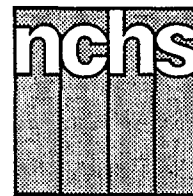


# Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Final Data From the National Center for Health Statistics

## Firearm Mortality Among Children, Youth, and Young Adults 1–34 Years of Age, Trends and Current Status: United States, 1979–88

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### Introduction and background

A previous report of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) emphasized the level of firearm mortality among children and youth (1). The report showed that in 1987, 11 percent of deaths among children and youth aged 1–19 years resulted from firearm use. In addition, in a recent paper (2) the homicide rate for young males 15–24 years of age in the United States was compared with rates in 21 industrialized countries. Not only was the U.S. homicide rate 4 to 70 times the homicide rates in other countries, but three-fourths of these homicides in the United States were committed with firearms, compared

with less than one-fourth in the other countries.

Furthermore, the need to reduce the level of violent deaths among teenagers (15–19 year olds) and young adults in the United States is the focus of several of the Year 2000 Objectives for the Nation (3). Specifically, reductions are targeted for: the homicide rate for all persons, with special targets set for children 3 years of age and under, for black males and females ages 15–34 years and for Hispanic males ages 15–34 years; the suicide rate for all persons, with special targets set for young persons 15–19 years of age, and for males 20–34 years of age; and the weapon-related violent death rate for all persons.

Although the previous firearm mortality report was limited to children ages 1–19 years, this report extends the age groups to those 20–34 years of age in order to include those ages where the risk of homicide, and, in particular, of firearm-related homicide, is greatest (figure 1). In 1988, 77 percent of homicides among teenagers 15–19 years of age were associated with firearm use (88 percent among black males); at 20–24 years of age, 70 percent of homicides resulted from firearm use (81 percent among

black males); at 25–29 years of age, 68 percent were firearm related (75 percent among black males); and at 30–34 years of age, 64 percent (70 percent among black males) were caused by firearm use.

Suicide rates follow an age pattern different from homicide rates; death rates are fairly constant at ages 20–64 years, and peak for the older population age groups (figure 2). The age-specific proportions of suicides resulting from firearm use are lower than the proportions of homicides, averaging 53–61 percent of suicides at 10–14 years of age through 30–34 years of age.

The purpose of this report is to update and expand the previous report on firearm mortality (1), focusing on firearm deaths associated with homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury (used synonymously with the term “accident” as defined in the International Classification of Diseases) among children, youth, and young adults ages 1–34 years.

The analysis of firearm mortality for persons 15–34 years of age concentrates on males although the analysis for persons 1–14 years of age is for each sex. The emphasis on males at the older ages is because firearm death



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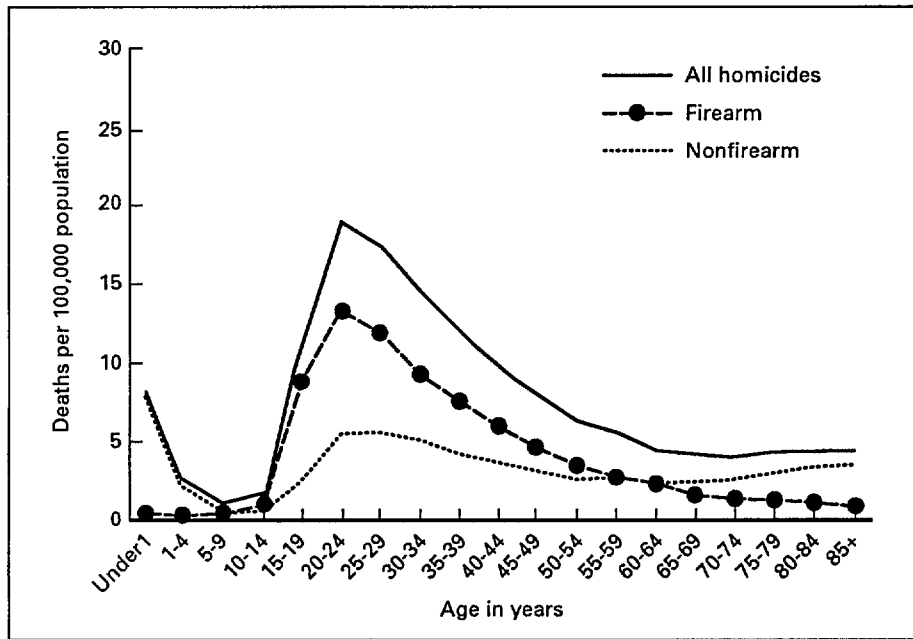


Figure 1. Death rates due to homicide, by age and firearm status: United States, 1988

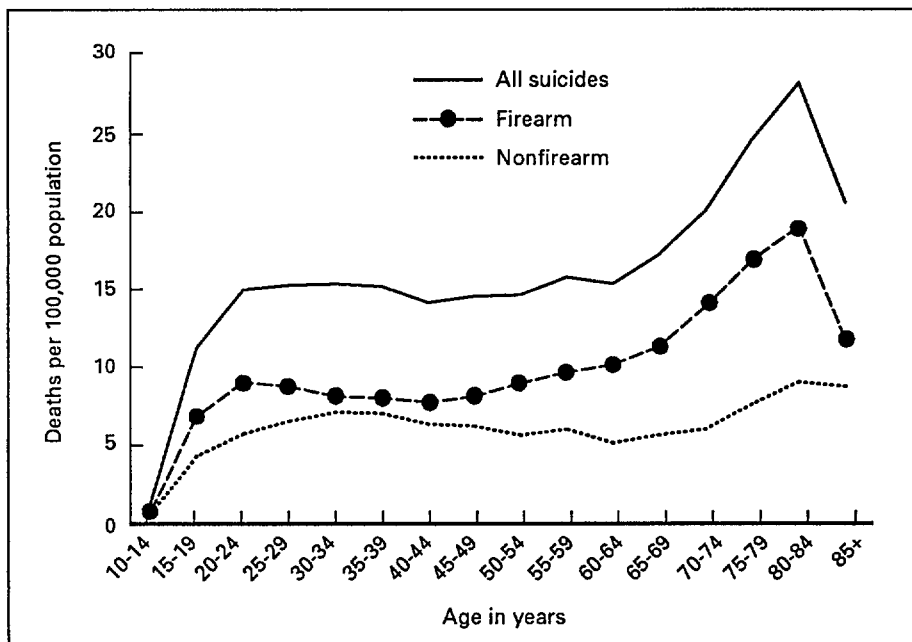


Figure 2. Death rates due to suicide, by age and firearm status: United States, 1988

rates for black and white males in each age group substantially exceed the respective rates for black and white females. Particularly high mortality sex ratios in firearm mortality are evident at 15–19 years of age through 30–34 years of age. For white persons, male firearm death rates are 5–7 times rates for females and for black persons, male firearm death rates are 6–9 times rates for females.

### Results

To gain perspective on the magnitude of firearm mortality among this country's youth, it is instructive to compare trends in firearm mortality among teenage males with those in mortality associated with natural causes of death, that is, with diseases rather than with injuries or violence (figure 3). For black males 15–19 years of age, the firearm death rate in

1979 was 1.5 times the death rate from natural causes. A decade earlier, the two rates were nearly identical. Between 1979 and 1988, the natural causes death rate was relatively stable.

The trend in firearm mortality among black males 15–19 years of age, however, has been quite different. From 1980 to 1984, the firearm death rate declined 21 percent to 35.8 firearm deaths per 100,000 population. In 1984, the firearm death rate was 1.4 times the natural causes death rate. From 1984 to 1988, the firearm death rate for black males more than doubled at an annual rate of 18.6 percent to 79.5 per 100,000. Thus, by 1988, the firearm death rate for black teenage males was 2.8 times the rate for natural causes of death.

For white males 15–19 years of age, the natural causes death rate in 1979 was 11 percent higher than the firearm death rate. A decade earlier, the natural causes death rate was 2.6 times the firearm death rate. During the 1980's, the natural causes death rate for white teenage males varied little, from 19–22 deaths per 100,000 population. Firearm mortality has shown somewhat more variation, and, in 1988, the firearm death rate exceeded the natural causes death rate for the first time (by 11 percent).

### Current status

In 1988, 17,249 firearm deaths occurred among persons 1–34 years of age. This represented 15 percent of all deaths at those ages. Nearly 4,000 firearm deaths were among children 1–19 years of age, accounting for 12 percent of all deaths in that age group. Of those firearm deaths, about 3,200 were among teenagers 15–19 years of age, accounting for 20 percent of all teenage deaths. At ages 20–24 years, 21 percent of all deaths resulted from firearm use; 18 percent of all deaths at ages 25–29 years, and 12 percent of all deaths at ages 30–34 years resulted from firearm use.

Variation by race and sex within age groups is large, especially for teenagers ages 15–19 years (figure 4). Among black teenage males, 48 percent of the deaths were firearm-related, compared with 18 percent

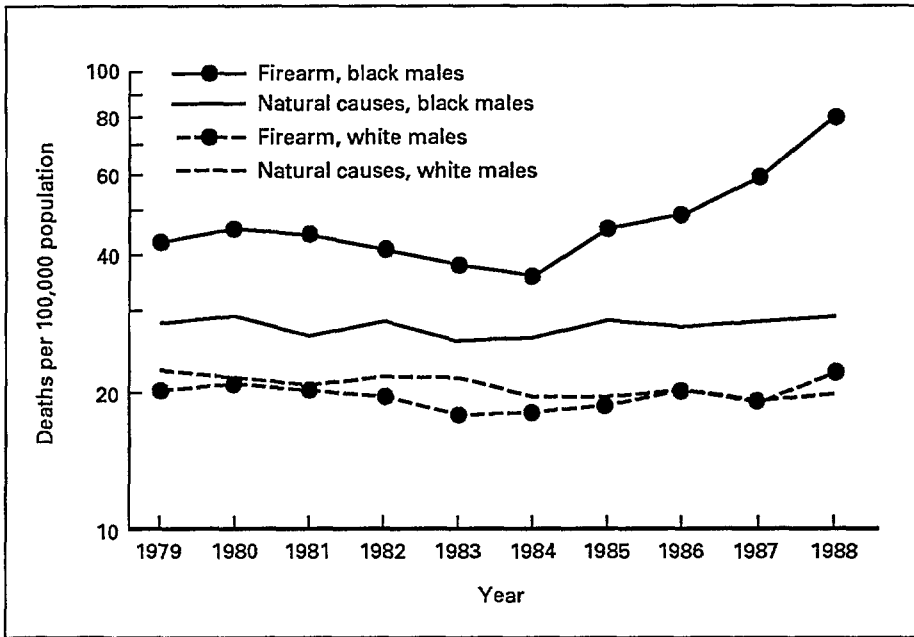


Figure 3. Death rates due to firearms and natural causes, for white and black males aged 15-19 years: United States, 1979-88

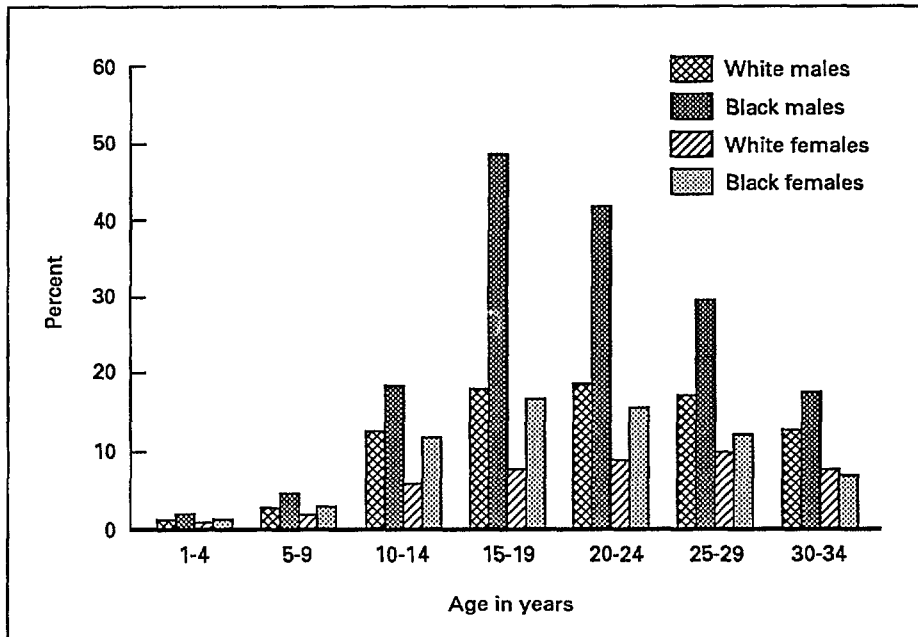


Figure 4. Percent of all deaths due to firearms by age, race, and sex: United States, 1988

among white teenage males. Among black females, 17 percent of deaths resulted from firearm use, compared with 8 percent among white females. Among white males 20-24 years of age through 25-29 years of age, 17-19 percent of deaths were caused by firearm use, compared with 30-42 percent among black males. Among females, firearm deaths accounted for

6-17 percent of all deaths at 10-14 years of age through 30-34 years of age, with percentages among black females exceeding those for white females except at ages 30-34 years.

The risk of firearm death rises until the young adult years and then declines. In 1988, the firearm death rate increased from less than 1 per 100,000 population at ages 1-4 years

and 5-9 years, to 3.1 at ages 10-14 years, to 17.7 at ages 15-19 years, peaking at 23.9 at ages 20-24 years and declining to 21.6 and 18.3 at ages 25-29 years and 30-34 years, respectively (figure 5 and table 1).

The manner of firearm deaths varies by age. Among the youngest children, those 1-9 years of age, homicide accounted for 56 percent and unintentional firearm injuries for 43 percent of the firearm deaths in 1988. At ages 10-14 years, homicide and unintentional firearm injuries each accounted for about 35 percent, suicide for 24 percent, and intent unknown for 6 percent of the firearm deaths. (At all other ages, intent unknown accounted for only 1-2 percent of the firearm deaths.) At 15-19 years of age through 30-34 years of age, homicides accounted for 51-56 percent of firearm deaths (82-87 percent among black males), and suicides accounted for 38-45 percent of firearm deaths (58-60 percent among white males).

The overall age patterns in firearm mortality among white and black males are similar. However, within each age group the risk of firearm death is strongly associated with race. Firearm mortality race ratios (black compared with white) average 2-3:1 for males ages 1-14 years and for females through ages 30-34 years, although for males 15-19 years of age through 30-34 years of age, race ratios are closer to 4:1.

For children 1-9 years of age, firearm homicide rates for black males were four times the rates for white males; race ratios were smaller for females 1-9 years of age (2-3:1). Unintentional firearm injury death rates were twice as high for black males ages 1-4 years and 5-9 years as for white males. Death rates were lower and differences were smaller for females 1-9 years of age.

At ages 10-14 years, black males were more than five times as likely as white males to have been firearm homicide victims (4.5 compared with 0.8 deaths per 100,000 population); white males were more apt to have died from firearm suicides, 1.2 compared with 0.7 deaths per 100,000

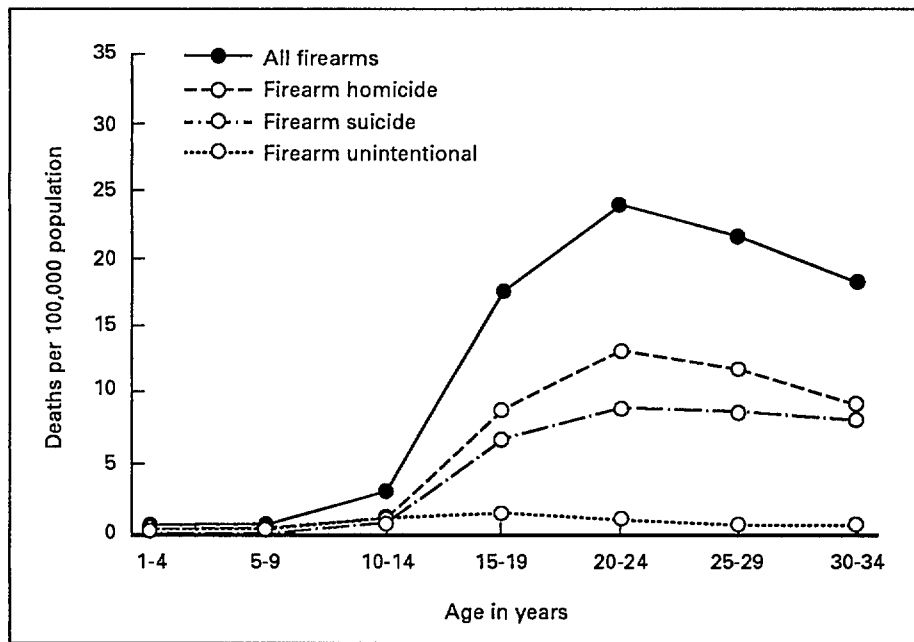


Figure 5. Firearm death rates by manner of death and age, for persons 1-34 years: United States, 1988

population. Although the firearm homicide rates were much lower for females ages 10-14 years, race differences in firearm homicides were about as high for females as for males. Race differences in unintentional firearm mortality were smaller than for homicide; the rate for black males 10-14 years of age was 1.2 times that for white males, 2.1 compared with 1.8 firearm deaths per 100,000. Although the unintentional firearm death rates were considerably lower for females 10-14 years of age, race differences were larger than among males, 2:1.

For black males 15-19 years of age, the firearm homicide rate was more than 11 times the rate for white males, 67.9 compared with 6.0 per 100,000 population. In contrast, the firearm suicide rate was nearly twice as high for white male as for black male teenagers, 12.7 compared with 6.8 per 100,000 population.

At 20-24 years of age through 30-34 years of age, black male firearm homicide rates were 8-10 times those for white males. Race differences (white compared with black) in firearm suicide rates at these ages were considerably smaller, less than 2:1.

### Trends (tables 1 and 2)

Consistent with earlier patterns (1), there was virtually no change from 1987 to 1988 in the overall firearm death rate for young children 1-4 or 5-9 years of age. For children ages 10-14 years, however, 1988 was the second consecutive year of a small increase in the firearm death rate, with the rate rising to its highest level, 3.1 firearm deaths per 100,000. In this age group, the greatest change occurred for black females for whom the firearm death rate more than doubled from 1.4 to 3.6 firearm deaths per 100,000.

From 1979 to 1984, the firearm death rate for teenagers 15-19 years of age decreased 11 percent to 12.4 per 100,000. After 1984, however, the death rate increased 43 percent, rising 20 percent in 1988 to 17.7 deaths per 100,000, the highest level to date. These recent increases were concentrated among black males, for whom both the firearm death rate and the firearm homicide rate more than doubled. The most recent increase, from 1987 to 1988, has been the largest single year increase in the firearm death rate for black male teenagers—35 percent (figure 6). Although the risk of firearm suicide is relatively low

(compared with homicide) among black males, the rate doubled from 1984 to 1988.

For white male teenagers, the firearm death rate increased by 22 percent from 1984 to 1988, by 18 percent for firearm homicides, and by 31 percent for firearm suicides.

From 1979 to 1985, the firearm death rate for persons 20-24 years of age decreased 17 percent. During the next 3 years, the rate increased 16 percent to 23.9 per 100,000 in 1988. For black males 20-24 years of age, the firearm death rate decreased 33 percent from 1980 to 1984, followed by a 59 percent increase between 1984 and 1988 to 119.2 firearm deaths per 100,000 population, the highest level since 1979 (although still lower than during the early 1970's). Nearly 9 in 10 firearm deaths among these black males were associated with homicides. Although relatively few firearm deaths were suicides, the death rate from this cause increased 46 percent from 1984 to 1988 to 12.3 deaths per 100,000 population (similar to the level in 1979).

For white males ages 20-24 years, the firearm death rate decreased from a high of 35.3 per 100,000 in 1980 to a low of 28.7 in 1983 and remained relatively unchanged at about 30 per 100,000 through 1988. The firearm homicide rate for this group was also relatively unchanged from 1983 to 1988; in 1988, the rate was 26 percent lower than the rate in 1980. The firearm suicide rate remained practically unchanged from 1979 to 1988 at about 17 per 100,000.

For white females ages 20-24 years, the firearm death rate decreased by 32 percent from 1979 to 1988. For black females, the firearm death rate decreased from 17.4 in 1979 to 10.3 in 1985, but then increased 35 percent to 13.9 per 100,000 in 1988.

From 1979 to 1988 at ages 25-29 years and 30-34 years, firearm mortality decreased by 12-14 percent. For these black males, firearm death rates decreased by about 35-40 percent from 1980 to 1985, paralleling the decline noted for black males 20-24 years of age. Since then, the rate for those aged 25-29 years has fluctuated

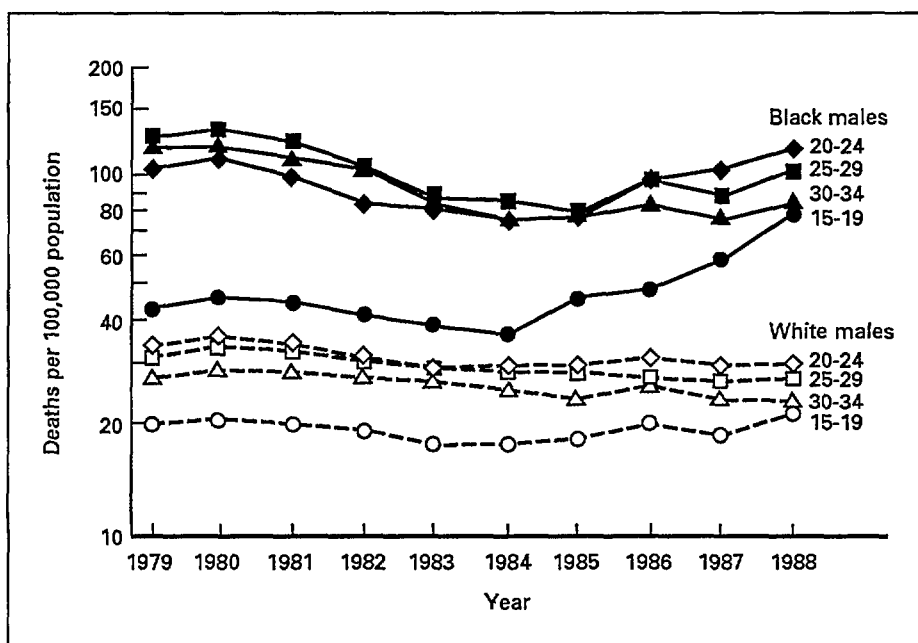


Figure 6. Firearm death rates by age, for white and black males aged 15-34 years: United States, 1979-88

widely, between 87 and 103 per 100,000, but has remained below the 1982 level. At ages 30-34 years, the rate has remained relatively stable in recent years. For this group, the firearm death rate in 1988 was 18 percent lower than in 1982.

Similar to the younger age groups for black males, firearm homicide rates for those 25-29 years of age and 30-34 years of age declined during the first half of the 1980's. However, unlike the rates for those 20-24 years of age, firearm homicide rates decreased between 1986 and 1987. In 1988, the rate for black males 25-29 years of age increased 22 percent to 89.5 per 100,000 (similar to the rate in 1982). For those 30-34 years of age, the 1988 rate was 10 percent higher than the year before (and similar to the rate in 1983).

From 1979 to 1988, firearm death rates for white males ages 25-29 years have been similar to or somewhat lower than rates for those 20-24 years of age (figure 6). Similarly, for white males ages 30-34 years, the trend in the firearm death rate was similar to that for the two younger age groups; however, the death rates were usually 10-15 percent lower than for those ages 25-29 years. In 1988, the firearm

death rates for white males 25-29 years of age and 30-34 years of age were 17-18 percent lower than in 1980.

Firearm suicide rates for white males 25-29 years of age and 30-34 years of age generally remained at about 15-16 and 14-15 per 100,000, respectively, from 1979-88. However, firearm homicide rates have decreased in both of these age groups by 30 and 35 percent, respectively, from 1980 to 1988.

The recent increases noted in firearm homicide mortality, especially among males 15-19 and 20-24 years of age, are not evident in nonfirearm homicide mortality. For males 15-19 years of age, the nonfirearm homicide rate averaged 10-11 per 100,000 for black teenagers and 2 per 100,000 for white teenagers during the period 1984-88. Also during this time, at ages 20-24 years, the rate for white males remained at 5 per 100,000 and for black males, at 21-25 per 100,000.

Nonfirearm suicide rates increased for white teenagers during the decade, paralleling the increase associated with firearms. For white male teenagers 15-19 years of age, the nonfirearm suicide rate increased 33 percent from 5.2 per 100,000 in 1983 to

6.9 per 100,000 in 1988. However, the firearm rate was about twice the nonfirearm rate.

For white female teenagers, the nonfirearm suicide rate in 1988 (2.5 per 100,000), although similar to the rate in 1987, was about twice what it was in 1982. For this group, the firearm suicide rate varied little between 1979 and 1988, ranging from 1.7 in 1979 to 2.3 in 1988.

## Summary

Firearm mortality among children 1-14 years of age has, with one exception, been relatively stable during the past decade. For black females 10-14 years of age, the firearm death rate more than doubled between 1987 and 1988. This increase accounted for about 30 percent of the increase in the death rate for all causes for this group of children. Among persons 25-34 years of age, firearm mortality decreased during the decade.

Among young persons 15-24 years of age, firearm mortality has increased substantially since 1984. In particular, the homicide rate associated with firearms for black males ages 15-19 years more than doubled by 1988. Further, for young black males ages 20-24 years, the firearm homicide rate in 1988 was 1.6 times what it was in 1984.

Thus, in 1988, firearms accounted for 20 percent of all deaths among young persons 15-24 years of age. Among black males ages 15-24 years, 44 percent of all deaths resulted from firearms. In 1988, there were 2.7 million black males ages 15-24 years in the United States; 2,700, or 1 out of every 1,000, died as a result of an incident involving a firearm.

## References

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#### Symbols

- - - Data not available
  - . . . Category not applicable
  - Quantity zero
  - 0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05
  - Z Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
  - \* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision
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**Table 1. Death rates due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88**

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

Age, race, and sex	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Firearm deaths per 100,000 population										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
White males . . . . .	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
Black males . . . . .	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.1	0.8	0.8	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.8
White females . . . . .	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Black females . . . . .	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
White males . . . . .	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7
Black males . . . . .	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	0.9	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.6	1.9
White females . . . . .	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Black females . . . . .	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.9
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1
White males . . . . .	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2
Black males . . . . .	4.5	4.7	6.0	3.5	3.9	3.7	4.7	4.8	6.8	7.8
White females . . . . .	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Black females . . . . .	1.6	1.5	2.0	0.9	1.1	1.8	0.7	1.6	1.4	3.6
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	14.0	14.5	14.3	13.5	12.4	12.4	13.3	14.5	14.7	17.7
White males . . . . .	20.0	20.7	20.1	19.4	17.7	17.8	18.5	20.2	18.9	21.7
Black males . . . . .	42.5	45.5	44.1	40.8	37.9	35.8	45.4	48.5	58.9	79.5
White females . . . . .	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.8
Black females . . . . .	8.6	7.5	7.6	6.4	5.9	6.2	6.0	7.8	9.0	8.4
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	24.8	26.1	24.8	22.4	20.8	20.8	20.6	23.0	22.8	23.9
White males . . . . .	32.8	35.3	33.3	30.9	28.7	29.1	29.3	31.0	29.2	29.8
Black males . . . . .	103.3	111.3	98.6	83.2	79.4	74.8	75.7	95.4	103.9	119.2
White females . . . . .	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.4	5.6	6.1	5.3	5.7	5.2	4.5
Black females . . . . .	17.4	17.4	16.7	11.6	12.4	11.1	10.3	12.0	13.9	13.9
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	24.5	25.9	25.2	23.1	21.0	20.3	20.2	21.0	20.2	21.6
White males . . . . .	30.8	33.1	32.3	30.4	28.5	28.0	27.8	27.0	26.4	27.1
Black males . . . . .	126.8	133.4	122.8	105.2	86.7	84.6	78.6	97.1	87.2	103.2
White females . . . . .	6.3	6.0	7.1	6.6	6.2	5.1	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.6
Black females . . . . .	17.3	19.2	15.8	13.4	12.3	13.2	13.1	14.5	14.6	16.0
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	21.2	21.9	21.7	20.6	19.1	18.0	17.6	19.0	17.7	18.3
White males . . . . .	27.0	28.2	28.1	26.9	26.5	24.8	23.5	25.8	23.6	23.5
Black males . . . . .	118.8	117.4	111.4	102.5	82.3	75.2	76.3	82.3	75.7	84.3
White females . . . . .	5.5	6.0	6.1	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2
Black females . . . . .	16.2	17.3	15.0	13.6	12.2	10.5	12.2	12.7	13.0	12.8
Firearm homicides per 100,000 population										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
White males . . . . .	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Black males . . . . .	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.1
White females . . . . .	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black females . . . . .	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
White males . . . . .	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black males . . . . .	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1
White females . . . . .	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Black females . . . . .	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.7
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1
White males . . . . .	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8
Black males . . . . .	2.4	3.2	3.4	2.4	2.6	2.1	3.0	3.3	5.1	4.5
White females . . . . .	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Black females . . . . .	1.0	1.0	1.5	0.6	0.6	1.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	2.5
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	6.6	7.0	6.8	6.3	5.3	5.4	5.7	6.7	7.0	9.0
White males . . . . .	6.8	7.2	6.9	6.2	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.8	5.1	6.0
Black males . . . . .	34.8	38.4	37.5	34.8	31.7	29.6	36.4	41.0	49.2	67.9
White females . . . . .	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.3
Black females . . . . .	6.9	6.2	5.8	5.3	4.8	5.2	4.9	6.6	7.2	7.1

See footnote at end of table.

Table 1. Death rates due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88—Con.

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

Age, race, and sex	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Firearm homicides per 100,000 population—Con.										
20–24 years of age										
Total	12.8	14.0	13.0	11.3	10.1	9.9	9.8	12.1	12.4	13.3
White males	12.6	13.8	12.7	11.1	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.9	10.1	10.2
Black males	86.3	95.3	84.6	71.6	66.6	63.4	62.5	82.9	90.6	103.6
White females	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.3
Black females	13.6	15.2	14.0	9.6	9.9	9.1	8.8	10.6	12.1	11.9
25–29 years of age										
Total	13.6	14.9	13.8	12.3	10.6	10.2	10.2	11.4	10.6	11.9
White males	12.7	14.1	13.0	11.8	10.6	10.1	10.0	10.2	9.7	9.9
Black males	107.9	115.2	106.4	89.9	72.4	69.6	66.6	82.8	73.5	89.5
White females	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6
Black females	13.6	17.2	12.9	11.3	9.9	11.0	11.2	12.7	12.4	14.2
30–34 years of age										
Total	11.8	12.3	11.9	11.2	9.5	8.7	8.8	9.6	8.7	9.3
White males	11.5	12.6	11.7	10.9	9.7	8.7	8.3	9.4	8.0	8.2
Black males	100.2	99.3	96.0	88.9	68.2	61.7	63.2	69.7	62.8	69.1
White females	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.1
Black females	13.2	14.3	11.7	11.6	10.5	8.7	10.0	10.1	10.7	10.8
Firearm suicides per 100,000 population										
10–14 years of age										
Total	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
White males	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.2
Black males	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
White females	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Black females	—	0.1	—	0.2	0.3	0.2	—	0.2	0.1	0.4
15–19 years of age										
Total	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.9
White males	9.7	9.8	9.8	10.2	9.9	9.7	11.0	11.7	11.1	12.7
Black males	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.4	5.3	4.6	6.3	6.8
White females	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.3
Black females	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.9
20–24 years of age										
Total	9.9	10.0	9.8	9.4	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.1	9.1
White males	16.9	18.0	17.4	17.0	16.1	17.0	17.1	17.7	16.8	17.2
Black males	12.5	11.4	10.1	8.4	9.4	8.4	10.7	10.0	10.2	12.3
White females	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.0
Black females	2.7	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.5
25–29 years of age										
Total	9.4	9.2	9.8	9.4	9.1	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.6	8.8
White males	15.8	16.1	16.7	16.4	16.0	15.8	15.9	15.0	15.2	15.9
Black males	14.3	13.1	12.6	11.5	9.5	12.5	9.8	11.5	11.8	10.7
White females	3.3	3.1	4.0	3.5	3.5	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6
Black females	2.6	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.5
30–34 years of age										
Total	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.4	8.3	7.8	8.4	8.1	8.2
White males	13.7	13.6	14.6	13.9	15.1	14.7	13.7	14.9	14.3	14.0
Black males	13.6	13.2	11.6	9.9	11.5	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.8	13.6
White females	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8
Black females	2.2	2.2	2.4	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.5
Unintentional firearm deaths per 100,000 population										
1–4 years of age										
Total	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
White males	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Black males	1.9	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.7
White females	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black females	0.3	0.2	0.5	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3
5–9 years of age										
Total	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
White males	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
Black males	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.8
White females	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Black females	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1
10–14 years of age										
Total	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1
White males	2.3	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.8
Black males	1.6	1.3	2.2	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.2	0.6	1.1	2.1
White females	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Black females	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6

See footnote at end of table.



**Table 1. Death rates due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88—Con.**

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

Age, race, and sex	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Unintentional firearm deaths per 100,000 population—Con.										
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5
White males . . . . .	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.6
Black males . . . . .	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.3	1.9	2.3	3.2	2.1	2.9	3.4
White females . . . . .	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
Black females . . . . .	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
White males . . . . .	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8
Black males . . . . .	3.2	3.6	2.1	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.5
White females . . . . .	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Black females . . . . .	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
White males . . . . .	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.9
Black males . . . . .	3.4	3.9	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.1	2.0
White females . . . . .	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black females . . . . .	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
White males . . . . .	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0
Black males . . . . .	4.1	3.9	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.6	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.1
White females . . . . .	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Black females . . . . .	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
Nonfirearm homicides per 100,000 population										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.3
White males . . . . .	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9
Black males . . . . .	5.7	6.1	8.1	7.7	6.9	4.7	5.4	8.0	4.0	6.4
White females . . . . .	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4
Black females . . . . .	6.7	5.7	5.1	5.9	5.7	6.2	5.6	6.2	6.5	5.6
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
White males . . . . .	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5
Black males . . . . .	1.4	1.0	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.6
White females . . . . .	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5
Black females . . . . .	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.6	0.9	2.3	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.2
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
White males . . . . .	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4
Black males . . . . .	1.6	0.7	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.2
White females . . . . .	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
Black females . . . . .	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.9
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.3	2.9	2.7
White males . . . . .	3.7	3.7	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.2	2.0
Black males . . . . .	12.0	10.4	10.7	12.3	11.0	9.6	10.0	10.4	10.8	9.5
White females . . . . .	1.9	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.7
Black females . . . . .	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.9	5.7	4.9	5.4	5.6	4.8	4.4
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	5.9	6.6	5.9	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.6
White males . . . . .	5.8	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.3	4.7	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.6
Black males . . . . .	24.8	29.6	26.0	26.2	25.6	21.1	23.7	24.8	22.0	24.6
White females . . . . .	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.4
Black females . . . . .	11.2	10.8	9.0	9.7	10.8	10.2	9.1	9.5	11.2	11.4
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.4	6.0	5.7	5.6
White males . . . . .	4.8	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.5	4.2
Black males . . . . .	38.1	34.5	35.6	34.5	30.1	30.0	27.4	31.2	30.7	29.3
White females . . . . .	1.9	2.2	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.2
Black females . . . . .	11.0	10.9	10.6	10.9	10.4	10.9	9.7	11.4	11.2	13.7
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	4.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.8	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2
White males . . . . .	4.6	5.3	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.1
Black males . . . . .	33.7	40.1	34.9	35.4	33.1	30.5	31.5	31.5	30.5	29.1
White females . . . . .	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
Black females . . . . .	9.2	8.7	11.1	8.1	8.9	7.7	8.5	9.3	10.4	12.0

See footnote at end of table.

**Table 1. Death rates due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88—Con.**

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

<i>Age, race, and sex</i>	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Nonfirearm suicides per 100,000 population										
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7
White males . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9
Black males . . . . .	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.6
White females . . . . .	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
Black females . . . . .	0.2	—	0.2	—	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.5
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.4
White males . . . . .	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.2	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.9
Black males . . . . .	3.1	2.2	2.3	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.9
White females . . . . .	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.5
Black females . . . . .	1.1	1.0	0.4	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.3
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.2	5.8
White males . . . . .	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.3	10.5	10.2	10.8	10.7	9.7
Black males . . . . .	9.9	8.6	7.1	7.7	7.3	8.3	7.8	6.0	7.0	7.5
White females . . . . .	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4
Black females . . . . .	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.7	6.6	7.0	6.7	6.6
White males . . . . .	11.7	11.4	10.9	11.1	10.7	10.6	10.5	11.4	10.8	10.5
Black males . . . . .	11.4	8.4	10.2	10.1	9.2	8.9	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.4
White females . . . . .	4.1	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9
Black females . . . . .	2.8	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.2
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.2
White males . . . . .	9.3	9.9	10.1	10.6	10.6	10.4	10.6	11.5	11.0	10.9
Black males . . . . .	10.2	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.1	9.7	9.2	10.5	10.0	10.6
White females . . . . .	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.7
Black females . . . . .	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.6	2.5	2.5

NOTE: Total includes races not shown separately.

**Table 2. Deaths due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age : United States, 1979–88**

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

<i>Age, race, and sex</i>	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
All firearm deaths										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	97	90	99	99	72	88	96	82	77	91
White males . . . . .	37	36	37	44	34	45	35	27	29	37
Black males . . . . .	24	20	23	22	9	9	24	20	17	20
White females . . . . .	21	24	25	24	21	25	26	21	19	20
Black females . . . . .	13	9	11	5	8	8	9	10	8	10
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	157	131	123	142	108	124	120	110	126	124
White males . . . . .	78	70	60	76	52	61	61	52	64	53
Black males . . . . .	24	23	23	21	11	17	11	16	22	27
White females . . . . .	34	25	29	34	32	27	28	20	28	25
Black females . . . . .	16	9	9	10	9	11	16	17	8	12
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	447	435	438	402	379	469	470	453	484	523
White males . . . . .	291	275	251	251	250	311	319	297	289	286
Black males . . . . .	61	64	80	47	54	50	63	63	90	104
White females . . . . .	67	71	75	83	53	74	70	64	72	72
Black females . . . . .	21	20	26	12	15	24	9	21	18	46
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	2,997	3,077	2,913	2,674	2,392	2,334	2,475	2,693	2,705	3,226
White males . . . . .	1,824	1,868	1,735	1,624	1,426	1,401	1,434	1,570	1,448	1,634
Black males . . . . .	636	682	653	596	546	505	632	679	828	1,118
White females . . . . .	341	358	349	304	281	285	263	279	243	273
Black females . . . . .	129	113	112	93	84	87	83	108	125	116
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	5,238	5,561	5,386	4,881	4,475	4,431	4,326	4,704	4,515	4,579
White males . . . . .	2,970	3,212	3,086	2,848	2,605	2,614	2,583	2,644	2,403	2,367
Black males . . . . .	1,330	1,457	1,352	1,174	1,082	1,023	1,036	1,295	1,386	1,556
White females . . . . .	586	549	598	576	504	538	458	479	425	351
Black females . . . . .	245	249	246	173	183	164	151	175	199	194
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	4,666	5,062	5,053	4,779	4,422	4,364	4,394	4,619	4,444	4,725
White males . . . . .	2,534	2,771	2,773	2,685	2,550	2,566	2,572	2,522	2,461	2,500
Black males . . . . .	1,335	1,456	1,399	1,265	1,069	1,079	1,022	1,287	1,163	1,385
White females . . . . .	514	499	604	571	553	459	530	513	513	504
Black females . . . . .	208	239	204	180	171	188	190	213	215	238
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	3,601	3,838	4,065	3,840	3,653	3,536	3,569	3,945	3,773	3,981
White males . . . . .	1,988	2,131	2,260	2,147	2,158	2,085	2,030	2,282	2,143	2,174
Black males . . . . .	990	1,028	1,072	1,025	847	810	855	957	920	1,059
White females . . . . .	407	453	495	452	438	455	472	457	476	472
Black females . . . . .	158	177	167	157	146	130	157	169	179	182
Firearm homicides										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	42	46	48	55	34	53	53	51	41	50
White males . . . . .	13	19	17	19	16	26	19	13	12	17
Black males . . . . .	6	11	8	10	4	3	12	15	9	12
White females . . . . .	13	9	16	18	8	18	13	14	12	12
Black females . . . . .	9	7	6	5	6	6	7	6	7	7
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	67	49	55	58	60	55	58	52	55	71
White males . . . . .	28	22	22	23	25	14	25	21	26	20
Black males . . . . .	11	11	12	10	6	11	6	8	10	16
White females . . . . .	15	12	16	20	20	17	15	10	12	20
Black females . . . . .	10	4	4	5	6	9	12	10	5	10
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	119	148	150	126	109	144	141	152	173	182
White males . . . . .	57	55	49	45	46	64	63	67	55	58
Black males . . . . .	33	43	46	32	35	29	40	43	67	60
White females . . . . .	13	34	33	36	18	26	26	29	28	25
Black females . . . . .	14	13	20	8	8	19	8	12	14	32
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,416	1,487	1,394	1,245	1,028	1,022	1,064	1,250	1,297	1,641
White males . . . . .	620	650	595	521	384	400	382	447	392	453
Black males . . . . .	520	575	555	508	456	418	506	575	692	955
White females . . . . .	150	149	134	115	105	114	88	109	87	97
Black females . . . . .	104	94	86	77	68	73	68	91	100	98

See footnote at end of table.

**Table 2. Deaths due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88—Con.**

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

<i>Age, race, and sex</i>	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Firearm homicides—Con.										
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	2,710	2,993	2,819	2,458	2,162	2,122	2,053	2,466	2,451	2,558
White males . . . . .	1,139	1,253	1,176	1,020	888	863	852	931	836	839
Black males . . . . .	1,111	1,247	1,160	1,010	907	867	855	1,126	1,209	1,352
White females . . . . .	234	234	240	241	182	226	189	207	188	180
Black females . . . . .	192	218	206	143	146	135	129	154	173	166
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	2,585	2,900	2,766	2,544	2,236	2,187	2,218	2,502	2,327	2,607
White males . . . . .	1,041	1,178	1,115	1,041	945	928	924	954	900	916
Black males . . . . .	1,136	1,257	1,212	1,081	893	888	867	1,097	980	1,201
White females . . . . .	213	204	235	234	218	185	230	225	227	232
Black females . . . . .	164	214	166	152	138	157	162	187	183	211
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,994	2,164	2,223	2,099	1,826	1,709	1,776	1,999	1,866	2,023
White males . . . . .	845	955	942	872	794	731	713	828	724	763
Black males . . . . .	835	870	924	889	702	665	709	811	763	868
White females . . . . .	153	165	197	177	169	169	203	180	206	190
Black females . . . . .	129	146	131	134	125	108	129	134	148	154
Firearm suicides										
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	84	78	91	113	103	115	139	141	151	125
White males . . . . .	50	57	59	76	74	81	103	102	114	84
Black males . . . . .	2	3	2	9	4	3	6	10	6	9
White females . . . . .	31	16	28	24	18	28	28	23	27	23
Black females . . . . .	—	2	—	2	4	2	—	3	1	5
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,136	1,134	1,120	1,094	1,046	997	1,117	1,151	1,129	1,261
White males . . . . .	883	880	846	854	796	765	850	911	850	954
Black males . . . . .	54	51	47	47	54	48	74	65	89	95
White females . . . . .	151	165	180	168	156	145	150	138	141	163
Black females . . . . .	16	9	18	5	10	11	9	14	18	13
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	2,080	2,122	2,127	2,045	1,935	1,970	1,964	1,946	1,793	1,754
White males . . . . .	1,525	1,642	1,610	1,567	1,463	1,526	1,511	1,506	1,386	1,370
Black males . . . . .	161	149	138	118	128	115	146	136	136	160
White females . . . . .	297	270	305	288	275	264	234	244	206	154
Black females . . . . .	38	20	26	21	27	22	20	14	16	21
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,789	1,799	1,970	1,940	1,911	1,928	1,918	1,880	1,900	1,918
White males . . . . .	1,299	1,348	1,434	1,448	1,433	1,453	1,468	1,403	1,417	1,470
Black males . . . . .	151	143	144	138	117	160	127	153	157	144
White females . . . . .	273	254	338	301	309	255	270	265	253	239
Black females . . . . .	31	17	23	20	21	25	21	22	26	23
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,392	1,436	1,602	1,512	1,612	1,639	1,591	1,747	1,729	1,788
White males . . . . .	1,009	1,027	1,173	1,111	1,228	1,234	1,186	1,320	1,296	1,296
Black males . . . . .	113	116	112	99	118	111	118	123	131	171
White females . . . . .	229	257	259	256	232	254	241	249	254	258
Black females . . . . .	21	22	27	20	12	20	19	24	23	21
Unintentional firearm deaths										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	53	42	49	43	37	34	41	31	36	41
White males . . . . .	23	16	20	25	17	19	15	14	17	20
Black males . . . . .	18	9	13	11	5	6	11	5	8	8
White females . . . . .	8	14	9	6	13	7	13	7	7	8
Black females . . . . .	3	2	5	—	2	2	2	4	1	3
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	87	77	64	81	45	66	58	57	66	51
White males . . . . .	47	44	35	51	26	45	33	30	35	32
Black males . . . . .	13	12	11	11	5	6	4	8	11	11
White females . . . . .	19	13	12	14	11	10	13	10	16	4
Black females . . . . .	6	4	5	4	2	2	4	7	2	2
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	228	194	183	154	158	187	177	143	144	185
White males . . . . .	178	150	132	123	124	150	145	115	111	123
Black males . . . . .	22	18	30	5	12	15	16	8	15	28
White females . . . . .	19	20	14	22	17	17	12	12	12	22
Black females . . . . .	6	4	5	2	3	3	1	5	3	8

See footnote at end of table.

**Table 2. Deaths due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88 – Con.**

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

Age, race, and sex	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Unintentional firearm deaths—Con.										
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	354	373	306	271	261	265	241	238	220	266
White males . . . . .	270	280	228	203	208	199	166	176	160	194
Black males . . . . .	43	44	38	34	28	33	45	30	41	48
White females . . . . .	25	35	25	12	14	20	17	25	11	11
Black females . . . . .	7	10	6	9	2	2	5	3	5	5
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	314	329	324	272	283	250	238	205	213	200
White males . . . . .	216	235	237	195	200	168	175	148	148	146
Black males . . . . .	41	47	29	28	35	36	27	27	37	32
White females . . . . .	36	28	34	31	27	27	21	17	16	8
Black females . . . . .	10	10	12	6	4	5	2	4	5	5
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	207	241	217	223	194	185	184	165	160	142
White males . . . . .	141	162	159	152	120	136	131	115	111	87
Black males . . . . .	36	43	29	30	43	26	23	26	15	27
White females . . . . .	16	23	16	28	17	13	18	15	22	19
Black females . . . . .	9	5	10	6	9	5	4	2	5	2
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	151	174	162	163	153	144	155	134	131	122
White males . . . . .	90	113	100	115	94	91	101	98	85	88
Black males . . . . .	34	34	23	27	24	28	21	16	23	14
White females . . . . .	16	15	28	13	23	24	21	13	14	10
Black females . . . . .	6	7	4	3	8	1	8	5	5	6
Nonfirearm homicides										
1–4 years of age										
Total . . . . .	272	273	293	322	286	288	295	331	293	331
White males . . . . .	80	87	73	89	81	89	92	102	95	114
Black males . . . . .	54	59	82	82	73	51	58	87	44	72
White females . . . . .	71	66	82	77	61	75	80	65	76	78
Black females . . . . .	63	54	51	62	59	65	59	66	70	61
5–9 years of age										
Total . . . . .	98	104	101	108	84	100	109	82	86	108
White males . . . . .	30	28	28	28	27	21	24	17	21	36
Black males . . . . .	18	13	23	26	20	20	24	18	18	22
White females . . . . .	32	38	28	32	23	28	31	20	27	32
Black females . . . . .	17	21	18	19	11	29	18	24	16	16
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	110	114	134	111	104	130	109	93	93	98
White males . . . . .	32	33	33	23	37	26	38	17	16	28
Black males . . . . .	22	10	25	19	19	25	15	17	22	16
White females . . . . .	43	50	55	46	35	54	37	42	35	28
Black females . . . . .	13	19	15	18	11	23	14	14	17	24
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	775	766	677	692	614	542	538	612	541	494
White males . . . . .	337	336	269	245	227	187	185	223	171	153
Black males . . . . .	179	156	159	179	159	136	139	146	152	134
White females . . . . .	167	188	158	163	117	128	113	140	131	121
Black females . . . . .	78	72	74	85	82	69	74	77	66	61
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,255	1,401	1,282	1,300	1,233	1,133	1,117	1,194	1,065	1,078
White males . . . . .	526	561	535	517	480	424	431	433	387	369
Black males . . . . .	319	387	357	369	348	289	325	337	293	321
White females . . . . .	217	255	217	235	210	238	187	226	192	191
Black females . . . . .	157	155	133	145	160	150	134	138	160	160
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,130	1,217	1,200	1,240	1,217	1,227	1,167	1,311	1,255	1,227
White males . . . . .	398	482	482	467	463	460	448	467	418	386
Black males . . . . .	401	376	405	415	371	383	356	414	409	393
White females . . . . .	159	184	155	190	191	197	188	220	228	203
Black females . . . . .	132	136	136	146	145	155	141	167	165	204
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	836	986	990	930	922	931	1,029	1,092	1,098	1,135
White males . . . . .	338	400	384	344	346	360	393	415	387	381
Black males . . . . .	281	351	336	354	341	328	353	366	370	365
White females . . . . .	101	128	123	113	111	122	146	155	170	178
Black females . . . . .	90	89	124	93	106	96	110	124	144	171

See footnote at end of table.

Table 2. Deaths due to firearms and nonfirearms by manner of death (homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury), by age, race, and sex for persons 1–34 years of age: United States, 1979–88—Con.

[See Technical Notes for cause of death codes.]

Age, race, and sex	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
	Nonfirearm suicides									
10–14 years of age										
Total . . . . .	67	61	72	85	92	110	136	109	99	112
White males . . . . .	44	49	51	57	55	71	77	64	59	62
Black males . . . . .	2	4	2	11	8	11	11	10	15	8
White females . . . . .	14	8	15	12	14	17	35	23	18	26
Black females . . . . .	3	—	2	—	11	3	5	2	3	7
15–19 years of age										
Total . . . . .	652	663	650	636	631	695	732	745	773	798
White males . . . . .	422	472	442	443	423	475	489	503	502	519
Black males . . . . .	46	33	34	44	40	35	40	34	36	41
White females . . . . .	146	118	139	108	116	143	154	164	186	183
Black females . . . . .	16	15	6	17	15	13	12	15	19	18
20–24 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,378	1,320	1,264	1,250	1,233	1,364	1,308	1,278	1,229	1,116
White males . . . . .	897	887	877	873	848	947	903	921	879	775
Black males . . . . .	128	113	97	108	99	113	107	81	93	98
White females . . . . .	281	258	232	199	214	224	218	204	178	190
Black females . . . . .	27	25	21	23	26	23	16	21	18	19
25–29 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,482	1,429	1,465	1,504	1,454	1,452	1,446	1,549	1,472	1,437
White males . . . . .	961	955	939	978	955	976	968	1,068	1,002	968
Black males . . . . .	120	92	116	122	113	113	127	131	129	126
White females . . . . .	332	319	345	333	319	295	279	268	268	263
Black females . . . . .	34	26	32	25	20	24	19	26	29	32
30–34 years of age										
Total . . . . .	1,194	1,256	1,306	1,360	1,361	1,373	1,421	1,535	1,554	1,567
White males . . . . .	682	752	815	845	867	874	913	1,016	995	1,012
Black males . . . . .	85	78	85	88	83	104	103	122	122	133
White females . . . . .	372	355	338	359	355	340	334	330	365	338
Black females . . . . .	32	29	29	28	21	24	22	34	35	35

NOTE: Total includes races not shown separately.

## Technical notes

### Nature and sources of data

Data shown in this report are based on information from all death certificates filed in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Mortality statistics are based on information coded by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) from copies of the original death certificates received from the State registration offices, and on State-coded data provided to NCHS through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.

Data for the United States refer to events occurring within the United States.

### Cause-of-death classification

The mortality statistics presented in this report were compiled in accordance with the World Health Organization regulations, which specify that member nations classify causes of death by the current *Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death* (4). In this report, causes of death for 1979–88 were classified according to the Ninth Revision of the ICD (ICD–9).

Homicides are classified according to ICD–9 Nos. E960–E969 (Homicide and injury purposely inflicted by other persons) and Nos. E970–E978 (Legal intervention). Homicides caused by firearms are classified under ICD9, Nos. E965.0–E965.4, Assault by firearms. Suicides are classified according to ICD–9 Nos. E950–E959. Suicides caused by firearms are classified under ICD–9 Nos. E955.0–E955.4. Unintentional firearm deaths are classified under ICD–9, No. E922 (Accident

caused by firearm missile). When it is undetermined whether injury deaths by firearms were accidentally or purposely inflicted the deaths are classified under ICD–9, Nos. E985.0–E985.4.

### Population bases for computing rates

The U.S. Bureau of the Census provided the populations used for computing rates shown in this report, which represent the population residing in the United States. The estimates are based on census counts, modified by race for 1980 and later years to be consistent with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget categories and historic categories for mortality data. Rates for 1984–88 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years because of new estimation procedures for net migration and net undocumented immigration. Population estimates are described in greater detail in the Technical Appendix of the Monthly Vital Statistics Report Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1988 (5).

### Random variation

Although the mortality data in this report (except data for 1972) are not subject to sampling error, they may be affected by random variation in the number of deaths involved. When the number of events is small (perhaps less than 100) and the probability of such an event is small, considerable caution must be observed in interpreting the data. Such infrequent events may be

assumed to follow a Poisson probability distribution. For this distribution, a simple approximation may be used to estimate the confidence interval, as follows:

If  $N$  is the number of registered deaths in the population and  $R$  is the corresponding rate, the chances are 19 in 20 (approximate 95-percent confidence interval) that

$$1. N - 2\sqrt{N} \text{ and } N + 2\sqrt{N}$$

cover the “true” number of events.

$$2. R - 2 \frac{R}{\sqrt{N}} \text{ and } R + 2 \frac{R}{\sqrt{N}}$$

cover the “true” rate.

If the rate  $R_1$  corresponding to  $N_1$  events is compared with the rate  $R_2$  corresponding to  $N_2$  events, the difference between the two rates may be regarded as statistically significant if it exceeds

$$2 \sqrt{\frac{R_1^2}{N_1} + \frac{R_2^2}{N_2}}$$

Additional information on random variation may be found in the Technical Appendix of *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1987 Volume II, Mortality, Part A*.

### Rates of change

Annual rates of change are represented by the slope of a least squares regression line through the logarithm of the annual rates.

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