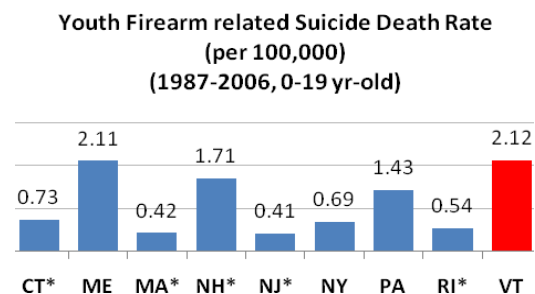
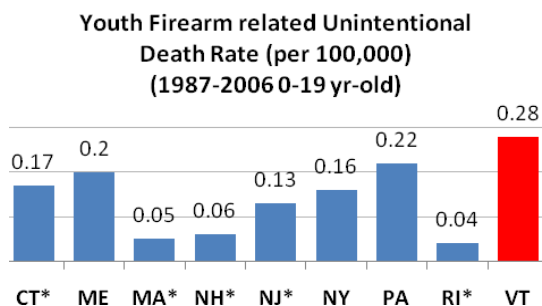


# ARE VERMONT CHILDREN PROTECTED AND SAFE FROM FIREARMS?

## VERMONT YOUTH FIREARM MORTALITY HAS BECOME A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

During 1987-2006 (20 years), Vermont ranked the **HIGHEST** among **ALL** northeast states in:



(Source: Centers for Disease Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System. \* CAP law state)

### DATA FROM VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In 1987-2006, **one VT child in every 2.4 months** died to firearms, or 101 total.

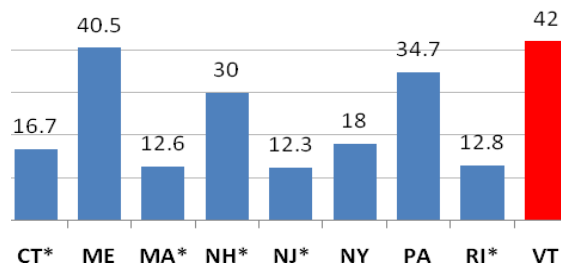
In 2003-2007, **one VT child in every 1.3 months** was injured or killed by firearms, or 37 total.

- 24 in emergency room, 6 hospitalized, 7 died
- Of the 7 deaths
  - 3 suicide, 2 homicide, 2 accidental
  - 1 by handgun, 3 by shotgun or rifle, and 3 unspecified.

## NEARLY ONE IN TWO VERMONTERS OWNS FIREARMS

In 2001, Vermont had the **HIGHEST**

Firearm Ownership (%) in Northeast States



(Source: 2001 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. \* CAP law state)

## MORE CHILDREN LIVE IN HOMES WITH LOADED OR UNLOCKED FIREARMS THAN WITHOUT

- A 2000 study found that 43% of homes with children and firearms reported to have one or more firearms **unlocked**<sup>1</sup>.
- A 2005 study found that over 1.6 million children under 18 lived in homes with loaded and unlocked firearms<sup>2</sup>.

## MOST CHILDREN GET FIREARMS FROM THEIR PARENTS

- A review of 173 youth suicides by firearms in Vermont from 1970-1995 found that **69%** of such suicides **occurred at the victim's home**<sup>3</sup>.

## FIREARM SAFETY EDUCATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH, AND PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

- Gun owners after gun safety training are **more likely** (by two fold) to store their guns loaded and unlocked<sup>4</sup>.
- Children who participate in gun safety educational programs are no less likely to play with guns than others<sup>5-8</sup>.

## VERMONT YOUTH FIREARM VIOLENCE HEADLINES

- Feb. 2010, Upper Graniteville, 14-year-old boy accidentally shot his brother.
- Feb. 2010, Georgia, 15-year-old boy fired multiple shots into his neighbor's home, narrowly missed a baby in crib.
- April 2009, Richmond, teen arrested for pointing a handgun at other cars while driving on I-89.
- Feb. 2009, Harwood Union high school student brought loaded handguns to school.
- Nov. 2008, Bellows Falls, 16-year-old boy accidentally shot and killed himself.
- Aug. 2008, Wells, 14-year-old boy shot and killed his mother.
- June 2008, Brattleboro, 17-year-old boy pulled a handgun from his car and threatened to shoot another boy.
- Dec. 2007, Burlington, 16-year-old boy stole his father's handgun and shot his girlfriend in the head.
- May 2007, Chittenden County, 16-year-old boy shot and killed his father.
- Jan. 2007, Sutton, 15-year-old boy shot and killed 24-year-old man.
- Nov. 2006, Highgate, 15-year-old boy accidentally shot and killed his friend.
- April 2004, Brookfield, 14-year-old boy accidentally shot his twin brother.
- July 2003, Dummerson, 14-year-old boy shot by friends playing with pistol.

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