

FIREARM ACCIDENT FACTS

Updated October 2007

In the United States since 1930:

- The population has more than **DOUBLED**
- The number of privately owned firearms has more than **QUINTUPLED**
- And the annual number of accidental firearms deaths has **DECREASED 80%**

The fatal firearm accident rate has fallen to a new all-time LOW — down 94% since the all-time high recorded in 1904.

A person is less likely to have a fatal firearm accident today than at any time in recorded U.S. history.

During the last 25 years, the fatal firearm accident rate has experienced the greatest decline among principal types and classes of accidental deaths.

Comparing firearm accident rates (fatalities per 100,000) to other accidental death rates:

<u>NATIONWIDE</u>		<u>FLORIDA</u>	
1. Motor vehicle accidents	15.3	1. Motor vehicle accidents	19.1
2. Poisoning	7.1	2. Poisoning	10.7
3. Falls	6.4	3. Falls	8.7
4. Suffocation & Choking	2.0	4. Drowning	2.0
5. Drowning	1.1	5. Suffocation & Choking	2.1
6. Fires & Burns	1.1	6. Medical "Misadventures"	0.7
7. Medical "Misadventures"	0.9	7. Fires & Burns	0.8
8. Environmental factors	0.5	8. Bicycles & Tricycles	0.8
9. Bicycles & Tricycles	0.26	9. Environmental factors	0.5
10. FIREARMS	0.25	10. FIREARMS	0.12

Comparing the number of fatal firearm accidents to other accidents:

<u>NATIONWIDE</u>	<u>FLORIDA</u>
61 times more die in motor vehicle accidents	157 times more die in motor vehicle accidents
32 times more die from poisoning	88 times more die from poisoning
29 times more die from falls	72 times more die from falls
9 times more die from choking & suffocation	18 times more die from choking & suffocation
5 times more die from drowning	17 times more die from drowning
5 times more die from fires	7 times more die from fires
4 times more die from medical "misadventures"	7 times more die from bicycles & tricycles
2 times more die from environmental factors	5 times more die from medical "misadventures"
1.3 times more die from bicycles & tricycles	4 times more die from environmental factors

Nationwide, the annual number of fatal firearm accidents among CHILDREN has decreased 89% since 1975.

In Florida, in the last 15 years, fatal firearm accidents among CHILDREN have decreased 80%.

THE BOTTOM LINE: We are safer now with firearms than ever before in our nation's history.

Data sources:

National Center for Health Statistics
National Safety Council
Bureau of the Census
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Firearm industry reports

Fact sheet compiled by • Unified Sportsmen of Florida • P.O. Box 1387 • Tallahassee, FL 32302, (850) 222-9518