



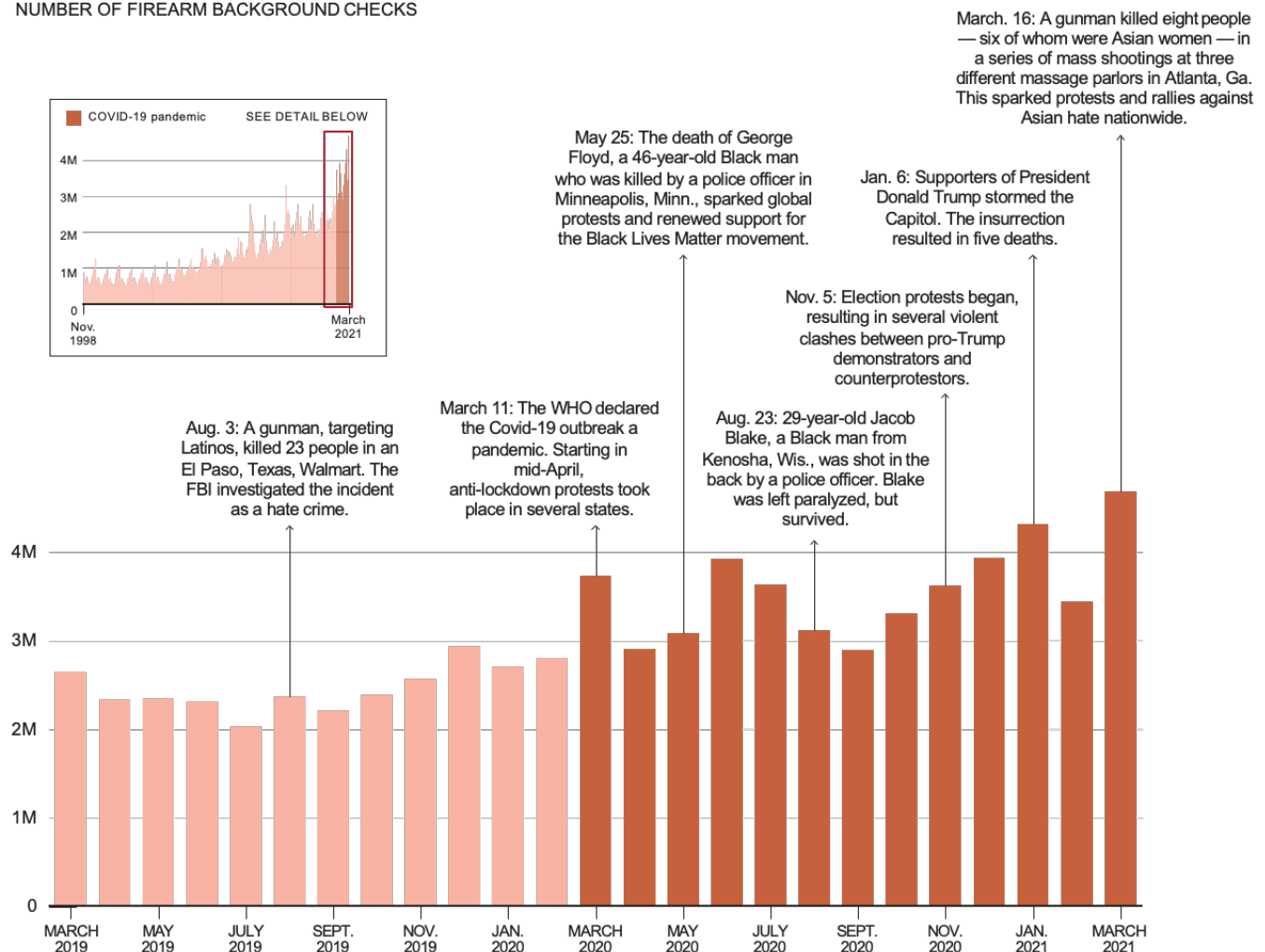
April 8, 2021

## Firearm background checks surge in the pandemic

Firearm background checks jumped 40% from 2019 to 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic — the greatest yearly change documented so far by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The FBI-operated NICS serves as a national name check system for federal firearms licensees to determine whether someone can make firearm transactions. While there is no national registry of guns, and one background check does not mean one firearm sold, firearm background checks can point to movement in the firearm industry.

**In March 2021, the FBI recorded the highest number of firearm background checks to date\***

NUMBER OF FIREARM BACKGROUND CHECKS

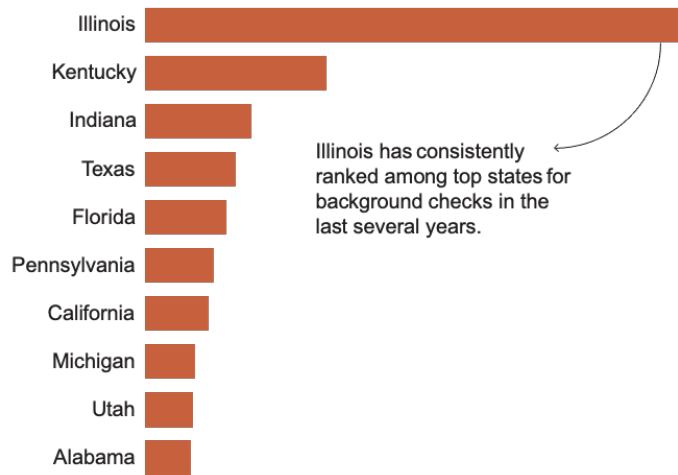


\*The events annotated on this chart are incidents from the last two years that spurred national protests. This is not an exhaustive compilation.



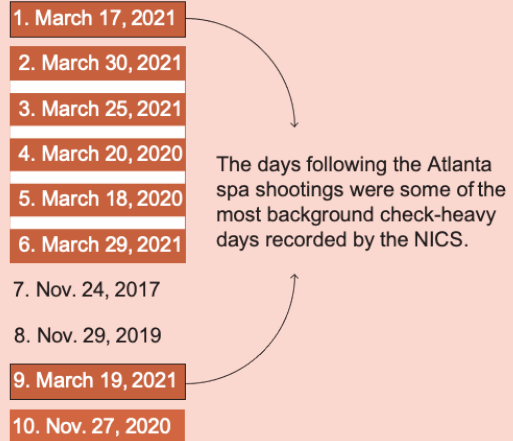
### States that conducted the most checks so far in 2021

FIREARM BACKGROUND CHECKS FROM JAN. TO MARCH 2021



### Eight of the ten highest days of background checks were in the pandemic

FIREARM BACKGROUND CHECKS FROM NOV. 1998 TO MARCH 2021



Sources: FBI, news reports