

Firearm Injury and Death

August 2026

This report looks at firearm-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits among Vermont residents. This report also contains firearm injury and death data categorized by demographics and examines why a firearm was used. All data refer to Vermont residents unless otherwise noted.

Definitions

- A **firearm injury** is an injury treated at a hospital caused by a firearm but does not result in death. Injuries include emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations unless otherwise noted.¹
- A **firearm death** is a death caused by a firearm. Firearm death data from 2025 are preliminary and subject to change.²

Key Points

- **Most deaths involving a firearm are suicides (90%). Firearm-involved suicide deaths increased by 43% from 2024 to 2025.**
- **Male suicides account for 75% of all firearm deaths.**
- **Most firearm injuries are accidental, while most firearm deaths are suicides.**
- **Firearm suicide deaths most notably increased among residents of Rutland (8 in 2024 vs. 15 in 2025) and Windsor (2 in 2024 vs. 17 in 2025) Counties.**

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact:

AHS.VDHSuicideData@vermont.gov.

Firearm Injuries and Deaths Over Time

- There were 65 firearm-related injuries in 2022 and 97 deaths in 2025.
- The rate of firearm injuries statistically increased over the last six years (15.1 in 2016 vs 25.6 in 2022).
- The rate of deaths has not significantly changed over the past 10 years, but between 2024 and 2025 the rate did increase by 28% (11.7 in 2024 vs 15.0 in 2025).
- See the [appendix](#) for firearm death numbers.

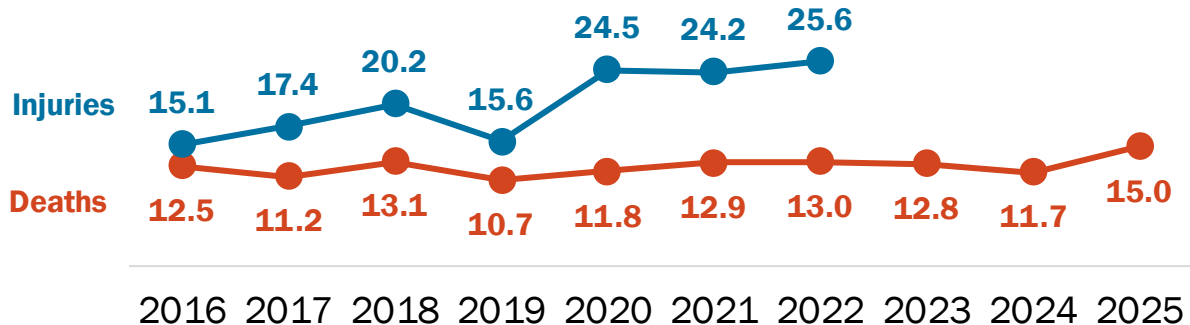


HealthVermont.gov
802-863-7200



The rate of firearm **injuries** has increased, while **deaths** have remained stable over the past 10 years.

Injuries per 100,000 hospital visits, deaths per 100,000 Vermont residents



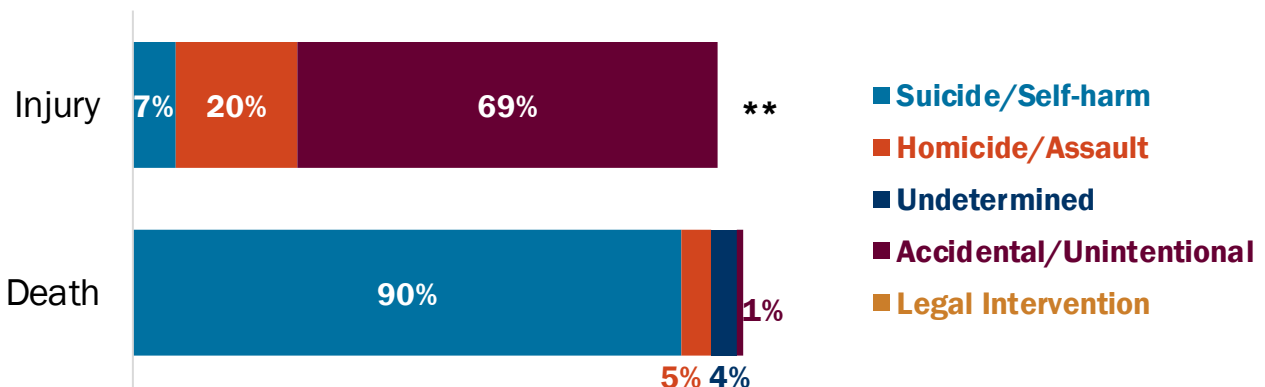
Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2016-2025 |
Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (VUHDDS), 2016-2022

Intent of Firearm Use

Among hospital visits for firearm injuries, 69% are unintentional (accidents), 20% are the result of an assault, and 7% are intentional self-harm. The remaining categories (legal intervention and undetermined intent) result in fewer than six hospital visits and are not shown here due to small numbers.

Most firearm deaths are suicides (90%). Five percent of firearm deaths are homicides, 1% are accidents, and the manner could not be determined for 4% of deaths.

Most firearm **injuries** are accidents, while the majority of firearm **deaths** are suicides.



Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2025 | VUHDDS, 2021-2022

**Legal intervention and undetermined are suppressed due to fewer than six hospital visits.

Firearm Deaths and Injuries by Sex and Age

Men are statistically more likely to get hurt or die in a firearm incident.

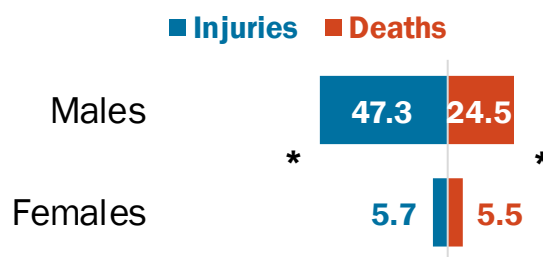
- Men are eight times more likely to have a firearm injury.
- Men are four times more likely to die by a firearm.

Firearm **injury** rates among Vermont residents are highest among the 15-24 and 25-44 age groups. The combined 15-44 age group is also statistically higher than the rate among adults 45-64.

Firearm **death** rates are highest for adults 45-64 and 65 years or older. However, rates are statistically similar across the four oldest age groups.

Firearm **injury and **death** rates are significantly higher for men.**

Injuries per 100,000 hospital visits,
Deaths per 100,000 Vermont residents

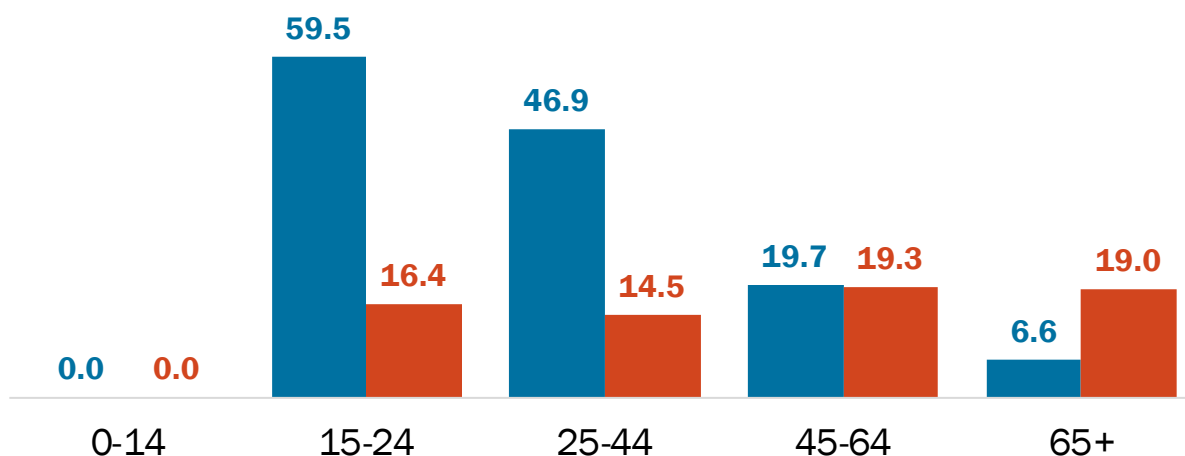


Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2025 | VUHDDS, 2021-2022

*Statistical difference.

Firearm **injuries are highest for people 15 to 44. Firearm **deaths** are highest for adults 45 and older.**

Injuries per 100,000 hospital visits, deaths per 100,000 Vermont residents



Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2025 | VUHDDS, 2021-2022

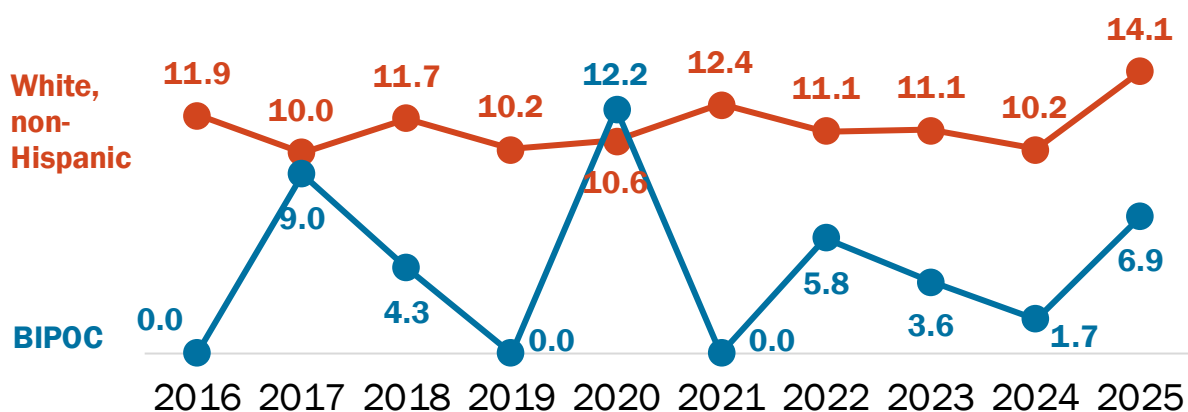
Firearm Deaths by Race and Ethnicity

Based on 10 years of analysis, white, non-Hispanic Vermonters were more than 1.5 times more likely to die by firearm than Vermonters identifying as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC) (12.9 vs 8.1 firearm deaths per 100,000). It is important to examine firearm deaths by intent (or why the gun was discharged) to further understand this difference in risk.

- White, non-Hispanic Vermonters are more than 2.5 times more likely to die by firearm suicide than BIPOC Vermonters (11.3 vs 4.4 firearm suicide deaths per 100,000)
- However, BIPOC Vermonters are nearly three times more likely to die by firearm homicide than white, non-Hispanic Vermonters (3.8 vs 1.3 firearm homicide deaths per 100,000).

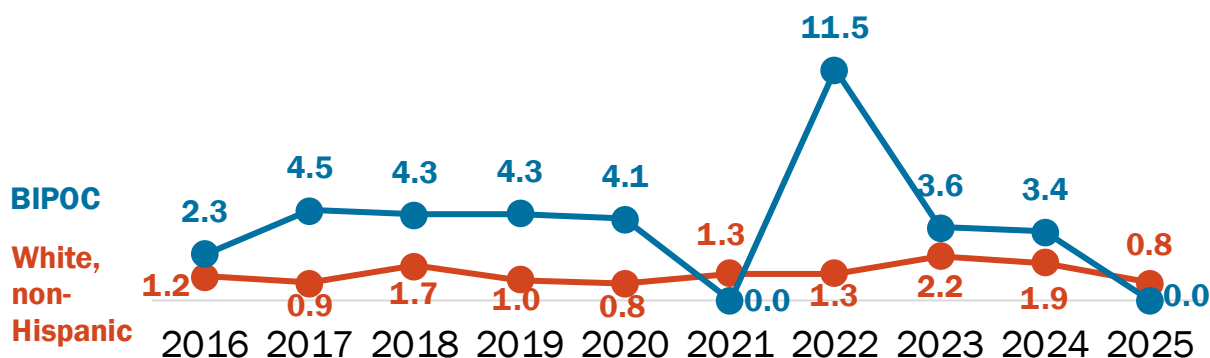
Firearm suicide deaths are highest among **white, non-Hispanic** Vermonters.

Rate per 100,000 Vermont residents



Firearm homicide deaths among **BIPOC** Vermonters peaked in 2022 and have decreased each year since.

Rate per 100,000 Vermont residents



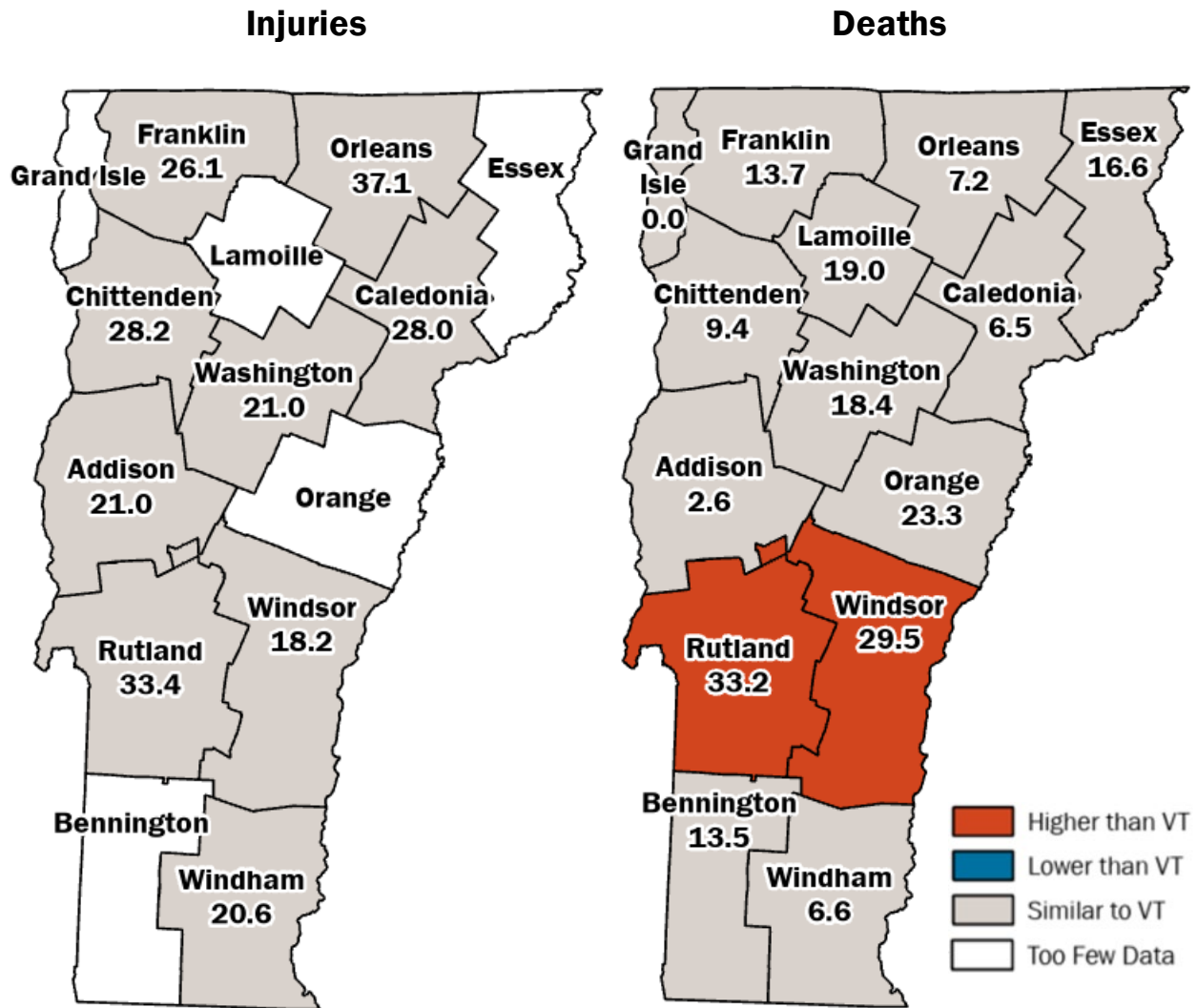
Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2016-2025

Firearm Deaths and Injuries by County of Residence

- Firearm injury rates are highest in Orleans and Rutland Counties. However, all Vermont counties are statistically similar to the Vermont rate for 2021 and 2022 combined (24.9 per 100,000 hospital visits).
- Firearm death rates are highest in Rutland and Windsor Counties. Both are statistically higher than the Vermont rate for 2025 (15.0 per 100,000 residents).

Firearm injury and death rates by county of residence.

Injuries per 100,000 hospital visits, deaths per 100,000 Vermont residents



Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2025 | VUHDDS, 2021-2022

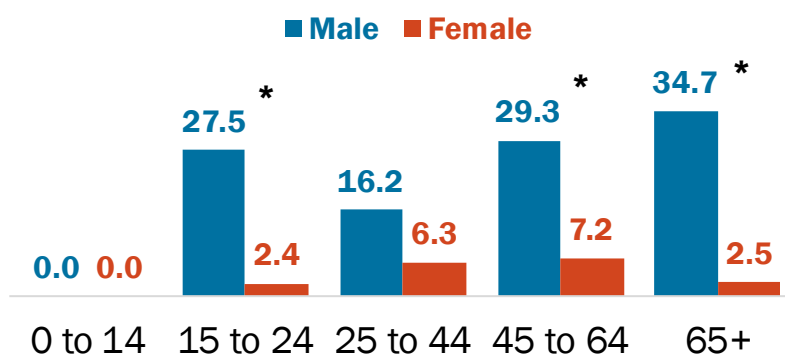
Suicide Deaths by Firearm

An increase in firearm-involved suicides caused the firearm death rate to rise between 2024 and 2025. In 2025, 87 Vermont resident firearm deaths were suicides, which is a 43% increase compared to the 61 firearm-involved suicides in 2024. Although deaths increased across demographic groups, deaths most notably increased among residents of Rutland (eight in 2024 vs. 15 in 2025) and Windsor (two in 2024 vs. 17 in 2025) Counties.

Male suicides make up 75% of firearm deaths among Vermont residents in 2025. The rate of firearm suicide deaths is highest among men 65 and older.

Firearm suicide death rates are highest for males 65 and older.

Rate per 100,000 Vermonters



Men 65 and older are at least 5x more likely to die by firearm suicide than any woman in Vermont.

Source: Vermont Vital Statistics System, 2025

*Statistical difference.

Key Takeaways

While the numbers of firearm injuries and deaths are relatively small in Vermont, they impact our communities and families and are preventable through education and policy. We know that 40% of Vermont households have a firearm, which puts the people in those homes at higher risk for firearm injury and death.^{3,4} Additionally, firearm injuries and deaths are primarily related to unintentional injury, suicide, and domestic violence-related homicide. Vermont's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission reports that 57% of domestic violence-related homicides between 1994-2024 involved a firearm.⁵



Store firearms unloaded and locked in a separate location from ammunition, which should also be locked away. If someone in your household is experiencing a crisis, firearms should be [stored in a temporary location](#) outside of the home. Learn more about [firearm injury prevention](#) and how to access [free gun locks](#).

Resources

- If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988, or chat at 988lifeline.org.
- For more information about getting support, helping others who may be struggling, and getting involved in suicide prevention in Vermont, go to FacingSuicideVT.com.
- The [Vermont Network](https://VermontNetwork.org) has a statewide hotline for domestic abuse that can be reached at 800-228-7395.
- For more information about secure storage, free gun locks, and options for temporary storage, go to GunSafeVT.org or <https://www.healthvermont.gov/firearm-safety>.

References and Notes

1. As of August 2026, 2022 is the most recent data year available for the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set.
2. Rates calculated from small numbers are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.
3. Firearm Storage Practices among Vermont Adults:
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/document/hsi-brfss-firearm-storage-2025.pdf>
4. National Domestic Violence Hotline – Safety Planning Around Guns and Firearms:
<https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>
5. Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission 2025 Report:
<https://ago.vermont.gov/sites/ago/files/2026-01/2025%20Domestic%20Violence%20Fatality%20Review%20Commission%20Report.pdf>

The Health Department recognizes that many social, economic and environmental inequities made worse by structural oppression, marginalization and racism influence the data we collect and report. We continuously work to better collect and share data that reflect the lived experiences of all Vermonters. If you have questions or concerns, please check our [Data Encyclopedia](#) for more information, including who to contact to find out more.

Appendix

Number of Firearm Deaths Among Vermont Residents, 2018-2025*

County of Residence	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Addison	3	6	2	8	7	6	3	1
Bennington	3	4	7	5	6	3	5	5
Caledonia	8	2	4	5	6	7	9	2
Chittenden	14	10	11	12	18	12	11	16
Essex	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	1
Franklin	6	8	6	6	5	4	6	7
Grand Isle	1	1	0	2	1	1	3	0
Lamoille	1	1	2	4	5	2	2	5
Orange	7	8	6	7	6	6	4	7
Orleans	4	2	8	7	4	8	3	2
Rutland	9	8	11	3	7	13	12	20
Washington	11	6	6	9	4	4	7	11
Windham	6	2	3	4	2	10	5	3
Windsor	8	8	9	9	10	4	3	17
Total Firearm Deaths	82	67	76	83**	84	83	76**	97
Firearm / Suicide	70	59	69	74	69	68	61	87
Firearm / Homicide	12	8	7	8	14	15	13	5
Firearm / Legal Intervention	2	3	0	1	1	1	1	0
Age Group								
0-14 years	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	0
15-24 years	8	9	10	8	5	6	4	14
25-44 years	31	20	23	26	31	32	26	23
45-64 years	27	18	23	26	19	21	21	32
65+ years	16	20	18	21	27	23	24	28
Sex								
Male	69	62	68	76	76	72	67	79
Female	13	5	8	7	8	11	9	18

*2025 data are preliminary and subject to change.

**1 firearm death was missing county of residence in 2021 and 2024.