

The Truth About Kids & Guns: 2015

Suicide by firearm increased among American adolescents for the third consecutive year, according to recently released data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

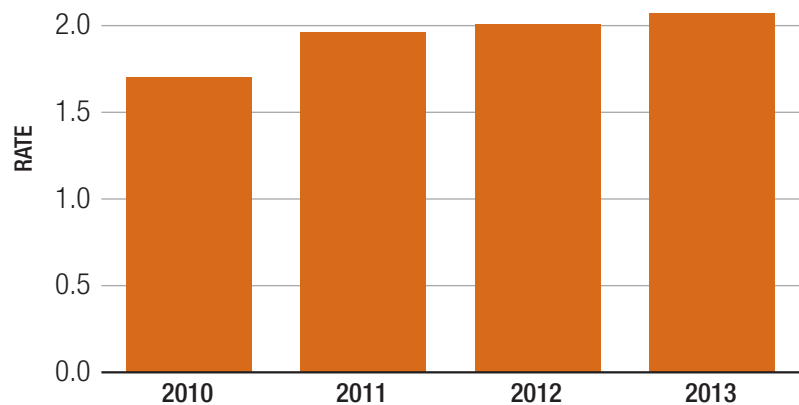
Kids & Guns: A Lethal Combination

On November 7, 2014, 16-year-old Ciara “Cici” Webb used a gun in her Olathe, Kansas home to end her life. Cici had a passion for soccer and was described by family and friends as “adventurous” and full of life.

On November 6, 2014, a 5-year-old Laylah Peterson in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was fatally shot while sitting on her grandfather’s lap watching television. The bullet that killed her was one of a dozen discharged when a shooter opened fire outside the family’s home.

And on January 19, 2015, a 5-year-old boy in Elmo, Missouri, found a loaded .22 caliber handgun inside his grandfather’s house. While he was handling it, the gun fired, striking and killing his nine-month-old brother, Corbin, who was sleeping nearby.

RATE OF SUICIDE BY FIREARM AMONG ADOLESCENTS (10-19), PER 100,000 POPULATION

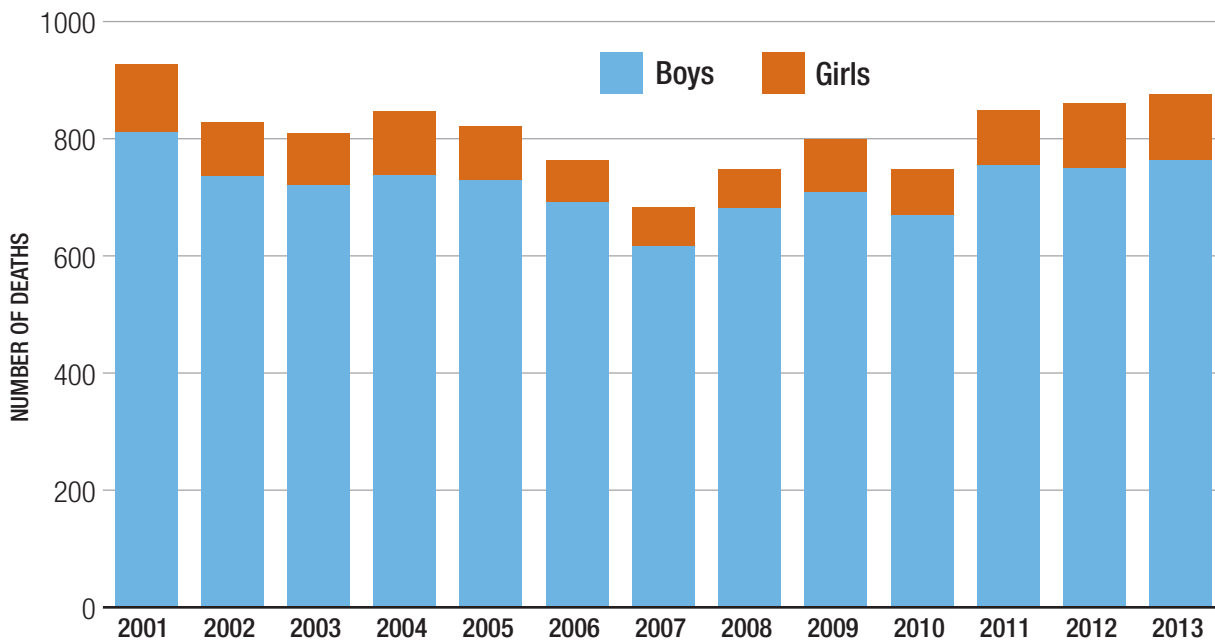


Suicide by firearm claimed 876 lives among adolescents ages 10 to 19 in 2013. Many of these deaths might have been prevented if a gun were not readily accessible.

Research has shown that 82 percent of firearm suicides among youth under 18 used a firearm belonging to a family member, usually a parent. Among adolescents ages 10 to 19, the increasing toll of suicide by firearm translates to a rate of 2.07 per 100,000 population, a 3% increase over 2012 and a 22% increase since 2010. The 2013 rate is the highest recorded rate since 2001, erasing nearly a decade of progress.

This upward trend is not limited to suicide by firearm. Between 2007 and 2013, the overall suicide rate among adolescents ages 10 to 19 increased 34%, from 3.77 to 5.05 per 100,000 population. In 2013, suicide surpassed homicide to become the second leading cause of death among children and teens.

FIREARM SUICIDE DEATHS AMONG ADOLESCENTS (10-19), 2001-2013



Other firearm-related trends:

- The overall firearm fatality rate among adolescents 19 and younger decreased 7.5% from 2012 to 2013, the largest annual decrease in 13 years.
- The firearm homicide rate for children and teens dropped 15% in 2013, and is now 67% lower than its 1993 peak.
- Following a decrease in 2012, the unintentional gun death rate for children and teens rose 15% in 2013.

The 2013 data also confirms much of what we already know about the impact of guns on youth.

The burden of gun violence remains high among children and teens.

- 2,465 children and teens (0-19) died by gunfire in 2013.
- Of these deaths, 1,410 (57%) were homicides, 877 (36%) were suicides and 124 (5%) were shot unintentionally.
- Firearms were used in 61% of youth homicides and 41% of youth suicides.

Guns are a leading cause of death among children and teens.

- In 2013, firearm-related injuries were the second most common cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19.
- Only motor vehicles were responsible for more deaths among this age group in 2013.

Gun deaths vary significantly by age, sex and race.

- 15- to 19-year-olds represented 83% of firearm-related fatalities in 2013.
- Boys were 6 times more likely to be killed by a gun than girls.
- White children and teens accounted for 88% of firearm suicides; 63% of firearm homicides occurred among Black children and teens.

Where there are more guns, there are more gun deaths.

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST GUN DEATH RATES HAVE HIGH GUN OWNERSHIP RATES

Rank	State	Crude Rate (per 100,000 population)	% of adults with household firearm
1	Alaska	19.59	60.6%
2	Louisiana	19.15	45.6%
3	Alabama	17.79	57.2%
4	Mississippi	17.55	54.3%
5	Wyoming	17.51	62.8%

STATES WITH THE LOWEST GUN DEATH RATES HAVE LOW GUN OWNERSHIP RATES

Rank	State	Crude Rate (per 100,000 population)	% of adults with household firearm
50	Hawaii	2.71	9.7%
49	Massachusetts	3.18	12.8%
48	New York	4.39	18.1%
47	Connecticut	4.48	16.2%
46	Rhode Island	5.33	13.3%

Sources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) {cited 2015 Jan. 30}. Available from: www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars. Calculations by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

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