

Firearm Injuries in South Dakota

Firearm injuries are a serious public health problem that impacts the health and safety of Americans, including South Dakotans. Understanding firearm injuries is an important step in keeping individuals, families, and communities safe from firearm injuries and its consequences. Firearm injuries have been an increasing concern in South Dakota. From 2014 to 2023, 1,122 South Dakotans died from a firearm-related injury, with firearm deaths increasing 24% from 90 deaths in 2014 to 112 deaths in 2023.

Not all firearm injuries result in death. From 2019 to 2023, there were 705 nonfatal firearm injury hospitalizations and emergency department visits. In 2023 alone, there were 168 firearm injuries, which was about 1 nonfatal firearm injury every 2 days in South Dakota.

Fatal Firearm Injuries by the Numbers

In 2023, there were 112 fatal firearm injuries in South Dakota

78% of firearm deaths were suicides

87% of firearm deaths were male

24% of firearm deaths were among South Dakotans aged 20-29 years

78% of firearm deaths were White and 16% were American Indian

Nonfatal Firearm Injuries by the Numbers

In 2023, there were 168 nonfatal firearm injuries in South Dakota

70% of firearm injuries were unintentional

89% of firearm injuries were male

33% of firearm injuries were among South Dakotans aged 20-29 years

52% of firearm injuries were White and 36% were American Indian

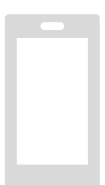
Prevention

Firearm injuries and deaths are preventable, and everyone has a role to play in prevention.

What can you do?



Securely store firearms when not in use. Securing firearms in a safe or lock box or using gun locks can help prevent unauthorized access and use of firearms, including by children and those at risk for harming themselves or others.



If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health-related distress or suicide risk, **call, text, or chat 988.**

For more information on means safety and secure storage resources, visit [SDSP Secure Storage](#)