

# Default Coding of Intent for Firearm Morbidity

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# Summary



- Unintentional should not be used as default.
- Using Assault as default is not the best solution.
- Using Undetermined Intent as default is the best solution.

# Unintentional should not be used as default.



- Under ICD-9-CM, default was Undetermined Intent.
  - Change to Unintentional further complicates temporal analyses.
- Assuming Unintentional overstates this Intent type, understates others.

# Using Assault as default is not the best solution.

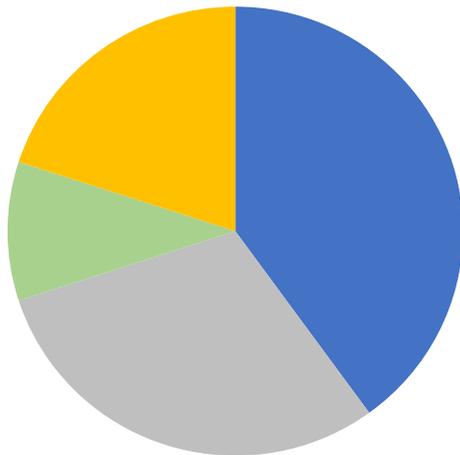


- Will overstate assault firearm injuries.
- Will understate unintentional and self-harm firearm injuries.
- Epidemiologists will be unaware of the degree to which assault was specified vs. assigned by default.
- Epidemiologists will have difficulty communicating results.
  - Could result in deterioration of trust in firearm statistics and epidemiologists.

# Impact of Option 1 v. Option 2



Intent Per Medical Records  
(Hypothetical)

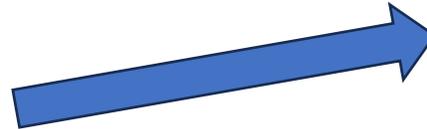
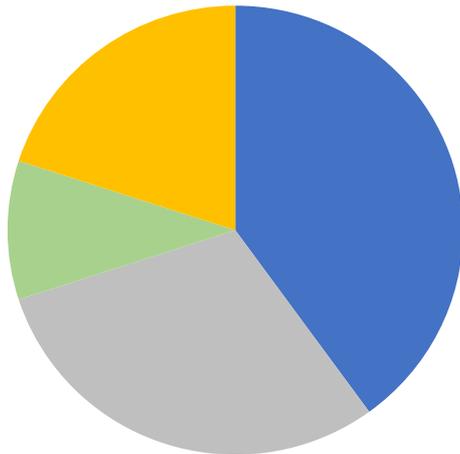


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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Assault        |  Self-harm     |
|  No information |  Unintentional |

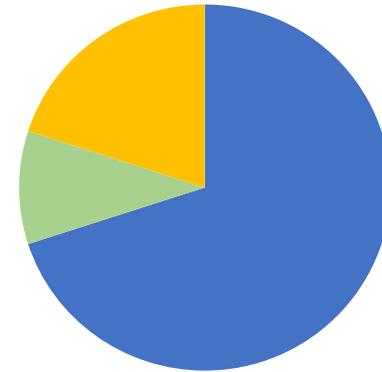
# Impact of Option 1 v. Option 2



Intent Per Medical Records  
(Hypothetical)



Option 1

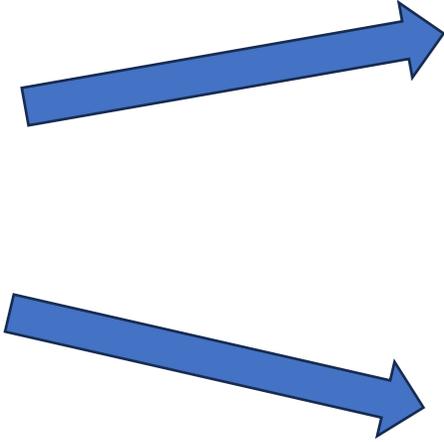
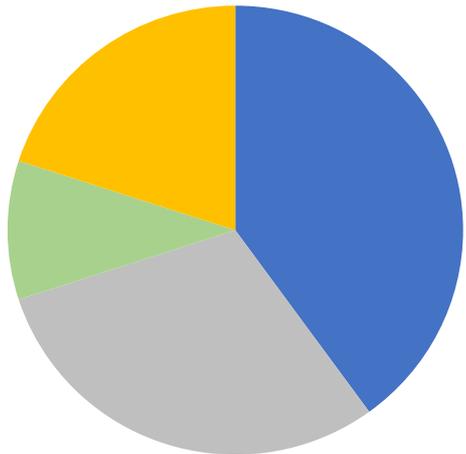


- |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Assault        |  Self-harm     |
|  No information |  Unintentional |

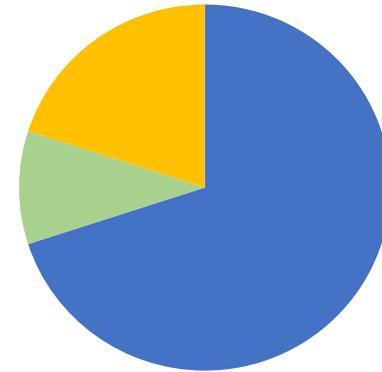
# Impact of Option 1 v. Option 2, cont.



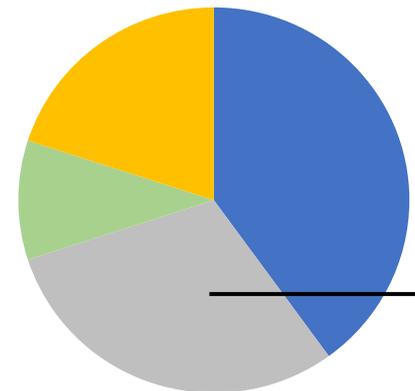
Intent Per Medical Records  
(Hypothetical)



Option 1



Option 2



 Assault	 Self-harm
 No information	 Unintentional

# Using Undetermined Intent as default is the best solution.



- Because there is no information on intent, Undetermined Intent literally makes the most sense.
- Allows for transparency in analysis.
- Allows flexibility in analysis.
- Prevents overstating and not knowing degree of overstating.