

# FIREARMS ACCIDENT FACTS

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In the United States since 1930:

- The population has significantly more than **DOUBLED**,
- The number of privately owned firearms has more than **SEXTUPLED**,
- And the annual number of accidental firearms deaths has **DECREASED 83%**.

The fatal firearm accident rate has **DECREASED 95%** 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. Poisoning	26.5	1. Poisoning	32.4
2. Motor vehicle accidents	12.4	2. Motor vehicle accidents	15.8
3. Falls	12.8	3. Falls	17.2
4. Suffocation & Choking	2.1	4. Suffocation & Choking	2.0
5. Drowning	1.3	5. Drowning	2.2
6. Fires & Burns	0.9	6. Medical "Misadventures"	1.2
7. Medical "Misadventures"	1.5	7. Bicycles & Tricycles	0.9
8. Environmental factors	0.6	8. Fires & Burns	0.5
9. Bicycles & Tricycles	0.4	9. Environmental factors	0.3
10. FIREARMS	0.16	10. FIREARMS	0.07

Comparing the number of fatal firearm accidents to other accidents:

**Nationwide:**

163 times more die from poisoning  
76 times more die in motor vehicle accidents  
79 times more die from falls  
13 times more die from choking & suffocation  
8 times more die from drowning  
6 times more die from fires & burns  
9 times more die from medical "misadventures"  
4 times more die from environmental factors  
2 times more die from bicycles & tricycles

**And in Florida:**

470 times more die from poisoning  
229 times more die in motor vehicle accidents  
249 times more die from falls  
29 times more die from choking & suffocation  
32 times more die from drowning  
25 times more die from medical "misadventures"  
13 times more die from bicycles & tricycles  
8 times more die from fires and burns  
4 times more die from environmental factors

Nationwide, the annual number of fatal firearm accidents among CHILDREN has decreased **83%** since 1975.

In Florida, the fatal firearm accident rate among CHILDREN **is down 90%** from the all-time high in 1982.

**THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**Firearm accidents have decreased dramatically for many years and today account for only a tiny percentage of accidents in Florida (0.1%) and nationwide (0.3%).**

Data sources:

- [1] U.S. Census Bureau population estimates  
[2] Point Blank: Guns and Violence and America (Kleck) and BATFE "Firearms Commerce in the United States Annual Statistical Update 2016"  
[3] National Safety Council; 2020 data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database.  
[4] 1904 data from Federal Security Agency, "Vital Statistics Rates in the United States 1900-1940"; 2020 data from CDC WONDER database.  
[5] CDC, National Center Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death, CDC WONDER Online Database.  
[6] National data from CDC, National Center Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death, CDC WONDER Online Database. Florida data from CDC Underlying Cause of Death on CDC WONDER database and FL Department of Public Health FL Health Charts Death Rate Query System database.  
[7] Ibid.  
[8] CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, Compressed Mortality File 1968-1978 and Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020, both on CDC WONDER database.  
[9] FL Department of Public Health FL Health Charts Death Rate Query System.  
[10] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center Health Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database and Florida data from CDC and FL Department of Public Health FL Health Charts Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set.

*Fact sheet compiled by the National Rifle Association (NRA) & Unified Sportsmen of Florida (USF)*

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