A **firearm injury** is a nonfatal injury caused by the discharge of a firearm by accident, assault, intentional self-harm, or through legal intervention. A **firearm death** is a death caused by the discharge of a firearm by accident, assault, suicide or through legal intervention.

Based on emergency room and hospitalization data, the rate of **firearm injuries** has not significantly changed since 2008. Vermont’s firearm injury rate is significantly lower than that of the U.S.¹ ³

Similarly, the rate of **firearm deaths** among Vermonters has not significantly changed since 2008. Vermont’s firearm death rate is similar to the U.S.² ³

**Firearm injuries** and **firearm deaths** have not changed significantly since 2008.*

[Graph showing injury and death rates per 100,000 Vermonters from 2008 to 2017]

*rates per 100,000

Firearm injuries are most often accidental (62%). The remaining firearm injuries are intentional self-harm (25%) or assault (11%).¹ Most firearm deaths are due to suicide (88%). Following suicide, 9 percent of firearm deaths are homicides.²

[Diagram showing 6 in 10 firearm injuries are accidents and 9 in 10 deaths by firearm are suicide]

A large majority of firearm injuries and deaths are among males (95% and 88%, respectively). Males have a significantly higher rate of firearm death and injury compared to females (death: 20.2 vs. 3.1; injury 12.0 vs. 0.7 per 100,000 Vermonters).¹ ²
Most firearm injuries are among 15–44-year olds.¹ The average age of nonfatal firearm injuries in 2016 and 2017 was 40 – younger than the average age of Vermonters who died by firearm (49 years). Most firearm deaths are among Vermonters 25–64 years of age.²

**Rates of Firearm Injury and Death by Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Firearm Injury</th>
<th>Firearm Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Too few injuries to report

**Firearm Death Rates by County of Residence**

Franklin County has a nonfatal firearm injury rate that is significantly higher than Vermont, 28.8 per 100,000 Vermonters. The remaining counties have rates similar to Vermont.¹ Caledonia County has a firearm death rate significantly higher than Vermont (22.4 per 100,000 Vermonters), while Addison County has a rate significantly lower than Vermont (2.9 per 100,000 Vermonters). The rest of the counties have rates similar to Vermont.²

**Type of Firearm Used in Firearm Deaths**

- **Shotgun, 9%**
- **Rifle, 28%**
- 64% of firearm deaths were handguns.

**Sources:**

¹ Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data set (VUHDDS). Firearm injury in VT residents at VT hospitals.
²Vermont Vital Statistics, Firearm death VT residents.
³US Firearm Injury/Death from CDC WISQARS.
⁴National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS),2015-16.

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