



**In partnership
with:**



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

FIREARM INJURY & POLICY
RESEARCH PROGRAM

UW Medicine

Firearm- related Data Work Report

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Executive Summary

The Department of Commerce Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (OFSVP) and Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program (FIPRP) partnered together between July 2023 and June 2025 to make information about firearm-related data sources more accessible for policymakers, researchers, and the public, analyze existing data from across agencies to create an interactive dashboard, and identify gaps in current firearm-related data-sharing while exploring opportunities to build an integrated data repository for firearm data in Washington State.

Data Partners. OFSVP and FIPRP engaged data stewards at different agencies in Washington across healthcare and the criminal legal systems to explore opportunities for data use and sharing to inform gun violence prevention, policy, and practice.

Activities at a glance.

- *Data Inventory.* Conducted outreach to data stewards across Washington State agencies to update OFSVP's public inventory with current contacts, accessibility details, data strengths/limitations, and available resources.
- *Data Linkage.* In partnership with the Public Safety and Policy Research Center (PSPRC), conducted a landscape analysis of past, current, and potential linkages across state and national data systems to produce a visual linkage map. The work identified existing repositories, documented barriers and facilitators through interviews, and outlined next steps toward developing a firearm-related integrated data repository.
- *Data Dashboard.* Supported the update and expansion of the OFSVP Data Dashboard, including securing data-sharing agreements, analyzing data, designing visualizations, and facilitating stakeholder review prior to publication.

Next Steps.

- Maintain and expand the data inventory through annual updates, ensuring accuracy, adding new data sources, and strengthening relationships with agency data stewards.
- Update data in the OFSVP Data Dashboard as available, including adding new dashboard tabs as appropriate.
- Build the foundation for a firearm data repository by identifying a secure, scalable platform, formalizing agreements with data stewards, and engaging stakeholders to define shared goals and use cases.

Data Inventory

FIPRP supported outreach efforts to various data stewards at healthcare, public health, law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies across Washington State and nationally to update OFSVP's publicly accessible inventory of data sources with firearm-related data components. This included updating contact information for data stewards, information about the data's accessibility, strengths and limitations, any linkages existing or previously conducted across data sources, and helpful links or resources pertaining to each source (e.g., data dictionaries, data request forms, etc.). Additionally, FIPRP aided in identifying additional data sources with firearm-related data components to include several populations who may be underrepresented in numerous datasets containing information about firearm injury, such as veterans, active service members, and individuals experiencing homelessness in Washington State.

Washington State Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention Firearm-Related Data Inventory Resources		
About the Dashboard	National Data Resources	Washington State Data Resources
Washington State Inventory of Firearm-Related Data		
Instructions: Hover over the "Click Here for More Information" tab to learn more about each data resource.		
Dataset Name	Criminal Justice	Healthcare
Criminal History Database	Click Here For More Information	
King County District Court Administrative Data	Click Here For More Information	
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) Data Dashboard	Click Here For More Information	
King County Superior Court Case Management (KC-SCRIPT)	Click Here For More Information	
Seattle Municipal Court Information System (MCIS)	Click Here For More Information	
WA Crime Information Center (WACIC)	Click Here For More Information	

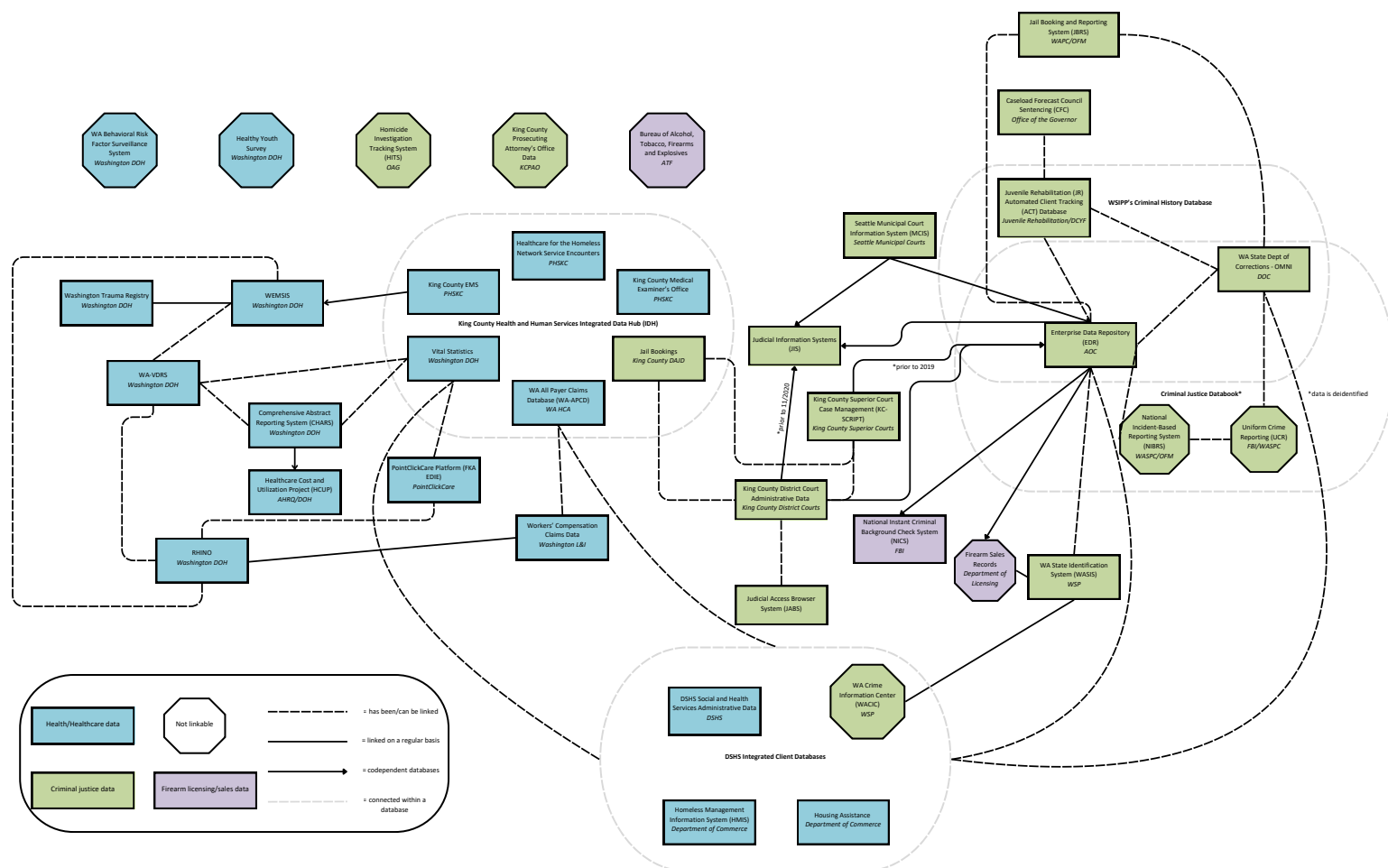
Figure 1. The Washington State Inventory of Firearm-related Data

Data Linkage

In partnership with Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson from the Public Safety Policy and Research Center (PSPRC) and following outreach to stakeholders regarding the firearm-related data inventory, FIPRP conducted a landscape analysis about previous, current, and potential future data linkages across data sources and data systems to produce a data linkage map. This data linkage map visually connects several key data sources for understanding the burden of firearm-related harm and firearm-involved crimes across Washington State and those that interface with national/federal data sources or databases. The map captures current data hubs or databases existing locally or at the state level that routinely link healthcare, legal, or other administrative data sources. It additionally identifies data that could be linked or has previously been linked, highlighting opportunities for future data integration. Similarly, the map specifies data sources that are unable to be linked for several reasons including that the data is deidentified and therefore can not be linked, or is classified or highly restricted.

We additionally identified several existing repositories that have been created in Washington State, many of which have successfully linked several data sources with firearm-related data components (e.g., RHINO, WTR, WEMIS). These repositories include the Washington State Office of Financial Management's Traffic Records Integration Program (TRIP), the University of Washington's WashPop, King County's Integrated Data Hub, and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Integrated Client Databases. We interviewed Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry about the creation of the TRIP repository to learn more about their timeline, the process of acquiring data, and its current functionalities. This research process identified potential infrastructure for hosting a firearm-related integrated data repository, highlighted key barriers and facilitators in the repository creation process, and outlined key next steps for creating a repository for the next biennium.

Figure 2. Landscape Analysis of Previous, Current, and Potential Data Linkages in Washington State



Download the Linkage Map:



Data Dashboard

FIPRP supported the creation of the second iteration of the OFSVP data dashboard, expanding the topics covered in the first iteration of the dashboard and utilizing several state data sources to produce visualizations. This included assisting with securing data sharing agreements to procure data, analyzing data for the dashboard, designing dashboard tabs, and ensuring stakeholder approval of dashboard tabs prior to publication.

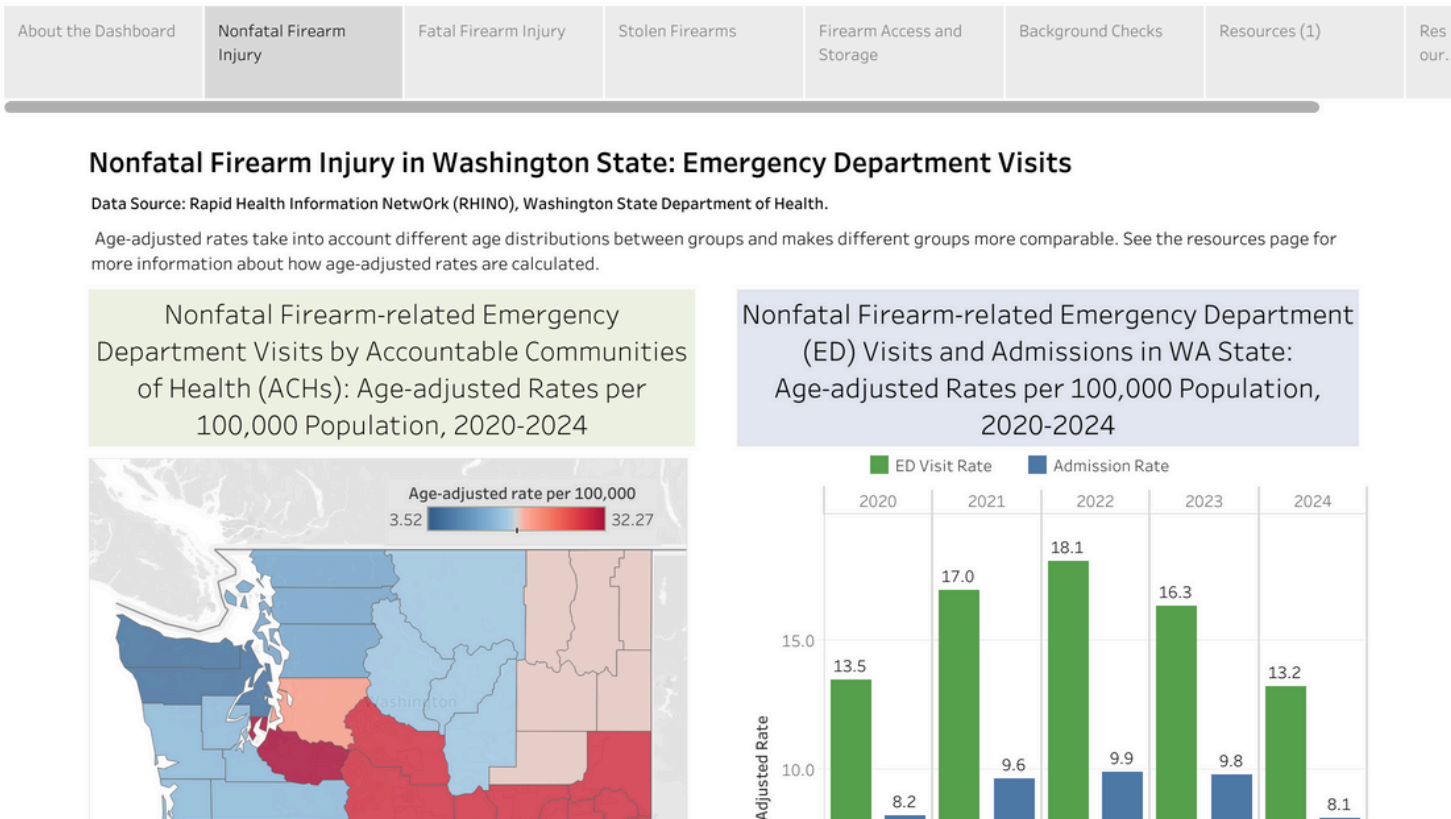





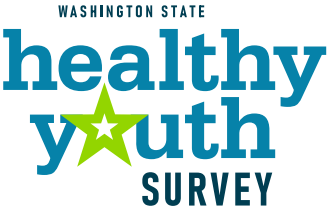



Figure 3. Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention Data Dashboard

The current iteration of the dashboard, published August 2025, includes data related to nonfatal firearm injury, fatal firearm injury, stolen firearms incidents, firearm access and storage, requests for background checks, adolescent violence and safety experiences, and juvenile firearms-related offenses.

Table 1. Data sources and elements included in the OFSVP firearm data dashboard.

Data Source or Agency of Data Steward	Data elements included	Years of Data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonfatal firearm-related emergency department visits • Inpatient hospital admissions for firearm-related injuries • Demographics and location of patients with nonfatal firearm injury 	2020-2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firearm-related fatalities by location • Firearm homicides and suicides • Circumstances preceding firearm homicide and suicide • Distribution of firearm homicide and suicide by age and race 	2018-2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County and agency of reported stolen firearms incidents • Location where firearm was stolen • Offenses associated with firearm theft • Count of stolen firearms incidents per year • Monetary value of stolen firearms and value recovered 	2019-2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of households reporting firearms present in or around the home by county and year • Percentage of households reporting secure firearm storage practices by county, year, and household income 	2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022

Data Source or Agency of Data Steward	Data elements included	Years of Data
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background checks requested by year • Background checks requested by type of firearm or sale per year 	2019-2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Weapon carrying at school ◦ Feeling unsafe at school ◦ High perceived availability of handguns ◦ Missing any school due to feeling unsafe • Distributions of each measure by year, grade, demographic group, and county 	2018, 2021, 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile firearms-related offenses that resulted in a guilty conviction by county, year, type of offense, age, gender, and offense 	2010-2024

Each data source used in the dashboard is updated on a different schedule, requiring tailored updates to specific dashboard tabs based on data availability. FIPRP supported routine updates by incorporating newly released data and identifying additional sources to enhance the dashboard’s comprehensiveness. This included integrating data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which provides insights into firearm storage practices and the presence of firearms in or around the home. Additional updates were made to tabs related to nonfatal and fatal firearm injuries, stolen firearm incidents, and background check requests. Each update involved incorporating new data (when available), refining language and visualizations, improving accessibility, and coordinating with data stewards to ensure approval of the revised content.

Next Steps

Data Inventory

Annual updates to the data inventory will help to maintain OFSVP and FIPRP's relationship with data stewards at various agencies across the state, ensures the inventory includes accurate and current contact information, and reflects any changes in data availability or structure. Regular updates also create opportunities to add new data sources that may be relevant to firearm-related harm, particularly those that capture data on historically understudied or hard-to-reach populations. A well-maintained inventory is a foundational tool for identifying opportunities for data linkage, fostering cross-agency collaboration, and advancing equity-informed firearm prevention efforts.

Data Linkage

Establishing a sustainable firearm data repository for Washington State will require several foundational steps. First, identifying or developing a secure, scalable data platform or infrastructure where the repository can live is critical. Building trust and formalizing agreements with data stewards across agencies will be essential for ensuring consistent contributions to the repository. Stakeholder engagement and buy-in will be key for building the repository, obtaining data, identifying shared goals, and approving use cases (e.g., approved users, purposes, how data is shared). Identifying existing or contracting technical support, such as a data manager, analyst, or systems architect, will be necessary to lead the technical implementation, maintain data quality and security, and support ongoing updates. These efforts will lay the groundwork for a more integrated, longitudinal understanding of firearm-related harm in Washington and support data-driven prevention strategies.

Data Dashboard

Because each data source included in the dashboard is governed by its own publication timeline, updates to the dashboard occur on a rolling basis, ranging from quarterly to annually depending on the source. Planned updates for the next biennium (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027) include:

- Updating nonfatal injury data quarterly
- Updating fatal firearm injury, stolen firearms incidents, and background checks requests data annually
- Adding BRFSS survey data from 2024 (available Fall 2025)
- Adding HYS survey data from 2025 (available Spring 2026)
- Adding an additional dashboard tab for data from Washington Labor & Industries (L&I)
- Adding an additional dashboard tab for adult firearms-related offenses

Future versions of the dashboard could include additional data sources—particularly those that offer insight into populations or firearm-related harms not currently represented. This may include qualitative or community-based data, justice system records, or expanded public health surveillance data. These enhancements will help ensure the dashboard remains a comprehensive and actionable resource for informing firearm injury prevention efforts statewide.