



Edward G. Rendell, Governor
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Research Briefs



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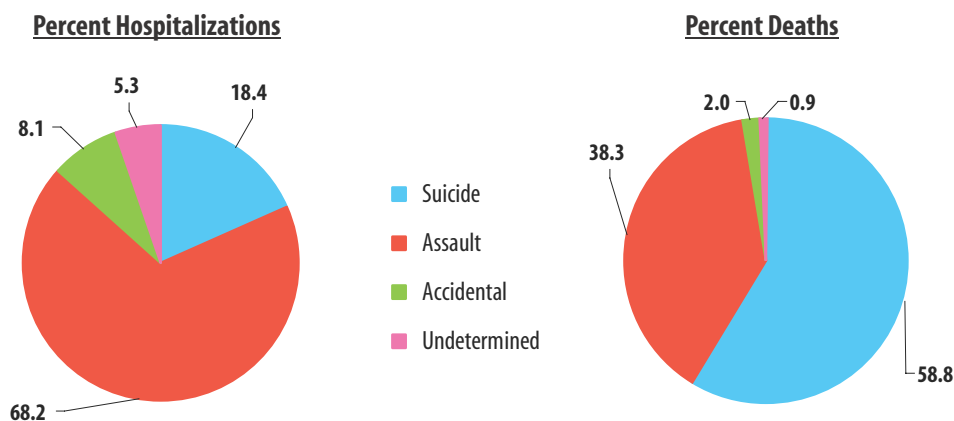
Firearm-related Injuries in Pennsylvania

Hospital charges for firearm-related injuries in Pennsylvania have risen dramatically and averaged \$127 million per year between 2001 and 2003. In urban counties across the state, the percentages of deaths and hospitalizations for firearm-related injuries due to assaults/homicides were much higher than in rural counties where suicides and accidents were much more common as the causes of hospitalization and death. Young adults, blacks and males had, by far, the highest hospitalization and death rates for firearm-related injuries, especially those due to assaults.

Hospitalizations and Deaths

- Firearm-related injuries accounted for 4,777 hospitalizations and 3,588 deaths in Pennsylvania between 2001 and 2003. 1,643 hospitalizations occurred in 2003.
- Assaults accounted for the majority of hospitalizations for firearm-related injuries.
- Suicides accounted for the majority of deaths due to firearm-related injuries.

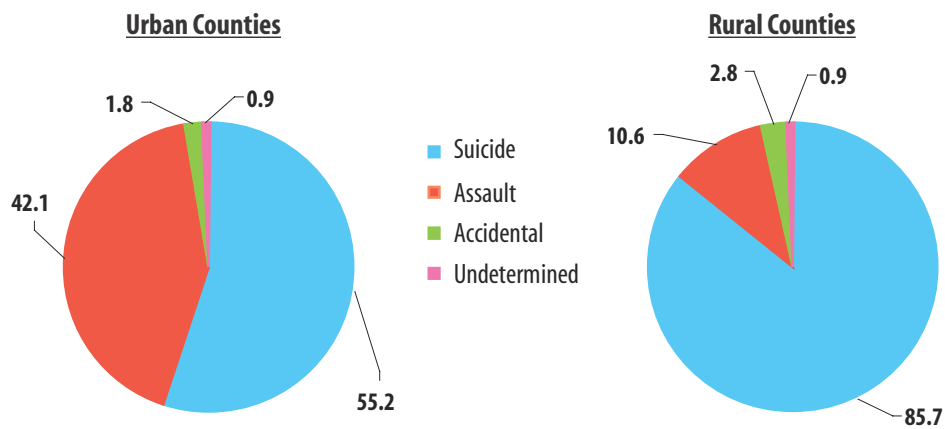
Percentage Distributions of Hospitalizations and Deaths for Firearm-related Injuries by Intent Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03



Urban vs. Rural Counties

- Almost 86 percent of firearm-related deaths among residents in rural counties were suicides, compared to 55 percent in urban counties during 2001-03.
- Assaults or homicides accounted for 42 percent of these deaths in urban counties, compared to only 11 percent in rural counties.
- 71 percent of hospitalizations for firearm injuries in urban counties were due to assaults.
- The majority (48 percent) of hospitalizations in rural counties were due to accidents.

**Percentage Distributions of Deaths for Firearm-related Injuries By Intent
Urban vs. Rural Counties, Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03**

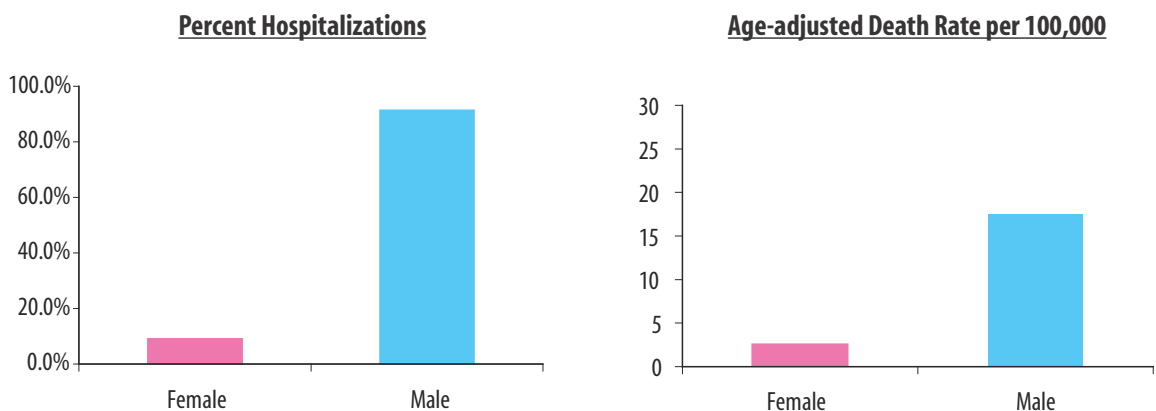


NOTE: A rural county has less than 50 percent of the population residing in urban areas (according to 2000 U.S. Census).

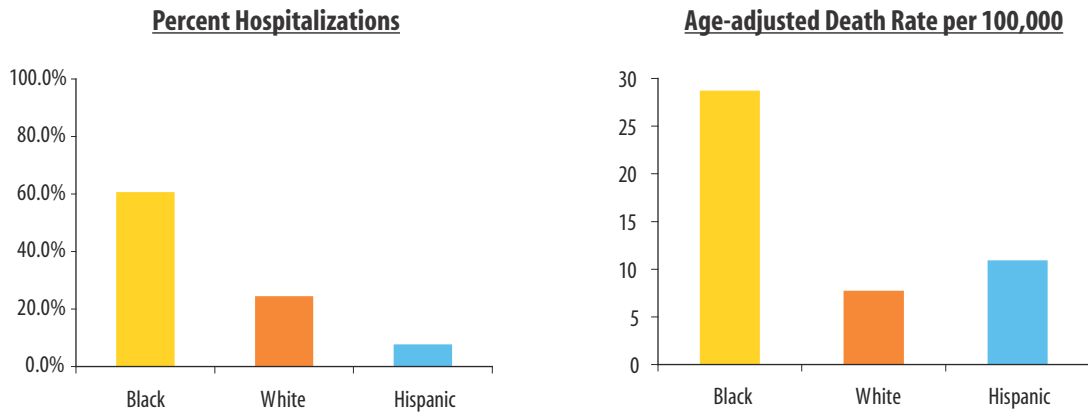
Age, Sex, Race and Ethnicity Profile

- Young adults, blacks and males had, by far, the highest hospitalization and death rates for firearm-related injuries, mostly attributable to firearm-related assaults.
- The highest age-specific suicide rates involving firearms occurred for older Pennsylvanians.

**Percent Hospitalizations and Age-adjusted Death Rates for Firearm-related Injuries by Sex
Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03**



Percent Hospitalizations and Age-adjusted Death Rates for Firearm-related Injuries by Race and Ethnicity, Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03



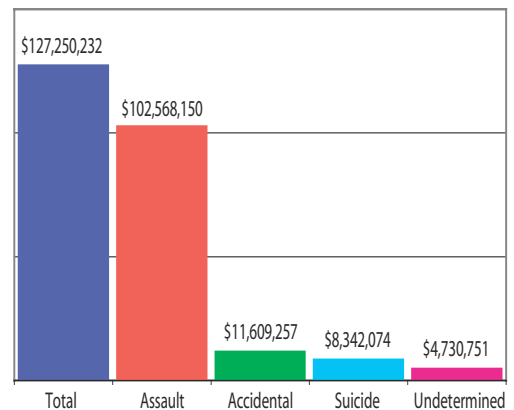
NOTES:

Data are for Pennsylvania residents. Average annual age-adjusted rates were computed by the direct method using 2000 U.S. standard million population. Rates are per 100,000 for each specified group. Pennsylvania 2001 population estimates multiplied by 3 were used for 2001-03 rates. Black and white includes Hispanic. Hispanic includes all races.

Hospital Charges

- \$127 million was the average annual total hospital charge for patients with firearm-related injuries in Pennsylvania between 2001 and 2003.
- 80 percent of the \$127 million was for care for patients involved in firearm-related assaults.
- The median charge for inpatient hospitalization due to firearm injuries during 2001-03 (\$30,814) was more than double the figure for 1996-1998 (\$15,178).
- Uninsured and Medical Assistance patients accounted for 72 percent of these hospitalizations during 2001-03, compared to 63.2 percent for 1996-98.
- Between the period of 1996-98 and 2001-03, the percentage of uninsured patients declined by 16.8 percent while the percentage of those on Medical Assistance increased by 32.7 percent.

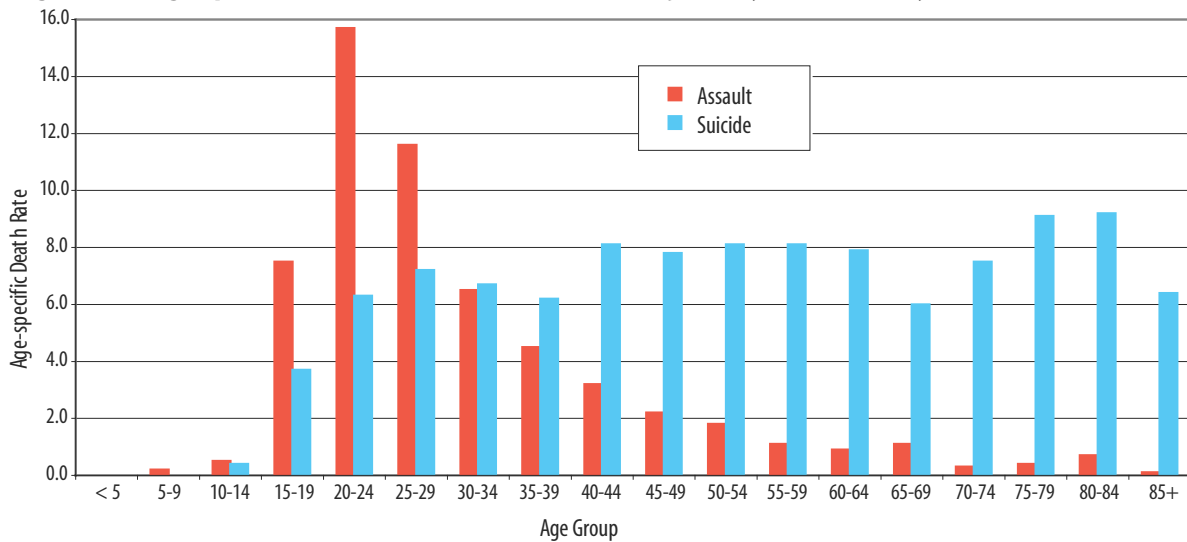
Average Annual Total Hospital Charges by Type of Firearm-related Injury Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03



Average Annual Total Hospital Charges and Percent Increases by Type of Firearm-related Injury Pennsylvania Residents, 1996-98 and 2001-03

Firearm-related Injury Type	Average Total Charge per Year			Median Charge		
	1996-98	2001-03	% Increase	1996-98	2001-03	% Increase
Total	\$66,688,873	\$127,250,232	90.8	\$15,178	\$30,814	103.0
Assault	\$49,096,766	\$102,568,150	108.9	\$16,617	\$38,153	130.0
Accidental	\$7,504,153	\$11,609,257	54.7	\$9,451	\$15,570	64.7
Suicide	\$6,377,901	\$8,342,074	30.8	\$20,248	\$31,254	54.4
Undetermined	\$3,710,054	\$4,730,751	27.5	\$15,020	\$21,054	40.2

Average Annual Age-specific Death Rates for Firearm-related Injuries by Intent, Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03



NOTE: Data are for Pennsylvania residents. Rates are per 100,000 for each specified group. Pennsylvania 2001 population estimates multiplied by 3 were used for 2001-03 rates.

Firearm-related Hospitalizations and Deaths by County, Pennsylvania Residents, 2001-03

County	Number of Hospitalizations	Number of Deaths	County	Number of Hospitalizations	Number of Deaths
All Counties	4,777	3,588	Juniata	0	8
Adams	1	25	Lackawanna	31	42
Allegheny	843	410	Lancaster	67	69
Armstrong	0	20	Lawrence	9	23
Beaver	5	47	Lebanon	2	28
Bedford	2	20	Lehigh	217	64
Berks	114	113	Luzerne	19	98
Blair	32	31	Lycoming	8	20
Bradford	23	24	McKean	0	15
Bucks	18	103	Mercer	13	23
Butler	4	41	Mifflin	2	15
Cambria	51	52	Monroe	2	40
Cameron	0	0	Montgomery	46	119
Carbon	0	14	Montour	51	4
Centre	7	27	Northampton	3	54
Chester	19	66	Northumberland	0	13
Clarion	5	14	Perry	0	16
Clearfield	9	32	Philadelphia	2,566	960
Clinton	0	12	Pike	0	13
Columbia	2	15	Potter	1	6
Crawford	7	20	Schuylkill	6	54
Cumberland	8	29	Snyder	0	2
Dauphin	175	63	Somerset	0	21
Delaware	194	133	Sullivan	0	4
Elk	2	7	Susquehanna	0	20
Erie	60	52	Tioga	1	15
Fayette	4	56	Union	3	12
Forest	0	4	Venango	3	8
Franklin	4	24	Warren	0	12
Fulton	0	4	Washington	5	58
Greene	0	16	Wayne	3	16
Huntingdon	1	15	Westmoreland	3	98
Indiana	3	14	Wyoming	0	9
Jefferson	0	16	York	123	110

For more information, contact:

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