



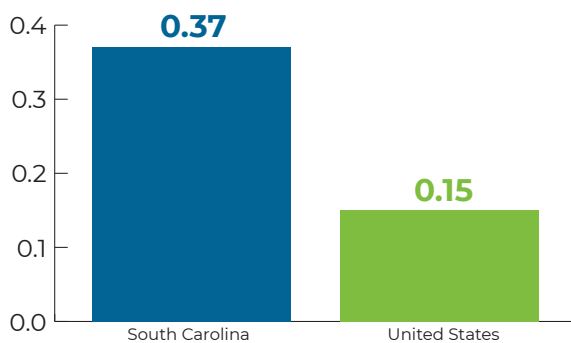
Firearms & Safety in South Carolina

Owning a firearm is a huge responsibility. Accidents involving firearms can be deadly and even non-fatal accidents can cause significant damage. In 2018, South Carolina had 18 deaths due to unintentional firearm discharges.¹ In addition, there were 1,088 emergency department (ED) visits due to firearm accidents, of those 311 were admitted to the hospital.²

FIREARM MORTALITY

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

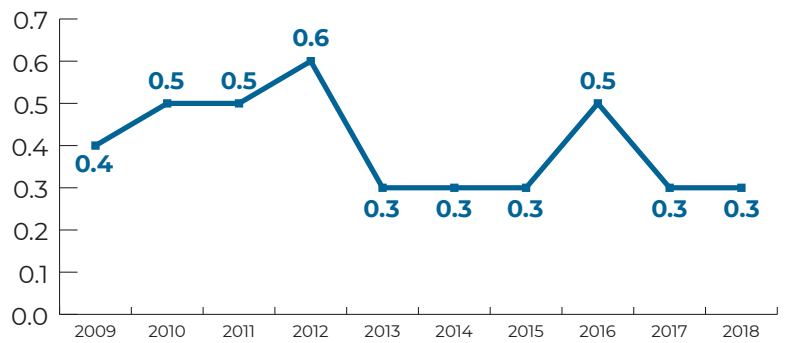
Rate per 100,000 population



Data source: CDC WISQARS, age-adjusted, 2016-2018.

Deaths due to Unintentional Firearm Discharges

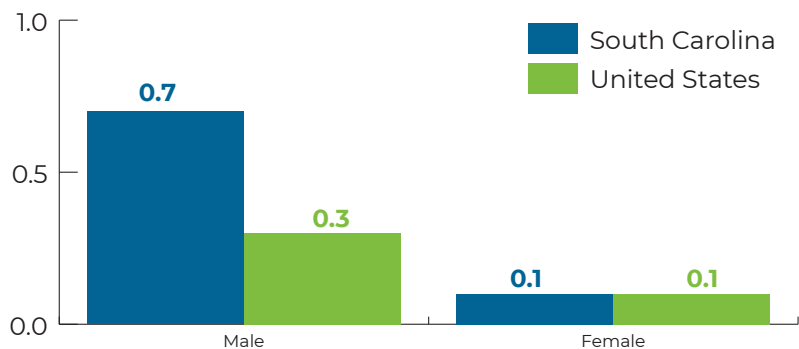
Rate per 100,000 population



Data source: SC DHEC Vital Statistics, age-adjusted.

Unintentional Firearm Deaths by Sex

Rate per 100,000 population



Data source: SC DHEC Vital Statistics, age-adjusted 2009-2018.

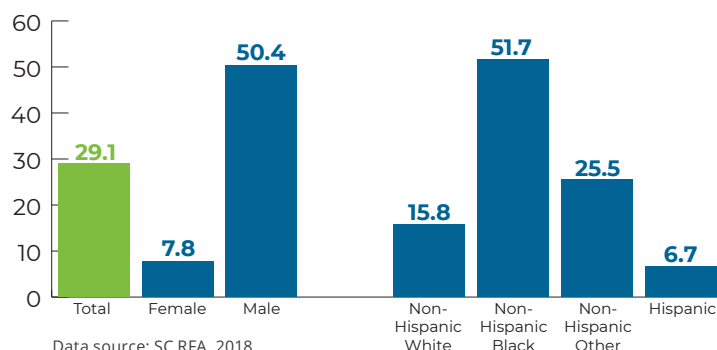
South Carolina's mortality rate from unintentional firearm deaths is **2.5x higher** than that of the nation.

In South Carolina, males are **seven times more likely to die** from firearm accidents than females, and are **2.3 times more likely to die** than the average of US males.

NON-FATAL FIREARM DATA

ED Visits due to Unintentional Firearm Discharge

Rate per 100,000 population



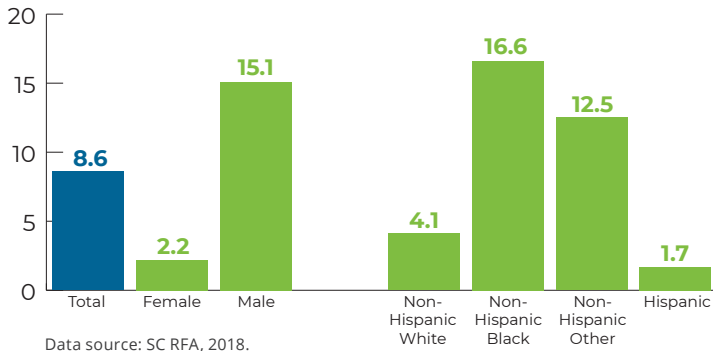
Data source: SC RFA, 2018.

Emergency department visits due to firearm accidents are **more than 6 ½ times** more likely to occur in males than females and **more than three times** more likely to occur in blacks than whites.

NON-FATAL FIREARM DATA (CONTINUED)

Hospitalizations due to Unintentional Firearm Discharges

Rate per 100,000 population



Data source: SC RFA, 2018.

Hospital visits due to firearm accidents are **more than six times** more likely to occur in males than females and **more than four times** more likely to occur in blacks than whites.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ACCIDENTAL FIREARM DEATHS⁴



By Shooter:

66.1%

self-inflicted

19.6%

inflicted by others

14.3%

unknown who inflicted



Context of Injury:

23.2%

had another mechanism of injury, such as tripped while holding firearm

19.6%

hunting, target shooting, or cleaning the gun

17.9%

were playing with the gun



Firearm Type Used:

58.9%

handguns

14.3%

rifle or shotgun

26.8%

unknown



By Age:

71.4%

of the shooters were over age 18 and victims ranged in age from 2 to 95 years old

18–34 year olds accounted for **42.8%** of all firearm deaths

There were **\$10.9 million** in Emergency Department charges and **\$44.4 million** in hospitalization charges due to unintentional firearm injuries in 2018.



FIREARM HUNTING SAFETY TIPS³



Always treat every firearm as though it is loaded.



Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.



Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.



Always be sure of your target and what is in front and behind it.

SOURCES:

1. SC DHEC Vital Statistics
2. SC RFA Office

3. <https://www.hunter-ed.com/gun-safety/>

4. National Violent Death Reporting System, 2016-2018