



FIREARM-RELATED INJURY IN CONNECTICUT

A FACT SHEET – 2021 UPDATE



INJURY AND VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • OCTOBER 2022

What We Know About Firearm-Related Injury In Connecticut:

A firearm injury is a wound or penetrating injury from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile. BB and pellet guns are not considered firearms. Firearm injuries can be intentionally self-inflicted, inflicted as interpersonal violence, inflicted by legal intervention, or unintentionally inflicted. Most firearm-related injuries occur in males, and more specifically, in Black males.

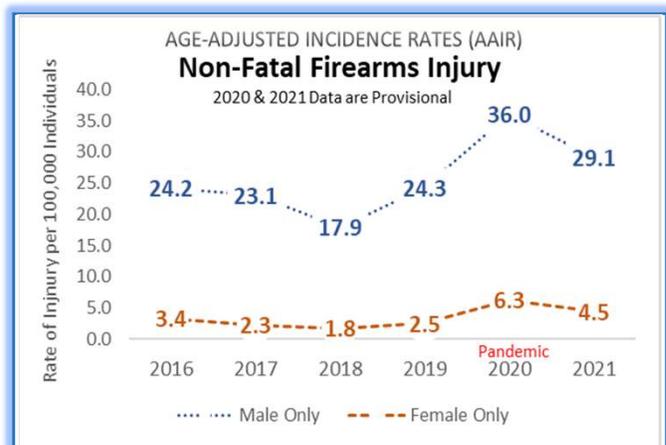
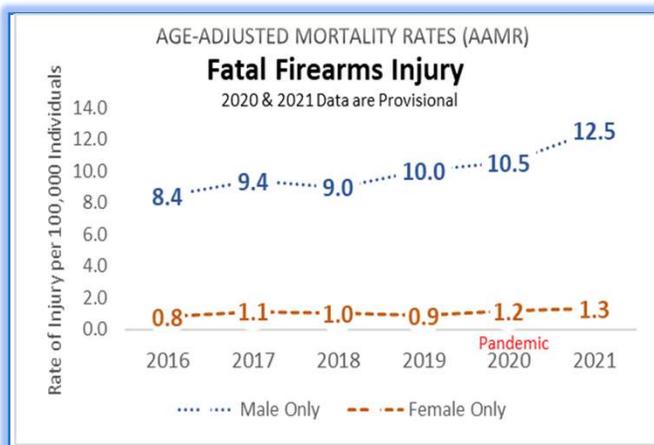
Firearm-related deaths accounted for 7.7% of all injury-related deaths, 1.0% of all non-fatal hospital admissions, and 0.1% of all emergency department treatment and release patients.

CDC estimated the injury-related medical, work loss, and quality of life costs in Connecticut at nearly 5 billion dollars in 2020; \$2.3 billion from deaths, \$2.3 billion from hospital admissions, and \$394 million from emergency department treatment and release.

It is too soon to tell how the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 may have contributed to changes in current trends for firearm-related injuries. We do know the total number of injury records reported by Connecticut hospitals dropped 24% from 2019 to 2020.

Key Points:

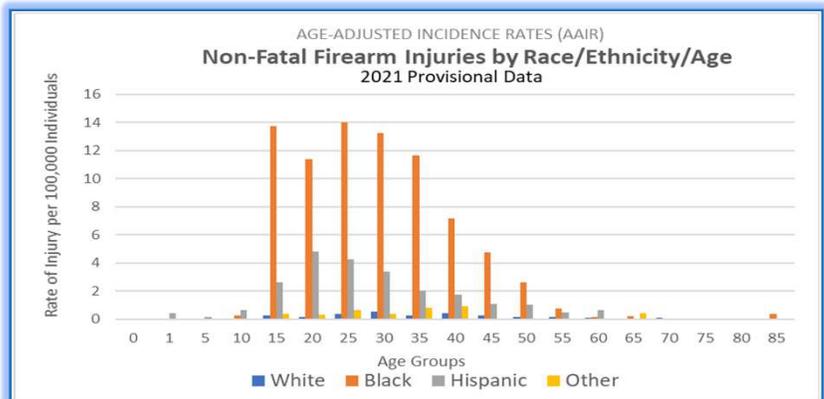
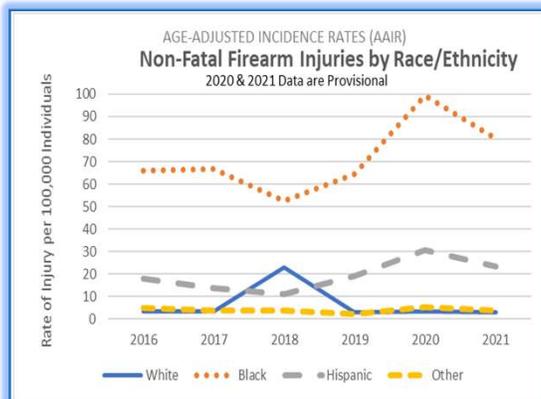
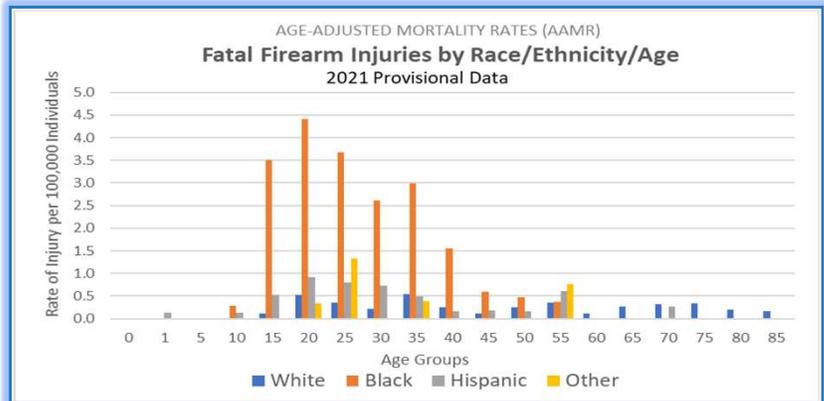
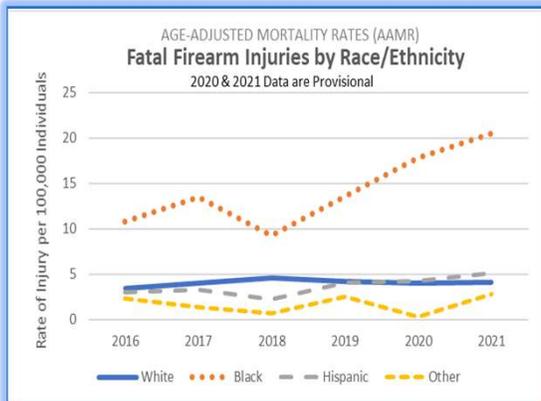
- In 2021, 30% of all firearm-related injuries in Connecticut were fatal.
- Suicide accounted for 49% of fatal firearm-related injuries and homicide accounting for 48%.
- The rate of these fatal injuries continues to rise each year.
- Non-Hispanic Blacks carried the highest burden of risk for both fatal and non-fatal firearm-related injuries. This is specifically true for Black individuals ages 15 to 40.
- The rates of firearm-related injuries are 6% of all fatal injuries and less than 1% of all non-fatal injuries.
- In 2020, firearm-related injuries cost Connecticut an estimated 5 billion dollars in medical expenses, work loss, and quality of life.



Data Sources: Fatalities reported from CT Vital Records data and Non-Fatalities reported from Connecticut Hospital Discharge data

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Strategies to prevent firearms injuries:

- Find out how to raise firearm concerns with authorities. The Say Something anonymous reporting system ([1-884-5-SAYNOW](https://www.say-something.org)), the federal illegal firearms activity hotline ([1-800-ATF-GUNS](https://www.atf.gov)) and the federal [Reportit app](https://www.reportitapp.com) are three ways to report concerns about firearm-related threats or other possible violence.
- **Keep firearms locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition.**
- Know when and how to remove firearms from your home, especially if someone is showing signs of suicidality.
- Talk to children and teens about firearm safety and include firearm storage as part of your ‘safety check’ conversation before your child visits someone new.
- Inquire about your school district’s efforts to reduce violence and suicide risk and engage kids, teens and young adults in violence prevention.

For information on preventing firearm violence visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms>



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www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

