

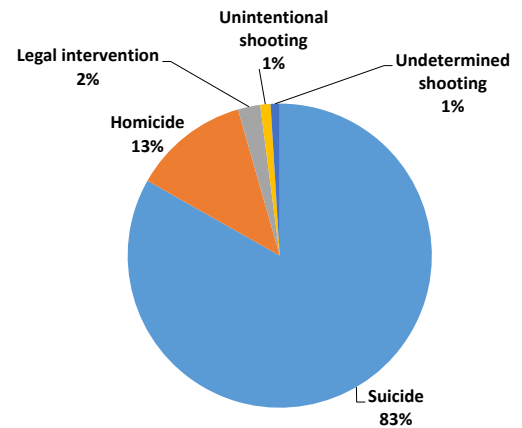
Basic Facts

- On average, at least one Oregonian dies from firearm injury every day.
- Firearm fatalities occur due to suicide, homicide, legal intervention, unintentional shootings, and undetermined intent shootings. Most firearm deaths in Oregon are due to suicide.
- Males are nearly six times more likely than females to die from a firearm injury.
- Older males (age ≥65 years) have the highest risk of death by firearm suicide. Young adults 18 to 24 years old are at the highest risk of being victims of homicide by firearm.

From 2010 to 2014:

- 2,280 Oregon residents (an average of 456 people each year) died from firearm injuries. Age-adjusted rates of firearm fatalities (11.7 per 100,000 in 2014) have changed little over five years in Oregon.
- Among 2,280 deaths, 1,395 (85% of total) were males.
- The majority of firearm deaths in Oregon were suicides (1,897 deaths), followed by homicides (282 deaths), legal intervention (54 deaths), and unintentional shootings (25 deaths).
- The highest firearm injury death rates occurred among older non-Hispanic White males, 65 and older (38.7 per 100,000), due to a high suicide rate, and among young non-Hispanic African American males ages 15-44 years (34.8 per 100,000) due to a high homicide rate.
- 53 incidents of gun violence in Oregon involved more than one death. Three in four of them are classified as homicide-suicides.
- Firearms were the mechanism of injury for 87% of deaths in homicide-suicide events.

Firearm Fatalities by Intent, Oregon, 2010-2014 (N=2,280)



Source: CDC WISQARS

Firearm fatality rates by age group and intent, Oregon, 2010-2014



- Weapons used in firearm fatalities were handguns (74%), rifles (15%), and shotguns (11%).
- 44% of people who died by firearm suicide had a depressed mood, 33% had a diagnosed mental illness, 27% were being treated for a mental illness, and 13% had a history of suicide.
- Firearm homicide occurs most often in the context of intimate partner violence and gang violence.

Prevention

A public health approach to gun violence prevention needs to emphasize primary prevention, a focus on the community, a wide range of policies, and collaboration with diverse interest groups.

For more information: Oregon Violent Death Reporting System, Oregon Injury and Violence Prevention Program: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/diseasesconditions/injuryfatalitydata/pages/nvdrs.aspx>