

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA

Gun violence poses a serious public health risk to Virginians, claiming the lives of 918 residents each year and wounding even more. Lawmakers owe it to their constituents to pass strong gun safety laws immediately.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 70% of all gun deaths in Virginia are suicides, and firearms are the most common means of suicide in the state.
- From 2012 to 2016, 3,115 people in Virginia died from a gun-related suicide—one every 14 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up less than 10% of Virginia's population, but account for nearly 62% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Virginia, black men ages 18–24 are 26 times more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun.

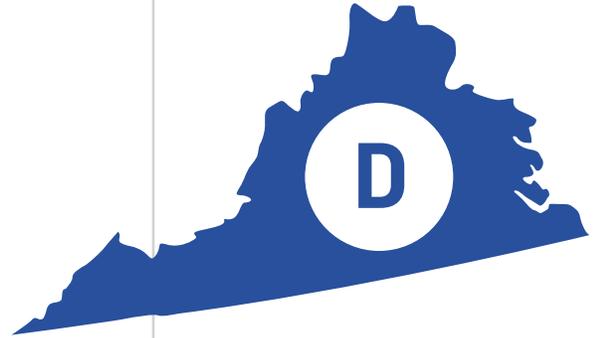
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Guns make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death.
- Nearly 63% of Virginia's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 197 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in Virginia.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUNS

- Exposure to gun violence can cause lasting trauma in young people, leading to PTSD, chronic stress, and decreased future earnings.
- From 2012 to 2016, 865 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Virginia.
- Guns are the third-leading cause of death for Virginia children ages 1–17.

Published August 2018. Sources: CDC WISQARS, FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports.



Virginia earned a D on our Annual Gun Law State Scorecard. Visit gunlawscorecard.org to learn how to raise your state's grade.

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$5.3
BILLION**
\$641 PER RESIDENT



10 HOURS

Someone is killed with a gun every 10 hours in Virginia. That's 918 people a year.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA

Virginia has relatively weak gun laws and is a major source of crime gun exports to states on the east coast with stronger gun laws. To save lives from gun violence, lawmakers in Virginia must take action to **require background checks on all gun sales, ban large-capacity ammunition magazines, require gun dealers to obtain a state license, fund urban violence reduction programs, and enact an extreme risk protection order law**, which removes guns from people at risk of harming themselves or others. [Learn more about Virginia's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/VA.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/VA)