

CHAPTER 26: FIREARMS

Loaded and Unlocked Firearms in or around the Home in 2004

Definition	Responding “Yes” to all of the following questions: “Are any firearms kept in or around your home? Are any of these firearms now loaded? Are any of these loaded firearms also unlocked ? (By “unlocked” we mean you do not need a key or a combination to get the gun or to fire it. We don’t count a safety as a lock.)”
Prevalence	WV: 6.2% (95% CI: 5.3-7.1) in 2004. US: 4.3% (95% CI: 4.2-4.4) in 2004. West Virginia ranked 20 th highest among 52 BRFSS participants 2004.
Time Trends	For the years between 2001 and 2004 in which these data were collected, the percentage of West Virginians at risk due to loaded and unlocked firearms kept in and around the home has fluctuated between approximately 6% and 8%.
Gender	Men: 8.8% (95% CI: 7.1-10.4) in 2004 Women: 3.8% (95% CI: 2.9-4.7) in 2004 Men reported a significantly higher risk than women, overall and in almost every demographic category.
Age	Adults aged 55-64 were at the highest risk (10.7%) of having a loaded and unlocked firearm around the home in 2004. In this 55-64 age range, the risk prevalence was notably different by gender as well. The rate for men in this age group was 16.0%, while the same age women had a distinctly lower rate of 5.5%. For the remaining age groups, the risk varied between 3.8% and 8.2%.
Education	There were no significant differences in this risk factor by education level.
Household Income	The prevalence varied significantly by income for men. Males with incomes of \$75,000 or more had a sharply higher rate than women in the same income group, 15.0% (95% CI: 9.1-21.0) versus 2.5% (95% CI: 0.3-4.7). Otherwise, few differences in prevalence existed among adults from various income categories.

QUICK STATS

- Over half of the adults had a firearm that was kept in or around the home.
- Men were significantly more likely to have a firearm in or around the home than women (68.2% vs. 49.6%).
- Approximately 19% of adults who had a loaded and unlocked gun in or around the home also had a child living in the home.

Table 26.1 LOADED and UNLOCKED firearms in or around the home by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2004

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,249	8.8	7.1-10.4	2,028	3.8	2.9-4.7	3,277	6.2	5.3-7.1
Age									
18-24	71	4.9	0.0-9.8	109	2.6	0.0-5.8	180	3.8	0.8-6.8
25-34	176	6.6	2.6-10.6	275	2.5	0.7-4.3	451	4.6	2.4-6.8
35-44	225	5.3	2.6-8.0	349	3.4	1.4-5.4	574	4.3	2.7-6.0
45-54	281	10.6	6.9-14.3	387	5.9	3.5-8.4	668	8.2	6.0-10.4
55-64	243	16.0	11.3-20.7	359	5.5	2.7-8.3	602	10.7	7.9-13.4
65+	252	9.2	5.2-13.2	545	2.9	1.5-4.2	797	5.5	3.6-7.3
Education									
Less than H.S.	214	7.7	3.9-11.6	381	4.0	1.8-6.1	595	5.6	3.6-7.7
H.S. or G.E.D.	491	6.9	4.5-9.3	768	3.9	2.3-5.5	1,259	5.4	4.0-6.9
Some Post-H.S.	248	10.6	6.8-14.4	448	4.4	2.6-6.3	696	7.3	5.3-9.3
College Graduate	295	11.3	7.6-15.0	430	2.9	1.4-4.4	725	7.0	5.0-9.0
Income									
Less than \$15,000	163	7.1	3.7-10.5	448	3.2	1.7-4.7	611	4.7	3.1-6.3
\$15,000- 24,999	248	6.5	3.1-10.0	391	2.8	1.2-4.4	639	4.6	2.7-6.4
\$25,000- 34,999	157	8.6	3.7-13.6	240	5.5	2.1-9.0	397	7.0	4.0-10.0
\$35,000- 49,999	205	9.8	5.9-13.7	297	3.3	1.3-5.4	502	6.5	4.3-8.6
\$50,000- 74,999	204	7.5	4.1-10.9	222	4.9	1.8-8.0	426	6.3	4.0-8.7
\$75,000+	179	15.0	9.1-21.0	184	2.5	0.3-4.7	363	9.6	6.0-13.1

Figure 26.1 Firearms in or around the home by gender in West Virginia: WVBRFSS, 2004

