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**COVER 3**

Ten percent of children's deaths are firearm-related

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sessions culminating in a single 110-minute double session. The sessions will allow for questions and answers, curriculum discussion, further questions and answers, and a final case study. The program also will produce a manual that includes the curriculum, elements of presentation, and answers to likely questions.

Evaluation of the program is based on data compiled from student questionnaires distributed 6 months after the completion of the sessions.

The estimated cost of the program is \$125 per year. Expenditures include postage costs, reprinting and literature fees, printing of the CHAPs manual, picture reprographics, followup ques-

tionnaire costs, and miscellaneous office supplies.

*Entry submitted by the University of California at Davis, School of Medicine. Mr. Sherman's address is P.O. Box 746, Davis, CA 95617-0746.*

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## Ten Percent of Children's Deaths Are Firearm-Related

One of every 10 deaths of children and youths 19 years old and younger in 1987 was firearm-related, according to a recent report from the National Center for Health Statistics, "Firearm Mortality Among Children and Youth."

There were 3,392 deaths resulting from firearms in 1987 among those ages 1 through 19 years, which was 11 percent of all deaths in that age group. The proportion rises with age from 1 percent at ages 1 through 4 years to more than 17 percent among teenagers (figure 1).

At special risk are black male teenagers, more than 40 percent of whose deaths are associated with firearms, compared with slightly more than 16 percent of white male teenagers.

Firearms play a significant role in deaths from homicide, suicide, and unintentional injuries. For children 1 through 9 years, deaths from homicide and unintentional injury each account for nearly half of all firearm-related deaths. At ages 10 through 14 years, firearm deaths are about equally divided among suicide, homicide, and unintentional deaths for 8 percent. Teenage boys are six times as likely as teenage girls to die a firearm-related death.

Among white males 15 through 19 years, motor vehicle injuries have been the leading cause of death for the past several decades, with suicide second, and homicide the third leading cause.

For black males 15 through 19 years, the leading cause of death since 1968 has been homicide, followed by motor vehicle injuries, with suicide ranked as the fourth leading cause of death. Firearms have been involved in about 80 percent of all black male teenage homicides since 1968 (figure 2). Between 1984 and 1987, the firearm-related homicide rate for this group increased by 66 percent, while the nonfirearm-related homicide rate increased by 13 percent.

Copies of Advance Data No. 178, "Firearm Mortality Among Children and Youth," are available on request from the NCHS Scientific and Technical Information Branch, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Figure 1. Percent of all childhood deaths resulting from firearms, United States, 1987

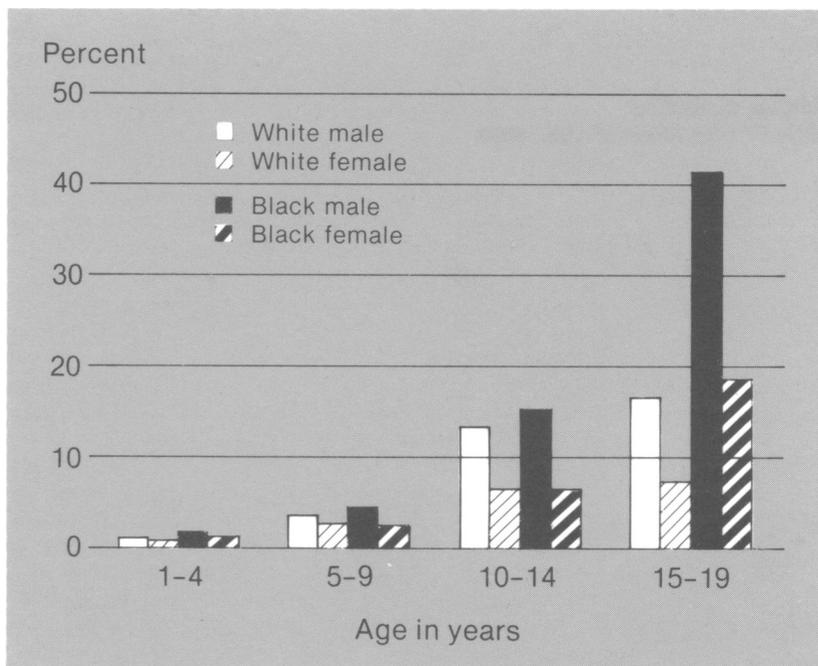
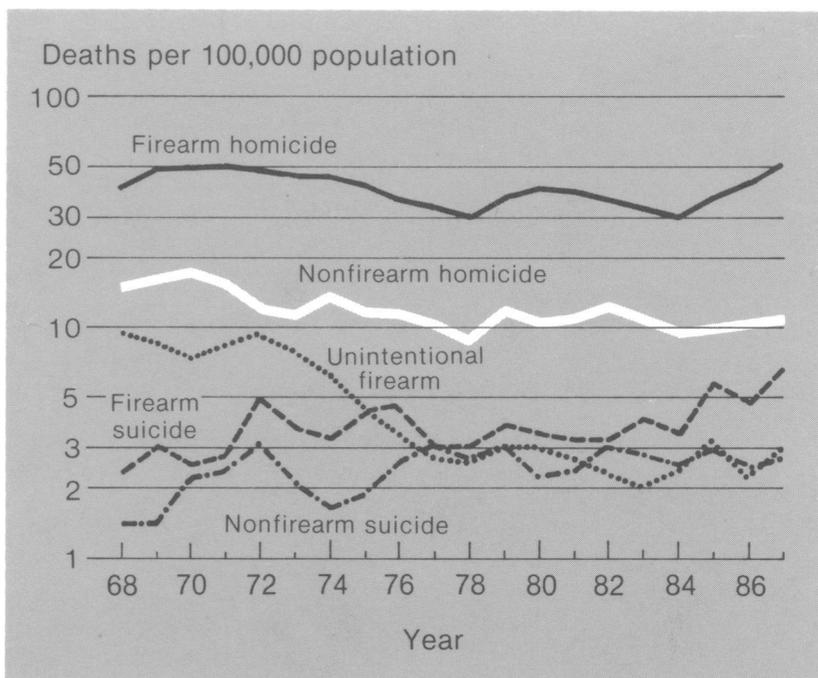


Figure 2. Firearm- and nonfirearm-related death rates for homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury, black males 15-19 years of age, United States, 1968-87 (rates in logarithmic scale)



NOTE: Deaths for 1968-78 are based on International Classification of Diseases, 8th Revision. Deaths for 1979-87 are based on the 9th Revision.

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