

Interpersonal Firearm Injury and Death in Portland, Oregon: 2018-2021

Portland saw a steep rise in interpersonal firearm injury and death during the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing higher rates of fatal and non-fatal interpersonal firearm injury than San Francisco and Seattle. Portland communities with greater social and economic disadvantage were most affected. Prevention strategies are urgently needed that address the ongoing systemic social and economic inequities that impact the risk of firearm injury and death in Portland communities.

From 2018-2021, in Portland:

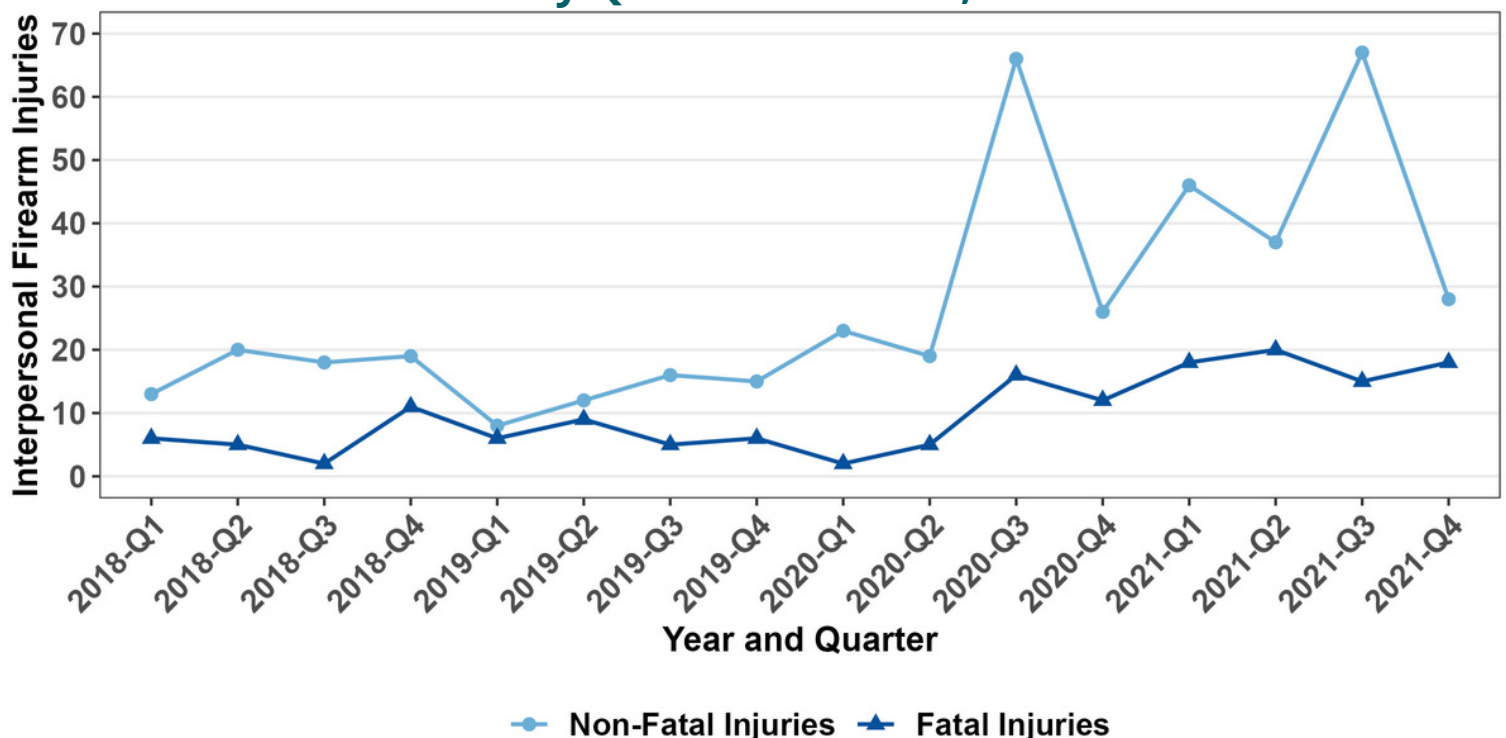
483 interpersonal firearm injury events occurred, and **589** people were injured or killed in those events.

156 people suffered **fatal** and **433** suffered **non-fatal** interpersonal firearm injuries.

In **21** of the interpersonal injury events, **three or more people were injured** and in **7** of those events **four or more people were injured**.

The data presented here are from the **Gun Violence Archive (GVA)**,¹ an independent data collection and research group that provides an online archive of gun violence events collected from law enforcement, media, government, and commercial sources. In this analysis, **interpersonal firearm injury and death** is defined as assault, bystander shooting, or murder-suicide/assault-suicide events (suicide and other self-harm injuries are excluded from counts).

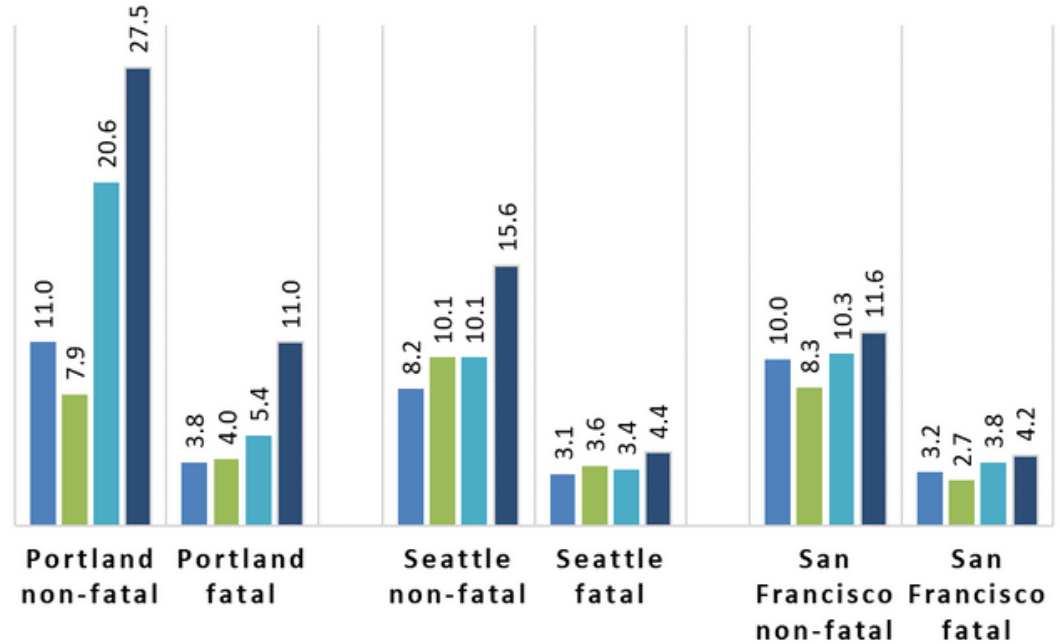
Fatal and Non-Fatal Interpersonal Firearm Injuries in Portland by Quarter and Year, 2018-2021



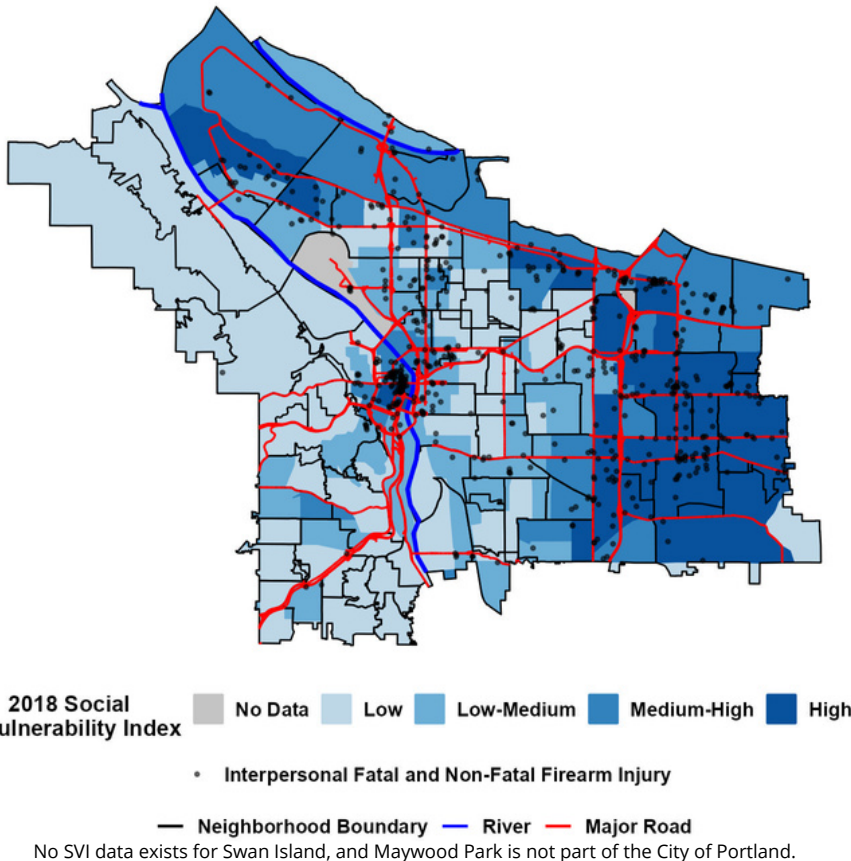
Fatal and Non-Fatal Interpersonal Firearm Injury Rates² per 100,000 in Portland, Seattle, and San Francisco, 2018-2021

■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021

During the **pandemic**, **Portland had higher rates of both fatal and non-fatal interpersonal firearm injury** than Seattle and San Francisco.



Fatal and Non-Fatal Interpersonal Firearm Injuries in Portland by Neighborhood Social Vulnerability³, 2018-2021



Neighborhoods with **greater social and economic disadvantage** experienced **higher interpersonal firearm injury and death**.

70% of firearm injuries in Portland occurred in census tracts with **medium-high or high social vulnerability**.

2. Rates calculated using population data from: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table> Last Access: December 2022

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC/ ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index. <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html> Last Access: December 2022

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC's) 2018 Social Vulnerability Index uses U.S. Census Tract data to rank each census tract on 15 sociodemographic indicators such as poverty, unemployment, and education level to identify social vulnerability.



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