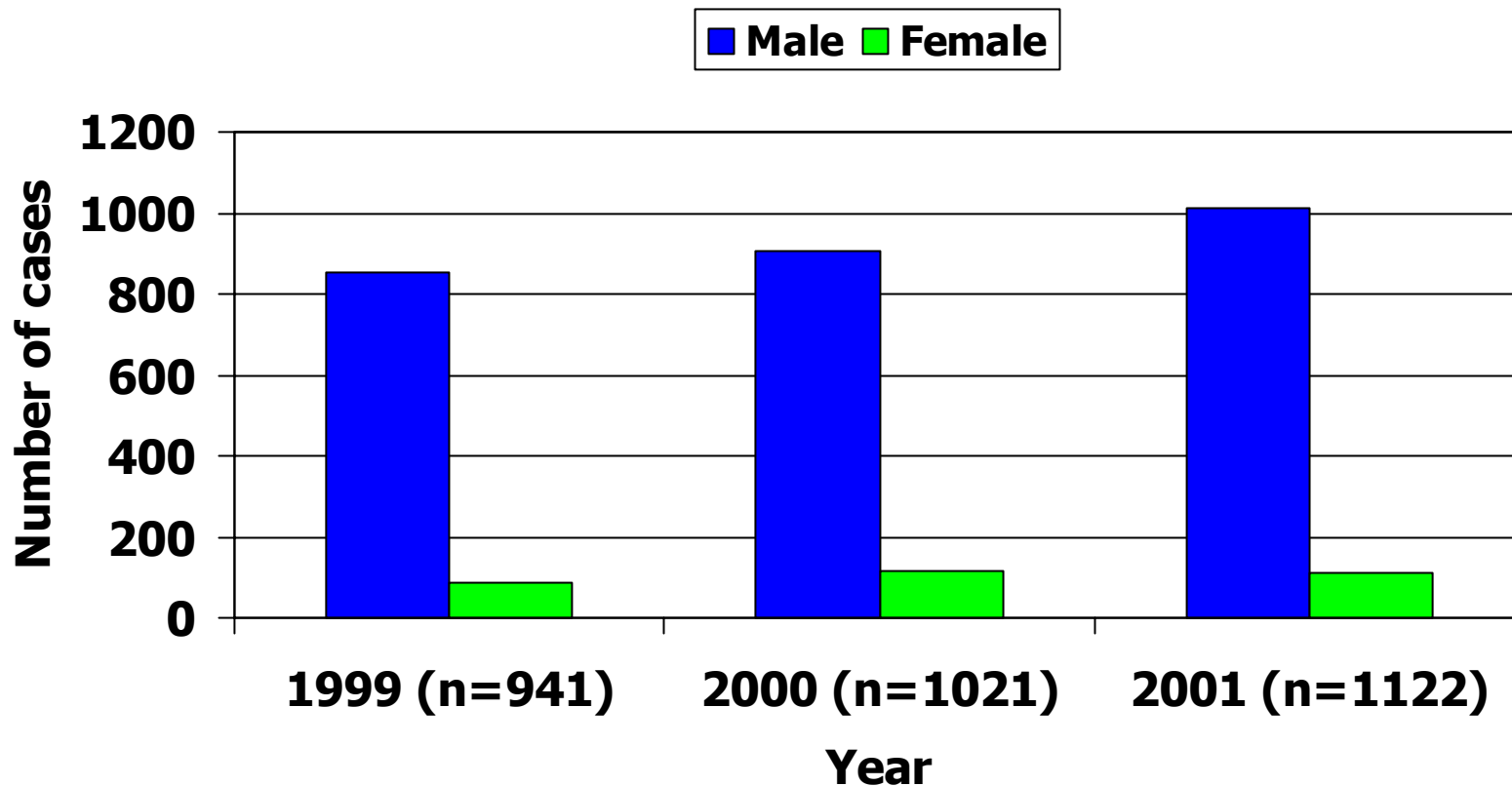
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- Firearm homicide by Age
- Firearm homicide by gender
- Victim-Perpetrator relationships

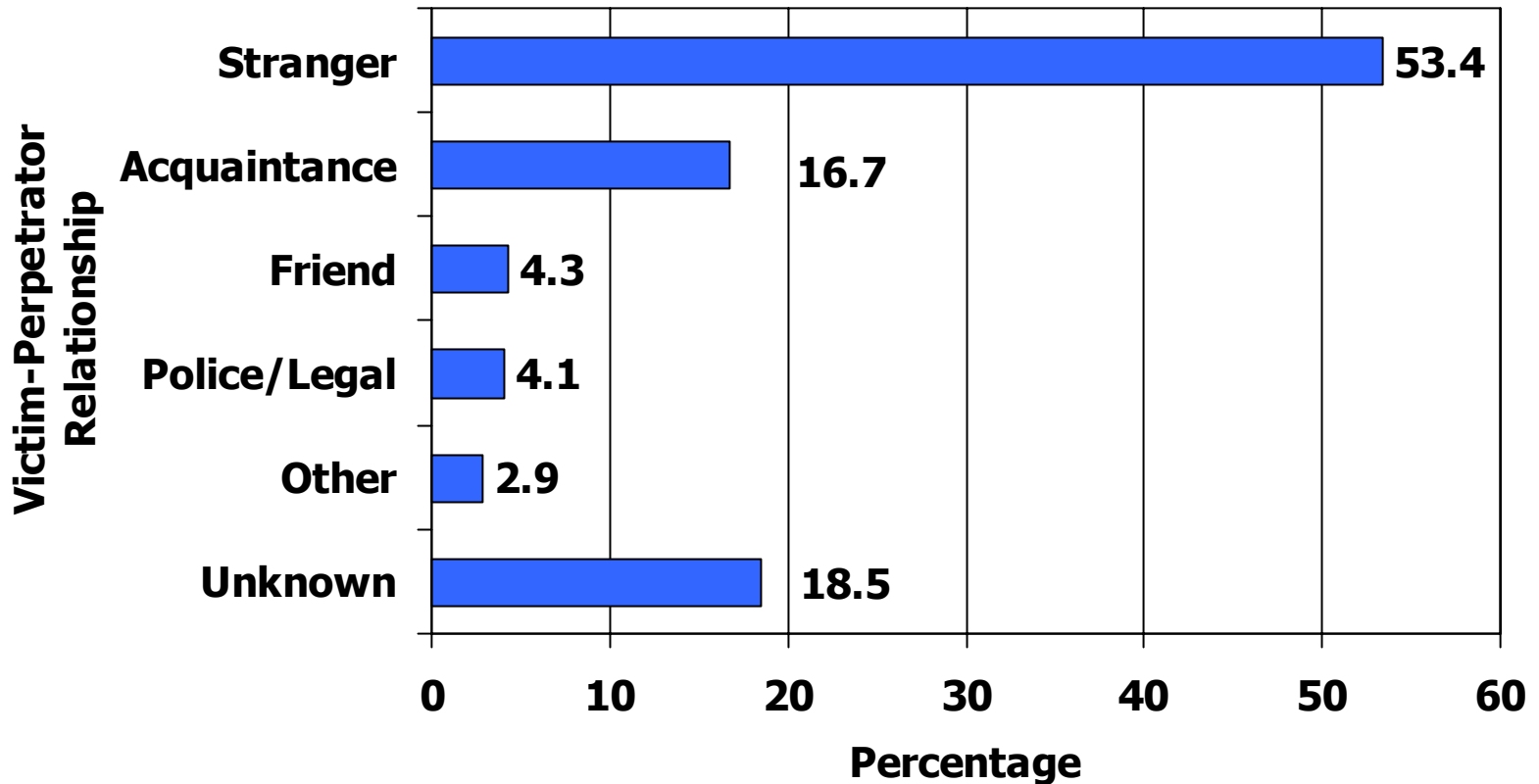
# Firearm Homicide by Age group



# Firearm Homicide by Gender, 1999-2001

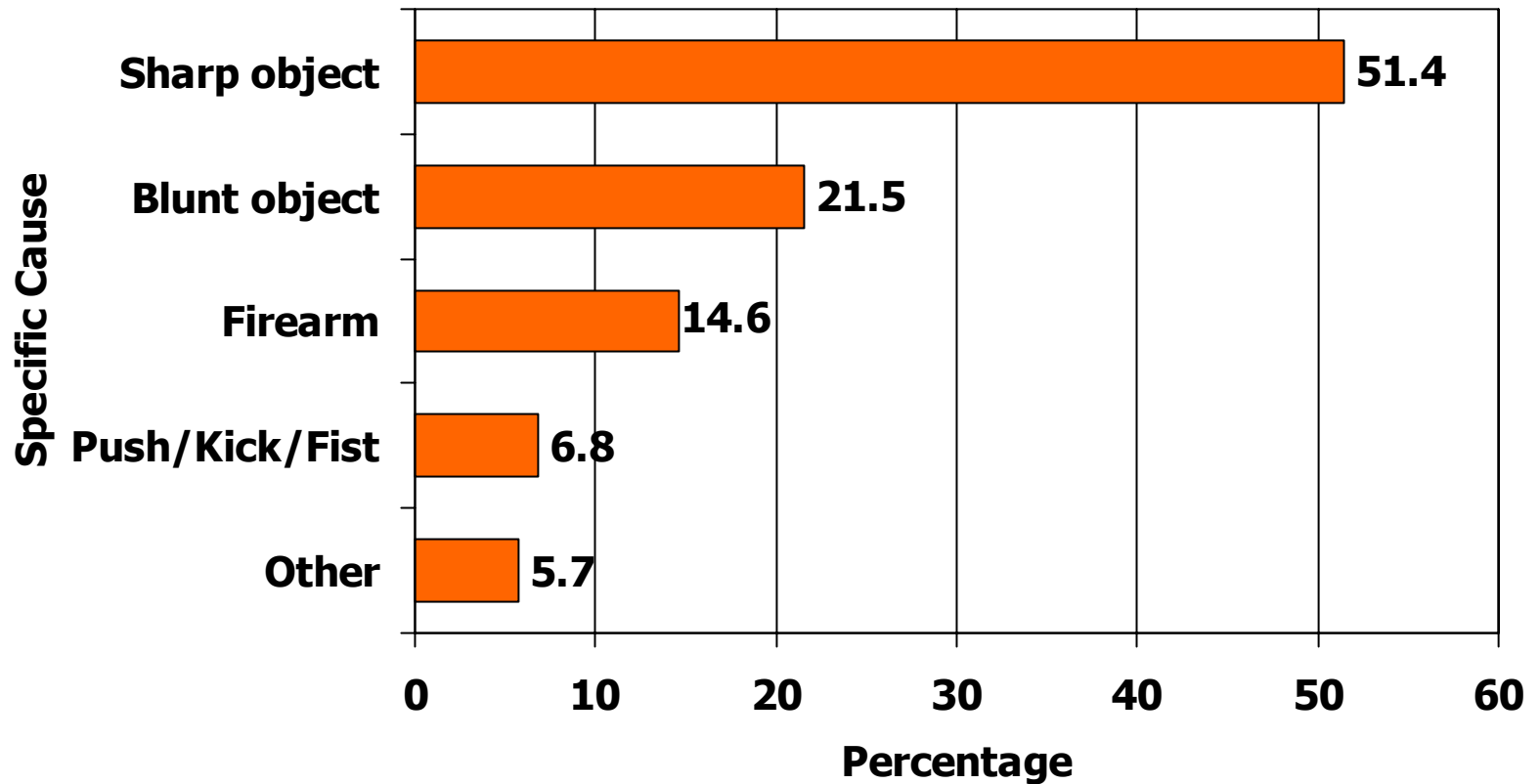


# Victim-Perpetrator Relationships of Gun Violence (n= 438)



Source: NANFISS

# Causes of Violent Injuries (n= 3294)



Source: NANFISS



### 3. Where in CT does gun violence mostly occur?

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- Main scenes of injury
- Top 6 suburbs in Cape Town



# Main Scenes of Injury for Firearm Homicide (1999-2001): 35-42% of cases

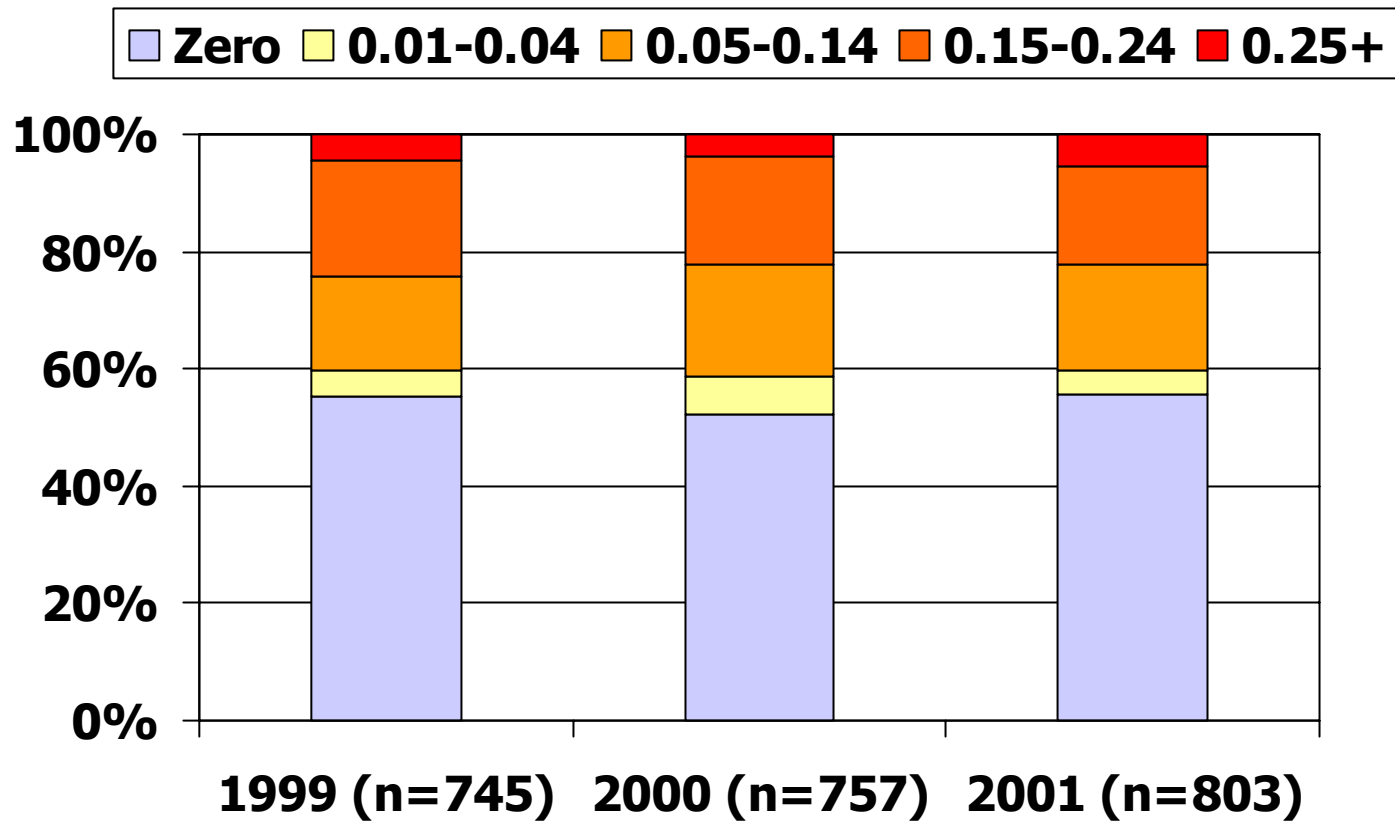
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- Private Home
- Residential Institute
- Road
- Shop/Bank/Retail Area
- Informal Settlements
- Open Land/Beach

# Top 6 Suburbs of Injury for Firearm Homicide in CT (50-60% of cases)

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>1</b>	Khayelitsha (141)	Khayelitsha (155)	Khayelitsha (157)
<b>2</b>	Mitchells Plain (80)	Mitchells Plain (78)	Philippi (114)
<b>3</b>	Gugulethu (76)	Nyanga (69)	Nyanga (113)
<b>4</b>	Parow (46)	Gugulethu (66)	Mitchells Plain (94)
<b>5</b>	Philippi (41)	Philippi (61)	Gugulethu (77)
<b>6</b>	Nyanga (41)	Parow (55)	Tygerberg (43)

# Firearm Homicide by BAC (g/100ml)





# Summary

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- In 2001, 46% of homicides in CT were firearm-related
- Firearm homicide rates increased from 36 to 40 per 100 000 population (1999-2001)
- 90% of firearm homicide victims were male
- 91% of firearm homicides occurred among the “economically active” ages of 15 to 44 years
- Most firearm homicides occurred in and around private homes, residential institutes and roads
- Main suburbs of injury consist of low income communities
- 45% of firearm homicides were alcohol-related



## 4. Prevention Implications

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- Legislative initiatives directed at gun and alcohol control
- Neighbourhood-specific safety promotion interventions
- Increase policing in certain areas
- Improve infrastructure (e.g. lighting) in high-risk areas/suburbs
- Youth outreach programmes
- Poverty Alleviation
- Qualitative research
- Ongoing surveillance



*Thank You*



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