

People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



Know the Facts: Firearm-Related Injury and Death

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 30,000 firearm deaths occur each year in the United States. More than twice this number go to hospitals due to nonfatal firearm injuries.
- The average firearm death rates during the period of 1999-2012 in different counties of California ranged from 4.8 to 18.7 per 100,000 population. The rates for Shasta County, California and the United States were 14.6, 8.6, and 10.1, respectively.
- Keeping a firearm in or around the home increases the risk of dying as a result of homicide or suicide.
- In California, all firearms manufactured in the state, or sold or transferred by a state licensed dealer, including private transfers conducted through licensed dealers, must include or be accompanied by a firearm safety device approved by the California Department of Justice. A firearm safety device is defined as “a device other than a gun safe that locks and is designed to prevent children and other unauthorized users from firing a firearm.”

WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

There were 16 firearm-related deaths per 100,000 total population in Shasta County during 1999-2001.

WHERE WE ARE:

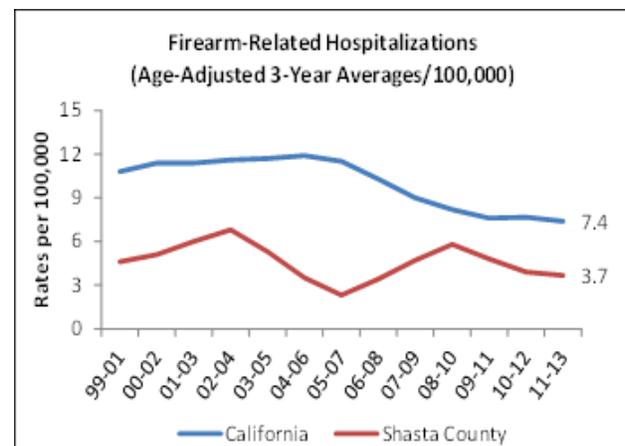
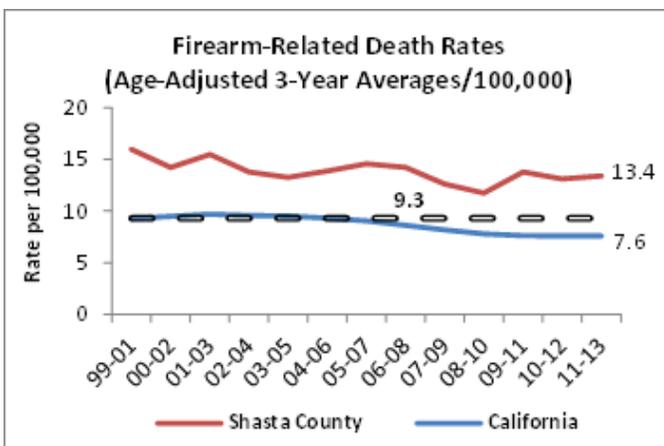
There were 13.4 firearm-related deaths per 100,000 total population in Shasta County during 2011-13.

WHERE WE ARE AIMING:

Reduce firearm-related deaths to 9.3 per 100,000 population.

DEFINITION:

- Number of deaths and death rate (age-adjusted deaths per 100,000 population) due to firearm-related injury for Shasta County residents. Firearm-related injury deaths include unintentional firearm injury (accidental shooting), self-inflicted injury by firearms (suicide), assault by firearms (homicide), legal intervention by firearms (police shooting), and injury of undetermined intent by firearms (ICD-10 codes U01.4, W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, and Y35.0).
- Number of nonfatal firearm-related hospitalizations in Shasta County hospitals per 100,000 population. (ICD-9 codes E922.3, E955.0-E955.9, E965.0-965.9, E970, E979.4, and E985.0-E985.7).



Contributing Staff: Ali Abadi and Stephanie Taylor. Last updated: August 2015.

Find more health information at www.shastahhsa.net. Click on “Health and Safety,” then “Current Health Concerns.”

Questions? Email shastahealthdata@co.shasta.ca.us

KEY POINTS:

- The Shasta County firearm-related average death rate per 100,000 population during 1999-2013 was higher than that of California and Healthy People 2020.
- The California firearm-related death rate dropped below the Healthy People 2020 target of 9.3 in 2008 and has continued a downward trend since then.
- The Shasta County firearm-related death rate (13.4/100,000) was still significantly higher than the Healthy People 2020 target in 2011-2013.
- Shasta County firearm-related hospitalization rates have always been lower than the state rates.

PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Ensure firearms are kept with trigger locks and are stored safely. Under California state law, adults who do not adequately secure their firearms may be held responsible if children under age 16 use those firearms.
- Establish legislation for handguns to be sold with secure trigger locks in all instances.
- Assure medical treatment and psychotherapy/ counseling for persons suffering with clinical depression.
- Remove firearms from homes of persons with suicidal thoughts/plans.
- Consistently enforce domestic violence laws and restraining orders to prevent intimate partner violence.

From the Desk of Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH

*Shasta County
Public Health Officer*



Firearm-related injuries and deaths are decreasing in the state, but are still high in Shasta County as compared to national and state levels. Keeping firearms in or around the house puts you and your family at risk for death and injury. The percentage of gun ownership in Shasta County is relatively high, and this increases the risks of homicide and suicide.

Keeping guns in secure places with trigger locks, removing firearms from places where children and vulnerable people might get access to them, and taking actions to reduce social and domestic violence helps tackle this problem.

To your health!