



A Public Health Approach to Gun Violence

King County Board of Health

May 16, 2024



Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention

Mission:

Taking a public health approach, the Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention collaborates with community and across systems to collectively address gun violence in King County.

Functions:

Coordinate a Regional Approach and Implement Key Initiatives

- Convene and collaborate with community leaders, local and state agencies, and national subject matter experts to identify, implement, and sustain effective gun violence prevention strategies.
- Partner with directly impacted communities, community providers, elders, youth, and survivors to grow and advance equitable community-led solutions.
- Work with service providers, advisory groups, and subject matter experts to enhance strategies, inform policy, review data, identify resources, and align services.
- Provide capacity building, training and technical assistance for community organizations, and key partners
- Measure impact through results-based accountability evaluation
- Co-design, implement, and bring to scale key initiatives

Current Initiatives:

- Regional Peacekeepers Collective (RPKC) - Community Violence Intervention (CVI)
- Hospital-based & Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)
- Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Training Academy

Collaboration Framework



Collaboration Framework Descriptions

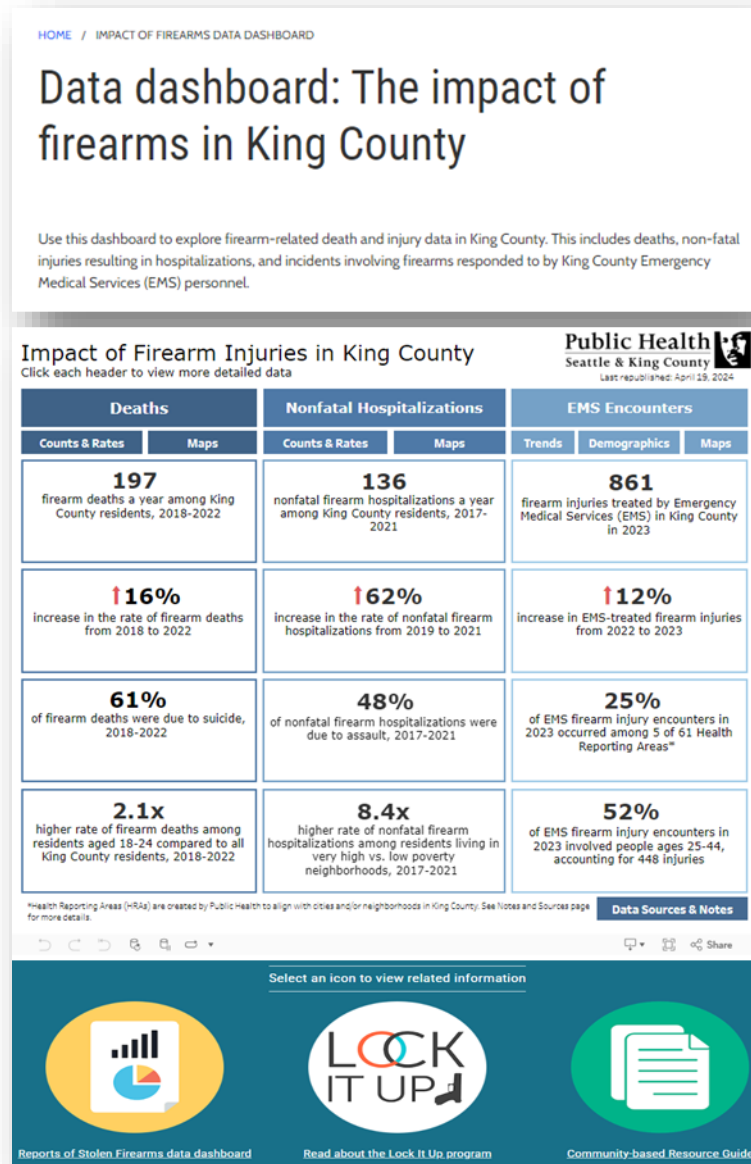
	DESCRIPTION
Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads coordination of gun violence prevention efforts in King County Convenes & collaborates with key partners Co-creates with and elevates community-led solutions
Community Leaders & Community-based Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-designs, implements and grows community violence intervention (CVI) strategies
Regional Youth, Survivors, and Elders Advisory Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides strategic advice for growth of regional gun violence efforts
Executive Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds, leverages, and sustains political will Reviews and influences policy & advocacy Supports resource development, alignment and allocation
Intermediary Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts with community organizations and provides capacity building, fiscal and contract management, data collection & reporting
Evaluation Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluates impact of services in partnership with community organizations and provides capacity building Evaluates impact of collaboration & coordination Conducts ongoing data analysis and support research and evaluation to grow regional efforts
Medical and Public Health Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides hospital-based and community linked intervention Provides firearm injury, emergency services, shots fired and other data
Cross Systems Partners & Subject Matter Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies strategies and supports innovation Supports community capacity building through technical assistance and opportunity development Collaborates to implement strategies
Government Partners <i>(Local, State & Federal)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns gun violence prevention strategies along a continuum of prevention, intervention and restoration Identifies resources and develops sustainability plans Collaborates to develop shared vision and goals



Summer Updates

- 2nd Annual Together We End Gun Violence Conference
- National Gun Violence Awareness Day Gun Lock Box Giveaways
 - Central District (23rd & Jackson)
 - Kent City Hall
 - White Center
 - Burien
 - Skyway Fire Station 20
 - Rainier Beach

Public Health Data on Firearm Impacts



- Leadership commitment to comprehensive assessment and surveillance of the impacts of firearm violence in King County
- Mixed working group of epidemiologists and program staff
- Build out new data partnerships, disseminate to ROGVP's network

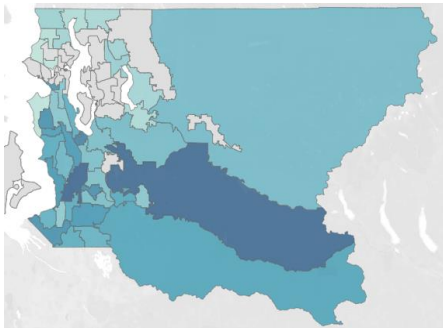
Ongoing Monitoring of Firearm-related indicators can shed light on vital insight

Using this dashboard and related data products, we can



→ Identify trends over time in firearm-related incidents, injuries and deaths

→ Drill down to causes and intents associated with firearm violence

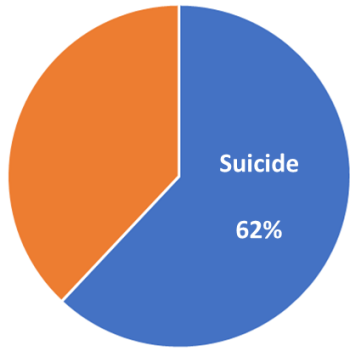


→ Identify specific King County cities and neighborhoods where impacts are concentrated, as well as just within the City of Seattle

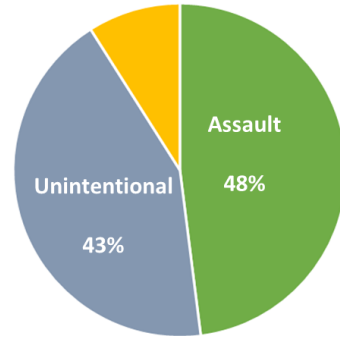
→ Can serve the needs of multiple audiences

Key Highlights from Data between 2017-2023

Firearm deaths



Non-fatal Injury



↑ **16%**

increase in the rate of firearm deaths
from 2018 to 2022

↑ **12%**

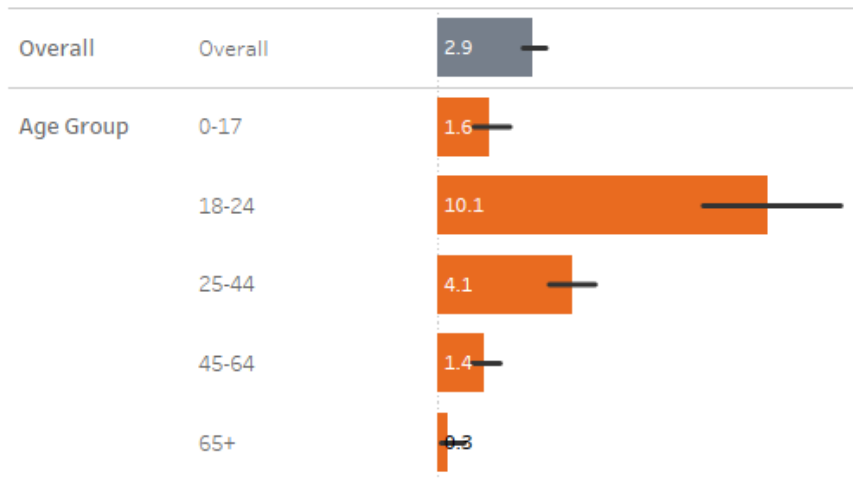
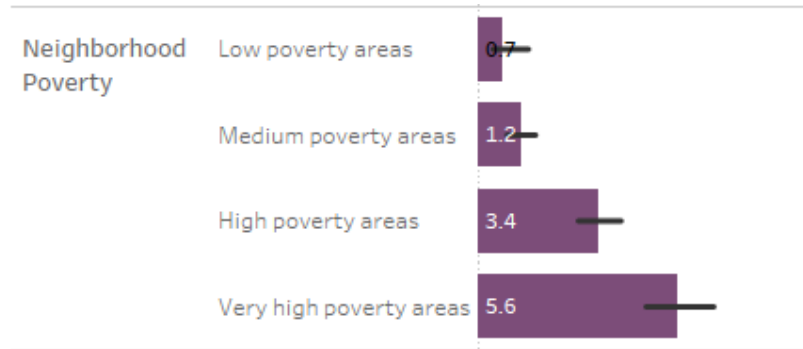
increase in EMS-treated firearm injuries
from 2022 to 2023

↑ **62%**

increase in the rate of nonfatal firearm
hospitalizations from 2019 to 2021

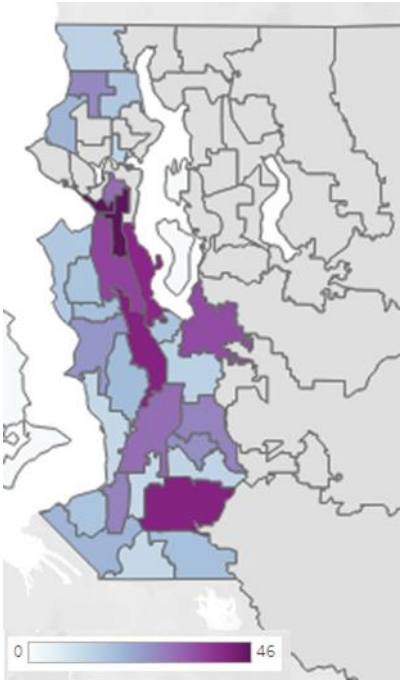
- **Suicide** accounts for more than 60% of firearm-related deaths (2018-2022)
- **Assault** accounts for the largest proportion of non-fatal injury ~ 48%, followed by **unintentional** (2017-2021)
- **Rising trends in injuries and deaths** identified across multiple data sources

Key Highlights from Data between 2017-2023

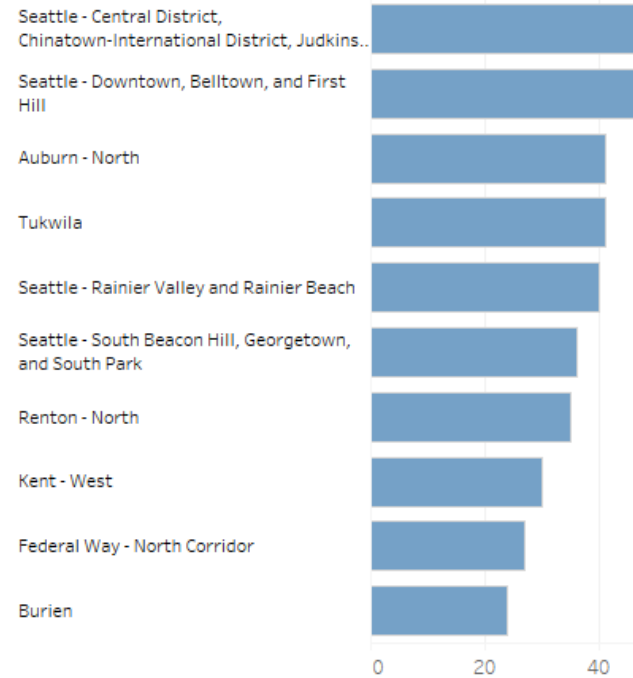


- Non-fatal hospitalization rates are **8.4 times as high** in 'very high poverty' areas v/s 'low poverty' areas (2017-2021)
- 18-24 year-olds have **3-3.5 times** the rate of **assault-related** injuries and **homicide** related deaths, compared to overall county rates (2017-2022)

Key Highlights from Data between 2017-2023



Top 10 cities/neighborhoods by number



- **Incidents are concentrated geographically: One quarter or 25% of incidents are in just 5 King county neighborhoods (2023)**

Data dashboard: The impact of firearms in King County

Use this dashboard to explore firearm-related death and injury data in King County. This includes deaths, non-fatal injuries resulting in hospitalizations, and incidents involving firearms responded to by King County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel.

Impact of Firearm Injuries in King County

Click each header to view more detailed data

Public Health
Seattle & King County

Last published: April 18, 2024

Deaths		Nonfatal Hospitalizations		EMS Encounters		
Counts & Rates	Maps	Counts & Rates	Maps	Trends	Demographics	Maps
197 firearm deaths a year among King County residents, 2018-2022		136 nonfatal firearm hospitalizations a year among King County residents, 2017-2021				861 firearm injuries treated by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in King County in 2023
↑16% increase in the rate of firearm deaths from 2018 to 2022		↑62% increase in the rate of nonfatal firearm hospitalizations from 2019 to 2021				↑12% increase in EMS-treated firearm injuries from 2022 to 2023
61% of firearm deaths were due to suicide, 2018-2022		48% of nonfatal firearm hospitalizations were due to assault, 2017-2021				25% of EMS firearm injury encounters in 2023 occurred among 5 of 61 Health Reporting Areas*
2.1x higher rate of firearm deaths among residents aged 18-24 compared to all King County residents, 2018-2022		8.4x higher rate of nonfatal firearm hospitalizations among residents living in very high vs. low poverty neighborhoods, 2017-2021				52% of EMS firearm injury encounters in 2023 involved people ages 25-44, accounting for 448 injuries

*Health Reporting Areas (HRAs) are created by Public Health to align with cities and/or neighborhoods in King County. See Notes and Sources page for more details.

Data Sources & Notes

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, share

Select an icon to view related information



Reports of Stolen Firearms data dashboard



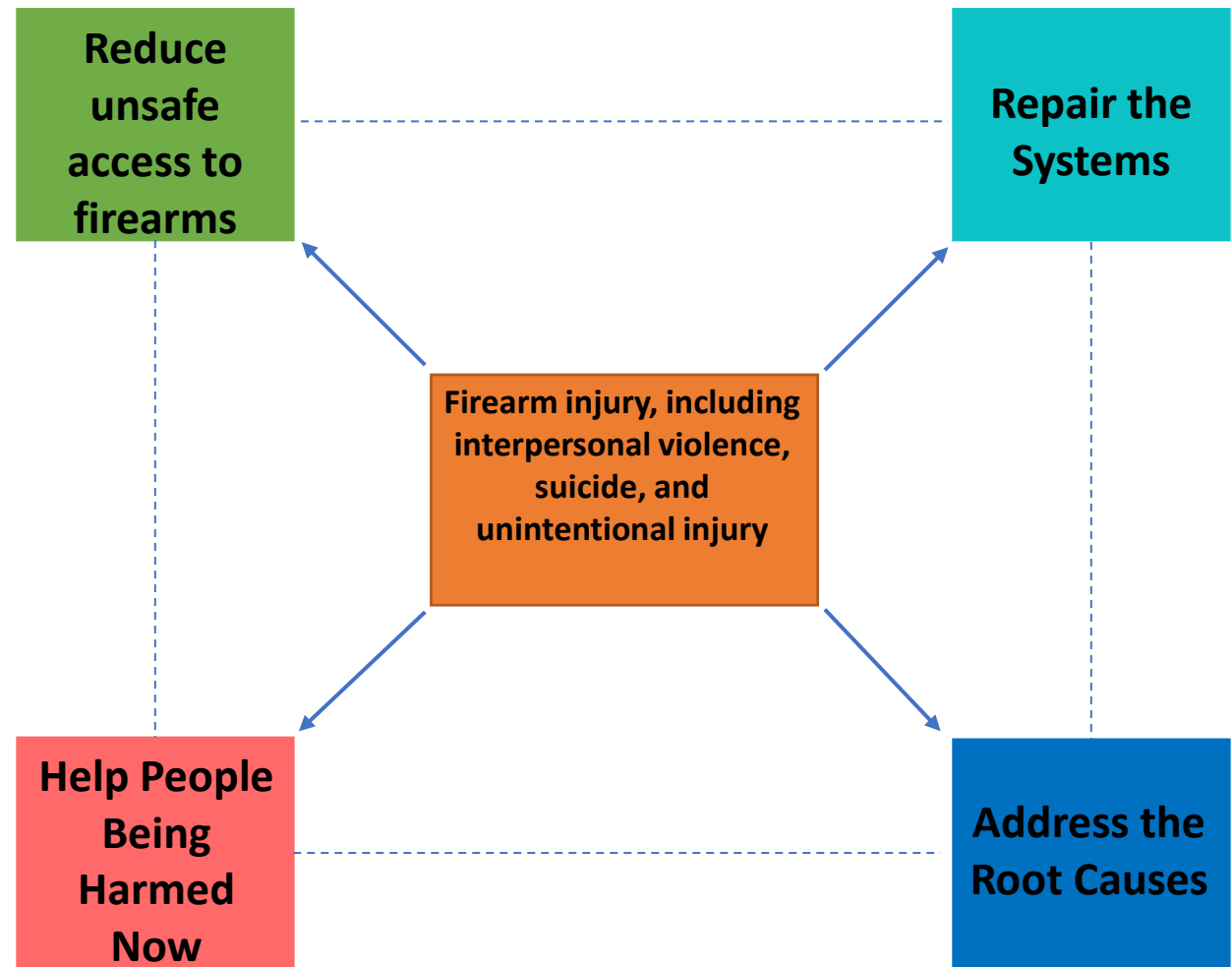
Read about the Lock It Up program



Community-based Resource Guide

- Leadership commitment to comprehensive assessment and surveillance of the impacts of firearm violence in King County

Our firearm injury prevention work has several components.





The 2024 Legislative Session

HB 1903

Requires prompt, detailed reporting of lost and stolen firearms

SB 5444

Restricts possession of weapons in libraries, zoos, aquariums and transit facilities

HB 2118

Requires security infrastructure and practices for firearm dealer licensing

HB 2021

Mandates WSP to destroy confiscated firearms

These bills will not end all firearm violence, but they are part of a multifaceted solution.

The Lock It Up program promotes voluntary safe storage of firearms.



SIMPLE. SECURE. READY.

- Partnerships with firearm and safe storage device retailers and shooting sports facilities
 - Give a discount on storage devices to customers who mention the program; share information
- Partnerships with law enforcement
 - Share information with Concealed Pistol License applicants
- Public education
 - Health fairs, website, presentations, data dissemination
- Community partnerships
 - We are a resource and convener across the spectrum of gun violence prevention work.

Lock It Up Expansion



- Funding from the WA State Department of Commerce's Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention - \$200,000 per year this state biennium for PHSKC
- Partnership with Seattle Children's
- Evaluation by UW Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program
- Statewide work on safe storage promotion rooted in racial and geographic equity

PHSKC/ Lock It Up's project

- Disseminating our Lock It Up program model to other local health jurisdictions
- Creating a training on firearm harm reduction and safe storage for community violence intervention programs
- Supporting small safe storage giveaways hosted by health departments or community organizations by providing devices, materials, and funding for costs
- Hosting and staffing a project advisory group

What we've done so far

- Program staff hired
- Partnerships established with LHJs, military partners, and community-based organizations across the state
- Program implementation guide and workplan created for other LHJs
- Advisory group with statewide membership convened
- Training on safe storage as harm reduction being developed for youth programs
- Safe storage devices purchased and distribution training created

Thank you!
Send questions to kcbohadmin@kingcounty.gov

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