

Firearm Injuries in Indiana



Understanding Firearm Injuries

Firearm injuries are among the leading causes of injury death in Indiana. In 2023, firearm injuries accounted for nearly one in five (19%) total injury deaths, including 64% of suicides and 84% of homicides. Firearm injuries are preventable, and evidence-based suicide prevention, violence prevention, and safe usage and storage of firearms can help reduce the number of firearm-related injuries and deaths.

Impact and Magnitude of Firearm Injuries

In 2023, more than 3,600 firearm injuries occurred in Indiana, including 1,254 deaths (18.3 per 100,000), 571 non-fatal hospitalizations (8.3 per 100,000), and 1,822 non-fatal ED visits (26.6 per 100,000).¹ Data are not available to determine how many people with firearm injuries were treated in other settings or went untreated.

Firearm Injuries in Indiana, 2023:

- 1,254 deaths
- 571 hospitalizations
- 1,822 ED visits

Manner of Firearm Deaths

In 2023, suicide was the leading manner of firearm death in Indiana, accounting for 755 deaths (60%). Homicide was the second leading manner of firearm death, accounting for 436 deaths (35%). There were 19 unintentional firearm deaths (1%), 21 firearm deaths of undetermined intent (2%), and 23 firearm deaths (2%) due to legal intervention.

Figure 1. Manner of death among firearm injury deaths, Indiana, 2023

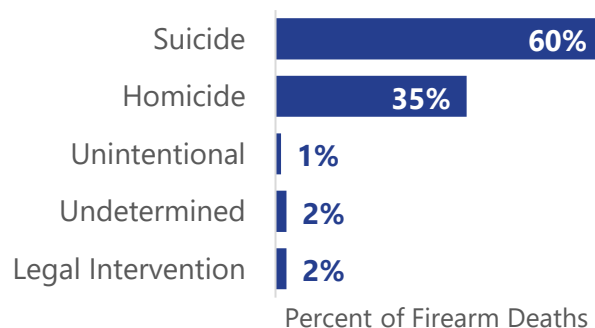
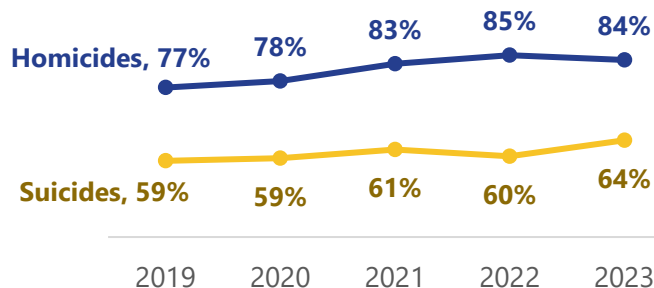


Figure 2. Percentage of homicide and suicide deaths due to firearms, Indiana, 2019-2023



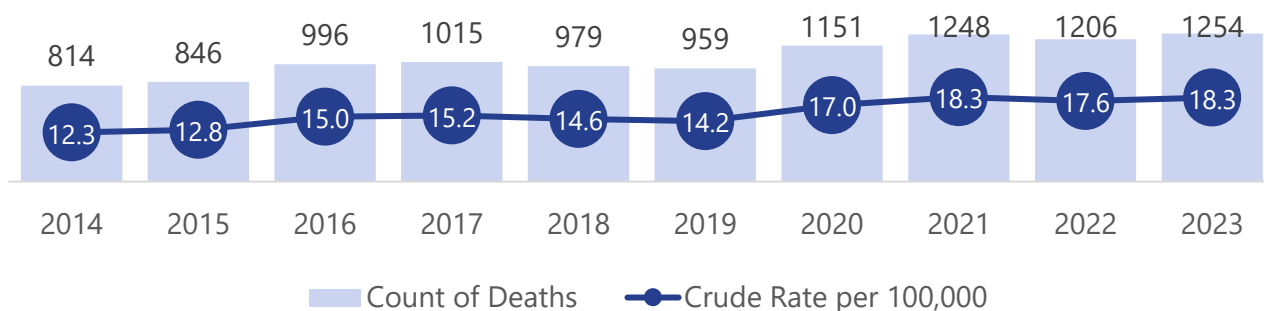
Throughout the last five years, firearm injuries have also accounted for an increasing proportion of suicide and homicide deaths. In 2023, firearms accounted for 64% of suicide deaths, up from 59% in 2019. Firearms also accounted for 84% of homicide deaths in 2023, up from 77% in 2019 (figure 2).

¹ Firearm deaths are from Indiana vital records. Hospitalization and ED visit data are from Indiana hospital discharge data and include only non-fatal hospitalizations and ED visits. Firearm deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits were calculated based on definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available at: <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/128417>.

Trends in Firearm Injury Deaths

The rate of firearm deaths increased by nearly 49% between 2014 and 2023 (12.3 vs. 18.3 per 100,000, respectively). The increase in firearm injury deaths was driven primarily by increases in suicides and homicides due to firearms during that time.

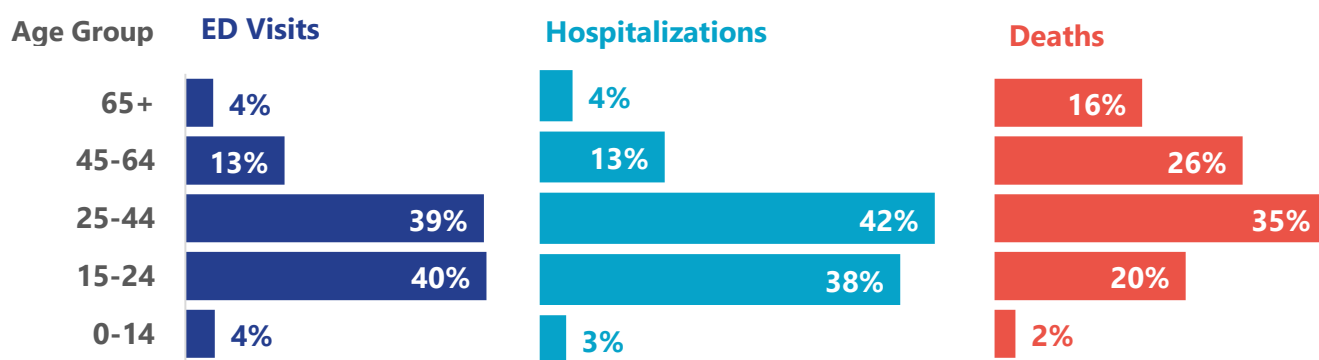
Figure 3. Deaths due to firearm injury, Indiana, 2014-2023



Firearm Injuries by Age Group

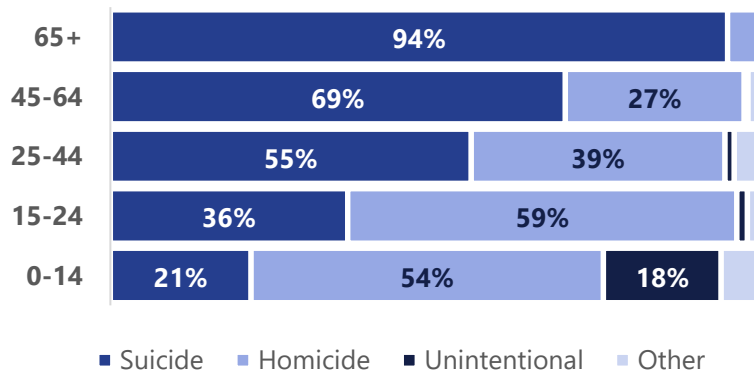
The highest proportion of firearm injury hospitalizations (42%) and firearm deaths (35%) were among individuals between the ages of 25 and 44. Teenagers and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 accounted for the highest proportion of ED visits due to firearm injuries (40%) (figure 4).

Figure 4. Age distribution of firearm injury ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths, Indiana, 2023



Homicide was the leading manner of firearm death for children ages 0 to 14 and young adults ages 15 to 24 (54% and 59% of firearm deaths, respectively). Suicide was the leading manner of firearm deaths for adults ages 25 to 44 (55%), ages 45 to 64 (69%), and 65 and older (94%). Children ages 0-14 had the highest proportion of unintentional firearm deaths (18%) (figure 5).

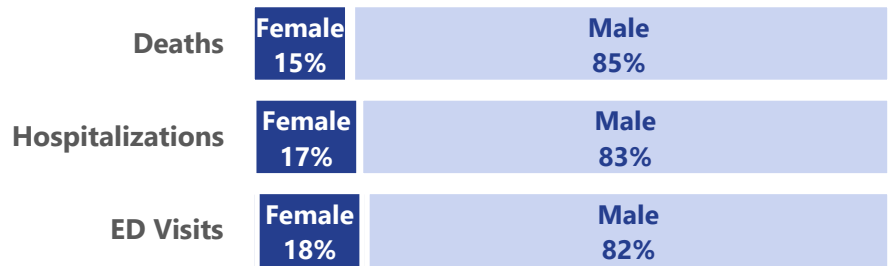
Figure 5. Manner of firearm deaths by age group, Indiana, 2023



Firearm Injuries by Sex

In 2023, males accounted for more than eight in 10 firearm injury ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. Additionally, the rate of firearm deaths among males was more than five times the rate among females (31.3 vs. 5.5 per 100,000, respectively). Suicide was the leading manner of firearm death for males (62%) and females (52%).

Figure 6. Firearm injury deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits by sex, Indiana, 2023



Firearm Deaths by Race and Ethnicity

Rates of firearm injury deaths differed by race and ethnicity, with the highest rate among non-Hispanic (NH) Black persons (50.0 per 100,000) (figure 7). Manner of firearm death also varied by race and ethnicity. Most firearm deaths among non-Hispanic white persons were due to suicide (81%). In contrast, most firearm injury deaths among non-Hispanic Black Hoosiers (75%) and Hispanic Hoosiers (65%) were due to homicide (figure 8).

Figure 7. Crude rates per 100,000 of firearm deaths, by race and ethnicity, Indiana, 2023

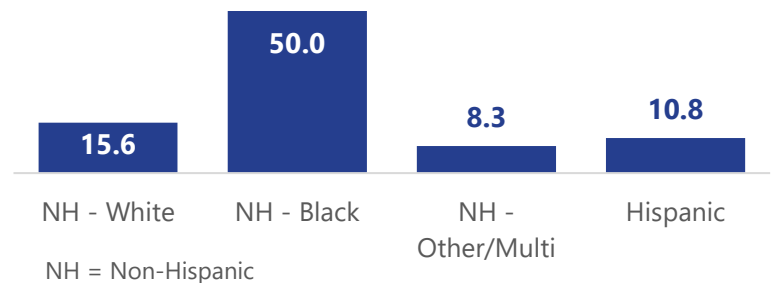
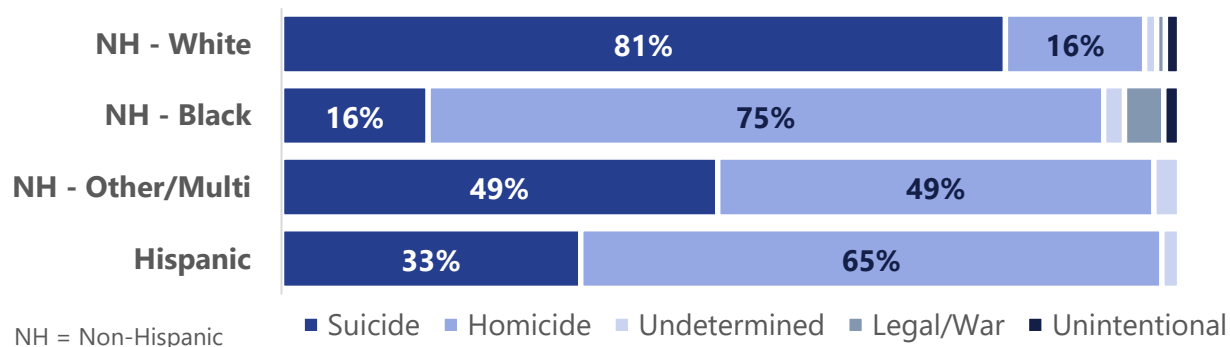


Figure 8. Firearm injury deaths by race/ethnicity and intent, Indiana, 2023



Firearm Injury Prevention and Safety Resources

Additional information about firearm injury prevention is available at the links below:

- CDC Firearm Injury and Death Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/prevention/index.html>
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: <https://988lifeline.org/>
- Indiana State Police Firearms Safety: <https://www.in.gov/isp/firearms-licensing/get-more-information/firearms-safety-information/>

