

## Glossary

**Abbreviated Injury Severity Scale (AIS):** An anatomically based system that classifies individual injuries by body region. The scale ranges from 1 (minor injury) to 6 (maximum injury, virtually unsurvivable).

**Age-adjusted rate:** An age-adjusted rate is a standardized rate. Through direct standardization, a single summary value for each group is produced which is "free" from confounding influence of the age distribution.<sup>16</sup> The utility of the age-adjusted rate is that it allows comparison across groups.<sup>17</sup> A comparison of crude rates can be misleading because the comparison can be distorted by differences in other factors that can affect the outcome, such as age. Standardization is one way to remove the distortion introduced by the different age distributions.<sup>18</sup>

**Age-specific injury rate:** Generally, the number of injuries per 100,000 of a specified age group.

**Assault (aggravated):** An unlawful attack or attempted attack by one person on another person, with the intent of inflicting severe bodily nonfatal injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm

**Assault Weapon:** Any of various automatic or semiautomatic rifles designed for military use with large capacity magazines. If a firearm was reported in the incident report as an assault weapon, it is reflected in this report as such. In 1999, Title 11, Division 1, Chapter 12.9, California Penal Code Section 12276(a)-(c) lists firearms identified as assault weapons (see Appendix and <http://caag.state.ca.us/firearms/regs/aw.htm>).

**Automatic:** Firearm that loads, fires, and ejects ammunition continuously with one trigger squeeze. Often confused with a semiautomatic firearm. Machine guns are true automatic weapons.

**Caliber:** Measurement of the inside diameter of the barrel of a firearm. Caliber may be measured in hundredths of an inch (e.g., .45 caliber), but may also be measured in millimeters (e.g., 9mm). Small caliber is less than or equal to 8mm/.32; medium caliber is greater than 8mm/.32 to less than 10mm/.40; large caliber is equal to or greater than 10mm/.40.

**California Penal Code:** The California Penal Code contains statutes that define criminal offenses, specify corresponding punishments, and describe criminal justice system mandates and procedures.

**Cartridge:** A round of ammunition that includes primer, gunpowder, and explosive cap to ignite the powder, gun casing, and the bullet or shot.

**Fatality:** An injury that results in death.

<sup>16</sup>Selvin, S. Measures of Risk: Rates and Probabilities. *Statistical Analysis of Epidemiological Data*, edited by Oxford University Press, New York: Oxford University Press; 1996.

<sup>17</sup>Greenberg, R.S. Medical Surveillance. *Medical Epidemiology*, edited by Appleton & Lange; 1993.

<sup>18</sup>Rothman, K.J. *Modern Epidemiology*, edited by Little, Brown & Company, Boston/Toronto: Little, Brown & Company; 1986.

**Firearm:** A firearm is a weapon consisting of a metal tube that fires a projectile at high velocity using an explosive charge as a propellant. This definition includes handguns, rifles, and shotguns, and excludes BB guns, pellet guns, and air guns.

**Firearm Injury:** A penetrating injury caused by the discharge of a firearm.

**Gauge:** Shotgun measurement that is determined by the number of lead balls, of the same diameter as the barrel, that it would take to weigh one pound.

**Handgun:** Short-barreled firearm that is usually held at arm's length, rather than at the shoulder, to fire. Among the most common types of handguns are revolvers and semiautomatic pistols.

**Homicide:** The killing of one human being by another.

**Incident:** An "incident" is defined for SFFIRS and NFFIRS (the National system) reporting purposes as one or more firearm-related injuries, assaults, or suicidal acts committed by the same person, or group of persons acting in concert, at the same time and place. "Acting in concert" requires that the persons actually commit or assist in the commission of the assault(s) or suicidal act(s). The persons must be aware of, and consent to, the commission of the assault(s) or suicidal act(s); or even if nonconsenting, their actions must assist in the commission of the assault(s) or suicidal act(s). "Same time and place" means that the time interval between the events and the distance between the locations where they occurred were insignificant. Normally, the events must have occurred during an unbroken time duration and at the same or adjoining location(s).

**Injury Rate:** A statistical measure describing the number of injuries observed or expected to occur in a defined number of people (usually 100,000) during a defined time period (usually 1 year). Used as an expression of the relative risk among different injuries or groups.<sup>19</sup>

**Intentional Injury:** An injury that is judged to have been purposely inflicted, either by one's self (suicide or attempt) or another (homicide or assault).

**Injury Severity Score (ISS):** Is the sum of the squares of the highest AIS score in three different body regions. ISS ranges from 1 to 75. It was developed for analysis of overall injury severity and probability of survival.

**Juvenile:** Person under the age of 18.

**Legal Intervention:** Injuries inflicted by police or other law enforcement agents on duty.

**Magazine:** Part of the semiautomatic firearm that holds ammunition until it is ready to be fed into the chamber.

**Pistol:** Any handgun that does not contain its ammunition in a revolving cylinder. Pistols can be manually cocked or semiautomatic.

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<sup>19</sup>National Committee for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). *Injury Prevention: Meeting the Challenge*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 1988.

**Reliability of rates:** The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) considers rates based on 20 or fewer annual incidents to be statistically unreliable and to be regarded with caution. An increase from three to four incidents has a greater impact on the rate, for example, than an increase from 30 to 31 incidents. A very small numerator means that each incident takes on a greater statistical significance and that the rate has a greater relative standard error.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, when there are fewer than 5 events no rate should be calculated.<sup>21</sup>

**Revolver:** Firearm having a revolving cylinder that holds the ammunition. Ammunition is placed in chambers in the cylinder, allowing the gun to be fired several times without requiring reloading.

**Rifle:** A long rifled-bore firearm designed to be fired from the shoulder. Bullets leave rifle barrels generally at a higher velocity than they do from handgun barrels.

**Self-loader:** A semiautomatic firearm

**Semiautomatic:** Refers to a type of firearm action used in some shotguns, rifles, and handguns. When fired, semiautomatics automatically extract and eject the empty ammunition case and chamber a new cartridge with each pull of the trigger.

**Shell:** Container that holds the shot and other parts (wad, powder, primer) of ammunition for shotguns.

**Shot:** Balls of lead or steel used to fill a shotgun shell.

**Shotgun:** A long-barreled smooth-bore firearm that fires many lead or steel pellets (shot) with each discharge.

**Surveillance:** The ongoing and systematized collection, analysis, and interpretation of data in the process of describing and monitoring a health event.

**Suspected shooter:** The “suspected shooter” (or “suspect” for short) refers to the person or people who are suspected to have discharged the firearm in non-self-inflicted shootings. In gun accident cases, the suspected shooter is generally the person who pulled the trigger or otherwise caused the gun to discharge. In interpersonal violence-related cases, suspected shooters may include not only the person who pulled the trigger, but other offenders who were part of the incident. For example, if two people robbed a bank and a bank teller was shot, both offenders would be listed in the incident. The main source of these data, the Supplementary Homicide Report, does not differentiate the actual shooter from the other offenders, and often this information has not been determined at the time it is reported.

**Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR):** A federal reporting system that provides data on crime based on police statistics submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The California Department of Justice administers and forwards the data for the state to the federal program. This is the source of the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR).

<sup>20</sup>Yuwiler, J., Ray, L.U. Fatal Injury Matrix, For Intentional and Unintentional Childhood; 1998.

<sup>21</sup>Family Health Outcomes Project. *Guidelines for analysis of maternal and child health indicators in small geographic areas or where there are few events*. San Francisco, California; 1997.

**Unintentional Injury:** An injury that is judged to have occurred without any one intending that harm to be done.

**Victim:** Refers to the person who was shot. Use of the term does not imply that the victim was innocent of any wrongdoing. For example, an incident in which an offender fatally shoots a victim and then himself is shot to death by the police will appear as both a suspected shooter and as a victim in the same incident.

## Appendix

### California Code of Regulations

Title 11, Division 1, Chapter 12.9. - Department of Justice Regulations for Assault Weapons Identification Pursuant to Penal Code Section 12276 Subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (e).

§ 979.10. California Penal Code Section 12276(a)-(c) Assault Weapons List.

#### (a) Rifles

Armalite AR-180  
 Beretta AR-70  
 Bushmaster Assault Rifle  
 Calico M-900  
 Colt AR-15 (all)  
 Daewoo AR100, AR110C  
 Daewoo K-1, K-2  
 Daewoo Max 1, Max 2  
 Fabrique Nationale 308 Match, Sporter  
 Fabrique Nationale FAL, LAR, FNC  
 HK 91, 94, PSG-1  
 HK 93  
 IMI Galil  
 IMI Uzi  
 J&R ENG M-68  
 MAADI CO AK 47  
 MAADI CO ARM  
 Made in China 56  
 Made in China 56S  
 Made in China 84S  
 Made in China 86S  
 Made in China AK  
 Made in China AK47  
 Made in China AKM  
 Made in China AKS  
 Made in Spain CETME Sporter  
 MAS 223  
 Norinco 56  
 Norinco 56 S  
 Norinco 84 S  
 Norinco 86 S  
 Norinco SKS w/ detachable magazine  
 Poly technologies AK47  
 Poly technologies AKS  
 RPB Industries, Inc. sM10, sM11  
 SIG AMT, PE-57  
 SIG SG 550, SG 551  
 Sterling MK-6

Steyr AUG  
 SWD Incorporated M11  
 Valmet M62S, M71S, M78S  
 Weaver Arms Nighthawk

#### (b) Pistols

Advance Armament Inc. M11  
 Bushmaster Pistol  
 Calico M-950  
 Encom MP-9, MP-45  
 IMI UZI  
 Intratec TEC-9  
 Military Armament Corp. M-11  
 RPB Industries Inc. sM10, sM11  
 Sites Spectre  
 Sterling MK-7  
 SWD Incorporated M11

#### (c) Shotguns

Cobray Streetsweeper - S/S Inc., SS/12  
 Cobray Striker 12  
 Franchi SPAS 12, LAW 12

Note:

Authority cited: Penal Code Section 12276.5, subdivision (h).

Reference: Penal Code Section 12276, subdivisions (a), (b), and (c).

§ 979.11. California Penal Code Section 12276(e) Assault Weapons List.

#### (a) Rifles

American Arms AK-C 47  
 American Arms AK-F 39  
 American Arms AK-F 47  
 American Arms AK-Y 39  
 American Spirit USA Model  
 Armalite AR 10 (all)  
 Armalite Golden Eagle

Armalite M15 (all)  
Arsenal SLG (all)  
Arsenal SLR (all)  
B-West AK-47 (all)  
Bushmaster XM15 (all)  
Colt Law Enforcement (6920)  
Colt Match Target (all)  
Colt Sporter (all)  
Dalphon B.F.D.  
DPMS Panther (all)  
Eagle Arms EA-15 A2 H-BAR  
Eagle Arms EA-15 E1  
Eagle Arms M15 (all)  
Frankford Arsenal AR-15 (all)  
Hesse Arms HAR 15A2 (all)  
Hesse Arms Model 47 (all)  
Hesse Arms Wiegler STG 940 Rifle  
Inter Ordnance - Monroe, NC AK-47 (all)  
Inter Ordnance - Monroe, NC M-97  
Inter Ordnance - Monroe, NC RPK  
Kalashnikov USA Hunter Rifle / Saiga  
Knights RAS (all)  
Knights SR-15 (all)  
Knights SR-25 (all)  
Les Baer Ultimate AR (all)  
MAADI CO MISR (all)  
MAADI CO MISTR (all)  
Mitchell Arms, Inc. AK-47 (all)  
Mitchell Arms, Inc. AK-47 Cal .308 (all)  
Mitchell Arms, Inc. M-76  
Mitchell Arms, Inc. M-90  
Mitchell Arms, Inc. RPK  
Norinco 81 S (all)  
Norinco 86 (all)

Norinco AK-47 (all)  
Norinco Hunter Rifle  
Norinco MAK 90  
Norinco NHM 90, 90-2, 91 Sport  
Norinco RPK Rifle  
Ohio Ordnance Works (o.o.w.) AK-74  
Ohio Ordnance Works (o.o.w.) ROMAK 991  
Olympic Arms AR-15  
Olympic Arms Car-97  
Olympic Arms PCR (all)  
Ordnance, Inc. AR-15  
Palmetto SGA (all)  
Professional Ordnance, Inc. Carbon 15 Rifle  
PWA All Models  
Rock River Arms, Inc. Car A2  
Rock River Arms, Inc. Car A4 Flattop  
Rock River Arms, Inc. LE Tactical Carbine  
Rock River Arms, Inc. NM A2 - DCM Legal  
Rock River Arms, Inc. Standard A-2  
Rock River Arms, Inc. Standard A-4 Flattop  
Valmet 76 S  
Valmet Hunter Rifle  
Wilson Combat AR-15  
WUM WUM (all)

**(b) Pistols**

MARS Pistol  
Professional Ordnance, Inc. Carbon 15 Pistol  
Note  
Authority cited: Penal Code Section 12276.5,  
subdivision (h).  
Reference: Penal Code Section 12276, subdivision  
(e).

### **Senate Bill 23 Assault Weapon Characteristics**

Effective January 1, 2000, Senate Bill 23, Statutes of 1999, establishes new criteria for defining assault weapons based on generic characteristics. This bill allows and requires persons who own/possess firearms that fall under the new "assault weapon" definition to register those firearms with the Department of Justice during the one-year period between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. Effective January 1, 2000, this bill adds Penal Code Section 12276.1 to the Penal Code as follows.

12276.1 (a) Notwithstanding Section 12276, "assault weapon" shall also mean any of the following:

(1) A semiautomatic, centerfire rifle that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and any one of the following:

- (A) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon.
- (B) A thumbhole stock.
- (C) A folding or telescoping stock.
- (D) A grenade launcher or flare launcher.
- (E) A flash suppressor.
- (F) A forward pistol grip.

(2) A semiautomatic, centerfire rifle that has a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.

(3) A semiautomatic, centerfire rifle that has an overall length of less than 30 inches.

(4) A semiautomatic pistol that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and any one of the following:

- (A) A threaded barrel, capable of accepting a flash suppressor, forward handgrip, or silencer.
- (B) A second handgrip.
- (C) A shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel that allows the bearer to fire the weapon without burning his or her hand, except a slide that encloses the barrel.
- (D) The capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip.

(5) A semiautomatic pistol with a fixed magazine that has the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.

(6) A semiautomatic shotgun that has both of the following:

- (A) A folding or telescoping stock.
- (B) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon, thumbhole stock, or vertical handgrip.

(7) A semiautomatic shotgun that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine.

(8) Any shotgun with a revolving cylinder.

(b) "Assault weapon" does not include any antique firearm.

(c) The following definitions shall apply under this section:

- (1) "Magazine" shall mean any ammunition feeding device.
- (2) "Capacity to accept more than 10 rounds" shall mean capable of accommodating more than 10 rounds, but shall not be construed to include a feeding device that has been permanently altered so that it cannot accommodate more than 10 rounds.
- (3) "Antique firearm" means any firearm manufactured prior to January 1, 1899.
  
- (d) This section shall become operative January 1, 2000.