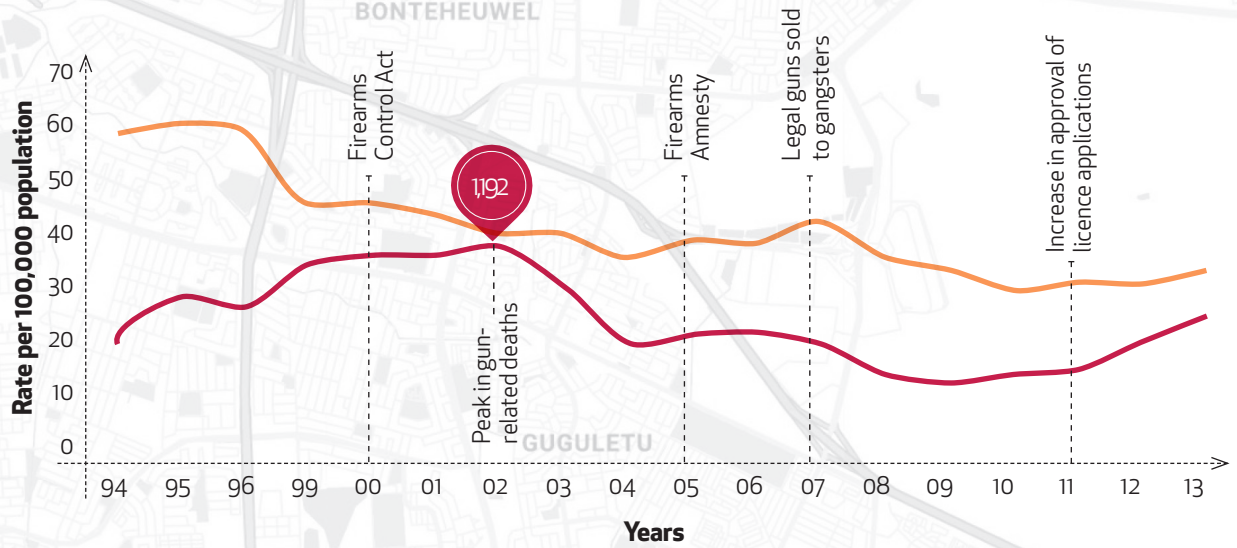


# CAPE TOWN PROVES STRONG GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES, POOR ENFORCEMENT KILLS\*

## 01 CAPE TOWN FIREARM & NON-FIREARM MURDER RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION 1994 - 2013



Gun homicide rate	19,7	27,2	26,6	33,2	34,6	36,3	37,8	29,1	19,2	21,2	21,9	20,3	14,6	13,2	13,6	15	19,4	24,2
Non-gun homicide rate	56,7	58,7	59,2	44,8	45	42,7	39	38,5	35	38	38	41,6	35,2	32,7	28,8	30,4	30,8	32,8

### THERE WERE 36,207 MURDERS IN CAPE TOWN BETWEEN 1994 AND 2013

- Gun-related deaths peaked in 2002, when **1,192 gun-deaths** made up almost half (49.2%) of all homicides.
- The **increases in gun murder rates from 1994 to 2000 and after 2010** coincide with increased availability of guns: Preceding the Firearms Control Act (2000) and poor enforcement of the Act after 2010.

## 02 DO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL GUNS IN A COMMUNITY CHANGE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SHOT AND KILLED?

**There is a link between the availability of guns and gun deaths:** As stricter gun laws are enforced, reducing gun availability, fewer people are shot and killed. In contrast, as guns become more available – through weak gun laws, poor enforcement of good gun laws, and fraud and corruption – the number of people shot and killed increases.

2000 - 2006



**Firearms Control Act starts being enforced from 2000**, with full implementation on 1 July 2004. This includes an audit of state owned firearms, operations to recover illegal guns and a national **firearms amnesty in 2005**.

Impact on gun availability/murder  
↓ **DECREASE**

PHILIP 2007



From **2007, poor management of South African Police Service firearm storage** leads to guns being stolen and sold to Western Cape gangsters.

Impact on gun availability/murder  
↑ **INCREASE**

2011



In **2010** the Minister of Police announced a turn-around strategy for the Central Firearms Registry to deal with application backlogs: **applications fast-tracked and due process not followed**. Evidence of fraudulent issuing of gun licences: **Project Impi** launched to stop supply of guns to criminal networks.

Impact on gun availability/murder  
↑ **INCREASE**

### STRONG GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES

- **As the number of guns available decreased between 2000 and 2006** as a result of the Firearms Control Act, **so too did the number of people shot and killed.**

### POOR ENFORCEMENT KILLS

- **As gun availability increased in 2007 and 2011** as a result of **poor enforcement** of the Firearms Control Act, **so did the number of people shot and killed.**

# 03

## CAPE FLATS RESIDENTS MOST SHOT AND KILLED BY GUNS IN CAPE TOWN

### CAPE TOWN ESTIMATED ANNUAL GUN MURDER RATES BY RACE, 1994-2013



#### RESULTS

- All races saw a drop in gun-related murder after the Firearms Control Act was passed in 2000.
- While gun murders for blacks and whites continued to drop until 2010, **coloureds were increasingly shot and killed from 2006** as guns were sold to gangsters through illegal channels.
- In 2011 gun murder rates began to increase for all races, coinciding with easier access to legal guns, though gun murders for coloureds remain significantly higher.

# 04

## HOW MANY ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WERE KILLED BECAUSE THE FIREARMS CONTROL ACT WAS NOT PROPERLY ENFORCED?

#### ILLEGALLY CHANNELLED GUNS

An additional 1,002 Cape Flats residents were shot and killed between 2007 and 2013, mainly due to the actions of **corrupt police officer** Christiaan Prinsloo and his co-accused: deliberately leaking once legal guns through illegal channels into the Western Cape.



#### LEGALLY CHANNELLED GUNS

Poor enforcement of the Firearms Control Act, including the **fast-tracking of gun licences from 2010**, thereby compromising due process, and the fraudulent issuing of gun licences by officials in the Central Firearms Registry. Many of these guns made their way into the Western Cape, resulting in the significant increase in gun deaths in communities in this province.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Urge the Minister of Police to ensure that all **investigations into organised crime activities** involving the deliberate leakage of legal firearms into the illegal market are urgently undertaken and are given the necessary resources.
- ✓ Hold a national **no-questions asked firearms amnesty** and public gun destruction, to ensure that firearms are taken off our streets and out of our homes.

- ✓ **Enforce the Firearms Control Act, including:**
  - Immediate implementation of measures to stop guns leaking from SAPS stores and other secure facilities in which recovered weapons are stored.
  - A forensic audit of all licences, permits and authorisations issued as a result of the 2010 turn-around strategy of the Central Firearms Registry, to ensure that due process was followed.
- ✓ Bring the **Firearms Control Amendment Bill** to Parliament in 2018.



\* Briefing based on: Richard Matzopoulos et al. 2018. A retrospective time trend study of firearm and non-firearm homicide in Cape Town from 1994 to 2013. South African Medical Journal 108(3) pp. 197-204. DOI:10.7196/SAMJ.2018.v108i3.12756