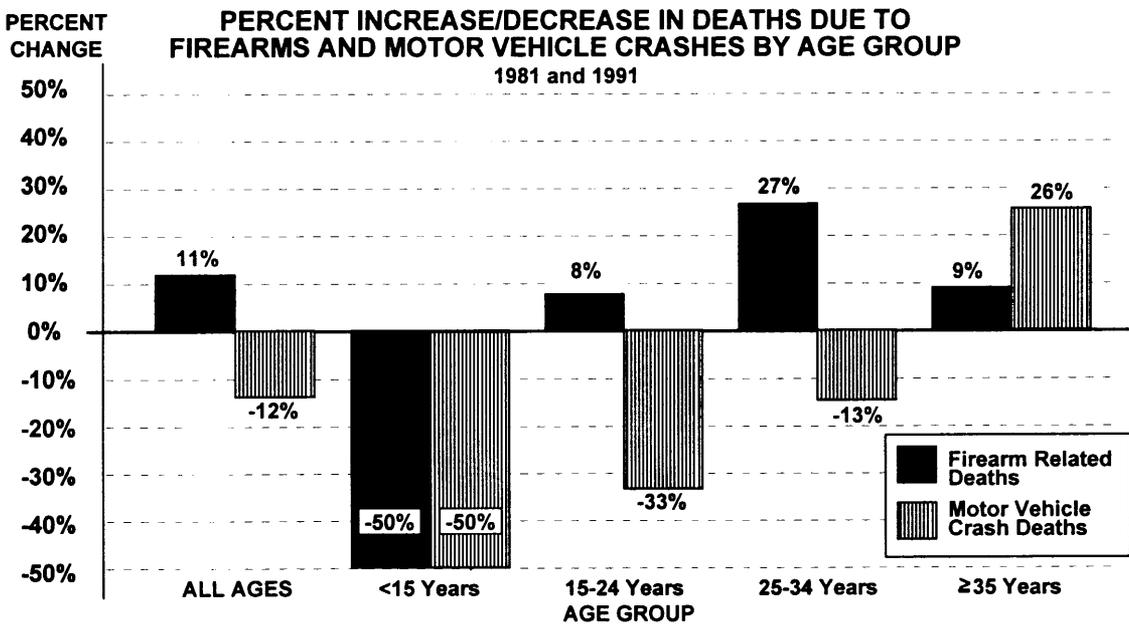


FIREARM AND MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH DEATHS 1981 and 1991

Number 9c

- ➔ Nationwide, firearm mortality has been increasing while motor vehicle mortality has been declining.¹
- ➔ Consistent with the national trend, in Maine in 1991, there were 121 firearm deaths, compared to 109 in 1981. This is an 11% increase in numbers (and an increase of 2% in the rate per 100,000 residents, from 9.6 to 9.8). In that same year, there were 194 motor vehicle deaths, compared to 221 in 1981, a 12% decrease in numbers (and a decrease in the rate per 100,000 of 19%, from 19.5 to 15.7).
- ➔ Firearm deaths could exceed motor vehicle deaths as the leading cause of injury death in the United States very early in the next decade. In 1991, more Americans were killed by firearms than died in motor vehicle crashes in 6 states and the District of Columbia.²
- ➔ *In Maine, during the ten year period, 1981 to 1991, the ratio of firearm deaths to motor vehicle crash deaths narrowed from 5 firearm deaths for every 10 motor vehicle crash deaths to 6 firearm deaths for every 10 motor vehicle crash deaths.*
- ➔ Deaths due to firearms increased in all age groups except the age group younger than 15 years old; in that group they decreased by half (from 4 to 2). Motor vehicle deaths decreased in all age groups less than 35 years old; they increased by 26% in the group 35 years old and older (from 68 to 86).



Footnotes 1,2: Full citations are available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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Kevin W. Concannon
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DS:FACTS2.FRP P7
VSD.003
04041994
Rev:09061995

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Series 2

FACT SHEET - DEATHS