

# Firearm Injury and Death in Vermont

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.<sup>1,3</sup>

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.<sup>2,3</sup>

On average, in Vermont, firearms cause:

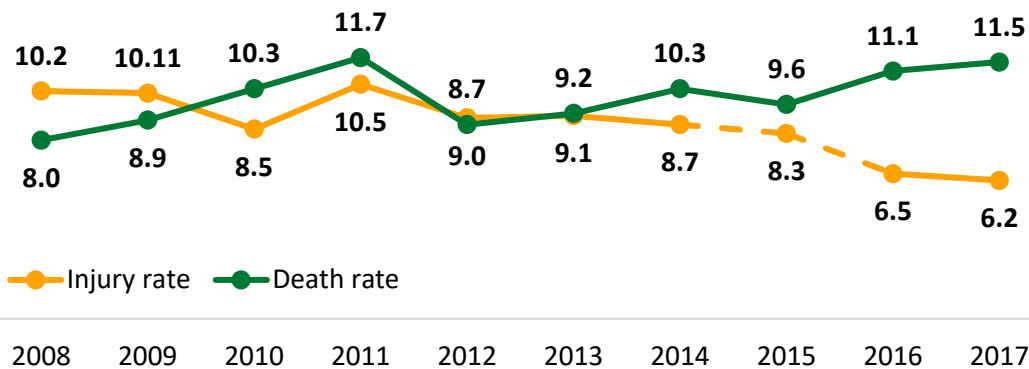
39

ED Visits and Hospitalizations, and

74

Deaths each year.

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



\*rates per 100,000

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



6 in 10 **firearm injuries** are accidents



9 in 10 **deaths by firearm** are suicide

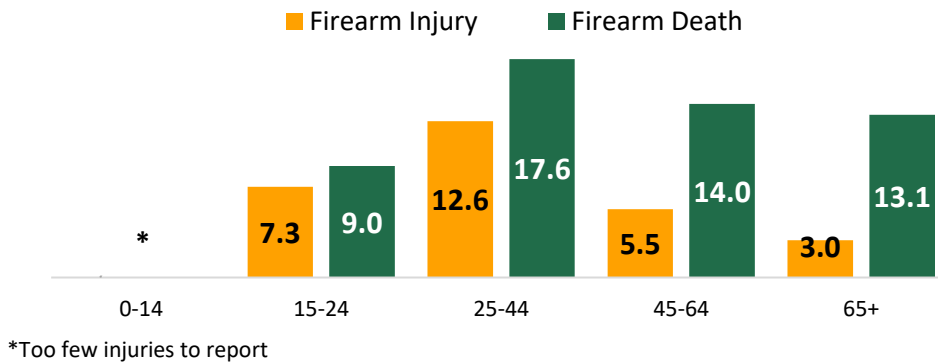
**9 in 10** firearm **injuries** and **deaths** are among males.

A large majority of firearm injuries and deaths are among males (95% and 88%, respectively).

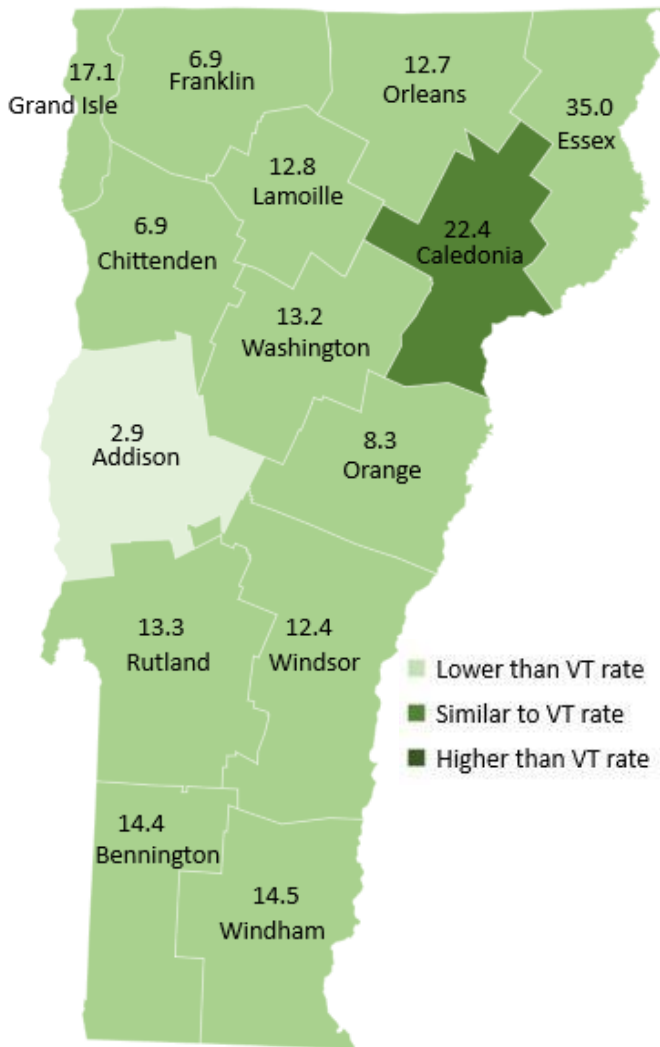
Males have a significantly higher rate of firearm death and injury compared to females (death: 20.2 vs. 3.1; injury 12.0 vs. 0.7 per 100,000 Vermonters).<sup>1,2</sup>

Most firearm injuries are among 15-44-year olds.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

### Rates of Firearm Injury and Death by Age

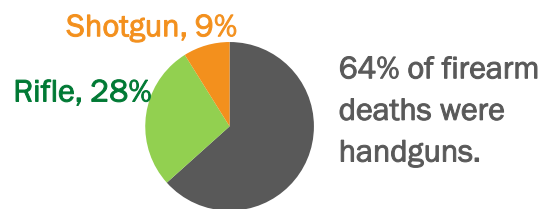


### Firearm Death Rates by County of Residence



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.<sup>1</sup> Caledonia County has a firearm death rate significantly higher than Vermont (22.4 per 100,00 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.<sup>2</sup>

### Type of Firearm Used in Firearm Deaths<sup>4</sup>



#### Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data set (VUHDDS). Firearm injury in VT residents at VT hospitals.

<sup>2</sup>Vermont Vital Statistics, Firearm death VT residents.

<sup>3</sup>US Firearm Injury/Death from CDC WISQARS.

<sup>4</sup>National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDARS),2015-16.

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