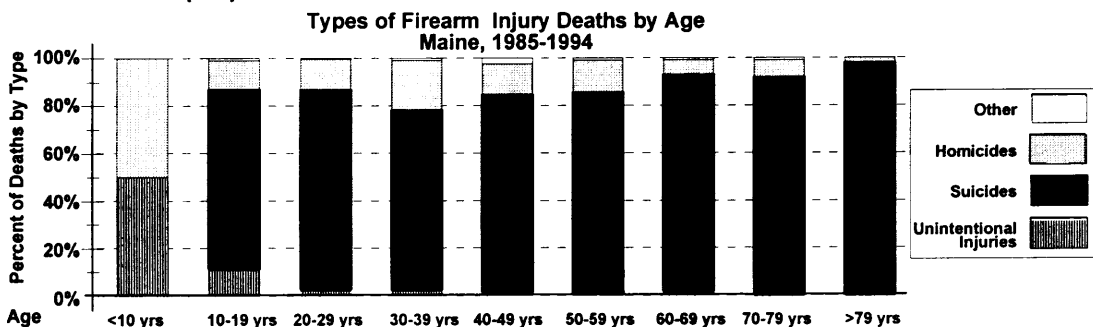
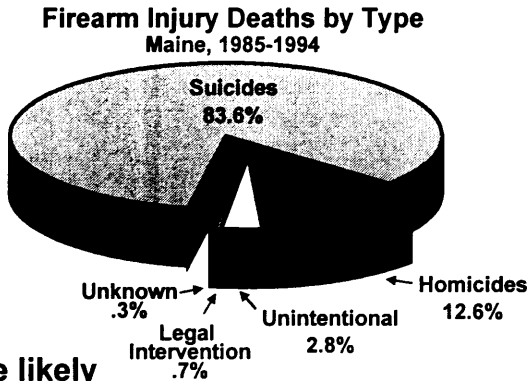


FIREARM INJURY DEATHS IN MAINE 1985 - 1994

- ➔ During the period 1985 - 1994, 1,170 Maine residents died as the result of firearm injuries. Of those deaths, only 33 (<3%) were unintentional. 978 (approximately 84%) were due to suicide. Of the remaining 159 deaths, 148 were homicides, 8 were the result of legal intervention, and 3 were from injuries from undetermined intent (intentional versus unintentional).
- ➔ Males were more than 6 times more likely to die as the result of firearm injuries than females (1,013 males compared to 157 females); however, females accounted for more than ¼ of the deaths due to firearm homicide (42 of 148 deaths).
- ➔ In 1994, the age-adjusted death rate for Maine males was nearly 15 deaths/100,000 population, while for females it was 3.5 deaths. Nationally, these rates were 20.5 and 3.5 respectively¹; Maine's male death rate was *significantly different statistically* from the US rate.
- ➔ Six children, younger than 10 years old, died of firearm injuries during this 10 year period; 3 were the result of unintentional injuries and 3 were homicides. 117 young Maine residents, ages 10 - 19 years, also died from firearm injuries; more than ¾ of those deaths were the result of suicides (89) and an additional 12% resulted from homicides (14).



- ➔ Although Maine's children and young adults - residents younger than 20 years old - represented approximately 10% of all firearm injury deaths occurring during the period, they accounted for nearly half (48%) of all unintentional firearm injury deaths.

Notes: Deaths due to firearm injury are those attributed to ICD-9 cause of death codes E922.0-.9, E955.0-.4, E965.0-.4, E970, E985.0-.4. All rates are for underlying cause of death and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these rates have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. US rates are for whites only. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

Footnote: A full citation will be provided upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
 the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics,
 Office of Health Data, and Program Management, Bureau of Health
 at 35 Anthony Avenue, 11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
 The contact person(s) is: Cathy St.Pierre - (207) 624-5445

For program information, please contact: Cheryl DiCara at 287-3311

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

DS-FACTS1.FRPp1
VSD.031
10231997