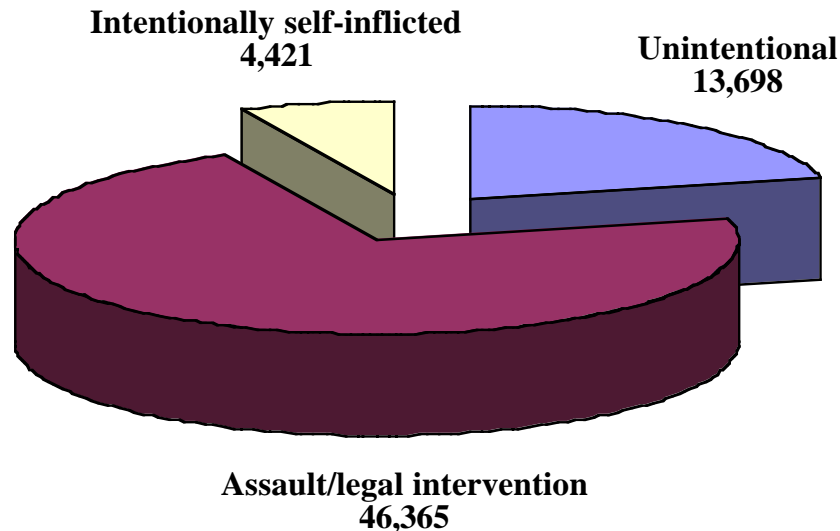


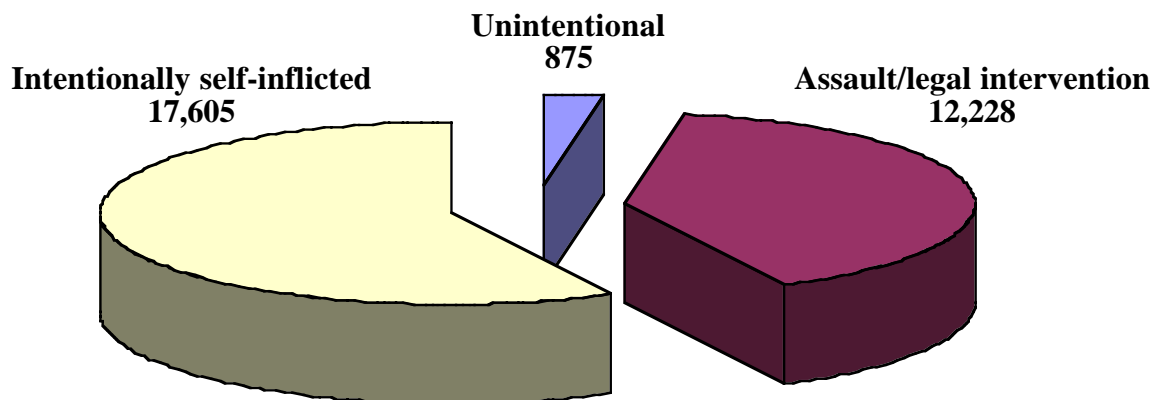
# The Facts About... Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths

## Nonfatal firearm-related injuries in U.S, 1998



An average of 115,000 firearm-related injuries occurred annually in the United States from 1993 to 1998, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Approximately 31,000 deaths and 64,500 nonfatal injuries were treated in hospital emergency departments in 1998. Firearm-related injuries were the second leading cause of injury death in the United States. Lifetime medical costs for the treatment of gunshot injuries in 1994 were estimated to be \$2.3 billion.

## Fatal firearm-related injuries in U.S, 1998



Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## The Facts About...

# Firearm-related injuries and deaths

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### What is the extent of firearm-related injuries and deaths in New York?

According to the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Injury Prevention, more than 2,300 residents are killed and at least 5,300 are hospitalized annually as a result of firearm-related injuries. Seventy-five percent of the firearm-related fatalities in 1992 were homicides, 23 percent were suicides, 1 percent were unintentional, and 1 percent had an unknown intent. Beginning in 1991, firearm deaths of New Yorkers exceeded motor vehicle fatalities.

According to the Department of Health's 1994 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, 20.6 percent of adult New Yorkers reported that their household contained a firearm. Department officials believe true ownership rates are higher. The survey size was 2,267 respondents.

Of those reporting firearm ownership, 38 percent reported some form of "unsafe storage." This term was defined as either failing to lock all firearms or failing to store ammunition separately in a locked place. Specifically, 28.1 percent of respondents said they did not store all of the firearms in a locked place (or with a trigger lock) and 24 percent failed to store ammunition in a locked place separate from the firearm. [For more detailed information about the survey, click here.](#)



### How can firearm-related injuries and deaths be prevented?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics,

- If you keep a gun, empty it out and lock it up.
- Lock and store bullets in separate locations.
- Make sure children don't have access to the keys.
- Talk with your children about the risk of gun injuries outside the home in places where they may visit and play.
- Speak with the parents of your childrens' friends to find out if they keep a gun at home. If they do, urge them to empty it out and lock it up.

[For other safety tips offered by the AAP, click here.](#)