

The costs of adolescent firearm injuries

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We examine the high costs and the relative stability of firearm injuries and deaths for 13-19 year-olds. In 2005, US hospitals charged \$108.4 million to care for about 10,000 victims of firearm injuries. This is \$38 million more than the total budget for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The federal investment is three times less than that of our hospital systems.

Also notable is an unexpected stability in firearm injuries and deaths, contrary to current crime declines. All have implications for our investment in prevention. Data derived from CDC WISQARS among others.

Figure 1: Number of firearm injuries per year, 13-19 year olds, 2001-2010 95% CI

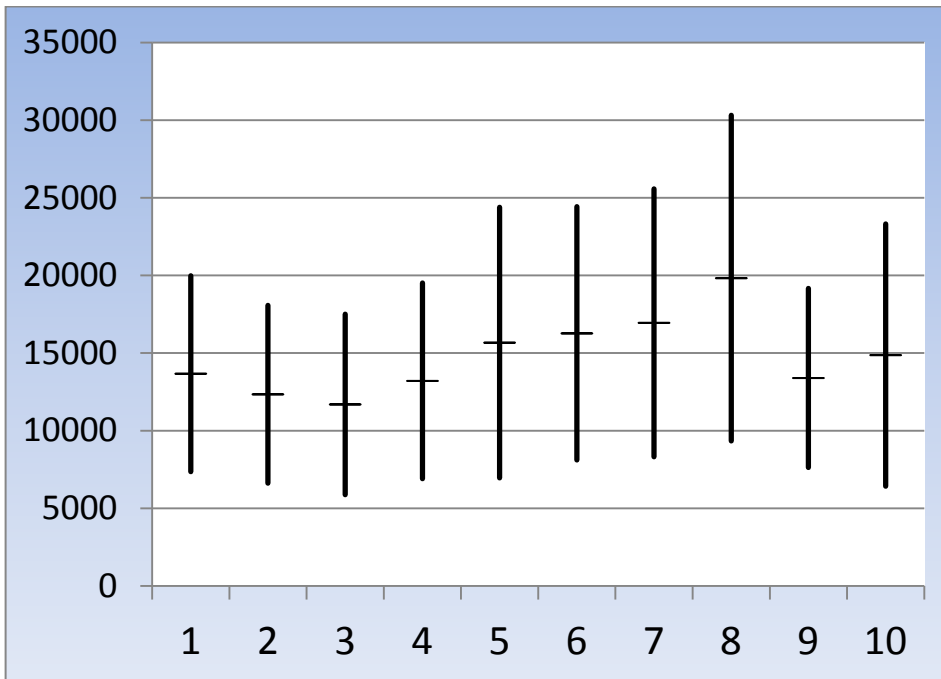
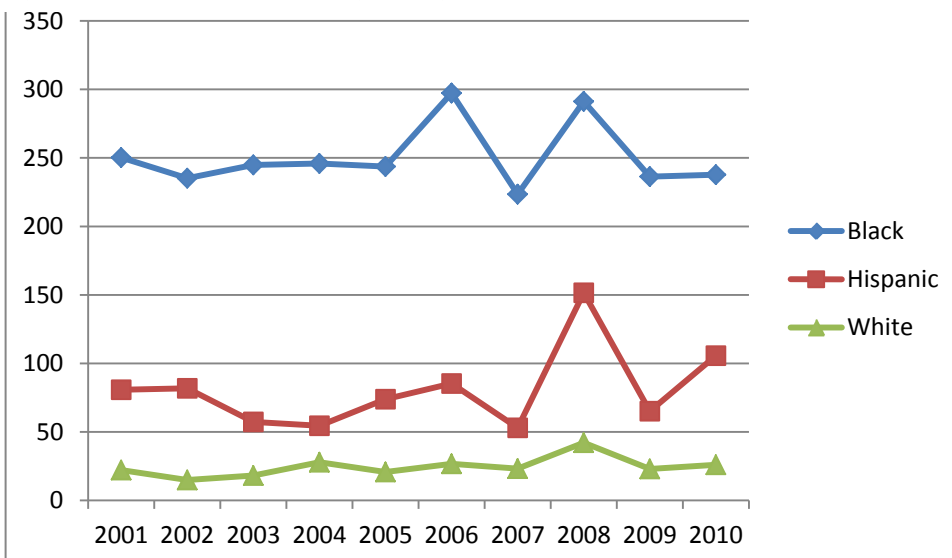


Figure 2: Rate of male firearm injuries by race/ethnicity, 13-19 year olds, 2001-2010



Medical care numbers

Costs of hospital-based medical care for **13-19 year olds** in the United States:

Non-fatal firearm injuries

\$92 million for medical care
7,784 young people hospitalized
Average cost per injury **\$11,763**

\$77 million of these costs were for violence-related firearm injuries

Fatal firearm injuries

\$16.4 million for medical care
2,818 young people died
Average cost per death **\$5,871**

Global costs for violent deaths

Average lifetime cost per firearm death **\$932,254**
Total combined costs **\$27 billion**

Spending estimates on juvenile justice prevention and systems:

\$4.6 billion (states)
\$70 million (federal)