

FIREARMS ACCIDENT FACTS

Updated March 2009

In the United States since 1930:

- The population has more than **DOUBLED**,
- The number of privately owned firearms has more than **QUINTUPLED**,
- And the annual number of accidental firearms deaths has **DECREASED 75%**.

The fatal firearm accident rate has **DECREASED 92%** since the all-time high recorded in 1904.

During the last 25 years, the fatal firearm accident rate has experienced the greatest decline among principal types and classes of accidental deaths.

Comparing firearm accident rates (fatalities per 100,000) to other accident rates:

<u>NATIONWIDE</u>		<u>FLORIDA</u>	
1. Motor vehicle accidents	15.3	1. Motor vehicle accidents	19.8
2. Poisoning	8.0	2. Poisoning	11.3
3. Falls	6.6	3. Falls	9.4
4. Suffocation & Choking	2.0	4. Drowning	2.0
5. Drowning	1.2	5. Suffocation & Choking	2.3
6. Fires & Burns	1.1	6. Medical "Misadventures"	0.7
7. Medical "Misadventures"	0.8	7. Fires & Burns	0.8
8. Environmental factors	0.8	8. Bicycles & Tricycles	0.8
9. Bicycles & Tricycles	0.3	9. Environmental factors	0.4
10. FIREARMS	0.27	10. FIREARMS	0.1

Comparing the number of fatal firearm accidents to other accidents:

Nationwide:

57 times more die in motor vehicle accidents,
30 times more die from poisoning,
25 times more die from falls,
7 times more die from choking & suffocation,
5 times more die from drowning,
4 times more die from fires,
3 times more die from medical "misadventures"
3 times more die from environmental factors
1.2 times more die from bicycles & tricycles

And in Florida:

153 times more die in motor vehicle accidents,
87 times more die from poisoning,
73 times more die from falls,
18 times more die from choking & suffocation,
16 times more die from drowning
6 times more die from fires,
6 times more die from bicycles & tricycles,
5 times more die from medical "misadventures,"
3 times more die from environmental factors

Nationwide, the annual number of fatal firearm accidents among CHILDREN has decreased **86%** since 1975.

In Florida, the fatal firearm accident rate among CHILDREN **is down 87%** from the all-time high in 1988.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Firearm accidents have decreased dramatically for many years and today account for only a tiny percentage of accidents in Florida and nationwide.

Data sources:

National Center for Health Statistics
National Safety Council
Bureau of the Census
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Firearms industry reports

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