

# OK-VDRS BRIEF REPORT

Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System

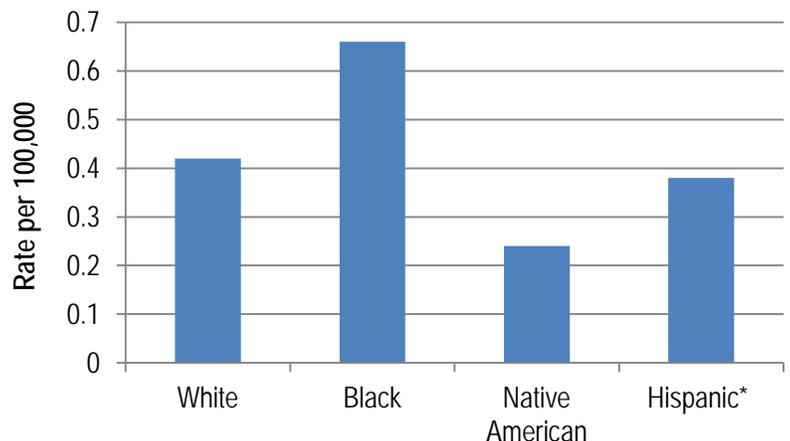
## Unintentional Firearm Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2010

A young male child was playing with his sister and chasing her with a toy gun. The children's game took them into the garage where the sister found a gun sitting on the shelf. Believing the gun to be a toy, she pointed the gun in the direction of her brother, pulled the trigger, and shot and killed her brother. Unintentional firearm injury deaths are preventable. Yet, in the United States from 2004-2010 there were more than 4,000 unintentional firearm deaths. Data collected in the Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS) were used to report on the circumstances associated with unintentional firearm deaths in Oklahoma.

- From 2004 to 2010, there were 60 unintentional firearm deaths, an average of 9 deaths per year.
- Nearly all of the victims were male.
- Unintentional firearm deaths included injuries that were unintentionally inflicted by another person (30) or self-inflicted (23). In seven cases, the shooter was not specified.
- One-half (30) of unintentional firearm deaths were among males less than 25 years of age; most of these deaths were among males 5-24 years of age (Table 1).
- The highest rate of unintentional firearm death was among black males (0.66 per 100,000 population), followed by white males (0.42) and Hispanic males (0.38). (Figure 1)
- Black males 15-24 years of age had the highest rate of unintentional firearm death among all races and gender groups (2.0).
- The leading circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths were playing with a gun (37%), showing a gun to another person (18%) and hunting (15%) (Figure 2).

| Age   | Total  |      |
|-------|--------|------|
|       | Number | Rate |
| Males |        |      |
| 0-14  | 12     | 0.45 |
| 15-24 | 18     | 0.93 |
| 25-34 | 5      | 0.29 |
| 35-44 | 7      | 0.42 |
| 45-54 | 5      | 0.28 |
| 55+   | 9      | 0.32 |
| Total | 56     | 0.45 |

Figure 1. Unintentional Firearm Death Rates among Males by Race and Ethnicity, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



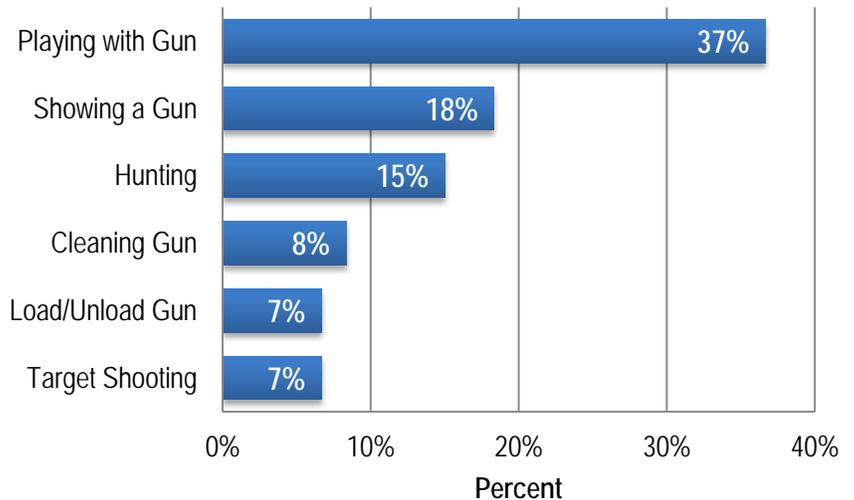
\*Hispanic Ethnicity is not a racial category.

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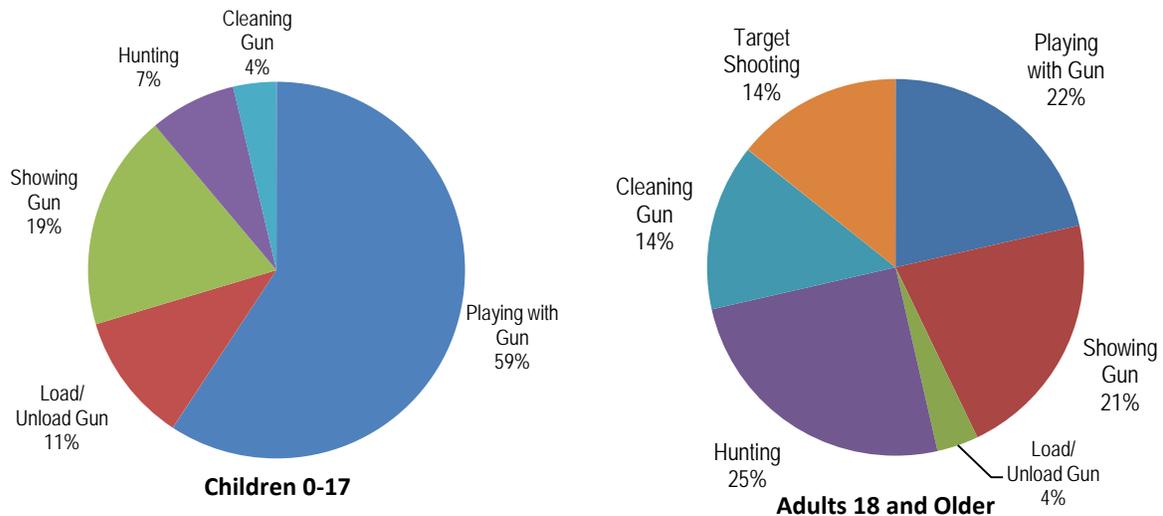
- Compared to adults 18 years of age and older, children less than 18 years of age had a higher percentage of deaths associated with playing with a gun, 59% and 22%, respectively. Adults had a higher percentage of deaths associated with hunting, 25% and 7%, respectively. (Figure 3)
- In 19 (32%) deaths, the shooter thought the gun was unloaded; in 6 (10%) incidents, the person unintentionally pulled the trigger; in 9 incidents the gun discharged when dropped or the bullet ricocheted or the gun had a defect or malfunctioned.
- Forty (67%) of the unintentional firearm injuries occurred on a home premises (house, apartment, yard, porch, etc.) and 8 occurred in a natural area. Injuries also occurred in a motor vehicle, on a street/road, on a farm, and in other/unknown places.

Figure 2. Leading Circumstances\* of Unintentional Firearm Deaths, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



\*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the unintentional firearm death. n=60

Figure 3. Circumstances of Unintentional Firearm Deaths among Children and Adults, Oklahoma, 2004-2010



\*More than one circumstance may have been associated with the unintentional firearm death.

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The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) is a statewide surveillance system for suicides, homicides, undetermined manner deaths, unintentional firearm injury deaths and legal intervention deaths. Data are collected from medical examiner reports, death certificates, law enforcement reports, and child fatality review data. The data are included in the National Violent Death Reporting System and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>.