

# RESOURCE: DATA SOURCES FOR FIREARM RESEARCH

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In the book chapter, “Data Sources for Firearm Research and Information,” Drs. Corinne Peek-Asa and Mark Berg summarize sources of data that can be used to describe the incidence and characteristics of fatal and nonfatal firearm violence, including medical and law enforcement sources. This resource is intended as a supplement to that book chapter.

Peek-Asa, Corinne, and Mark T. Berg. 2021. “Data Sources for Firearm Research and Information.” In *Gun Violence Prevention: A Public Health Approach*, eds. Linda C. Degutis and Howard R. Spivak. APHA Press.

## Vital Statistics and Medical Data

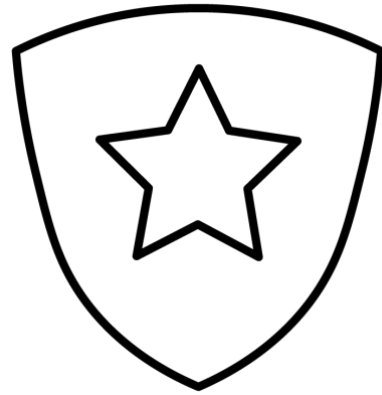
Information about medical events, such as cause, diagnosis(es), and treatment, as well as victims of firearm violence, including homicide/assault, suicide/self-harm, and unintentional shootings.

National Death Index	National Violent Death Reporting System	Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project: NIS & NEDS
<p><b>Description:</b> Compilation of death certificate data by the National Center for Health Statistics</p> <p><b>Uses:</b> Calculate national firearm mortality rates, including trends over time</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://cdc.gov/nchs/ndi/index.htm">cdc.gov/nchs/ndi/index.htm</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Violent deaths from death certificates and reports from coroners/medical examiners, law enforcement, and toxicology results.</p> <p><b>Uses:</b> Describe cause and manner of events, relationships between perpetrator(s) and victim(s), and characteristics of firearms. Research risk and protective factors.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html">cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> National Inpatient Sample (NIS) includes more than seven million hospital inpatient stays each year. National Emergency Department Sample (NEDS) includes 31 million emergency department visits.</p> <p><b>Uses:</b> Examine incidence, characteristics, and treatment patterns for firearm injuries. Estimate time trends in firearm injury incidence.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://ahrq.gov/data/hcup/index.html">ahrq.gov/data/hcup/index.html</a></p>
National Electronic Injury Surveillance System – All Injury Program	National Trauma Data Bank	Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System
<p><b>Description:</b> Database from the Consumer Product Safety Commission collecting information about product-related injuries. Subset includes firearm injuries.</p> <p><b>Uses:</b> Examine injury and violence incidence and cost information. Describe patient demographics, cause, intent, injury diagnoses, location, and work-relatedness of injury.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://cpsc.gov/Research-Statistics/NEISS-Injury-Data">cpsc.gov/Research-Statistics/NEISS-Injury-Data</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Trauma cases in hospitals around the United States. Two data sets: 1) Research Dataset that has all reported patients, 2) National Sample Program that has data from 100 representative level I and II trauma centers.</p> <p><b>Uses:</b> Assess threat to life and needs for critical care. Compare burden in trauma populations.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://facts.org/quality-programs/trauma/tqp/center-programs/ntdb">facts.org/quality-programs/trauma/tqp/center-programs/ntdb</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> CDC online data query system using fatal data from the National Death Index and nonfatal injury and cost data from the National Electronic Surveillance System – All Injury Program.</p> <p><b>Uses:</b> Query years of potential life lost, leading causes of death, leading causes of nonfatal injury, costs of injury, and fatality maps.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/">cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/</a></p>

## Law Enforcement Data

Information on the distribution of fatal and nonfatal criminal firearm violence. Data on firearm violence gathered from law enforcement sources are only representative of firearms used during crime incidents known to and recorded by the police.

- Expanded data series of the FBI's Uniform Crime Report: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/expanded-offense>
- Supplementary Homicide Reports: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezashr/>
- National Incident-Based Reporting System: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs>



**ALTHOUGH MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT FIREARMS, NO SINGLE SOURCE CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE FULL BURDEN AND CONTEXT OF FIREARM USE OR HEALTH BURDEN.”**

## National Crime Victimization Survey

Information on firearm violence including events that are never brought to the attention of law enforcement. Survey data can include general population surveys, crime victim surveys, and small-scale convenience samples. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the largest and most representative survey of criminal victimization and provides information about the nature of crime incidents over 45 years in the United States. NCVS data can be used for comparisons at incident and regional levels of analysis and for the study of patterns of firearm use. For more information, see <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>. Additional descriptive information can be located using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navt>.

## Archival Sources of National Data

Gun Violence Archive	Gun Violence Database
<p><b>Description:</b> Detailed real-time case counts of fatal and nonfatal firearm-related injury collected from law enforcement and media sources.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://gunviolencearchive.org">gunviolencearchive.org</a></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Crowdsourced database of firearm violence incidents in the U.S.</p> <p><b>For more:</b> <a href="http://gun-violence.org/">gun-violence.org/</a></p>