
DEATHS DUE TO FIREARMS: 2006

The Medical Examiner is responsible for investigating all deaths due to firearms that occur in King County. Medical Examiner data relate primarily to the victim because information regarding the weapon and the shooter is often unknown. The following data are specific to the victims of firearm deaths.

In 2006, the Medical Examiner investigated 153 firearm deaths. In 2005, firearms caused 146 deaths; in 2004 firearms caused 144 deaths; in 2003 firearms caused 155 deaths; and in 2002 firearms caused 153 deaths. Of the 153 firearm deaths in 2006, 52 (34%) were homicides and 98 (64%) were suicides. No firearm deaths were classified as accidental in 2006. In 2005 firearms caused two accidental deaths; in both 2004 and 2003 firearms caused one accidental death, and in 2002 there were no accidental firearm deaths. In 2006, firearms caused three deaths that were classified as undetermined. This compares to one in 2005, two in 2004, one in 2003, and two in 2002.

In 2006, gunshot wounds were the leading cause of death for homicides and suicides. Gunshot deaths comprised 57% (52/91) of homicides, compared to 59% (47/80) in 2005, 61% (46/76) in 2004, 56% in 2003 (52/93) and 58% in 2002 (53/92). In 2006, suicides by firearms represented 43% (98/227) of suicide deaths compared to 41% (96/233) in 2005, 42% (95/229) in 2004, 47% in 2003 (101/217), and 49% (98/200) in 2002.

In 2006, of the 52 gunshot homicide victims, 13% (7/52) were 19 years old and younger - a slight decrease from 2005 when 15% of gunshot homicide victims were 19 years old and younger. It is estimated that a disproportionate number of gunshot homicide victims were black (21%, 11/52) compared to the percentage of blacks in the general population. (See discussions on pages 5 and 43.) Of the 11 black gunshot homicide victims, 64% (7/11) were males between 20 and 29 years of age. In comparison, 52% (27/52) of the homicide gunshot victims were white. Of the 27 white homicide victims, 37% (10/27) were males between 20 and 29 years old.

Firearms were also the most common mode of committing suicide (43%, 98/227) in 2006. Of the 98 gunshot suicide victims, 91% (89/98) were white and 92% (90/98) were males. Five of the gunshot suicide victims were 19 years old and under (5%, 5/98). Twenty-six (27%, 26/98) of the gunshot suicide victims were between the ages of 20 and 39 years of age, 38 (39%, 38/98) were between 40 and 59 years, and 29 (30%, 29/98) were 60 years and older.

Table 10-1 Firearm Deaths / Manner / Age / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

| AGE GROUP / SEX | MANNER OF DEATH | | | | SUB TOTAL | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|------------|
| | A | H | S | U | | |
| <13 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 13-15 years | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | | 3 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| 16-19 years | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | | 10 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 20-29 years | 0 | 23 | 16 | 1 | | 40 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 23 | 15 | 1 | 39 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 30-39 years | 0 | 8 | 10 | 0 | | 18 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 18 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 40-49 years | 0 | 9 | 15 | 0 | | 24 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 8 | 13 | 0 | 21 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | |
| 50-59 years | 0 | 3 | 23 | 1 | | 27 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 2 | 21 | 0 | 23 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | |
| 60-69 years | 0 | 2 | 12 | 0 | | 14 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 12 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| 70-79 years | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | | 8 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 80-89 years | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | | 7 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| 90+ | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | 2 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Totals | 0 | 52 | 98 | 3 | | 153 |
| Percent | 0% | 34% | 64% | 2% | | 100% |

Graph 10-1 Firearm Deaths / Manner / Age Group / King County Medical Examiner / 2006

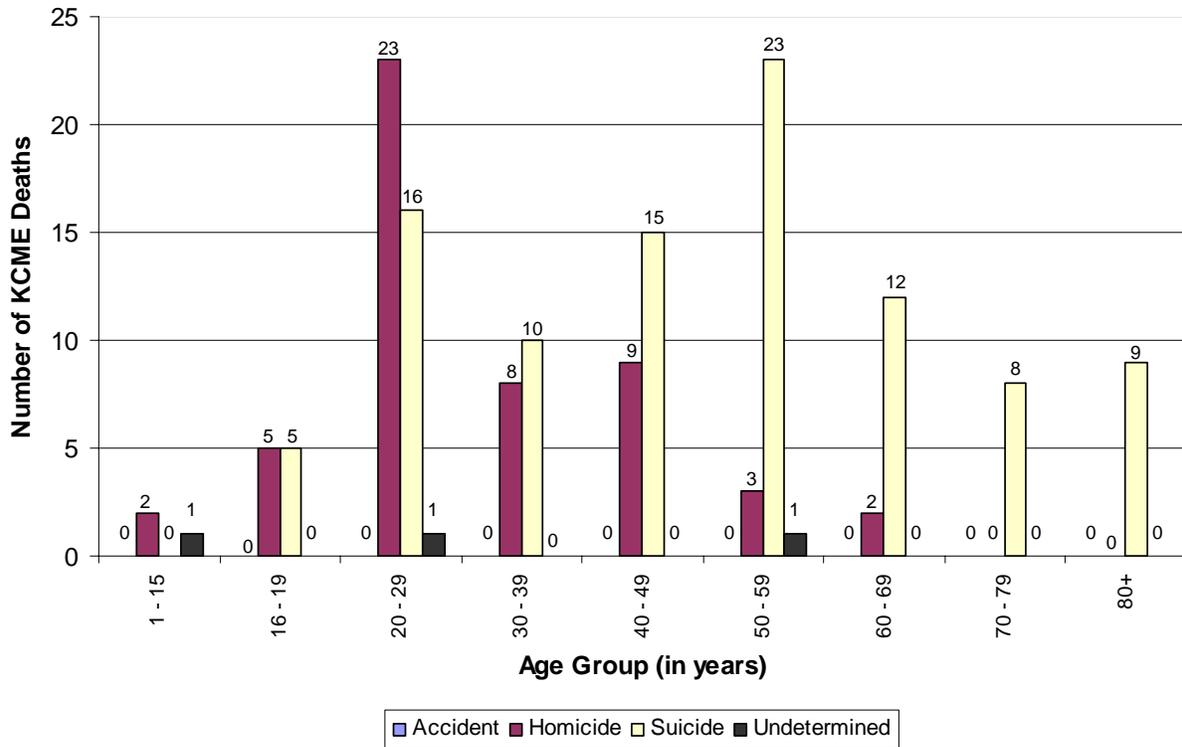


Table 10-2 Firearm Deaths / Manner / Race / Sex / KCME / 2006

| RACE / SEX | MANNER OF DEATH | | | | SUB- | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|------------|
| | A | H | S | U | TOTAL | TOTAL |
| Asian | 0 | 12 | 4 | 0 | | 16 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 15 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Black | 0 | 11 | 4 | 0 | | 15 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 15 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Native American | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 2 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| White | 0 | 28 | 89 | 3 | | 120 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 24 | 81 | 2 | 107 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 13 | |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 1 |
| <i>Male</i> | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| <i>Female</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Totals | 0 | 53 | 98 | 3 | | 153 |