

County of Santa Clara

Office of the District Attorney

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Jeffrey F. Rosen
District Attorney

DATE: March 30, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Jeffrey F. Rosen, District Attorney

DS
JR

SUBJECT: **Board Referral on Statistics Related to Firearm Use in Crime and Suicides**

Under advisement from the Board of Supervisors meeting of February 25, 2020, the Board requested that the DA's Office provide an off-agenda report relating to the following items:

- Countywide gun crime statistics outside of the City of San Jose, including subsequent impact measurements. (At the request of Supervisor Simitian)
- Data from the Behavioral Health Services Department relating to suicides by gun. (At the request of President Chavez)
- Provide this information to the Board as an off-agenda report on a regularly scheduled basis. (At the request of Supervisor Simitian)

The Board's primary action was to approve the recommendation to establish a County Gun Team in my Office to more aggressively pursue removing guns from those who have been ordered to relinquish them, work more proactively to connect gun crimes across jurisdictions, and take other steps to reduce gun violence in our County.

This report provides the requested information.

Gun Crime Statistics Excluding San Jose

The first attachment provides extensive detail by city for robberies with a firearm and aggravated assaults with a firearm. Key findings include the following:

- Robberies with a firearm have increased from 300 to 515 (71.7%) Countywide from 2009 to 2018 (the last year for which full statistics have been compiled). San Jose accounted for 78% of these crimes in 2018, and the total has more than doubled (from 197 to 404) over the 10 years studied. The combination of the rest of the cities in the County had much more stability in the statistics, rising from 103 in 2008 to 111 in 2018, an increase of just 8%. The proportion of these crimes committed in cities other than San Jose dropped from 34% in 2009 to 22% in 2018.
- Aggravated assaults with a firearm demonstrate similar trends. San Jose, which accounted for 88% of these crimes, saw its totals jump from 242 in 2009 to 557 in 2018, an increase of 130%. The rest of the

County had an increase of 15%, from 65 to 75, but because of the increases in San Jose, had a smaller percentage of such crimes, dropping from 17% in 2009 to 12% in 2018.

Suicides by Firearm

Behavioral Health was able to provide overall data for 2009 through 2018, and additional supplemental information by age group and ethnicity. The second attachment includes the overall statistics. Over the 10-year period, total annual suicides in the County ranged from 133 (in 2017) to 158 (in 2011). An average of 31% of all suicides in the County involved a firearm (ranging from 27.0% to 36.7% of annual suicides).

Behavioral Health statistics indicate that use of a firearm in a suicide increased with age: over the past five years, just less than 20% of suicides in which the decedent was between the ages of 15 and 29 involved a firearm, while more than 55% of those in which the decedent was 85 and older were firearm-related.

Suicides by Caucasians and African-Americans were more likely to involve a firearm than those by Hispanics/Latinos and Asian American/Pacific Islanders.

Future Reporting

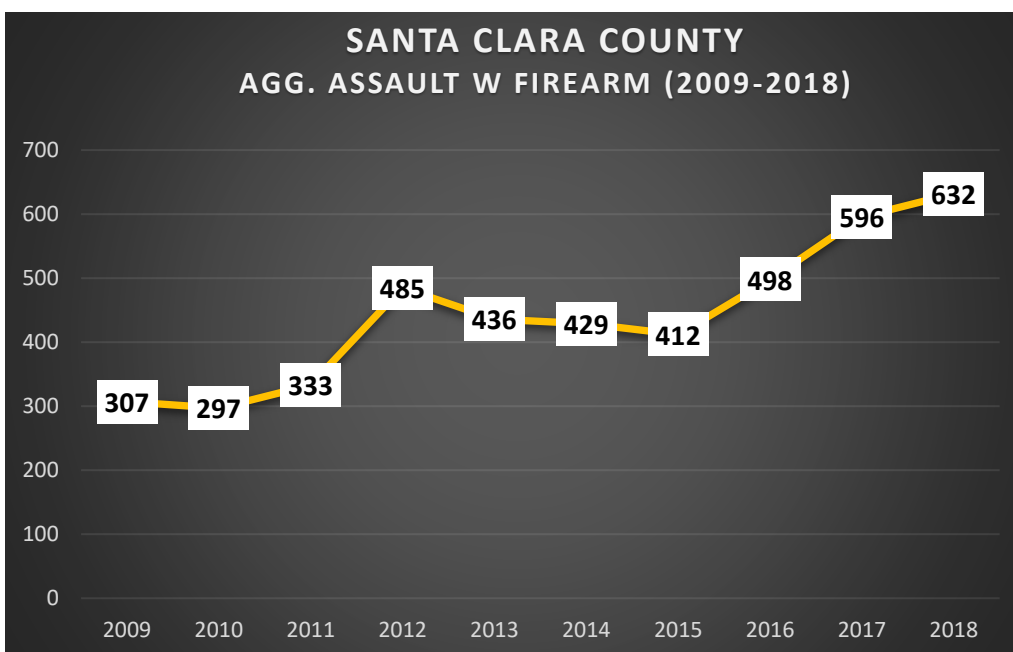
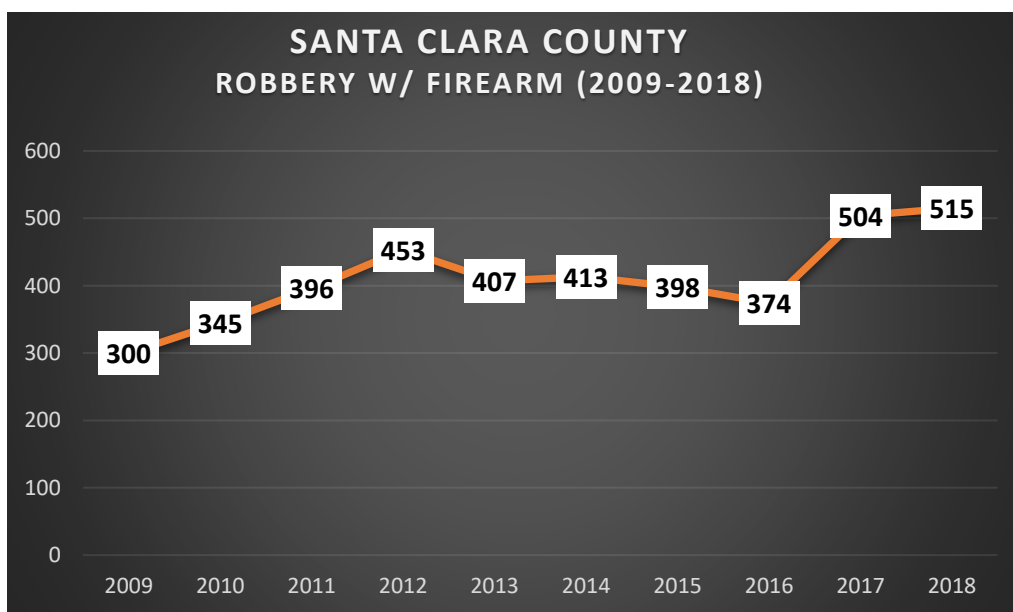
The DA's Office will provide annual reports to the Board regarding these statistics, as a way to measure the success of the County Gun Team. These reports will be provided in May of each year, so as to include the statistics of the prior calendar year.

The DA's Office thanks the Board for its support of the County Gun Team initiative, and looks forward to putting the full team in place over the next few months so that these important efforts to reduce gun violence in our County can be implemented.

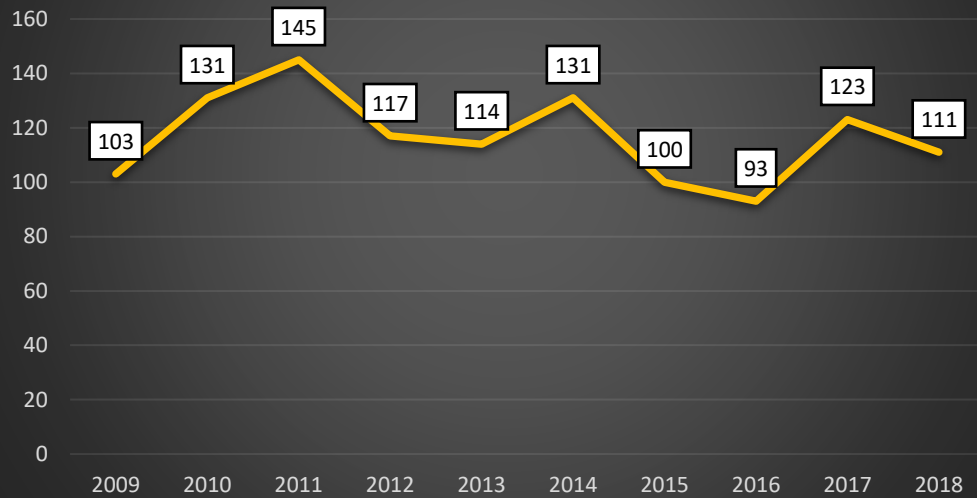
c: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Toni Tullys, Director, Behavioral Health Services Department

SANTA CLARA COUNTY - ROBBERY & AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

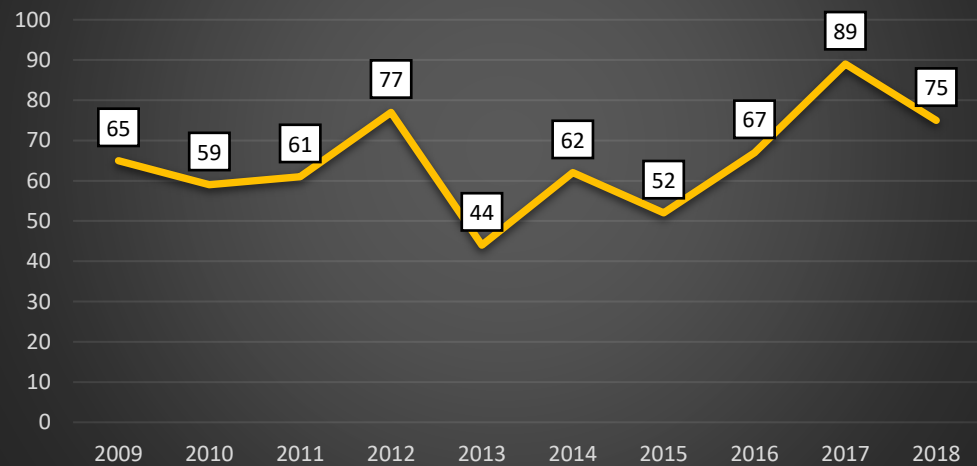
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Robbery	1,499	1,446	1,586	1,639	1,502	1,544	1,562	1,616	1,892	2,111
Robbery W Firearm	300	345	396	453	407	413	398	374	504	515
Aggravated Assault	3,081	2,818	2,570	2,846	2,590	2,618	2,629	3,110	3,258	3,160
Agg. Assault w/ Firearm	307	297	333	485	436	429	412	498	596	632



SANTA CLARA COUNTY
Robbery w/ Firearm excluding San Jose
(2009 - 2018)



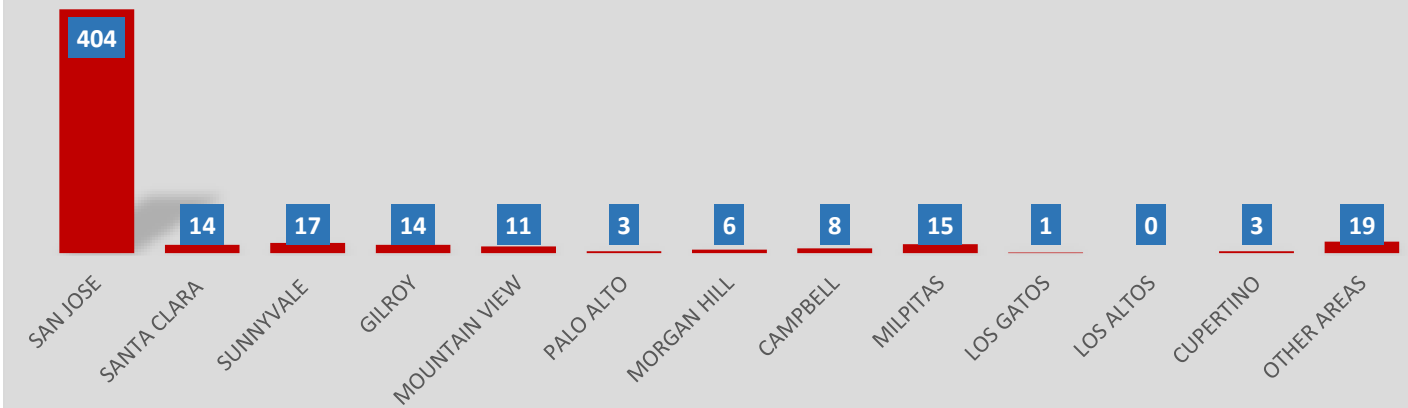
Santa Clara County
Agg. Assault w/ Firearm excluding San Jose

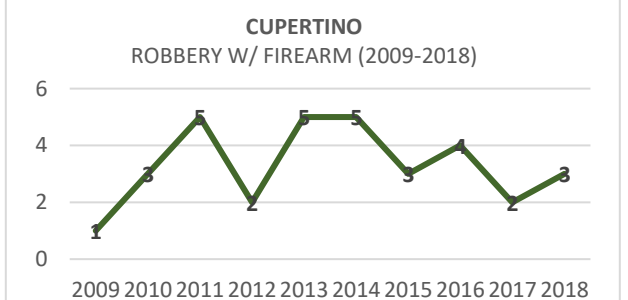
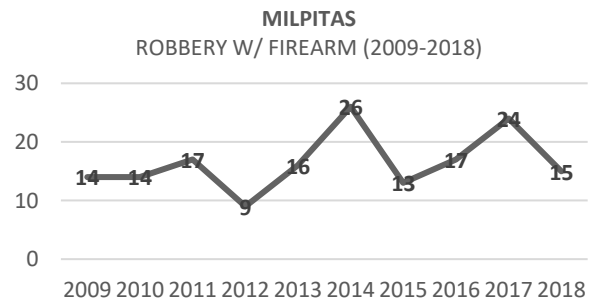
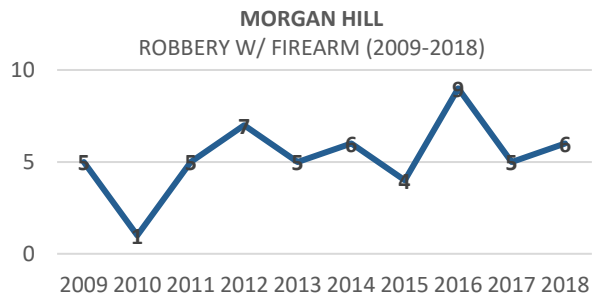
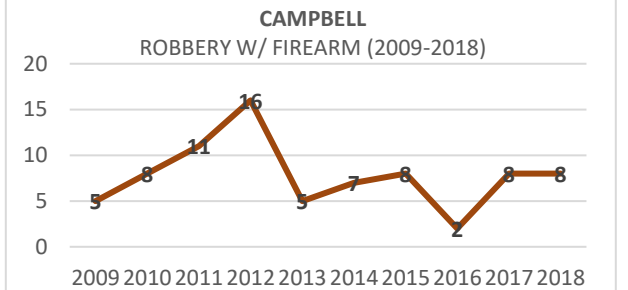
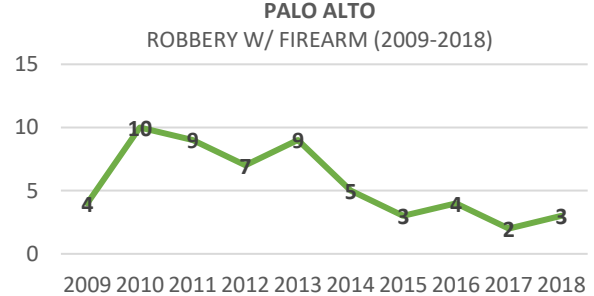
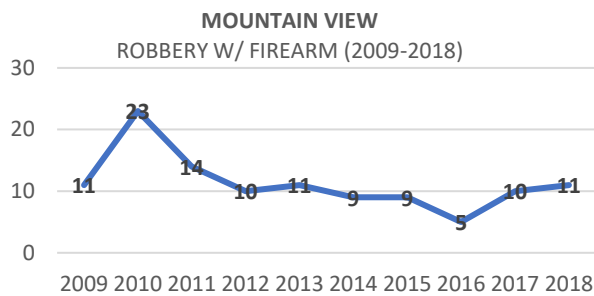
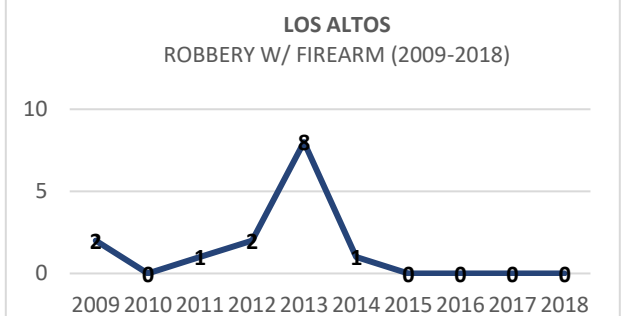
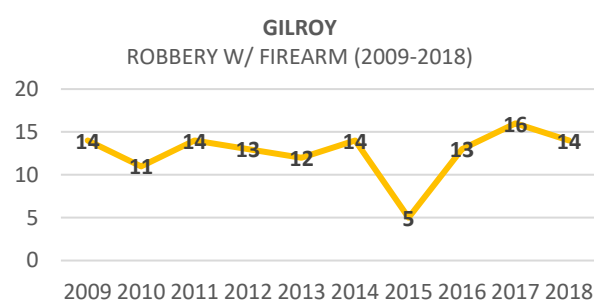
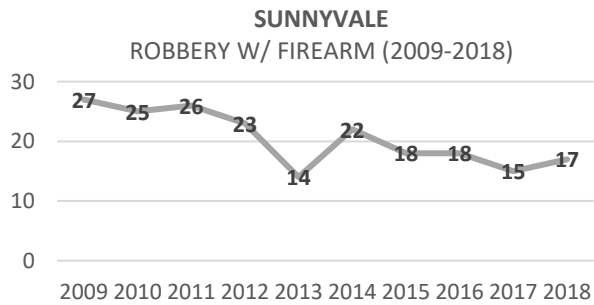
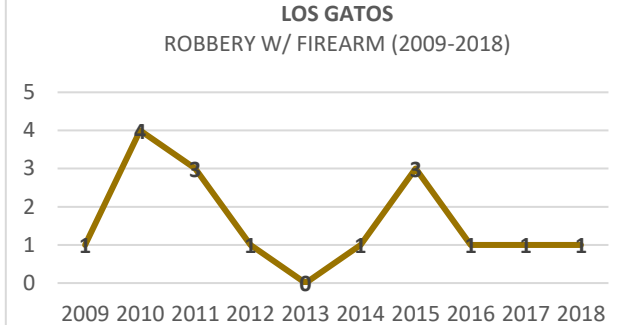
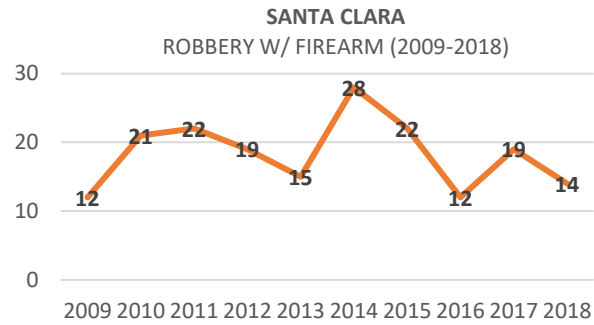
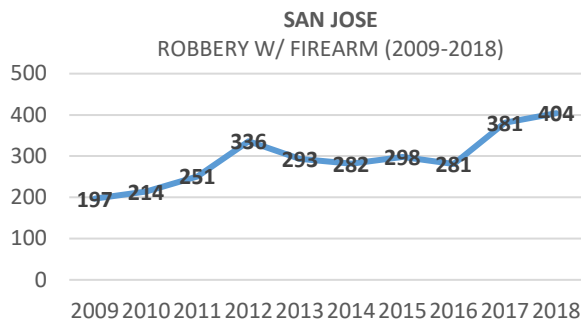


ROBBERY W/ FIREARM FROM 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
SAN JOSE	197	214	251	336	293	282	298	281	381	404
SANTA CLARA	12	21	22	19	15	28	22	12	19	14
SUNNYVALE	27	25	26	23	14	22	18	18	15	17
GILROY	14	11	14	13	12	14	5	13	16	14
MOUNTAIN VIEW	11	23	14	10	11	9	9	5	10	11
PALO ALTO	4	10	9	7	9	5	3	4	2	3
MORGAN HILL	5	1	5	7	5	6	4	9	5	6
CAMPBELL	5	8	11	16	5	7	8	2	8	8
MILPITAS	14	14	17	9	16	26	13	17	24	15
LOS GATOS	1	4	3	1	0	1	3	1	1	1
LOS ALTOS	2	0	1	2	8	1	0	0	0	0
CUPERTINO	1	3	5	2	5	5	3	4	2	3
OTHER AREAS	7	11	18	8	14	7	12	8	21	19
SANTA CLARA COUNTY	300	345	396	453	407	413	398	374	504	515
SANTA CLARA COUNTY excluding San Jose	103	131	145	117	114	131	100	93	223	111

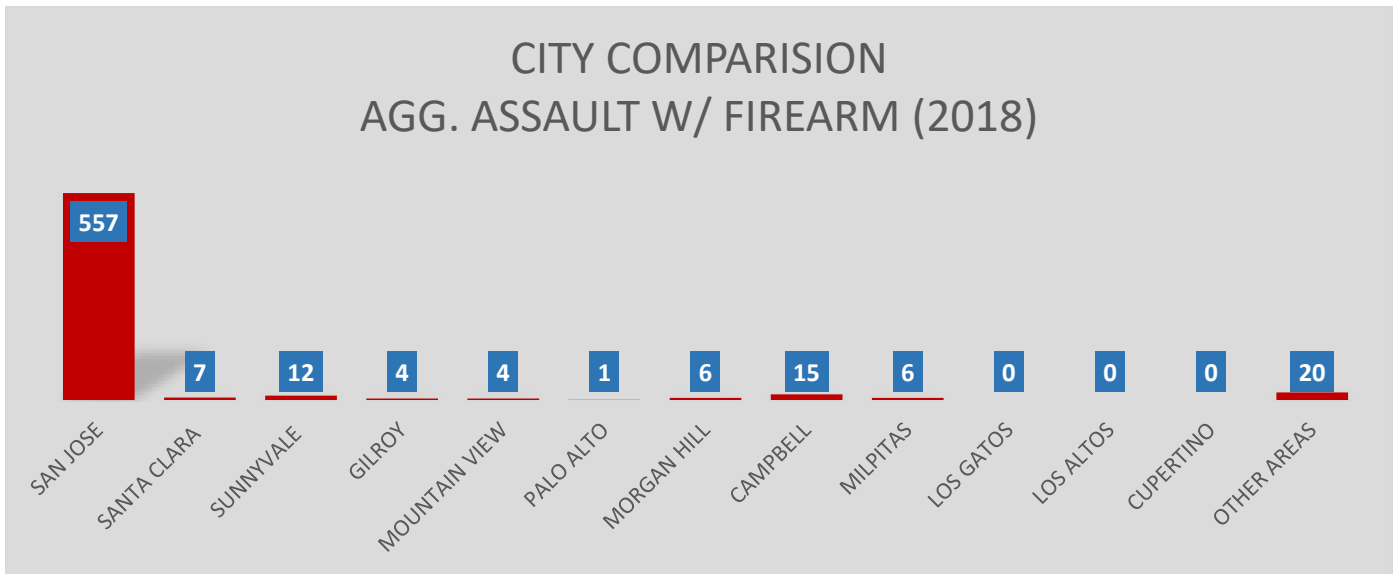
CITY COMPARISION ROBBERY W/ FIREARM (2018)





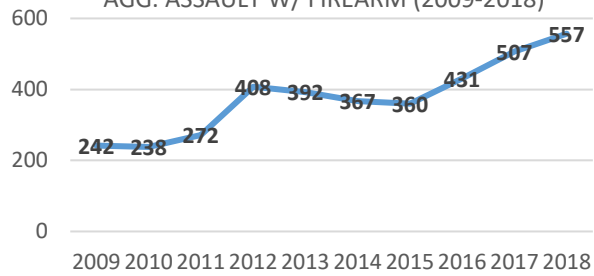
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM FROM 2009-2018										
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
SAN JOSE	242	238	272	408	392	367	360	431	507	557
SANTA CLARA	1	7	2	5	2	3	10	3	6	7
SUNNYVALE	10	19	5	14	3	6	4	7	5	12
GILROY	22	5	34	17	20	10	9	12	12	4
MOUNTAIN VIEW	6	4	3	2	5	6	8	11	8	4
PALO ALTO	3	0	1	2	1	5	0	1	4	1
MORGAN HILL	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	5	5	6
CAMPBELL	11	4	3	4	6	2	0	2	11	15
MILPITAS	6	2	2	13	4	13	1	4	4	6
LOS GATOS	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
LOS ALTOS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CUPERTINO	0	0	1	6	0	1	1	2	2	0
OTHER AREAS	6	15	6	14	3	14	13	18	32	20
SANTA CLARA COUNTY	307	297	333	485	436	429	412	498	596	632
SANTA CLARA COUNTY excluding San Jose	65	59	61	77	44	62	52	67	89	75

CITY COMPARISON AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2018)

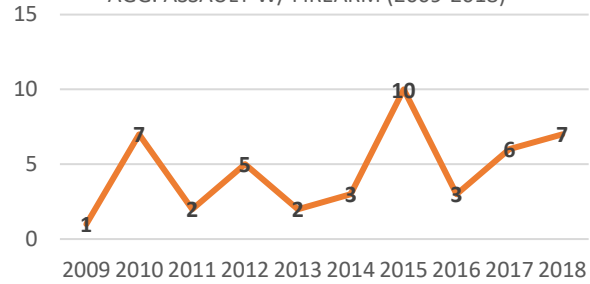


SAN JOSE

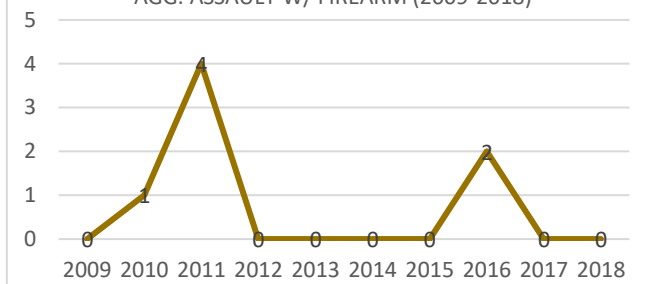
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**SANTA CLARA**

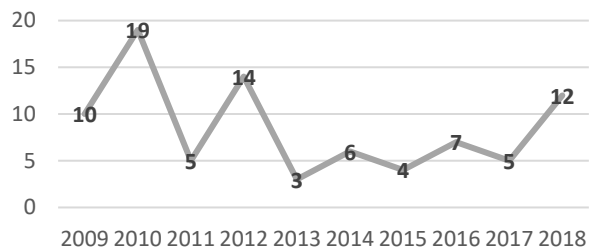
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**LOS GATOS**

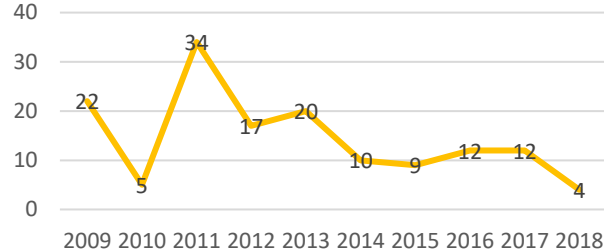
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**SUNNYVALE**

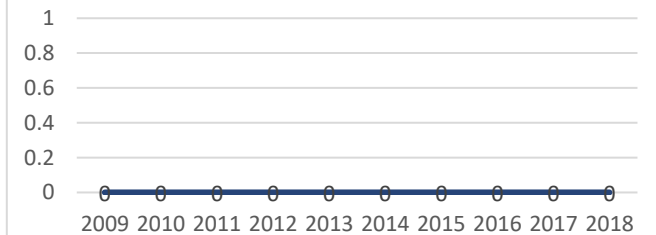
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**GILROY**

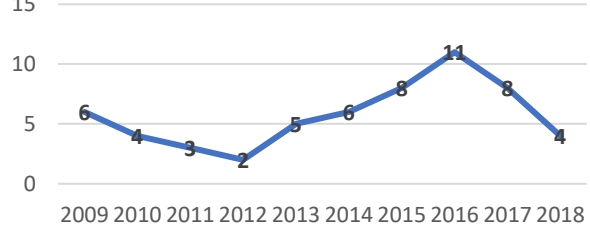
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**LOS ALTOS**

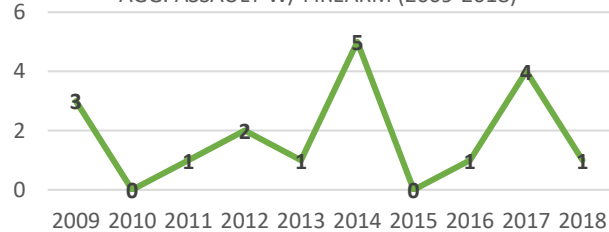
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**

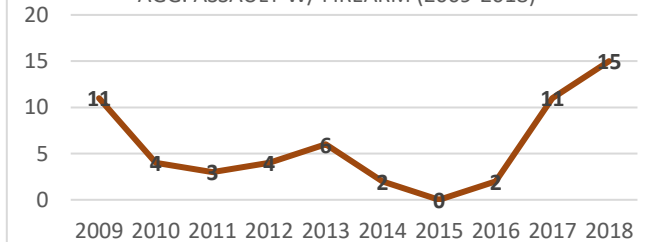
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**PALO ALTO**

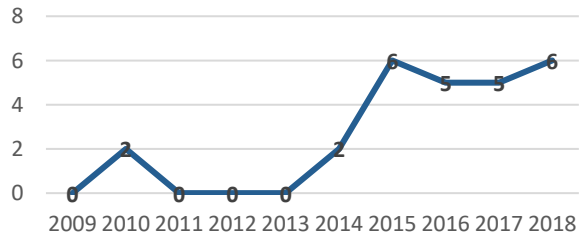
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**CAMPBELL**

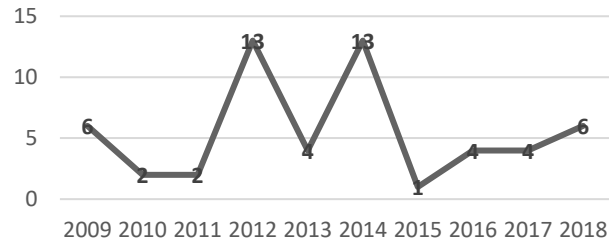
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**MORGAN HILL**

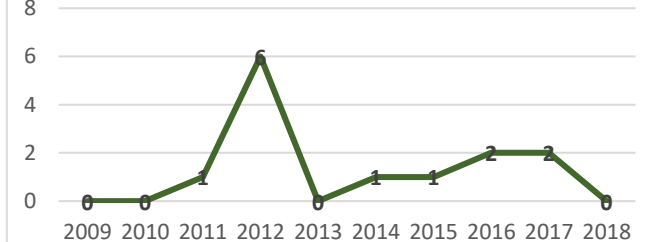
AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**MILPITAS**

AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)

**CUPERTINO**

AGG. ASSAULT W/ FIREARM (2009-2018)



SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUICIDES

Year	Suicides	Rate per 100,000	Number by Firearm	Percent by Firearm
2009	150	8.7	55	36.7%
2010	148	8.5	40	27.0%
2011	158	9.0	47	29.7%
2012	138	7.7	42	30.4%
2013	151	8.3	42	27.8%
2014	155	8.4	53	34.2%
2015	149	8.0	47	31.5%
2016	134	7.1	37	27.6%
2017	133	7.0	47	35.3%
2018	148	7.6	45	30.4%
10-year averages	146.4	8.0	45.5	31.1%