

Inventory of Firearm Data for Washington State

A Review of Existing Data Sources

Compiled by the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (OFSVP) and the University of Washington Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program (UW FIPRP)

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Acronyms

ACCESS: A Centralized Computerized Enforcement Service System

AHRQ: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

AOC: Administrative Office of the Courts

APCD: All-Payer Claims Databases

ATF: U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

BLS: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

BRFSS: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

CDC: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CFC: Caseload Forecast Council

CHARS: Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting

CJIS: Crime Justice Information Services

CMS: Content Management System

CPL: Concealed Pistol License

DCYF: Department of Children, Youth, and Families'

DOB: Date Of Birth

DOC: Washington Department of Corrections

DOH: Washington State Department of Health

DOJ: U.S. Department of Justice

DOL: Department of Licensing

DRG: Diagnosis Related Group

DUA: Data Use Agreement

DV: Domestic Violence

ED: Emergency Department

EDIE: Emergency Department Information Exchange

EDR: Washington Administrative Office of the Courts Enterprise Data Repository

EMR: Electronic Medical Records

EMS: Emergency Medical Services

ESSENCE: Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics

FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation

FFL: Federal Firearm Licensee

FIPRP: Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program

GSW: gunshot wound

GVA: Gun Violence Archive

HCA: Washington Health Care Authority

HCUP: Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project

HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HITS: Homicide Investigation Tracking System

HYS: Washington Healthy Youth Survey

ICD: International Classification of Diseases

ICPSR: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

III: Interstate Identification Index

IRB: Institutional Review Board

JABS: Judicial Access Browser System

JIS: Judicial Information System

KCPAO: King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

KID: Kids' Inpatient Database

L&I: Washington Labor and Industries

LEA: Law Enforcement Agency

LEOKA: Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted

MRN: Medical Record Number

NASS: Nationwide Ambulatory Survey Sample

NCHS: National Center for Health Statistics

NCIC: National Crime Information Center

NEDS: Nationwide Emergency Department Sample

NEMESIS: National Emergency Medical Services Information System

NIBRS: National Incident-Based Reporting System

NICS: National Instant Criminal Background Check System

NIS: National Inpatient Sample

NRD: Nationwide Readmissions Database

NVDRS: National Violent Death Reporting System

OAG: Office of the Attorney General

OFM: Office of Financial Management

OSPI: Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

PAC: Post-Acute Care

PII: personally-identifiable information

POA: Present on Admission

RAPsheet: Record of Arrest and Prosecution sheet

RCW: Revised Code of Washington

RHINO: Washington State Rapid Health Information Network

RMS: Records Management System

SAQ: state added questions

SASD: State Ambulatory Surgery Services Databases

SEDD: State Emergency Department Databases

SID: State Inpatient Databases

SMC: Seattle Municipal Courts

SRS: Summary Reporting System

UCR: Uniform Crime Reporting

VOCA: Victims of Crime Act

WAC: Washington Administrative Code

WACIC: Washington Crime Information Center

WASIS: Washington State Identification System

WASPC: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

WATCH: Washington Access to Criminal History

WA-VDRS: Washington Violent Death Reporting System

WEMESIS: Washington Emergency Medical Services Information System

WISQARS: Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System

WSIPP: Washington State Institute for Public Policy

WSIRB: Washington State Institutional Review Board

WSP: Washington State Patrol

WTR: Washington Trauma Registry

YRBS: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington State Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO)

Years of data available: 2016- present

Dataset owned by: Washington State Department of Health (DOH)

General description of data: Real-time syndromic surveillance patient data from emergency medical services (EMS) and participating hospitals and clinics in Washington. There are currently over 1000 healthcare facilities (emergency care, primary care, urgent care, specialty care) in production. Data includes demographics of patient, information about the facility visited, patient visit information (date, time, diagnosis, etc.), and clinical information such as diagnosis. A number of standardized codes are used, including International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes, patient class codes, and admit reason codes.

Firearms specific data: Chief complaint information may include notes about firearm involvement if related to injuries or trauma. Admission, working, final diagnoses in the form of ICD-10-CM codes are collected by RHINO and may indicate firearm injuries, and triage notes may provide additional context.

Accessibility of data: No publicly available datasets. RHINO data can be accessed through a data request to DOH. All research must be approved by the Washington State Institutional Review Board (WSIRB). Organizations with public health authority can enter into a data sharing agreement with DOH to access the data for surveillance and evaluation purposes without IRB approval. If research request approved, fee is charged on an hourly basis for access. Costs for access for research institutions are currently determined on a case-by-case basis. No charge for access by public health and Washington state agencies, public health partner organizations, or by data providers. Data is updated in real-time, with hospital data submissions at least on a 24 hour/7 day a week basis.

Data linking: Data linking is possible through individual identifiers. Data linkage is subject to all laws, rules, and conditions governing RHINO data, such as confidentiality of patient data.¹ RHINO has been linked to Indian Health Services clinic data, immunization registry data, and COVID-19 case data. Links between RHINO and Washington Emergency Medical Services Information System (WEMSIS) data are in development. Anticipated linkages to Washington Trauma Registry (WTR), Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting (CHARS), and crash and toxicology records.

Strengths: Near real-time data collection which could be useful for up-to-date information on firearm related injuries and deaths. DOH staff have created dashboards on health issues such as homelessness, and it may be possible to build something similar for monitoring firearm injuries and deaths. RHINO receives data from all Emergency Departments (EDs) in Washington,

¹ See RCW 43.70.057 for specific laws and restrictions on EMS data access:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.70.057>

meaning they are likely to ascertain most firearm injuries. RHINO is able to review news articles of recent gunshot wound (GSW) events and cross reference Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) for “case finding” and to ascertain how well the ESSENCE platform is doing in terms of local GSW event capture.

Limitations: Each data entry represents a visit, meaning patients may have multiple entries. Even with patient information matching can be challenging. Data prior to 2019 does not cover all of Washington and is of varying quality. Onboarding ED data into RHINO has been ongoing since June 2016, so users should be aware of the production data for any facilities they are including in their analysis. RHINO maintains onboarding data which can be shared with users to facilitate this. Chief complaint information is often missing or brief and may not be sufficient to answer questions about firearms. Data quality evaluation conducted on January 2019-February 2021 data from RHINO/ESSENCE found that ESSENCE data match closely to Harborview Medical Center Trauma Registry data; however, when comparing Harborview Trauma Registry with ESSENCE for intent-based firearm injuries, tracking the number of intent based injuries (assault, intentional, accidental, etc.) was not always accurate. Linkages to other datasets have been limited prior to April 2020 due to inconsistent reporting of patient names.

Other notes about data: Data is submitted to RHINO from hospitals and clinics at least once every 24 hours and is continuously updated. The ESSENCE interface through which most users interact with RHINO data is owned by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and maintained by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. The data from RHINO is then used by the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) for national surveillance.

Websites:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/PublicHealthMeaningfulUse/RHINO>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/PublicHealthMeaningfulUse/RHINO/AboutRHINOData/RequestRHINOData>

Data dictionary: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-096-PHINSSWAGuidance.pdf>

Contact: RHINO@doh.wa.gov

Lareina LaFlair, lareina.laflair@doh.wa.gov

Natasha Close, Natasha.close@doh.wa.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington State Trauma Registry (WTR)

Years of data available: 1995-present

Dataset owned by: Washington DOH

General description of data: Registry of patient information for individuals who sustain serious injuries and are treated in trauma designated hospitals the state of Washington, including individuals who were dead on arrival or transferred to another acute care facility. Demographics, regional location in Washington, injuries, care, and outcome of patients are collected. Location availability varies but is structured to include zip code level incident location. Data quality varies.

Firearms specific data: Registry collects information on injury type (penetrating, blunt, or other), severity, mechanism (including firearms), mortality, and intent (assault, suicide, unintentional, or uncertain). Type of firearm is collected as injury mechanism but is limited to handgun, shotgun, and other gun. The type of firearm is also collected as an ICD-10 mechanism and includes a broader range of firearm types.

Accessibility of data: All data is restricted access. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) states that data must be made available upon request from qualified agencies, but it is unclear how to request this data from the website. Designated trauma services are required to submit data 90 days after the quarter ends; for example, data from July 1-September 30, 2021 must be submitted to WTR by December 31, 2021. Requestors should email traumaregistry@doh.wa.gov to receive WTR data request form and additional guidance on request process. All requests must go through Washington Trauma Registry program at DOH.

Data linking: Data linking is possible through individual identifiers and may already be linked to other WA DOH EMS data systems such as Collective Platform (fka EDIE) and RHINO. Identifiers for data linkage are available under approval from WTR. Data linkage between WTR and ED/RHINO data has not yet been established.

Strengths: This data can show mechanism of injury, including firearms, in conjunction with information on intent (i.e. intentional injury from others or from self, unintentional injuries) where intent is known. Availability of information on intent depends on interpretation of intent and inclusion criteria limitations. Data can be sorted by state region. The data shows continuance of trauma care including EMS response, and ED and inpatient care. Regional areas vary by program area. There are eight defined “EMS and Trauma” locations. Injury location is available as acutely as zip code (data quality varies).

Limitations: Only collects information on injury, mechanism, and intent, no information on victim-perpetrator relationship (if applicable) or type of firearm. Penetrating injuries may not always be classified as firearm injury even if firearms were involved. Data is not publicly available, and data presentations using WTR data are only available through 2015 on DOH

website. Known issues with coding injury intent in ICD coding and may underrepresent intentional injuries. Data is not representative across the state. Cases are limited to those which meet inclusion criteria posted by DOH website and are treated by a WA trauma designated facility. Data presentations through 2021 may be available upon request if publicly disclosable presentations on topic areas exist. Majority of data presentations are confidential and only available to regional Quality Improvement Forums under special protection from disclosure. Data presentations are not regularly posted to DOH website. Challenges with finding documentation in medical record for the type of firearm used.

Other notes about data: EMS and Trauma Steering Committee meet on a regular basis to advise on EMS and trauma system in WA, including trauma registry data. Subcommittee on Injury and Violence Prevention and/or Dolly Fernandes (Washington DOH) might be a good resource on this based on meeting notes. Pertinent statute and administrative codes for WTR include Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.168.010, WAC 246-976-420, and WAC 246-946-430.

Website:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/InjuryViolenceandPoisoning/TraumaRegistry>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/EmergencyMedicalServicesEMSProvider/EMSandTraumaSteeringCommittee>

Contact: Jim Jansen jim.jansen@doh.wa.gov (runs both Washington trauma registry data and EMS data)

traumaregistry@doh.wa.gov for more information and data requests

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting (CHARS)

Years of data available: 2003-present

Dataset owned by: Washington DOH

General description of data: Collection of record level information on inpatient and observation patient community hospital stays in Washington that is used to identify and analyze hospitalization trends, establish statewide diagnosis related group (DRG) weights, and identify and quantify healthcare access quality, and cost containment issues. Includes patient information (age, sex, etc.), hospital information, type of care, number of days in care, etc. Diagnosis codes, external cause of injury, and Present on Admission (POA) indicator codes will indicate if principal diagnosis is injury or poisoning, other diagnosis of injury, poisoning, or adverse effect related to principal diagnosis, or other diagnosis with external cause.

Firearms specific data: Diagnosis and external cause of injury data may indicate firearm injuries for hospital patients.

Accessibility of data: Some data is available publicly, limited use data is available for sale, and confidential data is able to be used for research through data sharing agreement and approval by WSIRB. Firearm hospitalization and death information using CHARS data can be queried through the Washington Tracking Network. Hospitals must submit data to health department within 45 days following the end of each calendar month (WAC 246-455-050), and public data is released on a quarterly basis.

Data linking: Data linking is possible through individual identifiers, and CHARS data has been linked to vital statistics, criminal justice data, motor vehicle crash records, and other databases. DOH has plans to connect RHINO data with CHARS data when feasible.

Strengths: State and county level data on firearm injuries that require hospitalization and/or result in death in the hospital.

Limitations: No cross-walk between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM (implemented Q4 2015), limited comparability of data across the coding scheme transition.

Other notes about data: Public use data available is inpatient discharge information, can be viewed by payer, by DRG, and by patient zip code.

Website:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/HealthcareinWashington/HospitalandPatientData/HospitalDischargeDataCHARS>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN>

Contact: Data requests: CHS.DataRequests@doh.wa.gov; Katie Hutchinson, katie.hutchinson@doh.wa.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington Emergency Medical Services Information System (WEMSIS)

Years of data available: 2016-present

Dataset owned by: Washington DOH

General description of data: Database containing incident data from 911 calls involving EMS who participate in the system. Prehospital data repository for electronic patient care records for EMS, and aggregate and standardized EMS data from responses to incidents across Washington. This includes data from cancelled calls and multiple responses from different agencies to a single incident. Describes statewide incidents of medical injury and emergencies.

Firearms specific data: Details of EMS contact, including impressions, injuries, symptoms, and treatment provided. May code injury type, cause and mechanism of injury (such as a firearm).. Firearm specific ICD-10 codes are limited to the cause of injury field. Can code EMS calls involving suicide attempts and people at risk of suicide. Narrative data may also indicate firearm involvement or provide additional information such as injury intent (i.e. if firearm injury/death was accidental or intentional).

Accessibility of data: No publicly available data, but quarterly aggregate reports are released on specified topics such as data quality and completeness, COVID-19 impact on EMS, and opioid response. Data in WEMSIS is updated in near real-time, dependent on time of submission by EMS. EMS departments who register with WEMSIS can access data for their own agency at no cost. Non-EMS entities that would like access to WEMSIS data can submit a data request to WEMSIS@doh.wa.gov DOH will provide data in response to reviewed and approved data requests but will not grant access to the full database. Aggregate, de-identified data can be provided and may be subject to a fee. Disaggregated data and/or data containing identifiers for research as defined in RCW 42.48 and RCW 70.02.210 may be provided for activities reviewed and approved or exempted by the WSIRB at the discretion of DOH. National level public-release data that does not include state identifiers can be requested from the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) website.

Data linking: Data linking is possible through individual identifiers, and data links between RHINO and WEMSIS data are in development. Data linking may be allowed in specific instances at the discretion of WEMSIS and DOH.

Strengths: ICD-10 codes and narrative data may capture evidence of intent behind firearm injury that is missed by criminal justice data and could add additional narrative context to firearm injuries and deaths. Could add value by including individuals who are treated at the scene but not transported to an ED. Pinpoints location of event vs residence which may be helpful for understanding context within community.

Limitations: Data quality assessments are ongoing in DOH, as significant portions of data on key performance indicators are insufficient. A report from a few years ago notes that the

WEMSIS data was not ready for extensive use in criminal justice studies as some data fields were still undergoing validation and some fields have high concentrations of missing data. The report noted that cause of injury and mechanism of injury data was left blank most of the time. Training may be needed on data collection given these variations in data quality. Mechanism of injury data may not include mention of firearms specifically. Some aspects of data may not be sharable due to too few cases (making individual cases identifiable). 67% of EMS agencies currently report to WEMSIS, but DOH estimates that this captures 92% of total response volume. WEMSIS is historically a voluntary data system, resulting in varying levels of completeness by field. Legislation passed in 2019 to amend RCW 70.168.090 to require submission of EMS records to DOH by EMS services. WAC is in development and expected in 2022.

Other notes about data: WEMSIS is a component of the NEMSIS, which is managed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Most, but not all, states participate in this system, and states may vary in criteria used to determine EMS events submitted to the NEMSIS database. WEMSIS data has potential overlap with RHINO for current data since RHINO now collects all ED data for Washington.

Website:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/EmergencyMedicalServicesEMSSystems/WEMSISEMSDataRegistry/DataandReports>

NEMSIS data requests: <https://nemsis.org/using-ems-data/request-research-data/>

Appendix E: Using WEMSIS Data to Study Violent Incidents

<https://nvc.dspacedirect.org/handle/20.500.11990/1036>

Contact: wemsis@doh.wa.gov for information and data requests.

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington Healthy Youth Survey (HYS)

Years of data available: 2002-2018, 2021 survey will start in October 2021.

Dataset owned by: Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

General description of data: Cross-sectional surveys of 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students enrolled in Washington state public schools who speak English or Spanish. Survey asks students questions about demographics, health concerns, tobacco/alcohol/drug use, school climate, quality of life, and risk and protective factors.

Firearms specific data: Asks youth questions about gun carrying and perceptions of gun carrying by themselves and peers. 2018 survey asks: "If a kid carried a handgun in your community, would he or she be caught by the police?", "If you wanted to get a handgun, how easy would it be for you to get one?", "During the past 30 days on how many days did you carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property?", "If you carried a handgun without your parents' permission, would you be caught by them?". Other years have asked questions in different ways, such as how many times a gun was carried on school grounds and in general.

Accessibility of data: Reports on data released publicly after survey completion, as well as Q x Q analysis tools on AskHYS.net. Analytic datasets can be provided through data sharing agreement to researchers, possibly through DOH or Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) who help administer the survey. Data from prior year's survey available in spring of following year. Getting geographic identifiers requires WSIRB approval. Getting access to a disaggregated dataset can be done through DOH and WSIRB approval.

Data linking: Geodata (school district or school) is available, but data cannot be linked at individual level.

Strengths: Student survey conducted every two years across WA across four different grade levels, asks questions about handgun carrying as well as mental health, gang activity, social behaviors, and other health behaviors. Useful for measuring potential risk factors for firearm violence.

Limitations: Limited information on gun carrying behavior and injuries due to firearm violence. Six grade students complete a shorter version of the survey and might not be asked all questions as middle and high school students. School district data needs to be grouped with at least 2 other school districts; otherwise, individual superintendent permission is needed.

Other notes about data: May be similar to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS), another cross-sectional survey collected every two years of students in grades 9-12. YRBS does not collect WA data but does collect data from Seattle Public Schools.

Websites: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/healthy-youth-survey>

<https://www.askhys.net/>

Contact: Dr. Maayan Simckes, DOH administrator of HYS: maayan.simckes@doh.wa.gov

WA OSPI: Emily Maughan, emily.maughan@k12.wa.us

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington Violent Death Reporting System (WA-VDRS)

Years of data available: 2015-present

Dataset owned by: Washington DOH

General description of data: Violent death data for Washington. Combines death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports (including Washington State Patrol (WSP)), and toxicology reports. Provides comprehensive and detailed summary of each violent death, including a unique listing of stressors and circumstances in the decedent's life that may have led to violent death.

Firearms specific data: Mechanism of death is included as a coded field, but additional information on access, storage, ownership is available both in coded variables and in the narratives.

Accessibility of data: Descriptive data can be accessed free of charge from the Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Can contact DOH to request access to data via data sharing agreement.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, has been linked with CHARS data in current study.

Strengths: Comprehensive data on violent death, rich narrative data. Has detailed data on firearms as well as on victims and perpetrators.

Limitations: Narrative abstraction is time intensive and requires development of a codebook specific for your project although the narratives can be explored using natural language processing. Variation in level of detail of narrative information. Phased implementation of WA-VDRS in state, so data is not statewide until 2018. While DOH has partnered with many law enforcement agencies and coroners/medical examiners across the state to provide information for WA-VDRS, not all report data to WA-VDRS. Data has a two-year delay because narrative abstraction is time consuming (i.e. 2019 data is available fall 2021). As a result, data are good for retrospective analyses but not for immediate understanding to drive public health action. WA-VDRS does not include domestic violence (DV) module, making it difficult to analyze connections between DV and suicide outside of murder-suicides. DOH has capacity to add DV module but needs funding.

Other notes about data: Firearm Injury & Policy Research Center has used these data extensively.

Website:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InjuryandViolencePrevention/WashingtonStateViolentDeathReportingSystem>

Contact: injury.data@doh.wa.gov; Kirsten McFarland, Kristen.mcfarland@doh.wa.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Labor and Industries workers' compensation claims data

Years of data available: 1973-2019

Dataset owned by: Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I)

General description of data: In Washington, all employers are required to have workers' compensation coverage for their employees. Washington L&I collects data on workers' compensation claims for injuries and deaths that occurred at an individual's place of employment. This includes the number of claims received and approved, claims costs, occupation and employer for claimant, nature of the injury, body part injured, injury source, and dates of injury and claim.

Firearms specific data: L&I claims data code occupational injuries and illness based on a manual from the US Department of Labor. Some codes are available for gunshot wounds specifically, while other codes may be inclusive of gunshot wound injuries, such as amputations resulting from a gunshot wound or traumatic injuries to the spinal cord. Injury source can also include "ammunition", which may indicate firearm-related injuries.

Accessibility of data: Aggregate data on claims is publicly available on L&I website. Requests for data for research must be approved by the WSIRB.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, including name, date of birth (DOB), and Social Security numbers. L&I has a data exchange through OneHealthPort to exchange data automatically with healthcare organizations that use Electronic Medical Records (EMRs). L&I data has been linked with other data such as Employment Security data for research studies conducted by L&I.

Strengths: L&I claims data may provide additional context for firearm-related injuries and deaths that occur at places of employment and can be linked medical data and other data with individual identifiers.

Limitations: Injuries involving firearms may not always indicate firearm involvement. Injury data is restricted to injuries reported on the job to L&I for workers' compensation.

Other notes about data: Data reported to Washington L&I is reported to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Workers' compensation requirements vary by state and are managed by state-based agencies. Some data on injuries and fatalities for police officers may also be reported to National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) through the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) program. RCW requiring data collection on workplace injuries (RCW 29.17.260) effective 1973, oldest aggregate data available on the L&I website is 2007.

Website: <https://lni.wa.gov/claims/for-employers/workers-compensation-injury-data/injury-data>

Contact:

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Multistate data with state identifiers

Collective Platform [formerly known as Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE)]

Years of data available: 2010-present

Dataset owned by: Collective Medical Technologies, a PointClickCare Company/Participating hospital systems

General description of data: Patient data shared for care coordination purposes, including hospital encounter data (ED and inpatient) and Post-Acute Care (PAC) encounter data (skilled nursing facilities, long-term and post-acute care facilities) available to care team members on the Collective network (data flowing from all 50 states, hospital connectivity in 42 states currently). Includes care team information, encounter history, safety and security events, Care Insights, and patient demographics such as patient medical record number (MRN), patient name, DOB, address, and phone. Collective provides care team members with visibility into patients' admissions and discharges at hospital and PAC facilities, with encounter information including date/time, location, hospital, diagnosis, and chief complaint. Users have the ability to share care plans (Care Insights) with the rest of the care team, including downstream ED providers at future ED visits. Care Insights authored for a patient trigger for any ED visit 24/7 a notification pushed to the point of care within the ED, which presents the opportunity to convey critical information to the ED care team.

Firearms specific data: Firearms are sometimes mentioned in chief complaint, but there is not a specific GSW flag. End users have historically presented within the Safety and Security Events field of the Collective platform content related to patients who are a threat to others including history of presenting to care settings in possession of firearms, history of use of firearms, etc.

Accessibility of data: No public data access, but data is accessible to end users of the Collective platform, including Harborview Medical Center. EDIE data can be accessed via local app on Harborview Medical Center computers and shows ED visits for past six months. Reports of EDIE without date restrictions must be programmed by people at Collective Medical Tech. Data is posted in real-time. Oregon releases yearly reports using data from the Collective program.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, has been linked to CHARS, RHINO, and vital statistics data for study conducted by Harborview.

Strengths: Dates of ED visits and location are highly reliable for a set list of patients. If you are interested in examining frequency or diversity of care by location this would work well. Some data are available for WA as early as 2010 and all WA EDs participating as of 2013. Since its inception in 2010, Collective has grown significantly, therefore there is ample opportunity to view patient travel across care settings, EHR's and geographies. The Pacific NW has a particularly strong network with all hospitals in Washington and Oregon having connection to the Collective platform.

Limitations: Reliable statewide data coverage not available for WA prior to 2013. Although firearms are sometimes mentioned in chief complaints, no specific GSW flag, chief complaint information is often missing, and data quality varies (dependent on hospitals). If chief complaint information is needed, it is worth checking with Collective first to verify chief complaint is being sent for the hospitals you are targeting. There can be difficulties with patient matching when a patient presents to the ED as a John Doe. There can be some manual searching for time and date of arrival rather than just searching by MRN in order to add patients to the list.

Other notes about data: Customer reports request please email support@collectivemedicaltech.com. Also of note: The patient must have visited hospital A in the last 24 months in order for hospital A staff to be able to look up that patient within Hospital A's Collective portal. Data from the Collective platform is for patient care and not for research purposes. If seeking use of the data for the latter, additional permissions are required.

Website: <https://collectivemedical.com/impact/ed-utilization/>

Methods for Harborview research project linking EDIE to other forms of data:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cEOUNLSlygvHA3ggWHSeSpX4g4JrNRyp/view>

Contact: Support@collectivemedicaltech.com and specify in the subject line the focus of your inquiry. Our Support team will route your request to a specific team member specializing in your state, setting and needs.

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Years of data available: 2003-present

Dataset owned by: CDC at a national level, managed at a state level by Washington DOH

General description of data: Violent death data for 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. State based reporting system that collects abstracted information from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and toxicology reports into an anonymous database which provides context on violent deaths.

Firearms specific data: Mechanism of death is included as a coded field, but additional information on access, storage, ownership is available both in coded variables and in the narratives.

Accessibility of data: Descriptive data can be accessed free of charge from WISQARS. Restricted Access Database is available to researchers through a CDC data request. Institutional Review Board (IRB) review required by CDC if request involves data linkages to other datasets that include personally identifiable information (PII). Data publicly available approximately 18 months after the end of a given year. Reports from partners (i.e. sheriffs, coroners, medical examiners) to NVDRS occurs on a monthly basis, and abstractors abstract facts and information into the system.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, NVDRS has been linked to Mapping Police Violence, FatalEncounters.org, the Guardian's "The Counted", Gun Violence Archive, WaPo's "Fatal Force Database".

Strengths: Comprehensive, uniform data on violent death nationally, and rich narrative data.

Limitations: Narrative abstraction is time intensive and requires development of a codebook specific for your project. Variation in level of detail of narrative information. Time delay of approximately 18 months after end of given calendar year. Suicide reports from medical examiners are not available for review.

Other notes about data: Early year data is not available for all states until 2018. Washington was added to NVDRS in 2014 but was not fully implemented in the state until 2018. Investigators at Harborview Injury & Policy Research Center have used these data extensively.

Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InjuryandViolencePrevention/WashingtonStateViolentDeathReportingSystem>

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304904>

Contact: For WA state data: WA-VDRS@doh.wa.gov; For national data: nvdrs-rad@cdc.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

Years of data available: 1980-present

Dataset owned by: CDC at national level, managed at a state level by Washington DOH

General description of data: Births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths in the US. Records of dates, times, and circumstances surrounding these events (ex. cause of death on death certificates). Includes geographic and demographic data.

Firearms specific data: Circumstances of death information includes mechanism of injury (such as firearms) and circumstance (such as firearm involvement).

Accessibility of data: Descriptive data available from the WISQARS. More detailed data available from CDC WONDER (wonder.cdc.gov). Approval required by National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) for use of microdata files that include state, county, or larger city geography. Must submit application to nvssrestricteddata@cdc.gov (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/nvss-restricted-data.htm>). Takes NCHS about 18 months to compile, verify, and prepare data for release to the public. Washington state specific data can be requested from WA DOH through data sharing agreement and fee, where appropriate

Data linking: Individual identifiers available. Has been linked to National Health Interview Survey.

Strengths: National, exhaustive information, which helps produce numbers on causes and mechanisms of death (such as suicide by firearm). Select decedent demographic details (e.g. age, sex, race/ethnicity).

Limitations: Can be a long turnaround time between submitting an application for restricted data and receiving the data. Data is sent in individual annual files as long string files from which variables must be extracted by string location. Underlying causes of death may not always be accurately captured in death certificates. Limited information on context and no information about perpetrator.

Other notes about data: Detailed data back to 1989. Compressed data back at least to 1980. Questions about data linking should be sent to CDC Data Linkage Team (datalinkage@cdc.gov). When considering firearm death data, may be some overlap with NVDRS.

Website: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/about_nvss.htm

Contact: For Washington data: Collette Byrd collette.byrd@doh.wa.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Years of data available: 1984-present

Dataset owned by: CDC at national level, managed at a state level by Washington DOH

General description of data: Yearly cross-sectional random-digit dial telephone (cellular and landline) surveys of adults aged 18 or older living in the United States (includes DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico) regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventative services.

Firearms specific data: Core BRFSS survey does not currently ask about firearms, but states can choose to add modules that include questions on firearm ownership in the home, if firearms are loaded and/or unlocked, ammunition storage, types of firearms, and reasons for owning firearms. These modules can be optional modules developed by CDC or states can use validated State Added Questions (SAQs) on firearms ownership and safe storage. Use of firearm modules and SAQs varies by state and year.

Accessibility of data: National aggregate data available on CDC's website, BRFSS data files for WA can be requested for free from DOH. The lag time for release of public data is approximately 6-7 months. WA State 2020 BRFSS data was made available in July 2021.

Data linking: Not linkable.

Strengths: BRFSS is one of the longest-running annual surveys on behavioral health information in the country, occasionally collects data on mental illness in combination with firearms and is used by states to set legislative and health planning priorities. Useful for population-based health risk behaviors and health conditions over time.

Limitations: SAQs and optional module data not consistent across years, meaning firearm data is inconsistent across years. CDC does not edit, track, or report responses from SAQs; researchers must manually collect this information from state-level BRFSS administrators. There are well-documented downsides to use of telephone surveys for sampling, although CDC has adopted raking survey weighted methodology in 2011 to improve population-based estimation.

Other notes about data: BRFSS collected data in 1984 with 15 states, now data are collected in all 50. Due to methodology changes (sampling and weighting), data from before 2011 is not compatible with 2011 to present data. Some states have added an optional, 3 question module to the BRFSS about firearms which asks about ownership and if the firearms are loaded (recorded in 2017 for CA, ID, OR, TX, KS, UT). Other states use a 4 question SAQ for firearm questions. WA used SAQ on firearms safe storage in 2013, 2015, 2016, and 2020.

Website: https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_data.htm
<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304403>

Contact: WA BRFSS Coordinator: Wendi Gilreath, wendi.gilreath@doh.wa.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Multistate data with state identifiers

All-Payer Claims Databases (APCD)

Years of data available: 2014-present

Dataset owned by: Washington State, and administered by Washington HCA

General description of data: The WA-APCD is Washington State's most complete source of health insurance data and includes approximately 75% of the total WA population. It includes eligibility files and medical, dental, and pharmacy claims data. It includes workers' compensation, Public-Employee Benefits Board (PEBB) program, School-Employees Benefits board (SEB) program, commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare health insurance data. Insurers report this data to the state directly and includes information on care for patients across care sites, rather than just hospitalizations and ED visits.

Firearms specific data: Claims for healthcare costs related to injuries which may be related to firearm injury.

Accessibility of data: The Washington HealthCareCompare website displays data from WA-APCD for residents of Washington to consult to make better healthcare decisions. It contains information on health care providers and facilities and compares the cost and quality of medical care and services. A cost and quality public use file is also available for download. Through the WA-APCD data release program, researchers can access data including proprietary financial information and direct and indirect patient identifiers with IRB approval and with appropriate rationale for each data element in the request. Federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies are eligible to request data products containing proprietary financial information, indirect patient identifiers, and unique identifiers, but cannot request direct patient identifiers. Private, commercial, and other entities can request data as well with the appropriate data-use agreement, but cannot request proprietary financial information or direct patient identifiers. There are tier based costs associated with requesting data based on requestor type and the amount of data requested (calculator for costs linked below). Data updated in system quarterly.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, APCD has been linked to L&I workers compensation data, CHARS data, and death records. It has many personal identifiers that make it easy to connect with other datasets.

Strengths: APCD contains useful information on patient histories and medical claims for patients across care sites rather than just hospitalizations or ED visits. It captures longitudinal information on individuals and has large sample sizes and geographic representation. 18 states currently have legislation mandating creation and use of APCDs, and some states use this data to launch public websites for medical cost transparency. A number of other states are interested in or are currently developing APCD systems.

Limitations: Injuries due to firearms can be grouped with other mechanisms or coded incorrectly, making it difficult to discern firearm related incidents. Is not the full universe of

items. Does not take into account changes from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM that occurred in Q4 2015. Data are updated quarterly.

Other notes about data: Medicaid billing data is updated more quickly and may be better for closer to real-time information.

Website: <https://www.wahealthcarecompare.com/washingtons-apcd>

Requesting data: <https://www.wahealthcarecompare.com/wa-apcd-data-requests>

HCA website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/washington-state-all-payer-claims-database-wa-apcd>

Data request cost calculator: <https://www.wahealthcarecompare.com/pricing>

National information on APCD databases: <https://www.ahrq.gov/data/apcd/index.html>

Contact: For Washington data: Lorie Geryk, lorie.geryk@hca.wa.gov

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: Multistate data with state identifiers

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)

Years of data available: Varies by database, but earliest data available is 1988- present for National Inpatient Sample data (NIS). Washington HCUP data years available:

- NIS: 1989-present
- State Inpatient Databases (SID): 1990- present
- Kids' Inpatient Database (KID): 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2016
- Nationwide Readmissions Database (NRD): 2010-present

Dataset owned by: AHRQ, managed at state level by Washington DOH.

General description of data: Information on healthcare use, access, outcomes, and costs from patients at hospitals in the US that can be used by researchers, policymakers, administrators, and consumers. Includes ambulatory care, inpatient hospital stays, and ED visits. Longitudinal hospital care data for all payers and encounter levels. Diagnostic and procedure information uses ICD-10 codes. HCUP includes NIS, KID, Nationwide Ambulatory Surgery Sample (NASS), Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS), NRD, SID, State Ambulatory Surgery Services Databases (SASD), and State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD). Washington currently provides data to inpatient databases.

Firearms specific data: Firearm injuries that results in inpatient hospital treatment would be captured in this database, can identify firearm injuries from ICD codes if coded correctly by physician.

Accessibility of data: No public datasets, but some aggregate statistics are available to the public. Restricted access nationwide databases and select state databases may be purchased through the HCUP Central Distributor. Purchasers must complete a Data Use Agreement (DUA) training course and sign a DUA. Lag time for posting information varies by database but as of 9/9/2021, all databases were available through 2018 and some through 2019, but many did not have 2020 data available yet.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, has been linked to American Hospital Association Linkage Files.

Strengths: Compilation of many different sources of hospital data across the U.S., reliable longitudinal data.

Limitations: As of 2021, Washington only provides inpatient data to HCUP (similar to Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Alaska), meaning that they provide data to SID, NIS, KID, and NRD only. As a result, WA discharge data on ED visits that don't result in hospital admission is not captured here. Other states don't provide all forms of data or provide any (Alabama and Idaho don't participate at all), which could make state comparisons challenging.

Other notes about data:

Website: http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/tech_assist/centdist.jsp

<https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/>

HCUP database availability by state and year: https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/db/availability_public.jsp

Contact:

Category 1: Health and healthcare data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

Crime Victimization Compensation data

Years of data available: 1984(?)-2019

Dataset owned by: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), managed at state level by Washington L&I

General description of data: The Office for Victims of Crime in the DOJ runs two programs to support victims of violent crime in the United States, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Program and the VOCA Victim Compensation Program. The Victim Compensation program provides compensation to people who have been injured or traumatized as a result of violent crime and can pay for services such as medical treatment and grief counseling in the event that costs are not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance (Social Security, etc.). Claims data included whether claim was approved or denied, victim demographics, crimes for which claims were paid, victimization type (domestic violence, mass violence, hate crime, etc.), what claims funding is used for (medical/dental, funeral expenses, etc.), and amount paid out to victim.

Firearms specific data: Claims data may indicate firearm-related crimes in claim. Aggregate data reports do not indicate if firearm-related crime is able to be identified from claims data.

Accessibility of data: Claims data is protected by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Aggregate data on claims is reported annually for the fiscal year, most recent available data is from FY2019. Requests for data for research in Washington must be approved by the WSIRB.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, including name, DOB, and Social Security Number. Unclear if this data has been linked with other data sources.

Strengths: May provide additional contextual information on costs associated with different forms of victimization due to firearm-related crime in conjunction with other health or criminal justice data. It also provides additional context for victimization statistics generally.

Limitations: Unclear if firearm-related victimization can be identified from data. Not all victims of violent crimes may be aware of or choose to apply for victim compensation.

Other notes about data: Unclear how much historical claims data is available. VOCA was passed in 1984.

Website: <https://lni.wa.gov/claims/crime-victim-claims/who-can-file-and-what-is-covered/>

Contact:

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington state only

Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) Sentencing Data

Years of data available: 2000-2020

Dataset owned by: Washington Caseload Forecast Council, Office of the Governor

General description of data: The CFC manages sentencing databases, manuals, and statistical summaries to determine a sentencing model for the state and ensure that offenders who commit similar crimes and have similar criminal histories receive equivalent sentences. CFC receives copies of Judgement and Sentence forms issued in all adult felony convictions to CFC. CFC extracts data from the forms relating to the crime, the offender, the sentencing judge, the sentence, and alternatives to incarceration where applicable. It uses this data to produce descriptive reports on sentencing and analyzes the effects of changes in the law on prison, jail, and community corrections populations. CFC also collects sentencing data on juvenile dispositions.

Firearms specific data: Contains detailed sentencing data including firearm enhancement sentencing data for felonies in Washington.²

Accessibility of data: Statistical summary reports available publicly and summarize felony sentencing data for the fiscal year, reports made available at the end of each calendar year (FY2020 available December 2020) Detail inquiries can be made to Elaine Deschamps, with cc to Duc Luu (duc.luu@cfc.wa.gov). Data is updated as information is received from superior court county clerks, however data published in reports only reports on data that was frozen at the time the report was published (i.e. no new data entries).

Data linking: Individual identifiers available. CFC is a sentence-based, relational database which can be linked to offender tables which contain offender information from other agencies. CFC sentencing data has been linked to Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) Criminal History Database, which links this data to AOC Enterprise Data Repository and Department of Corrections data.

Strengths: Contains information on firearm enhancements that is not captured in Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) data.

Limitations: CFC is a sentencing-based database and contains a record for each sentence, meaning one person can have multiple records.

Other notes about data: Recommend requesting no more than 5 years of data at one time due to file size.

Website: http://www.cfc.wa.gov/Data_Warehouse.htm

² All felony offenses except those listed in 9.94a.533 (3f and 4f) are eligible for weapons enhancements.

Statistical Summary of Adult Felony Sentencing FY2020:

http://cfc.wa.gov/PublicationSentencing/StatisticalSummary/Adult_Stat_Sum_FY2020.pdf

2020 WA Adult Sentencing Guidelines Manual:

http://cfc.wa.gov/PublicationSentencing/SentencingManual/Adult_Sentencing_Manual_2020.pdf

2020 WA Juvenile Disposition Guidelines Manual:

http://cfc.wa.gov/PublicationSentencing/SentencingManual/Juvenile_Disposition_Manual_2020.pdf

Contact: Elaine Deschamps, PhD, Executive Director; elaine.deschamps@cfc.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Criminal History Database

Years of data available: 1981-present³

Dataset owned by: Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)

General description of data: This database is a synthesis of criminal charge information using data from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Department of Corrections' (DOC), and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) Juvenile Rehabilitation databases. This database can be used to determine an offender's criminal history or to calculate recidivism. This database includes data from superior court criminal and juvenile offender case filings, district and municipal court system information, juvenile and corrections administration, juvenile rehabilitation residential confinement information, juvenile detention records, and offender management information for individuals incarcerated in state prisons and under DOC community supervision. Note that King County data is complete through April 2019 and WSIPP is in the final process of getting King County data for April 2019 to present to make this data complete.

Firearms specific data: Detailed information on criminal histories for adults and youth in Washington, which may include charges such as unlawful possession of firearm or violent crimes involving a firearm when indicated in the RCW. When connected with Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) sentencing data, includes information about firearm enhancement charges for offenders. WSIPP also categorizes offenses data and includes categories for misdemeanor and felony weapon crimes, with a separate category for firearm weapon crimes.

Accessibility of data: Data can be requested from WSIPP, permission to access data must be granted by AOC and DOC prior to access.⁴ Data gathered can only be used for research purposes.

Data linking: Data from AOC, DOC, and DCYF is matched through court case numbers and primary ID numbers from across data systems for individuals and has potential to be linked to other databases. Crosswalks for this data have already been built and data connections between AOC, DOC, and DCYF data are updated quarterly. The database can also be connected to RAPsheet (RAP= Record of Arrest and Prosecution) data from Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), jail booking data from the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and CFC sentencing data on a project-by-project basis. The Criminal History Database is also provided to Department of Social and Human Services Research and Data Analysis department so that it can be linked to their Integrated Client Database.

Strengths: Integrated statewide criminal justice database to support timely legislative research which contains comprehensive information on adult and youth offenses (charges and

³ Some data prior to 1981 is available from AOC and DOC but may be less reliable

⁴ Requests for data from the agencies must follow the agencies record request policies including any internal review committees, DSAs or confidentiality agreements, and/or IRB requirements.

adjudications) and resulting dispositions, including time spent in incarcerated, under community supervision, or in diversion programs. Contains criminal history information at all levels of the court system at individual levels. WSIPP has clearance levels to develop crosswalks based on individual identifiers and may be able to support data linking of AOC, DOC, and DCYF data with other sources of criminal justice data for Washington.

Limitations: Data in criminal history database does not originate from WSIPP and permission to access data by outside researchers must first be granted by AOC, DOC, and DCYF before WSIPP will provide data needed for research project.

Other notes about data: WSIPP conducts practical, non-partisan research at legislative direction on issues of importance to Washington state. This database was originally designed to provide the Institute with a resource that could be queried in a timely fashion in order to conduct legislatively-mandated research.

Website: <https://www.wsipp.wa.gov/>

Contact: Lauren Knoth, PhD; Senior Research Associate; lauren.knoth@wsipp.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington Administrative Office of the Courts Enterprise Data Repository (EDR)

Years of data available: Unclear, possibly 1976?-present

Dataset owned by: Washington AOC

General description of data: Statewide electronic court records database for all cases seen by courts in Washington, minus King County district and superior courts as of 2019. Supports daily operations of courts and provides statewide network connecting courts and criminal justice agencies. Contains information on arrests and convictions that are not in the Interstate Identification Index (III) or Washington State Identification System (WASIS), including non-fingerprint arrests and convictions, including juvenile convictions. Also includes court orders such as protection orders, order for involuntary mental health treatment. etc. Produces annual statewide court statistics.

Firearms specific data: EDR case data includes charges like 'Unlawful possession of a firearm,' 'aiming and discharging a firearm,' 'violation uniform firearm act,' and has a flag field for firearm involvement. Case details may include information about use of firearms in crimes aside from charges and flag information. Other information captured like involuntary mental health treatment orders, domestic violence protection orders, and extreme risk protection orders would indicate if individuals were ineligible to own firearms in Washington.

Accessibility of data: Public data from EDR can be accessed through JIS-Link (JIS= Judicial Information Systems), which allows you to search for cases by case number and filter by case type, court name and court levels, filing date, etc. Subscribers to JIS-Link pay a charge of \$0.145 per transaction (execution of a command), with minimum payment of \$13 per month, and subscribers must agree to AOC terms and conditions on use of data. Some identifying information like social security numbers are considered confidential and are not available to the public. Some files are exempt from access such as personally identifiable information and juvenile court probation social files. Financial data can be provided upon request. Records can also be requested from AOC public records officer through a request form. There may be fees associated with the request (photocopying, time, scanning, etc.) depending on the amount of information requested. AOC data managers can also pull datasets of information given specific parameters (case numbers, names, etc.). Requests can be made by public purpose agencies for scholarly, governmental, or research purposes where the identification of specific individuals is ancillary to the purpose of the request. Data from EDR are sent to Department of Licensing (DOL) and to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) daily on mental health commitments that make persons ineligible to possess firearms. Some AOC data available in Criminal Justice Databook from Washington Statistical Analysis Center.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, has been linked to other criminal justice data through A Centralized Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS). AOC and WSP data linked for study on firearm injury conducted by FIPRP in 2019. AOC EDR data used to identify individuals who are disqualified from owning guns in Washington when background

checks are conducted. Deidentified AOC data has been linked with Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), NIBRS, and DOC data in Criminal Justice Databook. AOC, JR, and DOC data has been linked in WSIPP's Criminal History Database.

Strengths: EDR contains individual identifiers and can indicate what crimes are firearm-related either through an RCW that explicitly mentions firearms or through court documents that indicate that a firearm was used in a crime. Accessible information on arrests and convictions for multiple purposes.

Limitations: As of 2019, King County district and superior court data is not available through JIS-Link, and this data must be requested from King County directly. Charges for assault with a deadly weapon don't distinguish between weapon types, no way to know if it's firearm-related unless unlawful possession of firearm is involved in the same incident.

Other notes about data: RCW 43.43.580 requires that WSP conduct a background check on all sales and transfers of firearms through multiple criminal justice records, including the NICS, the Washington Crime Information Center, Washington state identification system, the HCA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national exchange database and any repository of statewide local law enforcement record management systems information, the AOC EDR, and other databases or resources as appropriate. WSP is currently working on an effort to create a single source for background checks for all of Washington, implementation expected in 2024.

Website: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/jislink/>

<https://www.courts.wa.gov/datadis/?fa=datadis.policyDiss>

<https://sac.ofm.wa.gov/data>

Contact: Andrew Peterson, M.S., Ph.D, Andrew.peterson@courts.wa.gov

Tamra L. Anderson is listed as manager of Enterprise Data Services:
tamra.anderson@courts.wa.gov, #: 360-704-5540

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington State Identification System (WASIS)

Years of data available: 1974-present. Data collection for WASIS started in 1974 but some data predates this. Data retention policy states that criminal history record information is retained in WASIS until an individual reaches 120 years of age.

Dataset owned by: WSP

General description of data: State repository for criminal history record information for all individuals who are arrested, charged, and/or have criminal histories in Washington. Contains arrest and disposition, sex and kidnapping offender registration, and Department of Corrections information based on positive fingerprint identification. Produces RAPsheets for criminal background checks.

Firearms specific data: Contains criminal history record information used by agencies to make determinations of approval for firearm possession. If the right to firearm is taken away and later restored through a Restoration of Right to Possess Firearms court order, this is entered as subsequent activity to the court cases in which they apply.

Accessibility of data: Certified criminal justice agencies can request and receive unrestricted criminal history record information from WSP for criminal justice purposes. Research agreements can be requested for conviction and non-conviction information for research purposes only by contacting Deborah Collinsworth. The public may also request and receive criminal history record information for non-criminal justice purposes, but it is limited to conviction information only and arrests less than one-year-old with dispositions pending, and information regarding registered sex/kidnapping offenders. Background checks can be requested via the Washington Access to Criminal History (WATCH) system.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, linked to Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC) and other information found in ACCESS. WASIS and AOC data were linked for a study on firearm injury conducted by FIPRP in 2019.

Strengths: Connected with other data sources like WACIC and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) through ACCESS.

Limitations: Background checks can miss out-of-state records.

Other notes about data: WASIS/WACIC is also known as W2. All information that is entered/updated/deleted is transmitted to the FBI to be added to the III. Washington is a single source state since 1992, meaning all information that is added to the III comes from only WSP.

Website: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/criminal-history/>

Contact: Deborah Collinsworth: Deborah.collinsworth@wsp.wa.gov

Jim Anderson, jim.anderson@wsp.wa.gov

Meagan Renick, Meagan.renick@wsp.wa.gov

Kristina Davis, Kristina.davis@wsp.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Washington Crime Information Center (WACIC)

Years of data available: Years of data available vary by file and entering agency. Some entries are as short as 48 hours, others remain in the system indefinitely until cleared by the entering agency.

Dataset owned by: Data is owned by the contributing agency and managed by WSP

General description of data: WACIC is a statewide computerized repository for multiple types of entries including wanted persons, vehicles, persons of interest, and others. All entries are completed and managed by the contributing agencies. This state repository was established as an information source for all criminal justice agencies.

Firearms specific data: Data from WACIC can indicate if individual is ineligible for firearm ownership during a background check.

Accessibility of data: Information contained in WACIC can be instantly retrieved and furnished to any authorized criminal justice agency as defined by the FBI Crime Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy.

Data linking:

Strengths:

Limitations:

Other notes about data: Data that used to reside in both WACIC and in NCIC is moved to NCIC only. This includes stolen articles; stolen, recovered, and missing guns; missing persons; unidentified persons; violent persons; ID theft; and vehicle and boat parts.

Website: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/criminal-history/>

Contact: Jim Anderson, Jim.Anderson@wsp.wa.gov

Wes Vrandenburg, Wesley.Vrandenburg@wsp.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington only data

WA Department of Corrections (DOC) Data

Years of data available: 1920s to present with variations in data quality prior to 2008 (see limitations section for details)

Dataset owned by: Washington DOC

General description of data: DOC maintains secretary warrants, some arrest information for people incarcerated in Washington. Individuals who are in the Washington DOC carceral system, who have current warrants for arrest, or are wanted for arrest. Data collected includes name, DOB/age, location of prison if incarcerated, field office information and county of residence for people under community supervision, dates of admission/release/community supervision, supervision conditions, etc. Supervision conditions are reported on most recent Judgement and Sentencing. Name, DOC number, location of prison and/or field office and county of people under community supervision, and age of inmates are publicly available via inmate search. Other information such as DOB, risk classifications, special sentencing, date of commitment/release, supervision conditions, release and supervision dates, etc. available on request via public disclosure process.

Firearms specific data: Information on inmates includes crime type, may include information on firearms for crimes involving firearms if involving a firearm RCW or if they have a sentencing enhancement for firearm. Information from DOC used to identify people who are disqualified from legal firearm ownership.

Accessibility of data: Some data, including name, age, location, and date of release available to the public via inmate search. Other information such as DOB, supervision conditions, and release and supervision dates are available upon request via public disclosure process. Aggregate data on inmates is available publicly, including race, gender, risk level classifications, and most serious current offense, is available online. Other data must be requested from the DOC Public Records Unit. Request-based requests must go through WSIRB following approval from DOC Research Review Committee. Requests for data for research purposes must be related to the agency mission and strategic goals and selections are "highly competitive". Decisions for access to data for research could take up to a year because of multi-level review process. Lag time for data to be released publicly varies; some information is only available through 2018, while other aggregate data is available through early 2021.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, connected with other data in ACCESS. Deidentified DOC data has been linked with AOC, UCR, and NIBRS data in the Criminal Justice Databook owned by OFM. AOC, JR, and DOC data has been linked in WSIPP's Criminal History Database.

Strengths:

Limitations: Variations in data quality for historical data. Data collected prior to 1984 is unreliable, data between 1984 and 2008 is adequate but may be missing information, and data from 2008 to present is largely reliable. Address information for people under community supervision may not always be up to date depending on level of supervision. Arrest records are not maintained for people under community supervision. Crimes involving firearms that did not receive an enhancement or are not a firearm RCW may be difficult to track as information can only be found in narrative text fields or paper records.

Other notes about data:

Website: <https://www.doc.wa.gov/information/data/default.htm>

Criminal Justice Databook: <https://sac.ofm.wa.gov/data>

Contact: Courtney Bagdon-Cox, PhD, Courtney.bagdoncox@doc1.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Washington only data

Homicide Investigation Tracking System (HITS)

Years of data available: 1991-present

Dataset owned by: Washington State Office of the Attorney General (OAG)

General description of data: Statewide central repository for violent crimes against people in Washington. Includes homicide, rape, sexual assault, sex offender registration, child luring, stalking, child pornography, identity theft, and suspicious circumstances. Excludes officer-involved incidents. Collects, analyzes, links, and provides law enforcement with information to facilitate the resolution of violent crimes. HITS connects law enforcement, DOC, Department of Motor Vehicles, and DOL information into a system to facilitate law enforcement investigations. Includes information like victim and suspect demographics, motives/crime classifications, victim-suspect relationships, and weapon type. Also includes data from nearby states such as Oregon.

Firearms specific data: Includes information on the weapon if crime was firearm related.

Accessibility of data: No publicly available data. HITS services are free to local law enforcement. De-identified information from HITS can be made available to researchers, see links for example of HITS analysis by public health entity.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available but cannot be provided to anyone outside of law enforcement.

Strengths: Can provide rich contextual information on violent crimes involving firearms for Washington, including weapon type, motive, victim-offender relationship, victim-offender demographics, offender criminal history, and suspect status. More comprehensive information than UCR/NIBRS data. Data has been used previously for research studies on violent crime conducted by the OAG and descriptive summaries produced by Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Limitations: Limited geographic information, limited suspect information to determine violence history, firearm ownership history not collected, suicides outside of murder-suicide incidents are not collected. Narrative is needed to understand context of incident.

Other notes about data: RCW 43.10.097 states that HITS system is a tool for administration of criminal justice and this system may not be used for any other purpose.

Website: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/homicide-investigation-tracking-system-hits>

Public Health – Seattle & King County analysis of firearm homicides using HITS data:
<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOCK-IT-UP/~media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/homicide-investigation-tracking-system.ashx>

Contact: John Hillman, john.hillman@atg.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: King County, Washington data only

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) Data Dashboard

Years of data available: 2009-present

Dataset owned by: KCPAO

General description of data: Aggregate data on felony criminal justice system functions from felony referrals and cases filed into King County Superior Court. Includes open cases, declines to charge, dispositions, filings, and demographics of individual committing crime and the victim of crime.

Firearms specific data: Firearms data is not immediately available.

Accessibility of data: Dashboard publicly available. Lag time for data to be posted is about a month; most recent data as of September 2021 is from July 2021.

Data linking: Not linkable.

Strengths: Aggregate data on criminal justice trends made available to the public. Clear infographics with data, with month by month comparisons and indications of expected averages. Includes notes on statistics for interpretation, such as an increase in declines to charge cases in March 2021 due to Washington State Supreme Court declaring that WA State's drug possession law was unconstitutional.

Limitations: Firearms data not immediately available on dashboard. Data dashboard creators acknowledge data on defendants is poor and data on victims is poorer and missing demographic data due to sporadic reporting.

Other notes about data: Plans to include law enforcement specific data, analysis of specific types of crimes, details on diversion or other alternative programs, district court data on misdemeanors handled by KCPAO, and Juvenile Court Data. Other suggestions for data can be submitted.

Website: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/prosecutor/criminal-overview/CourtData.aspx>

Contact: paodatadashboard@kingcounty.gov

David Martin, David.martin@kingcounty.gov

David Baker, David-pao.baker@kingcounty.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: Seattle, Washington data only

Seattle Municipal Court Information System (MCIS)

Years of data available: late 1980s-present

Dataset owned by: Seattle Municipal Courts (SMC)

General description of data: Seattle Municipal Courts use the MCIS for case management of cases seen at SMC, which includes misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, infractions, and civil offenses. Portal users can search by case number, defendant name, or police incident number for information on a case, including case type, status, filing and end dates, defendant information (name, DOB, etc.), charges, citations, hearings, events, and obligations (such as fines). Users can also search by attorney name to find information on open cases and active hearings.

Firearms specific data: MCIS will indicate what municipal codes have been violated, which can indicate illegal use, purchase, storage, or theft of firearms. SMC also has information on domestic violence protection orders and extreme risk protection orders that would restrict firearm ownership.

Accessibility of data: The SMC Portal provides general access to public court documents, which includes case information and courtroom schedules. Authorized users (attorneys, agency staff, and pro se defendants) can upload and view additional documents for agency cases. Municipal court data can be requested for research purposes through the Data Dissemination Request (linked below). Some aggregate court data can be pulled from the MCIS system, but it is not possible to query for data in the SMC portal. Case number and/or names are required to look up court records.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available (name, DOB), aggregate data is reported to the AOC system but is not input into the JIS in full.

Strengths: Easy, free access to municipal court case information, including individual identifiers and municipal codes which can indicate firearm-related crimes.

Limitations: Some case records from late 80s may not be complete records.

Other notes about the data: SMC is transitioning to a new case information system in late 2022 and will implement some data purge actions based on AOC electronic records retention guidelines.

Website: <https://web6.seattle.gov/courts/ECFPortal/Default.aspx>

Data dissemination request form: [Data Dissemination request](#)

Frequently requested data reports using SMC data: <https://www.seattle.gov/courts/about/data-and-publications>

Contact: Gary Ireland, gary.ireland@seattle.gov, 206-684-8710

smc_publicsvcs@seattle.gov

Category 2 : Criminal justice data

Subcategory: King County, Washington data only

King County Superior Court Case Management (KC-SCRIPT)

Years of data available: 2012-present

Dataset owned by: King County Superior Courts

General description of data: Case management for criminal, civil, and juvenile offender cases seen at King County Superior Courts. Includes information on individuals involved in crime (including victim), type of crime, resolution, days to resolution, pending caseload, and referrals to drug court.

Firearms specific data: May include details about firearms if in connection to crime (i.e. illegal firearm possession or aggravated assault) or a protection order.

Accessibility of data: Aggregate statistics by month available publicly from 2012 to present, plus ability to search individual cases by number, name, judgement, or other records for specific time periods. Some case data is available as far back as 1874. Cases prior to 1979 are available to search on microfiche. Other requests for data must be made to King County Judicial Administration by email or mail, and there may be administrative or material costs for requests. Most recent data available only as of September 2021 is from July 2021.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, linked to AOC case management data prior to 2019.

Strengths:

Limitations: Although King County keeps records on cases as far back as 1874, aggregate statistical data prior to 2012 is not available. Searching court case records in online system requires knowing at least the case number or details of the case (name, date, etc.). Currently King County does not have an easy way of generating data for research requests.

Other notes about data: As of July 2019, this data is not reported to AOC case management data. Data exchange has been implemented with AOC EDR to display statewide view of case and person information. In some instances, King County Superior Court information will display differently.

Website: <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/access-records/reports.aspx>

Contact: Arnold Bahr is point of contact for data requests: arnold.bahr@kingcounty.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: King County, Washington data only

King County District Court Administrative Data

Years of data available: 2016-present

Dataset owned by: King County District Courts

General description of data: Case management files on criminal, civil, and juvenile offender cases seen at King County District Court. Cases seen at district courts include small claims, domestic violence protection orders, misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor criminal cases, felony preliminary hearings, felony expedited cases, etc.

Firearms specific data: May include details about firearms if in connection to crime or a protection order, such as a domestic violence protection order or an extreme risk protection order.

Accessibility of data: All public records requests must be made in writing in a records request form and submitted to recordrequests.kcdc@kingcounty.gov. Cost associated for photocopying, scanning, and direct staff time after first hour. Some records are restricted and confidential information will either be redacted or not provided with explanation as to why the record is inaccessible.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, data has been linked to Judicial Access Browser System (JABS).

Strengths:

Limitations: Unclear if any aggregate data is available for statistical analysis, and currently King County does not have an easy way to generating data for research requests.

Other notes about data: As of November 2020, King County District Courts no longer enters data into Judicial Information System (new content management system (CMS) implemented). Data exchange implemented with EDR, and Judicial Access Browser System (JABS) retrieves data from EDR to display statewide view of case and person information. In some instances, King County District Courts information will display differently. "In order to provide statewide case and referral history, person data from different CMS's is stored within Enterprise Data Repository (EDR)." A process called person matching evaluates the person data to determine new matches as well as maintain the person matches or associations created within a case management system. Whenever a person match exists, the case, referral, and person data is consolidated for viewing in JABS.

Website: <https://kingcounty.gov/courts/district-court/about/Administrative%20Public%20Records.aspx>

Contact:

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR): Supplementary Homicide Report Concatenated Files

Years of data available: 1976-2020

Dataset owned by: Concatenated files owned by Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). FBI manages UCR program at national level, WASPC manages state UCR program for Washington.

General description of data: The UCR program is an FBI-run program consisting of four data collections: NIBRS, the Summary Reporting System (SRS), the LEOKA Program, and the Hate Crime Statistics Program. UCR program contributors compile and submit their crime data either directly to the FBI or through their State UCR programs. The UCR Supplementary Homicide Reports provide detailed information on homicides (murders, non-negligent killings, and justifiable homicide) in the US. Reports contain information on victim and offender age, sex, race, ethnicity, the weapon used, circumstances of the incident, and the number of both offenders and victims. Also includes month of incident, situation type, details about victim and offenders demographics, the weapon used, circumstances of the incident, and number of victims and offenders. Concatenated data files include numeric state codes, alpha-numeric agency codes, jurisdiction population, and population group. These Supplementary Homicide Reports are submitted for SRS only, while LEOKA data is submitted via NIBRS.

Firearms specific data: Weapon used in crime, circumstances of incident, and victim and offender information.

Accessibility of data: Aggregate UCR data is available through Crime Data Explorer, and concatenated data files are available for supplementary homicide reports through ICPSR. Most recent update to concatenated files included 2019 data. Some aggregate data from Washington UCR program available in 2020 annual report published in April 2021. Deidentified UCR data has been linked with AOC, NIBRS, and DOC data in the Criminal Justice Databook.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, but this information is typically only accessible to law enforcement and FBI. UCR data been linked to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Directory of Law Enforcement Agencies and Census Bureau Governments Integrated Directory. Has also been linked with AOC and DOC data in Criminal Justice Databook.

Strengths: Many years of homicide data with details about victim-offender relationship at the state-level.

Limitations: As of May 2021, all states have state UCR programs, and these programs frequently impose mandatory reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in the state. However, not all states mandate reporting, and many states do not have 100% of all LEAs reporting to UCR. Good amount of missing data in concatenated data files, but James Alan Fox provides multiply imputed dataset for use.

Other notes about data: SRS was phased out of use by states and FBI as of January 2021 in favor of using NIBRS. An expert panel on firearms data infrastructure noted that NIBRS is resource intensive for local law enforcement, resulting in spotty reporting and a need for technical assistance for local law enforcement to implement this system. See NIBRS document for more details.

Website:

Link to concatenated data file:

<https://www.openicpsr.org/openicpsr/project/100699/version/V10/view>

UCR program statistics page: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>

Criminal Justice Databook: <https://sac.ofm.wa.gov/data>

Contact: Jamie Alan Fox from Northeastern University: j.fox@neu.edu has a multiply imputed SHR dataset that he provides on request.

For Washington data: Steve Strachan, steve@waspc.org

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

Years of data available: 1987-present

Dataset owned by: FBI, managed at state level by WASPC

General description of data: NIBRS includes data from records of calls for service, complaints, and investigations for all arrests and crime incidents reported by law enforcement. Includes data on offender demographics (age, sex, race, etc.), victim age, sex, race, offense type, geographic distribution of crimes based on jurisdiction, and can be used to determine if there have been increases or decreases in crimes. Also includes information on LEA employees. LEAs report data to system, which is then reported to state entities and FBI. Data are entered into a local records management system (RMS); a file is generated from the RMS and sent to the State and FBI UCR Programs. Some states allow a direct incident entry into the state repository for LEAs that do not have a NIBRS-capable RMS.

Firearms specific data: Includes information on crimes involving firearms (such as aggravated assaults or unlawful possession), including weapon type.

Accessibility of data: Reports on data released annually, and it takes approximately 9 months after close of year for previous years data to be available on Crime Data Explorer, which shows aggregate data that can be sorted by crime type and show trends in crime over time. Incident-based data by state, summary data estimates, and data about other specific topics are available for download in CSV files. De-identified data is also available in the Criminal Justice Databook from Washington Data in NIBRS is updated in real time, dataset downloads are updated less frequently. The State UCR Program provides data annually to the OFM for inclusion in the OFM Criminal Justice Databook. The last update for 2020 data was sent to OFM on July 2, 2021. Requests for Washington data should be sent to WASPC CJIS department. Identifying information is not accessible outside of FBI and LEAs.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, has capacity to link to datasets like Census data, BLS data, CDC data, and UCR collections. Deidentified NIBRS data has been linked with Administrative Office of the Courts, UCR, and DOC data in Criminal Justice Databook.

Strengths: Information from NIBRS is regularly updated with information from LEAs. More comprehensive than previous crime index data.

Limitations: The FBI certified Washington for NIBRS in December 2006, and NIBRS data collection began in 2007. However, it did not have 100% of LEAs until 2018. As a result, state estimates of crime using NIBRS data are not reliable until 2019 and 2020.

Other notes about data: Pilot tested NIBRS in South Carolina in 1987 and at a national conference in 1988, at which point it was implemented nationally. In June 2016, the FBI director announced that FBI UCR Program would transition to NIBRS-only data collection by January 1, 2021. The FBI CDE map demonstrating NIBRS implementation is outdated for Washington

state. The FBI CDE website states that WA only has 91% of LEAs reporting to NIBRS, but WASPC's 2020 crime report says all LEAs are reporting as of 2018.

Website: Crime Data Explorer: <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/home>
<https://www.waspc.org/assets/CJIS/Crime%20In%20Washington%202020-small.pdf>

Criminal Justice Databook: <https://sac.ofm.wa.gov/data>

Washington statistics, reports, and form for data requests: <https://www.waspc.org/cjis-statistics--reports>

Contact: Requests for statistical data: cjis@waspc.org

For Washington data: Joan Smith jsmith@waspc.org, Steve Strachan, steve@waspc.org

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)

Years of data available: 1993-present

Dataset owned by: FBI, accessed by LEAs via ACCESS, managed at state level by WSP.

General description of data: NICS is used for firearms background checks for anyone who attempts to purchase a firearm or firearm parts, to obtain a concealed pistol license (CPL), and for the release of firearms from law enforcement evidence (known as ‘disposition of firearms’). The NICS checks available records in NCIC, WACIC, WASIS, III, and NICS Index to determine if the person of record is disqualified from receiving firearms.

Firearms specific data: LEAs use NICS to check for potential ineligibility for firearm license transfers, CPL, or DOF, in accordance with federal and state laws, including criminal records. Based on the response, an LEA will ‘proceed’ (person is allowed to have a firearm/CPL), ‘delay’ (LEA needs more time to research), or ‘deny’ (person is not allowed to have a firearm/CPL) the transaction.

Accessibility of data: Data from NICS checks are only available to LEAs and not available for researchers. Statistics and reports available publicly on operations, active records counts, and number of checks conducted. High level statistics are available from the FBI CJIS Division website, linked below. Federal firearm licensees (FFLs) can contact by telephone or electronic means to get information on whether transfer of a firearm would violate US or state law. As part of the sale or transfer of a firearm or firearm part, the FFL must complete a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) form 4473, which collects transferee information. In addition, for handgun or semi-automatic assault rifles, the FFL must complete a DOL Firearm Transfer Form and submit it to the LEA with jurisdiction over the person based on their address of record for the NICS check to be conducted. For non-semi-automatic assault rifle long guns (shotguns and non-semi automatic rifles), the FFLs submit the information directly to FBI NICS using their ‘eCheck’ portal. FFLs are only provided a ‘yes or no’ answer for the background check, they are not provided a reason for the denial if there is one.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, linked to data in Washington ACCESS. ACCESS is a telecommunications switch platform providing LEAs with access to criminal justice information.

Strengths: General statistics on number of firearm background checks conducted by state, month, and year, plus how many resulted in denials and for what reasons they were denied. For researchers, can provide general information on when people are purchasing guns and where they are purchasing from. Information on firearm background checks that resulted in denials must be retained per federal law.

Limitations: Disaggregated data unavailable to public and largely for use by LEAs only.

Other notes about data: Washington is working on implementing a single point-of-contact background check system for firearm background checks which will be managed by WSP. Implementation planned for 2024.

Website: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/nics>

Contact: For Washington data: Kateri Candee, kateri.candee@wsp.wa.gov

For Washington data: Kevin Baird, kevin.baird@wsp.wa.gov

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

Gun Violence Archive (GVA)

Years of data available: 2013-present

Dataset owned by: Gun Violence Archive (non-profit)

General description of data: Web-based database of gun violence incidents in the US compiled from law enforcement, media, government, and commercial sources. Includes date and location, number of victims and participants, injury and death statistics, identifying information about participants (if available), relationship of perpetrator to victim, incident characteristics, and information about guns used in act.

Firearms specific data: Information about types of guns used, number of guns involved in incident, and whether the guns were stolen. Also includes outcomes of firearm violence (injury, death, etc.).

Accessibility of data: Datasets are publicly accessible. Reporting is near real-time for everything except for suicide by gun (collected quarterly) and armed robberies with no injuries or defensive gun use (collected quarterly).

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, and data has been linked to other data sources such as Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study.

Strengths: Geolocation of events; national coverage; updated in real time. Links to source materials and incident characteristics are present, which are missing in many other data sources. It pulls from many types of data and has detailed geolocation data available. Additional details (incident characteristics, notes, source of the data) must be abstracted from each record. Data is easy to access.

Limitations: Data is not suitable for trend analyses, and granularity is only available for homicides and mass shootings. Suicide data collected through CDC and numbers of suicides are in aggregate. Data only goes back to 2013 and is based on a variety of sources, so data is more complete as time goes on.

Other notes about data: Early years of data are missing newer data sources; initially had 2500-3000 sources and now source data from 7500 sources. Researchers should pay attention to query filters, particularly participant vs incident level. Data meeting query criteria is easily downloaded, but only ID, date, location, and # of killed and injured.

Website: <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

Contact:

Category 2: Criminal justice data

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

Mapping Police Violence

Years of data available: 2013-present

Dataset owned by: Mapping Police Violence collective (nonprofit)

General description of data: Surveillance data on individuals killed by police in the US. Information about incidents of police killings in the United States, including victim information and demographics, location, LEA involved, weapons the victim had possession of, and a brief description of the incident. Includes fatal shootings by both on-duty and off duty police as well as fatal incidents involving other weapons.

Firearms specific data: Records cause of death (i.e. gunshots), any weapons the victim had on them, and initial reason for encounter which may include shooting or violent acts involving firearms.

Accessibility of data: Data is publicly available, lag time of two weeks to be posted.

Data linking: Individual identifiers available, linked with other databases like NVDRS, publication on data link [here](#).

Strengths: Publicly available data including victim identifiers and demographics. Data is relatively up to date and can be sorted by state, agency, county, zip code, etc. Data accounts for nearly all of Washington LEAs (10 counties look to be missing from the list but possible they did not have police killings between 2013-present). Data is sourced from multiple sources (police UOF data, Fatal encounters database, social media and news reports, and other sources).

Limitations: Not all LEAs participate in this dataset despite mandate from Deaths in Custody Reporting Act, and sometimes data may take years to be compiled and made available to public. Identifying information like race is not available in all cases. Data owners acknowledge that their data may be an undercount.

Other notes about data:

Website: <https://policeviolencereport.org/>

<https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/aboutthedata>

Contact: Samuel Sinyangwe: samsweyl@gmail.com

Category 3: Firearm licensing and sales

Subcategory: Washington state only

Department of Licensing (DOL) Firearm Sales Records

Years of data available: 2003-present

Dataset owned by: Washington DOL

General description of data: State law requires that all transfers of firearms sold by a licensed dealer or legally transferred through a licensed dealer are recorded in triplicate, with one record sent to and kept by the WA DOL. Copy of transfer must be sent to DOL within seven days of purchaser. DOL staff verify data submitted through Firearms Online and manually enter applications sent through mail.

Firearms specific data: Transfer data includes personal information on purchaser, including name, date and place of birth, address, and occupation. Date of transfer and dealer information is recorded, as well as caliber, make, model, and manufacturer's number of the weapon are recorded on the form. Purchaser must sign a statement saying that they are not ineligible under state and federal law to possess a firearm.

Accessibility of data: Only accessible to specific entities. DOL staff, LEAs, and court systems have access to this data for the purpose of processing CPL. LEAs can access this data through ACCESS. Data sent to DOL on firearm purchases is retained in the system forever. The system shows a transfer in time. It does not have a mechanism to remove records or show the firearm has been destroyed or left the state. Because of this, it is common to have a firearm associated with multiple people, or in the case of firearms transferred before the passage of I-594 in 2014 when it was optional to record it through DOL. There are many firearms listed as belonging to Washington State citizens who have not possessed a firearm in years.

Data linking: Data linking is possible through individual identifiers and is connected to other datasets available via ACCESS, such as WASIS. Firearms data is highly secured and protected under specific state statutes (RCW), which prevents firearms transfer data from being linked to any other system.

Strengths: Records must be sent to DOL within seven days, meaning ideally records are up to date. Collects individual identifiers in conjunction with firearm information and is linked with other criminal justice data.

Limitations: Data is not available to public or researchers. Most pistol transfer applications and over one third of license applications are sent through physical mail, which means that DOL staff must manually enter data. This has created a backlog of entries into firearm licensing system. No legal requirements or merging in system to update original information on firearm transfer agreement, which means some information may be out of date (old addresses, deceased owners, etc.). Data from NICS is not included in system because DOL is not a criminal justice agency and is not entitled to that information. Individuals who brought firearms into Washington State from another state or country would not be captured, nor would there be any record of a firearm

being removed from the state. There are some minimal exceptions for required gun transfer records, including transfers of antique firearms, transfers of guns to immediate family, and temporary transfers in specific circumstances, such as if transfer is intended to prevent suicide.⁵

Other notes about data: DOL requested funding in their 2019-21 biennium budget for an updated system for recording sales data due to backlog and time intensive nature of manual data entry. Some infrastructure of this system is there from when project started in 2018, but funding initially appropriated for project was allocated to the general fund in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DOL will need to re-request the funding for this project with legislature. DOL is aiming to time that system launch to work with Washington State Patrol decentralized background check system launch in 2023-24. RCW 9.41.129 addresses DOL's record keeping responsibilities.

Website: <https://www.dol.wa.gov/about/data.html>

RCW 9.41.129 (DOL record keeping responsibilities):
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=9.41.129>

Contact: Bruce Tanaka, btanaka@dol.wa.gov

⁵ Exceptions are listed in section 4 of RCW 9.41.113: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=9.41.113>

Category 3: Firearm licensing and sales

Subcategory: National data with state identifiers

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)

Years of data available: 2014- present

Dataset owned by: ATF, in U.S. DOJ

General description of data: ATF is responsible for collecting firearm commerce data, firearm trace data for LEA traced weapons, data on the import and export of firearms to/from the US via the Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report, and data of FFLs. They also collect statistics on thefts and loss of firearms from FFL dealers.

Firearms specific data: ATF data on FFLs includes address, zip code, county, state of licensee, for each calendar month from 2014-2021. Includes dealers, collectors, manufacturers, and importers. Firearm trace data is used to support LEAs in linking suspects to firearms in criminal investigations, identifying illegal firearms traffickers, and identifying trends and patterns in the flow of illegal firearms.

Accessibility of data: Most data is not publicly available, but there are some aggregate statistics and listings of FFLs by month, year, and state available on the ATF website. Compliance reports from FFLs are not publicly accessible. Aggregate statistics on trace data are pulled about four months after the end of the calendar year, publication date of the public reports is unknown. Public release of FFL listings is done monthly and is relatively up to date. Final release of AMFER data is deferred by one year (2015 data not released until January 2017), likely also true for aggregate firearm tracing data.

Data linking: Firearms trace data and FFL data collects individual identifiers. ATF is combining criminal enforcement data on break-ins with GIS data on gun store locations to build targeted alerts to other gun stores in areas where break-ins occur.

Strengths: Data on FFLs is free and publicly available, and includes all different categories of firearm licenses. Data are available for all counties each month allowing for more accurate measurement in county-level longitudinal studies. This data source has been used as a proxy variable for household firearm ownership that was identified as being the best to use in county-level studies.

Limitations: No information on number of firearms sold by an FFL is provided. While FFLs are required to keep records of gun sales for at least 20 years, including information on the purchaser and the firearm(s) purchased, it is federally prohibited to collect firearm sales records in a central repository. Firearm trace data is not a random sample and law enforcement agencies must request the firearm to be traced.

Other notes about data: Expert Panel on Firearms Data Infrastructure noted that some ATF firearm data cannot be accessed due to policy restrictions and that ATF data could be improved by improving access to ATF tracking investigations data and ATF compliance reports for FFLs. They also suggested changes like checking off suicide in relation to traced weapons, report on

number of firearm transfers completed before background check process was completed, and creating a data collection mechanism for details on ghost firearms.

Website: <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics>

Contact: