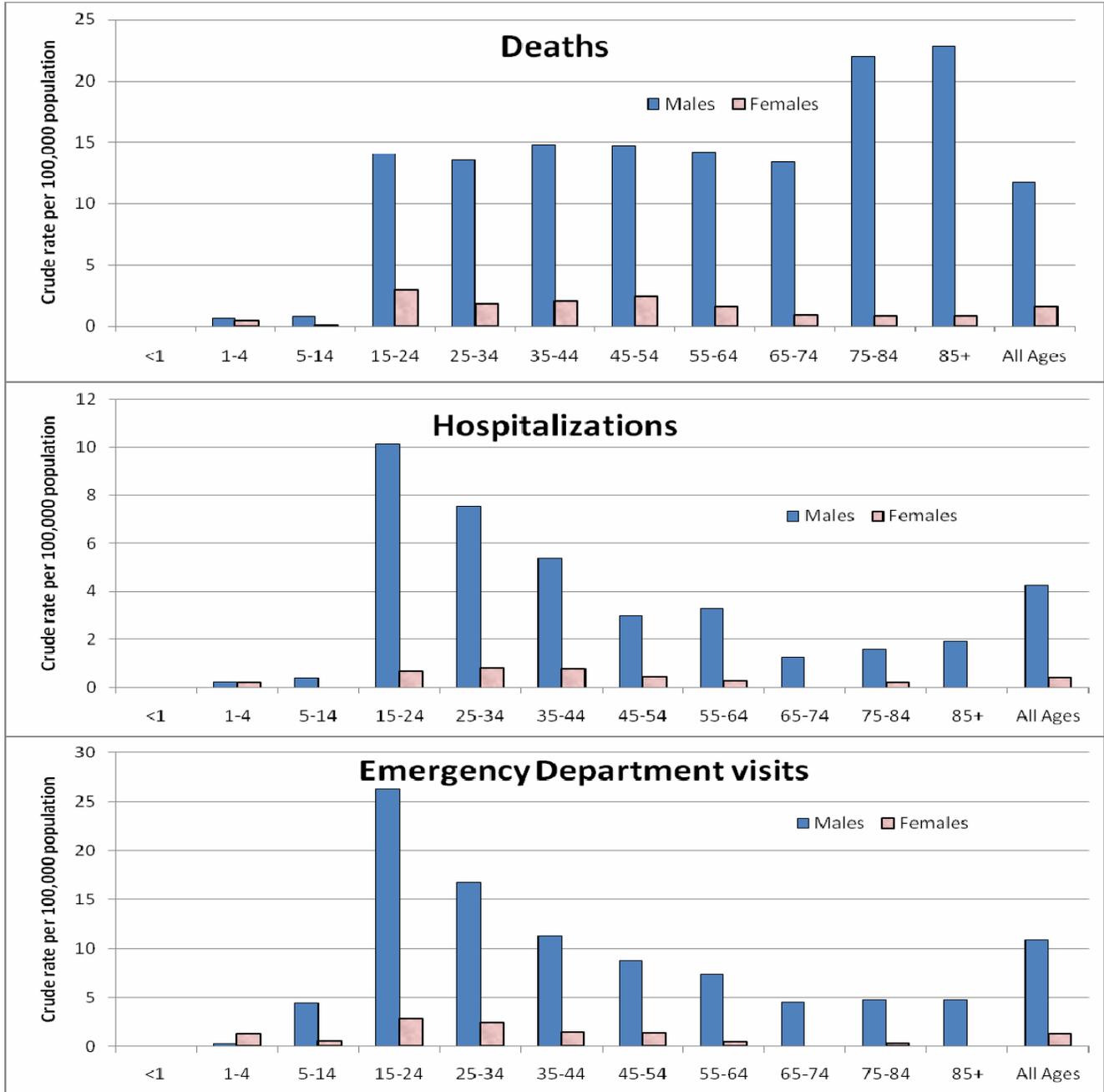


Indicators for firearm-related injuries, Iowa, 2002-2006

The rate of firearm-related deaths in Iowa (6.5/100,000) is much lower than the national NCIPC states' 2004 average (10/100,000). Firearm-related death rates are the highest among males over the age of 74 (ages 75-84: 22/100,000 and ages 85+: 23/100,000), mainly due to suicides. However, firearm-related hospitalization (10/100,000) and ED visit rates (24/100,000) are highest in 15- to 24-year-old males and gradually decrease with age.



- On average, there were 197 firearm-related deaths per year in Iowa, more than the average yearly number of firearm-related hospitalizations (69) or ED visits (163).
 - 95 percent of all firearm-related deaths in Iowa are intentional (81% suicides and 14% homicides). Five percent of firearm-related deaths in Iowa are unintentional.
 - As age increases, an increasingly larger portion of the firearm-related deaths in Iowa is due to suicide compared with homicide.
 - This is partially due to the low numbers of homicides due to firearms in many age groups. The age group with the largest average number of homicides due to firearms is the 15- to 24-year olds, with nine fatalities each year. On average, each of the age groups under the age of 14 and over the age of 55 have ≤ 1 homicide due to firearms each year.
 - The age group with the largest average number of suicides due to firearms is the 45- to 54-year olds, with 31 fatalities each year. Only the age groups of those less than 14 years old have an average of ≤ 1 suicide due to firearms each year.
 - Firearm-related death rates were relatively constant across all age groups from 15 to 74 and increased significantly in males over the age of 75 (ages 75-84: rate of 22/100,000 and ages 85+: rate of 23/100,000).
 - Overall, Iowa males (11.7/100,000) were seven times more likely to suffer from firearm-related deaths than females (1.6/100,000).
 - Between the ages of 15 to 74 years, death rates ranged from 13-14/100,000 for males and 2/100,000 for females. Over the age of 74, female death rates decreased significantly to 0.8/100,000, while male rates increased to 22/100,000.
 - Since the numbers of firearm-related deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits were less than five in nearly every age group of females, resultant rates should be interpreted with caution.
- Firearm-related hospitalization (10/100,000) and ED visit rates (24/100,000) were greatest in 15- to 24-year-old males and gradually decreased with age.
 - About 50 percent of firearm-related hospitalizations were due to suicide attempts (31%) and homicide/assaults (19%), with the remaining cases due to unintentional injury (40%), undetermined and other (10%).
 - For Iowa females, firearm-related hospitalization rates remained constant, with a high of 0.8/100,000 in 15- to 44-year olds.
 - Firearm-related ED visits followed the same pattern as hospitalizations.
 - Overall, ED visit rates were eight times higher in males (9.8/100,000) than in females (1.2/100,000).
 - Among both males and females, firearm-related ED visit rates were highest in the 15- to 24-year-old age group (males: 24/100,000, females: 3/100,000).