

# Public Safety Committee: SAFEWatch Houston Firearm Injury Dashboard

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**HOUSTON HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT

It is critical to focus interventions and prevention efforts where they are needed most.

The circumstances surrounding firearm injuries must be carefully evaluated for these efforts to succeed.

A detailed understanding of **who, what, when, where,** and **why** firearm-related injuries and deaths occur helps us to target interventions and break the trend.

The Houston Health Department (HHD) collects, analyzes, and presents data across disparate databases and surveillance systems to define:

- **Who** is most vulnerable for a firearm event
- **What** types of firearm events are occurring
- **When** and **Where** are the firearm events most often occurring
- **Why** are the firearm events occurring

# History of the SAFEWatch Dashboard

HHD, in partnership with CM Abbie Kamin's office, sought to develop an interactive, **publicly-accessible** dashboard to provide a comprehensive view of the problem.

Brief timeline overview:

- Early 2023: HHD began working on a prototype of the dashboard.
- July 2023: HHD (and partners) presented the project to the Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee, proposed and supported by CM Kamin.
- August 2023: CM Kamin secured funding for dashboard development.
- 2023 – 2025: Dashboard development and establishing data-sharing partnerships.
- December 2, 2025: Public launch and press conference.
- 2026 forward: Quarterly task force meetings to discuss data trends and planned interventions.

July 2023 PSHS Committee  
meeting recording



December 2025 press  
conference/public launch  
recording


This public health tool shows real-time trends in firearm-related injuries in Houston.



<https://www.houstonhealth.org/safewatch>

Summary
Emergency Dept. (ED) Visits
Level I Trauma Center Visits
EMS/911 Ambulance Calls
Police-Reported Non-Fatal Injuries
Deaths
Additional Notes

## Houston Firearm-Related Injuries



Welcome to the Houston Health Department's (HHD) Firearm Injuries tracking dashboard!

The Houston Health Department (HHD) tracks firearm injuries as part of the City's proactive, public health approach to preventing harm. By combining healthcare, public safety, and mortality data, the dashboard reveals critical trends that traditional crime statistics overlook. This unified view highlights who is most vulnerable, where injuries occur, and how patterns differ across assault, self-harm, and accidental shootings. Together, these data sources provide a comprehensive view of firearm injury as a major public health concern in Houston. The dashboard is an evidence-based tool that allows violence prevention initiatives to develop highly targeted, effective strategies to reduce harm.

Selected filters affect all visuals on the dashboard page. Visuals are interactive and affect all other visuals on the dashboard page.

**Dashboard Update Schedule:** Updates occur quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

**Data Documentation:** Because the data sources provides de-identified data, individuals may appear across multiple systems (i.e., an individual may be present multiple times within the same data set, or may be present in multiple data sets). When assessing data and trends across the different data sources, we encourage users to be aware that the counts displayed reflect these potential duplicates.

Data Sources:

Year  
All

Sex  
All

Age Group  
All

Race / Ethnicity  
All

Due to data privacy considerations, categories with counts less than 5 have been suppressed and will not show in visuals. Certain data sets do not have data available prior to 2020. Data for 2025 is currently incomplete.

**Firearm-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits (2019-2025)**

18,967

**Firearm-Related Level I Trauma Center Visits (2019-2025)**

7,345

**Firearm-Related EMS/911 Ambulance Calls (2020-2025)**

8,660

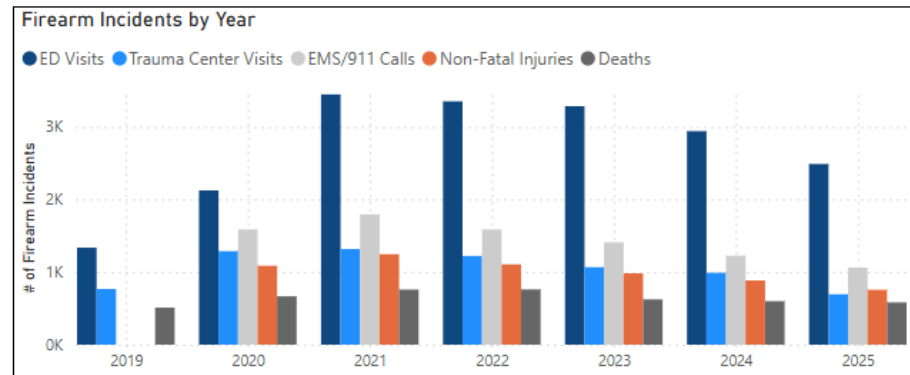
**Police-Reported Firearm-Related Non-Fatal Injuries (2020-2025)**

6,061

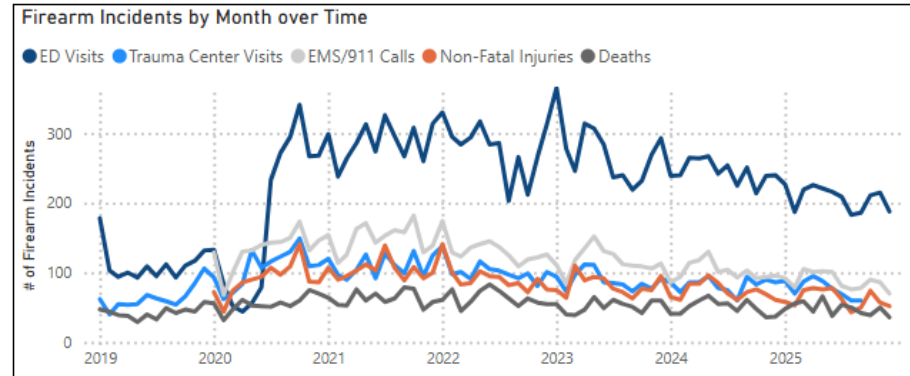
**Firearm-Related Deaths (2019-2025)**

4,501

**Firearm Incidents by Year**



**Firearm Incidents by Month over Time**



Dashboard displays data through: **December 31, 2025**
Dashboard last updated on: **February 3, 2026**

# Partnerships & Collaboration



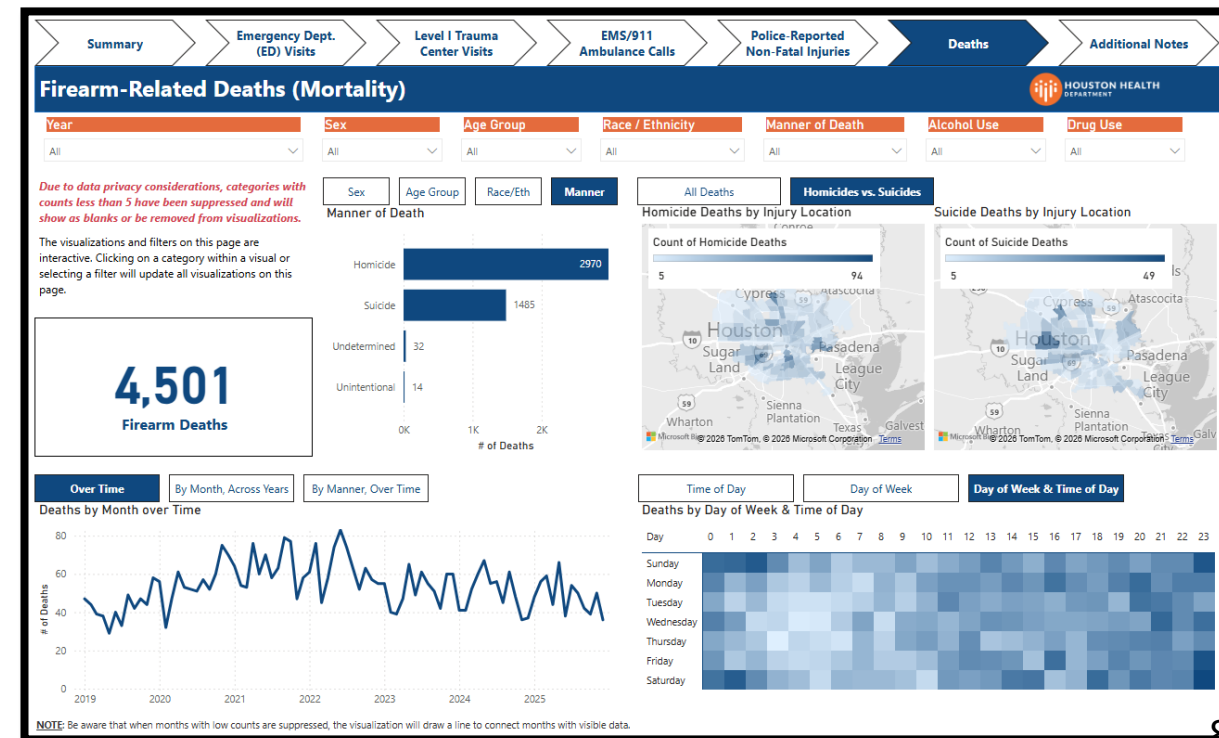
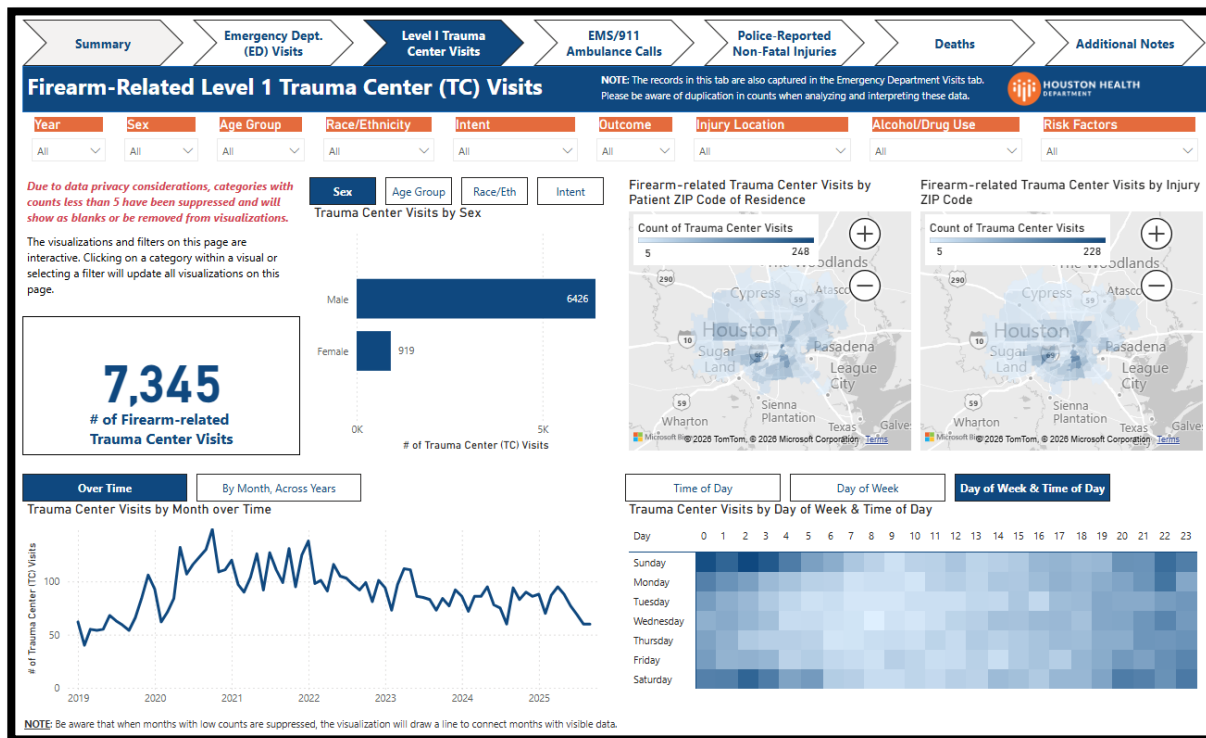
We are incredibly grateful to the partners whose data and collaboration make this tool possible:



Multiple data sources are integrated and statistically evaluated for overall themes and trends as no one dataset provides enough information alone.

- **Houston Health Department (HHD) ESSENCE:** Syndromic surveillance, comprehensive coverage of emergency department (ED) and urgent care visits
- **Houston Fire Department (HFD) 911/EMS Pre-Hospital Transport:** Ambulance calls that provide location of shooting incident, whether dead-on-arrival
- **Houston Police Department (HPD) Non-Fatal Injuries:** Police-reported non-fatal injuries, severity of injury
- **Harris County Medical Examiner (ME) Data:** Mortality data, with context surrounding the manner of death
- **Level I Trauma Centers:** Firearm injury data, with comprehensive details on risk factors and shooting circumstances

This dashboard is the **first in the nation** to integrate Level I trauma center clinical data with EMS, emergency department, police, and mortality datasets—offering a far more accurate and comprehensive picture of firearm injuries than any one dataset alone.



# Information Presented in Dashboard



With data dating back to 2019/2020, the dashboard enables users to explore patterns by:

- Intent (accidental, assault, self-harm)
- Age, sex, and race
- ZIP code of residence and ZIP code of incident
- Day of week, time of day, and seasonal trends
- Location type (home, vehicle, public space)
- Survival outcomes and injury severity trends

This helps identify trends—such as high-risk times, locations, and populations—that support data-informed prevention and policy decisions.

The dashboard is updated quarterly, in January, April, July, and October.

Maintenance of data privacy:

- All data presented in the dashboard is de-identified – no personally identifiable information is integrated.
- Suppression of categories with counts <5.

# Trends Observed in 2025

The below only refer to the time period of Jan. 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025.

- None of the datasets have a statistically significant trend in monthly firearm incident counts, but all are showing a downward slope
  - This means that if the monthly counts continue to decrease, we may begin to see a statistically significant decreasing trend.
- There were 194 trauma center visits for unintentional injuries.
  - Almost half (46.4%) occurred in populations 24 years and younger.
  - This is relatively consistent with what was observed in 2024.

Comparing **average monthly counts** between 2024 vs. 2025,

<b>Data Source</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
ED Visits	245	207
Level I Trauma Center Visits	83	76
EMS/911 Calls	102	88
HPD Injuries	74	63
Deaths	50	49

<b>Trauma Center</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Total visits	991	913
Unintentional	203	194
Children (<= 24 years)	101	90

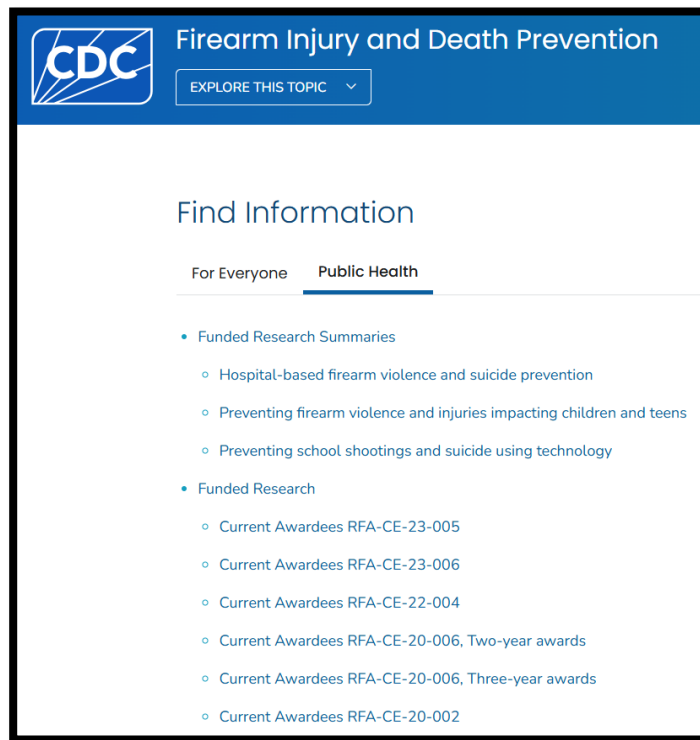
Who can use this dashboard?

- Community residents, neighborhood coalitions
- Community-based organizations and non-profits
- Healthcare providers and hospital facilities
- Researchers, journalists, and students
- Local policymakers and City departments



## Potential Benefits of this Work:

- Use findings to support internal Data-to-Action efforts.
- Share findings and collaborate with local gun violence prevention programs (e.g., hospital-based violence intervention programs, schools, community efforts).
- Conduct assessment of interventions and trends over time.
- Apply for funding that will focus on gun violence prevention and intervention efforts for a safer and healthier community.





- SAFEWatch allows us to focus on targeted intervention in partnership with different initiatives, including #LockItUpSafe with CM Abbie Kamin.
  - CM Kamin recently funded 1,000 gun safes, which have been delivered to the HHD Warehouse.
  - HHD and CM Kamin are partnering to get these safes into HHD health clinics, multi-service centers, and other facilities to distribute these safes to those who need them - *more on this soon!*
- The task force also allows us to work with doctors and researchers to distribute gun safes/locks to pediatricians and doctors in high-injury ZIP codes, and training them on screenings for gun safety (similar to screenings for car seat safety or pool safety for children).

- Integration of Level II (and eventually Level III) trauma center data.
- Future enhancements to dive deeper into the data.
- Regular task force meetings with partners at TMC to discuss trends observed in the data and interventions being implemented.

# Other HHD Health Data Resources

HHD Summer Surveillance Dashboard



HHD Population Health Dashboards



HHD/HCPH Joint Public Health  
Data & Reporting



**THANK YOU!!**



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