

LOUISIANA FATAL INJURIES



Are far too frequent and can be prevented

Top 3 causes of injury that led to death for Louisiana residents in 2015¹

Every year, around 3,500 people in Louisiana die due to injury.

1. Firearm-related (952 deaths)

Second highest rate in the United States¹

Top cause for males



2. Poisoning-related (927 deaths)

Higher than national rate (includes drug-related overdoses with legal and illegal drugs)¹

Top cause for females



3. Traffic-related (854 deaths)

Higher than the national rate¹



\$5,312,241,000
Total combined medical and work loss costs due to all fatal injury in 2015²

FATAL INJURY MALES VS FEMALES



The fatal injury rate for men in Louisiana is **double** the fatal injury rate for women.¹

Louisiana is **2nd** in the nation for fatalities due to homicides¹



SUICIDES VS HOMICIDES



In Louisiana, the suicide rate is **almost equal** to the homicide rate. In other states, suicides double or triple the rate of homicides.¹

Top causes vary by age group (2015)¹



SUFFOCATION
71 deaths*



TRAFFIC-RELATED
41 deaths



FIREARM-RELATED
419 deaths



POISONING-RELATED
485 deaths



FALL-RELATED
305 deaths

*55 of 71 suffocation deaths were categorized as Sudden Unexpected Infant Death

INJURIES CAN BE PREVENTED!

See reverse side for talking points and strategies to create a safer Louisiana.

Sources: 1. CDC WONDER, 2015 2. WISQARS Fatal Injury Report



Prepared by the Bureau of Family Health

For more injury prevention data, visit PartnersforFamilyHealth.org/data-center

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Key points and prevention strategies



Preventable injuries cost Louisiana more money and more lives than many other states.

- Fatal injuries are a significant economic burden in Louisiana. In 2014, Louisiana ranked **4th in the nation for the highest lifetime fatal injury costs** (\$1,041 per capita).¹
- Louisiana's rate of fatal motor vehicle crashes is **higher than the national rate** (18.3 versus 12.0 per 100,000).²
- Louisiana also has the **2nd highest** rate of firearm-related injuries in the United States (20.4 per 100,000). It is **almost double the national rate** (11.0 per 100,000).²
- Louisiana has the **2nd highest** statewide homicide rate in the United States (12.2 per 100,000). Orleans Parish has the **third highest** homicide rate compared to homicide rates in all other counties in the United States (41.1 per 100,000).²
- Louisiana's suicide rate is currently the 23rd highest in the United States (15.2 per 100,000), and the rate has **steadily increased** over the past four years.²
- The number of firearm deaths due to suicide in Louisiana is **almost equal** to the number of firearm deaths due to homicide (468 versus 456).¹ Nationally, firearm deaths due to suicides are almost double the number of firearm deaths due to homicides (22,018 versus 12,979).²
- Suicide attempts, motor vehicle crashes, and falls can result in traumatic brain injury which may ultimately lead to death. In 2015, **26% of all fatal injuries in Louisiana included traumatic brain injuries**.³

Fatal injuries cost Louisiana over **\$5.3 billion** in medical and work loss* expenses in 2015.⁴

Average lifetime cost for each homicide	\$1.6 Million
Average lifetime cost for each suicide	\$1.2 Million
Average lifetime cost for each unintentional injury	\$1.1 Million

*Medical and work loss doesn't include legal (law enforcement) or emotional/pain suffering damage.

What does fatal injury prevention success look like in Louisiana?

- Approximately **3,500-4,000 deaths would be prevented**.
- Firearm safety training and promotion, policy and systems-level changes, and evidence-based interventions that build resilience and positive coping skills would lead to **fewer violent deaths**.
- Evidence-based interventions for preventing substance abuse and misuse at state and community levels would lead to **healthier families and communities**.
- Evidence-based educational and promotional activities focused on motor vehicle safety, policy changes, environmental modifications and increased policy enforcement would lead to **safer streets, highways and sidewalks**.



Sources 1. Luo F, Florence C. State-Level Lifetime Medical and Work-Loss Costs of Fatal Injuries — United States, 2014. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:1–11. 2. CDC WONDER, 2015 3. Louisiana 2015 vital records 4. WISQARS Fatal Injury Report

