GIFFORDS LAW CENTER
TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN
ALABAMA

Gun violence exacts a serious toll in Alabama, with 961 lives lost to gun violence each year. State lawmakers can and must do more to keep residents safe and save lives from gun violence.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 55% of all gun deaths in Alabama are suicides, and nearly 70% of all suicide deaths in Alabama involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 2,634 people in Alabama died by gun-related suicide—one every 17 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up less than 13% of Alabama's population, but 63% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Alabama, black men ages 18–24 are nearly 16 times more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun.

TRAFFICKING

- Because of the state's weak gun laws, guns are purchased in Alabama and trafficked to states with stronger gun laws, where they end up in the hands of people unable to pass a background check.
- From 2013 to 2017, 9,614 guns originally purchased in Alabama were recovered after being used in crime in other states.

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 2013 to 2017, 911 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Alabama.
- Guns are the second-leading cause of death for Alabama children ages 1–17.

Published January 2019. Sources: CDC WONDER, ATF Firearms Trace Data Reports.

Alabama earned an F on our Annual Gun Law State Scorecard. Visit **gunlawscorecard.org** to learn how to raise your state's grade.

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

$4.9 BILLION
$1,019 PER RESIDENT

9 HOURS
Someone is killed with a gun every nine hours in Alabama. That's 961 people a year.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN ALABAMA

Alabama's weak gun laws and correspondingly high gun death rate put the lives of its residents at risk. The state has not enacted meaningful gun safety legislation in recent years and lacks basic gun safety laws, including universal background checks. Thanks to gun safety advocates, a bill that would have allowed guns in K–12 schools died in the state legislature. To save lives from gun violence, Alabama should **pass laws requiring background checks and waiting periods for all gun purchases, and ban military-style weapons. Learn more about Alabama's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/AL.**

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