

## BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

**Background:** Firearm-related injuries are the leading cause of death among American children and youth aged 0-24 years, with marked disparities within this population.<sup>1</sup> In 2020, over 10,000 individuals under the age of 25 years died from firearm-related injuries in the United States (US).<sup>2</sup> Among 1-19-year-olds, firearm-related injuries resulted in the highest loss of life, surpassing any other mechanism of injury and diseases, including motor vehicle collisions, which historically claimed the most lives in this age group.<sup>3</sup> Healthy People 2030 set the objectives of reducing firearm-related deaths and nonfatal firearm-related injuries in response to this public health priority.<sup>4</sup> However, the most recent data from 2018-2022 reflects an increased trend of firearm-related deaths, demonstrating worsening progress in meeting this objective.<sup>5</sup> In June 2024, the US Surgeon General declared firearm violence a public health crisis and released an advisory highlighting the need for collaboration and comprehensive prevention efforts to address firearm-related incidents, which several national medical organizations supported.<sup>6</sup>

**Problem:** Firearm-related injury and death remain an escalating and complex public health problem. There is a need for enhanced efforts to address this significant cause of injury and death among children and youth.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to understand the scope of firearm injuries among children and youth and enhance firearm safety efforts in the hospital and community through collaboration and community partnerships. By integrating hospital- and community-based efforts, the project aims to improve population health outcomes among children and youth vulnerable to firearm-related injury and death in Clark County, Southern Nevada.

## METHODS

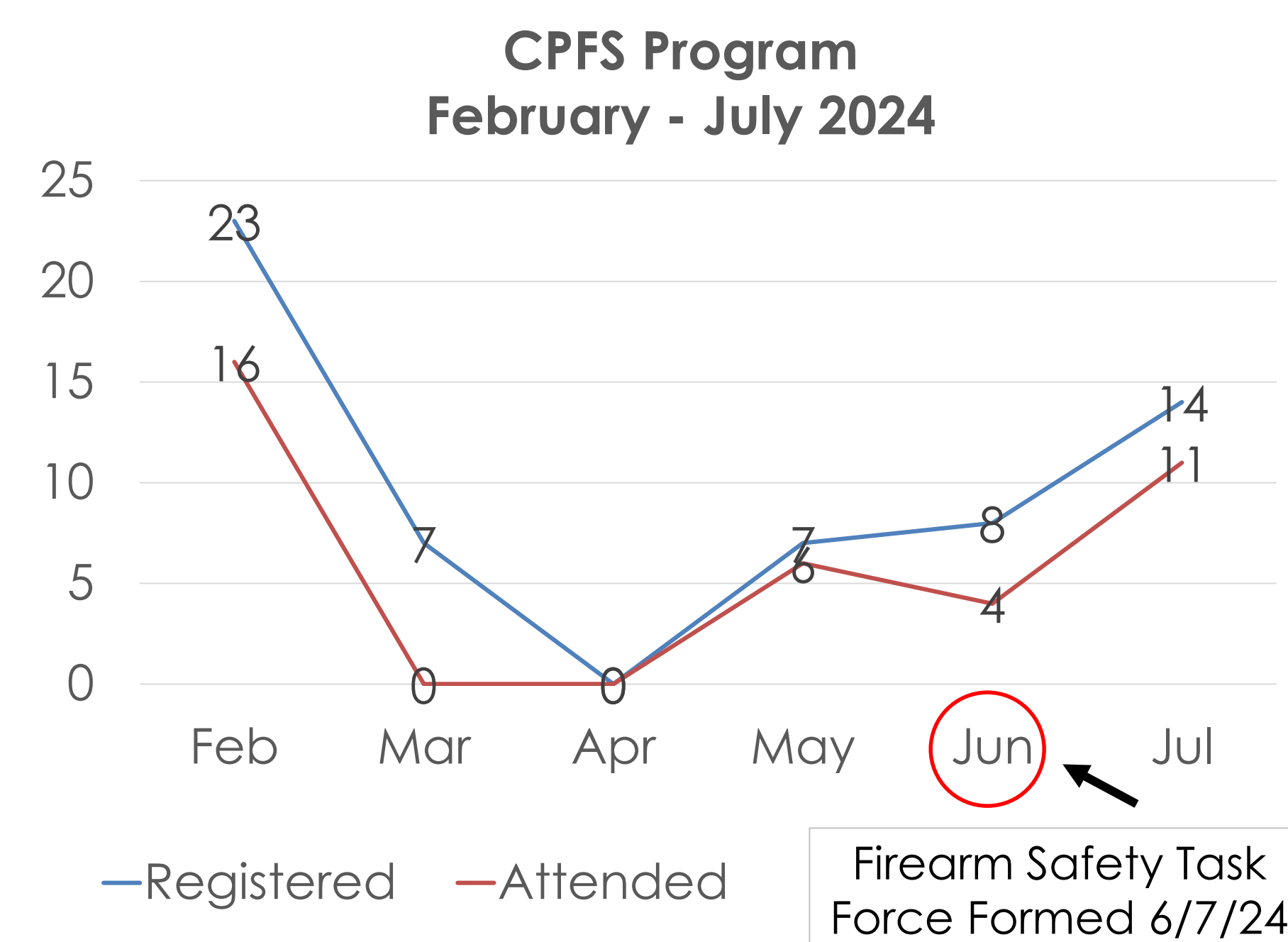
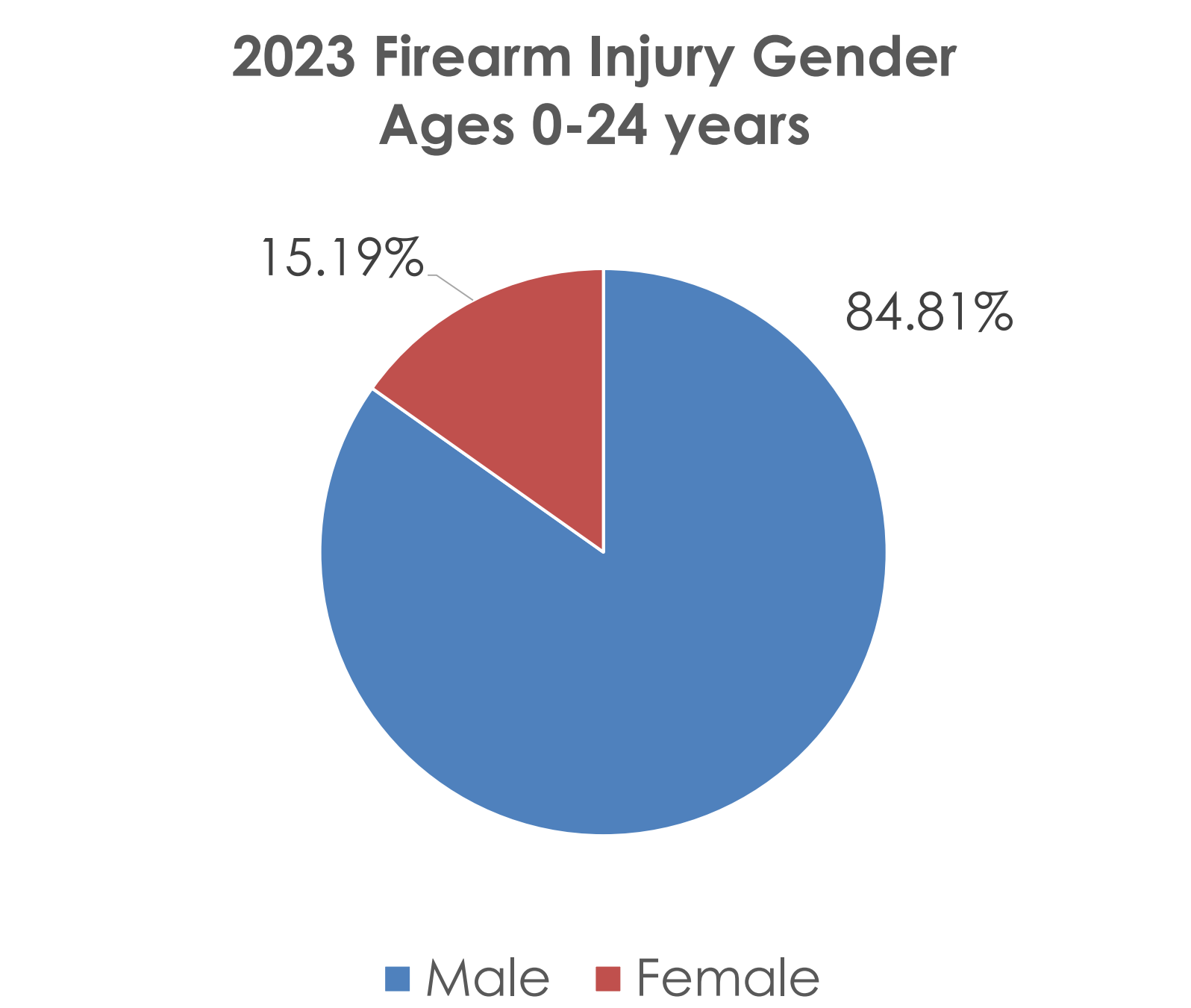
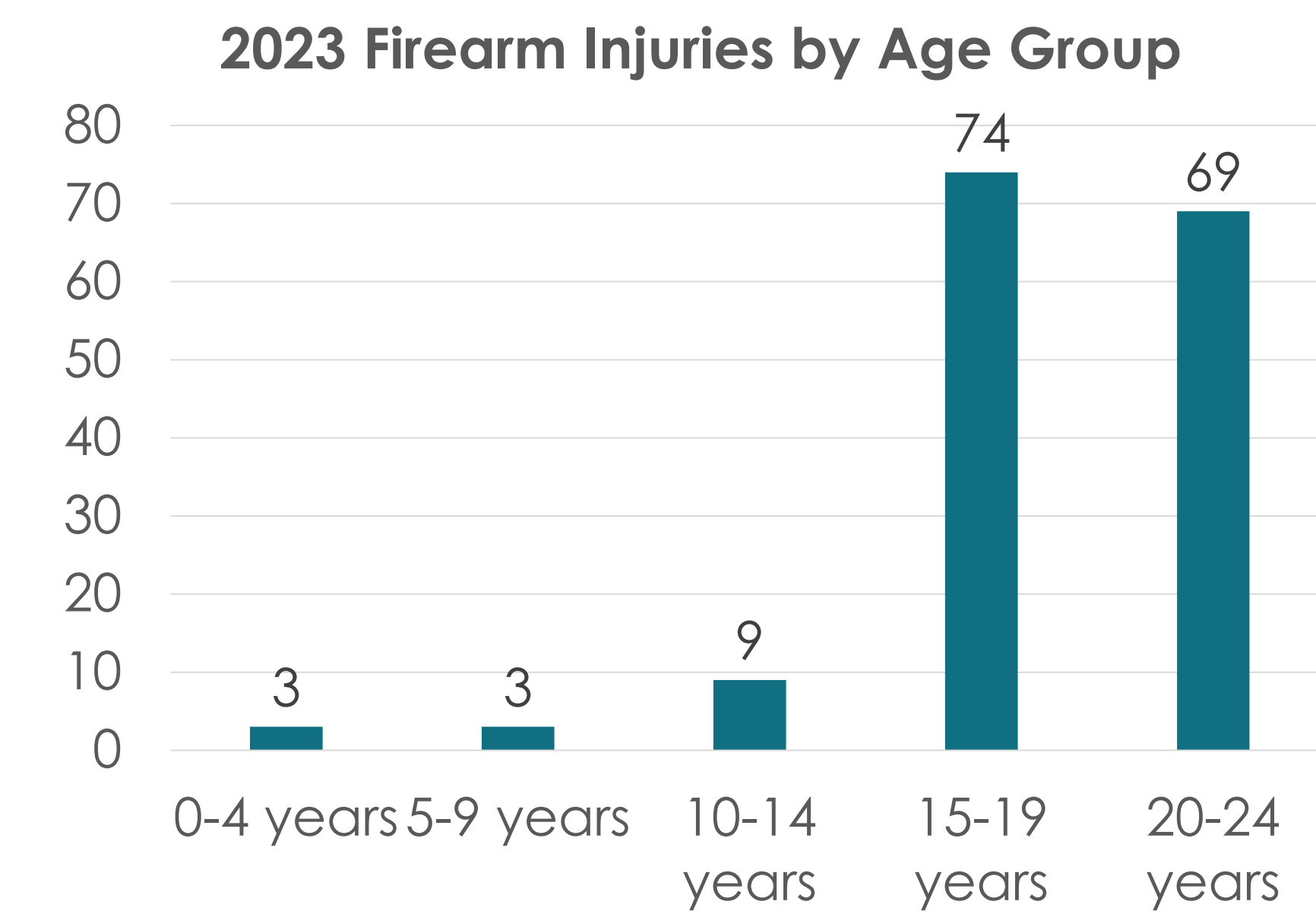
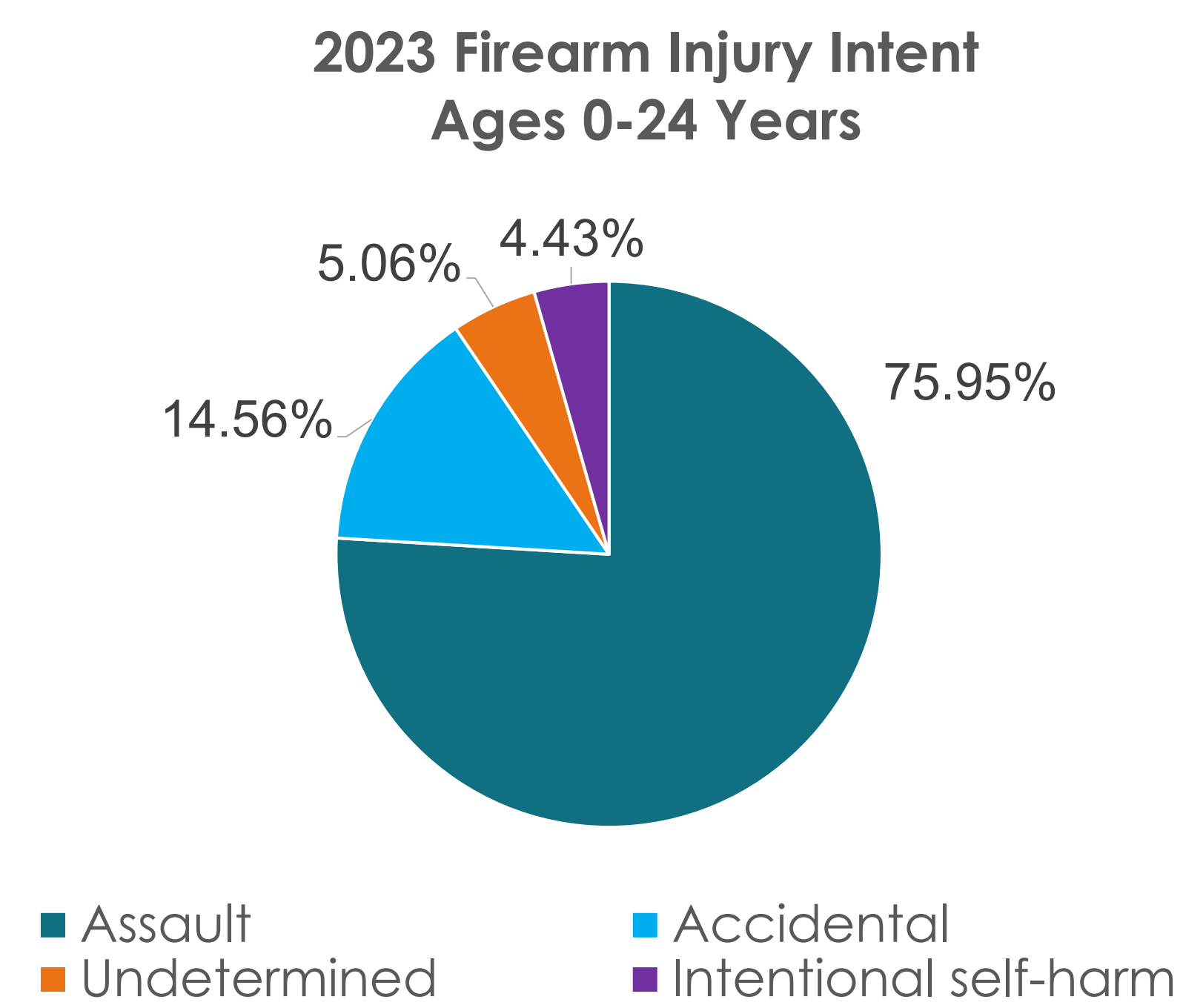
To understand the scope of firearm-related injuries and death, a query of the trauma registry was conducted at a Level I adult and Level II pediatric trauma center. A vital component of the project was the formation of the Firearm Safety Task Force comprising diverse professionals with expertise in various disciplines to collaborate on prevention strategies addressing the main mechanism of intent of firearm-related injury and death and leverage community partnerships. The task force aimed to establish a framework for interprofessional collaboration and coordination of firearm safety initiatives.



## RESULTS

Data from the organization's trauma registry demonstrated a need for increased firearm injury prevention efforts. In 2023, there were 158 firearm-related injuries and 20 firearm-related deaths among children and youth aged 0-24 years in the trauma registry.

Of these firearm-related injuries, 75.95% were assault, 14.56% were accidental, 4.43% were intentional self-harm, and 5.06% were undetermined. Males were disproportionately affected, accounting for 84.81% of firearm-related injuries. Furthermore, the 15-24-year-old age groups held the highest firearm injury burden, representing 90.51% of firearm-related injuries and a significant proportion of all trauma mechanisms of death.



UMC Trauma, the Healthy Living Institute, and the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention have partnered to establish the Community and Parents Firearm Safety (CPFS) Program at UMC. Led by a firearms instructor, the program educates the community on firearm safety, provides free firearm-securing devices, and offers CEUs to healthcare providers.

The interprofessional Firearm Safety Taskforce's structured and coordinated efforts enhanced community-based initiatives, increasing community engagement and education. It also achieved an increase in registrations and attendance to the CPFS Program. Furthermore, these efforts led to significant strides in hospital-based firearm safety initiatives and IRB-approved research to inform further prevention efforts and future advocacy work.

UMC IRB #: UMC-2024-557  
Protocol Title: Firearm Injury and Death among Children and Youth –Retrospective Study

## CONCLUSIONS

This nurse-led project reinforces the importance of collaboration and community partnership in addressing the needs of children and youth at risk for firearm-related injury and death. It demonstrates how coordinated and collaborative efforts can effectively leverage expertise and comprehensive resources to develop sustainable initiatives to reduce disparities and improve health outcome among this specialized population.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS & PARENTS FIREARMS SAFETY**

Don't let tragedy strike in your home! Learn about firearm safety and storage from the experts in this unique course offered by the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention and the Healthy Living Institute at UMC.

**Monthly Classes:**  
 Tuesday, February 13, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 Tuesday, March 19, 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, April 11, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 Thursday, May 16, 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday, June 11, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 Tuesday, July 9, 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Class Location:**  
The Healthy Living Institute at UMC  
901 Rancho Lane, Suite 180

**To Register:**  
Please call 702-383-7353, scan the QR code or visit [umcsn.com/events](http://umcsn.com/events).

- Participants will receive gun safety devices  
 - CEU's available

**Logos:** UMC Trauma, HEALTHYLIVING INSTITUTE at UMC, OSP (Office of Suicide Prevention)

**Brochure:** Gun Safety and Your Health. A PROACTIVE GUIDE TO PROTECT YOU AND THOSE AROUND YOU. Provided by an unbranded donor.

## REFERENCES



Scan the QR code for references

