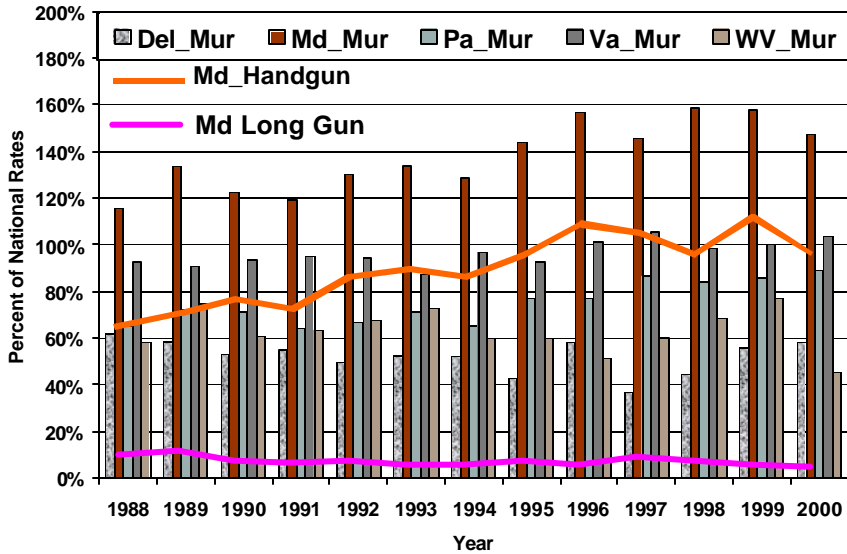


Use of Guns for Homicide in Maryland

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Figure 1 shows Maryland's murder rate for 1988 through 2000 as a percent of national rates. So, in 2000 the whole United States had a murder rate of 5.5 per 100,000 and Maryland had a rate of 8.1 ($100 \times 8.1 / 5.5 = 147\%$). By showing rate as a percent of the national rate, we remove national induced trends from the data so that we can evaluate how Maryland does for itself. To provide a

Figure 1 Murder Rates in Maryland and Neighboring

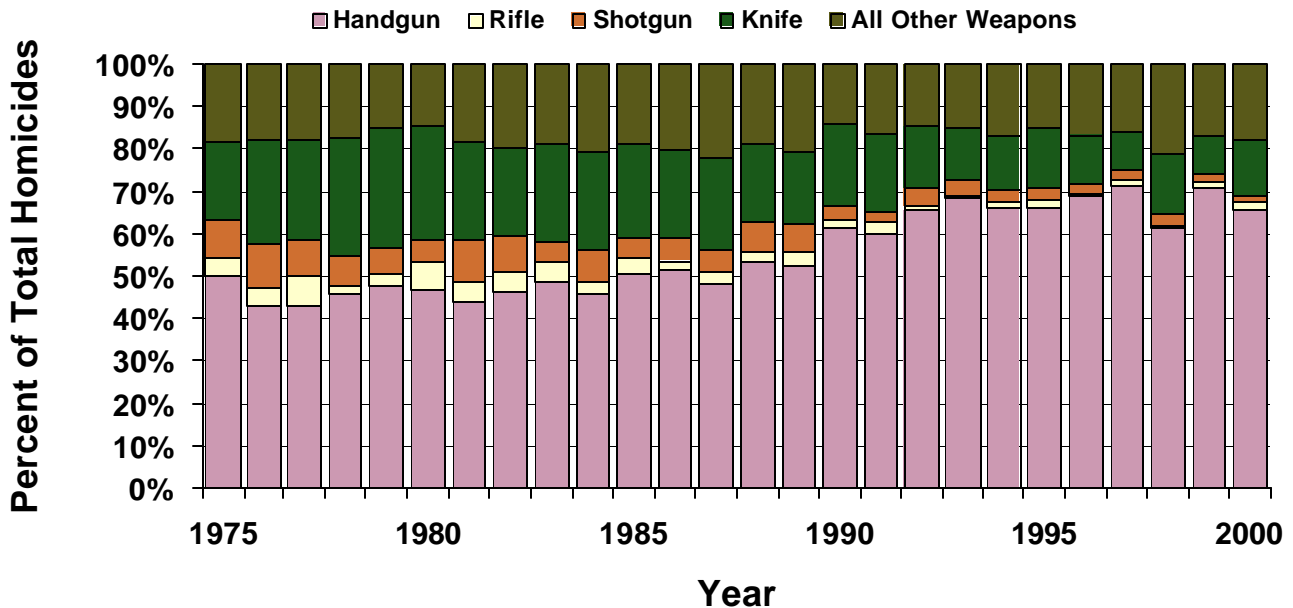


context for judging Maryland's performance we include results for the states bordering and surrounding Maryland.

Also on the figure, we show line graphs of murders in Maryland using long guns and handguns to the same scale. Notice that since about 1995, Maryland's murder rate using handguns (100%) is approximately equal to the U.S. total murder rate by itself.

Figure 2 shows the use of handguns for murder in Maryland has grown as a percent of murders and in absolute number since 1988 when Maryland banned small cheap handguns. For example, handguns were used for 241 (53%) of the 452 murders reported by the Maryland State Police (MSP) in 1988 but by 2000, handguns were used for 289 (66%) of 438 murders. By contrast, in 1988 long guns (rifles and shotguns) were used for 42 (9%) murders while in 2000 long gun use had shrunk to 12 (3%). In Figure 2 we see that knives are used more frequently than long guns for murder. Even hands and feet are used more frequently for murder than long guns in Maryland.

Figure 2 Weapon Use in Maryland Homicides



¹ Dr. Lee received a PhD in Mathematics from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1970.