

4



Deaths caused by Firearms, Australia, 1983-94

Violent Deaths & Firearms

Table 4.1
AUSTRALIA, Deaths Caused by Firearms
Number and Rate per 100 000 population, 1983-94

| | | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Number | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accident | Males | 33 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 21 | 26 | 18 | 28 | 28 | 23 | 16 | 15 |
| | Females | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 40 | 32 | 35 | 28 | 27 | 30 | 19 | 30 | 29 | 24 | 18 | 20 |
| Suicide | Males | 485 | 478 | 507 | 508 | 534 | 489 | 421 | 456 | 487 | 464 | 418 | 400 |
| | Females | 35 | 46 | 45 | 41 | 38 | 32 | 30 | 32 | 23 | 26 | 17 | 20 |
| | Total | 520 | 524 | 552 | 549 | 572 | 521 | 451 | 488 | 510 | 490 | 435 | 420 |
| Assault ⁽¹⁾ | Males | 59 | 77 | 69 | 64 | 55 | 79 | 60 | 45 | 46 | 62 | 42 | 51 |
| | Females | 34 | 44 | 30 | 37 | 42 | 45 | 20 | 34 | 38 | 34 | 22 | 28 |
| | Total | 93 | 121 | 99 | 101 | 97 | 124 | 80 | 79 | 84 | 96 | 64 | 79 |
| Legal Interv. | Males | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| | Females | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| | Total | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 3 | 7 |
| Unknown | Males | 5 | 6 | 19 | 12 | 10 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| | Females | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 6 | 7 | 24 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Total Males | | 586 | 594 | 628 | 615 | 627 | 614 | 521 | 548 | 571 | 563 | 485 | 472 |
| Total Females | | 77 | 95 | 86 | 82 | 86 | 82 | 51 | 69 | 63 | 68 | 41 | 54 |
| Total Persons | | 663 | 689 | 714 | 697 | 713 | 696 | 572 | 617 | 634 | 631 | 526 | 526 |
| | | Rate per 100 000 Population | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accident | Males | 0.43 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.34 | 0.26 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.26 | 0.18 | 0.17 |
| | Females | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.06 |
| | Total | 0.26 | 0.21 | 0.22 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.18 | 0.11 | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.11 |
| Suicide | Males | 6.31 | 6.15 | 6.43 | 6.35 | 6.58 | 5.92 | 5.01 | 5.34 | 5.65 | 5.33 | 4.75 | 4.51 |
| | Females | 0.45 | 0.59 | 0.57 | 0.51 | 0.47 | 0.39 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.27 | 0.30 | 0.19 | 0.22 |
| | Total | 3.38 | 3.36 | 3.50 | 3.43 | 3.52 | 3.15 | 2.68 | 2.86 | 2.95 | 2.80 | 2.46 | 2.35 |
| Assault ¹ | Males | 0.77 | 0.99 | 0.88 | 0.80 | 0.68 | 0.96 | 0.71 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.71 | 0.48 | 0.57 |
| | Females | 0.44 | 0.56 | 0.38 | 0.46 | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.24 | 0.40 | 0.44 | 0.39 | 0.25 | 0.31 |
| | Total | 0.60 | 0.78 | 0.63 | 0.63 | 0.60 | 0.75 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.49 | 0.55 | 0.36 | 0.44 |
| Legal Interv. | Males | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.07 |
| | Females | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| | Total | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| Unknown | Males | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.24 | 0.15 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.00 |
| | Females | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Total | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| Total Males | | 7.62 | 7.64 | 7.97 | 7.69 | 7.73 | 7.44 | 6.20 | 6.42 | 6.63 | 6.46 | 5.51 | 5.31 |
| Total Females | | 1.00 | 1.22 | 1.09 | 1.02 | 1.06 | 0.99 | 0.61 | 0.81 | 0.73 | 0.78 | 0.46 | 0.60 |
| Total Persons | | 4.31 | 4.42 | 4.52 | 4.35 | 4.39 | 4.21 | 3.40 | 3.61 | 3.67 | 3.61 | 2.98 | 2.95 |

1. Assault resulting in death.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Causes of Death*, ABS, Canberra.

As can be seen from Table 4.2 and Figures 4.1 and 4.2:

- The victims of 9 out of 10 firearm-related deaths are male.
- 85 per cent of all firearm-related deaths among males are suicides.
- In 1994, 8 times more males died of self-inflicted firearm injury than by firearm-related homicide.

For every female that used a firearm to commit suicide in 1994, 20 males used a firearm to commit suicide.

Whereas one-tenth of firearms deaths among males in 1994 were homicides, one-half of firearm deaths among females were homicides.

Table 4.2
*AUSTRALIA, Percentage of Firearm-Related Deaths
in relation to Gender of Victim, 1983, 1988, 1994*

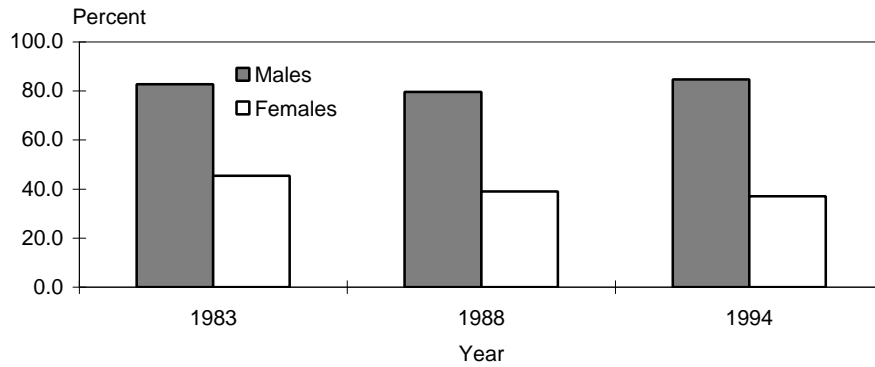
| | Accident | | Suicide | | Homicide ¹ | | Other | | Total | |
|----------------|----------|-----|---------|------|-----------------------|------|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Males | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 33 | 5.6 | 485 | 82.8 | 59 | 10.1 | 9 | 1.5 | 586 | 100.0 |
| 1988 | 26 | 4.2 | 489 | 79.6 | 79 | 12.9 | 20 | 3.3 | 614 | 100.0 |
| 1994 | 15 | 3.2 | 400 | 84.7 | 51 | 10.8 | 6 | 1.3 | 472 | 100.0 |
| Females | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 7 | 9.1 | 35 | 45.5 | 34 | 44.2 | 1 | 1.3 | 77 | 100.0 |
| 1988 | 4 | 4.9 | 32 | 39.0 | 45 | 54.9 | 1 | 1.2 | 82 | 100.0 |
| 1994 | 5 | 9.3 | 20 | 37.0 | 28 | 51.9 | 1 | 1.9 | 54 | 100.0 |

1. Note that for these data, the Australian Bureau of Statistics terminology is "assault death".

Violent Deaths & Firearms

Figure 4.1

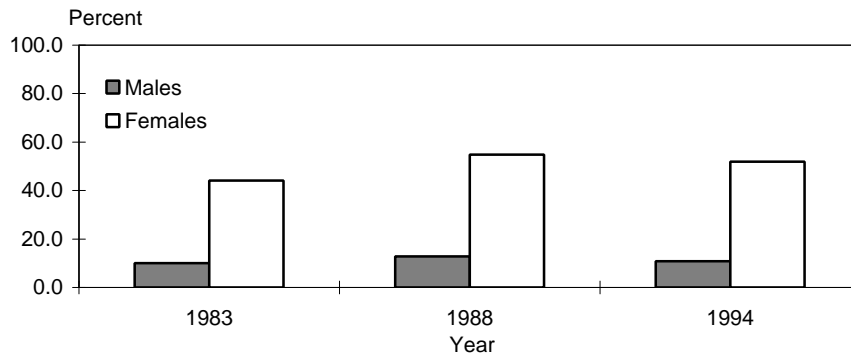
AUSTRALIA, Firearm-Related Suicide as a Percentage of Total Firearm-Related Deaths¹ in each year, by Gender



1. Refer to Total Deaths in Table 4.1

Figure 4.2

AUSTRALIA, Firearm Related Homicide as a Percentage of Total Firearm-Related Deaths¹ in each Year, by Gender



1. Refer to Total Deaths in Table 4.1