

## Characteristics of Firearm-related Injuries

**Overall, how many persons were victims of firearm deaths and injuries?**

*There were 213 firearm deaths and injuries.*

**What were the injury rates for fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries occurring in SF for SF residents?**

*The fatal and nonfatal rates were 5.5 per 100,000 and 16.6 per 100,000, respectively.*

**Who was most at risk of being a victim of a firearm injury?**

*African American males between 20 and 24 years old had the highest rates—679 per 100,000. They were 72 times more likely to be injured by a firearm than White males of any age, even though the African American male population represents less than 5% of the total SF population.*

**What age group had the highest number of firearm injuries?**

*Fifty-four percent (116) of victims injured were between 20 and 34 years old.*

**How many of the firearm victims were residents of other counties?**

*Twenty-five percent (51) of the victims were not residents of SF County—30% (19) of the fatalities and 21% (32) of the nonfatalities.*

**How many victims were killed or injured due to an assaultive use of firearms?**

*Eighty-three percent (177) of the victims were injured as the result of a homicide or an assault.*

**Of these assaultive injuries how many died?**

*Twenty-three percent (40) died as a result of homicide.*

**How many of the fatalities were suicides?**

*Of all deaths, 33% were suicides.*

In this section

Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries by Intent

Residence

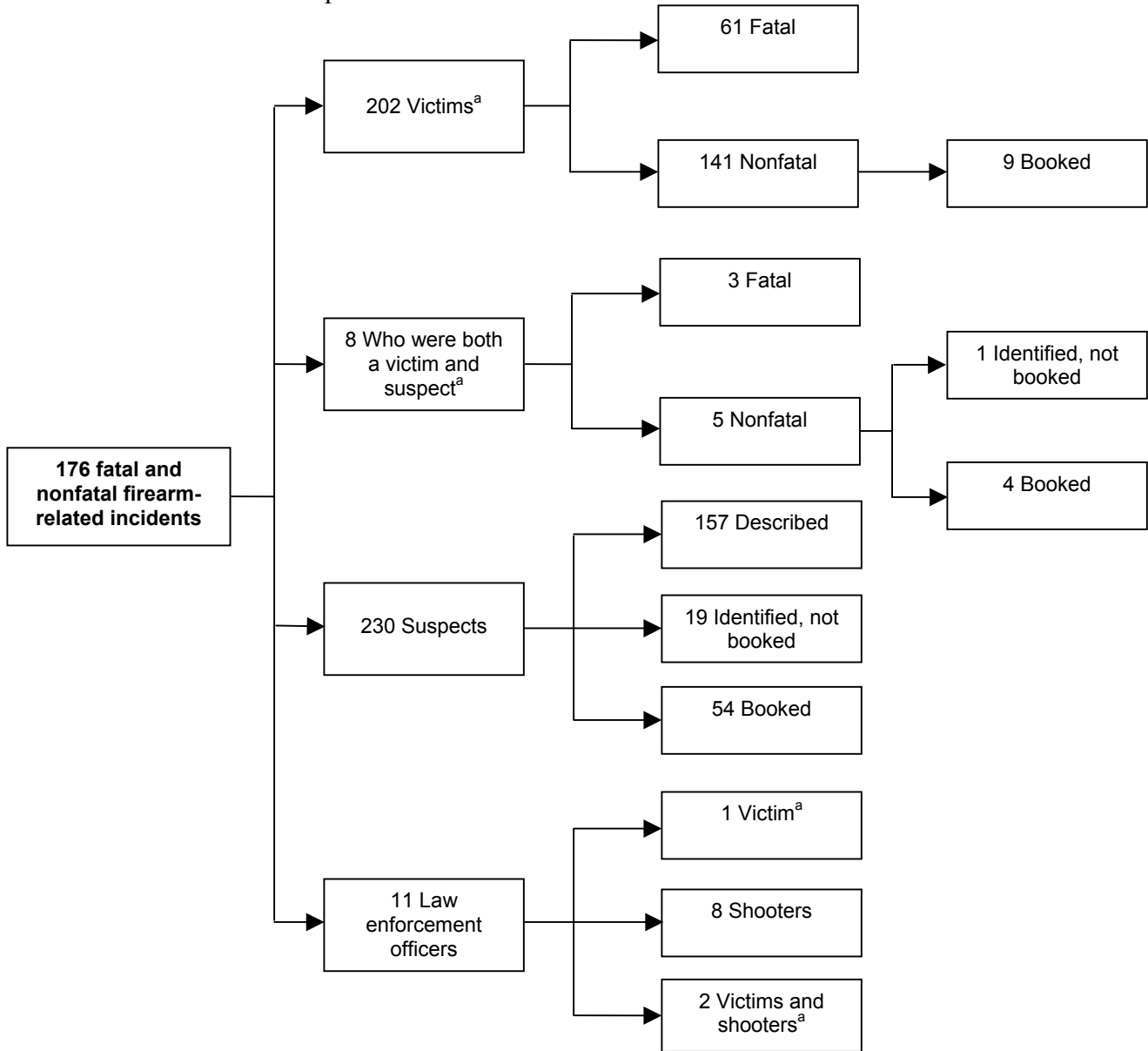
Overall, Firearm-related Injuries, Age-adjusted and Age-specific Rates, by Intent, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity



## Characteristics of Firearm-related Injuries

### Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries by Intent

There were 176 incidents of firearm-related injuries in SF County in 1999, involving 213 victims. Figure 10 shows the number of victims and suspects who were involved in these incidents. A detailed analysis of topics such as suspects, bookings, and legal interventions are discussed later in this report.



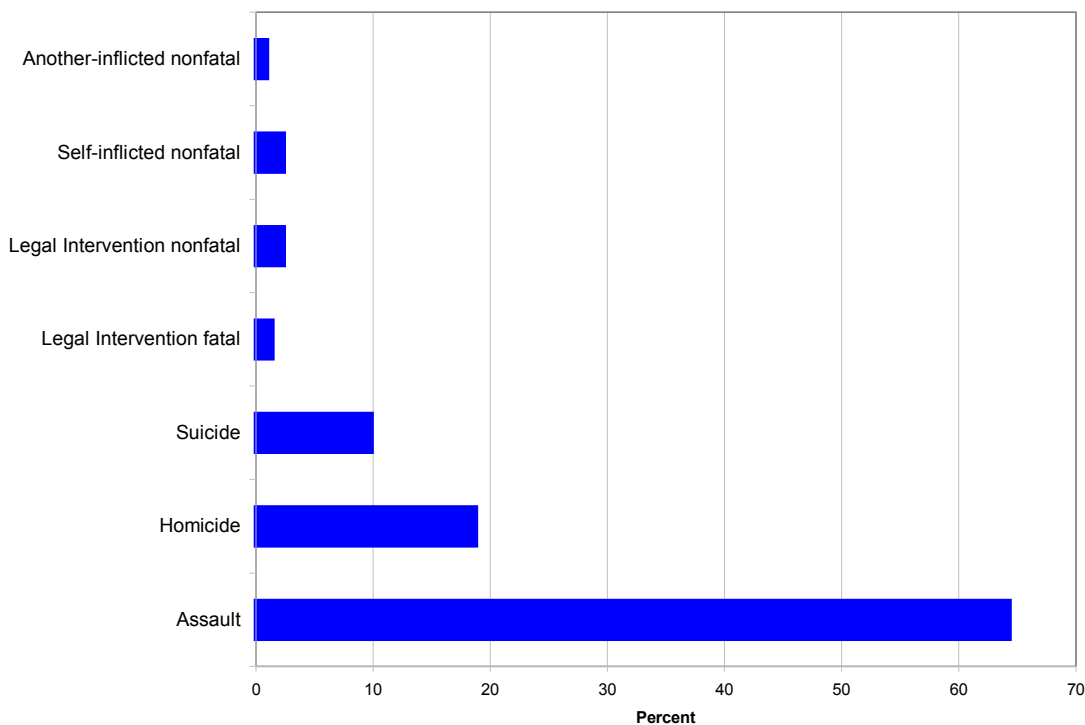
**Figure 10: Number of Incidents, Victims, Suspects, and Those Victims and Suspects Who were Both: San Francisco, 1999**  
<sup>a</sup>Number of victims is 202+8+1+2=213

Table 4 shows the number of victims, suspects, and those individuals who were both a victim and a suspect, by the number of incidents and by incident intent.<sup>9</sup> Overall, 83% (177) of all victims were injured during an assaultive incident. Thirty percent (64) of the victims suffered fatal injuries. Homicides accounted for 63% (40) of the fatalities, and 33% (21) and 5% (3) of the fatalities resulted from suicide and legal intervention, respectively. Of the 149 nonfatal injuries, 92% (137) resulted from assault, 3% (5) were self-inflicted, 3% (5) resulted from legal interventions, and those victims who were unintentionally shot by another person represented less than 1% (2) (Figure 11).

**Table 4: Characteristics of Firearm-related Victims and Shooters, by Incident Intent: San Francisco, 1999**

Intent	Incidents	Total number of victims	Total number of suspects	Law enforcement (shooters)	Both a victim and a suspect	Law enforcement officers who were both a victim and shooter
Overall	176	213	230	8	8	2
Homicide	38	40	61	0	0	0
Assault	106	137	165	0	5	0
Suicide	19	21	0	0	2	0
Legal Intervention	6	8	2	8	1	2
Another-inflicted <sup>a</sup>	2	2	2	0	0	0
Self-inflicted <sup>b</sup>	5	5	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Another-inflicted incidents are those in which victims were unintentionally shot by another person.  
<sup>b</sup>Self-inflicted incidents are those in which victims unintentionally shot themselves.

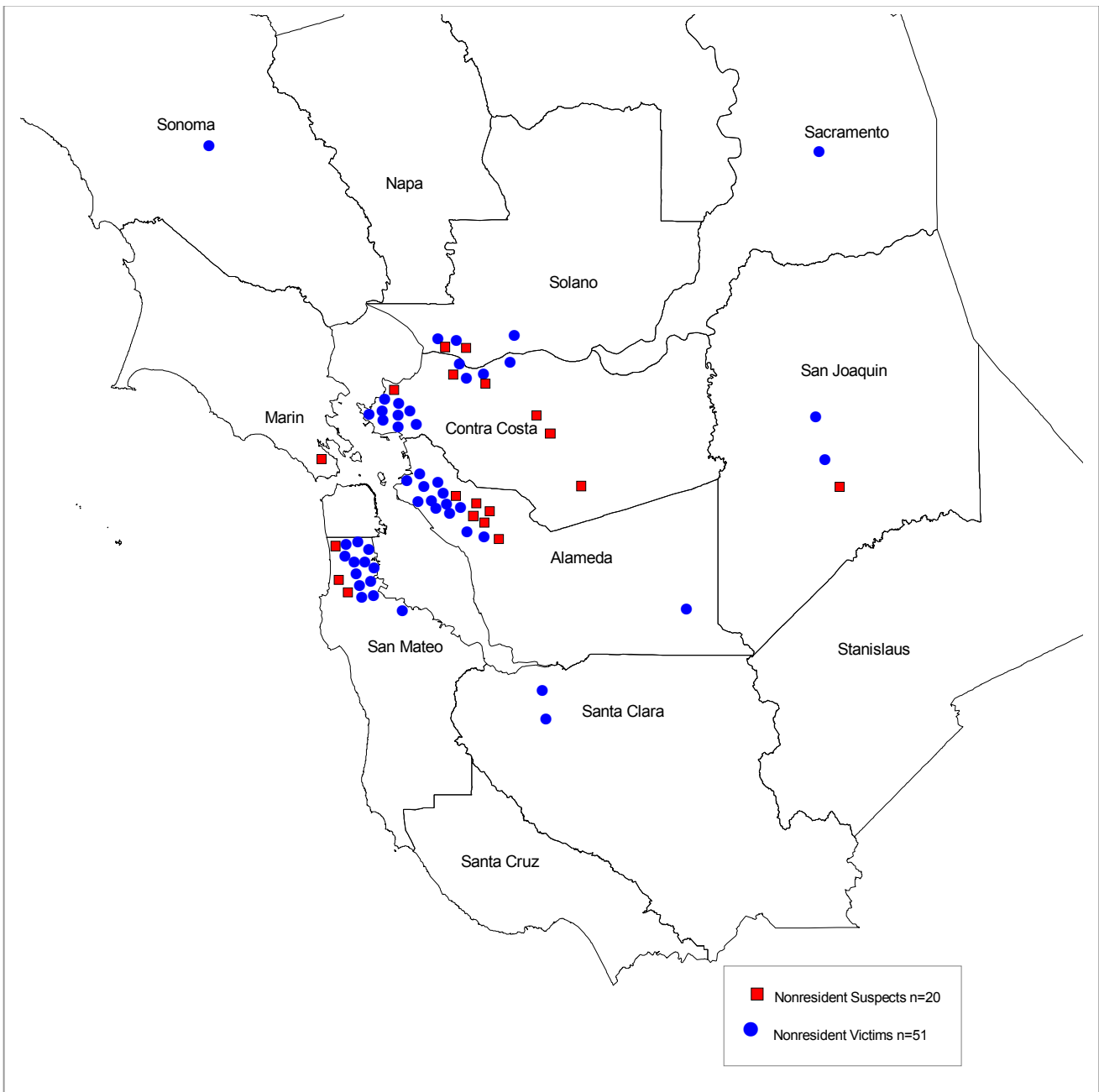


**Figure 11: Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries, by Intent: San Francisco, 1999 (N=213)**  
 Note: Another-inflicted incidents are those in which victims were unintentionally shot by another person. Self-inflicted incidents are those in which victims unintentionally shot themselves.

<sup>9</sup>See Methods section for a further explanation of the coding scheme used to classify intent, manner, and outcome.

**Residence**

Of the 213 victims in fatal and nonfatal incidents, 205 had a known address and 75% (154) were residents of San Francisco County (Table 5). Figure 12 shows that 25% (51) of the victims and 27% (20) of the identified suspects resided outside of the County.



**Figure 12: Nonresident Victims of Firearm-related Injuries and Nonresident Suspects Involved in Firearm Incidents in San Francisco County: San Francisco, 1999.**

Notes: Location within the County is based on the victim's or suspect's city of residence—location is an approximation. There was a single victim with a residence outside of California. There were 3 victims whose addresses were not collected (law enforcement officers) and 5 victims with unknown addresses. There was a single nonresident suspect whose residence overlapped with another, and 2 nonresident victims whose residences overlapped. There were 5 persons who were both a victim and a suspect who were nonresidents, who are included in the nonresident suspects and nonresident victims. There were 74 suspects who had known addresses; 54 of these suspects were residents of San Francisco.

**Table 5: Incidents of Overall, Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries, and Age-adjusted<sup>a</sup> and Age-specific Rates for San Francisco Residents: San Francisco, 1999**

	Overall		Fatal		Nonfatal		San Francisco population		Fatal resident			Nonfatal resident <sup>b</sup>		
	N	%	n	%	n	%	population	%	n	%	Adjusted	n	%	Adjusted
All cases	213		64	30.0	149	70.0	788,975	--	44	28.6	<b>5.5</b>	110	71.4	<b>16.6</b>
Females	27	12.7	10	15.6	17	11.4	397,637	50.4	8	18.2	1.9	13	11.8	4.6
Males	183	85.9	54	<b>84.4</b>	129	86.6	391,338	49.6	36	81.8	9.2	97	88.2	28.3
Not collected	3	1.4	0	--	3	2.0	0	--	0	--	--	0	--	--
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>														
African American	113	<b>53.1</b>	25	<b>39.1</b>	88	<b>59.1</b>	78,730	10.0	16	35.6	<b>20.1</b>	72	65.5 <sup>e</sup>	<b>92.0</b>
American Indian	0	--	0	--	0	--	2,719	0.3	0	--	--	0	--	--
Asian	25	11.7	10	15.6	15	10.1	262,485	33.3	6	13.6	2.1	8	7.3	3.1
Hispanic	43	<b>20.2</b>	15	23.4	28	18.8	126,060	16.0	10	21.7	7.4	19	17.3	16.2
White	24	11.3	14	21.9	10	6.8	318,981	40.4	12	26.1	4.2	6	5.5	2.3
White <sup>c</sup>	3	1.4	0	--	3	2.0	0	--	0	--	--	3	2.7	--
Unknown <sup>d</sup>	2	0.9	0	--	2	1.3	0	--	0	--	--	2	1.8	--
Not collected	3	1.4	0	--	3	2.0	0	--	0	--	--	0	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>		<b>64</b>		<b>149</b>		<b>788,975</b>		<b>44</b>			<b>110</b>		
<b>Female</b>														
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>														
African American	11	5.2	2	20.0	9	<b>52.9</b>	40,862	10.3	2	25.0	--	8	61.5	19.6
American Indian	0	--	0	--	0	--	1,332	0.3	0	--	--	0	--	--
Asian	8	3.8	3	30.0	5	29.4	135,846	34.2	2	25.0	--	2	15.4	--
Hispanic	3	1.4	1	10.0	2	11.8	62,002	15.6	0	--	--	2	15.4	--
White	4	1.9	4	40.0	0	--	157,595	39.6	4	50.0	--	0	--	--
White <sup>c</sup>	1	0.5	0	--	1	5.9	0	--	0	--	--	1	7.7	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>397,637</b>		<b>8</b>			<b>13</b>		
<b>Male</b>														
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>														
African American	102	<b>47.9</b>	23	<b>42.6</b>	79	<b>61.2</b>	37,868	<b>9.7</b>	14	37.8	37.1	64	66.0	<b>164.7</b>
American Indian	0	--	0	--	0	--	1,387	0.4	0	--	--	0	--	--
Asian	17	7.9	7	13.0	10	7.8	126,639	32.4	4	11.1	--	6	6.2	4.8
Hispanic	40	18.8	14	25.9	26	20.2	64,058	16.4	10	26.3	14.8	17	17.5	27.7
White	20	9.4	10	18.5	10	7.8	161,386	41.2	8	21.1	5.1	6	6.2	4.4
White <sup>c</sup>	2	0.9	0	--	2	1.6	0	--	0	--	--	2	2.1	--
Unknown <sup>d</sup>	2	0.9	0	--	2	1.6	0	--	0	--	--	2	2.1	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>		<b>54</b>		<b>129</b>		<b>391,338</b>		<b>36</b>			<b>97</b>		
<b>Intent</b>														
Suicide/self-inflicted	26	12.2	21	32.8	5	3.4			16	36.4	1.9	4	3.6	--
Homicide/assault	177	83.1	40	62.5	137	91.9			28	62.2	3.6	102	92.7	<b>15.3</b>
Another-inflicted	2	0.9	0	--	2	1.3			0	--	--	2	1.8	--
Legal Intervention	8	3.8	3	4.7	5	3.4			0	--	--	2	1.8	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>		<b>64</b>		<b>149</b>				<b>44</b>			<b>110</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>														
									Age-specific			Age-specific		
0-14	1	0.5	0	--	1	0.7	130,537	16.5	0	--	--	1	0.9	--
15-19	26	12.2	2	3.1	24	16.1	34,904	4.4	1	2.2	--	22	19.5	63.0
20-24	58	<b>27.2</b>	13	20.3	45	30.2	36,732	4.7	8	17.4	21.8	33	29.2	<b>89.8</b>
25-34	58	<b>27.2</b>	16	<b>25.0</b>	42	28.2	120,862	15.3	12	27.3	9.9	32	28.3	26.5
35-44	33	15.5	14	<b>21.9</b>	19	12.8	158,608	20.1	10	21.7	6.3	15	13.3	9.5
45-64	28	13.1	14	<b>21.9</b>	14	9.3	189,447	24.0	8	17.8	4.2	6	5.3	3.2
65+	6	2.8	5	7.8	1	0.7	117,885	14.9	5	10.9	4.2	1	0.9	--
Not collected	3	1.4	0	--	3	2.0	0	--	0	--	--	3	2.7	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>		<b>64</b>		<b>149</b>		<b>788,975</b>		<b>44</b>			<b>113</b>		

<sup>a</sup>Age-adjusted rates are standardized using the standard million United States 2000 population, and individual age group rates are adjusted to the specific age group. All rates are reported per 100,000. When cell counts are less than 5 rates are not calculated due to statistical unreliability.

<sup>b</sup>There were 4 nonfatality victims with unknown residency, 1 fatality with an unknown residence, and 3 law enforcement officers—whose residency was not collected due to confidentiality—who were wounded, for a total of 8 victims with unknown residence.

<sup>c</sup>White, unknown ethnicity

<sup>d</sup>Unknown race/ethnicity

<sup>e</sup>Denominator is based on the counts for the specific age and race/ethnic group.

**Overall, Firearm-related Injuries, Age-adjusted, and Age-specific Rates by Intent, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity**

SF County had an age-adjusted rate of fatal and nonfatal firearm-related injuries due to all causes of 22.1 per 100,000 (154) in 1999. The age-adjusted fatal firearm injury rate was 5.5, and the nonfatal firearm injury age-adjusted rate was 16.6. Twenty-one firearm-related suicides occurred in SF, with 16 of these suicides involving SF residents. The overall firearm-related suicide age-adjusted rate for the County was 1.9 (Table 5).

The age group that experienced the greatest number of firearm injuries and deaths were victims aged 25 to 34 with 44 injuries and deaths and an age-specific rate of 36 per 100,000. However, victims aged 20 to 24 experienced 41 injuries and deaths and had an age-specific rate of 112—3 times greater than victims aged 25 to 34 (Table 6, Figure 13). The overall homicide and assault age-adjusted rate was 19 (129), with victims aged 20 to 24 having an age-specific rate of 104 (38), victims aged 15 to 19 having an age-specific rate of 54 (19), followed by victims aged 25 to 34 with an age-specific rate of 34 (41) (Table 6).

**Table 6: Intent of Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries, by Age, for San Francisco County Residents: San Francisco, 1999**

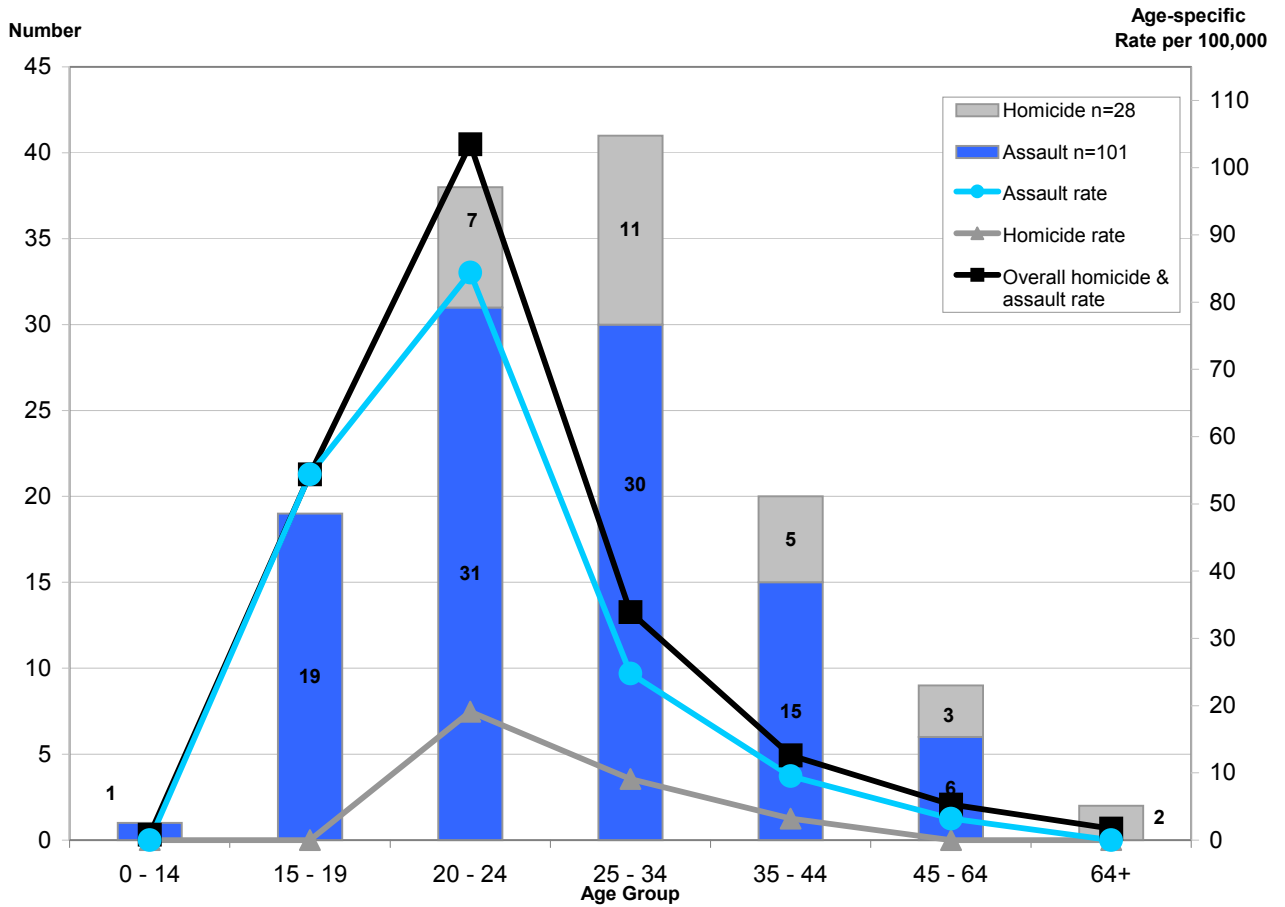
Intent	Overall		Age Group											
	N	rate <sup>b</sup>	15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-64		65+	
			n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate
Overall	153	<b>22.0</b>	23	65.9	41	<b>111.6</b>	44	36.4	25	15.8	14	7.4	6	5.1
Homicide	28	3.6	0	--	7	19.1	11	9.1	5	3.2	3	--	2	--
Assault <sup>a</sup>	101	<b>15.1</b>	19	54.4	31	<b>84.4</b>	30	24.8	15	9.5	6	3.2	0	--
Suicide	16	1.9	1	--	1	--	1	--	5	3.2	5	2.6	3	--
Legal nonfatal	2	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Self-inflicted <sup>c</sup>	4	--	0	--	2	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1	--
Another-inflicted <sup>d</sup>	2	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
All fatal intents	44	<b>5.5</b>	1	--	8	21.8	12	9.9	10	6.3	8	4.2	5	4.2
All nonfatal intents	109	<b>16.5</b>	22	63.0	33	<b>89.8</b>	32	26.5	15	9.5	6	3.2	1	--

<sup>a</sup>There was a single assault victim aged 0-14 that was not included.

<sup>b</sup>Age-adjusted rates are standardized using the standard million United States 2000 population, and individual age group rates are adjusted to the specific age group. All rates are reported per 100,000. When cell counts are less than 5 rates are not calculated due to statistical unreliability.

<sup>c</sup>Self-inflicted incidents are those in which victims unintentionally shot themselves.

<sup>d</sup>Another-inflicted incidents are those in which victims were unintentionally shot by another person.



**Figure 13: Incidence and Age-specific Rates of Firearm-related Injuries to San Francisco Residents, by Intent and Age Group: San Francisco, 1999**  
 Note: Age-adjusted rates are standardized using the standard million United States 2000 population, and individual age group rates are adjusted to the specific age group. All rates are reported per 100,000. When cell counts are less than 5 rates are not calculated due to statistical unreliability.

Table 7 and Figure 14 show that a male resident was 6 times more likely to be a victim of a firearm-related injury than a female resident. For male victims aged 20 to 24 years the assault rate (128) was 8 times greater than the overall assault rate (15) for all age and gender groups. In addition, the homicide rate for males aged 20 to 24 years (32) was over 8 times the overall homicide rate (3.6) for all age and gender groups.

**Table 7: Intent of Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries, by Gender and Age for San Francisco County Residents:<sup>a</sup> San Francisco, 1999**

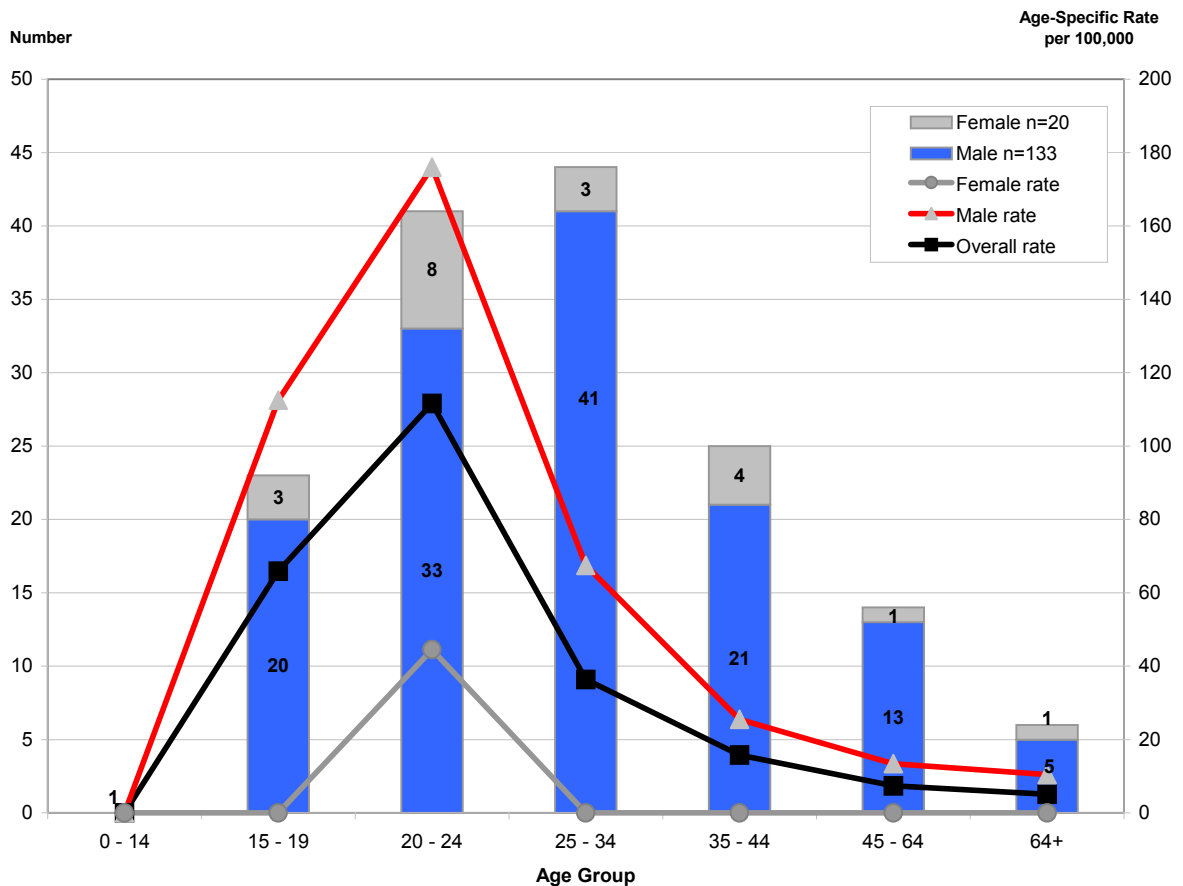
Gender	Intent	Overall N	Overall rate <sup>b</sup>	Age Group											
				15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-64		65+	
				n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate
Male	Overall	133	37.4	20	112.5	33	176.0	41	67.5	21	25.5	13	13.4	5	10.4
	Homicide	23	5.9	0	--	6	32.0	9	14.8	4	--	2	--	2	--
	Assault	89	25.6	16	90.0	24	128.0	29	47.8	14	17.0	6	6.2	0	--
	Suicide	13	3.2	1	--	1	--	1	--	3	--	5	5.2	2	--
	Legal nonfatal	2	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
	Self-inflicted <sup>c</sup>	4	--	0	--	2	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1	--
	Another-inflicted <sup>d</sup>	2	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Female	Overall	20	6.2	3	--	8	44.5	3	--	4	--	1	--	1	--
	Homicide	5	--	0	--	1	--	2	--	1	--	1	--	0	--
	Assault	12	4.3	3	--	7	38.9	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--
	Suicide	3	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	2	--	0	--	1	--
Overall	Overall	153	22.0	23	65.9	41	111.6	44	36.4	25	15.8	14	7.4	6	5.1
	Homicide	28	3.6	0	--	7	19.1	11	9.1	5	3.2	3	--	2	--
	Assault	101	15.1	19	54.4	31	84.4	30	24.8	15	9.5	6	3.2	0	--
	Suicide	17	2.0	1	--	1	--	1	--	5	--	5	--	3	--
	Legal Nonfatal	2	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
	Self-inflicted	4	--	0	--	2	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1	--
	Another-inflicted	2	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Fatal	All intents	44	5.5	1	--	8	21.8	12	9.9	10	6.3	8	4.2	5	4.2
Nonfatal	All intents	109	16.5	22	63.0	33	89.8	32	26.5	15	9.5	6	3.2	1	--

<sup>a</sup>The overall rate represents an age-adjusted rate and the rates for individual age groups are age-specific. There was a single assault female victim that is not included in the table.

<sup>b</sup>Age-adjusted rates are standardized using the standard million United States 2000 population, and individual age group rates are adjusted to the specific age group. All rates are reported per 100,000. When cell counts are less than 5 rates are not calculated due to statistical unreliability.

<sup>c</sup>Self-inflicted incidents are those in which victims unintentionally shot themselves.

<sup>d</sup>Another-inflicted incidents are those in which victims were unintentionally shot by another person.



**Figure 14: Incidence and Age-specific Rates of Firearm-related Injuries to San Francisco Residents, by Gender and Age Group: San Francisco, 1999**

Note: Age-adjusted rates are standardized using the standard million United States 2000 population, and individual age group rates are adjusted to the specific age group. All rates are reported per 100,000. When cell counts are less than 5 rates are not calculated due to statistical unreliability.

An African American victim was almost 17 times more likely to be a victim of a firearm-related injury than a White victim (Table 8). Even though the greatest number (30) of injuries were experienced by African American males aged 25 to 34 years, African American male victims aged 20 to 24 years had the highest age-specific rates of any gender, age, and race/ethnicity category. An African American male aged 20 to 24 years was almost 3 times as likely to be a victim of a firearm-related injury than a Hispanic male of the same age category.

**Table 8: Intent of Fatal and Nonfatal Firearm-related Injuries, by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender for San Francisco County Residents: San Francisco, 1999**

Race/ Ethnicity	Gender	Intent <sup>a</sup>	Age Group														
			Overall		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-64		65+		
			N	rate <sup>b</sup>	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	n	rate	
African American	Male	Overall	78	<b>201.9</b>	12	466.2	17	<b>679.5</b>	30	<b>539.9</b>	12	177.3	4	--	3	--	
		Homicide	14	37.1	0	--	3	--	4	--	3	--	2	--	2	--	
		Assault	58	148.2	10	388.5	13	519.6	24	<b>431.9</b>	9	133.0	2	--	0	--	
		Legal nonfatal	2	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
		Self-inflicted <sup>c</sup>	3	--	0	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	1	--	
		Another-inflicted <sup>d</sup>	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
	Female	Overall	10	26.2	2	--	5	201.5	0	--	2	--	1	--	0	--	
		Homicide	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	
		Assault	8	21.3	2	--	5	201.5	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	
		Overall	Overall	88	<b>112.1</b>	14	269.6	22	<b>441.5</b>	30	266.5	14	102.7	5	30.0	3	--
		Homicide	16	20.1	0	--	3	--	4	--	4	--	3	--	2	--	
		Assault	66	84.2	12	231.1	18	361.2	24	<b>213.2</b>	10	73.4	2	--	0	--	
	Asian	Male	Overall	10	7.9	1	--	3	--	2	--	1	--	3	--	0	--
			Homicide	2	--	0	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Assault			6	4.8	1	--	2	--	1	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	
Suicide			2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	2	--	0	--	
Overall <sup>e</sup>			4	--	0	--	0	--	3	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
Homicide			2	--	0	--	0	--	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
Female		Assault	2	--	0	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
		Overall	14	5.3	1	--	3	--	5	11.7	1	--	3	--	0	--	
		Homicide	4	--	0	--	1	--	3	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
		Assault	8	3.1	1	--	2	--	2	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	
		Suicide	2	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	2	--	0	--	
		Hispanic	Male	Overall	27	<b>42.4</b>	4	--	11	270.8	6	45.4	3	--	2	--	1
Homicide				6	7.4	0	--	2	--	4	--	0	--	0	--	0	--
Assault				16	26.0	4	--	7	172.3	2	--	2	--	1	--	0	--
Suicide	4			--	0	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	1	--	1	--	
Self-inflicted	1			--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
Overall	2			--	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
Female	Assault		2	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
	Overall		29	<b>23.7</b>	5	70.0	12	152.5	6	24.9	3	--	2	--	1	--	
	Homicide		6	3.9	0	--	2	--	4	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
	Assault		18	15.4	5	70.0	8	101.7	2	--	2	--	1	--	0	--	
	Suicide		4	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	1	--	1	--	
	Self-inflicted		1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
White	Male		Overall	14	9.5	2	--	0	--	3	--	4	--	4	--	1	--
			Homicide	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--
		Assault	5	2.6	0	--	0	--	2	--	1	--	2	--	0	--	
		Suicide	7	4.7	1	--	0	--	1	--	2	--	2	--	1	--	
		Another-inflicted	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
		Overall	4	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	2	--	0	--	1	--	
	Female	Homicide	1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	
		Suicide	3	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	2	--	0	--	1	--	
		Overall	18	6.5	2	--	1	--	3	--	6	7.5	4	--	2	--	
		Homicide	2	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	
		Assault	5	1.3	0	--	0	--	2	--	1	--	2	--	0	--	
		Suicide	10	3.0	1	--	0	--	1	--	4	--	2	--	2	--	
	Overall	Another-inflicted	1	--	1	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	

<sup>a</sup>If intent is not listed within a gender and race/ethnicity category, it signifies that there were no incidents meeting that classification.

There were no fatal legal interventions with resident victims. The 3 fatalities resulting from legal intervention were nonresidents.

<sup>b</sup>Age-adjusted rates are standardized using the standard million United States 2000 population, and individual age group rates are adjusted to the specific age group. All rates are reported per 100,000. When cell counts are less than 5 rates are not calculated due to statistical unreliability.

<sup>c</sup>Self-inflicted incidents are those in which victims unintentionally shot themselves.

<sup>d</sup>Another-inflicted incidents are those in which victims were unintentionally shot by another person.

<sup>e</sup>There was a single Asian assault victim aged 0-14 that is included in the overall counts.

## Characteristics of Firearm-related Injuries

Also, as shown in Tables 7 and 8, the overall firearm injury rate for African American males aged 25 to 34 (540) was nearly 8 times greater than the male overall rate for victims aged 25 to 34 (68).