



Gun Death in Wisconsin



Violence Policy Center



WISCONSIN ANTI-VIOLENCE EFFORT

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This study was authored by VPC Public Health Analyst Terra Wiens, MPH.

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The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national nonprofit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in America and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the general public.

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Introduction

Gun violence affects all communities in the United States, but in different ways. This study, a joint project of WAVE Educational Fund^a and the Violence Policy Center,^b offers an overview of lethal gun violence in Wisconsin. Understanding how gun violence affects specific geographic locations and populations allows prevention efforts to be more effectively tailored to impacted communities.

This study utilizes 2022 data^c from the following sources:

- Mortality data from the WISQARS database maintained by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Firearms trace data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

This report also contains the stories of family members who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Though statistics and analysis are necessary to aid in the development of effective public policy and increase public understanding of the true nature and scope of gun violence, it is imperative to never lose sight of the real-world impact of gun death and injury. The VPC and WAVE Educational Fund want to express their sincere appreciation to those who shared their experiences for this report. Their voices provide a critical, human context to this ongoing tragedy.

Overall Gun Death in Wisconsin

Gun violence has a significant impact on communities: both nationally and in Wisconsin. In 2022, guns claimed 48,204 lives in the United States. Of these, 830 Wisconsin lives were lost to guns in suicides, homicides, and other firearm deaths (Table 1).

a WAVE Educational Fund is a statewide, grassroots organization dedicated to preventing gun violence, injuries, and deaths in Wisconsin through education and advocacy. For more information, please see waveedfund.org.

b The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national research, education, and advocacy organization working to stop gun death and injury. For more information, please see www.vpc.org.

c At the time this study was researched and published, data from the year 2022 was the most comprehensive and recently available information from these sources.

Table 1. Firearm deaths in Wisconsin, 2018 — 2022¹

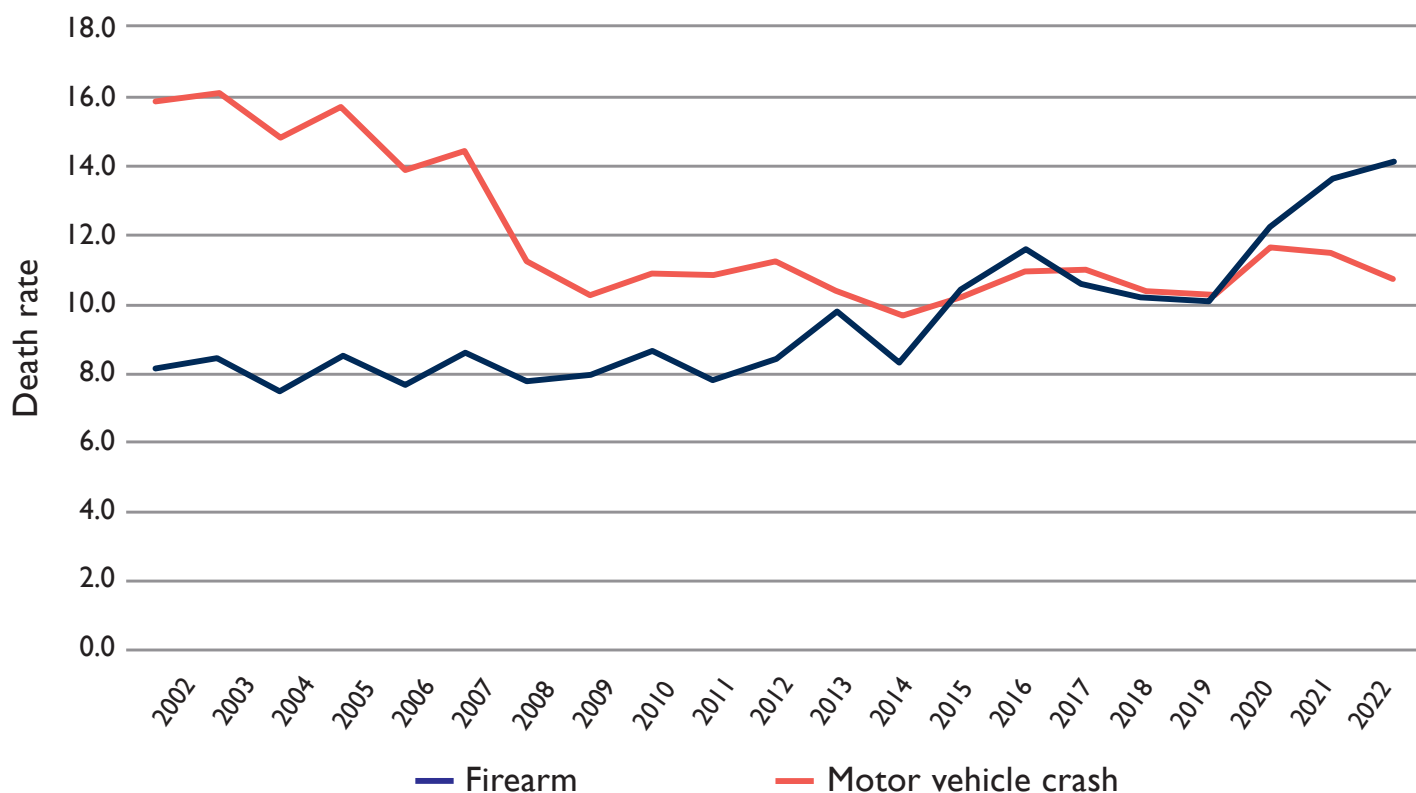
| | Firearm suicide | Firearm homicide | Unintentional firearm deaths | Total firearm deaths* |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2018 | 420 | 153 | -- | 598 |
| 2019 | 427 | 153 | -- | 604 |
| 2020 | 442 | 253 | -- | 717 |
| 2021 | 484 | 290 | -- | 793 |
| 2022 | 529 | 277 | -- | 830 |

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (nine or fewer deaths)

* Total firearm deaths include homicides, legal intervention deaths, suicides, unintentional deaths, and deaths of undetermined intent

Since 2020, firearm deaths have outpaced motor vehicle deaths in Wisconsin, a shocking fact when one considers a person's daily exposure to motor vehicles as opposed to firearms (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Rate^d of firearm deaths and motor vehicle deaths in Wisconsin, 2002 — 2022¹



^d All death rates presented in this report are per 100,000 and adjusted for age unless otherwise noted.

Rates of both suicides and homicides due to firearms have increased in Wisconsin over the last two decades (Figure 2). Trends in overall firearm deaths have consistently increased by geography^e (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Rate of firearm suicide and firearm homicide in Wisconsin, 2002 — 2022¹

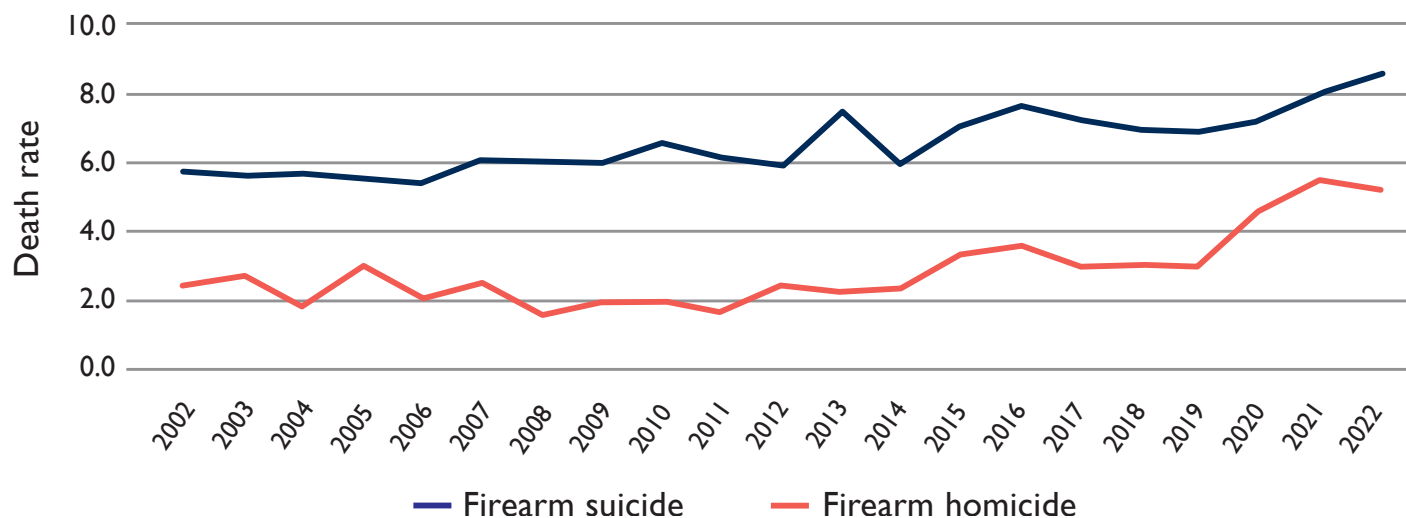
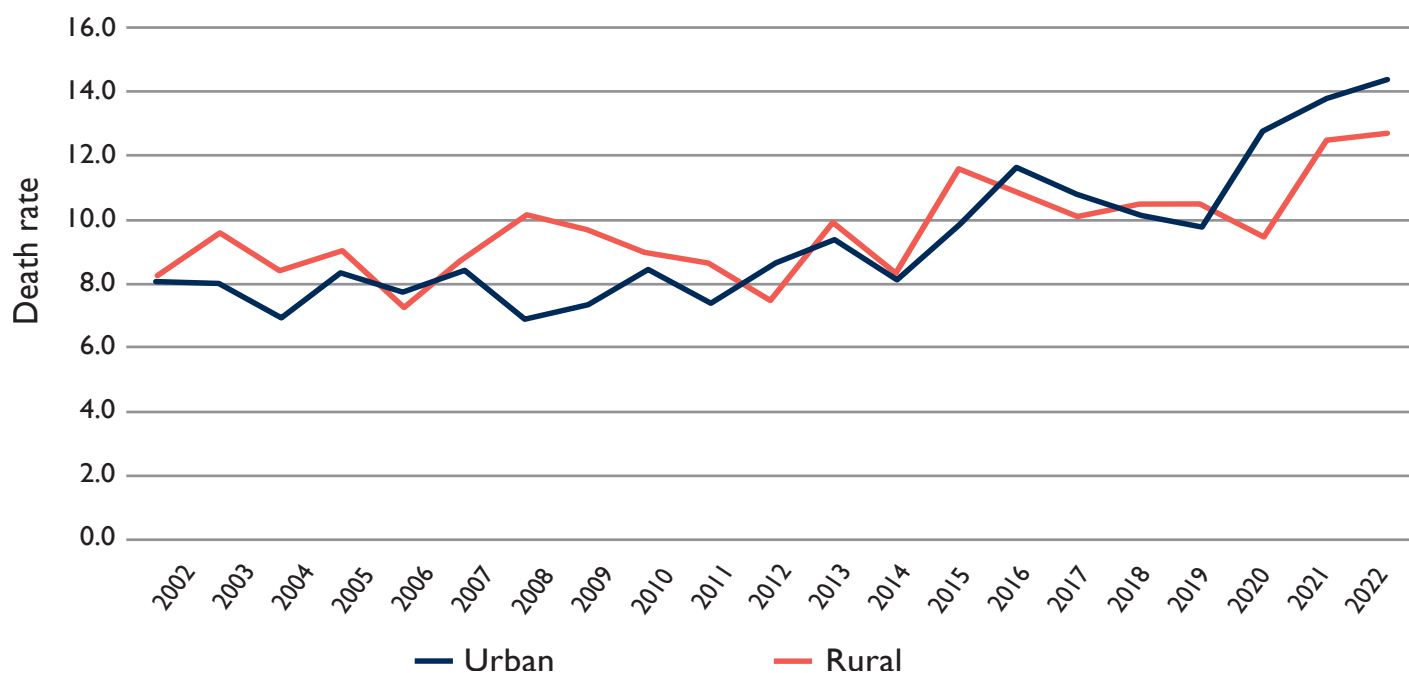


Figure 3. Firearm death rates in Wisconsin by geography, 2002 — 2022¹



^e The terms “rural” and “urban” used in this report are based on the National Center for Health Statistics’ 2013 Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties, which categorizes counties into six urbanization categories. The “rural” category (also known as “non-metro”) includes micropolitan and non-core counties and the “urban” category (also known as “metro”) includes counties considered large central metro, large fringe metro, medium metro, and small metro. More information is available at <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/help/injury-reports/#data-filters-metro-non-metro-indicator>.



Keekee Allen-Bonds, Amareon's mother
Photo of Amareon, courtesy of Keekee Allen-Bonds

Losing my son, Amareon Allen, on November 10, 2021, was the most horrific, most unexpected thing that God has put on my plate. It has caused unexplainable heartbreak for the rest of my life. There's not a word in the dictionary that describes my pain. Due to his death, I'll never breathe, think, or be the same anymore.

I took pieces of my pain and birthed Amareon his own "baby" by establishing his nonprofit organization, The Amareon Allen Foundation. The foundation shares the story of his love for football and continues his legacy.

Starting the foundation for him has led me to interact with youth and support young athletes. It also continues his legacy by helping to support others who must get through the process of unexplainable heartbreak. I've received an opportunity to not let his name die and the privilege to stay strong throughout sorrow and unpleasant memories. My son, Amareon, will be missed forever.

Suicide in Wisconsin

In 2022, 924 lives were lost to suicide in Wisconsin (Table 2). The majority of suicide victims (including those who died by firearm suicide) were male and white.

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of all suicide victims and firearm suicide victims in Wisconsin, 2022¹

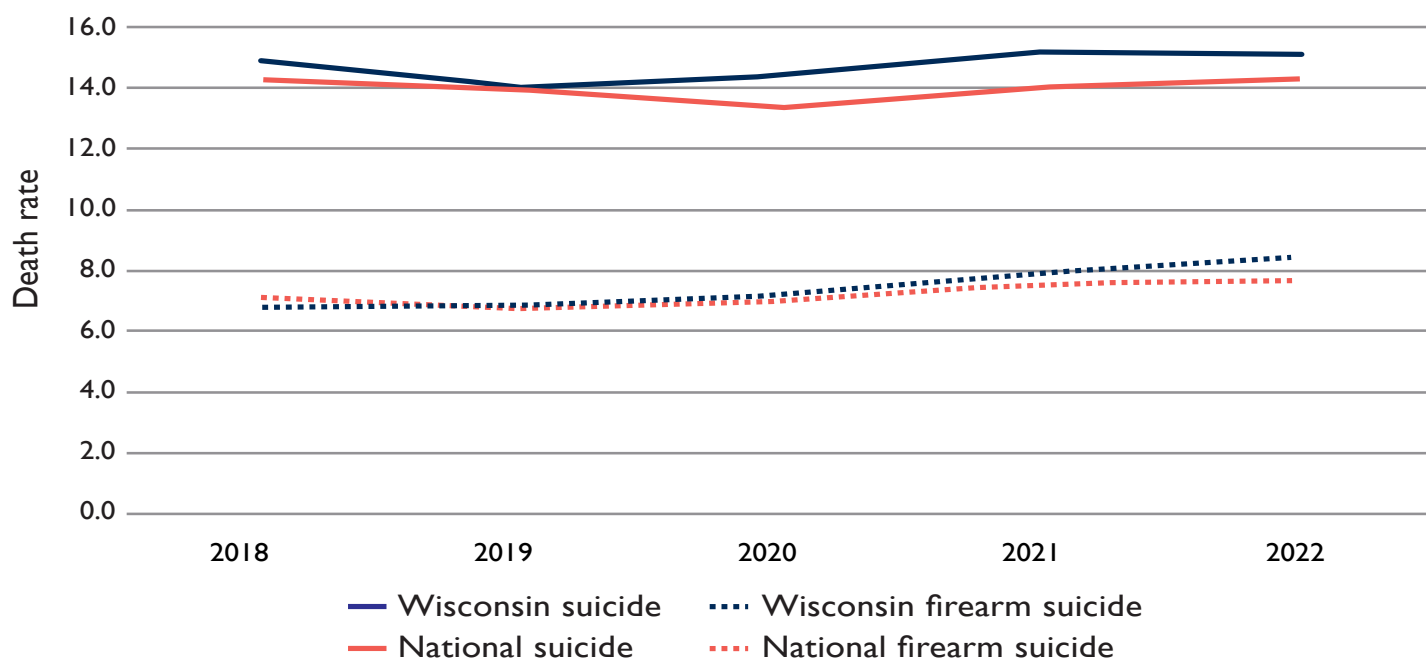
| | All suicide victims | Firearm suicide victims |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Total victims | 924 (100.0%) | 529 (100.0%) |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 736 (79.7%) | 467 (88.3%) |
| Female | 188 (20.3%) | 62 (11.7%) |
| Age | | |
| <10 | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) |
| 10-24 | 125 (13.5%) | 65 (12.3%) |
| 25-44 | 316 (34.2%) | 171 (32.3%) |
| 45-64 | 278 (30.1%) | 159 (30.1%) |
| 65-79 | 153 (16.6%) | 99 (18.7%) |
| 80+ | 52 (5.6%) | 35 (6.6%) |
| Race and ethnicity | | |
| American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic | 15 (1.6%) | -- |
| Asian, non-Hispanic* | 18 (1.9%) | -- |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 56 (6.1%) | 36 (6.8%) |
| White, non-Hispanic | 791 (85.6%) | 462 (87.3%) |
| More than one race, non-Hispanic | 10 (1.1%) | -- |
| Hispanic | 34 (3.7%) | 13 (2.5%) |

* The "Asian" category includes Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (nine or fewer deaths)

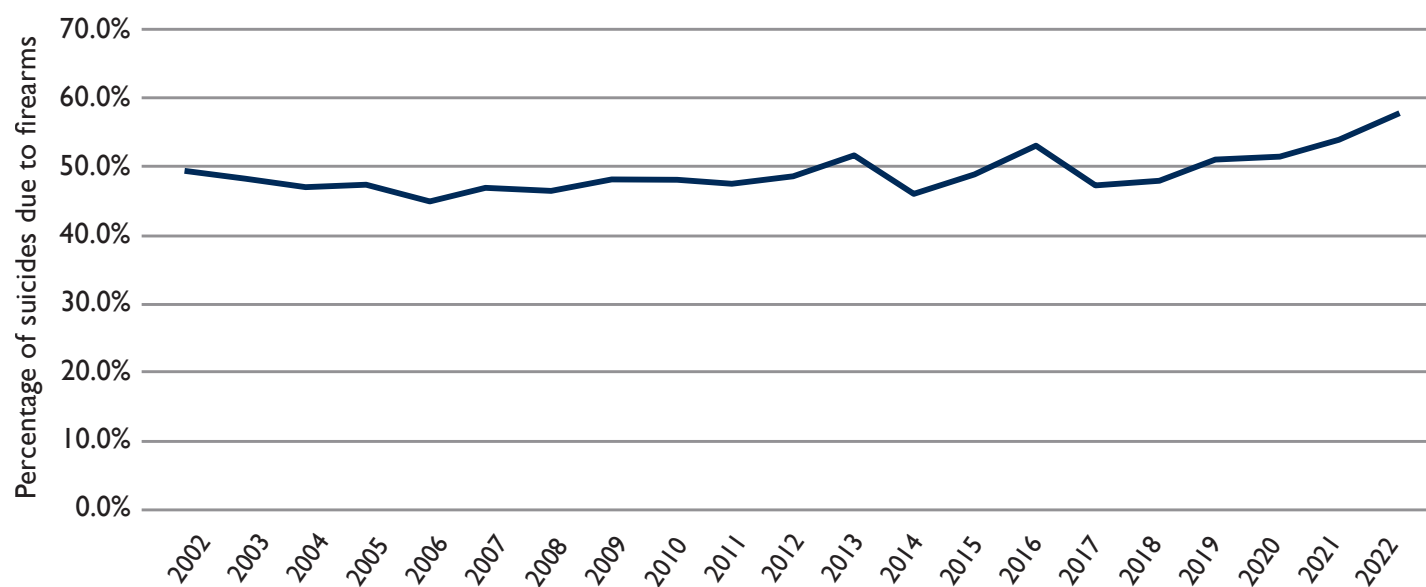
Rates of overall suicide and firearm suicide in Wisconsin are similar to national rates (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Suicide and firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin and the U.S., 2018 — 2022¹



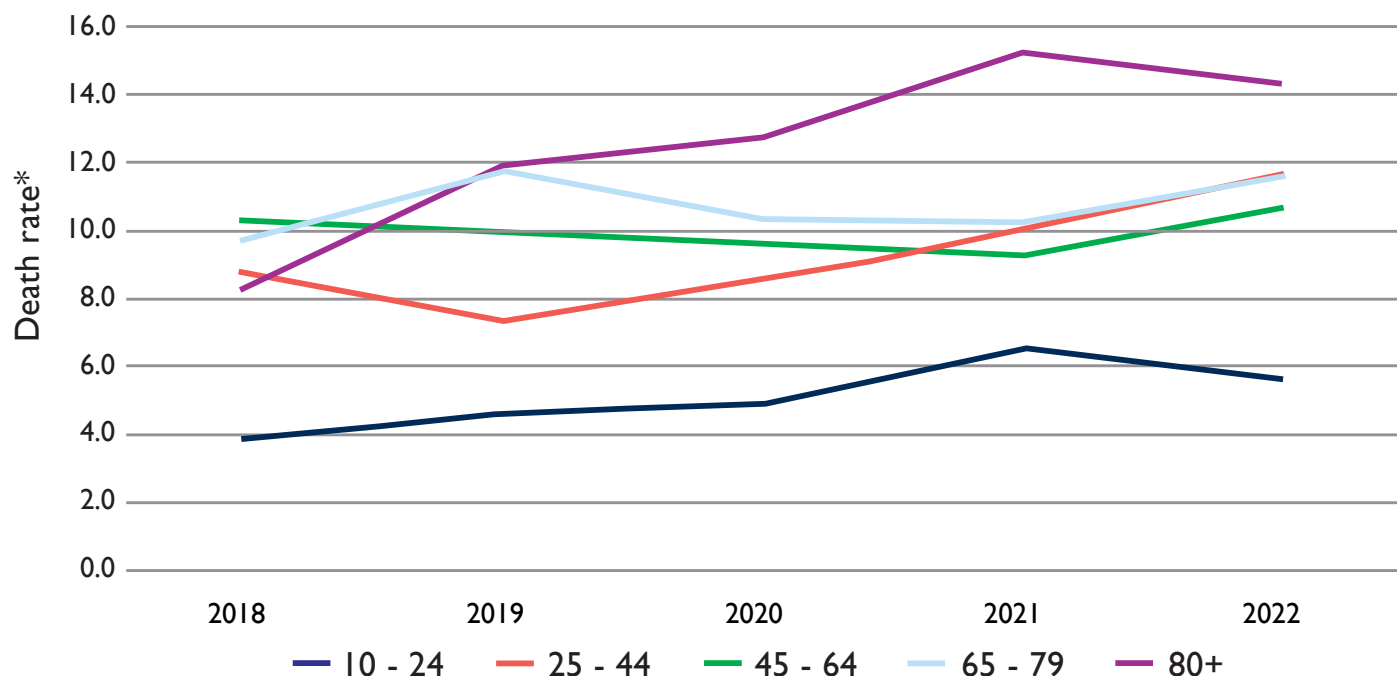
Understanding the role of firearms in suicide is important to developing suicide prevention strategies. The percentage of suicides due to firearms in Wisconsin has increased in recent years, from 47.0 percent in 2017 to 57.3 percent in 2022 (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Percentage of suicides in Wisconsin due to firearms, 2002 — 2022¹



Examining firearm suicide rates for different age groups reveals important differences between ages (Figure 6). Wisconsin residents ages 80 and older have the highest rates of firearm suicide, though rates in this age group decreased between 2021 and 2022, from 15.2 per 100,000 to 14.3 per 100,000. Firearm suicide rates increased between 2021 and 2022 among the following age groups: 25-44, 45-64, and 65-79.

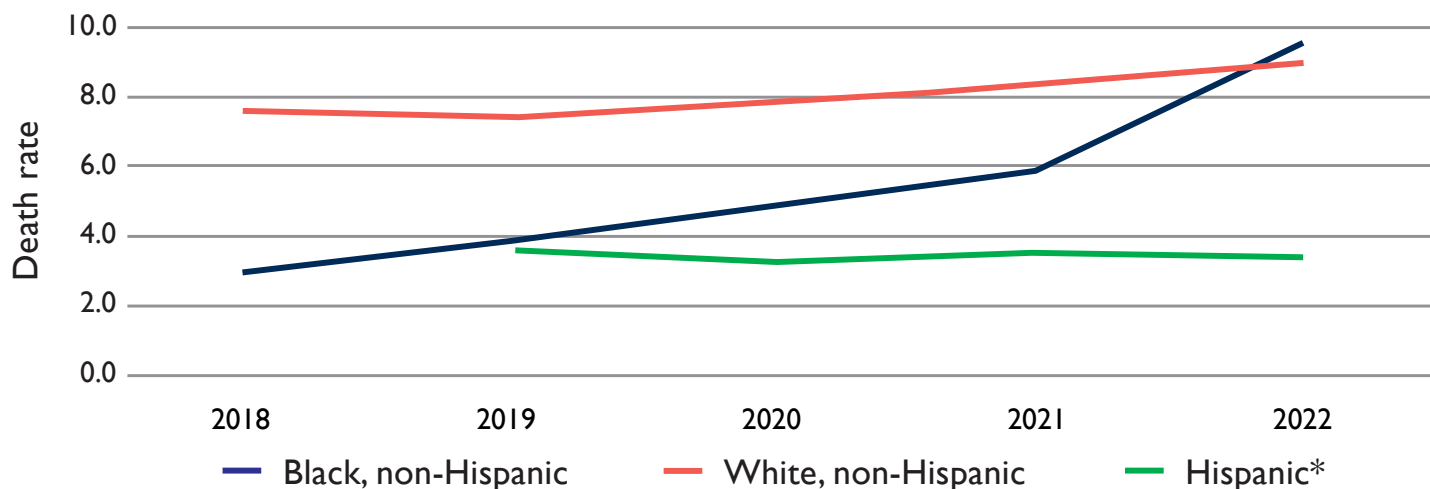
Figure 6. Firearm suicide rates* in Wisconsin by age group, 2018 — 2022¹



* Rates are not adjusted for age

Suicide by firearm also varies by race in Wisconsin. Though the white population in Wisconsin has historically had the highest rate of suicide by firearm in the state, the Black population surpassed this disturbing metric in 2022 (Figure 7). Between 2018 and 2022 the firearm suicide rate among Black Wisconsin residents more than tripled — from 3.0 per 100,000 to 9.4 per 100,000.

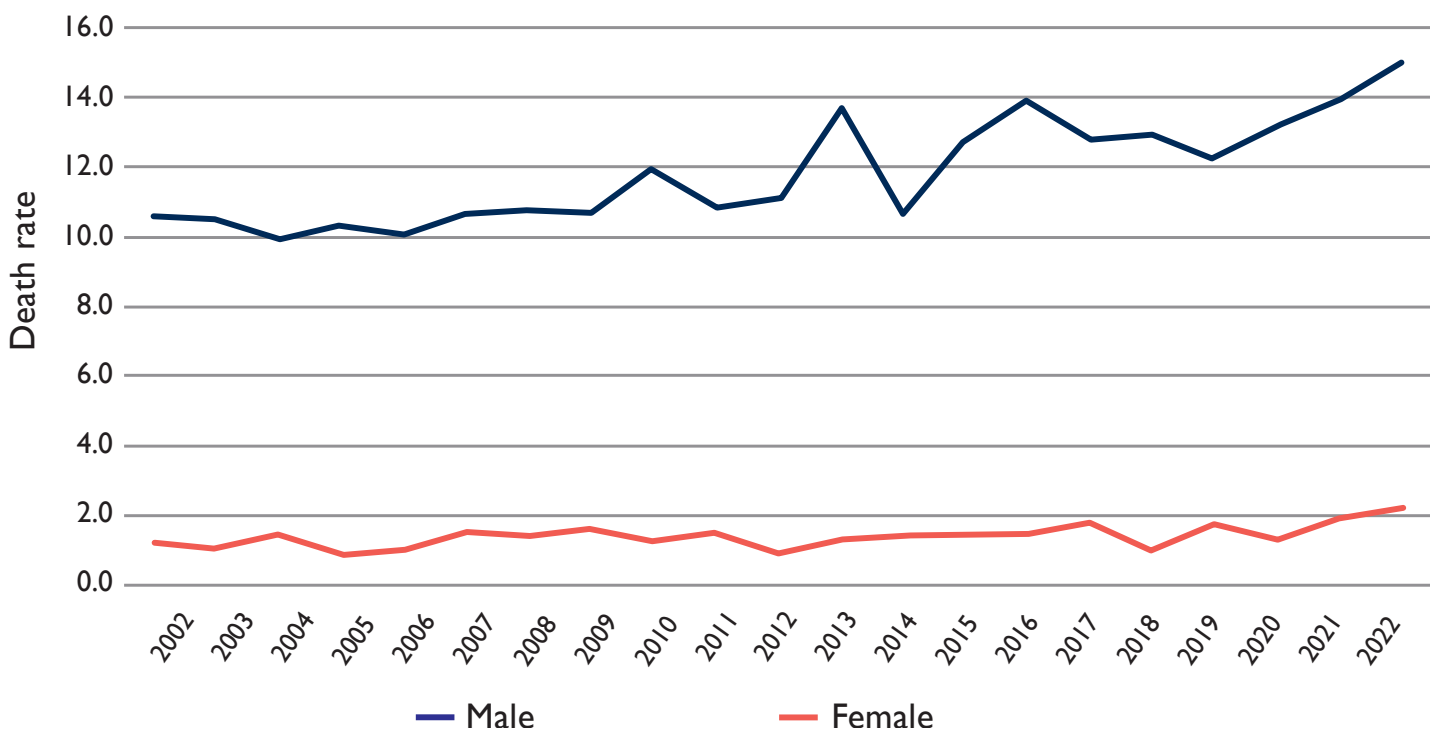
Figure 7. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by race and ethnicity, 2018 — 2022¹



* The 2018 suicide death rate for the Hispanic population is suppressed due to a small number of deaths in this category

Males in Wisconsin have significantly higher firearm suicide rates compared to females, and rates have been increasing since 2019, from 12.1 to 14.9 per 100,000 (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by sex, 2002 — 2022¹





Frank Cimorelli, Cam's father
Photo of Frank and Cam, courtesy of Frank Cimorelli

My son Camden was my best friend, but he struggled with mental health for about 10 years, going in and out of dark spaces. There were times when we thought he had gotten better, but over time, the dark spaces got deeper. The day he came home and told me he'd bought his first gun, my heart dropped to my stomach. I knew then what it was going to be used for. Having to live with that was horrible.

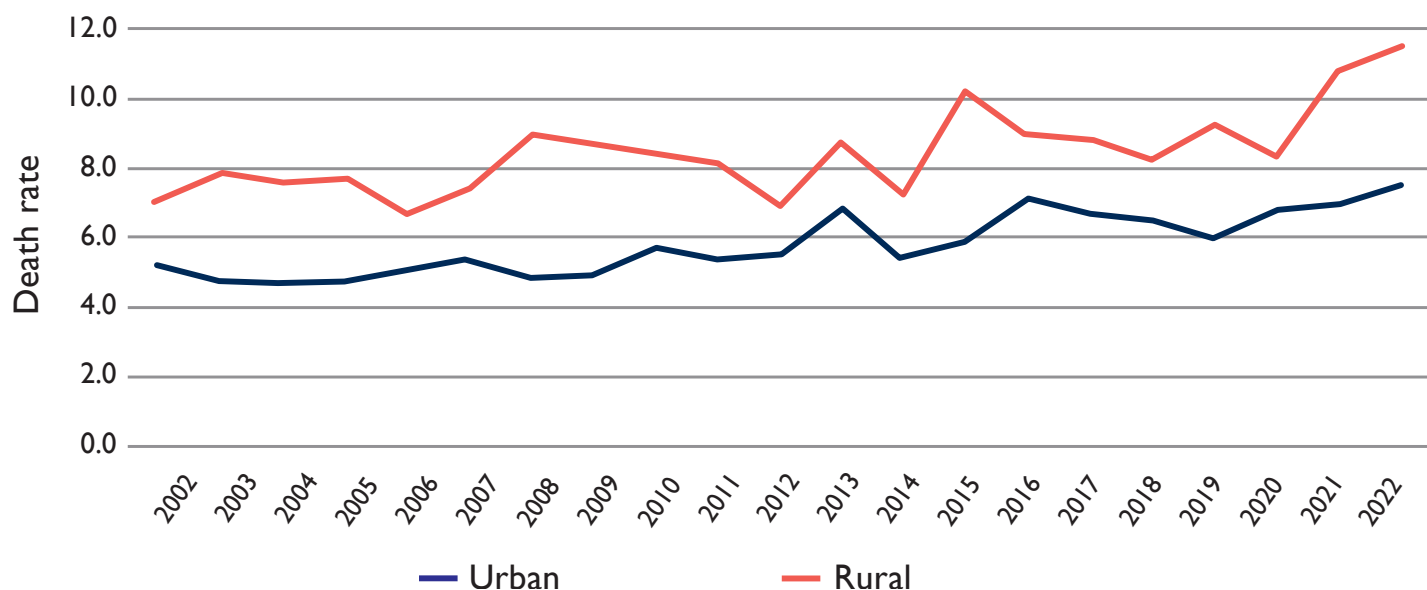
On December 1, 2022, Cam attempted suicide, and he died six weeks later. He

was only 24. I spent those weeks in a fog. Nothing was bright; there were no colors. Thinking about the feelings I had at that time makes me sick. But I know I need to do that. I'll tell the story a thousand times if it can help even one family not feel how I feel. I don't mind guns; the vast majority of gun owners are responsible. But there are laws today that don't make any sense. My son should not have been able to get a gun, but because no law prevented it, he bought three. And yes, one was an AR-15.

Suicide and Geography

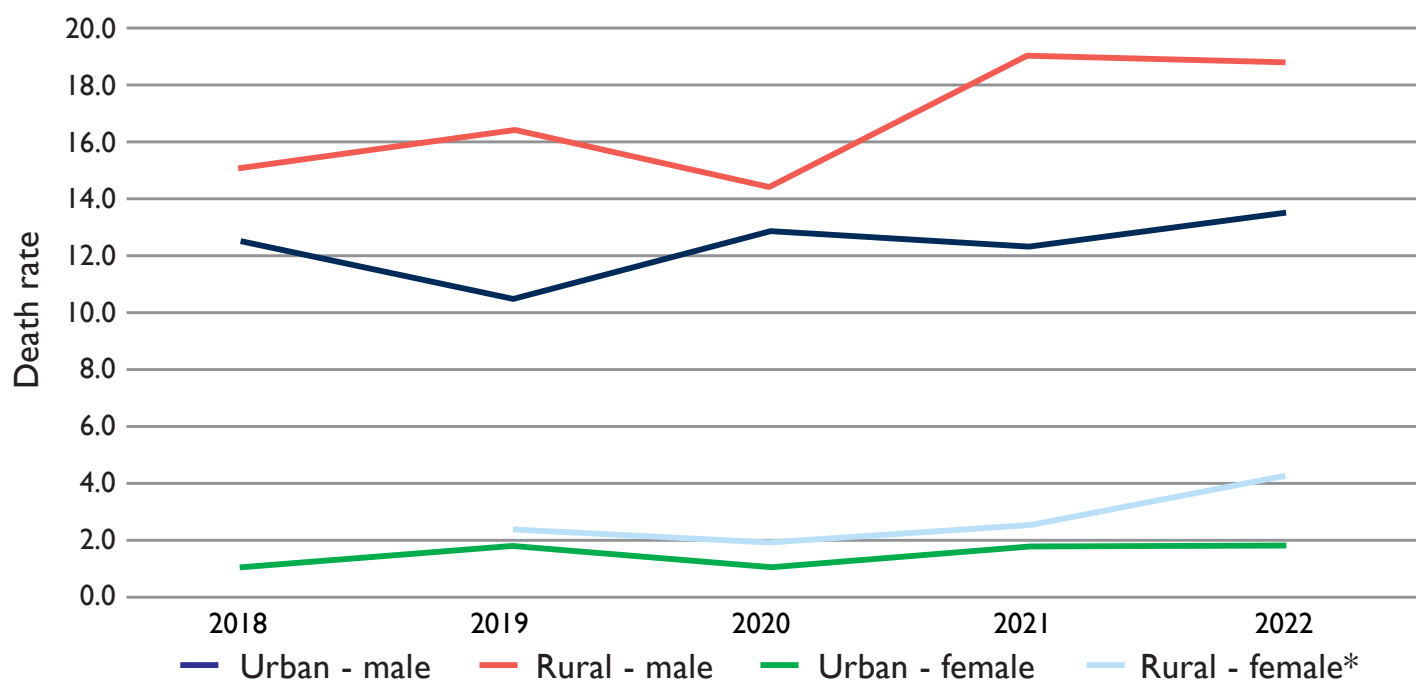
Over the last two decades, firearm suicide rates have remained higher in rural Wisconsin compared to urban areas (Figure 9). Though firearm suicide rates have increased statewide in recent years, the increase is more pronounced in rural areas, jumping from 8.2 per 100,000 in 2020 to 11.4 per 100,000 in 2022.

Figure 9. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by geography, 2002 — 2022¹



Males in rural areas have the highest rates of firearm suicide compared to those in urban areas and females (Figure 10).

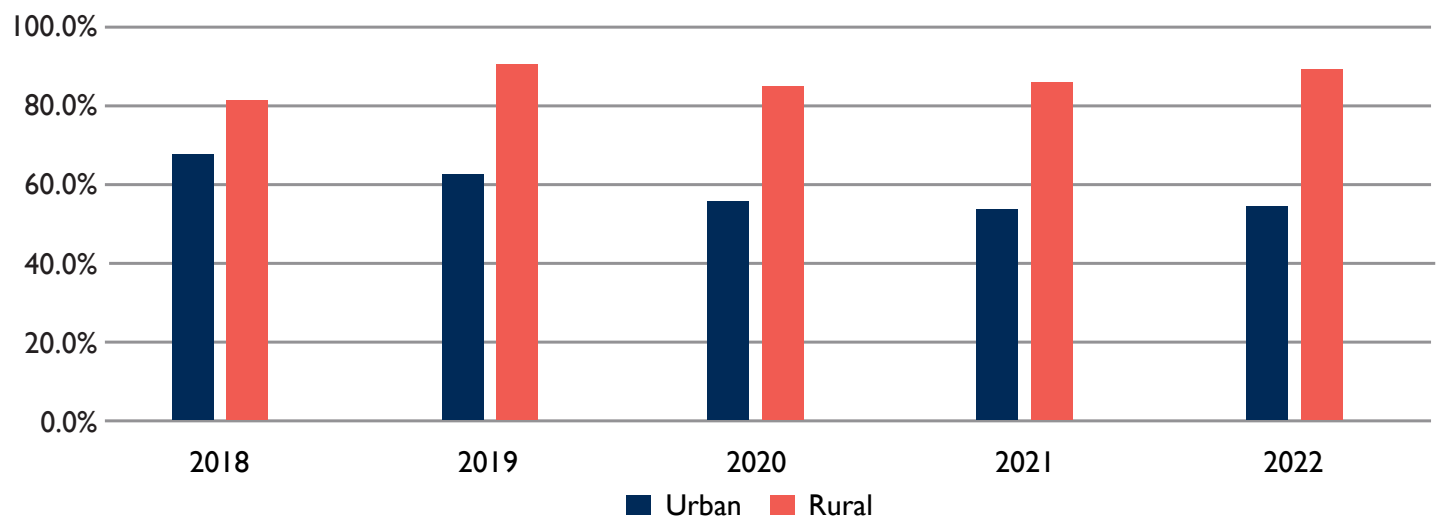
Figure 10. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by sex and geography, 2018 — 2022¹



* The 2018 suicide death rate for the rural female population is suppressed due to the small number of deaths in this category

Indeed, the majority of firearm deaths in rural areas of Wisconsin are suicide deaths (Figure 11), increasing from 81.0 percent in 2018 to 91.0 percent in 2022.

Figure 11. Percentage of firearm deaths in Wisconsin due to suicide by geography, 2018 — 2022¹



Homicide in Wisconsin

In 2022, 327 lives were lost to homicide in Wisconsin (Table 3). The majority of homicide victims (including those who died by firearm homicide) were male and Black.

Table 3. Demographic characteristics of all homicide victims and firearm homicide victims in Wisconsin, 2022¹

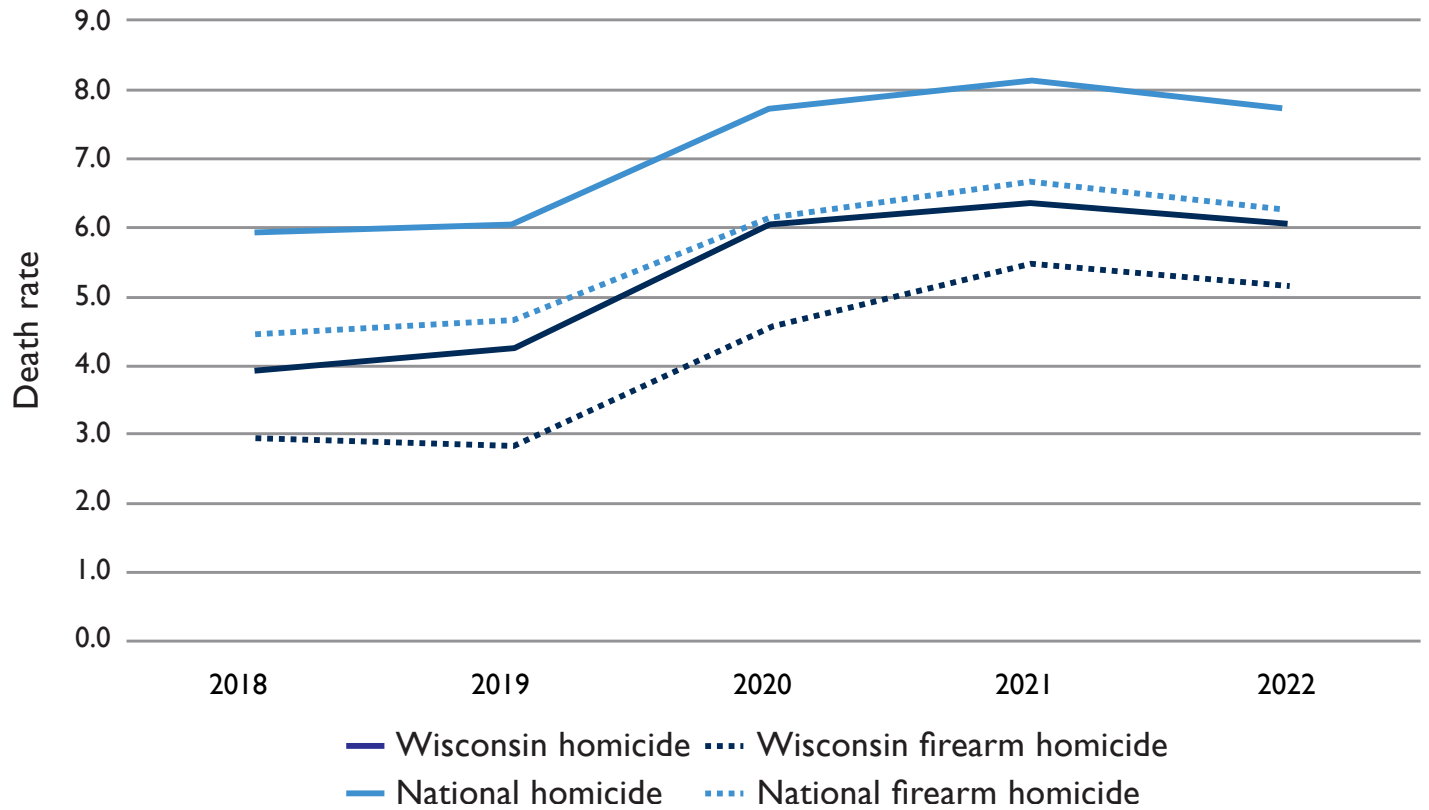
| | All homicide victims | Firearm homicide victims |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Total victims | 327 (100.0%) | 277 (100.0%) |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 235 (71.9%) | 208 (75.1%) |
| Female | 92 (28.1%) | 69 (24.9%) |
| Age | | |
| <10 | 15 (4.6%) | -- |
| 10-24 | 91 (27.8%) | 80 (28.9%) |
| 25-44 | 150 (45.9%) | 137 (49.5%) |
| 45-64 | 54 (16.5%) | 41 (14.8%) |
| 65-79 | 15 (4.6%) | 12 (4.3%) |
| 80+ | -- | -- |
| Race and ethnicity | | |
| American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic | -- | -- |
| Asian, non-Hispanic* | -- | -- |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 229 (70.0%) | 209 (75.5%) |
| White, non-Hispanic | 63 (19.3%) | 36 (13.0%) |
| More than one race, non-Hispanic | -- | -- |
| Hispanic | 25 (7.6%) | 24 (8.7%) |

* The "Asian" category includes Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (nine or fewer deaths)

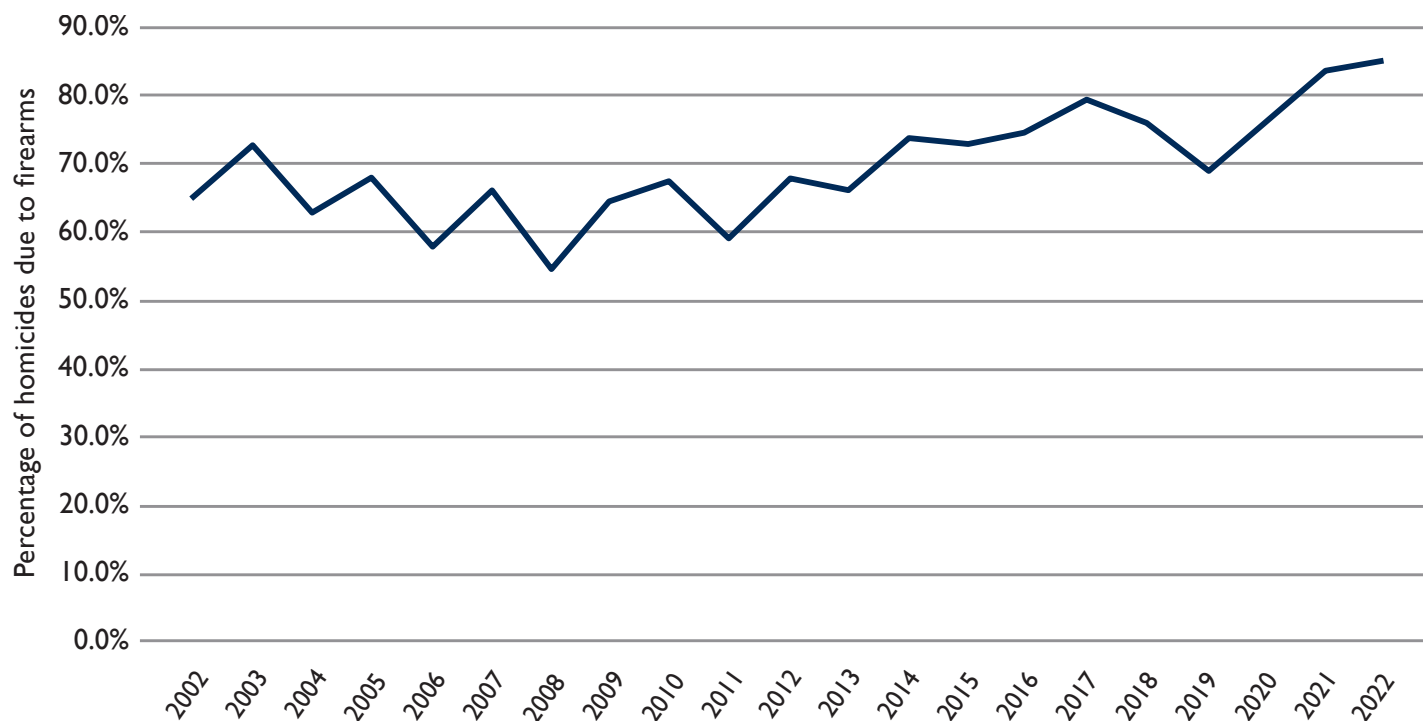
Homicide and firearm homicide rates are lower in Wisconsin compared to national rates (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Homicide and firearm homicide rates in Wisconsin and the U.S., 2018 — 2022¹



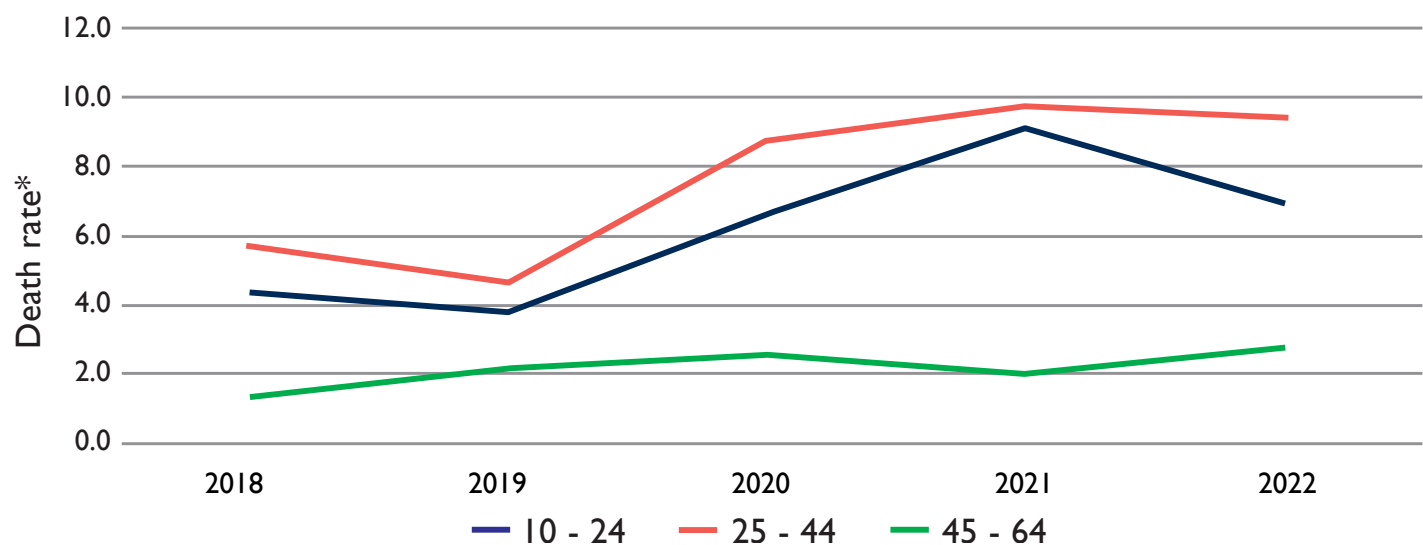
Similar to suicide, the percentage of homicides due to firearms has increased in recent years, from 67.7 percent in 2019 to 84.7 percent in 2022 (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Percentage of homicides in Wisconsin due to firearms, 2002 — 2022¹



The highest firearm homicide rate in Wisconsin was among 25 to 44 year olds, increasing from 3.8 per 100,000 in 2019 to 6.9 per 100,000 in 2022 (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Firearm homicide rates* in Wisconsin by age, 2018 — 2022¹**



* Rates are not adjusted for age

** Ages 65 and older are not shown on this graph due to small numbers in the older age groups



Jennifer Gaspard, Henry's mother
Photo of Henry, courtesy of Jennifer Gaspard

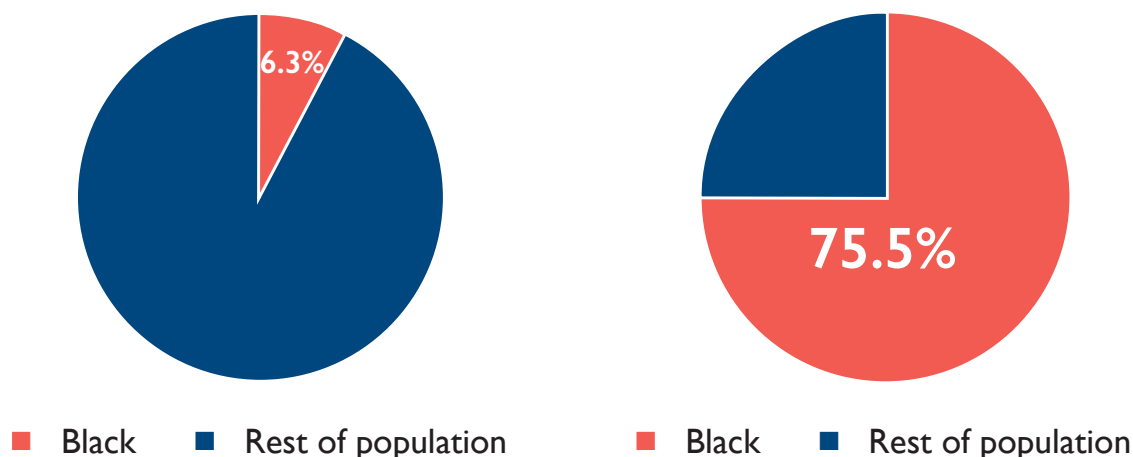
The loss of a child to gun violence is a tragedy like no other for any parent. It transcends mere anger; it's a unique form of grief, shaped by the circumstances surrounding the tragedy. My sixteen-year-old son, Henry, lost his life on April 16th, 2021. While my son Henry was sleeping, his father shot him several times.

The trauma and grief I carry has only intensified since that fateful day. The sheer horror of what happened, coupled with the deliberate act that ended his existence, has left an indelible scar on my three older sons and me. This unimaginable pain persists, affecting me deeply and permanently.

To cope with the pain, advocacy has become my lifeline. I channel my grief into action, fighting for stronger gun laws — for an extreme risk law that might spare other families this agony. It's a way to honor Henry, to ensure his absence isn't in vain. I share his story, hoping it pierces hearts, ignites empathy, and sparks change. We must take urgent action to protect our children and the lives of others.

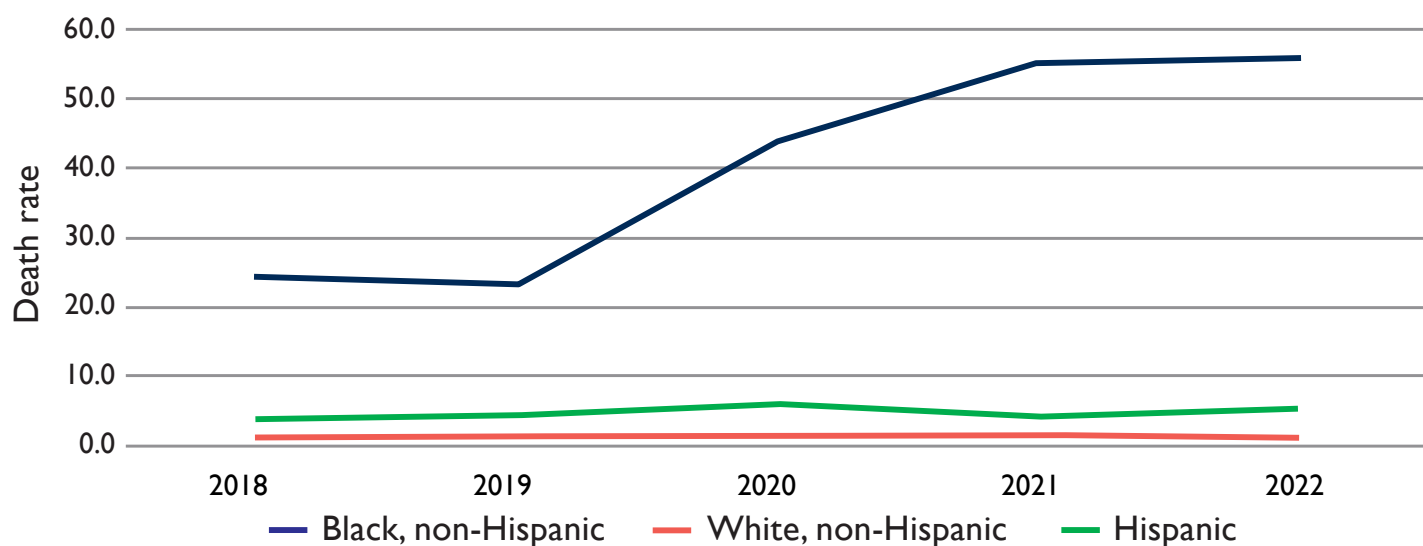
Significant racial disparities exist in Wisconsin with regard to firearm homicide. Though only 6.3 percent of the Wisconsin population is Black, non-Hispanic, more than three quarters of firearm homicide victims in the state were Black, non-Hispanic in 2022 (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Black percentage of Wisconsin population (left figure); Black percentage of firearm homicide victims in Wisconsin (right figure), 2022¹



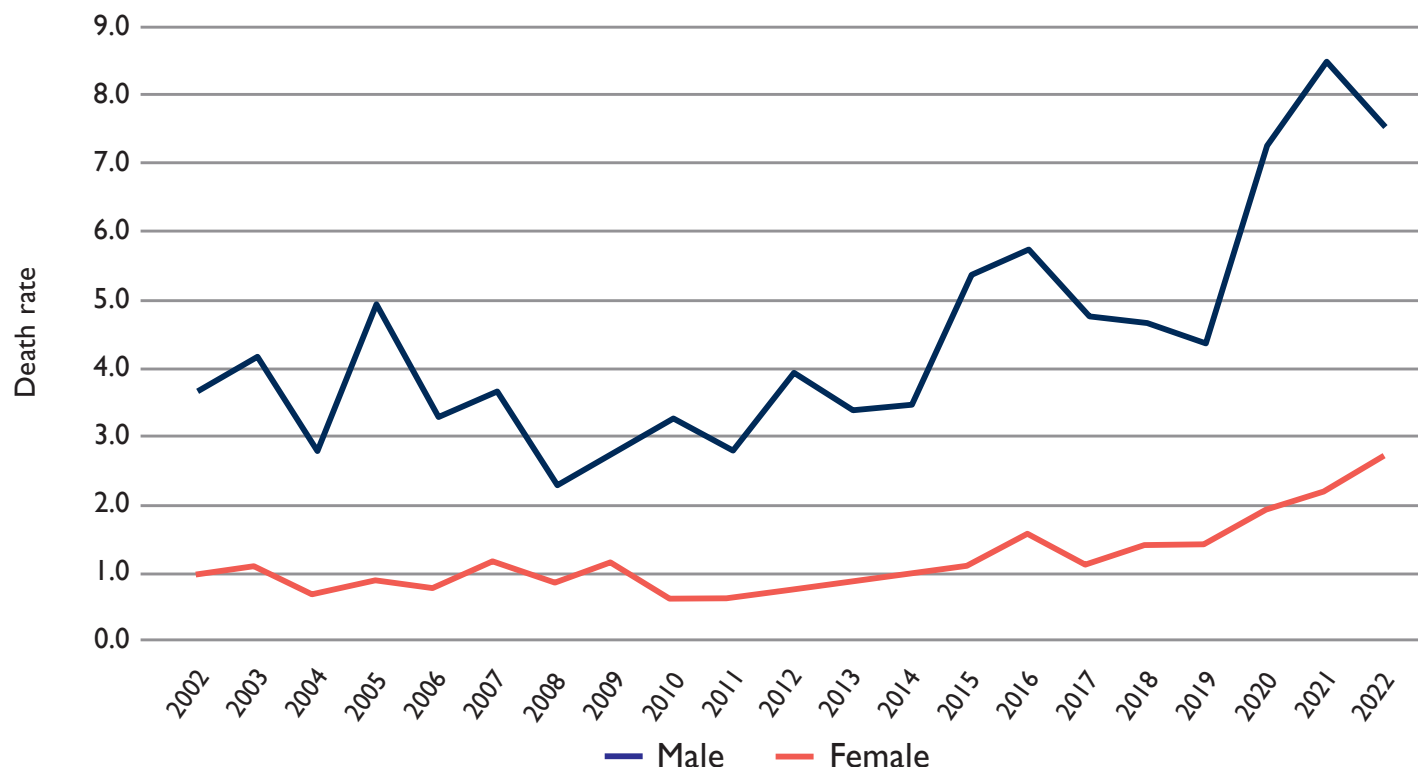
Though rates have remained relatively stable for the white, non-Hispanic and Hispanic populations in the state, rates of firearm homicide have more than doubled among the Black, non-Hispanic population in Wisconsin — from 23.0 per 100,000 in 2019 to 55.9 per 100,000 in 2022 (Figure 16). In 2022, Black residents in Wisconsin were almost 70 times more likely to die by firearm homicide compared to white residents, for whom the firearm homicide rate was 0.8 per 100,000. The Violence Policy Center’s annual study *Black Homicide Victimization in the United States* found that Wisconsin had the second highest rate of Black homicide victimization in 2022, surpassed only by Missouri.²

Figure 16. Firearm homicide rates in Wisconsin by race and ethnicity, 2018 — 2022¹



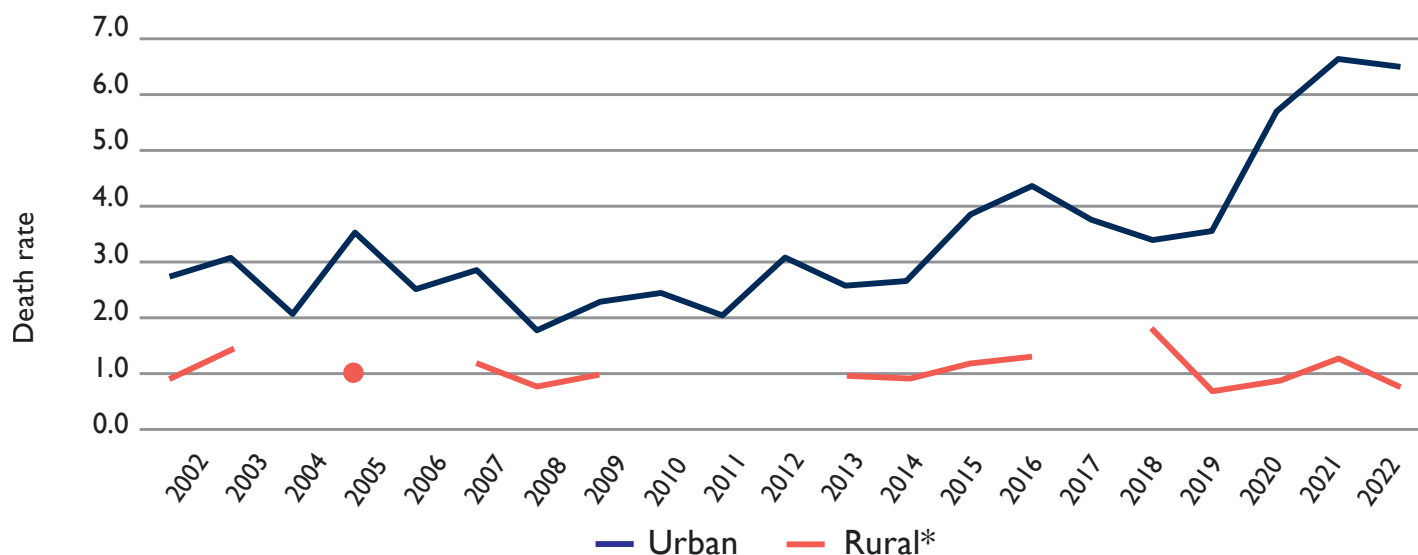
Firearm homicide rates have also increased more substantially among males in Wisconsin compared to females (Figure 17) — from 4.3 per 100,000 in 2019 to 7.5 per 100,000 in 2022.

Figure 17. Firearm homicide rates in Wisconsin by sex, 2002 — 2022¹



While firearm homicide rates decreased in rural areas of Wisconsin between 2021 and 2022, rates have been increasing in urban areas (Figure 18). Between 2018 and 2022, urban firearm homicide rates nearly doubled from 3.3 per 100,000 in 2018 to 6.5 per 100,000 in 2022.

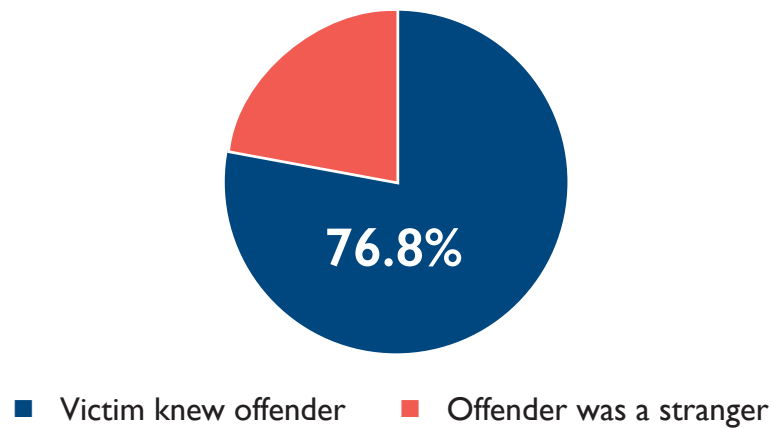
Figure 18. Firearm homicide rates* in Wisconsin by geography, 2002 — 2022¹



* The rural firearm homicide rate is suppressed for years 2004, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2017 due to a small number of deaths in these years

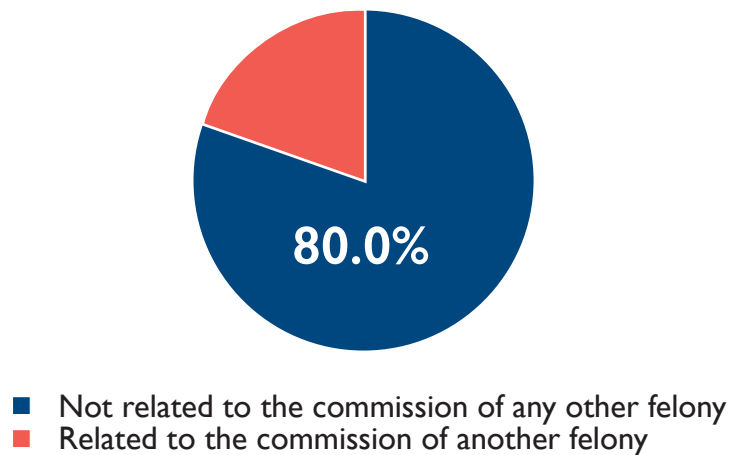
According to 2022 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data, for homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 76.8 percent of Wisconsin homicide victims were killed by someone they knew (162 out of 211, Figure 19).

Figure 19. Percentage of homicide victims who knew their offender, Wisconsin, 2022³



For Wisconsin homicides in which the circumstances were known, 80.0 percent (184 out of 230) were not related to the commission of any other felony (Figure 20). Of these, 41.3 percent (76 homicides) involved an argument between the victim and offender.

Figure 20. Percentage of homicides that were not related to the commission of any other felony, Wisconsin, 2022³





Brenda Hines, Donovan's mother
Photo of Donovan and Brenda together,
courtesy of Brenda Hines

Everything about Donovan was wonderful. If I was working at an event, he was the first one to show up, to give me a smile, to see how the event was going. When I would go somewhere because of my work as a chaplain, he would check to make sure I was safe as I went to help other families. I never imagined that it would happen to me — that my son would be taken. When I heard he had been killed, it was like I got hit by a freight train. I couldn't breathe for so long. I was hurt, shocked, humiliated. It felt like the end of the world.

It bothers me every day that his murder is unsolved. I have to live with not knowing who did this to Donovan, or even why it happened. When I call the detectives, I'm told they don't have time for this case, that they're busy with new cases. It hurts having to see it happen to more and more families.

Our community is hurting, and hurt people hurt other people. We're losing far too many children and teenagers. Something needs to be done, which is why I started the Donovan Hines Foundation of Exuberance. I'm very proud of the accomplishments of the Donovan Hines Foundation, especially the summer meal program. The reason I do these programs and events is because of Donovan. When I help other families, that helps me to breathe. It helps me to live.

Wisconsin Gun Deaths Compared to Other Great Lakes States

When compared to other Great Lakes states, Wisconsin had the second lowest overall firearm death rate as well as firearm homicide death rate. However, Wisconsin was tied with Ohio for the second highest firearm suicide rate (Table 4). Indiana had the highest firearm suicide rate in 2022, while Illinois had the highest firearm homicide rate.

Table 4. Firearm death rates by state, 2022¹

| | Overall firearm | Firearm suicide | Firearm homicide |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Wisconsin | 14.0 | 8.4 | 5.1 |
| Indiana | 17.4 | 9.5 | 7.1 |
| Ohio | 15.6 | 8.4 | 6.8 |
| Michigan | 15.0 | 7.9 | 6.9 |
| Pennsylvania | 14.7 | 7.4 | 7.0 |
| Illinois | 14.4 | 5.0 | 9.2 |
| Minnesota | 9.6 | 6.7 | 2.7 |

Wisconsin Crime Gun Trace Data from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

The vast majority of firearms recovered in Wisconsin originated in-state (84.5 percent, Figure 21). This percentage is similar to other Great Lakes states, with the exception of Illinois (Table 5).

Figure 21. Percentage of firearms sourced in the state of recovery for all Great Lakes states, 2022⁴

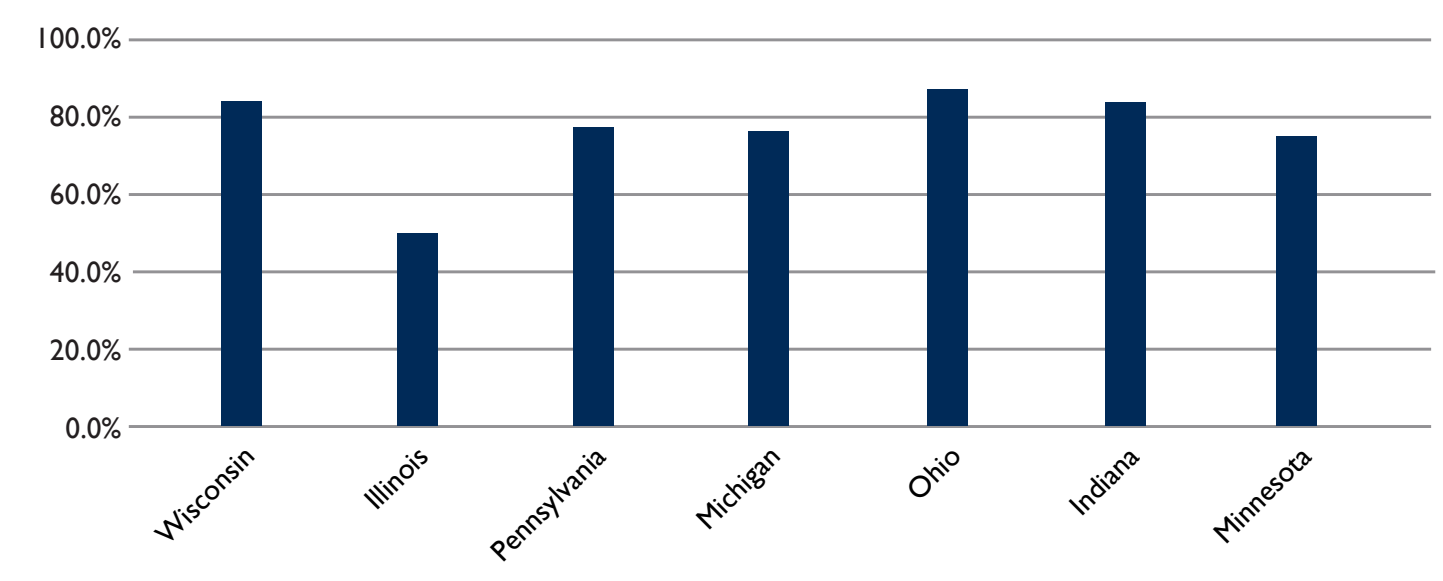


Table 5. Source states for firearms recovered in Great Lakes states⁴

| | In-State | Other Great Lakes states | Other named U.S. states and Puerto Rico |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Wisconsin | 5,807 (84.5%) | 396 (5.8%) | 669 (9.7%) |
| Illinois | 7,479 (48.7%) | 3,508 (22.8%) | 4,366 (28.4%) |
| Pennsylvania | 10,071 (78.9%) | 256 (2.0%) | 2,445 (19.1%) |
| Michigan | 6,836 (78.2%) | 689 (7.9%) | 1,221 (14.0%) |
| Ohio | 14,859 (85.0%) | 559 (3.2%) | 2,059 (11.8%) |
| Indiana | 7,880 (83.5%) | 469 (5.0%) | 1,085 (11.5%) |
| Minnesota | 3,008 (73.7%) | 304 (7.4%) | 769 (18.8%) |

In 2022, more than 8,000 firearms were recovered in Wisconsin and traced. Almost all of the firearms recovered and traced were handguns — 79.8 percent were pistols and 6.0 percent were revolvers (Table 6).

Table 6. Firearm types with a Wisconsin recovery, 2022⁴

| | Number (%) recovered |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Pistols | 6,387 (79.8%) |
| Rifles | 717 (9.0%) |
| Revolvers | 477 (6.0%) |
| Shotguns | 345 (4.3%) |
| Derringers | 30 (0.4%) |
| Machine guns | 21 (0.3%) |
| Other* | 30 (0.4%) |

* Other includes Receivers/Frames, Unknown Types, Silencers, a Combination and a Destructive Device.

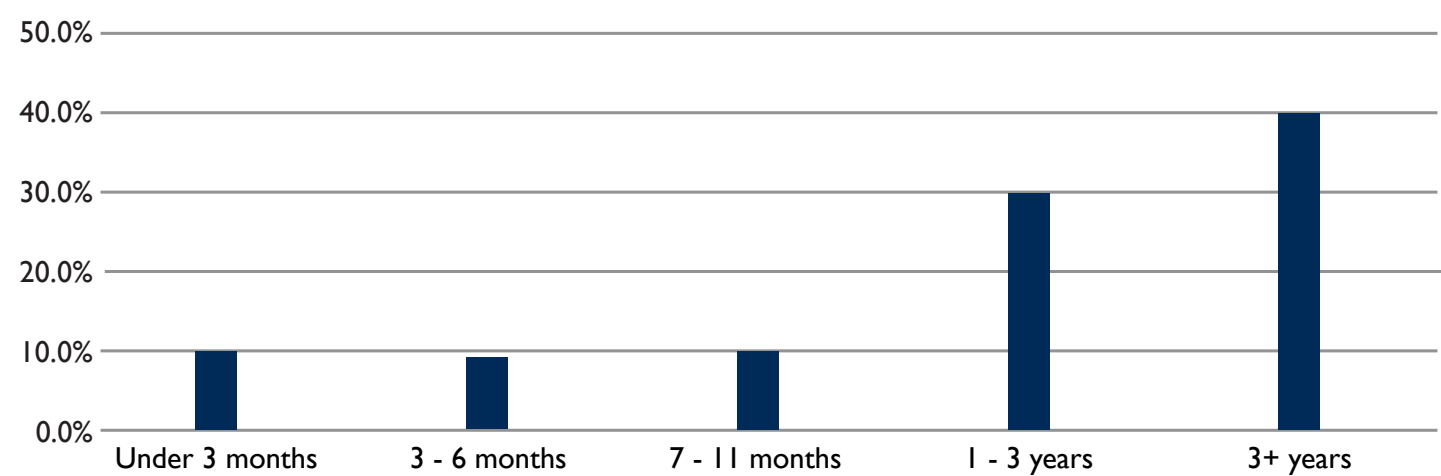
One-third of firearms recovered in Wisconsin were traced because the weapon was under investigation (32.1 percent, Table 7).

Table 7. Top categories reported on firearm traces with a Wisconsin recovery, 2022⁴

| | Number (%) traced |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Firearm under investigation | 2,572 (32.1%) |
| Possession of weapon | 2,015 (25.2%) |
| Carrying concealed weapon | 1,066 (13.3%) |
| Found firearm | 367 (4.6%) |
| Dangerous drugs | 326 (4.1%) |
| Homicide | 258 (3.2%) |
| Weapon offense | 249 (3.1%) |
| Family offense | 172 (2.1%) |
| Suicide | 163 (2.0%) |
| Traffic offense | 130 (1.6%) |
| Other | 689 (8.6%) |

More than 40 percent of the firearms traced were first recovered by law enforcement three or more years after the weapon was originally purchased (Figure 22).

Figure 22. ‘Time-to-crime’ percentages for firearms with a Wisconsin recovery, 2022⁴



Where information about the age of possessors was available, nearly one-third of possessors were age 24 or younger (Table 8).

Table 8. Age of possessors of firearms with a Wisconsin recovery, 2022⁴

| Age category | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 17 and under | 261 (4.5%) |
| 18-24 | 1,521 (26.4%) |
| 25-30 | 1,316 (22.8%) |
| 31-50 | 2,155 (37.4%) |
| 51+ | 510 (8.8%) |

Nearly 44 percent of firearms recovered in Wisconsin were recovered in Milwaukee (Table 9).

Table 9. Top recovery cities for firearms with a Wisconsin recovery, 2022⁴

| City | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Milwaukee | 3,512 (43.9%) |
| Madison | 467 (5.8%) |
| Racine | 396 (5.0%) |
| Kenosha | 306 (3.8%) |
| West Allis | 304 (3.8%) |
| Green Bay | 177 (2.2%) |
| Appleton | 144 (1.8%) |
| Wauwatosa | 138 (1.7%) |
| Beloit | 131 (1.6%) |
| Waukesha | 127 (1.6%) |
| Other municipalities | 2,298 (28.7%) |

Conclusion

Gun violence remains an ongoing public health crisis in Wisconsin. Firearms are playing an increasingly lethal role in both suicide and homicide deaths in the state. Key findings presented in this report include the following.

- Between 2018 and 2022, the firearm suicide rate among Black Wisconsin residents more than tripled — from 3.0 per 100,000 to 9.4 per 100,000.
- Firearm suicide has increased more rapidly in rural areas of Wisconsin compared to urban areas, from 6.8 per 100,000 in 2012 to 11.4 per 100,000 in 2022.
- Between 2019 and 2022, the firearm homicide rate among Black Wisconsin residents doubled from 23.0 per 100,000 to 55.9 per 100,000.
- Firearm homicide rates have increased dramatically among male Wisconsin residents, from 2.2 per 100,000 in 2008 to 7.5 per 100,000 in 2022.
- Firearm homicide rates have nearly quadrupled in urban areas of the state, from 1.7 per 100,000 in 2008 to 6.5 per 100,000 in 2022.
- The majority of homicide victims in Wisconsin knew their killer (76.8 percent).
- The majority of firearms recovered in Wisconsin originated in Wisconsin (84.5 percent) and handguns were the most common type of firearm recovered in the state and traced (79.8 percent were pistols and 6.0 percent were revolvers).

The data presented in this report describe the devastating impact of fatal gun violence on Wisconsin residents. The WAVE Educational Fund advocates for safer Wisconsin communities by rallying public support, pressing for action, and giving people across the state a place to turn for trusted information and bold leadership on gun violence prevention policies.

WAVE Educational Fund's Recommended Gun Violence Prevention Policies for Wisconsin Include the Following:

- An extreme risk law to give families and law enforcement officers a way to ask a judge to temporarily prohibit a person in crisis from purchasing or possessing a gun.
- A requirement for comprehensive gun purchaser screenings to help keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.
- A statewide domestic violence misdemeanor law aligned with federal law to prohibit all convicted domestic abusers from possessing guns.
- More robust child access prevention policies to protect our youngest citizens from unintentional shootings.
- Statewide funding for community intervention programs to help mediate conflicts using nonviolent solutions and connect people in marginalized communities with essential resources.

Policy Successes

As WAVE Educational Fund continues to advocate for stronger gun violence prevention laws, legislators report hearing more from their constituents than they did in the past about the critical need for stronger gun laws, and bipartisan support for these policies has increased significantly.

In addition to furthering lifesaving laws, WAVE Educational Fund, along with their supporters and the coalitions they lead, have consistently stopped bills that have been shown in other states to increase gun deaths. WAVE Educational Fund opposes the pro-gun lobby's agenda that promotes widespread access to guns by relentlessly countering initiatives like reckless "guns in schools" legislation.

Other Work by WAVE Educational Fund

In addition to WAVE Educational Fund's policy priorities, they work to raise awareness about gun violence and engage with communities that are heavily impacted by gun violence.

WAVE Educational Fund raises awareness by providing educational and advocacy materials through social media, email, in-person presentations, on-the-ground activities, and their website. They also frequently participate in events hosted by partner organizations and especially seek to partner with and support Black- and Brown-led organizations focused on gun violence prevention. Their supporters actively participate in their work for gun violence prevention, justice, and democracy, as well as helping educate the public about important issues like voter registration and voting.

Through public policy, education and awareness, and community engagement, WAVE Educational Fund is helping build a future where everyone can be free from gun violence.

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Appendix

Figure 1. Rates of firearm deaths and motor vehicle deaths in Wisconsin, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Firearm | Motor vehicle crash |
|------|---------|---------------------|
| 2002 | 8.1 | 15.8 |
| 2003 | 8.4 | 16.0 |
| 2004 | 7.4 | 14.7 |
| 2005 | 8.5 | 15.6 |
| 2006 | 7.6 | 13.7 |
| 2007 | 8.5 | 14.3 |
| 2008 | 7.7 | 11.1 |
| 2009 | 7.9 | 10.2 |
| 2010 | 8.6 | 10.8 |
| 2011 | 7.7 | 10.8 |
| 2012 | 8.3 | 11.1 |
| 2013 | 9.7 | 10.3 |
| 2014 | 8.2 | 9.6 |
| 2015 | 10.3 | 10.1 |
| 2016 | 11.4 | 10.9 |
| 2017 | 10.5 | 10.9 |
| 2018 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| 2019 | 10.0 | 10.1 |
| 2020 | 12.1 | 11.6 |
| 2021 | 13.5 | 11.4 |
| 2022 | 14.0 | 10.6 |

Figure 2. Rates of firearm suicide and firearm homicide in Wisconsin, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Firearm suicide | Firearm homicide |
|------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2002 | 5.6 | 2.3 |
| 2003 | 5.5 | 2.6 |
| 2004 | 5.5 | 1.7 |
| 2005 | 5.4 | 2.9 |
| 2006 | 5.3 | 2.0 |
| 2007 | 5.9 | 2.4 |
| 2008 | 5.9 | 1.5 |
| 2009 | 5.9 | 1.9 |
| 2010 | 6.4 | 1.9 |
| 2011 | 6.0 | 1.6 |
| 2012 | 5.8 | 2.3 |
| 2013 | 7.3 | 2.1 |
| 2014 | 5.8 | 2.2 |
| 2015 | 6.9 | 3.2 |
| 2016 | 7.5 | 3.5 |
| 2017 | 7.1 | 2.9 |
| 2018 | 6.8 | 2.9 |
| 2019 | 6.8 | 2.8 |
| 2020 | 7.1 | 4.5 |
| 2021 | 7.8 | 5.4 |
| 2022 | 8.4 | 5.1 |

Figure 3. Firearm death rates in Wisconsin by geography, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Urban | Rural |
|------|-------|-------|
| 2002 | 8.0 | 8.2 |
| 2003 | 8.0 | 9.6 |
| 2004 | 6.9 | 8.3 |
| 2005 | 8.3 | 8.9 |
| 2006 | 7.6 | 7.2 |
| 2007 | 8.4 | 8.7 |
| 2008 | 6.8 | 10.1 |
| 2009 | 7.3 | 9.6 |
| 2010 | 8.3 | 8.9 |
| 2011 | 7.4 | 8.6 |
| 2012 | 8.5 | 7.4 |
| 2013 | 9.5 | 9.9 |
| 2014 | 8.1 | 8.2 |
| 2015 | 9.8 | 11.5 |
| 2016 | 11.6 | 10.7 |
| 2017 | 10.7 | 10.0 |
| 2018 | 10.1 | 10.5 |
| 2019 | 9.8 | 10.5 |
| 2020 | 12.8 | 9.4 |
| 2021 | 13.7 | 12.5 |
| 2022 | 14.3 | 12.7 |

Figure 4. Suicide and firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin and the U.S., 2018 - 2022¹

| | Wisconsin suicide | Wisconsin firearm suicide | National suicide | National firearm suicide |
|------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018 | 14.8 | 6.8 | 14.2 | 7.0 |
| 2019 | 14.0 | 6.8 | 13.9 | 6.8 |
| 2020 | 14.4 | 7.1 | 13.4 | 6.9 |
| 2021 | 15.1 | 7.8 | 14.0 | 7.5 |
| 2022 | 15.1 | 8.4 | 14.2 | 7.6 |

Figure 5. Percentage of suicides in Wisconsin due to firearms, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2002 | 49.1% |
| 2003 | 47.9% |
| 2004 | 46.5% |
| 2005 | 47.0% |
| 2006 | 44.6% |
| 2007 | 46.4% |
| 2008 | 46.3% |
| 2009 | 47.7% |
| 2010 | 47.7% |
| 2011 | 47.1% |
| 2012 | 48.1% |
| 2013 | 51.4% |
| 2014 | 45.8% |
| 2015 | 48.3% |
| 2016 | 52.5% |
| 2017 | 47.0% |
| 2018 | 47.3% |
| 2019 | 50.5% |
| 2020 | 51.0% |
| 2021 | 53.5% |
| 2022 | 57.3% |

Figure 6. Firearm suicide rates* in Wisconsin by age group, 2018 — 2022¹

| | 10-24 | 25-44 | 45-64 | 65-79 | 80+ |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2018 | 3.9 | 8.7 | 10.2 | 9.7 | 8.2 |
| 2019 | 4.6 | 7.3 | 9.8 | 11.7 | 11.8 |
| 2020 | 4.9 | 8.5 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 12.7 |
| 2021 | 6.5 | 10.0 | 9.3 | 10.2 | 15.2 |
| 2022 | 5.6 | 11.6 | 10.6 | 11.6 | 14.3 |

* Rates are not adjusted for age

Figure 7. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by race and ethnicity, 2018 — 2022¹

| | Black, non-Hispanic | White, non-Hispanic | Hispanic* |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 2018 | 3.0 | 7.5 | -- |
| 2019 | 3.9 | 7.4 | 3.6 |
| 2020 | 5.0 | 7.7 | 3.3 |
| 2021 | 5.9 | 8.3 | 3.5 |
| 2022 | 9.4 | 8.9 | 3.4 |

* The 2018 death rate for the Hispanic population is suppressed due to a small number of deaths in this category

Figure 8. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by sex, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Male | Female |
|-------------|------|--------|
| 2002 | 10.5 | 1.1 |
| 2003 | 10.4 | 1.0 |
| 2004 | 9.8 | 1.3 |
| 2005 | 10.2 | 0.8 |
| 2006 | 10.0 | 0.9 |
| 2007 | 10.6 | 1.4 |
| 2008 | 10.7 | 1.3 |
| 2009 | 10.6 | 1.5 |
| 2010 | 11.9 | 1.2 |
| 2011 | 10.8 | 1.4 |
| 2012 | 11.0 | 0.8 |
| 2013 | 13.6 | 1.2 |
| 2014 | 10.5 | 1.4 |
| 2015 | 12.6 | 1.4 |
| 2016 | 13.8 | 1.4 |
| 2017 | 12.7 | 1.7 |
| 2018 | 12.8 | 0.9 |
| 2019 | 12.1 | 1.7 |
| 2020 | 13.1 | 1.2 |
| 2021 | 13.9 | 1.8 |
| 2022 | 14.9 | 2.1 |

Figure 9. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by geography, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Urban | Rural |
|------|-------|-------|
| 2002 | 5.1 | 7.0 |
| 2003 | 4.7 | 7.8 |
| 2004 | 4.6 | 7.5 |
| 2005 | 4.6 | 7.7 |
| 2006 | 4.9 | 6.6 |
| 2007 | 5.3 | 7.4 |
| 2008 | 4.8 | 8.9 |
| 2009 | 4.9 | 8.6 |
| 2010 | 5.6 | 8.3 |
| 2011 | 5.3 | 8.0 |
| 2012 | 5.5 | 6.8 |
| 2013 | 6.7 | 8.7 |
| 2014 | 5.3 | 7.1 |
| 2015 | 5.8 | 10.1 |
| 2016 | 7.1 | 8.8 |
| 2017 | 6.6 | 8.8 |
| 2018 | 6.4 | 8.1 |
| 2019 | 5.9 | 9.2 |
| 2020 | 6.7 | 8.2 |
| 2021 | 6.8 | 10.7 |
| 2022 | 7.4 | 11.4 |

Figure 10. Firearm suicide rates in Wisconsin by sex and geography, 2018 — 2022¹

| | Urban -- male | Rural -- male | Urban -- female | Rural -- female* |
|------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2018 | 12.2 | 15.0 | 0.9 | -- |
| 2019 | 10.4 | 16.3 | 1.6 | 2.1 |
| 2020 | 12.8 | 14.3 | 1.0 | 1.8 |
| 2021 | 12.2 | 18.8 | 1.6 | 2.4 |
| 2022 | 13.4 | 18.7 | 1.6 | 4.0 |

* The 2018 suicide death rate for the rural female population is suppressed due to the small number of deaths in this category

Figure 11. Percentage of firearm deaths in Wisconsin due to suicide by geography, 2018 — 2022¹

| | Urban | Rural |
|------|-------|-------|
| 2018 | 66.4% | 81.0% |
| 2019 | 62.9% | 89.7% |
| 2020 | 55.0% | 86.7% |
| 2021 | 52.3% | 88.1% |
| 2022 | 54.4% | 91.0% |

Figure 12. Homicide and firearm homicide rates in Wisconsin and the U.S., 2018 — 2022¹

| | Wisconsin homicide | Wisconsin firearm homicide | National homicide | National firearm homicide |
|------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 2018 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 5.9 | 4.4 |
| 2019 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 6.0 | 4.6 |
| 2020 | 6.0 | 4.5 | 7.7 | 6.1 |
| 2021 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 8.1 | 6.6 |
| 2022 | 6.0 | 5.1 | 7.7 | 6.2 |

Figure 13. Percentage of homicides in Wisconsin due to firearms, 2018 — 2022¹

| | Percentage |
|------|------------|
| 2002 | 63.9% |
| 2003 | 71.8% |
| 2004 | 61.6% |
| 2005 | 67.4% |
| 2006 | 56.7% |
| 2007 | 65.3% |
| 2008 | 52.9% |
| 2009 | 63.6% |
| 2010 | 66.7% |
| 2011 | 58.1% |
| 2012 | 67.4% |
| 2013 | 65.3% |
| 2014 | 72.9% |
| 2015 | 72.0% |
| 2016 | 73.4% |
| 2017 | 78.7% |
| 2018 | 75.0% |
| 2019 | 67.7% |
| 2020 | 75.7% |
| 2021 | 83.3% |
| 2022 | 84.7% |

Figure 14. Firearm homicide rates* in Wisconsin by age, 2018 — 2022¹

| | 10-24 | 25-44 | 45-64 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2018 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 1.4 |
| 2019 | 3.8 | 4.6 | 2.1 |
| 2020 | 6.6 | 8.7 | 2.5 |
| 2021 | 9.1 | 9.7 | 2.0 |
| 2022 | 6.9 | 9.3 | 2.7 |

* Rates are not adjusted for age

Figure 16. Firearm homicide rates in Wisconsin by race and ethnicity, 2018 — 2022¹

| | Black, non-Hispanic | White, non-Hispanic | Hispanic |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| 2018 | 24.2 | 0.9 | 3.8 |
| 2019 | 23.0 | 0.8 | 4.5 |
| 2020 | 43.4 | 1.1 | 5.8 |
| 2021 | 54.8 | 1.1 | 3.9 |
| 2022 | 55.9 | 0.8 | 5.1 |

Figure 17. Firearm homicide rates in Wisconsin by sex, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Male | Female |
|-------------|------|--------|
| 2002 | 3.6 | 0.9 |
| 2003 | 4.1 | 1.0 |
| 2004 | 2.7 | 0.6 |
| 2005 | 4.9 | 0.8 |
| 2006 | 3.2 | 0.7 |
| 2007 | 3.6 | 1.1 |
| 2008 | 2.2 | 0.8 |
| 2009 | 2.7 | 1.0 |
| 2010 | 3.2 | 0.5 |
| 2011 | 2.7 | 0.5 |
| 2012 | 3.9 | 0.7 |
| 2013 | 3.3 | 0.8 |
| 2014 | 3.4 | 0.9 |
| 2015 | 5.3 | 1.0 |
| 2016 | 5.7 | 1.4 |
| 2017 | 4.7 | 1.0 |
| 2018 | 4.6 | 1.3 |
| 2019 | 4.3 | 1.3 |
| 2020 | 7.2 | 1.8 |
| 2021 | 8.5 | 2.1 |
| 2022 | 7.5 | 2.6 |

Figure 18. Firearm homicide rates* in Wisconsin by geography, 2002 — 2022¹

| | Urban | Rural |
|------|-------|-------|
| 2002 | 2.7 | 0.8 |
| 2003 | 3.0 | 1.4 |
| 2004 | 2.0 | -- |
| 2005 | 3.5 | 1.0 |
| 2006 | 2.5 | -- |
| 2007 | 2.8 | 1.1 |
| 2008 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| 2009 | 2.2 | 0.9 |
| 2010 | 2.4 | -- |
| 2011 | 2.0 | -- |
| 2012 | 3.0 | -- |
| 2013 | 2.5 | 0.9 |
| 2014 | 2.6 | 0.9 |
| 2015 | 3.8 | 1.1 |
| 2016 | 4.3 | 1.2 |
| 2017 | 3.7 | -- |
| 2018 | 3.3 | 1.7 |
| 2019 | 3.5 | 0.6 |
| 2020 | 5.7 | 0.8 |
| 2021 | 6.6 | 1.2 |
| 2022 | 6.5 | 0.7 |

-- Indicates value has been suppressed because the number is too small to publish due to privacy concerns (nine or fewer deaths)

Figure 22. 'Time-to-crime' percentages for firearms with a Wisconsin recovery, 2022¹

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Under 3 months | 10.3% |
| 3 - 6 months | 9.1% |
| 7 - 11 months | 10.2% |
| 1-3 years | 29.9% |
| 3+ years | 40.5% |



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