Description of Weapon Use Classification Process:

Initial groupings were performed on the weapon used information and discovered 915 different categories of weapons. Many categories had similar names and many descriptions were of cases involving 2 or more weapons. To simplify this data, the information was condensed into the single category that best described the classification.

Categories describing multiple weapons were classified based on the first weapon identifier in the string. For example, the following categories: HANDG, HANDG/BBBAT, HANDG/BLUNT, HANDG/BRICK, HANDG/FIR, HANDG/GUN, HANDG/HANDS were condensed into a single category ‘handgun’.

Please note that we are trading the precision and granularity that the information could provide, for simplicity and clarity in in the figure below. Additionally, empty values, values equal to ‘none’, and values equal to ‘unknown’ were removed for clarity. For over 100,000 of these cases the weapon used was classified as unknown.