FIREARM-RELATED INJURY IN CONNECTICUT
A FACT SHEET – 2023 UPDATE

INJURY AND VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • OCTOBER 2024

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[1]. 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.
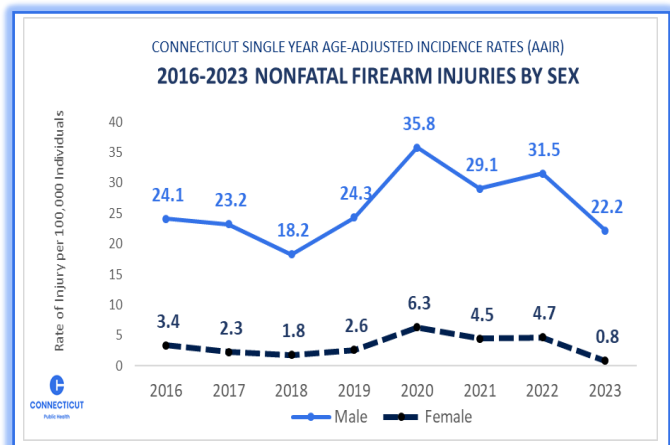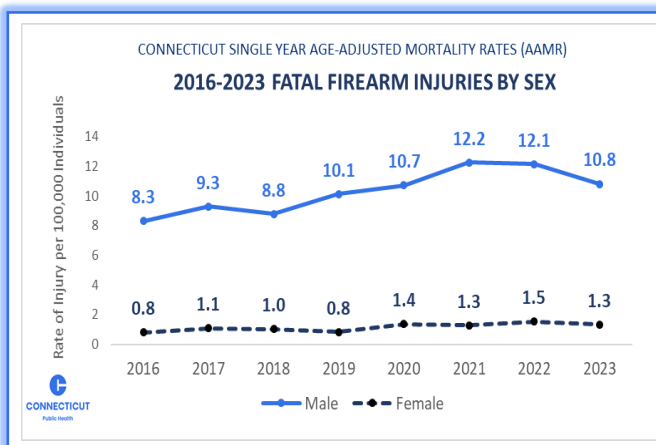
Firearm injury impacts the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in Connecticut as firearms can cause death, life-long disability, and years of suffering the trauma from living through a firearms event.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention share that the prevention of firearm injuries is possible through community action, collective solutions, and responsible gun ownership.

The Connecticut Assault Weapons Ban of 2023, Public Act 23-53, includes a requirement for "safe storage" of all firearms, at all times, even if no minors or prohibited persons are present.
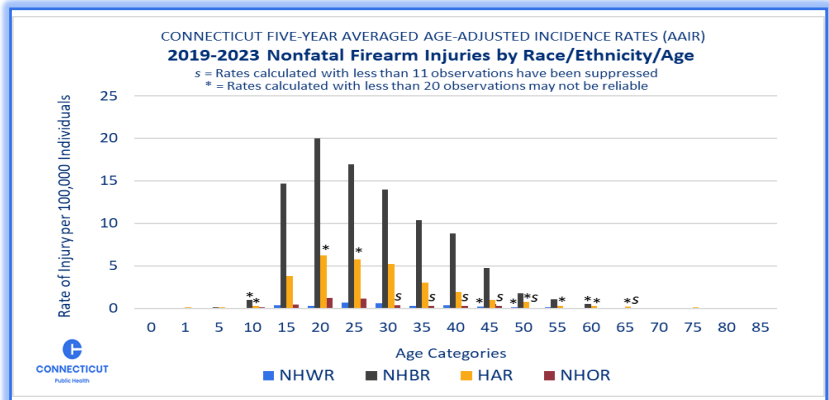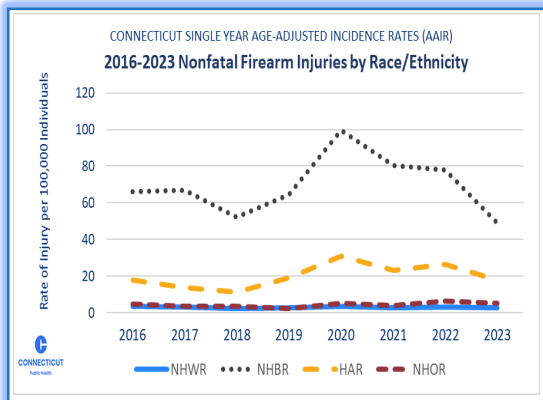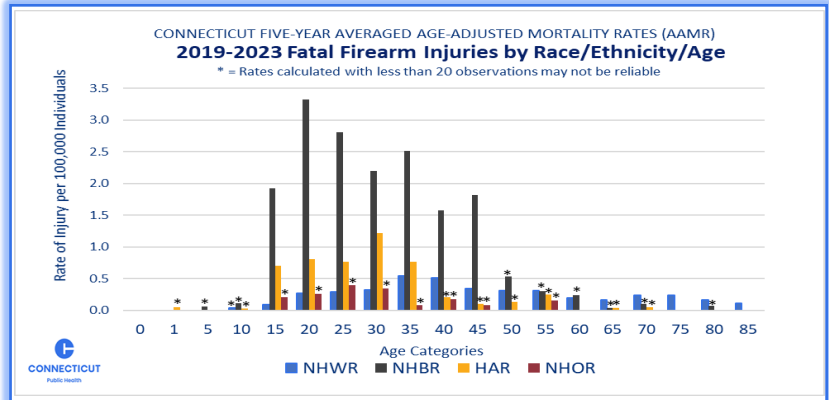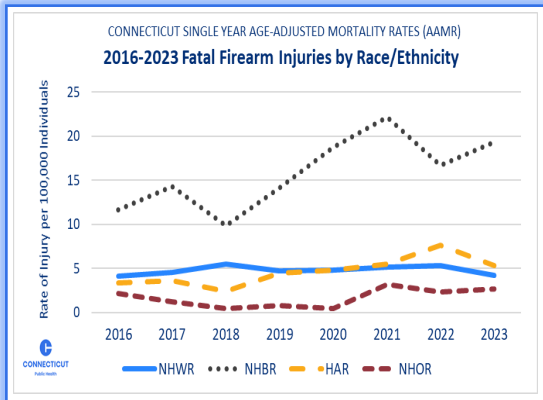
Key Points:

- Connecticut has the 4th highest firearms fatality rate in the northeast, exceeding New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York[2].

- In 2023, **297** Connecticut residents were treated in the emergency department for firearm-related injuries, another **125** were admitted to the hospital for care, and an additional **218** died from a firearm injury[3].

- Connecticut hospitals billed nearly $114.8 million for treating victims; $26.0 million for emergency department treat and release cases and $88.8 million for hospital admissions.

- In 2023, 51.5% of all firearm-related injuries in Connecticut were fatal with 50% of those fatalities being self-directed violence.

- Looking at adjusted rates per 100,000 Connecticut residents, non-Hispanic Blacks carried a higher burden of risk for fatal (18.7) and nonfatal (48.8) firearm injuries compared to Hispanics (5.2, 17.8) and non-Hispanic whites (3.6, 2.8), respectively.

CONNECTICUT SINGLE YEAR AGE-ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATES (AAMR)
2016-2023 FATAL FIREARM INJURIES BY SEX

Male: 2016: 8.3, 2017: 9.3, 2018: 8.8, 2019: 10.1, 2020: 10.7, 2021: 12.2, 2022: 12.1, 2023: 10.8
Female: 2016: 0.8, 2017: 1.1, 2018: 1.0, 2019: 0.8, 2020: 1.4, 2021: 1.3, 2022: 1.5, 2023: 1.3

CONNECTICUT SINGLE YEAR AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR)
2016-2023 NONFATAL FIREARM INJURIES BY SEX

Male: 2016: 24.1, 2017: 23.2, 2018: 18.2, 2019: 24.3, 2020: 35.8, 2021: 29.1, 2022: 31.5, 2023: 22.2
Female: 2016: 3.4, 2017: 2.3, 2018: 1.8, 2019: 2.6, 2020: 6.3, 2021: 4.5, 2022: 4.7, 2023: 0.8

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

Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06134
www.ct.gov/dph/injuryprevention

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CONNECTICUT SINGLE YEAR AGE-ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATES (AAMR)
2016-2023 Fatal Firearm Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

CONNECTICUT FIVE-YEAR AVERAGED AGE-ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATES (AAMR)
2019-2023 Fatal Firearm Injuries by Race/Ethnicity/Age
* = Rates calculated with less than 20 observations may not be reliable

CONNECTICUT SINGLE YEAR AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR)
2016-2023 Nonfatal Firearm Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

CONNECTICUT FIVE-YEAR AVERAGED AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR)
2019-2023 Nonfatal Firearm Injuries by Race/Ethnicity/Age
s = Rates calculated with less than 11 observations have been suppressed
* = Rates calculated with less than 20 observations may not be reliable

NWHR=non-Hispanic White Race, **NHBR**=non-Hispanic Black Race, **HAR**=Hispanic All Races, **NHOR**=non-Hispanic Other Races
Data Sources: Fatalities reported from CT Vital Records data and Non-Fatalities reported from Connecticut Hospital Discharge data

Strategies to prevent firearms injuries:

- Find out how to raise firearm concerns with authorities. The Say Something anonymous reporting system (**1-884-5-SAYNOW**, the federal illegal firearms activity hotline (**1-800-ATF-GUNS**) and the federal **Reportit app** 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 suidiality.

- 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

References

1 https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/about/index.html
2 https://wisqars.cdc.gov/explore/
3 Death data from the Connecticut State Vital Records Office and Hospital Discharge data from the Connecticut Hospital Association

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