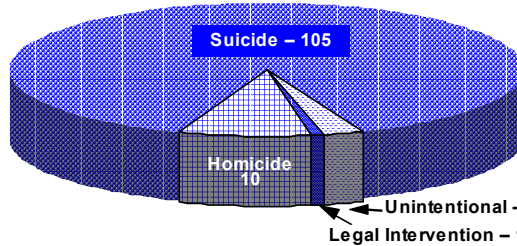


FIREARM INJURY DEATHS

Maine Residents: 1998 (preliminary)

- ➔ In 1998, 119 Maine residents sustained lethal firearm injuries resulting in a death rate of 9 deaths per 100,000 population.
- ➔ For most of the last 10 years, 1989 – 1998, the Maine rate was significantly lower than the U.S. rate. During that period, however, the U.S. rate declined significantly while the Maine rate remained relatively constant. This resulted in a narrowing of the difference between the rates and by 1998, the rates were comparable.
- ➔ Nine out of 10 firearm injury deaths in Maine were suicides, and for every 2 females that died from gun-related suicide, 13 males died.
- ➔ Approximately 75% of female firearm injury deaths were suicides; the remaining 25% were homicides. For males, 91% of firearm injury deaths were suicides with the remaining 9% assaults, unintentional injuries, and the result of legal intervention.
- ➔ Males were more than 5 times as likely to die from firearm injury as females – 100 males compared to 19 females.
- ➔ In 1998, half of all firearm injury deaths in Maine involved residents 25 – 44 years old.

Firearm Injury Deaths by Type: Maine 1998



Number 8

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FIREARM INJURY DEATHS: 1998
FACT SHEET

Series 9

NUMBER OF FIREARM INJURY DEATHS BY AGE: MAINE, 1998

Age	<15 yr.	15-24 yr.	25-34 yr.	35-44 yr.	45-54 yr.	55-64 yr.	>64 yr.	Total
# Deaths	5	13	28	31	17	6	19	119

- ➔ During the 10 year period, 1989 – 1998, Maine had the second highest death rate due to firearm injury in the 6 New England states. Maine's death rate due to gun-related suicide, also second highest at 7.5 deaths/100,000, was significantly higher than the national rate (7.0).

SELECTED FIREARM INJURY DEATH RATES: NEW ENGLAND AND U.S.*

All Firearm Injury Deaths		Firearm Related Homicide		Firearm Related Suicide	
State	Rate/100,000	State	Rate/100,000	State	Rate/100,000
<u>United States</u>	11.1	<u>United States</u>	3.5	Vermont	8.8
Vermont	10.7	Connecticut	2.3	<u>MAINE</u>	7.5
<u>MAINE</u>	8.9	Rhode Island	1.6	<u>United States</u>	7.0
New Hampshire	7.7	Vermont	1.3	New Hampshire	6.6
Connecticut	6.3	<u>MAINE</u>	1.1	Connecticut	3.8
Rhode Island	4.6	New Hampshire	1.0	Rhode Island	2.9
Massachusetts	3.6	Massachusetts	1.0	Massachusetts	2.4

* Due to small numbers in some cells for Maine in 1998, all rates in this table were calculated for the 10 year period, 1989 – 1998. Firearm deaths are deaths attributed to ICD-9 cause of death codes 922.0-922.9, 955.0-955.4, 965.0-965.4, 970.0, and 985.0-985.4. All rates are for underlying cause of death, and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. All national data (national data are for whites only) were obtained from CDC Wonder.

Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
 the **Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics**, BUREAU OF HEALTH
 at 35 Anthony Avenue, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
 The contact person is: Cathy St. Pierre - (207) 624-5445 624-5512 (TTY)

For prevention information, please contact: Katharyn Zwicker at 287-5359

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner