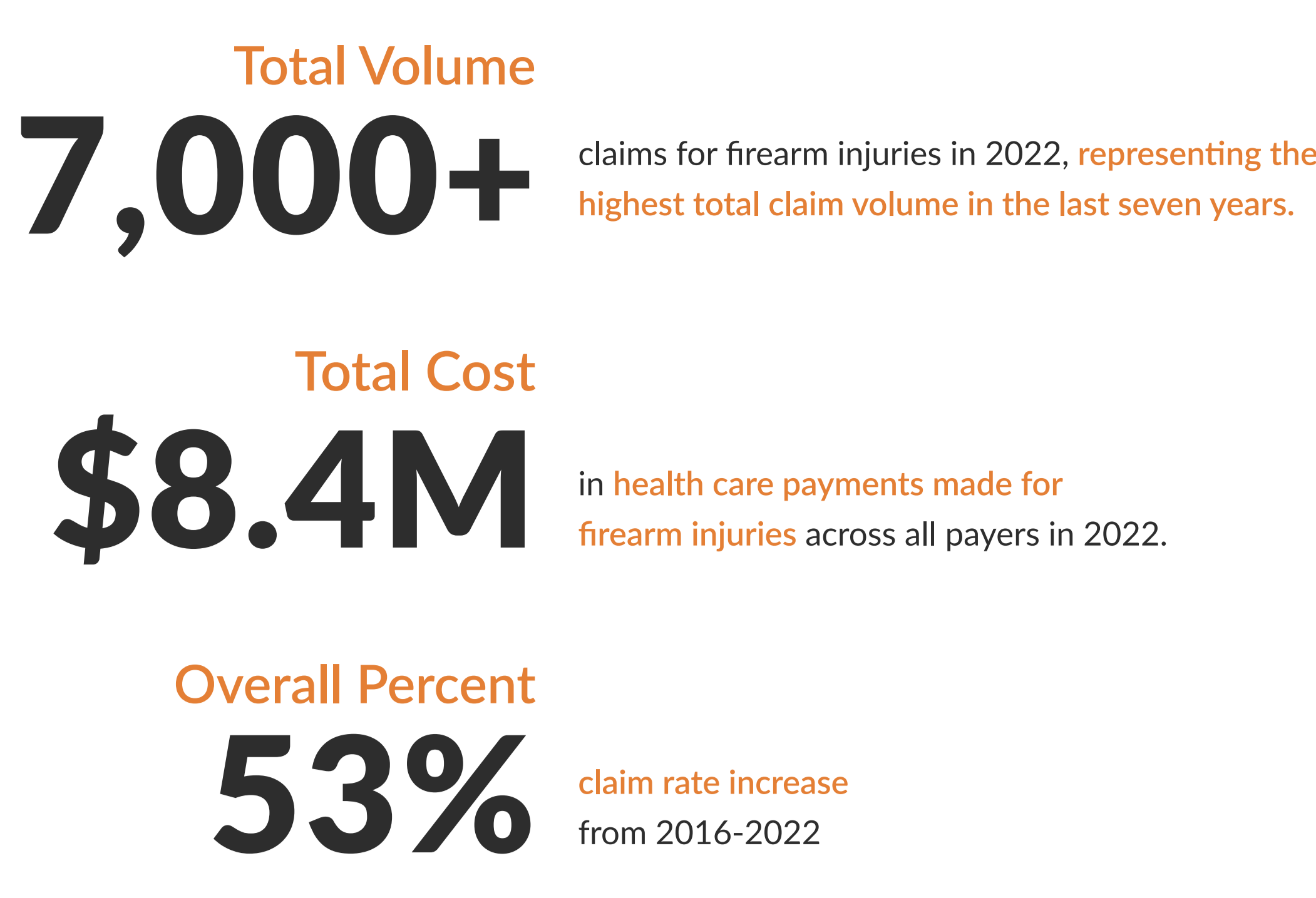


Firearm Injury Analysis

2016-2022 COLORADO ALL PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE
Commercial | Medicaid | Medicare Fee-For-Service | Medicare Advantage

A recent [analysis](#) of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment data showed that in 2021, firearm related violence in Colorado reached a 40-year high. Additionally, the [American Public Health Association](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) classify firearm injury and death as a significant public health issue. Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC) investigates deeper in this analysis, using 2016-2021 claims from the CO APCD to provide a snapshot of volume, rates, health care costs, geographic variation, and trends in firearm injuries across the state.

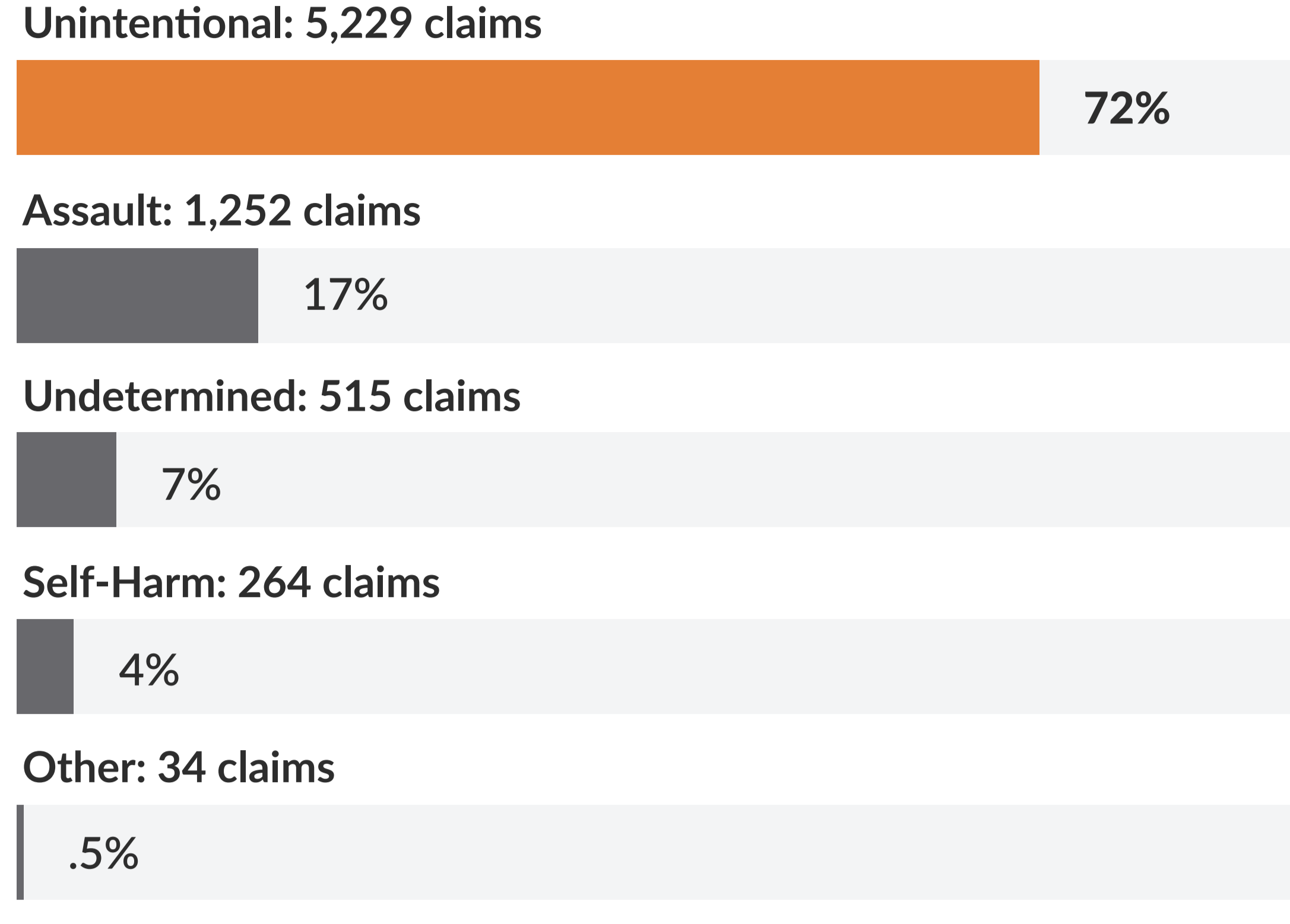
Note: Volume data includes all claims that could have been associated with a single firearm injury event. Rates are calculated as total volume of claims per 100,000 unique people in the CO APCD.



Injury Type Code Category and Description

- Unintentional:** Accidental handgun discharge and malfunction
- Assault:** Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
- Undetermined:** Undetermined cause of firearm discharge
- Self-Harm:** Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
- Other:** Legal intervention firearm discharge

Firearm Injury Type Breakdown 2022 All Payers

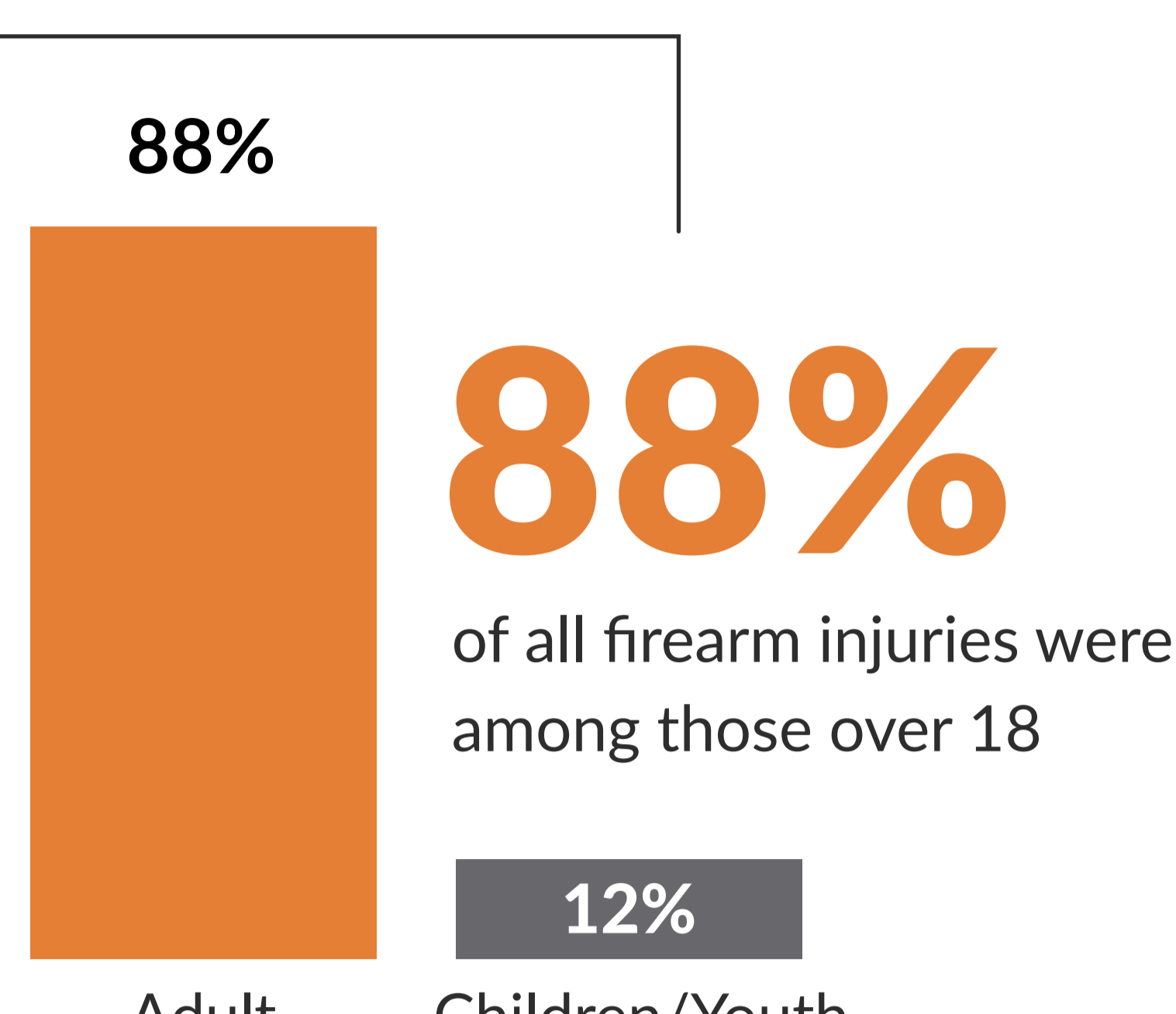


2016-2022 All Payers

Unintentional Firearm Injuries Are the Most Common Type

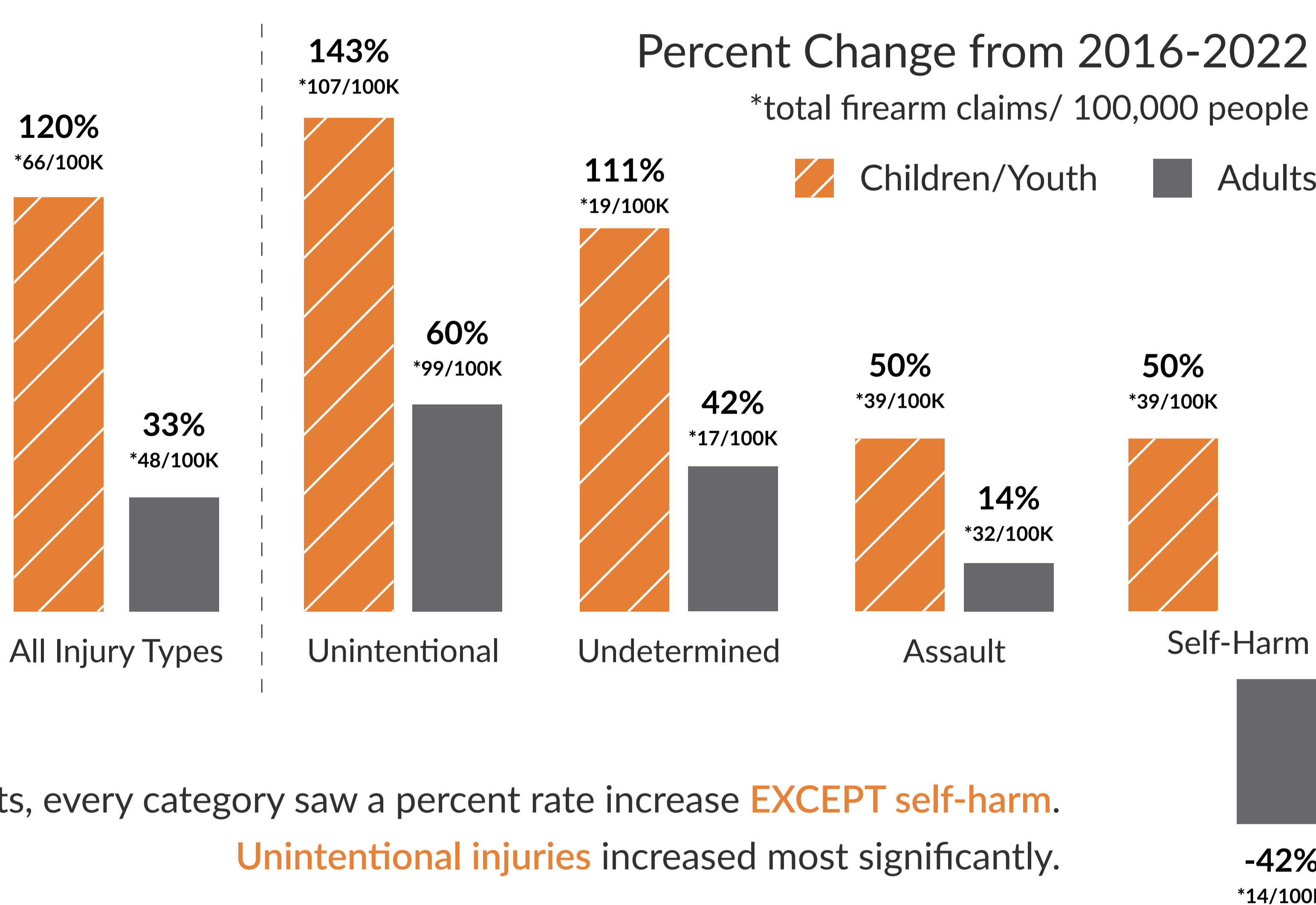
Percent Firearm Injuries by Age 2016-2022 All Payers

Adults Account for Majority of Firearm Injuries



Injury Type by Age 2016-2022 All Payers

From 2016-2022 firearm injuries increased in every injury type the most for children and youth. The largest percent increases were for **unintentional** and **undetermined**.



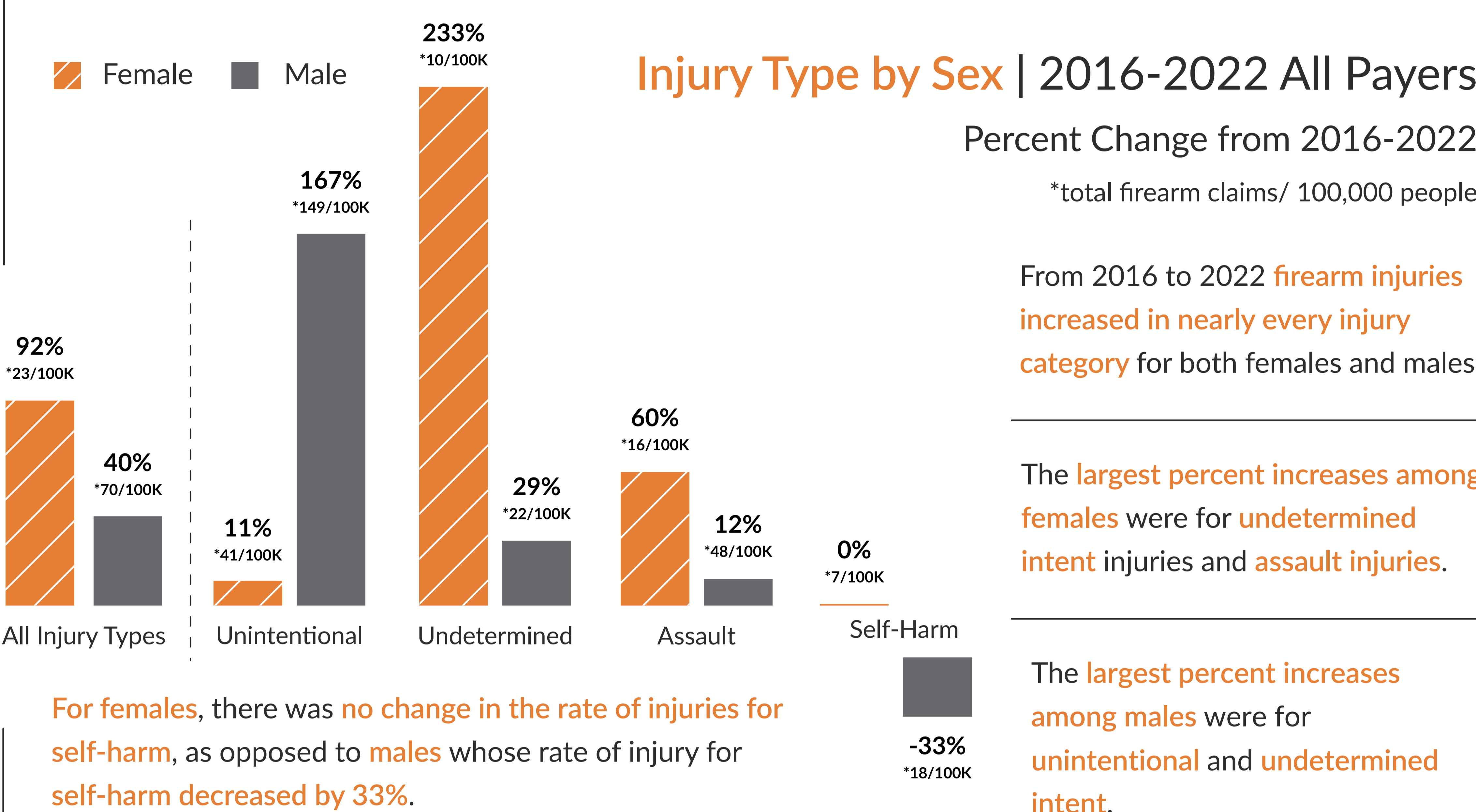
Overall, by Sex

In 2022, compared to women, the rate of firearm injuries for men were:

- **3X** more in total
- Almost **4X** more for **unintentional** injuries
- **3X** more for **assault** injuries
- **2.5X** more **self-harm** injuries

2016-2022 All Payers

Overall, the rate of firearm injuries is higher among men.



Rural vs. Urban 2016-2022 All Payers

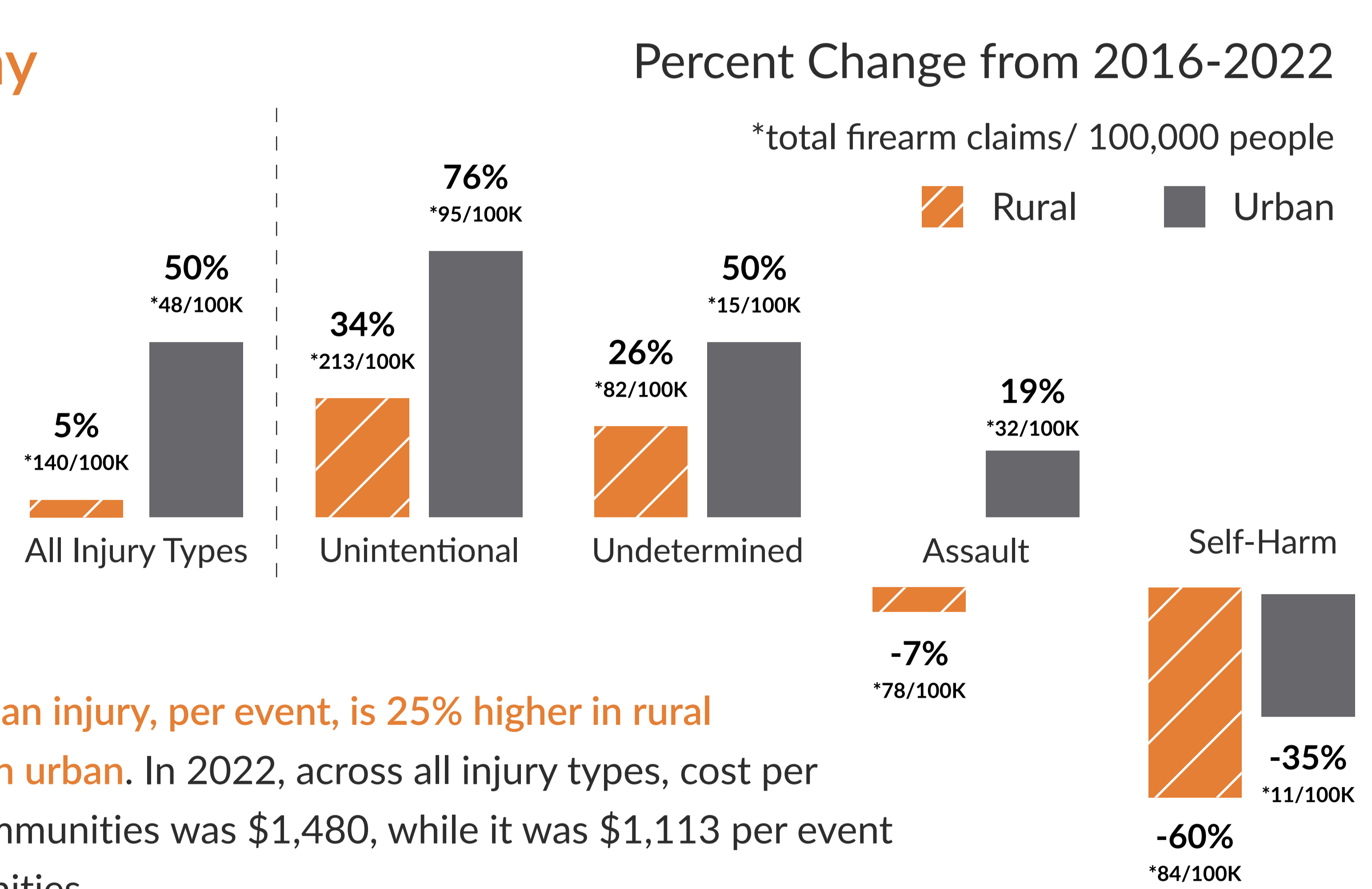
In general, rural counties have a higher rate of firearm injuries than urban counties.

In 2022, compared to urban counties, rural counties had rates that were:

- **8X** higher for **self-harm** injuries
- **5X** higher for **undetermined intent** injuries
- **2X** higher for **assault** injuries
- **2X** higher for **unintentional** injuries

Injury Type by Geography 2016-2022 All Payers

From 2016-2022, **both urban and rural communities** saw the biggest increases in the injury rates for **unintentional** and **undetermined intent**.



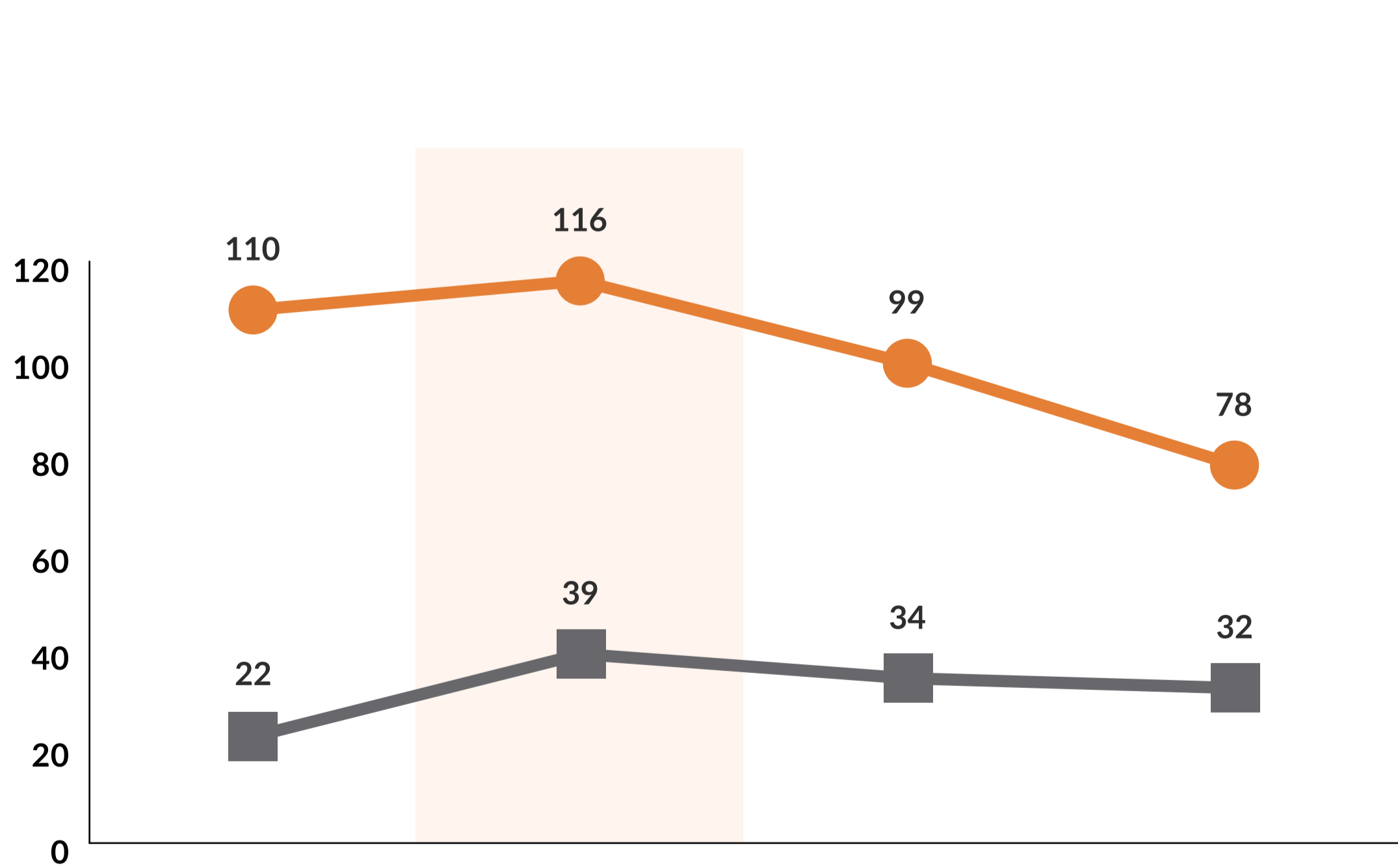
Rural vs. Urban Trends | 2019-2022 All Payers

*total firearm claims/ 100,000 people

Assault

● Rural ● Urban

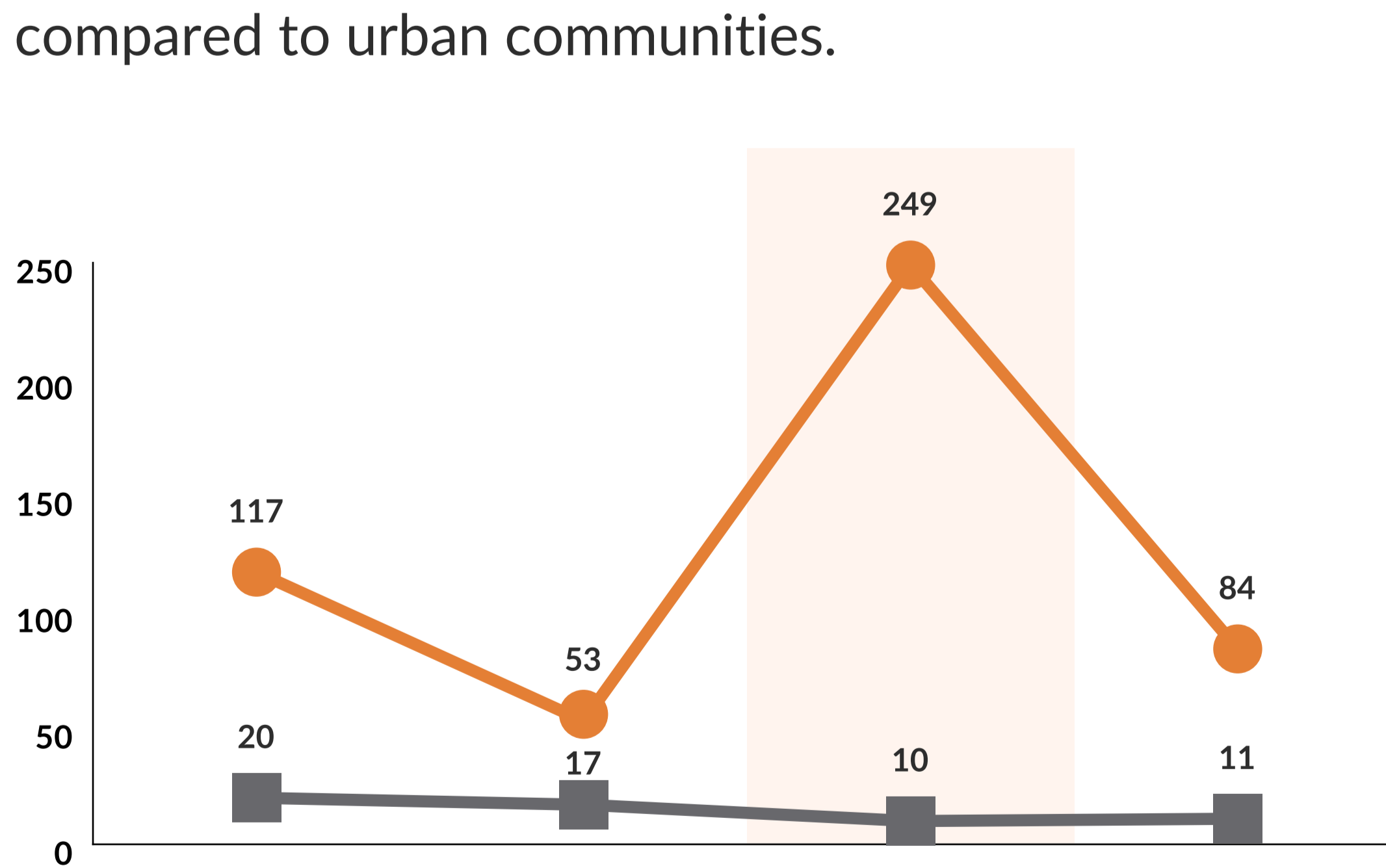
In 2020, rates for assault were almost 3 times higher in rural communities compared to urban communities.



Self-Harm

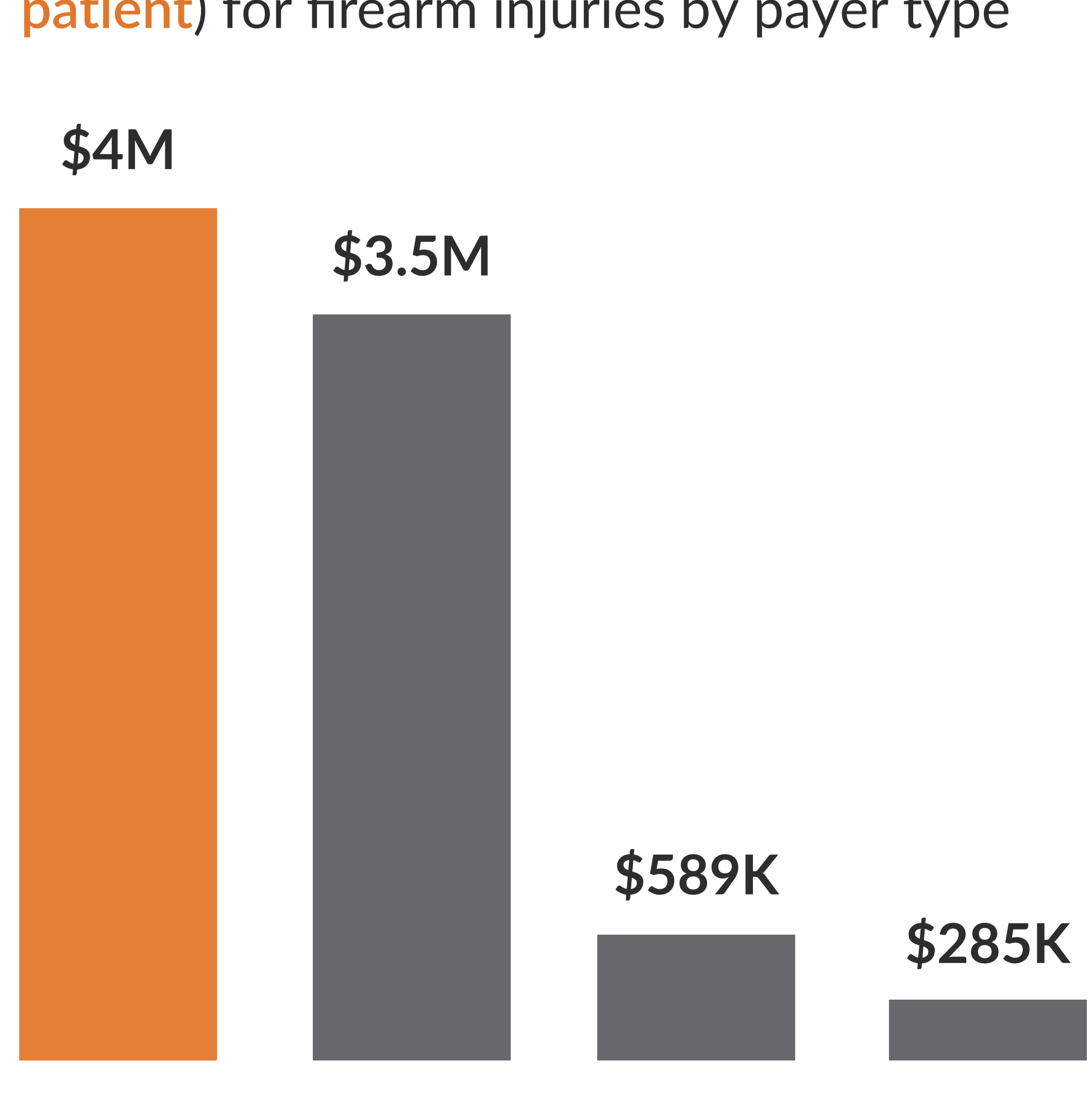
● Rural ● Urban

In 2021, rates for self-harm related firearm injuries were 25 times higher in rural communities compared to urban communities.



Payers | 2022

Health care payments (insurance payer and patient) for firearm injuries by payer type



Medicaid firearm injury rates were significantly higher than other payers.

In 2022, Medicaid rates were:

- **12.5X** higher than **Commercial**
- **3X** higher than **Medicare Advantage**
- **2X** higher than **Medicare FFS**

Please note that the CO APCD does not contain death record information. Data in this analysis reflects health care services to treat firearm injuries which may or may not have resulted in a death. To download the full firearm injury data set, please visit our website at civhc.org.

