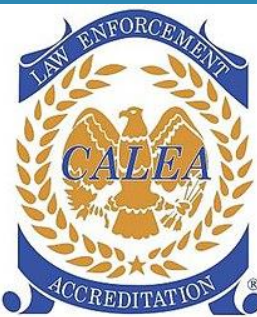




SUICIDE AWARENESS & FIREARMS

Sheriff Maxwell C. Uy

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office





SUICIDE AWARENESS & FIREARMS

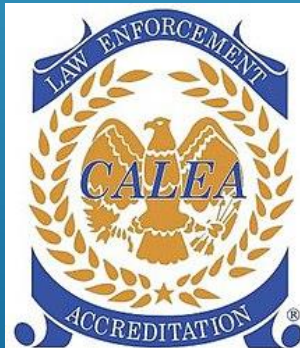
- ▶ Multiple research studies confirm that a strong link exists between *firearms and suicide*, largely due to the *high lethality* of firearms and *increased suicide risk* among individuals with access to guns.
- ▶ Key findings on the link between firearms and suicide:
- ▶ **High lethality:** Suicide attempts involving a firearm are overwhelmingly fatal, with a fatality rate of approximately 90%. In contrast, the fatality rate for other suicide methods is much lower. This high lethality often eliminates the possibility of intervention or a second chance at life.
- ▶ **Increased access, increased risk:** Studies show that individuals living in a home with a firearm have a significantly increased risk of death by suicide. Some research suggests this risk is more than *three times higher* than in households without a gun. This elevated risk extends to all members of the household, not just the gun owner.





SUICIDE AWARENESS & FIREARMS

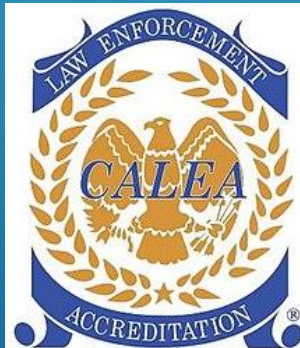
- ▶ **Household firearm ownership:** Research using data from 2004 to 2016 found that California adults who acquired a handgun had a suicide rate nearly *four times higher* than those who did not. This elevated risk was specifically driven by higher rates of firearm suicide, not other methods.
- ▶ **Secure storage reduces risk:** In homes with firearms, the risk of suicide is significantly higher if the guns are stored *unlocked or loaded*. Safe storage practices, such as keeping firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition, can lower this risk.
- ▶ **Means restriction is effective:** One of the most effective interventions for preventing suicide is to put *time and distance* between a person in crisis and a lethal method. Because many suicide attempts are impulsive and occur during a brief crisis, limiting access to a highly lethal method like a firearm can allow the crisis to pass or provide an opportunity for intervention. Studies have shown that most people who survive a suicide attempt do not go on to die from a later attempt.





SUICIDE AWARENESS & FIREARMS

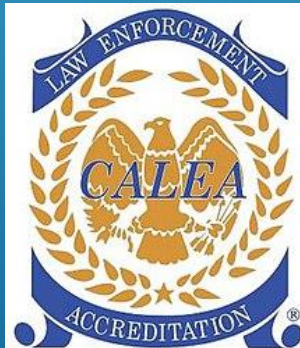
- ▶ **Higher gun ownership correlates with higher suicide rates:**
At the population level, states with higher rates of household gun ownership tend to have higher overall suicide rates. Non-firearm suicide rates remain relatively stable across states, suggesting that a lack of access to guns does not typically lead to a substitution of other lethal means.
- ▶ Demographic groups disproportionately impacted
- ▶ **Young people:** For individuals aged 10 to 24, firearms were used in over half of all suicides in 2020, for the first time in nearly 20 years.





SUICIDE AWARENESS & FIREARMS

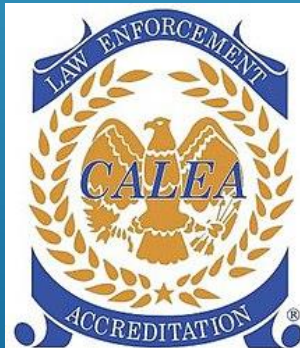
- ▶ **Veterans:** Veterans carry a disproportionate burden of gun suicide, in part due to higher rates of gun ownership. In recent years, a majority of veteran suicides involved a firearm.
- ▶ **Rural areas:** Gun suicide rates are higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. This is likely due to a combination of higher gun ownership rates and less access to mental health services.
- ▶ **Males:** While females attempt suicide more often, males are far more likely to die by suicide, primarily because they are more likely to use a highly lethal method like a firearm.





BE S.M.A.R.T. CAMPAIGN

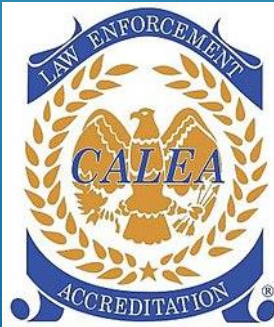
- ▶ *“Firearms are now the leading cause of death among children in the United States. That’s why it’s more important than ever for parents and caregivers to know how secure firearm storage works. It’s simple. To help keep your family safe and prevent tragedies, it’s crucial to secure your firearm.”* (Be SMART Website)
- ▶ **Launched in 2015,**
- ▶ **Secure...**Secure all guns in your home and vehicles
- ▶ **Model...**Model responsible behavior around guns
- ▶ **Ask...**Ask about unsecured guns in other homes
- ▶ **Recognize...**Recognize the role of guns in suicide
- ▶ **Tell...**Tell your peers to Be SMART
- ▶ Link to additional information:
- ▶ <https://besmartforkids.org/>





WHAT IS AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER?

- ▶ A Court issued civil order temporarily requiring the subject of the order to :
- ▶ Surrender any firearms or ammunition to law enforcement
- ▶ Prohibits the purchase or possession of firearms or ammunition
- ▶ With reasonable belief that a person meets the requirements, an ERPO allows the court to refer someone for an *emergency evaluation (EEP)* due to mental disorder.





WHO CAN REQUEST AN ERPO?

- ▶ **Law Enforcement Officers**
(in Montgomery County this is more often the Montgomery County Police Department)
- ▶ **States Attorneys**
- ▶ **Health professionals and Mental Health providers**
- ▶ **Family members, spouses, or cohabitants**

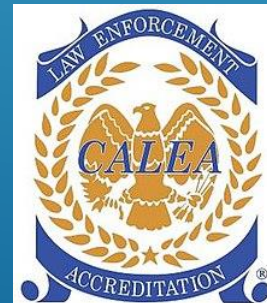




PROCESS OF OBTAINING AN ERPO?



- ▶ Process begins by completing and filing a petition in the District Court (DC-ERPO-001)
<https://www.mdcourts.gov/district/forms>
- ▶ If the Courts are closed, an ERPO may be filed through the District Court Commissioners





Case No.

4. ☐ The respondent has committed or threatened violence against themselves or others, whether or not the threat of violence involved a firearm. Include a description of the action(s) and date(s) of occurrence(s):

5. ☐ The respondent has violated a Protective Order (Family Law Title 4, Subtitle 5). Include a description of the action(s) and date(s) of occurrence(s):

6. ☐ The respondent has violated a Peace Order (Courts & Judicial Proceedings Title 3, Subtitle 15). Include a description of the action(s) and date(s) of occurrence(s):

7. ☐ The respondent has abusively used a controlled dangerous substance(s) and/or alcohol. Include a description of the action(s) and date(s) of occurrence(s):

☐ The respondent has been convicted of a criminal offense(s) involving a controlled dangerous substance or alcohol.

Include case information (if known):	Court	Kind of Case	Year Filed	Conviction Date (if known)	Results or Status (if known)
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>

8. ☐ Attached are health records or other health information concerning the respondent (to the extent disclosure is not otherwise prohibited).

☐ I have completed the necessary Addendum to Petition for Extreme Risk Protective Order (Description of Respondent).

DC-ERPO-001A.

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this document are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Date

Petitioner

TO THE PETITIONER: You may be required to appear before the court. You have made the statements above under the penalties of perjury. A petitioner who, in good faith, files a Petition for Extreme Risk Protective Order is not civilly or criminally liable for filing the petition.

DC-ERPO-001 (Rev. 03/2022)

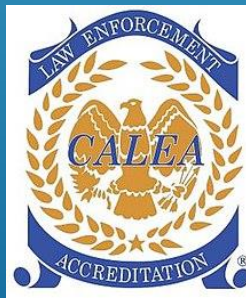
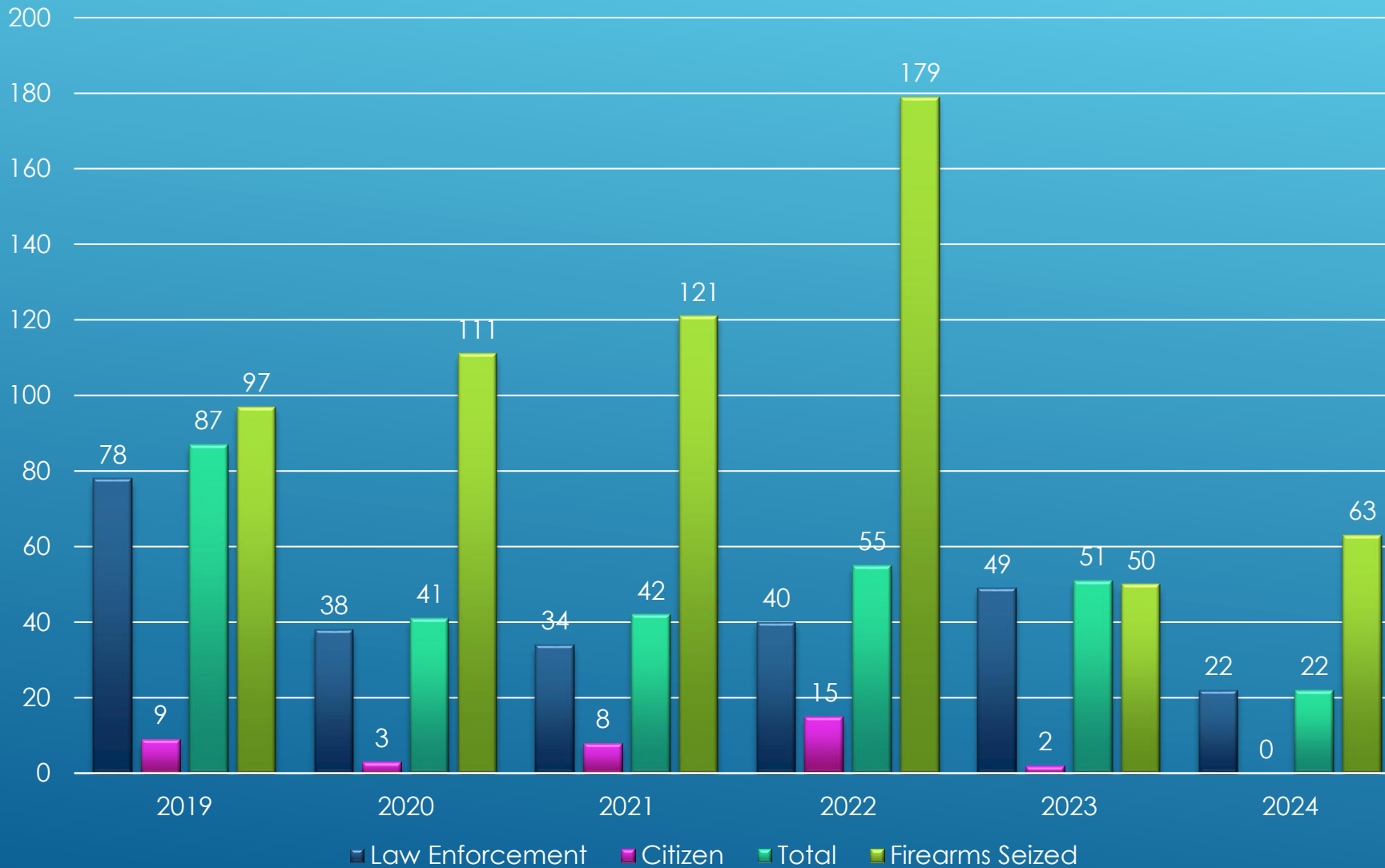
Page 2 of 2

Reset





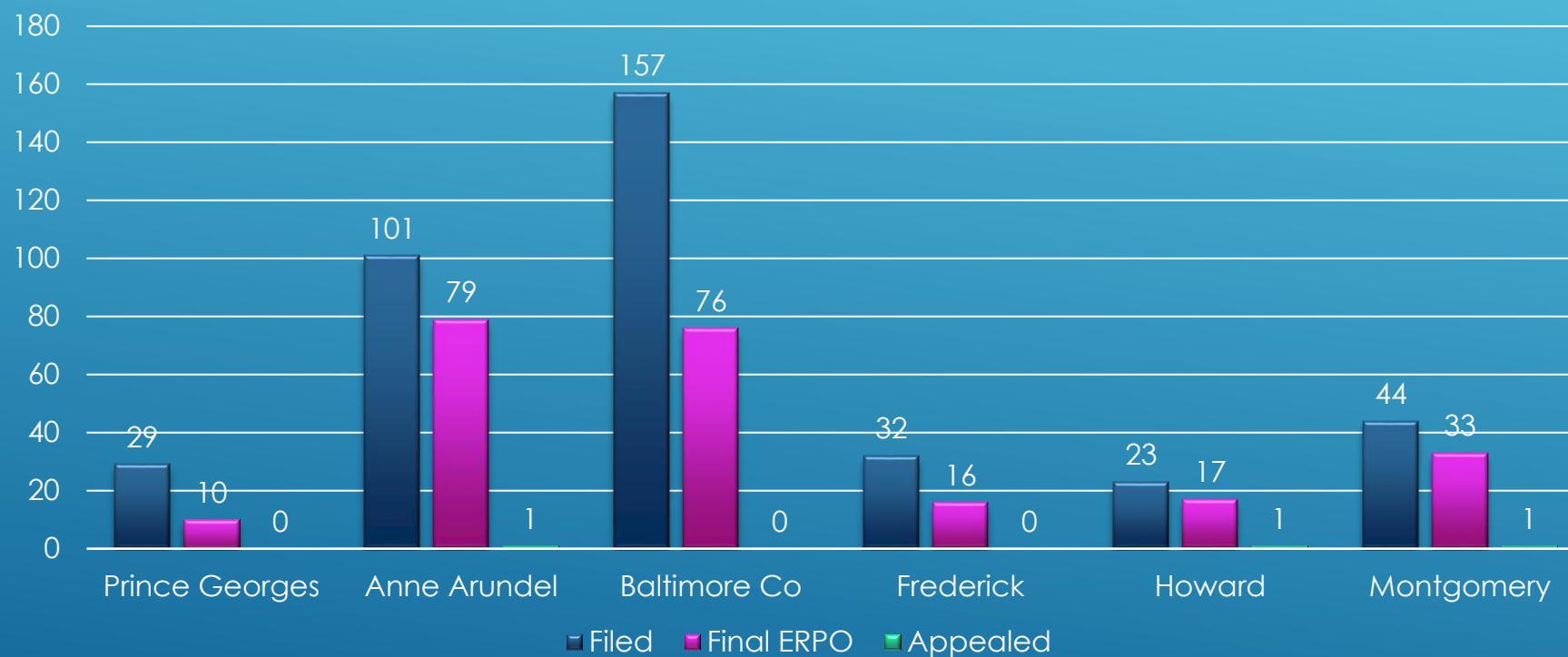
ERPO STATS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY





2024

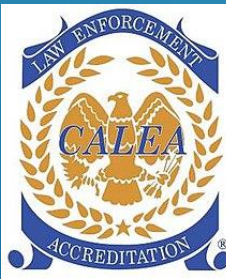
MD ERPO Stats





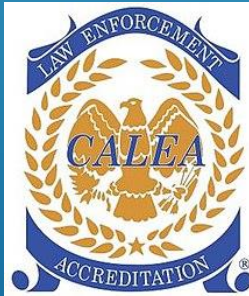
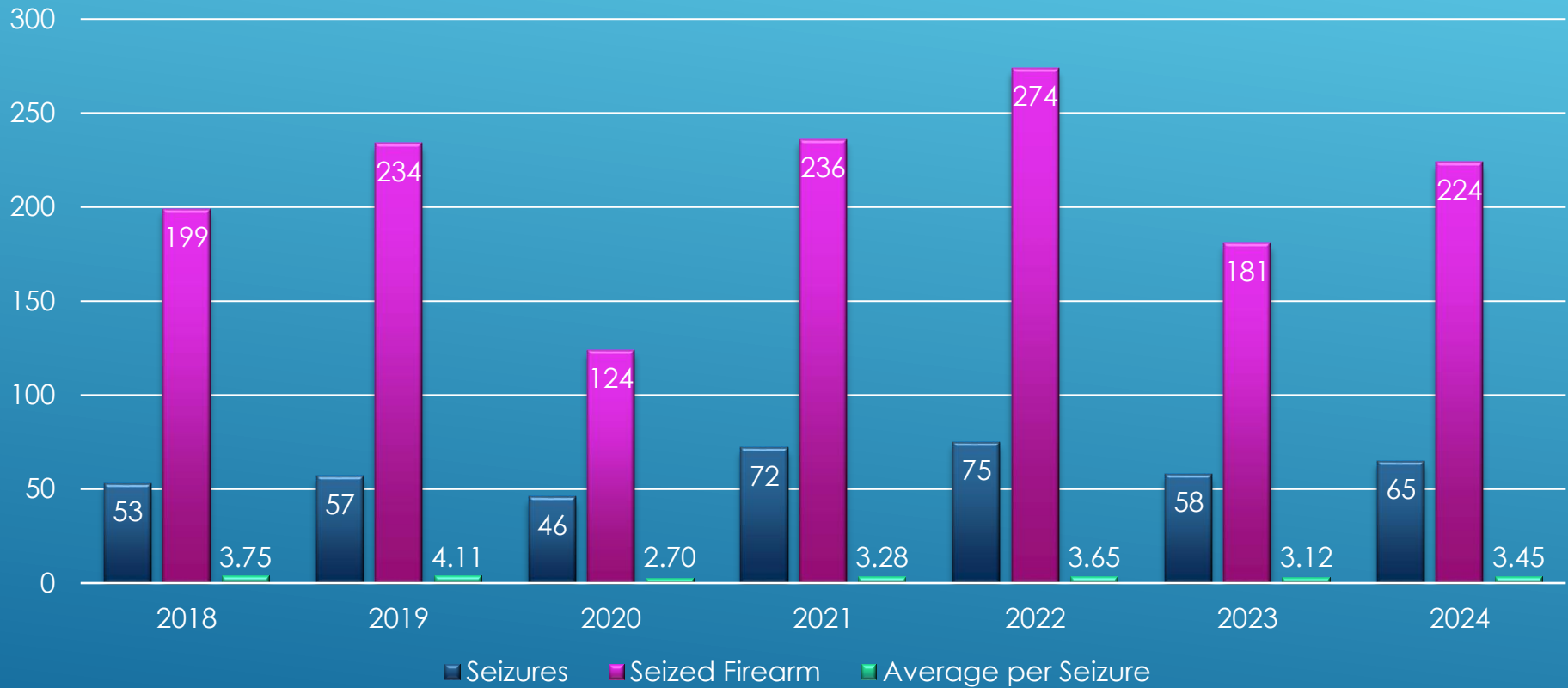
MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

- ▶ Under the umbrella of the Sheriff's Office
- ▶ Established in Montgomery County in the Spring of 2009
- ▶ Serves as the central hub for Domestic Violence Services in the county
- ▶ *Serving more than 1,500 individuals per year*
- ▶ <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/>





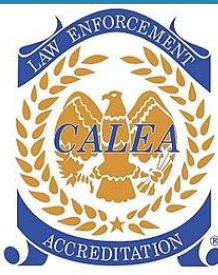
FIREARM SEIZURE STATS BY MCSCO





FIREARM “BUY BACK” EVENT WITH SAO AND LOCAL INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION IN 2024

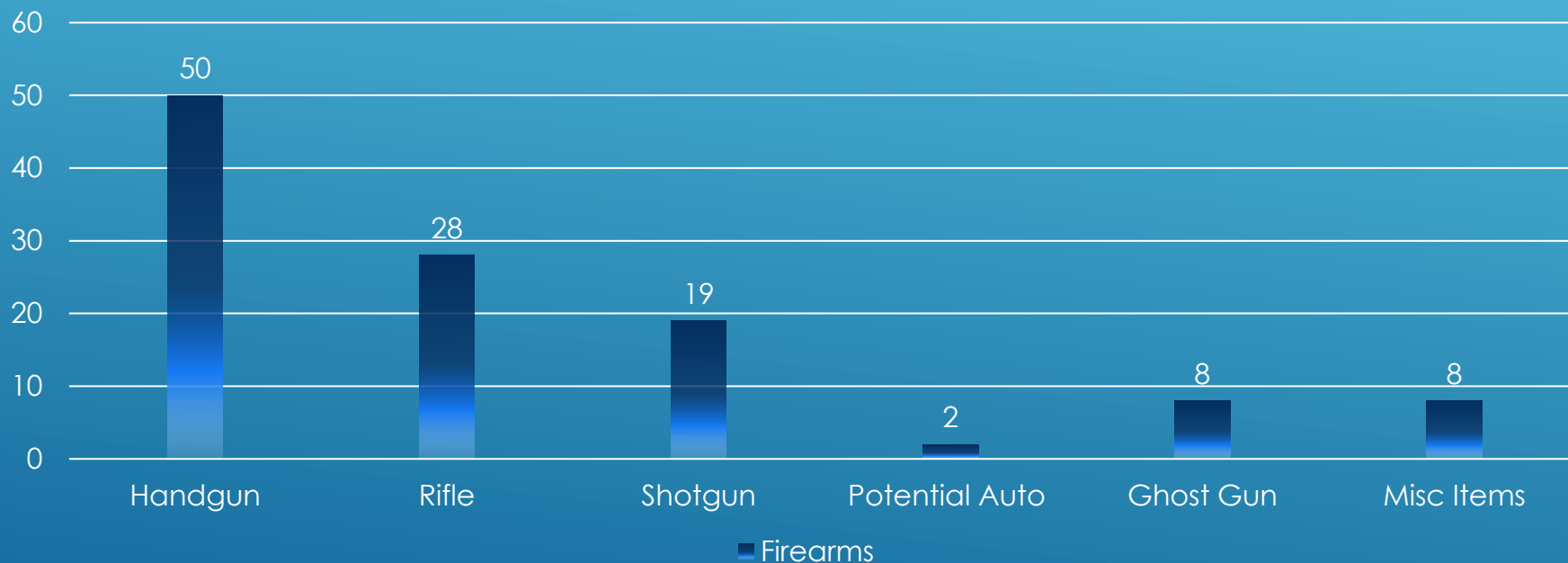
- ▶ Partnered with DC Area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network
- ▶ Provided staffing, logistical support and security for the event
- ▶ Event scheduled for approximately four (4) hours
- ▶ **115 firearms turned in**





RESULTS FROM FIREARM BUY BACK EVENT

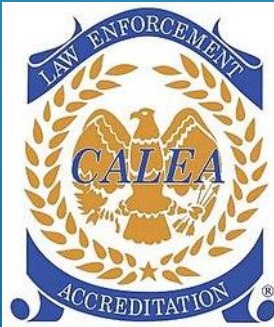
TOTAL FIREARMS SEIZED: 115





WHAT CAN WE DO?

- ▶ Take threats or statements seriously
- ▶ Listen non-judgmentally
- ▶ Show empathy and compassion
- ▶ Ask directly about suicide
- ▶ Encourage professional help
- ▶ Call or text 988 the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- ▶ Be S.M.A.R.T. Campaign
- ▶ Consider an ERPO if appropriate





Sheriff Maxwell C. Uy

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Main - 240-777-7000

Domestic Violence Section - 240-777-7016

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sheriff/

www.facebook.com/mcso.md

