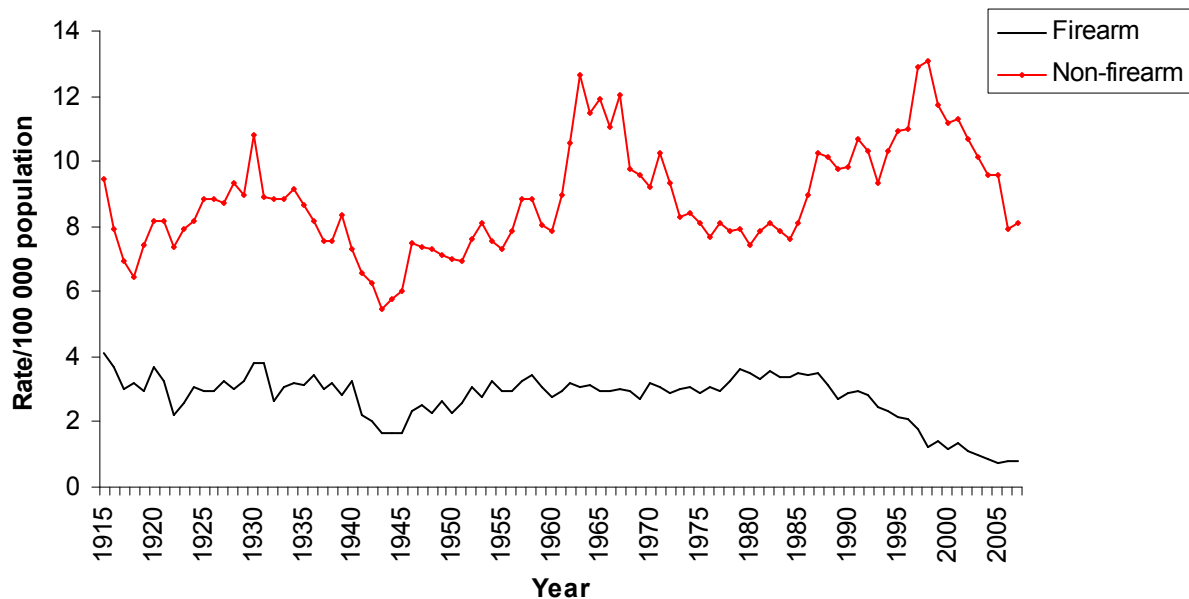


Firearm and non-firearm suicide rates, 1915-2007



- Although most firearm-related deaths are suicides, firearm suicides represent a low percentage of suicides overall.
- Firearm suicide rates began falling in the 1980s.
- A number of studies, from a range of different sources, have shown that:
 - The 1996 firearms legislation did not have a significant impact on the pre-existing downward trend in firearm suicides.
 - Declines in firearm suicide have been accompanied by an increase in the use of other suicide methods (especially hanging).
 - Declines in non-firearm suicides began around the same time as the gun laws were changed. The declines coincided with the introduction of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- A recent report backed by the Public Health Association of Australia concluded that the 1996 gun laws were “not a cost effective intervention” for suicide prevention.

References

- Baker, J., & McPhedran, S. (2007). Gun laws and sudden death: Did the Australian firearms legislation of 1996 make a difference? *British Journal of Criminology*, 47: 455-469.
- De Leo, D., Dwyer, J., Firman, D., & Neulinger, K. (2003). Trends in hanging and firearm suicide rates in Australia: substitution of method? *Suicide and Life Threatening Behaviour*, 33(2): 151-164.
- Klieve, H., Barnes, M., & De Leo, D. (2009). Controlling firearms use in Australia: Has the 1996 gun law reform produced the decrease in rates of suicide with this method? *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 44: 285-292.
- Lee, W-S, & Suardi, S. (2010). The Australian firearms buyback and its effect on gun deaths. *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 28(1): 65-79.
- Vos, T., et al. (2010). *Assessing Cost-Effectiveness in Prevention (ACE-Prevention). Final Report.* University of QLD, Brisbane, and Deakin University, Melbourne.