

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN CALIFORNIA

Despite strong gun safety laws and a low gun death rate compared to other states, over 3,000 Californians are killed by a gun each year. State lawmakers must continue to enact proactive gun safety measures.

GUN SUICIDE

- More than half of all gun deaths in California are suicides, and nearly 40% of all suicide deaths in California involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 7,917 people in California died by gun-related suicide. That's one every 6 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up less than 4% of California's population, but account for nearly 31% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In California, black men ages 18–24 are more than 18 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 50% of California's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 572 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in California.

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, 3,278 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in California.
- Guns are the third-leading cause of death for California children ages 1–17.

Published January 2019. Sources: CDC WONDER, FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports.



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

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$18
BILLION**
\$479 PER RESIDENT



3 HOURS

Someone is killed with a gun every three hours in California. That's 3,086 people a year.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN CALIFORNIA

Though California has the strongest gun laws in the nation and has successfully cut its gun death rate in half over the last 25 years, it could do even more to save lives. In 2018, gun safety advocates defeated dangerous gun lobby-backed bills that would have allowed guns in K–12 schools and college campuses. To further reduce gun violence, state lawmakers should **regulate the sale of dangerous DIY firearm assembly kits and increase funding for urban gun violence intervention programs**, which have been shown to reduce gun violence by up to 70%. [Learn more about California's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/CA.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/CA)