

Injury Data Highlight: Firearm Deaths in Ohio, 2012

Get the facts....

There were 1,230 firearm deaths among Ohio residents in 2012. Men were more likely than women to be victims of firearm deaths (Figure 1).

The overall firearm rate in 2012 was 18.5 per 100,000 persons. Deaths rates for black, non-Hispanic males were eight times higher than firearm death rates for black, non-Hispanic females and three times higher than rates for white, non-Hispanic males (Figure 2).

This injury data highlight presents data on firearm deaths in Ohio in 2012. The data were obtained from the Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS), a surveillance system focused on capturing data on the characteristics and circumstances associated with violent deaths in Ohio.

Figure 1. Firearm Death Rates by Age Group and Sex, Ohio, 2012

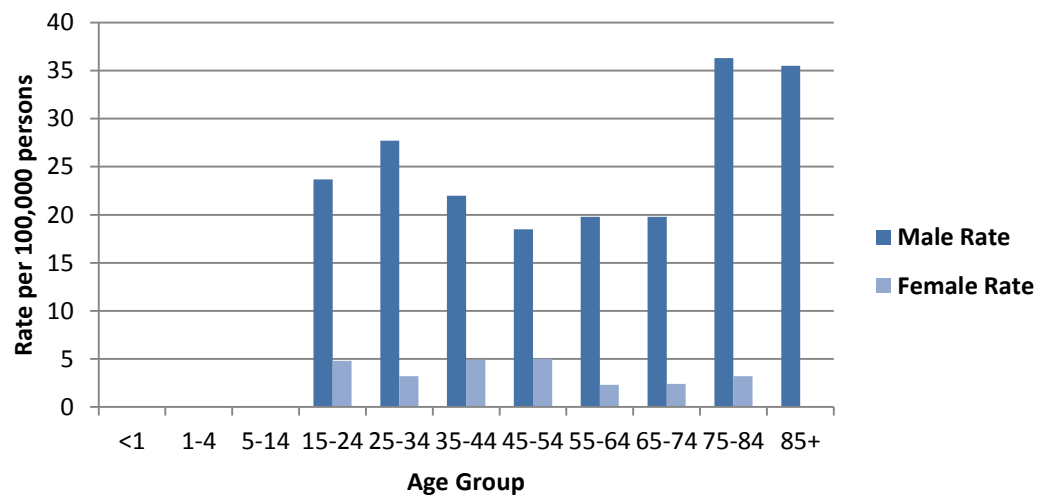
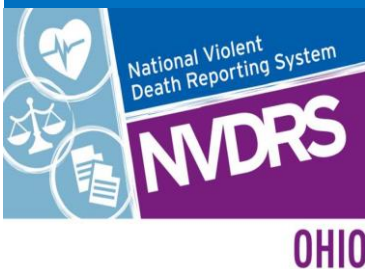
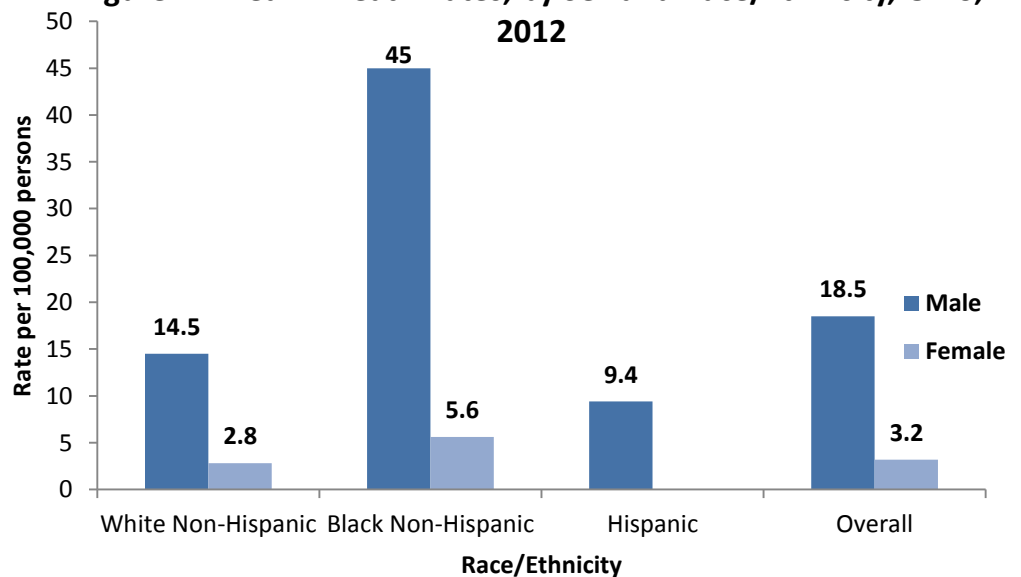


Figure 2. Firearm Death Rates, by Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2012



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Most firearm deaths in 2012 were suicides. Homicides accounted for a third of firearm deaths in 2012, whereas deaths due to legal intervention accounted for less than 3 percent of all firearm deaths (Figure 3).

In terms of educational attainment, most victims had a high school education or GED equivalent (49.2 percent). Those with a less than a high school education accounted for almost a quarter of all firearm-related deaths (22.7 percent) (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Firearm Deaths by Manner, Ohio, 2012

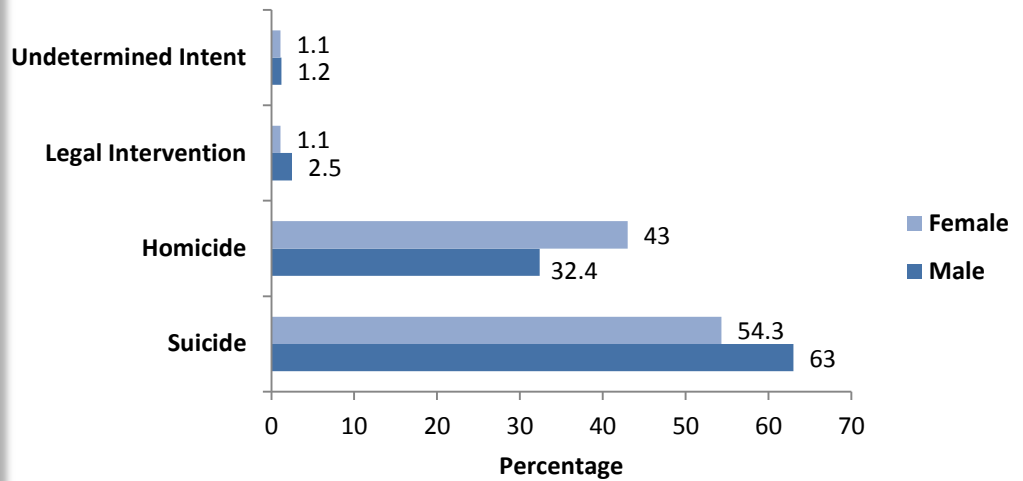
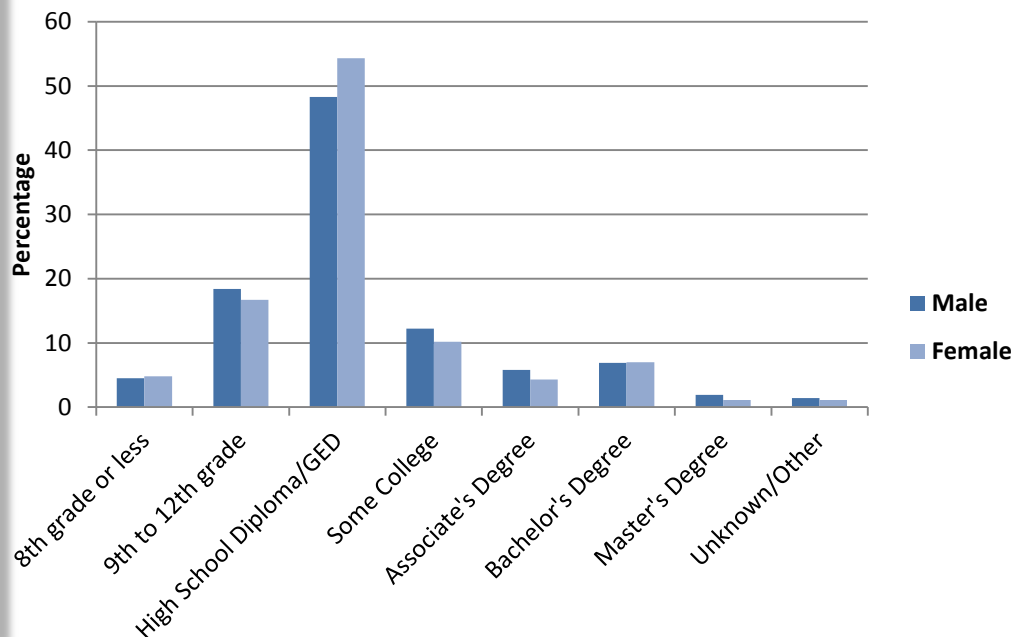


Figure 4. Distribution of Firearm Victims by Educational Level and Sex, Ohio, 2012



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Get the facts....

Nearly a quarter of firearm deaths were associated with some type of argument. Arguments, intimate partner violence and intimate partner problems were more common among female victims than male victims (Figure 5).

21 percent of firearm deaths were associated with another crime. Drug involvement was reported in less than 7 percent of firearm deaths.

Gang activity was reported for nearly half of all firearm deaths in 2012 (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Argument and Conflict Circumstances Associated with Firearm Deaths, by Sex, Ohio, 2012

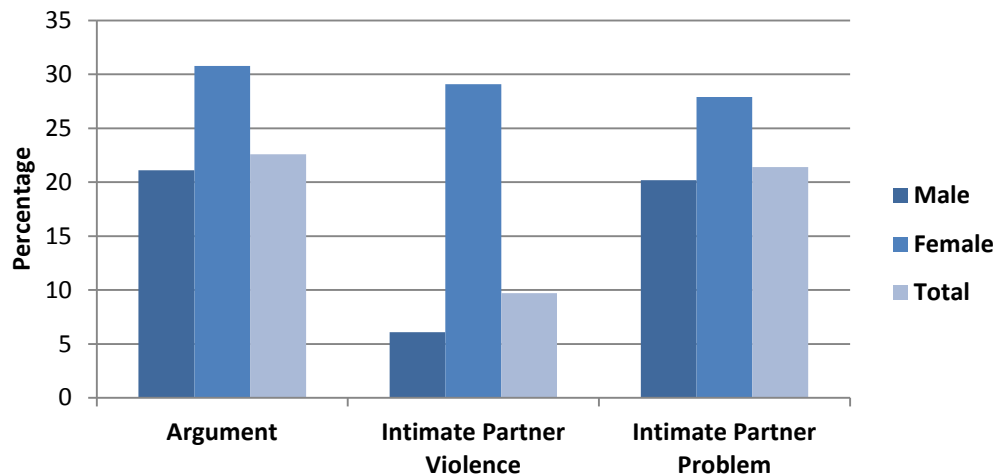
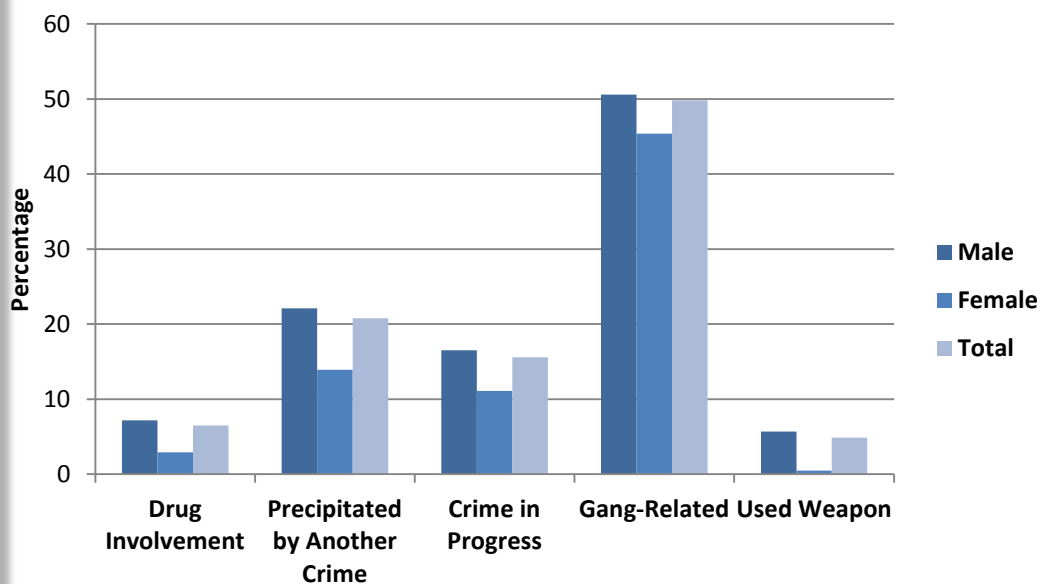


Figure 6. Crime-Related Circumstances of Firearm Deaths by Sex, Ohio, 2012



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Nearly a third of all gun death victims were diagnosed with a current mental health problem.

Female firearm victims were nearly 35 percent more likely to have received a current mental health treatment than male decedents (Figure 7).

The most common life stressor observed among victims was a physical health problem. Legal problems (both criminal and non-criminal) were less frequent (Figure 8).

Figure 7. Mental Health Circumstances of Firearm Deaths, by Sex, Ohio, 2012

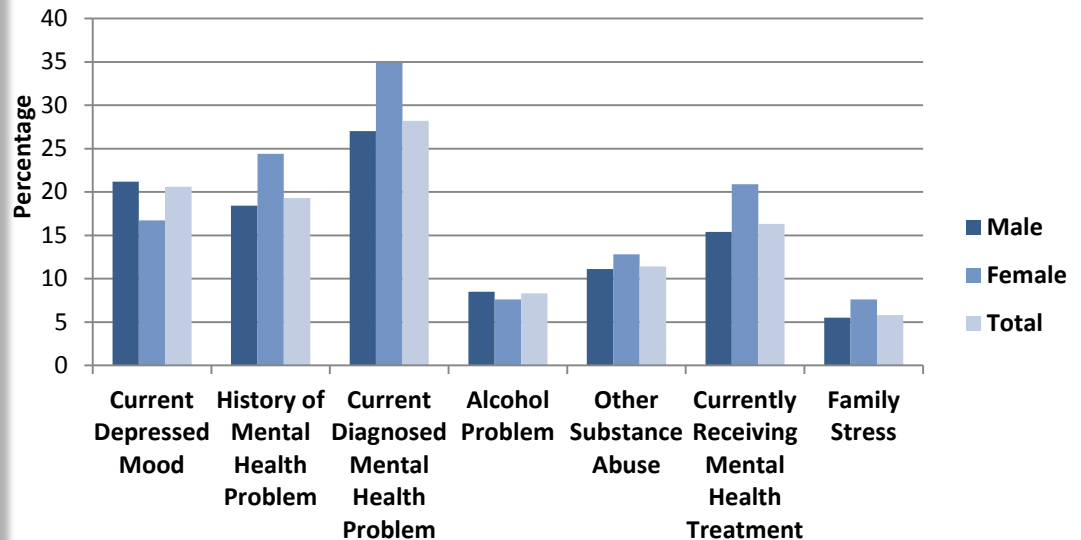
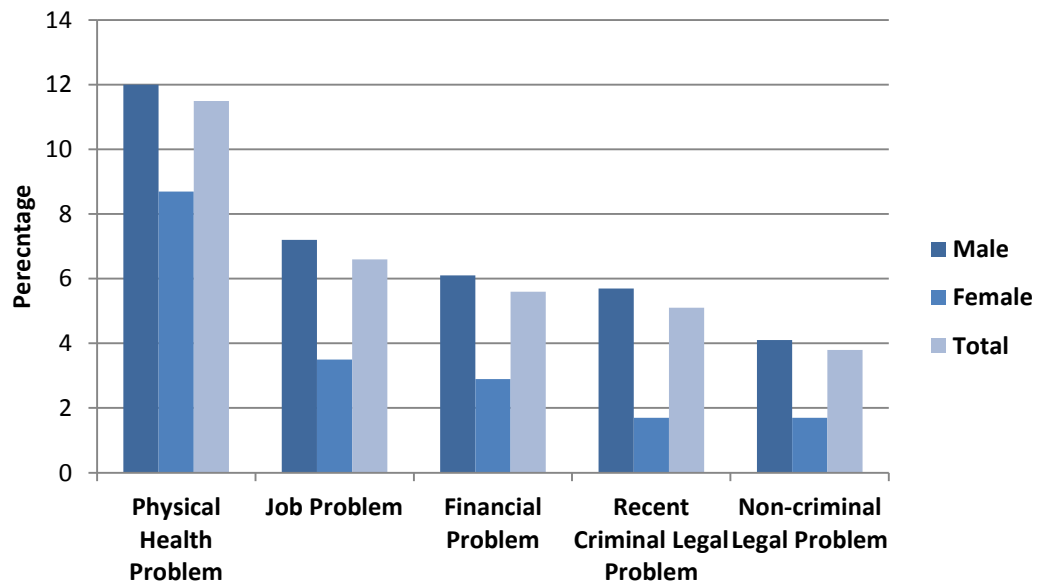


Figure 8. Life Stressor Circumstances of Firearm Deaths, Ohio, 2012



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Marijuana, opiates, and alcohol were the most common substances found in firearm victims, with a greater likelihood in male victims compared to female victims. Nearly a fifth of male victims tested positive for alcohol compared to 11 percent of female victims (Figure 9).

Among those testing positive for alcohol, 34.7 percent had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of less than 0.08 and less than 10 percent of these firearm-related deaths had a BAC of 0.24-0.32 (Figure 10).

Figure 9. Toxicology Findings of Firearm Victims by Sex, Ohio, 2012

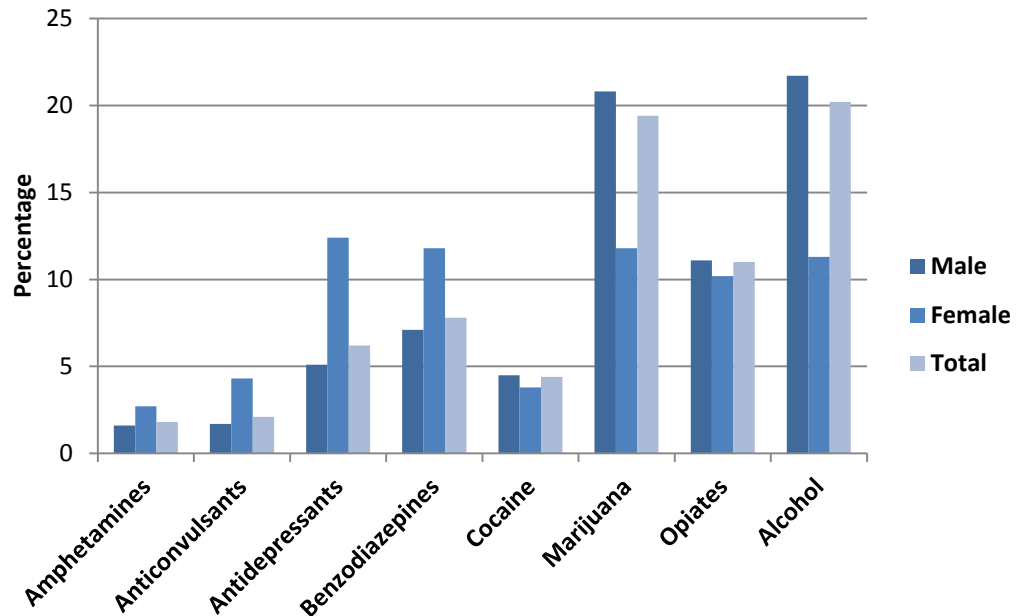
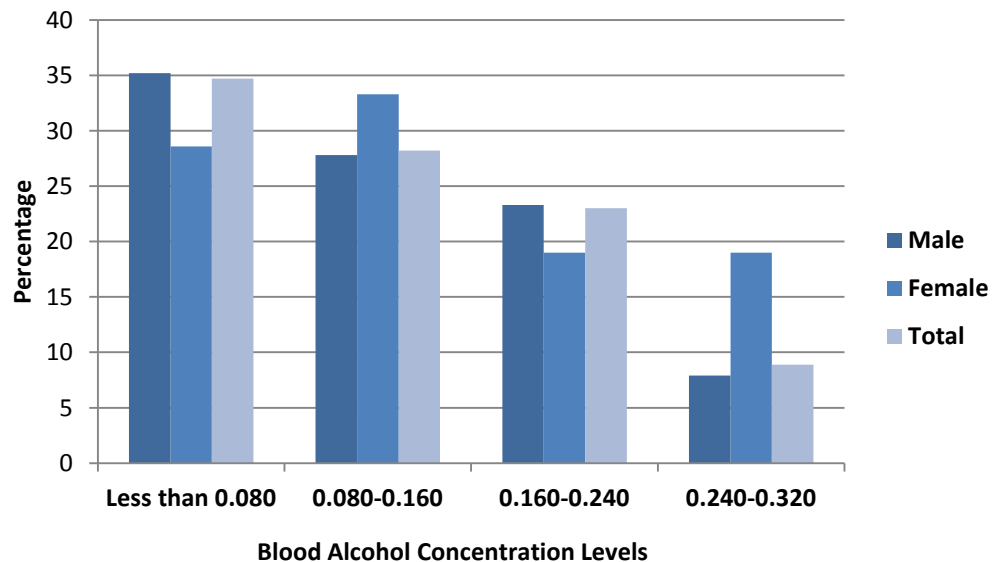
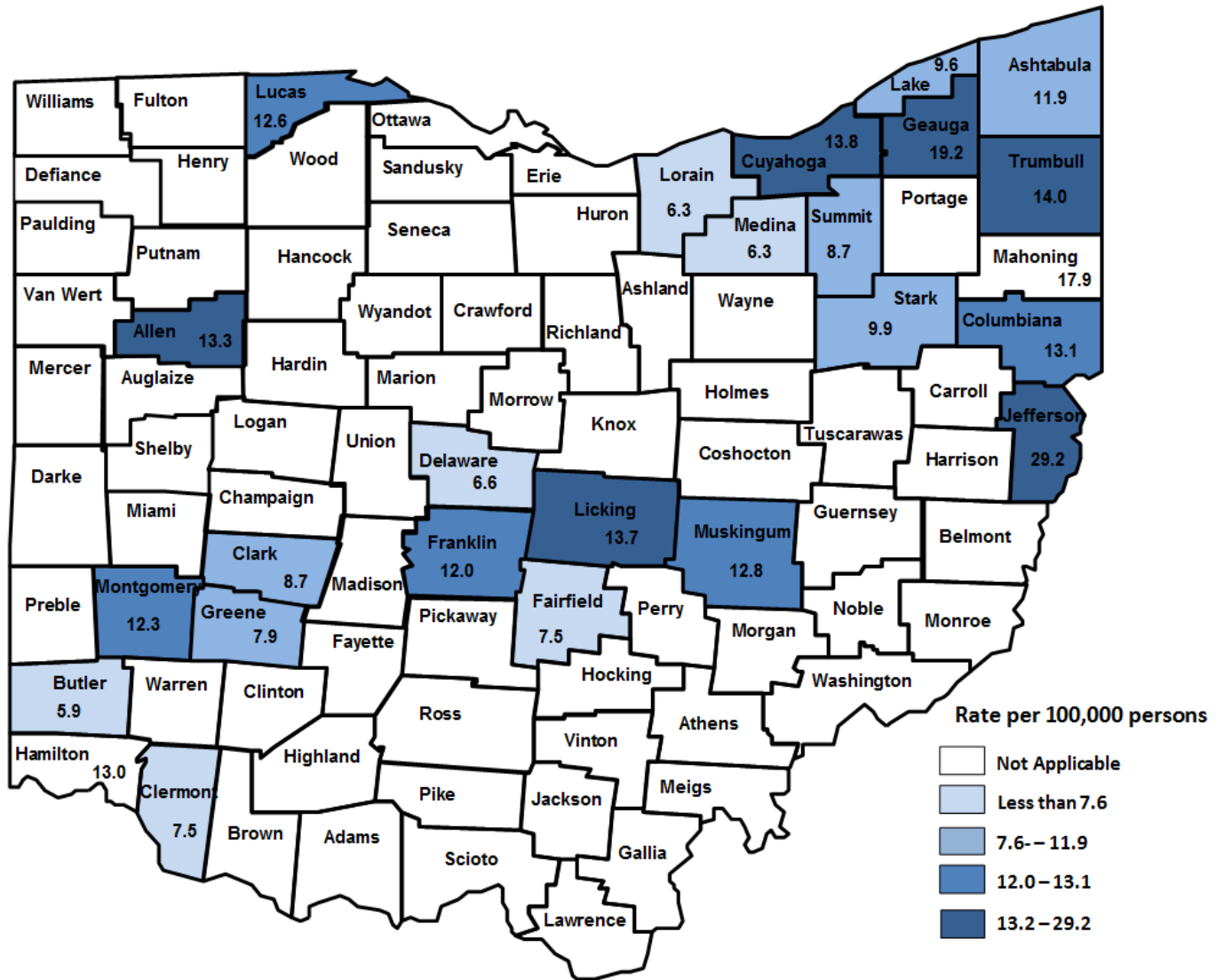


Figure 10. Blood Alcohol Concentration Levels of Firearm Victims by Sex, Ohio, 2012



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Figure 11. Firearm Death Rates by County, Ohio, 2012^{1,2}



Notes

¹Data source: Ohio Violent Death Reporting System

²Rates were suppressed for counts less than 10.

Circumstances were not mutually exclusive. Data were limited to resident deaths that occurred in Ohio. Not all firearm victims underwent toxicology tests.