

Indiana Firearm Injury and Death Surveillance System: Summary Data, 2002-2003

Indiana Partnership to Prevent Violent Injury and Death

In Marion County, 471 people sustained gunshot injuries and 151 of them (32%) died in 2003. The number of non-fatal injuries declined to 320 from 360 in 2002; however, the number of deaths was increased to 151 from 145 in 2002.

As in 2002, most (72.6%) of the firearm-related injuries and deaths were assaults/homicides, followed by self-inflicted/suicide. Compared with the previous year, there were slightly more firearm homicides and suicides. There was only one unintentional firearm-related death reported.

Among victims with gunshot wounds, 321 (68%) were African American; 139 (30%) were white; 416 (88%) were men. More persons with Hispanic ethnicity were injured in 2003 than in 2002.

The majority of victims were black males aged between 15 and 29 years, especially the men between the ages of 20 and 24. No young children less than 5 years of age were injured in the previous year, but 3 young children less than 5 years of age were injured in 2003.

There were 37 incidents involving two or more victims (total victims: 81). Both multiple injury incidents and total persons involved slightly declined.

In 285 cases in which the type of firearm was identified, handguns accounted for 88%, which was similar to the previous year.

Most offenders / shooters were young males. The demographics of offenders / shooters were similar to the previous year.

Most victims lived in the following zip code areas: 46218, 46205, 46222, 46226, 46201, 46203 and 46208. This is also similar to 2002 findings.

In both years, the leading circumstances surrounding the shootings were the same. The leading circumstances for unintentional incidents were from handling/carrying and gun cleaning. Among the assault/homicide cases with known circumstances, robbery / burglary and argument were the leading circumstances. The common circumstances involved in self-inflicted/suicide included depression / mental illness, interpersonal relationship problem, criminal / legal issue, physical illness and alcohol / substance dependence or abuse.

Table 1. Firearm-related Injuries by Month, Marion County, Indiana, 2002-2003

Month	2002			2003		
	Nonfatal	Fatal	Total	Nonfatal	Fatal	Total
January	32	9	41	21	8	29
February	12	6	18	23	9	32
March	34	11	45	21	17	38
April	35	16	51	26	9	35
May	30	14	44	27	13	40
June	38	18	56	35	11	46
July	44	12	56	28	15	43
August	27	13	40	20	16	36
September	34	10	44	27	15	42
October	28	14	42	29	13	42
November	20	13	33	30	8	38
December	26	9	35	33	17	50
<i>Sum</i>	360	145	505	320	151	471

Table 2. Number of Nonfatal and Fatal Firearm Injuries by Intent, Marion County, Indiana, 2002-2003

Intent	2002				2003			
	Nonfatal	Fatal	Total	% of Total	Nonfatal	Fatal	Total	% of Total
Unintentional	36	3	39	7.7	34	1	35	7.4
Assault / Homicide	281	83	364	72.1	257	85	342	72.6
Self-inflicted / Suicide	10	56	66	13.1	8	62	70	14.9
Legal Intervention	4	2	6	1.2	1	2	3	0.6
Undetermined	29	1	30	5.9	20	1	21	4.5
Total	360	145	505	100.0	320	151	471	100.0

Table 3. Outcome of Firearm Injuries, All Intents, Marion County, Indiana, 2002-2003

Outcome	2002		2003	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Died at scene	86	17	83	18
Died in emergency Dept.or hospital	59	12	68	14
Treated in hospital and alive	177	35	162	34
Treated and released from emergency Dept.	154	30	123	26
Unknown if treated in ED or hospital	17	3	26	6
No treatment in emergency Dept.or hospital	12	2	9	2

Table 4. Number of Firearm-related Injuries by Gender and Race, Marion County, Indiana, 2002-2003

Age, yr	2002				2003			
	Male	Female	White	Black	Male	Female	White	Black
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2
5-9	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
10-14	4	2	1	5	2	0	1	1
15-19	75	5	17	62	65	7	17	54
20-24	108	9	30	81	110	11	19	99
25-29	73	9	26	55	74	9	13	67
30-34	54	7	13	47	49	7	23	30
35-44	75	15	37	53	64	12	28	47
45-54	37	6	23	18	25	3	16	12
55-64	12	1	8	5	17	2	15	4
65-74	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	2
75-84	5	2	5	2	3	0	2	1
≥ 85	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unknown	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
Total	447	58	163	331	416	55	139	321

Table 5. Number and Proportion of Firearm Injuries by Gender, Race / Ethnicity

Race / Ethnicity	Gender	2002		2003	
		No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
White	Male	147	29.1	121	25.7
	Female	16	3.2	18	3.8
	Male & Female	163	32.3	139	29.5
Black	Male	290	57.4	284	60.3
	Female	41	8.1	37	7.9
	Male & Female	331	65.5	321	68.2
Other/Unknown	Male	10	2.0	11	2.3
	Female	1	0.2	0	0.0
	Male & Female	11	2.2	11	2.3
Hispanic	Male	14	2.8	18	3.8
	Female	0	0.0	2	0.4
	Male & Female	14	2.8	20	4.2
All	Male	447	88.5	416	88.3
	Female	58	11.5	55	11.7
	Male & Female	505	100.0	471	100.0

Table 6. Characteristics of Multiple Firearm Injury, Marion County, Indiana, 2002-2003

Intent	2002			2003		
	# of Incident	%	# of persons injured	# of Incident	%	# of persons injured
Assault / Homicide	35	90	79	32	86.5	71
Homicide-suicide	2	5	5	4	10.8	8
Unintentional	1	2.5	2	0	0	0
Undetermined	1	2.5	3	1	2.7	2
All Intent	39		89	37		81

Table 7. Type of Firearms Involved in Gunshot Wounds, Marion County, Indiana, 2002-2003

Type	2002		2003	
	No.	% of Total with Known Type	No.	% of Total with Known Type
Handgun	261	85.0	250	87.7
Rifle	15	4.9	8	2.8
Shotgun	31	10.1	27	9.5
Unknown	198	N/A	186	N/A

Table 8. Demographics of Offenders / Shooters, Marion County, Indiana

	2002		2003	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	97	94	124	99
Female	6	6	1	1
Black	78	76	94	75
White	24	23	30	24
Hispanic	4	4	2	2
Age Group				
15-19	19	18	16	13
20-24	26	25	34	27
25-29	20	19	25	20
30-34	9	9	14	11
35-44	14	14	20	16
45-64	12	12	12	10
≥ 65	3	3	4	3

Table 9. 10 Zip Codes of Firearm Injury Victims Lived In, Marion County

2002		2003	
Zip Code	No. of Injuries	Zip Code	No. of Injuries
46218	66	46218	65
46205	44	46205	44
46201	32	46222	35
46222	32	46226	35
46226	28	46208	31
46203	27	46201	27
46208	27	46203	26
46254	21	46254	24
46219	19	46227	13
46202	16	46219	12

Table 10. Circumstances Surrounding Shootings, Marion County, Indiana

	2002		2003	
	No.	%	No.	%
Unintentional				
Carrying/Handling	12	31	9	26
Gun-cleaning	6	15	3	9
Showing gun to another	5	13	1	3
Playing with gun	1	3	2	6
Other	7	18	3	9
Unknown	8	21	17	49
Assault/Homicide				
Robbery/Burglary	53	15	44	13
Argument	49	13	37	11
Domestic Violence	13	4	8	2
Drive-by	8	2	6	2
Revenge	7	2	3	1
Brawl (fight)	5	1	6	2
Gang Violence	4	1	0	0
Bystander	3	1	11	3
Other	13	4	34	10
Unknown	209	57	193	56
Self-inflicted/Suicide*				
Depression/Mental illness	22	33	16	23
Alcohol / Substance abuse	7	11	5	7
Interpersonal relationship problem	13	20	11	16
Physical illness / disability	8	12	7	10
Criminal / Legal issue	9	14	6	9
Loss a Job / Financial problem	4	6	3	4
Other	3	5	0	0
Unknown	11	17	22	31

* If the victim experienced multiple stressors, more than one circumstance could be coded.