



GUN VIOLENCE IN KING COUNTY

February 5, 2013

ASSESSMENT,
POLICY DEVELOPMENT
AND EVALUATION

401 5th Avenue, Suite 1300

Seattle, WA 98104

www.kingcounty.gov/health/data

Acknowledgements:

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Introduction

More than 31,000 people in the United States are killed by gun violence each year. In King County, the death toll is more than 125 people a year. More people in King County die from gun violence than motor vehicle crashes. Many more are injured, with enormous economic and emotional costs.

Despite these deaths and injuries by gun violence, there are reasons to be optimistic that we can solve this public health threat. In the past 20 years, our nation has come together to dramatically decrease deaths from smoking and car crashes. We have created safer cars equipped with airbags and required child seats. We have changed social norms around tobacco use, especially among children, and supported educational campaigns about the health risks of smoking. We can take similar public health approaches to reducing gun violence.

We can also look to best practices in other countries and determine what might make sense here. Compared to the United States, deaths from gun homicide are on average 20 times lower in other developed countries. In countries like Australia or the United Kingdom, the rates are 30 times lower.

The first step in developing strategies to decrease gun violence is to better understand current gun violence data and policies. To that end, this paper provides information on:

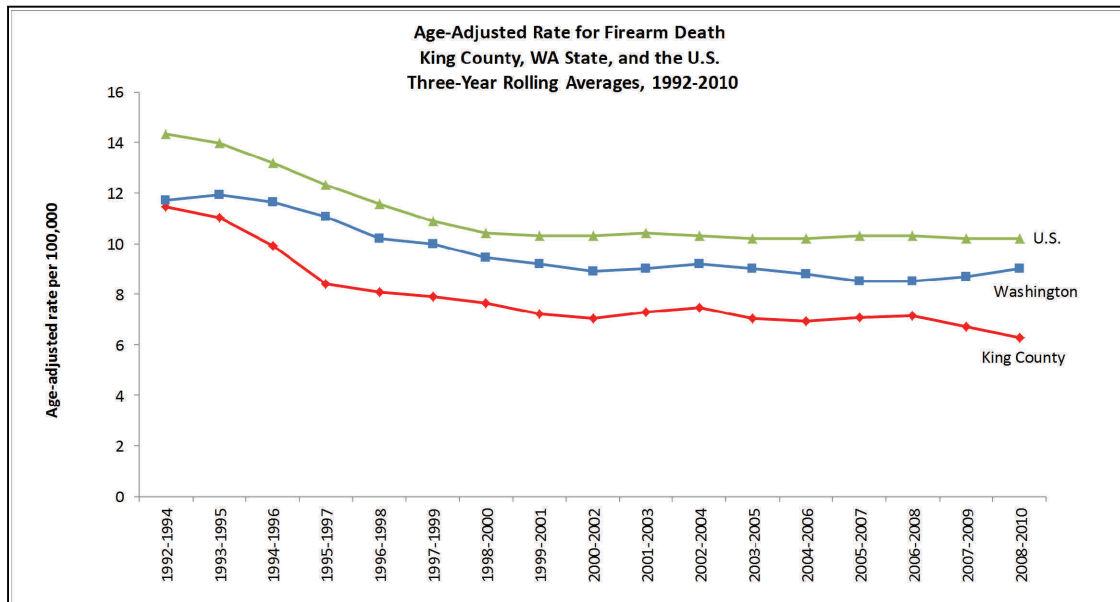
- Overall firearm deaths and injuries;
- Economic costs of gun violence on our community;
- Firearm homicides, suicides and unintentional injuries;
- Firearm ownership and access in King County; and
- Firearm policies in Washington state.

Overall firearm deaths¹ and injuries

- Between 2006 and 2010, the average numbers of firearm deaths per year were 131 in King County, 583 in Washington state and 31,346 in the U.S.
- During these 5 years, 50 King County children and youth age 19 and under were killed by firearms.
- Since 2007 in King County, the number of firearm deaths has surpassed the number of motor vehicle traffic deaths. In 2010, there were 123 firearm deaths and 102 traffic deaths.
- Among King County youth aged 15 to 24, firearms are involved in almost 1 in 5 (18%) of total deaths. For black youth, where homicide is the leading cause of death, firearms account for four in 10 (41%) deaths.
- During the last decade, the rates of firearm deaths in King County have been relatively stable and substantially lower than the rates in the early 1990s.
- Compared to national and Washington state rates, the King County firearm death rate is substantially lower.
- The firearm death rate in the U.S. is 7.5 times higher compared to 23 other high-income countries.²
- On average, between 2006 and 2010, there were over 72,000 nonfatal firearm injuries per year in the U.S., based on emergency department data.

- Based on national 2010 emergency department data, youth 15 to 19 years of age had nonfatal firearm injury rates nearly 3 times that of the general population.³ Most (79%) nonfatal firearm injuries among youth were due to assaults.
- In King County, from 2006 to 2010, there were 583 hospitalizations for firearm injuries, of which 47 died during the hospitalization.

Figure 1



Types of firearm deaths and injuries

- In King County, of all firearm deaths between 2006 and 2010, 29% were homicide and 68% were suicide. The remaining 3% were due to unintentional injuries, legal intervention, or death of undetermined intent.
- Death from unintentional firearm injuries was relatively uncommon. Between 2006 and 2010, there were two cases among King County residents.
- Of the 536 nonfatal firearm injuries between 2006 and 2010 that required hospitalizations, 15% were unintentional, 6% self-inflicted, 73% assault, and 6% other.

Economic costs of firearm deaths and injuries

- Nationally, direct medical costs and lost productivity due to firearm deaths and injuries was estimated at about \$32 billion in 2005.⁴ Another study of U.S. firearm injuries from 1994 estimated a cost of \$2.3 billion in lifetime medical costs alone, an average of \$17,000 per injury.⁵ When costs associated with long-term disability, pain and suffering, diminished quality of life, and other indirect costs such as decreases in real estate values due to neighborhood safety issues are included, the price tag reaches \$100 billion annually or, as estimated by another study, an average annual cost of \$1,300 per person.⁶
- In King County, based upon data from 2007-2011, the average annual cost of firearm deaths and nonfatal hospitalizations was \$177 million due to medical expenses and lost productivity. Direct medical costs were \$2.2 million, and work lost accounted for \$174 million annually.^{7,8}
- The average charge for a firearm hospitalization was \$66,000.

- *Seattle*: A recent study of eight U.S. cities, including Seattle, examined the economic benefits of reducing crime (i.e., homicide, rape, assault, and robbery).⁹ The majority of all violent crimes involve weapons. Handguns are used in 67% of homicides, 41% of robberies, and 20% of aggravated assaults.¹⁰ In 2010, violent crime cost Seattle \$89 million, or \$144 per resident. An often overlooked aspect of homicide is the cost to residential housing values. Researchers estimated that a 10% reduction in homicides would boost the total value of all residential housing by \$2.9 billion in the Seattle metropolitan area. Moreover, a 10% reduction in violent crime in Seattle could save more than \$2 million per year, reduce the direct costs to victims by more than \$2 million per year, and avert nearly \$22 million in annual, intangible costs to victims.

Table 1: Estimated direct and indirect costs of violent crimes, Seattle 2010 (\$ in millions)

	Direct costs (in millions)				Intangible and total costs	
	Victim (medical costs)	Justice System	Productivity losses (criminals)	Total Direct	Intangible	Total Direct and Intangible
Seattle	\$21	\$56	\$12	\$89	\$216	\$305

Source: Shapiro and Hassett, 2010.

Direct costs per resident: \$144
Total costs per resident: \$492

Homicide

In this section, we present the following data:

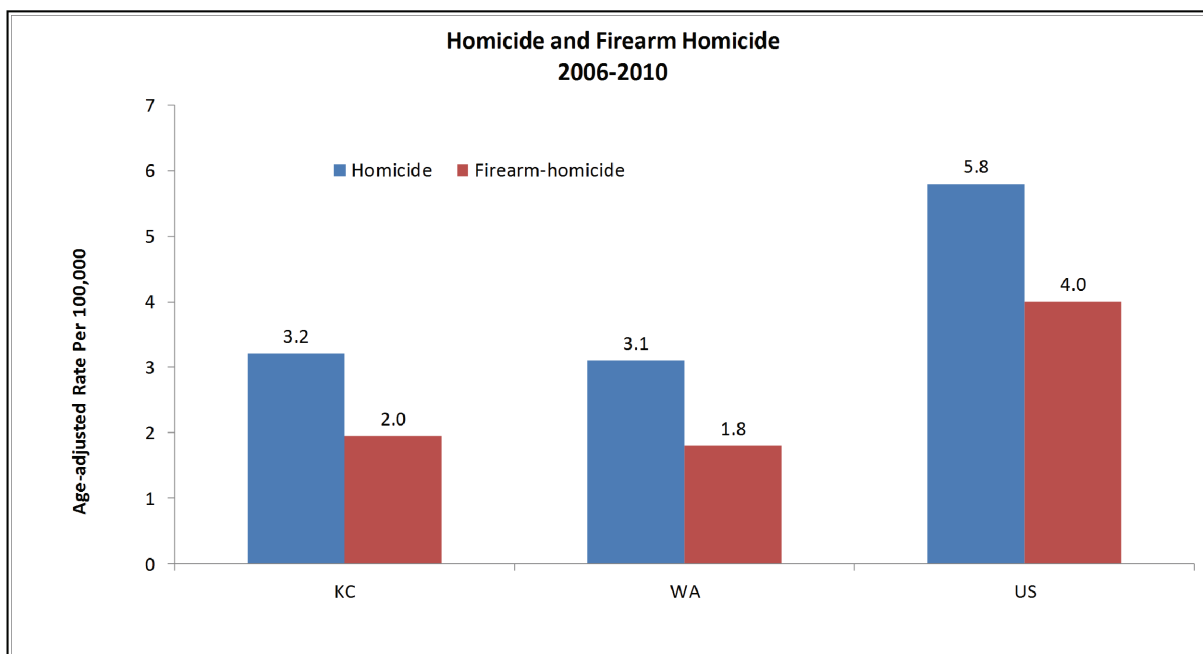
- Local, state, and national homicide numbers and rates;
- International comparisons and U.S. county comparisons of homicide rates;
- King County homicide rates by demographic characteristics and geography;
- Type of firearm used in homicide and relationship between perpetrator and victims; and
- Firearm injury due to assault.

Table 2: Firearm homicide, 2006-2010

	Number			Age-adjusted rate (per 100,000)		
	KC	WA	US	KC	WA	US
Total	190	600	60,173	2.0	1.8	4.0

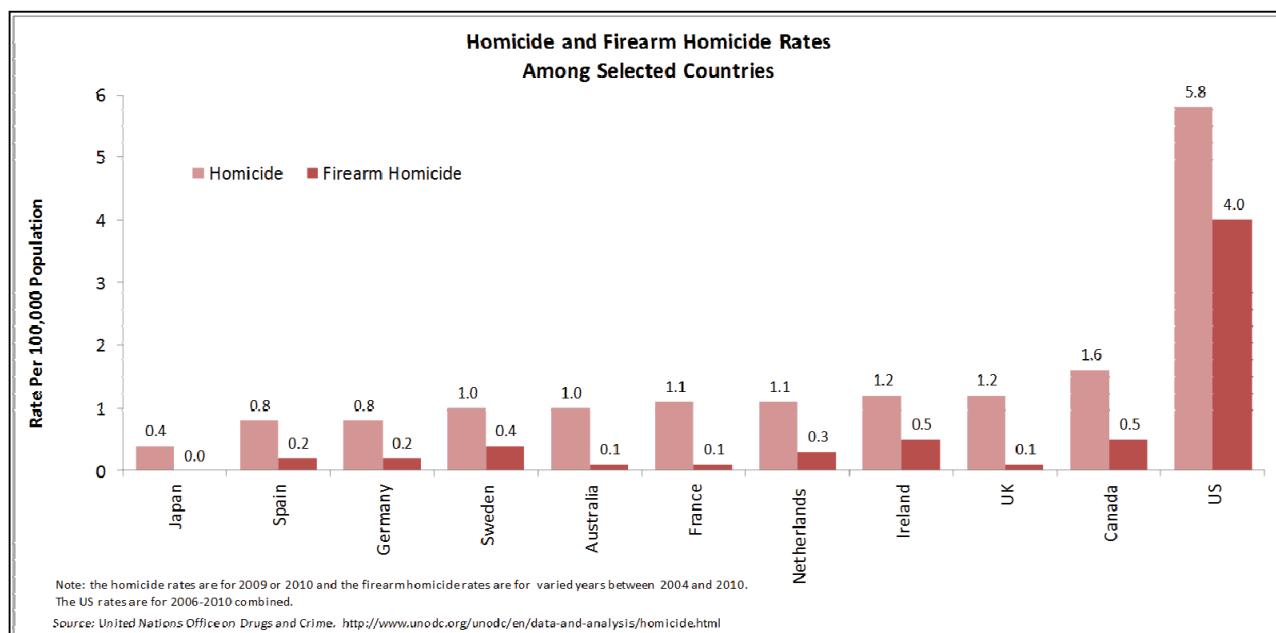
- Between 1999 and 2010, the number of firearm homicides in King County fluctuated between 25 (2009) and 50 (2007) per year.
- The King County homicide rate and firearm homicide rate were significantly lower than the national rates. Compared to the U.S. rates, after adjusting for age and race, the risk of homicide in King County was 30% lower and the risk of firearm homicide was 35% lower.
- Of all homicides in King County between 2006 and 2010, 61% were firearm homicides, compared to 68% in the U.S.

Figure 2



International comparisons and U.S. county comparisons of homicide rates

Figure 3



- Overall, homicide rates in the U.S. are 7 times higher than those of other high-income countries; firearm homicide rates are 20 times higher.
- King County is the 14th largest county in the U.S. by population. Compared to the ten largest counties in the U.S., the King County homicide rate and firearm homicide rate were low, ranking 10th in homicide, and 9th in firearm homicide.

Table 3: Homicide and firearm homicide among the 10 largest U.S. counties and King County, 2006-2010

County	Homicide						Firearm Homicide					
	Age Adjusted Rate (per 100,000)			Number of Deaths			Age Adjusted Rate (per 100,00)			Number of Deaths		
	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black
Cook County, IL	11.1	4.5	31.7	2980	786	2176	8.6	3.2	25.5	2316	549	1762
Harris County, TX	10.0	8.6	17.4	2042	1263	723	7.3	6.1	13.4	1510	908	562
Miami-Dade County, FL	9.5	5.0	26.1	1172	479	691	7.4	3.4	21.9	912	323	588
Dallas County, TX	9.1	7.1	17.5	1106	602	486	6.6	5.1	12.9	816	437	366
Kings County, NY	8.6	4.1	17.0	1114	261	835	5.6	2.0	12.2	735	126	604
Los Angeles County, CA	8.1	6.9	26.6	4158	2608	1351	6.2	5.2	21.7	3210	1982	1108
Maricopa County, AZ	7.8	7.3	17.9	1480	1198	202	5.6	5.2	14.3	1058	851	162
Queens County, NY	4.2	2.7	11.1	473	160	272	2.3	1.0	7.9	261	58	197
San Diego County, CA	3.3	2.9	10.5	523	364	110	1.7	1.4	6.6	272	175	72
King County, WA	3.2	2.3	13.4	315	171	95	2.0	1.3	9.2	192	93	68
Orange County, CA	2.6	2.8	8.5	395	325	30	1.6	1.7	*	237	198	18

Notes:

Age adjustment is to 2000 U.S. population.

Race categories may not sum to total deaths due to other race groups not presented.

Persons of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race and are included in the racial categories.

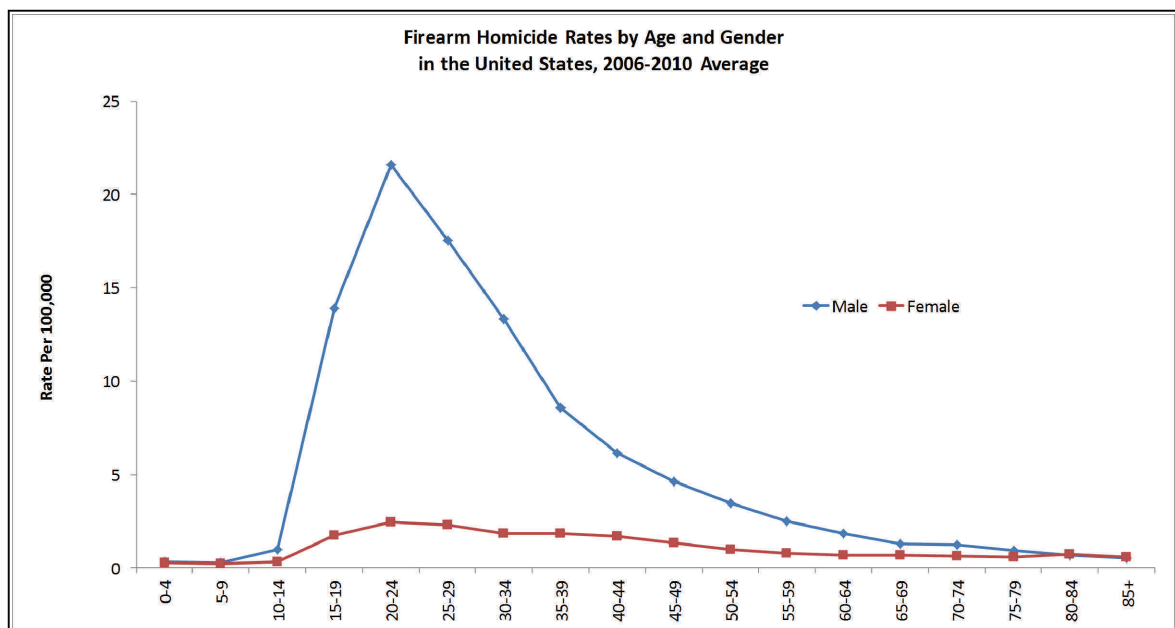
*Rate considered unreliable and not available when there are fewer than 20 deaths.

Data source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on 1/30/13

King County homicide rates by demographic characteristics and geography

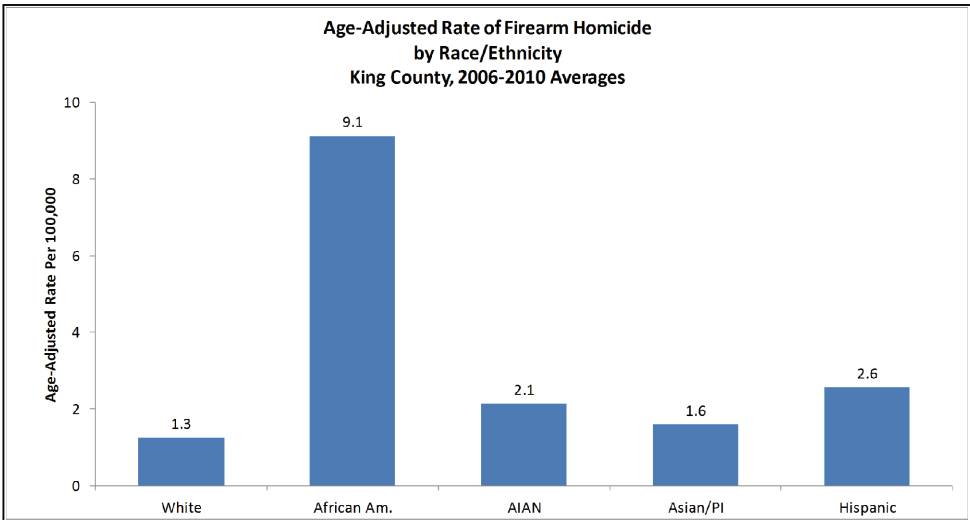
- In King County, the firearm homicide rate for males is five times higher than for females.
- In the U.S., firearm homicide rates peak in 20-24 year olds, and generally decline with age. The King County rates follow a similar gender and age pattern.
- Of the 190 firearm homicides between 2006 and 2010 in King County, 34 (18%) victims were age 19 and under.

Figure 4



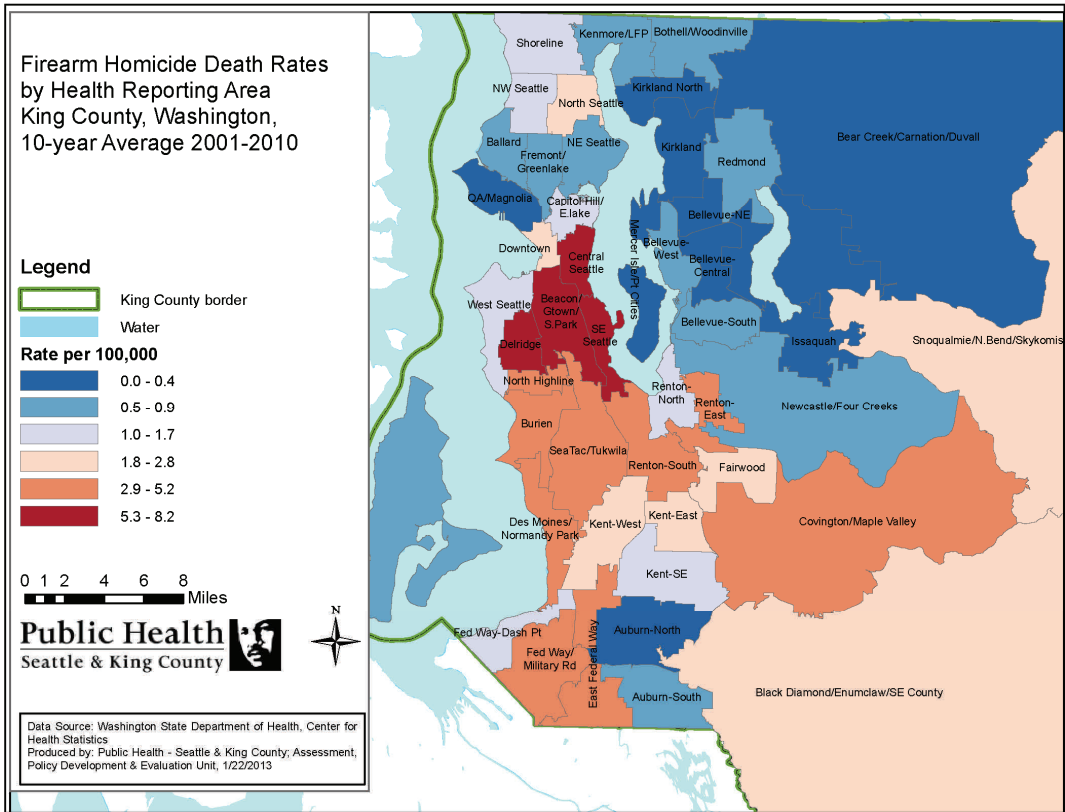
- The firearm homicide rate among blacks is substantially higher than the rates for other racial/ethnic groups. In King County, the black rate is seven times higher than the white rate.
- Compared to whites, a higher proportion of black homicide victims were killed by firearms. Of the 94 homicides among blacks between 2006 and 2010, 72% were firearm homicide, compared to 54% among whites.

Figure 5



- Within King County, there are large geographic disparities in the firearm homicide rate. Averaged over ten years between 2001 and 2010, the firearm homicide rates in South and Central Seattle (including Beacon Hill/George Town/South Park, SE Seattle, Delridge, and Central Seattle) and part of South County (including SeaTac/Tukwila, Burien, and South Renton) were significantly higher than the county average. The combined average firearm homicide rates in these areas was more than 20 times higher than the combined average rate in Sammamish, Mercer Island/Point Cities, Bellevue, Kirkland, and Issaquah.

Figure 6



Types of firearm and relationship between perpetrator and victim

- Nationally, according to FBI data on homicides, most (67.8%) involved the use of firearms. Handguns comprised 72.5% of the firearms used in murder and non-negligent manslaughter incidents in 2011.¹¹
- A 1986 study of King County deaths found that handguns were used in 71% of firearm homicide deaths.¹²
- Nationally, in 2011, in incidents of murder for which the relationships of murder victims and offenders were known, 54.3% were killed by someone they knew (acquaintance, neighbor, friend, boyfriend, etc.); 24.8% were slain by family members.
- Firearm deaths that occurred in King County homes involved friends or acquaintances 12 times as often as strangers.¹³
- A 1993 study showed that firearms kept in the home were associated with an increased risk of homicide occurring in the home, especially by a family member or intimate acquaintance. Compared to households without a firearm kept in the home, the odds of homicide among households that kept a firearm was 2.7 times higher.¹⁴

Firearm injury due to assault

- Between 2006-2010, there were 414 firearm injury hospitalizations in King County due to assaults. The King County rate of assault firearm injury hospitalization for this period (4.3 per 100,000) was 1.5 times higher than the rate for Washington state (2.8 per 100,000).

Suicide

In this section, we present the following data:

- Local, state, and national suicide numbers and rates;
- International comparisons and U.S. county comparisons of suicide rates;
- King County suicide rates by demographic characteristics and geography;
- Type of firearm used in suicide and where suicides occur; and
- Self-inflicted firearm injury.

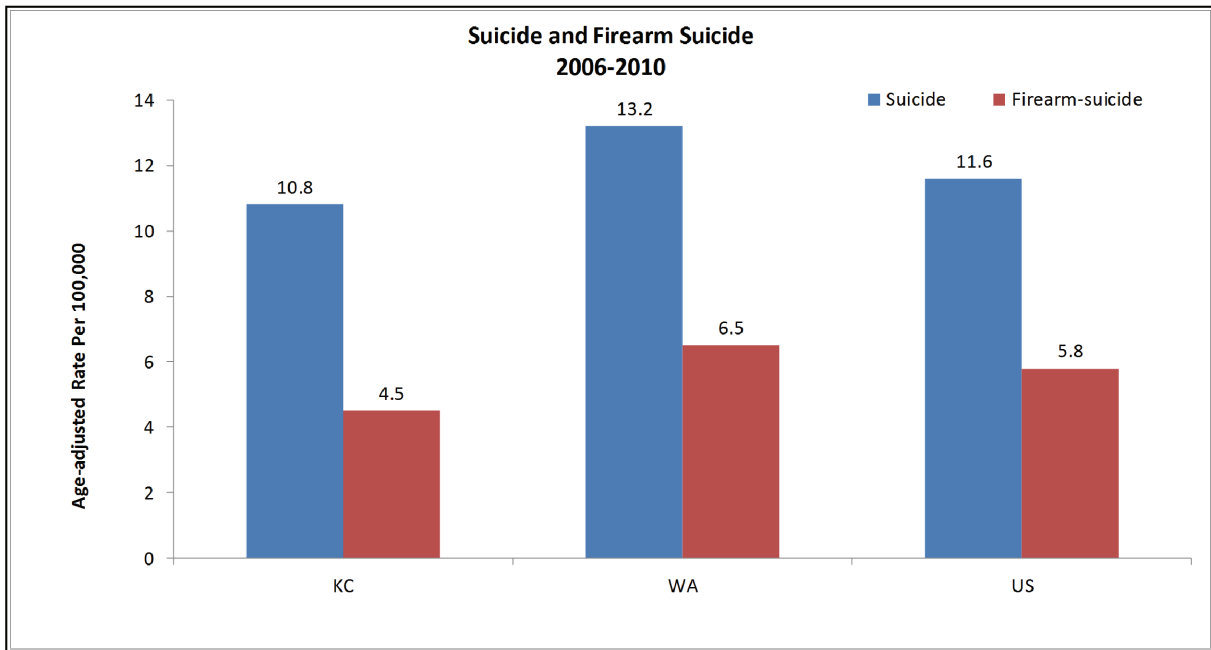
Local, state, and national suicide numbers and rates

Table 4: Firearm suicide, 2006-2010

	Number			Age-adjusted rate (per 100,000)		
	KC	WA	US	KC	WA	US
Total	443	2,168	90,585	4.5	6.5	5.8

- Between 1999 and 2010, the number of firearm suicides in King County fluctuated between 79 (2001) and 98 (1999) per year.
- The King County suicide rate and firearm suicide rate are lower than the U.S. rates.
- Of all suicides in King County between 2006 and 2010, 42% were firearm suicide, compared to 51% for the U.S.

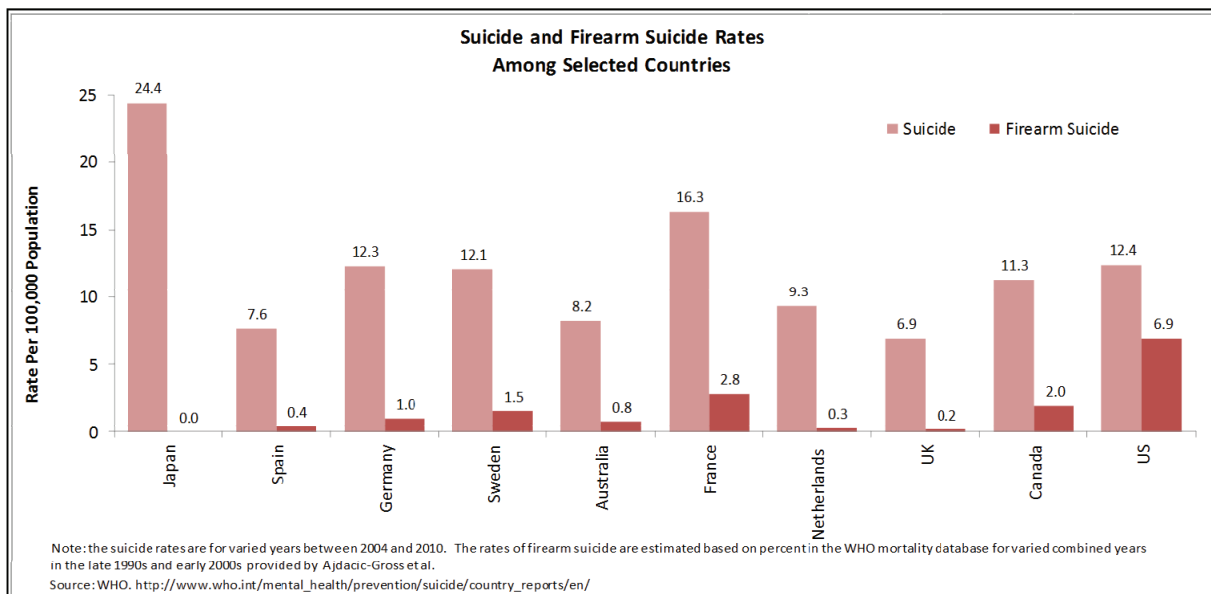
Figure 7



International comparisons and U.S. county comparisons of suicide rates

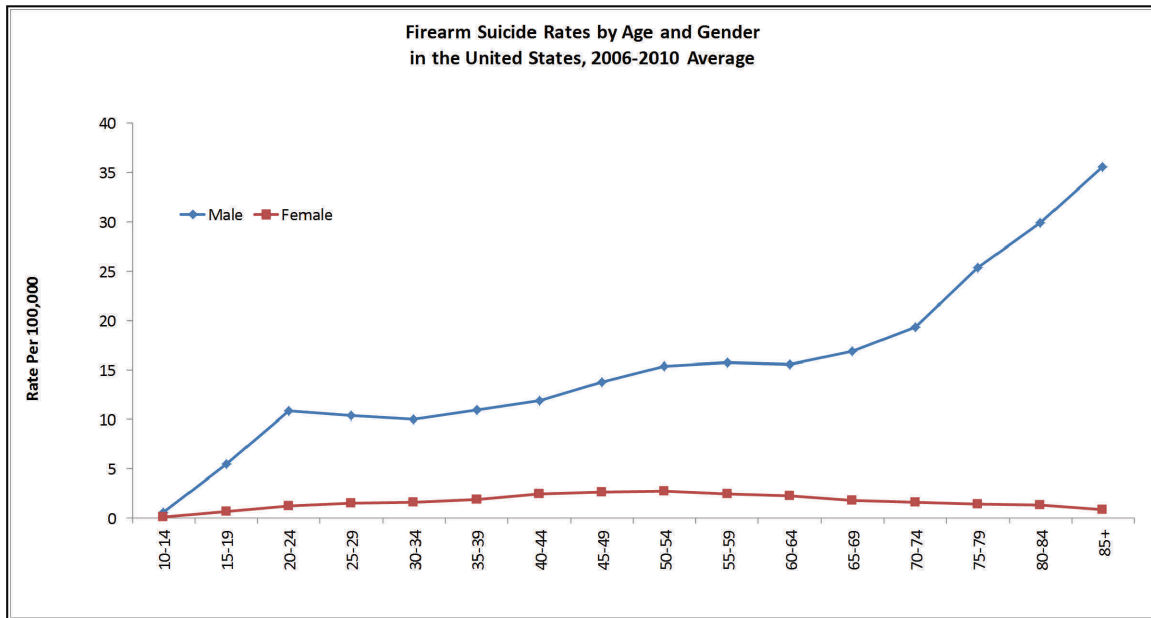
- The overall U.S. suicide rate is 30% lower than that of other high-income countries, but the U.S. firearm suicide rate is nearly six times higher.¹⁵

Figure 8



- By age, the suicide rate in the U.S. among youth age 15 to 24 is 20% higher than the high-income countries, and the firearm suicide rate in this age group in the U.S. is almost 9 times higher. This suggests that access to firearms is leading to higher rates of suicide for this age group in the U.S.¹⁶

Figure 9



- Compared to the ten largest counties in the U.S., the King County suicide rate and firearm suicide rate were high, ranking third in suicide, and fourth in firearm suicide.

Table 5: Suicide and firearm suicide among the 10 largest U.S. counties and King County

County	Suicide		Firearm suicide	
	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths
Maricopa County, AZ	14.7	2,706	8.0	1,477
San Diego County, CA	11.4	1,740	4.4	663
King County, WA	11.0	1,089	4.7	452
Harris County, TX	10.5	1,995	6.0	1,099
Dallas County, TX	10.1	1,121	5.7	617
Orange County, CA	9.2	1,380	3.0	442
Miami-Dade County, FL	8.9	1,153	4.0	519
Los Angeles County, CA	7.7	3,764	2.9	1,377
Cook County, IL	7.4	1,953	2.3	587
Queens County, NY	5.7	666	0.8	97
Kings County, NY	4.9	611	0.8	99

- In King County, firearm suicide rates for males are eight times higher than for females.
- In the U.S., firearm suicide rates increase with age and are the highest among elderly men. The King County rate follows a similar gender and age distribution.
- Of the 443 deaths from firearm suicides in King County between 2006 and 2010, 88% are males and 12% are females. Of the male deaths, 10% are age 15-24, 30% age 25-44, 36% age 45-64, and 24% age 65 and over.
- Youth suicides are not uncommon. Of the 443 firearm suicides between 2006 and 2010 in King County, 13 (3%) were youth age 19 and under.
- In King County, American Indian/Alaska Natives and whites had the highest suicide and firearm suicide rates. However, the rates for American Indian/Alaska Natives were not significantly different from the white rates due to small numbers.

Figure 10

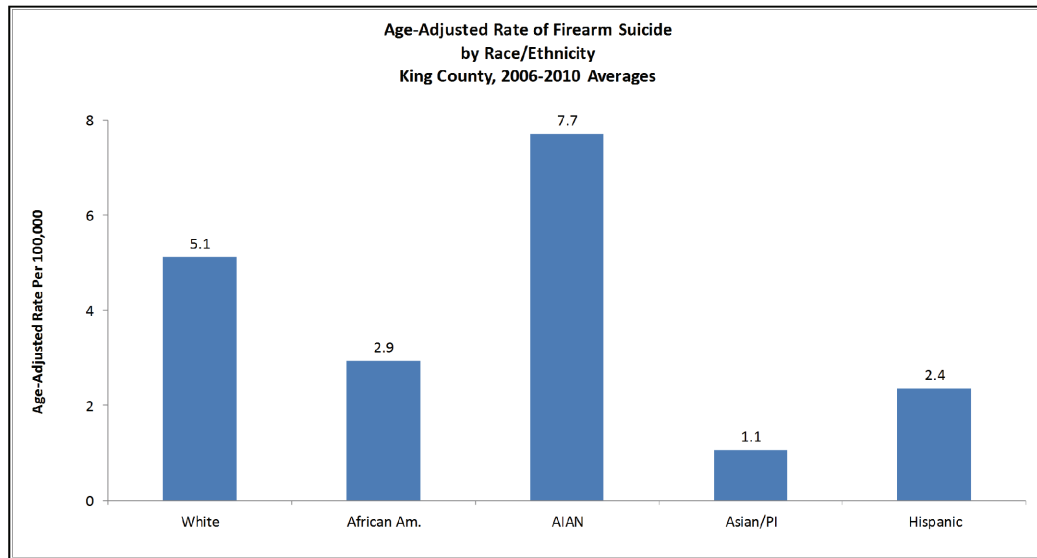
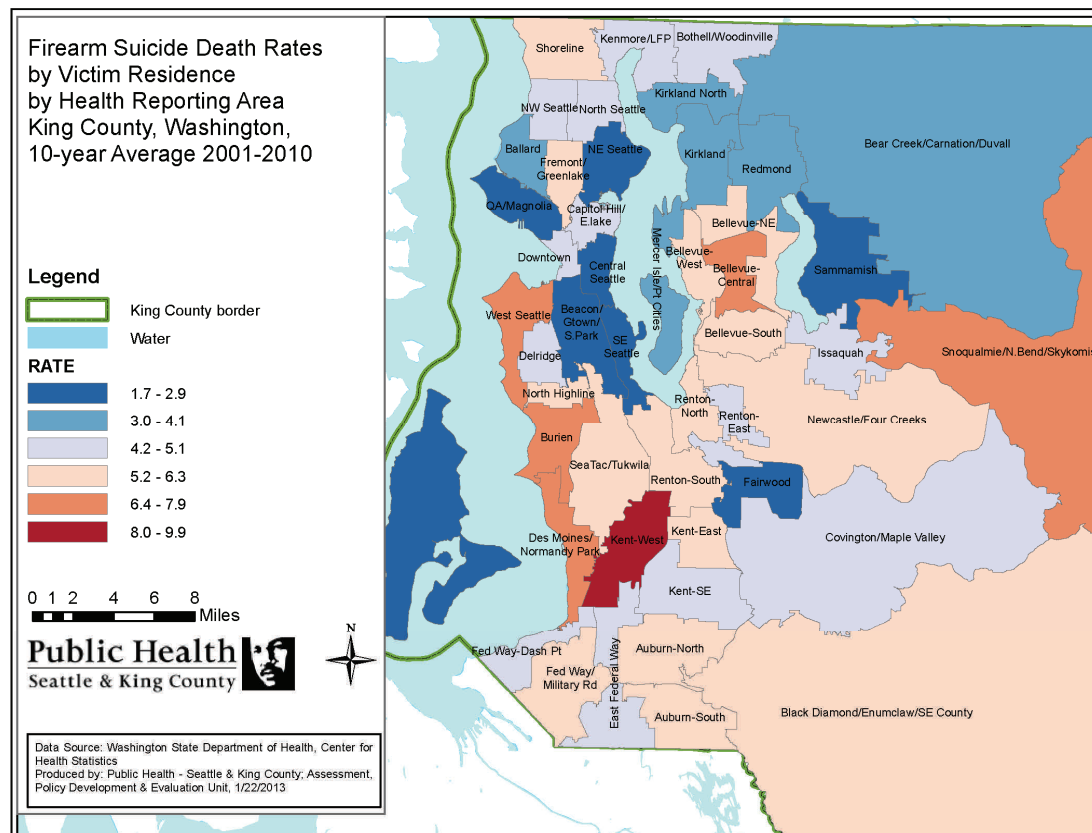


Figure 11



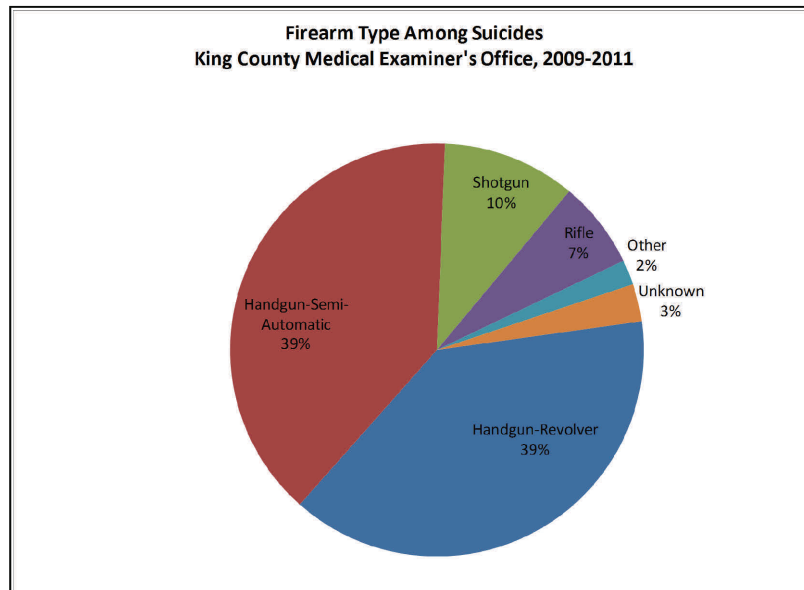
- Significant geographic differences also exist in firearm suicide rates. Averaged over ten years between 2001 and 2010, the firearm suicide rate in West Kent was almost six times higher than the rate in Sammamish. People living in Sammamish, Queen Anne/Magnolia, and southeast Seattle had significantly lower firearm suicide death rates than the King County average.

Types of firearms and where suicides occur

- Men are more likely to use firearms, and women are more likely to use poisoning in suicide. Guns are much more lethal than drugs and thus a higher proportion of attempts are successful.

- Of the 307 firearm suicides investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office between 2009 and 2011, 39% used semi-automatic handguns, 39% used revolvers, 10% used shotguns, and 7% used rifles. The remaining 5% used other types of firearms or the firearm type was unknown.

Figure 12

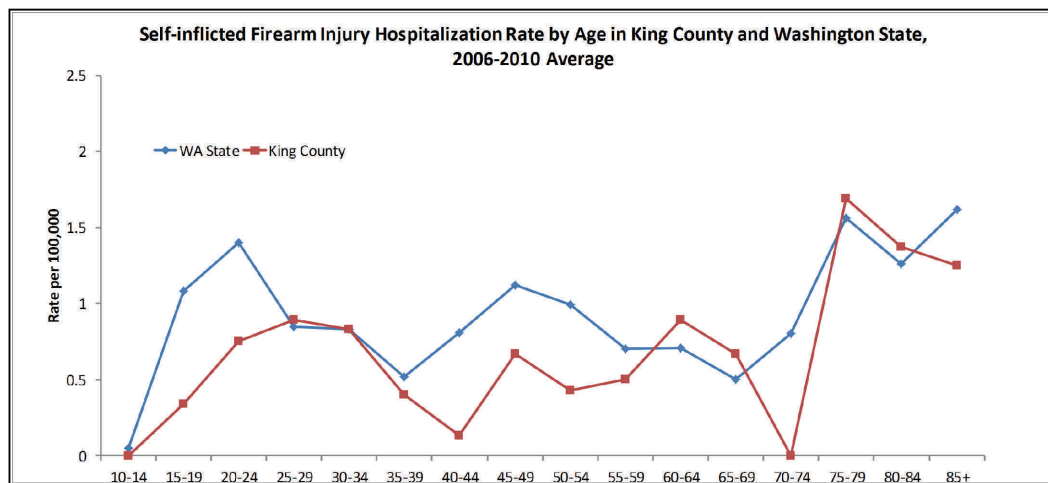


- Of the 307 firearm suicides investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office, suicides are more likely to occur at home. Of the 307, by place of event, 66% occurred at the victim's residence, 7% were inside a vehicle, and the remaining 27% occurred in other places such as a hotel or motel, a park, or a parking lot.

Self-inflicted firearm injuries

- Patterns of self-inflicted injury hospitalization rates by age were similar between King County and Washington state.

Figure 13



- Between 2006-2010, there were 48 self-inflicted firearm injury hospitalizations, accounting for 8% of all firearm injury hospitalizations in King County. The King County rate of self-inflicted firearm injury hospitalizations was 0.5 per 100,000, not statistically different from the Washington state rate of 0.7 per 100,000.

Unintentional firearm deaths

- In the U.S. between 2006 and 2010, on average there were 600 unintentional firearm deaths each year. For this same period, there were a total of 35 unintentional firearm deaths in Washington state and 2 deaths in King County.
- The unintentional firearm death rates for King County,¹⁷ Washington state and the U.S. are all less than 1 per 100,000.
- Although there is insufficient local data to assess urban and rural differences, a study published in 2012 reported significantly higher rates of adult unintentional firearm death in rural than in urban counties¹⁸ in the U.S. from 1999-2006.

Unintentional firearm injuries

- Nationally, more than one-third of unintended firearm wounds require hospitalizations.¹⁹
- 80,400 Americans were treated in emergency departments for unintentional firearm nonfatal injuries between 2006 and 2010, accounting for 22% of all firearm nonfatal injuries treated in emergency departments. The 2006-2010 U.S. unintentional firearm nonfatal injury rate was 5.3 per 100,000.
- Of the unintentional firearm injuries seen in U.S. emergency departments between 2006 and 2010, 30% (about 24,100 injuries)¹⁷ resulted in hospitalization.
- In Washington state from 2006 to 2010, there were 489 unintentional firearm injury hospitalizations, accounting for 27% of all (1,790) firearm injury hospitalizations, for a rate of 1.5 per 100,000.
- In King County, there were 84 hospitalizations for unintentional firearm injury, contributing to 14% of all firearm injury hospitalizations over the same 5-year period, 2006-2010. The corresponding rate was 0.9 per 100,000.

Table 6: Unintentional firearm injuries, 2006-2010

	Number			Age-adjusted rate (per 100,000)		
	KC	WA	US	KC	WA	US
Hospitalization	84	489	24,100	0.9	1.5	—
Emergency Department	—	—	80,400	—	—	5.3

Note: Washington state does not collect data from emergency departments

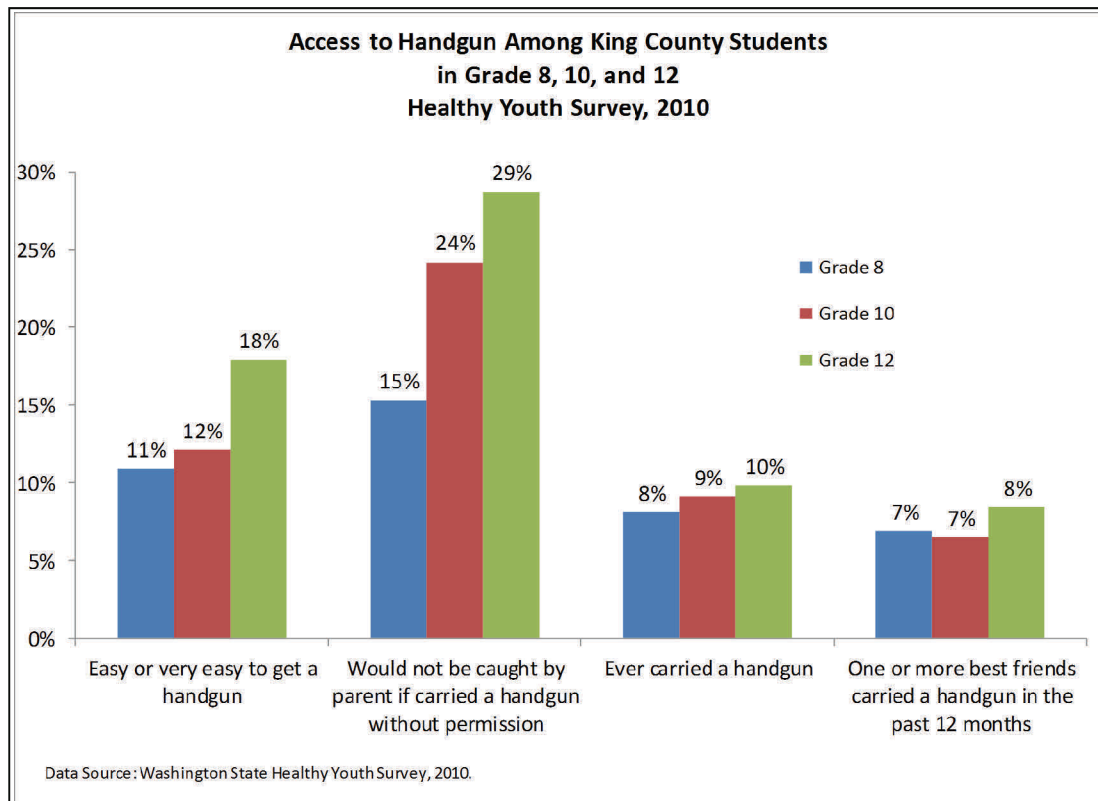
- Nationwide, the rate of nonfatal firearm injuries treated in emergency departments was 7 times higher for males than females. Similar to the national pattern, King County and Washington state unintentional firearm injury hospitalizations were 8 times higher among males than females.

- Among children and adolescents (0-19 years), 34% of unintentional firearm nonfatal injuries (6,100 out of 17,800)¹⁷ seen in U.S. emergency departments from 2006 to 2010 resulted in hospitalization.
- Statewide, from 2006-2010, there were 94 unintentional firearm injury hospitalizations among children and adolescents 0-19 years, a rate of 1.1 per 100,000. In King County, there were 17 unintentional firearm injury hospitalizations among youth (ages 0-19), a rate of 0.8 per 100,000.¹⁷ (Washington state does not collect injury data from emergency departments, so only those who were admitted are included in these figures.)

Firearm ownership and access to firearms in King County

- In 2009, firearms were reported in approximately 24% of King County households (183,300), the largest percentage in 13 years.
- Among households with firearms, an estimated 23.2% (41,300 households) stored them loaded and 14% (26,500 households) stored them loaded and unlocked.
- In 2009, an estimated 6,000 King County children lived in homes where firearms were stored loaded and unlocked.
- Among King County high school students in 12th grade, 18% thought it was easy for them to get a handgun, 29% thought they would not be caught by a parent if they carried a handgun without permission, 10% had ever carried a handgun, and 8% reported one or more of his/her best friends carried a handgun in the past 12 months.

Figure 14



Firearm policy in Washington state

Federal and state constitutions and statutes regulate firearm possession, where and how firearms can be carried, and design and safety of firearms and ammunition. Courts further interpret federal and state constitutions and statutes. Some regulation of firearms occurs at the local level, though limited in Washington by express pre-emption, with narrow exceptions.

The chart below summarizes Washington statutes, identifies several key gaps in Washington statutes, and compares the statutes to other states. Note that the U.S. Congress or Washington state legislature can legislate in many of these areas, but must not abridge the federal and state constitutional rights to bear arms.

Funding for public health surveillance and research on the impact of firearms on health and the efficacy of firearm laws can be included in local, state and federal budgets for public health and public safety agencies. Funding for surveillance and research on firearms and effective interventions has been virtually eliminated at the federal and state levels since the late 1990s, due to changes in appropriations.²⁰ Funding for public education campaigns on safety, and risk factors for potential suicide, homicide and injury from firearms are also virtually non-existent.

Status of Washington state law regarding firearms (as of January 12, 2013)*

Law provision	Washington	Other states ²¹
Universal background check for <i>all</i> sales	NO. Only for sales through licensed gun dealers. 40% of guns sold nationally are estimated to occur through private sales. This gap is often called the “gun-show” loophole, but exempts all private sales from checks.	*CA, RI, DC require universal background checks *MD, CT, PA require some background checks beyond dealer sales *CO, CT, IL, NY, OR require background checks at gun shows *Local: Chicago, Columbus, NYC and Omaha regulate private sales
Local legislation or regulation allowed	NO. State law pre-empts local government from enacting legislation, except in very specific situations. This restriction has been tested in Washington courts and has been upheld as allowing very narrow exceptions for local jurisdictions.	*No local pre-emption: MA, IL, HI, OH, CT, LA, NJ, NY, NE, CA
Restrict types of weapons/ammunition	NO. Washington permits assault weapons, .50 caliber rifles, and large capacity magazines (those that can convert guns to high capacity weapons). Washington also permits large capacity ammunition.	*CA, CT, HI, MD, MA, NJ, NY — ban all or some types of assault weapons *MD, MN, VA — regulate some types Some states ban large capacity magazines designed for use with any firearm, others for use with handguns, others limit by number of rounds fired.
Child Access Provisions (CAP)	NO. Washington does not have specific child access provisions, though law does not permit knowing transfer to someone believed to be legally unable to possess a gun. CAP laws regulate by requiring safe storage, training/education, etc. NO criminal liability explicit in law for negligence/reckless endangerment where poor storage allows child access.	*27 states have CAP laws. Criminal liability: HI, MD, MA, MN, NJ, TX *Local locking provisions: Chicago, Cleveland, LA, NYC. Chicago and Cleveland have CAP laws.

Law provision	Washington	Other states ²¹
Access to guns for youth under 18	<p>YES.</p> <p>Purchase by Under 18:</p> <p>Rifles/shotguns — <i>Cannot</i> purchase from <i>licensed firearms dealers</i> (federal minimum). <u>No</u> minimum age for <i>private purchase</i> of these long guns.</p> <p>Handguns — <i>Cannot</i> purchase from <u>either</u> licensed dealer <u>or</u> private sale.</p> <p>Possession/Use by Under 18:</p> <p>Rifles/shotguns — <i>Can</i> possess/use in certain circumstances. Even though state law default is that youth under 18 <i>may not possess</i> guns, the law gives <i>8 exceptions</i>.[‡] These exceptions effectively allow possession in many circumstances.</p> <p>Handguns — <i>Cannot</i> possess under 18, with certain exceptions (federal law).</p>	<p>*37 states impose stricter minimum age than federal law for purchase and/or possession of firearms, and vary, including all firearm purchases, handgun possession, and long guns.</p> <p>*Local: Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, NYC</p>
Access to guns for youth 18-21	<p>YES.</p> <p>Purchase by 18-21:</p> <p>Rifles/shotguns — <i>Can</i> purchase from licensed firearms dealers (federal minimum) <u>and</u> private sale.</p> <p>Handguns — <i>Can</i> purchase from private sale.</p> <p>Possession/Use by 18-21:</p> <p>Rifles/shotguns — <i>Can</i> possess/use (but subject to restrictions on adult/youth possession, below).</p> <p>Handguns — <i>Can</i> possess/use at residence, business, or on his/her property (but subject to restrictions on adult/youth possession, below).</p> <p>Ammunition: No age limit for purchase/use in private sale under Washington law. Where federal law specifies age limits for purchase of handguns and long guns, age limits for ammunition sales by dealers track these limits.</p> <p>Concealed weapon permits. Youth under 21 may not apply for a concealed weapon permit.</p>	<p>*37 states impose stricter minimum age than federal law for purchase and/or possession of firearms, and vary, including all firearm purchases, handgun possession, and long guns.</p> <p>*Local: Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, NYC</p>

[‡] RCW 9.41.042 allows the following exceptions for youth possession. A youth under 18 may possess if s/he is:

- In attendance at a hunter's safety course or firearms safety course;
- Engaging in practice in use of a firearm or target shooting at an established range or any other area where discharge of a firearm is not prohibited;
- Engaged in organized competition or performance;
- Hunting or trapping with a valid license issued to the person;
- In an area where discharge of a firearm is permitted, is at least 14, has been issued a hunter safety certificate and is using a firearm other than a pistol, or is under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or other adult approved by the parent or guardian;
- Traveling to/from one of the above activities and the firearm is unloaded;
- At residence and with permission of parent or legal guardian to possess a firearm for purposes of exercising right of use of force (self-defense) per 9A.16.020(3);
- On property of parent, relative or legal guardian, and with permission to possess a firearm; or
- Is a member of the armed forces, when on duty.

Law provision	Washington	Other states ²¹
<p>Restrictions on adult/youth possession</p> <p>Federal law sets minimums — Washington law mirrors many provisions in federal law</p>	<p>YES. <i>Felon possession.</i> Washington prohibits those convicted of felonies from possessing a firearm, unless that right is restored by a court. For certain felonies, the penalty is more serious.</p> <p>MIXED. <i>Misdemeanants' possession.</i> Those convicted of certain misdemeanor crimes cannot possess a firearm, including specific crimes against family members, unless that right is restored by a court. Note that felonies can be pled to misdemeanors through plea bargain.</p> <p>NO. <i>Alcohol/substance abusers.</i> Washington's law does not address limits on alcohol/substance abusers. Some limits exist for substance abusers under federal law.</p> <p>MIXED. <i>Mentally ill.</i> Washington's law prohibits those who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity for certain crimes or committed for mental health treatment from possessing a firearm, unless that right is restored by a court. Specific mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and major depression do not prohibit firearm possession.</p> <p>MIXED. <i>Youth offenders.</i> Washington law has a 10-day sentence for the first 4 convictions for illegal possession of a firearm, but there are numerous sentencing alternatives, such as deferred dispositions, and other ways around the 10-day provision. It takes 5 convictions before sentencing of 15 to 36 weeks to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.</p>	<p>*Federal laws provide basic minimums for prohibitions, including prohibiting ownership by convicted felons, unless the right is restored, those "adjudicated as a mental defective" and those "committed to a mental institution."</p> <p>*23 states disqualify for some misdemeanor offenses.</p> <p>*18 states prohibit alcohol/substance abusers from owning firearms.</p>
<p>Theft reporting required</p>	<p>MIXED. Washington does not require gun theft to be reported by private individuals (licensed dealers are required to report loss/theft under federal law). Theft reporting can help deter gun trafficking.</p>	<p>*Require theft reporting: CT, MA, MI, NJ, NY, OH, RI, DC</p> <p>*Local requiring theft reporting: Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Hartford, Los Angeles, NYC, San Francisco</p>
<p>Registration system</p>	<p>NO. Washington law does not require registration of firearms and firearm owners.</p>	<p>*HI, IL, MA, NJ — require registration for all purchasers/owners</p> <p>*CA, CT, IA, MI, NY, NC, RI — license for all handgun owners/purchasers</p> <p>*HI, DC — require registration of all firearms</p>
<p>Waiting period</p>	<p>YES. 5 days, but ONLY for licensed sales of handguns without concealed pistol license (state law). For sales that take place on the private market (approx. 40% of all sales), there is no waiting period.</p>	<p>* There is no federal waiting period. Under the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), a dealer may transfer a firearm to a prospective purchaser as soon as he or she passes a background check.</p> <p>*12 states/DC have wait periods, including 4 states with wait period for federally-licensed and private sales.</p>
<p>Multiple purchases</p>	<p>NO limit on number of purchases.</p>	<p>*CA, MD, VA restrict number of purchases</p>

Appendix: Years of available data

In the Public Health—Seattle & King County fact sheet on Gun Violence in King County, we provided death counts for 2007-2011. However, at the time of writing this report, we do not have population estimates for 2011, and therefore, we cannot calculate rates for 2011 or 2007-2011 combined. As a result, we only provided data for 2006-2010 in the report. The table below shows the death counts related to firearms for different years or periods.

Year	Intent	King County		WA state	
		Total	Firearm	Total	Firearm
2010	Unintentional	574	0	2,590	10
2010	Suicide	226	86	947	462
2010	Homicide	48	30	178	113
2010	Other	5	5	16	15
2010	Undetermined	30	2	106	7
<i>Total</i>		<i>883</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>3,837</i>	<i>607</i>
2011	Unintentional	570	0	2,671	9
2011	Self-Inflicted	243	107	992	492
2011	Assault	40	19	180	92
2011	Other	5	5	19	18
2011	Undetermined	27	3	94	8
<i>Total</i>		<i>885</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>3,956</i>	<i>619</i>
2006-2010	Unintentional	3,063	2	13,226	35
2006-2010	Suicide	1,071	443	4,399	2,168
2006-2010	Homicide	312	190	1,013	600
2006-2010	Other	14	13	66	59
2006-2010	Undetermined	128	7	532	29
<i>Total</i>		<i>4,588</i>	<i>655</i>	<i>19,236</i>	<i>2,891</i>
2007-2011	Unintentional	2,971	1	13,251	35
2007-2011	Suicide	1,108	460	4,595	2,268
2007-2011	Homicide	274	164	974	571
2007-2011	Other	17	17	74	68
2007-2011	Undetermined	133	8	538	29
<i>Total</i>		<i>4,503</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>19,432</i>	<i>2,971</i>

Data sources

National firearm death data were obtained from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Wonder online database. Data are from CDC National Center for Health Statistics Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2010. Washington state and King County firearm death data were obtained from VistaPHw.

National firearm nonfatal injury data were obtained from CDC WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System). Data are from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System—All Injury Program (NEISS-AIP) operated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in collaboration with CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC).

State and local firearm nonfatal injury hospitalization data were obtained from Washington state Community Health Assessment Tool (CHAT).

Firearm deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations cost data comes from CDC WISQARS™ Cost of Injury Module.

References and notes

- ¹ The overall number of firearm deaths includes: homicides, suicides, unintentional deaths, undetermined deaths, and other.
- ² Richardson EG, & Hemenway D. Homicide, suicide and unintentional firearm fatality: Comparing the United States with other high-income countries, 2003. *Journal of Trauma*. 2011;70(1):238-43.
- ³ Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention Executive Committee, from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Firearm-related injuries affecting the pediatric population. *Pediatrics*. 2012;130(5):e1416-e1423.
- ⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Control and Prevention. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS™).
- ⁵ Cook PJ, Lawrence BA, Ludwig J, & Miller TR. The medical costs of gunshot injuries in the United States. *JAMA*. 1999;282(5):447-54.
- ⁶ Shapiro RJ, & Hassett KA. (June 19, 2012) The economic benefits of reducing violent crime: A case study of 8 American cities. 2012. Retrieved from Center for American Progress website: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/report/2012/06/19/11755/the-economic-benefits-of-reducing-violent-crime/>
- ⁷ Numbers will not sum due to rounding. Data & statistics (WISQARS™): Custom cost of injury reports. Retrieved from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <http://wisqars.cdc.gov:8080/costT/>
- ⁸ Cost estimates due to firearms were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS™) Cost of Injury Module by applying King County case counts to national average costs. Medical costs will be underestimated as they do not include emergency department use or mental health costs. <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>
- ⁹ Shapiro RJ, & Hassett KA. Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Sept 2011). Uniform crime report: Crime in the United States, 2010. Retrieved from Federal Bureau of Investigation website: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/summary>
- ¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Sept 2012). Uniform crime report: Crime in the United States: 2011. Retrieved Jan 18, 2013, from Federal Bureau of Investigation website: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/expanded/expanded-homicide-data>
- ¹² Kellermann AL, & Reay DT. Protection or peril? An analysis of firearm-related deaths in the home. *N Engl J Med*. 1986;314(24):1557-1560.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ Kellermann AL, et al. Gun ownership as a risk factor for homicide in the home. *N Engl J Med*. 1998;329(13):1084-1091.
- ¹⁵ Richardson EG, & Hemenway D. Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Estimate based on small numbers and is statistically unstable; should be used with caution.
- ¹⁸ Carr BG, et al. Unintentional firearm death across the urban-rural landscape in the United States. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2012;73(4):1006-10.
- ¹⁹ Hemenway D. (2004). *Private guns, public health*. Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Press. p.30.
- ²⁰ Kellermann AL, & Rivara FR. (Dec 21, 2012). Silencing the science on gun research. *JAMA*. Available on JAMA website: <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/mobile/article.aspx?articleid=1487470>
- ²¹ Legal Community Against Violence. (Feb 2008). *Regulating guns in America: An evaluation and comparative analysis of federal, state and selected local gun laws*. Available from Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence website: <http://smartgunlaws.org/regulating-guns-in-america-an-evaluation-and-comparative-analysis-of-federal-state-and-selected-local-gun-laws/>