

Teen Violent Deaths

Nevada

Nevada's Teen Violent Death Rate from 1999 to 2001 was 51.3 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15 to 19. During this period, 203 teens died as a result of homicide, suicide, and accident. According to the *KIDS COUNT Data Book: 2002*, the 1999 rate for the U.S. was 53 per 100,000.¹

Counties

Five counties had a Teen Violent Death Rate of 0: Esmeralda, Eureka, Lincoln, Mineral, and Storey. Three counties had a Teen Violent Death Rate higher than the state rate of 51.3: Churchill, Elko, and Nye.

Significant Factors

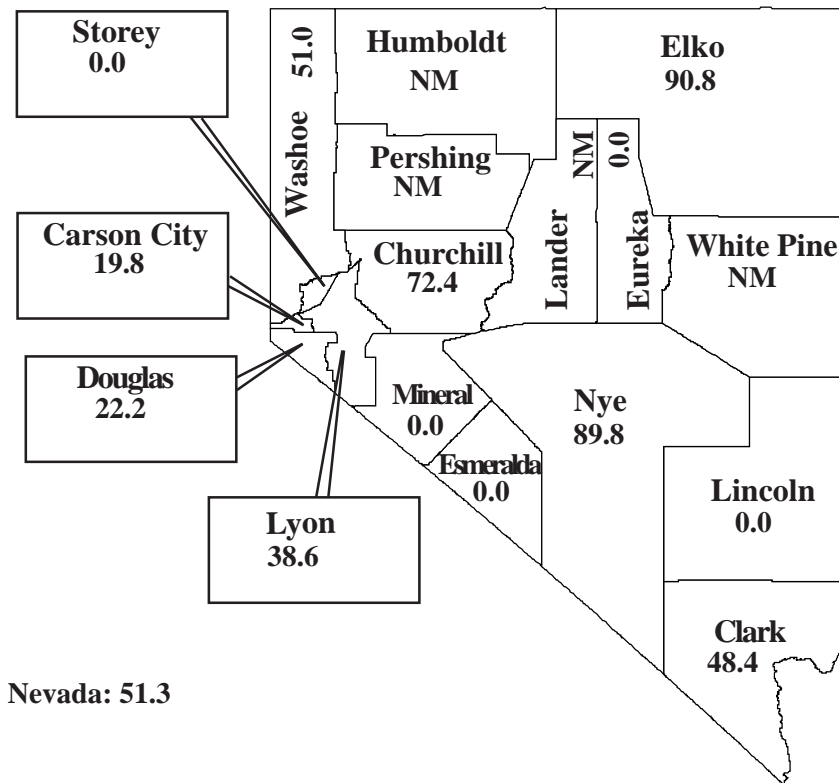
In 1999, 3,365 persons under age 20 died from a firearm injury in the U.S.² Gun homicides, gun suicides, and accidental shootings accounted for 59, 32, and 6 percents, respectively, of gun deaths. The risk of dying from a firearm injury increases if a person is 17 to 19 years of age, and is male.³ Black and Hispanic youth are more likely to die from firearm homicides than are non-Hispanic whites; whereas, non-Hispanic whites are more likely to die in suicides than Hispanics or blacks.⁴ Children and youth who reside in a core metropolitan county (more than one million residents and contains a large central city) are more likely to die of firearm injuries than those who do not.⁵

The economic cost of youth gun violence in the U.S. is high. In 1998, Cook and Ludwig assessed 1,200 adults' willingness to pay (WTP) for a new program in their state to reduce gun deaths and

Definition

The Teen Violent Death Rate is the number of deaths from suicide, homicide, accidents, and unclassified deaths, per 100,000 teens, ages 15 to 19. The data are reported by the youth's county of residence, rather than by where the death occurred.

**Teen Violent Death Rate: 1999-2001*
(Deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)**



Nevada: 51.3

*Teen Violent Deaths includes homicides, suicides, and accidents.

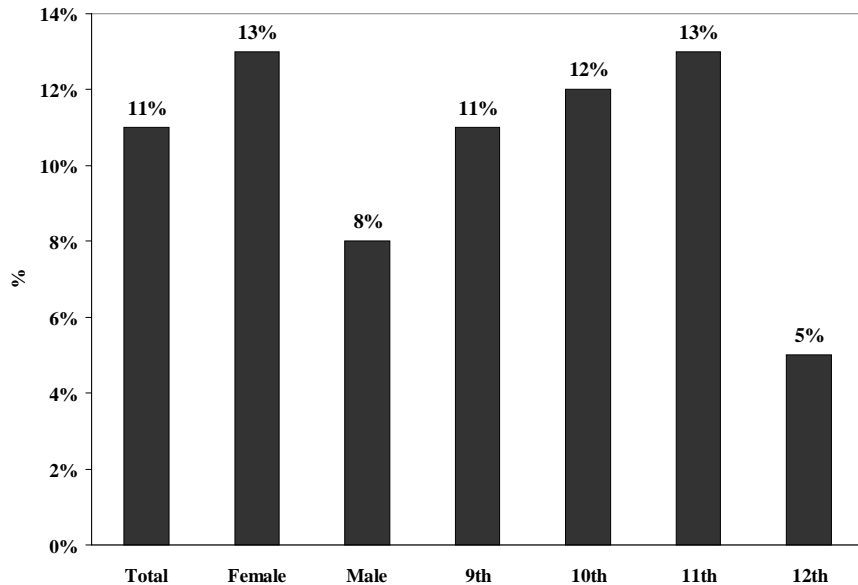
NM = Not Meaningful.

Source: CBER calculations from Nevada Department of Human Resources data, Health Division, Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics, 1999-2001.

Teen Violent Deaths Continued

alleged gun dealers, and reduce gun injuries by 30 percent, making it harder for people in particular, young people, to obtain guns.⁶ They found that American households were WTP \$239 in extra taxes to fund such a program. Over 75 percent were WTP \$50 or more taxes a year.

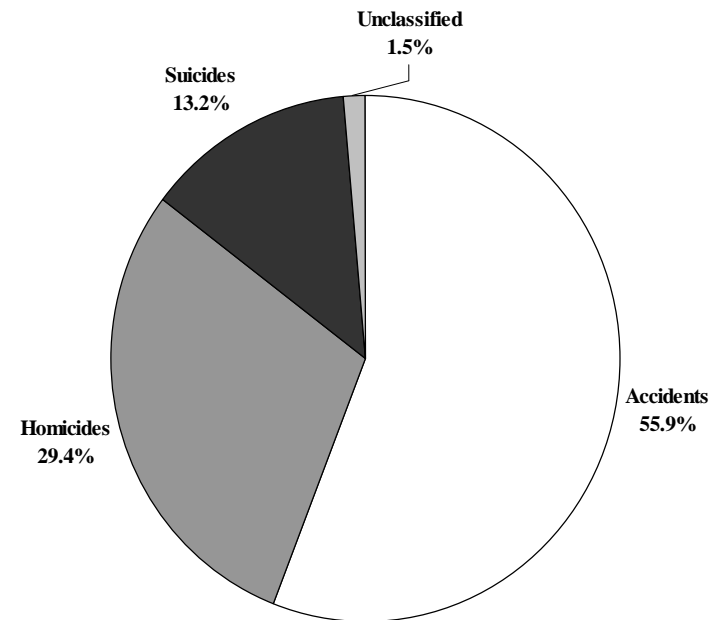
Percentage of Nevada High School Students Who Actually Attempted Suicide One or More Times during the Past 12 Months by Gender and Grade: 2001



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Office of School Health, Safety, and Nutrition, *Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report 2001*.

In a special issue on children, youth, and gun violence in *The Future of Children*, Reich, Culross, and Behrman recommend that “the federal and state governments, working in partnership with local communities and parents, should adopt a unified, comprehensive strategy for reducing youth gun violence in the United States.”⁷ Strategies should include reducing children’s unsupervised exposure to guns, engaging communities to reduce youth gun violence, strengthening law enforcement against youth gun violence, changing the design of guns, and limiting the flow of illegal guns to youth.

Teen Violent Deaths in Nevada by Cause: 2001



Source: CBER calculations from Nevada Department of Human Resources data, Health Division, Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics, 2001.