



The Five Pillars: How the Latino Community Can Reduce Gun Violence and Address Its Harms

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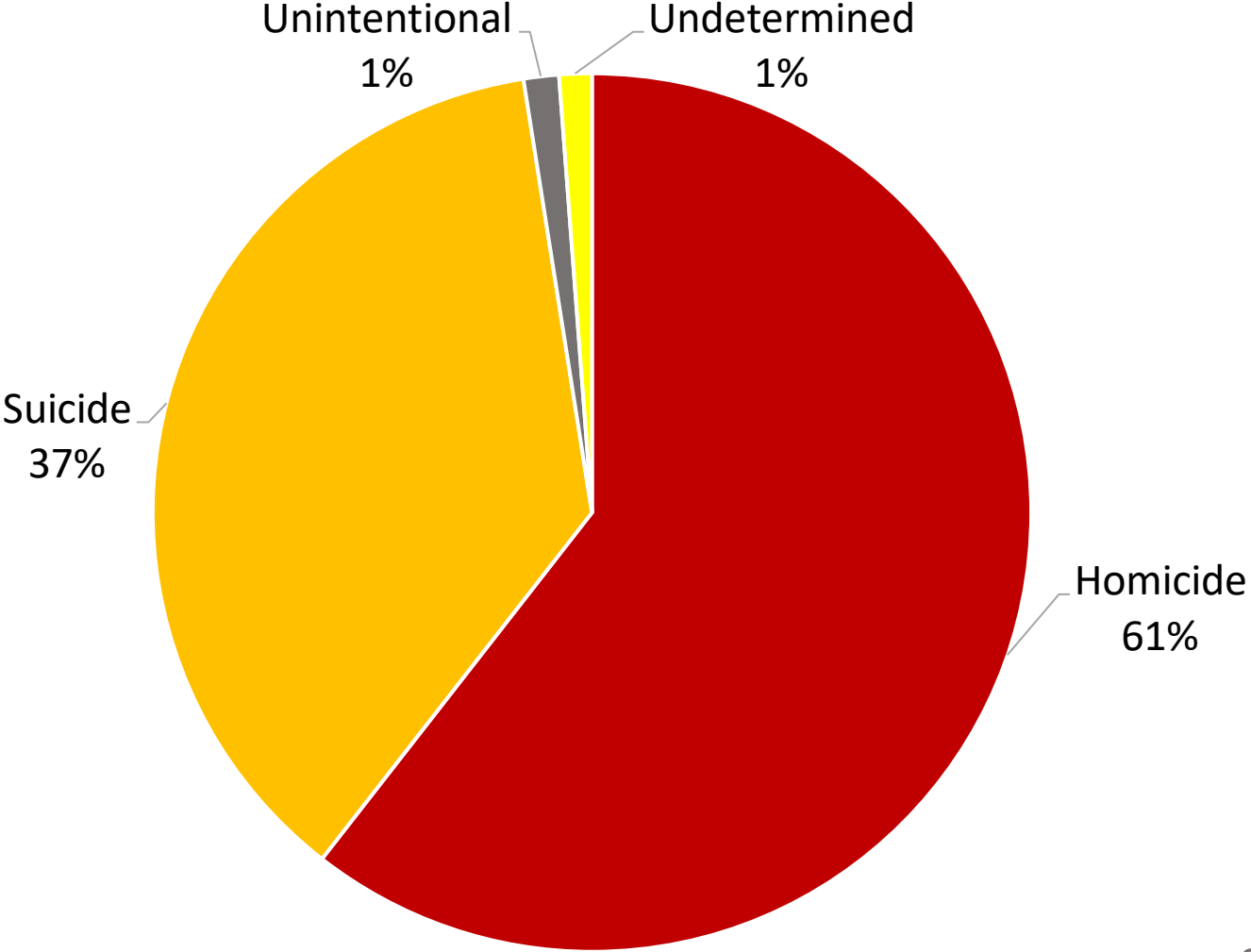
The Toll of Gun Violence on Latino Communities

- Latinos have suffered from huge losses in multiple recent **mass shootings motivated by racism and homophobia**
 - Uvalde, TX (2022)
 - El Paso, TX (2019)
 - Orlando, FL (2016)
- More **day-to-day gun violence** is an epidemic in Latino communities
- Latino people in the U.S. are consistently subjected to **hate-motivated violence** and anti-Hispanic hate crimes
 - A 2017 Dept. of Justice report found that Hispanic people experienced a **higher rate of violent hate crimes** than do both white and Black people

The Toll of Gun Violence on Latino Communities

- Each year, more than **4,700** Latinos die from gun violence in the U.S. – about 13 deaths per day
 - An additional **13,300** are shot and injured
- Latinos are **twice** as likely to die by gun homicide
- Latinos are **four times** as likely to be wounded by a gun than are white people
- Latino children and teens are **three times** more likely to be killed by gun homicide than their white peers
- In an average year, police shoot and kill over **180** Latinos

Gun Deaths Among Latinos

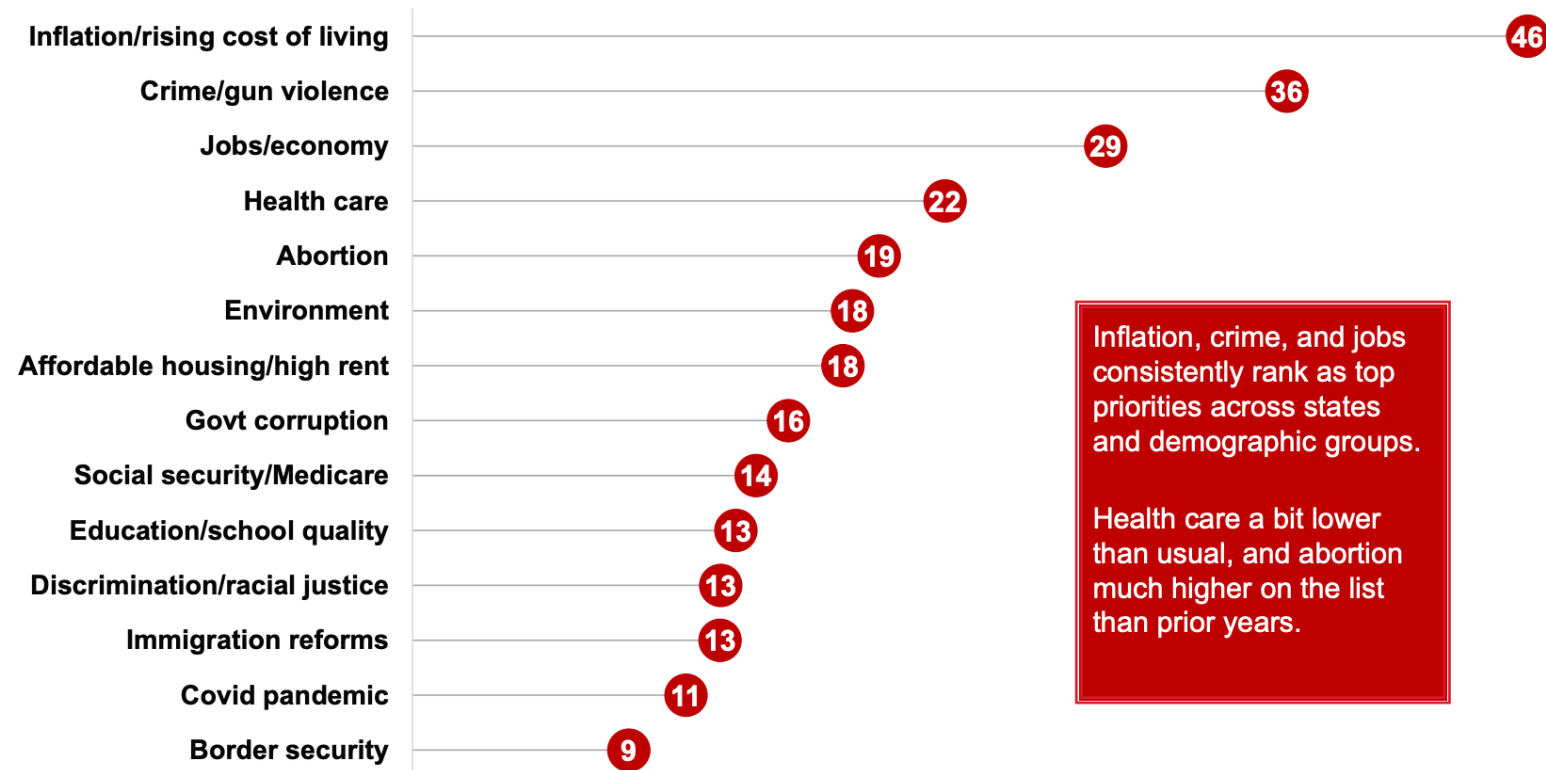


Source: Everytown for Gun Safety

Gun Violence Ranked 2nd Most Important Issue by the Latino Community

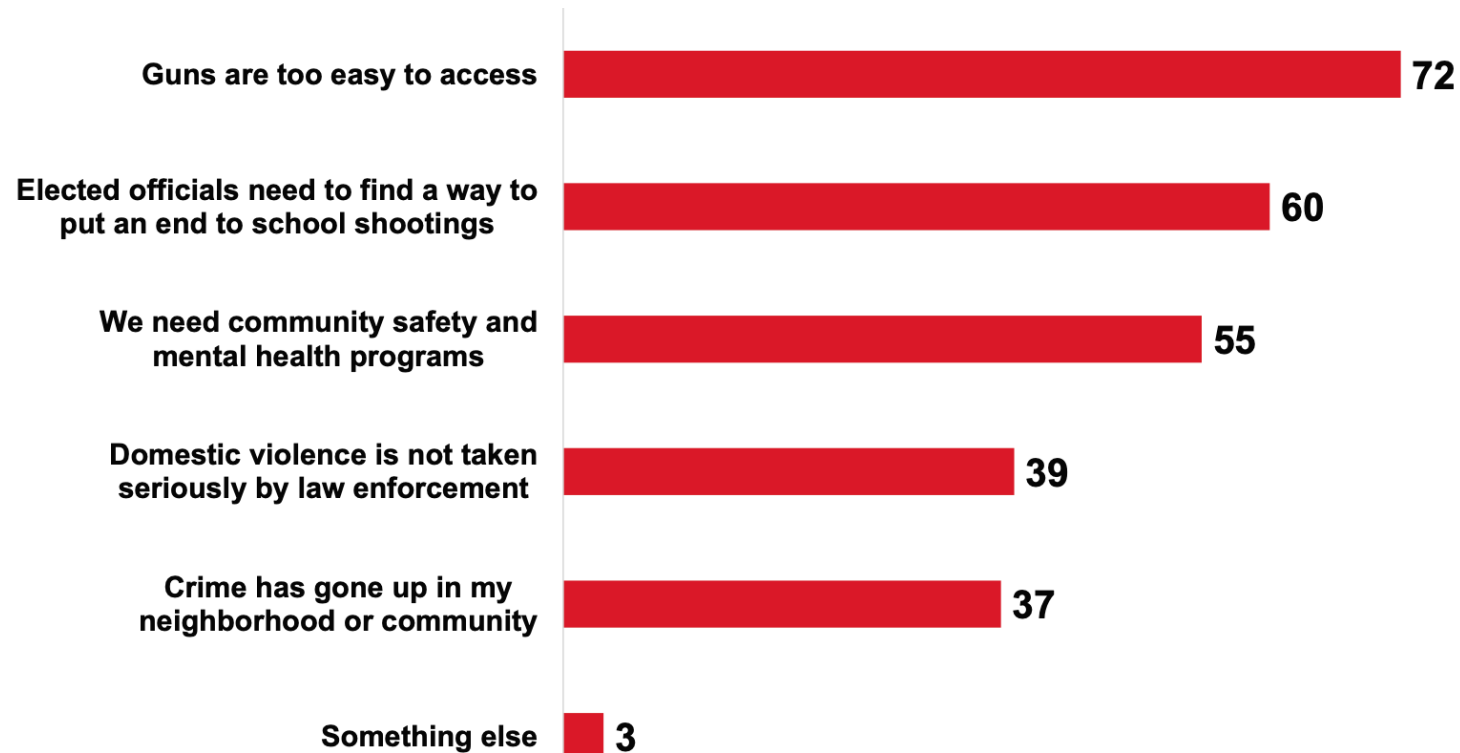
What are the most important issues that elected officials should address?

(Rank up to three. Sorted highest to lowest)

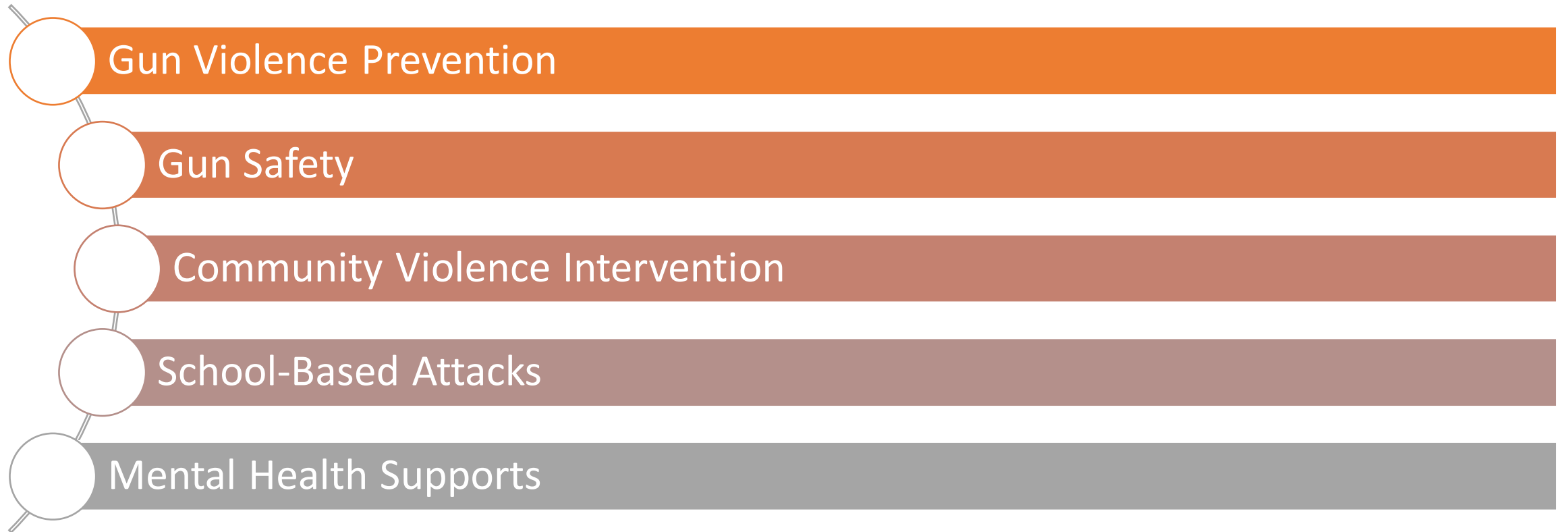


What Latinos Say about the Need to Reduce Gun Violence

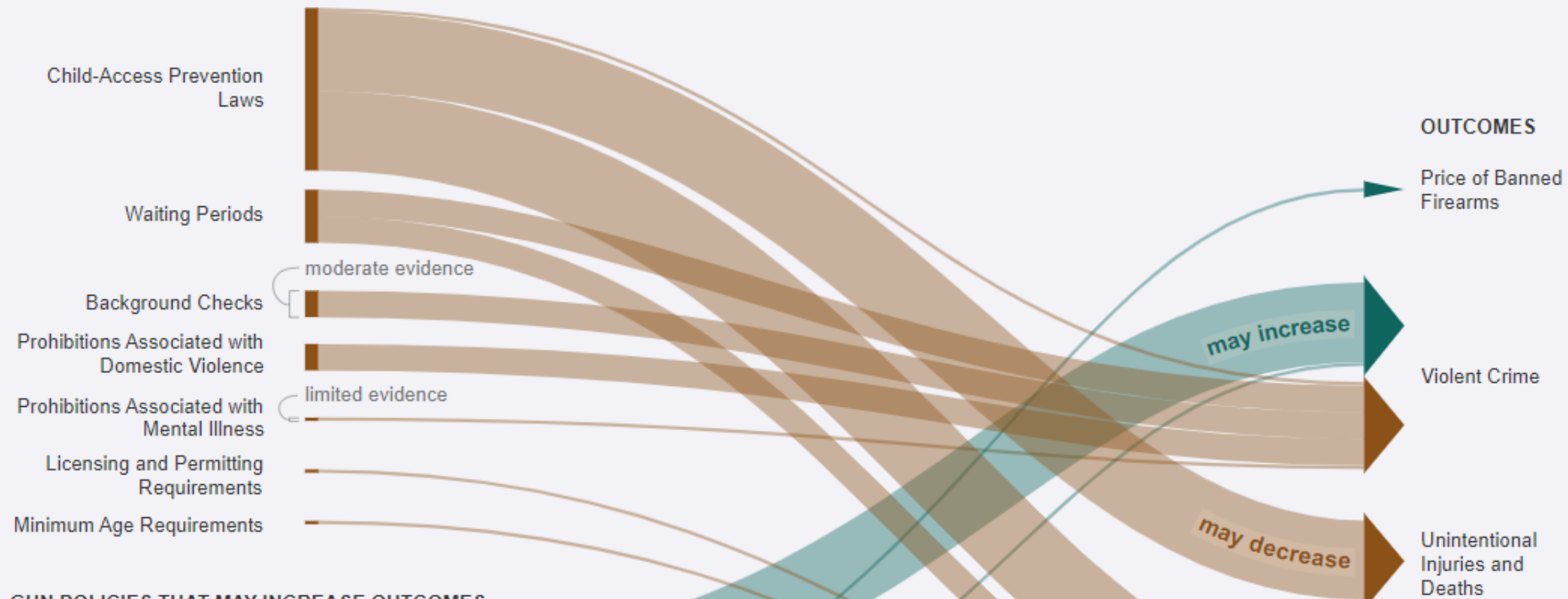
What did you have in mind when you said *crime and gun violence* are important issues elected officials should address? (all that apply)



The Five Pillars of Latino Policy Interests in Gun Violence



GUN POLICIES THAT MAY DECREASE OUTCOMES



GUN POLICIES THAT MAY INCREASE OUTCOMES



Gun Safety

- Assault weapons made up 3% of firearm murders, while **handguns** were involved in **59%** of murders in 2020
- Policies that advance gun safety:
 - Extreme risk (or red flag) laws
 - Minimum age requirements for gun purchases
 - Safe storage laws

Community Violence Intervention

- Gun violence disproportionately harms historically underfunded neighborhoods
 - 75% of homicides—which cluster in cities—involve guns. The majority of these affect young Latino and Black men living in historically underfunded neighborhoods
- Community-based organizations (CBOs) have been successfully working to reduce violence through violence intervention programs. Programs include:
 - Street outreach, group violence intervention, hospital-based violence intervention programs, safe passage programs, and more
- CBOs need additional funding to support their work

Steps to Prevent School-Based Attacks Consistent with Safety and Equity

- A majority of Latino voters (52%) think gun violence prevention policies like universal background checks would be the best way to “make schools in your community safer for students and teachers”
- Extreme risk or red flag laws are critical in preventing school-based shootings
 - In cases where a student may pose a threat, extreme risk laws can be used to prevent them from buying a gun even if they would otherwise legally be allowed to do so
 - Significant evidence shows that these policies can prevent school-based violence

Steps to Prevent School-Based Attacks Consistent with Safety and Equity

- Arming teachers puts children at greater risk, especially students of color
 - This creates a culture of fear for students of color, who already experience harsher disciplining than their white peers
 - More access to firearms is strongly correlated with a greater risk of gun violence
- Policing in schools disproportionately harms students of color
 - The presence of law enforcement has played a significant role in criminalizing students, especially students of color, and negatively impact learning outcomes for all students
 - In schools with police, Latino students were arrested at 1.3 times that of white students

Deepening Mental Health Supports to Address Gun Trauma Is an Essential Step

- Gun violence can cause severe and long-lasting harm on the mental health of everyone who is impacted by gun violence and can traumatize whole communities, such as those in Uvalde and El Paso.
- Latinos experience barriers to accessing mental health services:
 - In 2021, approximately **18%** of Latinos were **uninsured**.
 - Adults without health insurance report a **higher overall stress** than those who are insured, and one survey found that, in 2018, Latinos are the **most likely** to be stressed by lack or loss of health insurance coverage.
 - In 2021, Latinos with any mental illness were **far less likely to receive care** than non-Hispanic whites (36.1% vs. 52.4%).

Deepening Mental Health Supports to Address Gun Trauma Is an Essential Step

- Opportunities for advancing mental health supports for Latinos:
 - Improving access to short- and long-term funding and resources for communities impacted by gun violence to support trauma recovery
 - Increasing funding for student mental health and school-based services to provide students with adequate mental health services and make schools safer without additional physical security measures
 - Improving the implementation of mental health parity laws
 - Diversifying the mental health workforce to better reflect the populations being served
 - Increasing funding for research and improved data collection to fully understand the scope of gun violence's impact on Latinos and help develop effective measures to reduce such violence