

WEAPON-RELATED INJURY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (WRISS)

WRISS is a statewide emergency department-based system that collects health information on persons treated for gunshot wounds or assault-related sharp instrument wounds in Massachusetts.

History

Since 1989, WRISS has applied a public health approach to violence and weapon-related injury prevention across the Commonwealth.

- **1927**- State mandate M.G.L. c. 112, § 12A passed
- **1989**- CDC funding secured
- **1994**- All MA hospitals reporting to WRISS
- **1996**- Transition to state funding



WRISS Case

- Any firearm injury (including self-inflicted or accidental) treated in a MA hospital
- Any violence-related sharp instrument injury treated in a MA hospital



Non-WRISS Case

- Self-inflicted or accidental sharp instrument injuries
- Blunt force injuries
- Cases treated outside of MA

Modernization

In 2027, we aim to transition to online reporting via Apex. With this transition we expect to see:

- Secure, paper-free reporting
- Rapid quality control
- Timely finalized data

Partnerships

WRISS partners with other programs in the Division of Violence and Injury Prevention focused on preventing: injuries, youth violence, and sexual and domestic violence.

67

Hospitals reporting to WRISS

31

years of data collected

Massachusetts Department of Public Health



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