

Firearm-related Injuries

If you, or someone you care about is in danger and you think immediate action is needed, call the police immediately on 000.

Alternatively, if there is no immediate danger, contact a 24 hour support service, such as: Lifeline (13 11 14) or Beyond Blue (1300 224 636).

175 Australians died due to a firearm-related injury in 2018;¹



- Males accounted for 90% of the fatalities (n=157)
- Intentional self-harm accounted for 81% of the fatalities (n=142).

In Australia from 2013-14, there were 338 hospitalisations due to a firearm-related injury;²

- The rate of firearm-related hospitalisations was four times higher in remote and very remote areas
- 40% of the injuries were to the individual's lower limbs.



22 Western Australians died due to a firearm-related injury in 2018.³

A reduction in the incidence of firearm-related injuries requires both security and prevention measures.

Organisations conducting firearm safety initiatives in WA

[Alannah & Madeline Foundation](#)

[Australian Gun Safety Alliance](#)

[Australasian Injury Prevention Network](#)

[Public Health Association of Australia](#)

[WA Police](#)

References:

1. Australia Bureau of Statistics. 3303.0 Causes of Death, Australia, 2018. (2019).
2. AIHW. Firearm injuries and deaths. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/firearm-injuries-and-deaths/formats> (2017).
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 3303.0 - Causes of Death, Western Australia, 2018. (2019).
4. Chapman, S., Stewart, M., Alpers, P. & Jones, M. Fatal Firearm Incidents Before and After Australia's 1996 National Firearms Agreement Banning Semiautomatic Rifles. *Ann Intern Med* 169, 62 (2018).
5. Chapman, S., Alpers, P., Agho, K. & Jones, M. Australia's 1996 gun law reforms: faster falls in firearm deaths, firearm suicides, and a decade without mass shootings. *Inj Prev* 12, 365 (2006).
6. Bryant, W. & Bricknell, S. Homicide in Australia 2012–13 to 2013–14: National Homicide Monitoring Program report. <https://aic.gov.au/publications/sr/sr002> (2017).

Gun Policy in WA

Following the Port Arthur Massacre in 1996, Australia has set the international benchmark on gun regulation. The gun law reform in 1996 has resulted in a significant reduction in the incidence of mass shootings⁴, suicides⁵ and homicide rates⁶ in Australia.

The [Firearms Act 1973](#) and [Firearms Regulation 1974](#) govern the possession and use of firearms in WA.

What can be done to prevent firearm injuries?

Enforcement

The implementation of laws that restrict the availability of firearms, and regulate purchasing and storage of firearms have been successful in reducing the rate of firearm related injury and death, and therefore need to be upheld.

Education

Providing educational programs and information resources regarding the safe storage and use of firearms to individuals who purchase a firearm, is an important step in preventing the likelihood of an unintentional firearm-related injury occurring.

Services

Due to the high proportion of firearm-related injuries that are attributed to intentional self-harm and family and domestic violence, improved access to and awareness of mental health services may reduce the incidence of firearm-related injuries.

Advocacy

Ongoing advocacy activities, such as writing letters to politicians and gaining media coverage, are an important factor in ensuring that Australia's firearm legislations remain in place.

Partner:



Department of Health



Know Injury is provided by Injury Matters and funded by the State Government through the Department of Health.