

Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Age Dynamics Regarding Suicide and Homicide Death Rates

Gun Death 5 Slide Series, Volume 4
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The Menges Group

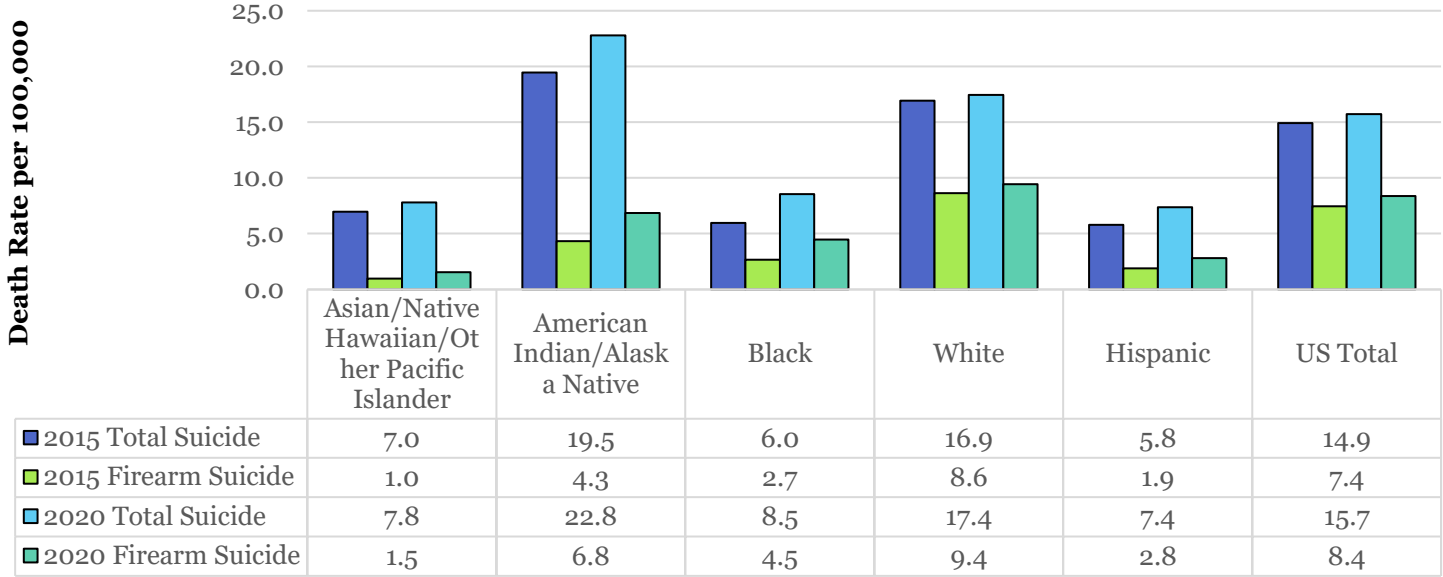
Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

Introduction

- This fourth edition of our Gun Death 5 Slide Series tabulates suicide rates and homicide rates by race/ethnicity, by gender, and by age cohort.
- We also assess the role of firearms in suicides and homicides for each demographic subgroup.
- We identified many disparities that arguably warrant greater attention from those of us involved in elevating population health.

Suicide Rates – Including Firearm Suicide Rates – Vary Substantially by Race and Ethnicity

Total and Firearm Suicide Death Rates by Race and Ethnicity (2015, 2020)

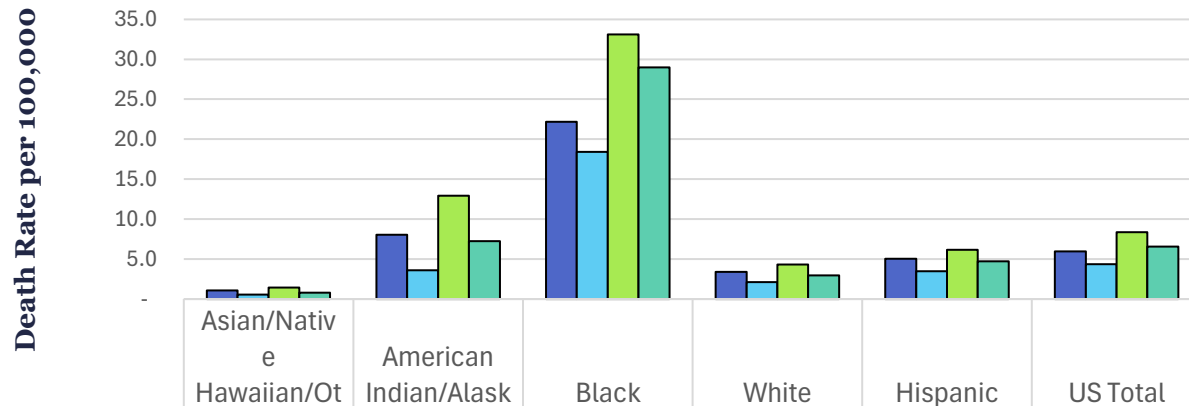


■ 2015 Total Suicide ■ 2015 Firearm Suicide
■ 2020 Total Suicide ■ 2020 Firearm Suicide

- American Indian and White subgroups have the highest suicide rates – more than double the rates in the Asian and Black race (as well as the Hispanic ethnicity) subgroups.
- Firearms are used in over half of all suicides, including within the Black and White subgroups. Firearms are used for a much lower proportion of suicides within the Asian and American Indian subgroups, although this proportion grew sharply between 2015 and 2020.
- The firearm suicide death rate increased 12% between 2015 and 2020, whereas the non-firearm suicide rate *decreased slightly* during this timeframe.

Black Americans Perish Via Homicide at a *Far* Higher Rate Than Any Other Race Cohort

Total and Firearm Homicide Death Rates by Race and Ethnicity (2015, 2020)

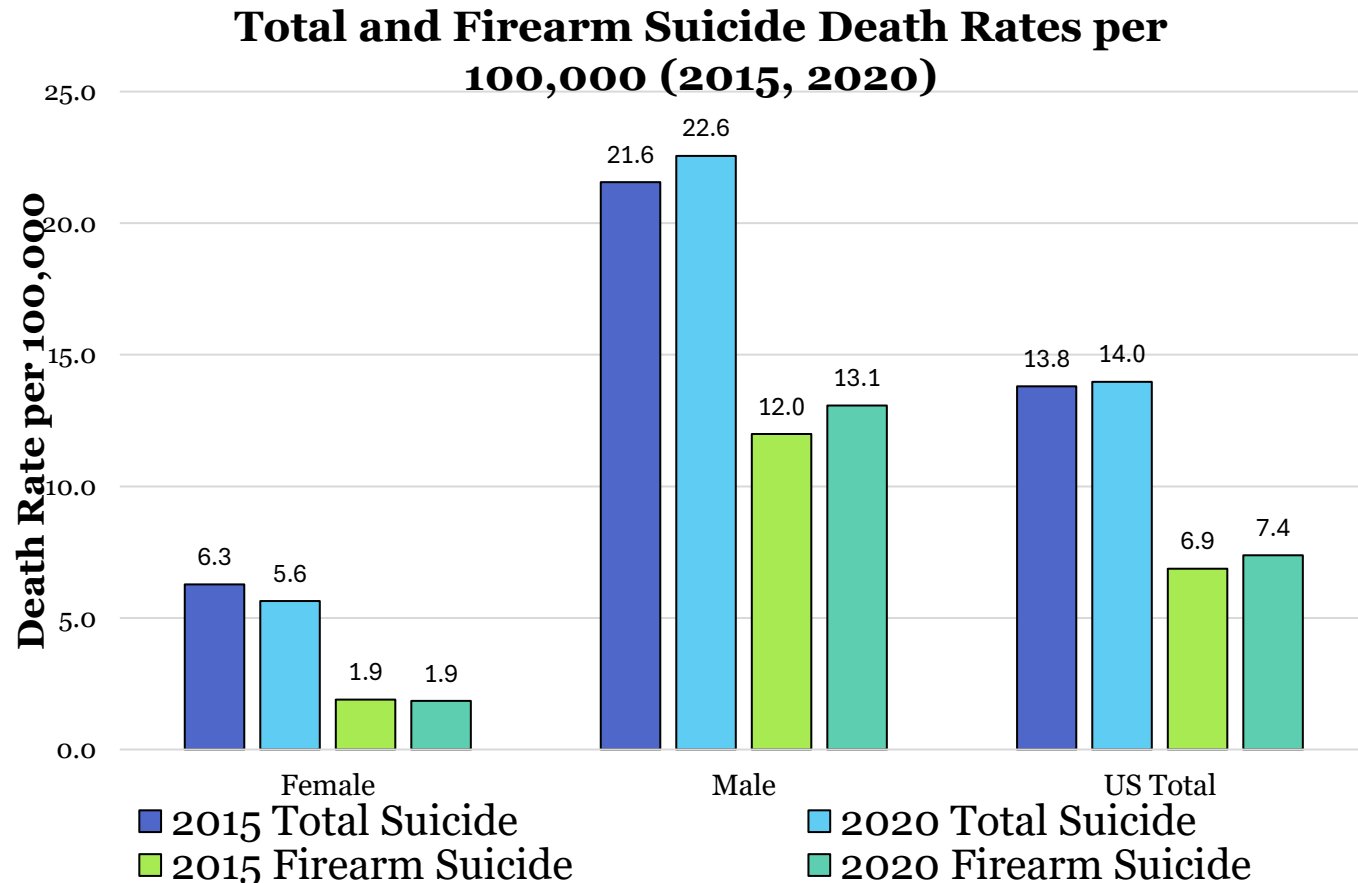


	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	American Indian/Alaska Native	Black	White	Hispanic	US Total
2015 Total Homicide	1.1	8.1	22.2	3.4	5.0	6.0
2015 Firearm Homicide	0.6	3.6	18.4	2.1	3.5	4.4
2020 Total Homicide	1.4	12.9	33.1	4.3	6.2	8.3
2020 Firearm Homicide	0.8	7.3	29.0	3.0	4.7	6.6

■ 2015 Total Homicide ■ 2015 Firearm Homicide
■ 2020 Total Homicide ■ 2020 Firearm Homicide

- In 2020, the Black homicide victim rate (33.1 per 100,000 population) was 4.0 times above the national average (8.3). Black victims represented 55.5% of all US homicide victims during 2020.
 - The American Indian/Alaska Native subgroup was next-highest but at a far lower rate per 100,000 persons (12.9).
- Firearms were used in 88% of Black victim homicides during 2020, versus 68% of deaths across all other races. 62% of firearm homicides during 2020 involved Black victims.
- The firearm homicide victim rate increased sharply for Black residents (49%) and for American Indian residents (103%) between 2015 and 2020.

Males Commit Suicide – and Do So Via Firearm -- at Several Times the Rate for Females



- Males committed suicide at a rate 4.0 times higher than females during 2020.
- Males committed suicide via firearm at a rate 6.9 times greater rate than women did in 2020.
 - 58% of male suicides during 2020 were via firearm, versus 33% for female suicides.
- The overall US suicide rate increased modestly (by 1.3%) from 2015 to 2020.

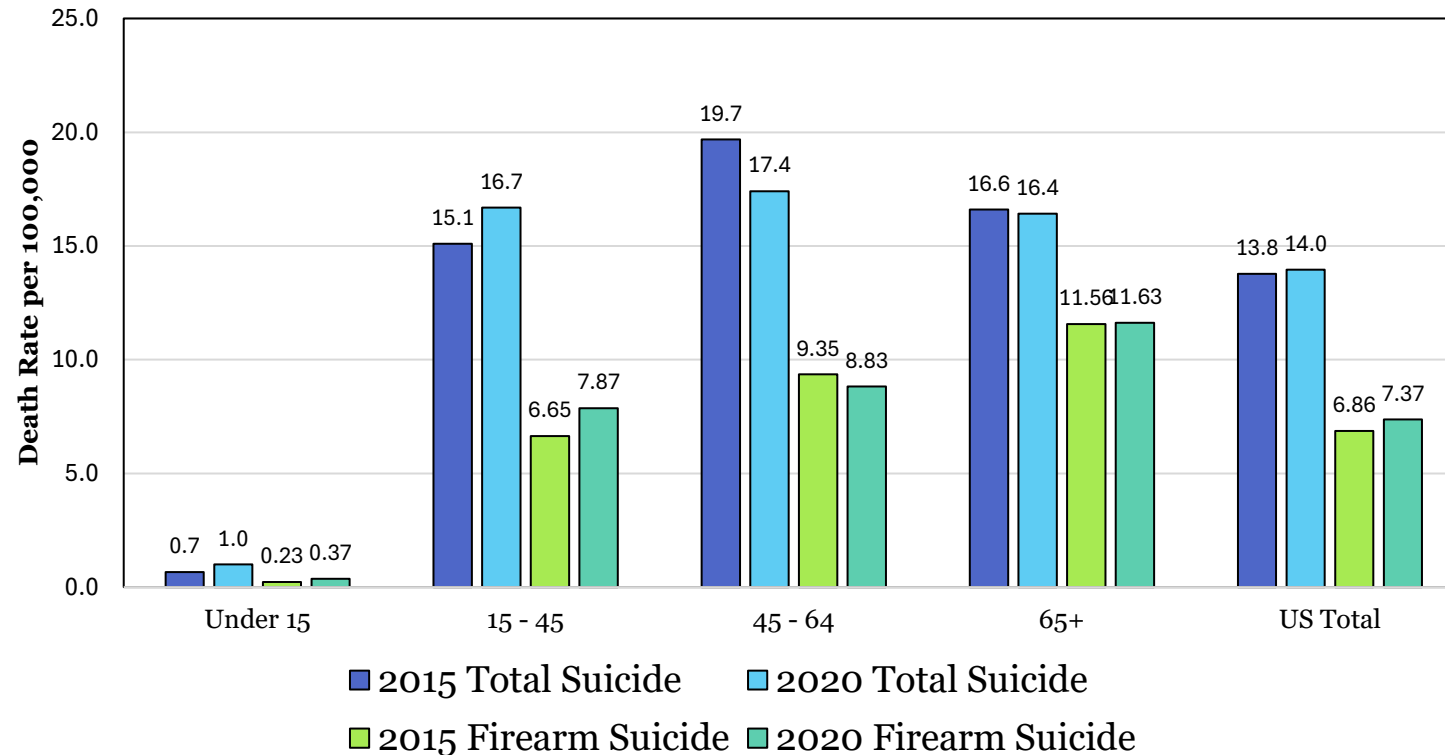
81% of Homicide Victims During 2020 Were Male

Gender	Homicides			Firearm Homicides			Homicides Per 100,000 Population		
	2015	2020	% Change	2015	2020	% Change	2015	2020	% Change
Female	3,450	4,559	32.1%	1,902	2,876	51.2%	2.1	2.7	28.7%
Male	14,143	19,797	40.0%	10,879	16,282	49.7%	9.0	12.2	36.2%
Total	17,593	24,356	38.4%	12,781	19,158	49.9%	5.5	7.4	34.8%

- Males died via homicide during 2020 at **4.5 times** the rate (per 100,000 persons) of females.
- The number of US homicide deaths in both genders increased by dozens of percentage points between 2015 and 2020.
- 82% of male homicide deaths during 2020 occurred via firearm, versus 63% of female homicide deaths. Both these figures were several percentage points higher than in 2015.
- There are situations where the homicide disparity falls in the opposite direction. Females face by far the greatest risk of being killed by an intimate partner, particularly when living in a gun household.
 - Research at Stanford University published in 2022 indicated that, relative to non-gun households, “...people living with handgun owners were seven times more likely to be shot by their spouse or intimate partner.”
 - The same study found that “...the vast majority of victims in these intimate partner shootings—84% in all—were female.”

Suicides are Rare Among Young Children, and Suicide Rates are Fairly Consistent Among Adult Age Cohorts

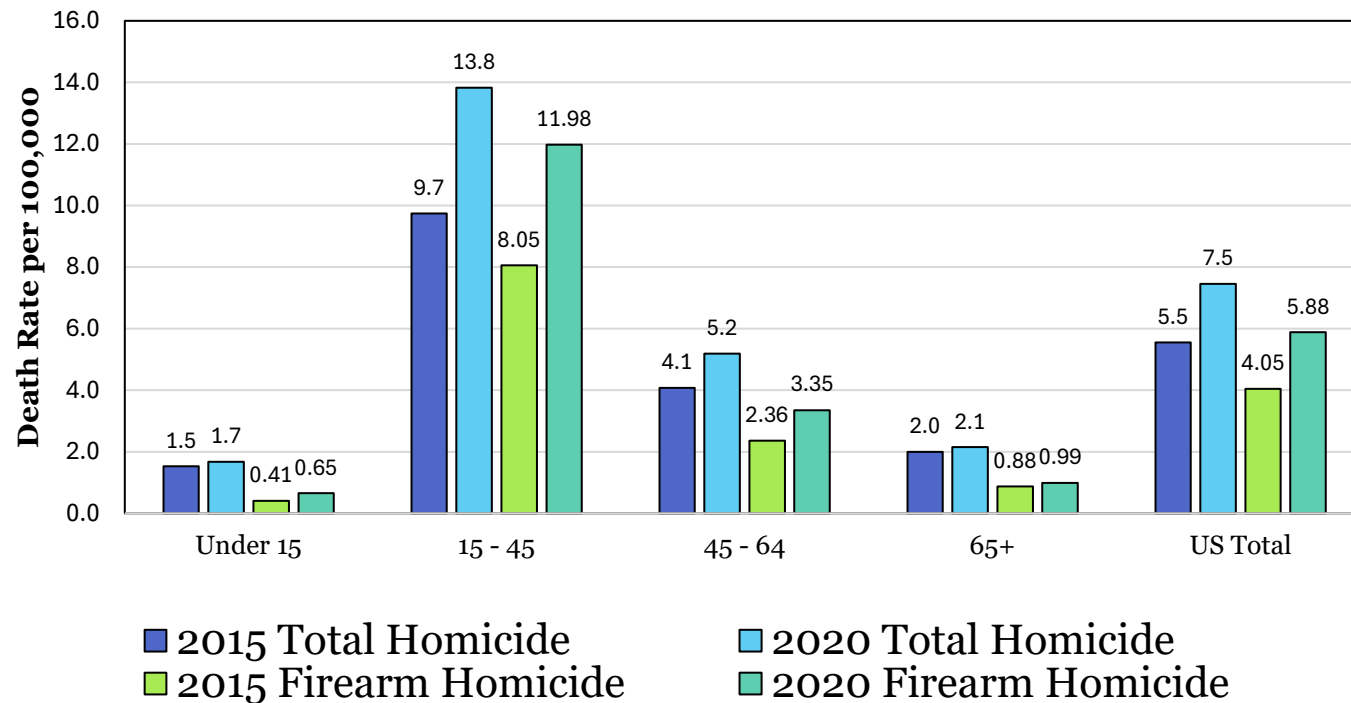
Total and Firearm Suicide Death Rates per 100,000 by Age Cohort (2015, 2020)



- The 65+ age group is most likely to commit suicide with a gun, both with regard to the death rate (roughly 12 annual firearm suicides per 100,000 seniors) and the percentage of suicides occurring via firearm (71% in 2020).
- Suicide rates within age cohorts were generally quite similar between 2015 and 2020 – including the proportion of the suicides occurring via firearm.

Firearm Homicide Death Rates Increased in All Age Cohorts Between 2015 and 2020.

Total and Firearm Homicide Rates per 100,000 by Age Cohort (2015,2020)



- The homicide death rate is highest in the 15–45-year age cohort. This age cohort accounted for 77% of 2020 homicides and 81% of firearm homicides, but represents only 40% of the US population.
- The homicide death rate decreases in each age cohort above age 35.
- From 2015 to 2020, all age cohorts' firearm homicide death rates increased.
- Firearms were used in 87% of all 2020 homicides in the 15–45-year age band, and for 68% of homicides across all other age groups.

5 Slide Series Overview

Our 5 Slide Series is typically a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements. The Menges Group has developed a variety of datasets that we use to support our 5 Slide Series and client projects.

To be added to our list to receive these as they are published (or to be removed), please email us at pcall@themengesgroup.com. If you have questions about the content or data sources we have available, please email us at jmenges@themengesgroup.com or call 571-312-2360.

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Data Appendix

- Note that the two race/ethnicity slides primarily convey race cohorts but also present ethnicity data for those persons identifying as Hispanic. The categorizations used are:
 - Race: A person's self-identification with one or more race categories, including White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Some Other Race.
 - Ethnicity: Whether someone is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin. People of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin can belong to any of the five race categories.