

Gun violence during the pandemic

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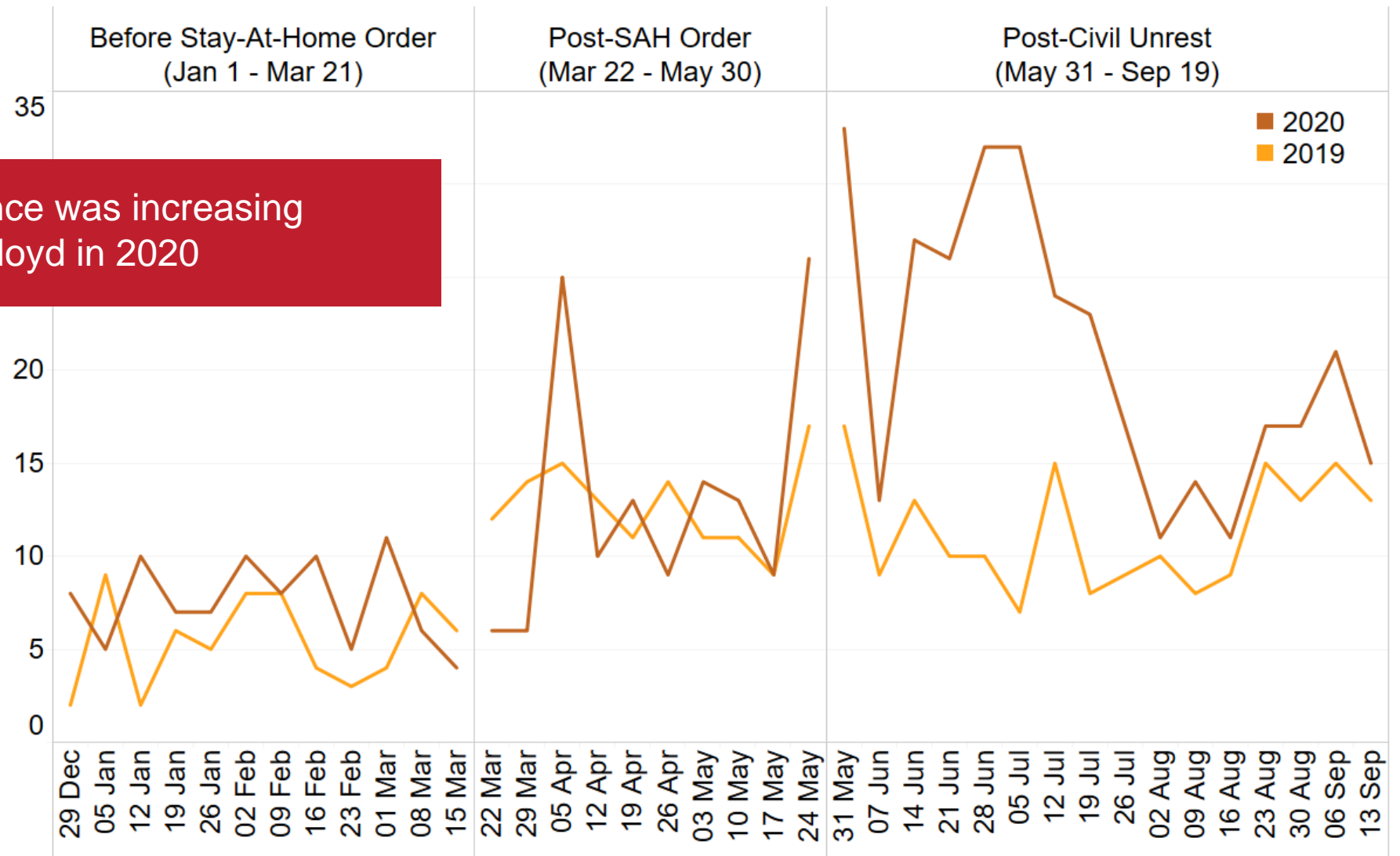
Most shootings seem to stem from altercations

So what leads to more shootings?

- Anything that leads to **more social frictions**
- Anything that leads to **less de-escalation**
- Anything that **makes arguments more lethal** (more guns in public areas)

Homicides, 2019-2020

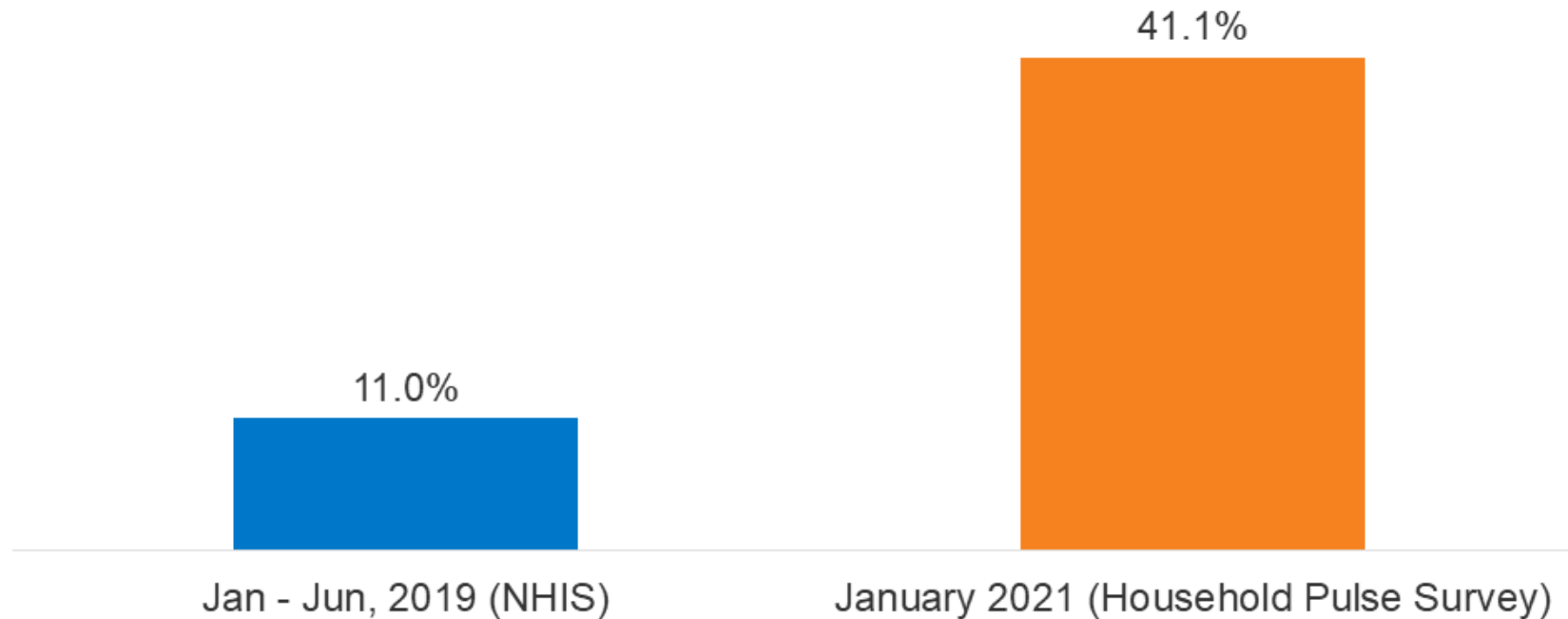
Key point— gun violence was increasing even before George Floyd in 2020



What's going on?

- **More social frictions**
 - Not because of more social interactions, but b/c mental health problems led to higher probability of friction per interaction

Average Share of Adults Reporting Symptoms of Anxiety Disorder and/or Depressive Disorder, January-June 2019 vs. January 2021



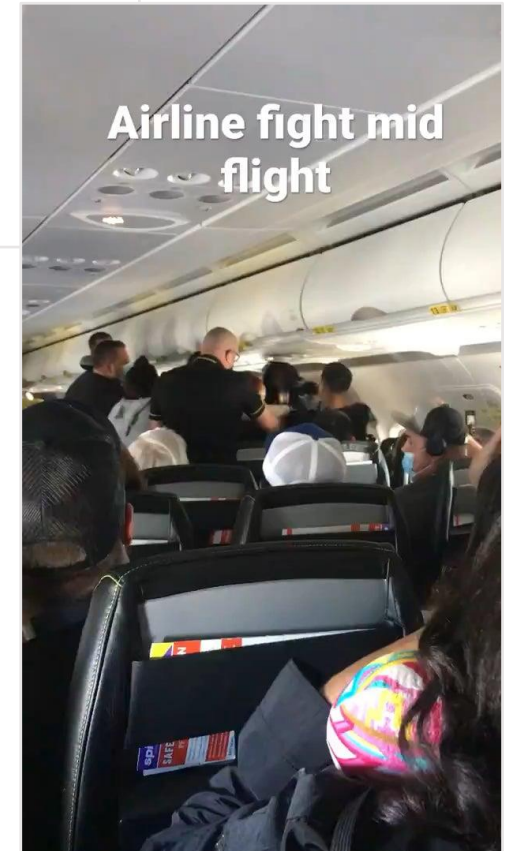
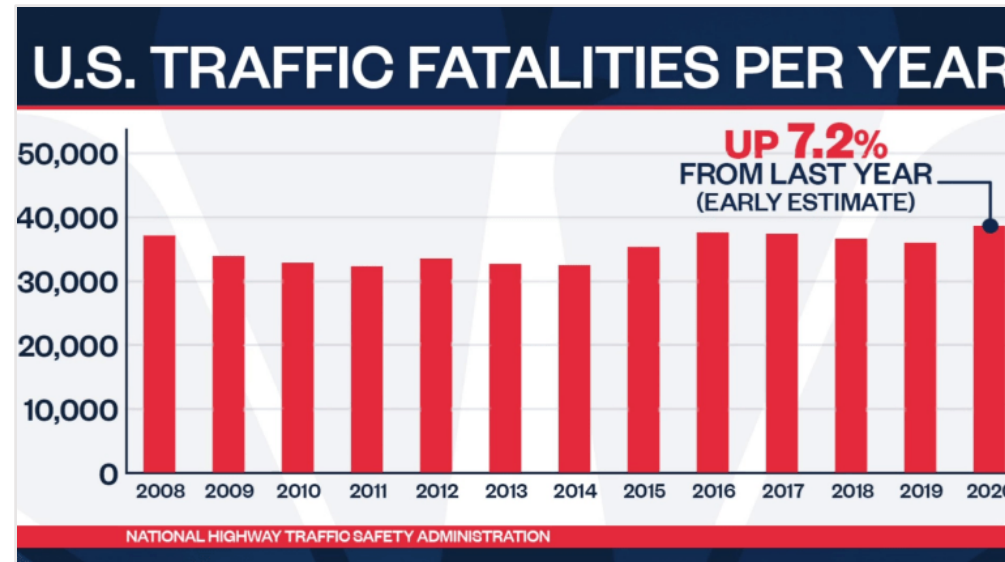
NOTES: Percentages are based on responses to the GAD-2 and PHQ-2 scales. Pulse findings (shown here for January 6 – 18, 2021) have been stable overall since data collection began in April 2020.

SOURCE: NHIS Early Release Program and U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey. For more detail on methods, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/ERmentalhealth-508.pdf>



Covid challenges, bad student behavior push teachers to limit, out the door

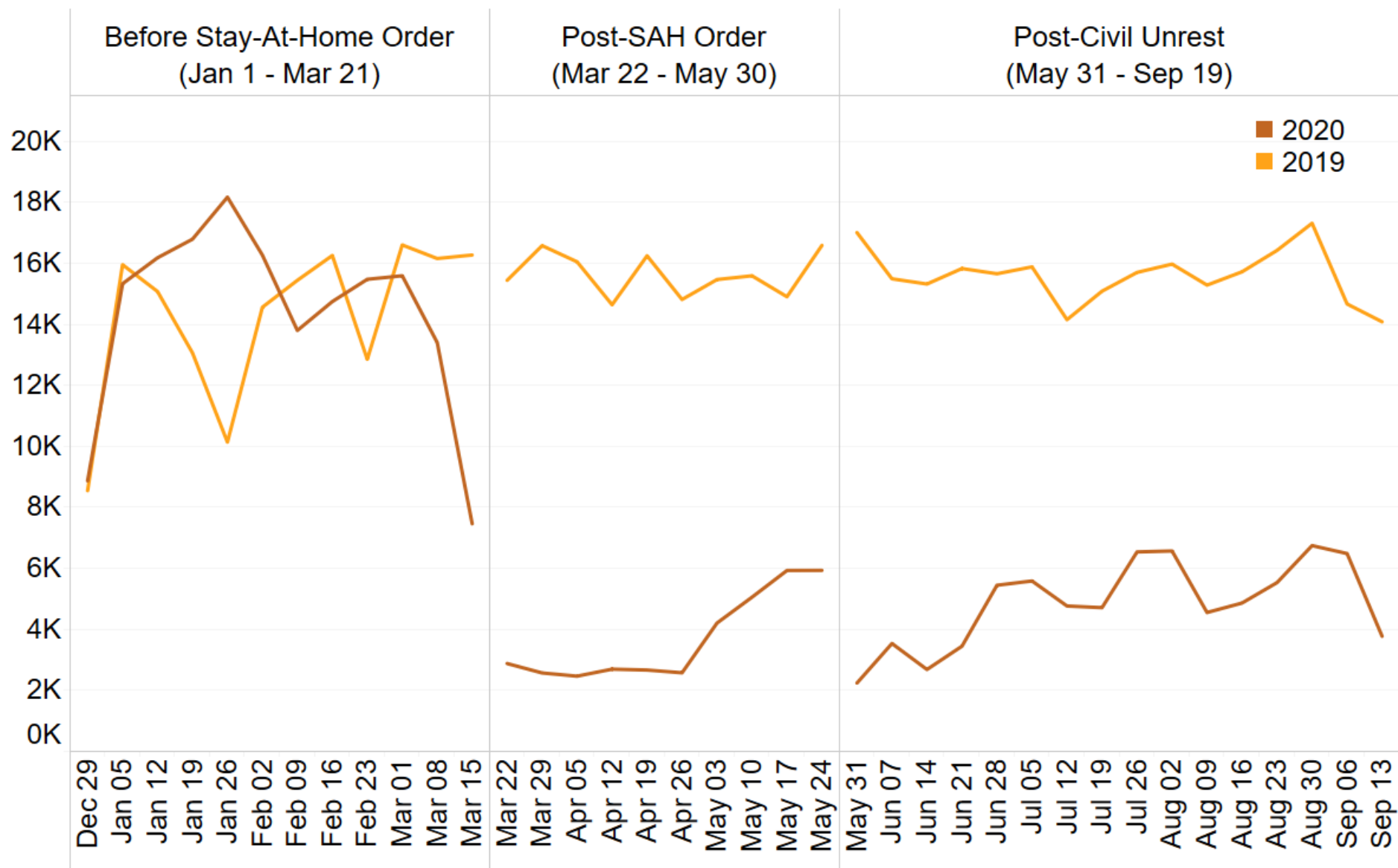
Thousands of California teachers quit midyear



What's going on?

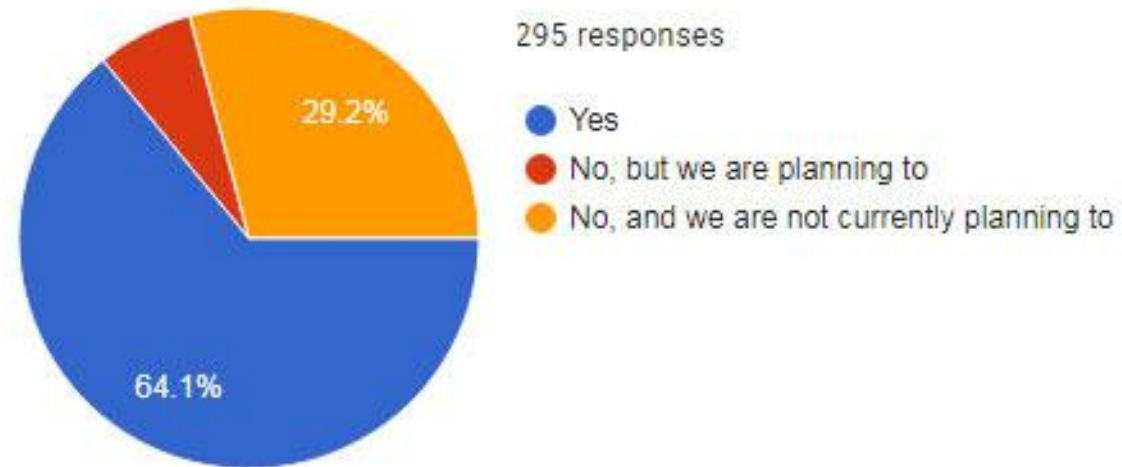
- **More social frictions**
 - Not because of more social interactions, but b/c mental health problems led to higher probability of friction per interaction
- **Less de-escalation**
 - Criminal justice system & social services disrupted

Investigatory Stop Reports & Traffic Stops, 2019-2020





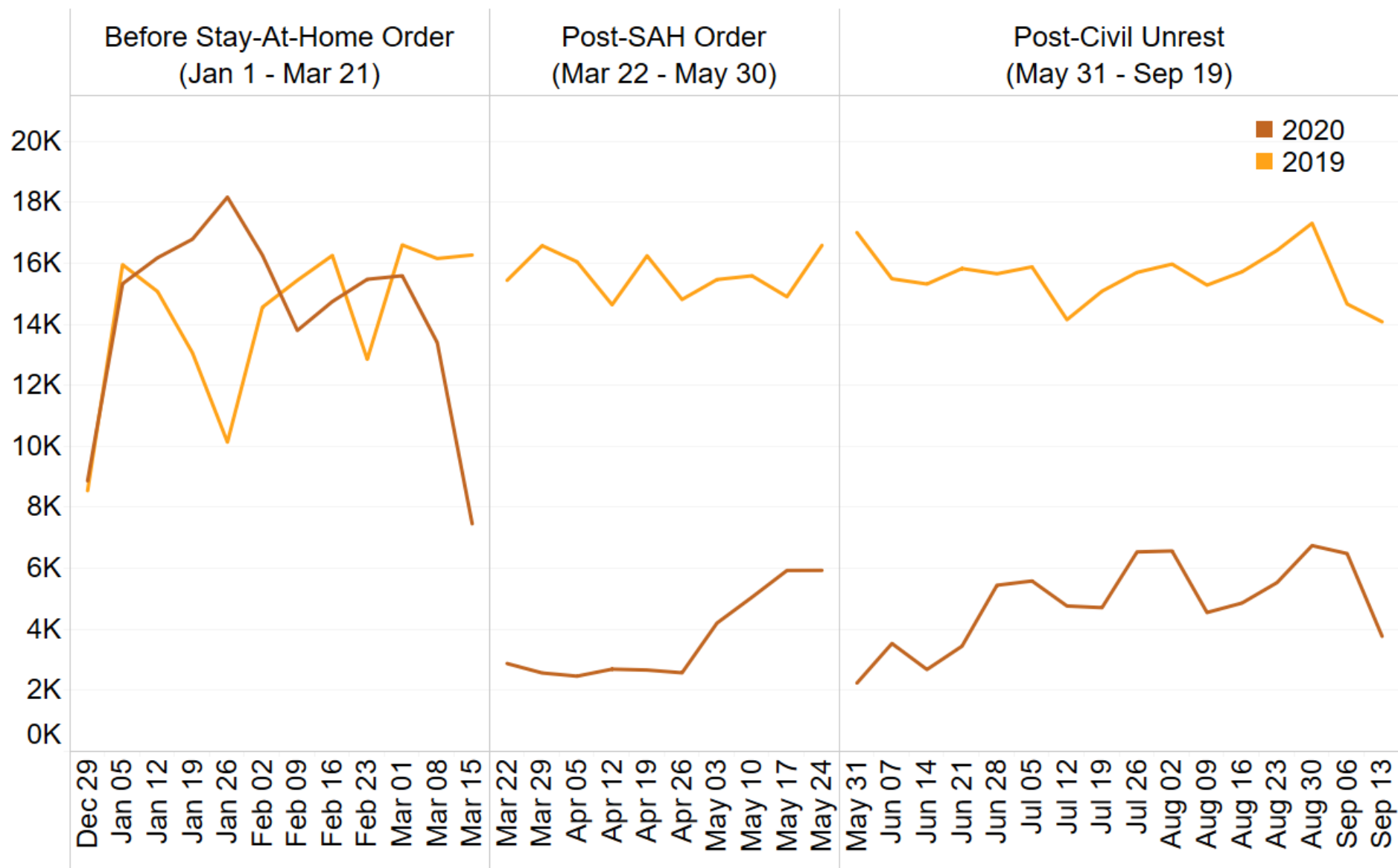
Has your organization cut back on program services due to the pandemic/economic shutdown?



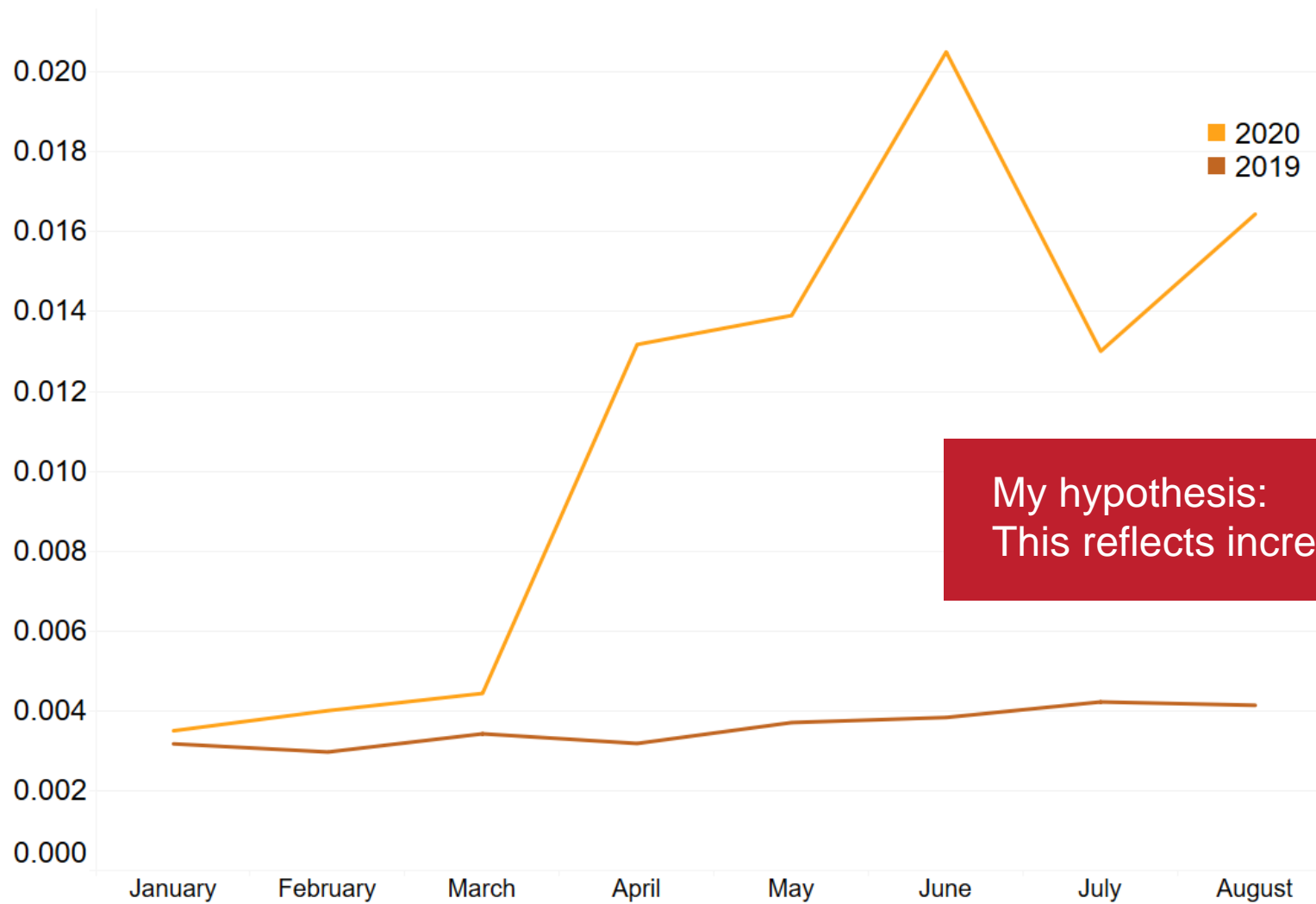
What's going on?

- **More social frictions**
 - Not because of more social interactions, but b/c mental health problems led to higher probability of friction per interaction
- **Less de-escalation**
 - Criminal justice system & social services disrupted
- **More guns in public places**

Investigatory Stop Reports & Traffic Stops, 2019-2020

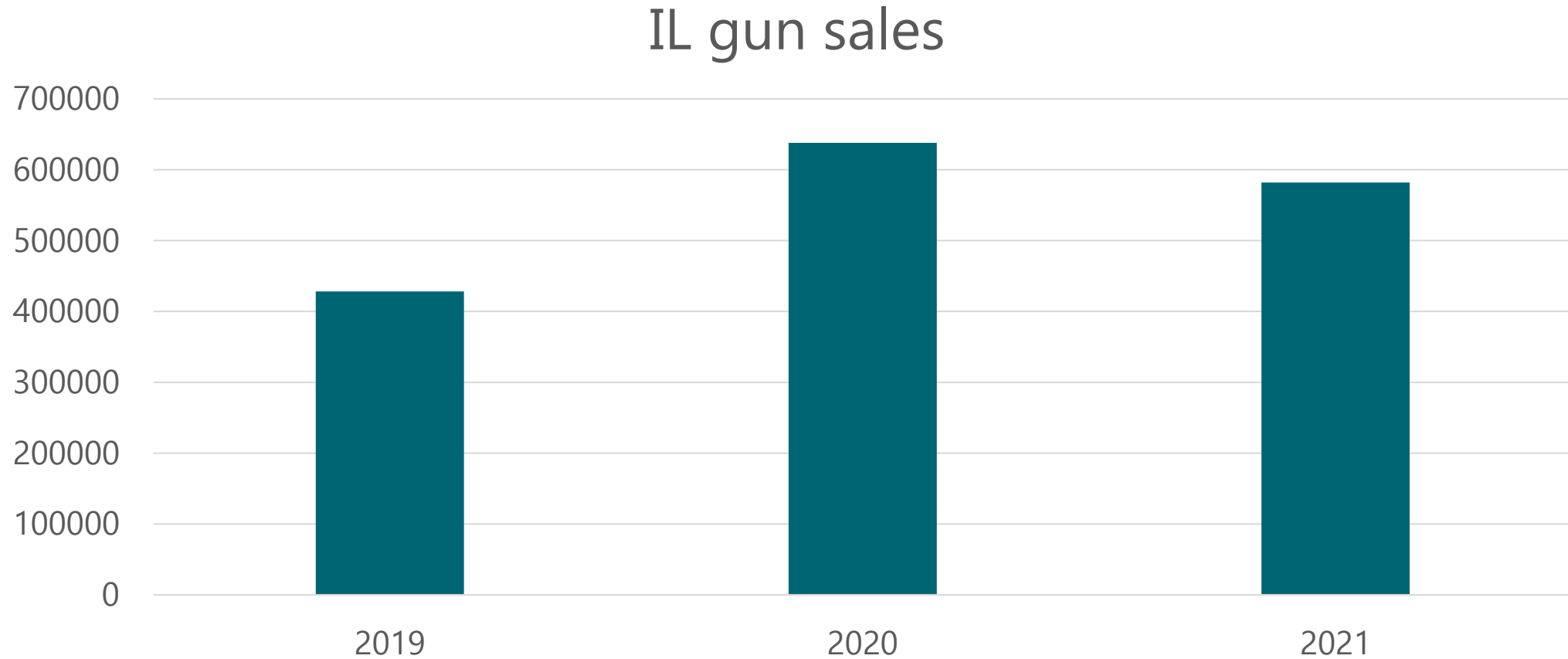



Gun Recoveries per Traffic/Street Stop, 2019-2020



My hypothesis:
This reflects increase in illegal gun carrying

Surge in gun sales may or may not be cause of rise in illegal carrying, but surely didn't help





Is this just a temporary
pandemic side effect?

Or a return to the
violence of the
20th century?

