

# Firearm-Related Deaths Among Vermont Residents

## Vermont Vital Statistics

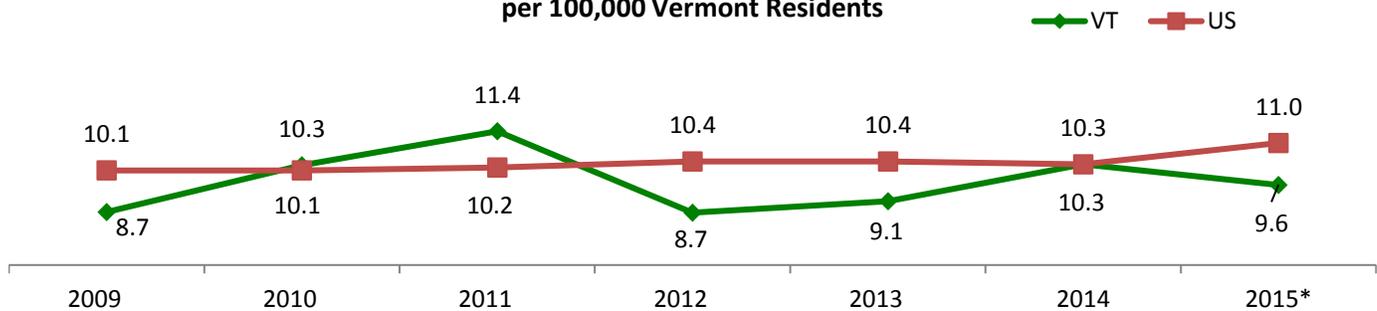
### Firearm-Related Mortality

A firearm-related death is a death caused by the discharge of a firearm by accident, assault, suicide or through legal intervention. Firearms include all types of guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, machine guns, etc. Further investigation into Vermont residents' gunshot wound incidents shows that nearly nine in ten (89%) firearm-related deaths are due to suicide.

### Firearm-Related Mortality Trend

Since at least 2009, the rate<sup>1</sup> of firearm-related deaths among Vermont residents has been similar to that for the U.S. In 2015, there were 9.6 deaths due to a firearm per 100,000 Vermont residents compared with 11.0 per 100,000 for the U.S. From 2009 to 2015, the highest rate of firearm-related deaths in Vermont was in 2011, with a rate of 11.4 and the lowest occurred in 2009 and 2012, each with a rate of 8.7 per 100,000. Rates of firearm related deaths in Vermont have not changed statistically since 2009.

Age-Adjusted Rate of Gunshot Wound Deaths per 100,000 Vermont Residents



\*Data from 2015 is preliminary

Vermont Vital Statistics

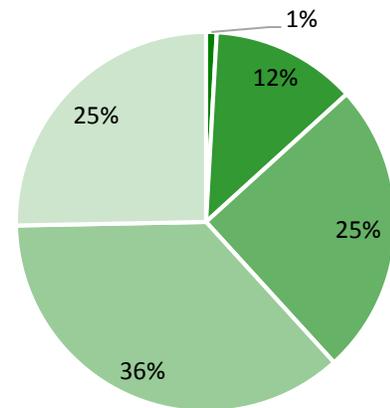
### Firearm-Related Deaths by Age

The majority of firearm-related deaths among Vermont residents occur in those 45 to 64-years of age. This age group accounts for more than a third (36%) of firearm-related deaths in Vermont. Those aged 25 to 44 and 65 and older each make up a quarter of firearm-related deaths. One in eight deaths is among those 15 to 24, while few (1%) occur among Vermonters ages 0 to 14.

The average age of firearm-related homicides is 42 compared to firearm-related suicides<sup>2</sup> where the average age is 51.

Percentage of Firearm-Related Deaths among Vermont Residents, by age 2011-2015

■ 0 to 14 ■ 15 to 24 ■ 25 to 44 ■ 45 to 64 ■ 65+



<sup>1</sup> Age adjusted to U.S. 2000 standard population.

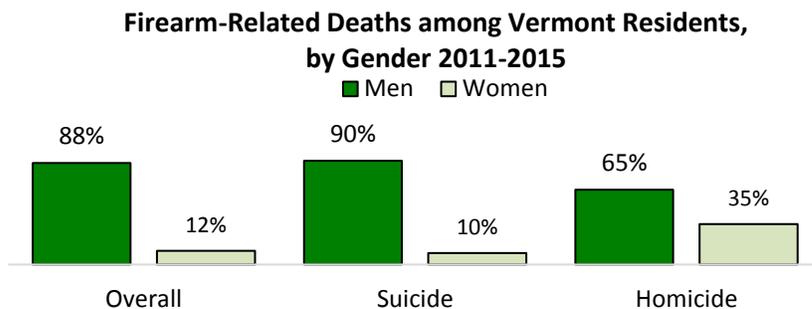
<sup>2</sup> For more information on Suicide deaths in Vermont see:

[http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/01/HSVR\\_injury\\_suicidemortality.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/01/HSVR_injury_suicidemortality.pdf)

### Firearm-Related Deaths by Gender & intent

Nearly nine in ten (89%) of firearm-related deaths are due to suicide. Ten percent were the result of a homicide and few are undetermined (1%) or unintentional (1%).

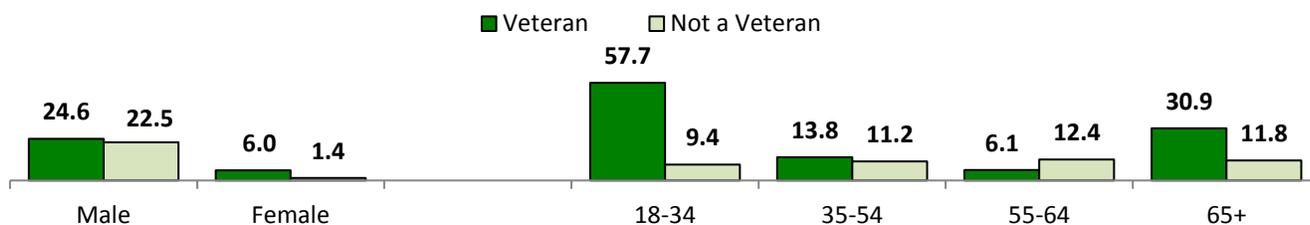
Men are more likely to die due to firearm-related injuries compared to women (88% vs 12%). The largest discrepancy in gender is seen among firearm-related suicides, where men are 9 times as likely to die as women (90% vs 10%). While men are still more likely to die in a firearm-related homicide, the discrepancy is smaller (65% vs 35%).



### Veteran Status

Veterans are known to be at a higher risk of suicide via firearm<sup>3,4</sup>. The average rate of firearm-related deaths among veterans from 2011-2015<sup>5</sup> was 23.3 per 100,000 veteran Vermonters compared to 7.3 per 100,000 non-veterans, however this difference is not statistically significant<sup>6</sup>. When broken down by gender, the rate of firearm-related deaths among veterans is higher among both men and women than among non-veterans. The highest rate of firearm-related death among veterans is among those 18-34, followed by those 65 and older. Additionally, in these age groups there is a much larger discrepancy between veterans and non-veterans, where veterans experience much higher rates. Lastly, from 2011-2015 a higher percentage of male and female veterans died from firearm-related deaths as a result of suicide compared to non-veterans (M: 94% vs 89%, F: 100% vs 68%).

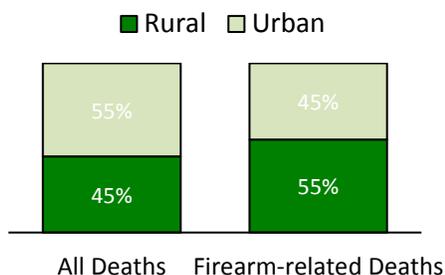
**Firearm-related Death Rates pre 100,000 by Veteran status, Gender and age Vermont Residents, 2011-2015**



### Rural & Urban

As a rural state, it is interesting to note that less than half of Vermont resident deaths occurred in rural areas, from 2011-2015. However, during this same time, a majority of firearm-related deaths occurred in rural areas (55%).

**Percentage of Rural and Urban Deaths Vermont Residents, 2011-2015**



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<sup>3</sup> Kaplan MS, Huguette N, McFarland BH, Newsom JT. Suicide among male veterans: a prospective population-based study. J Epidemiol Community Health. 2007;61(7):619-24.

<sup>4</sup> Kang HK, Bullman TA. Is there an epidemic of suicides among current and former US military personnel? Ann Epidemiol. 2009;19(10):757-60

<sup>5</sup> Veteran status is included in the Vermont Vital Records System and is defined here as a veteran, no war specified. Population data used to calculate rates are from the American Community Survey five-year estimates from 2011-2015:

[https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

<sup>6</sup> The average number of veteran firearm-related deaths VT/year is small (~11), as a result, statistical precision is low making it difficult to detect differences when comparing to other populations.