

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN IOWA

Gun violence exacts a serious toll in Iowa, with hundreds of Iowans killed with a gun each year and even more wounded. State lawmakers can and must pass stronger gun laws to keep residents safe.

GUN SUICIDE

- 80% of gun deaths in Iowa are suicides, and nearly 48% of all suicide deaths in Iowa involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 1,058 people in Iowa died by gun-related suicide.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up just 2% of Iowa's population, but account for approximately a third of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Iowa, black men ages 18–24 are more than 23 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 40% of Iowa's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.

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 2008 to 2017, 429 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Iowa.
- Guns are the third-leading cause of death for Iowa children ages 1–17.

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PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN IOWA

Iowa has implemented a few key gun safety laws, but overall its laws need to be much stronger to make an impact on gun violence in the state. In recent years, Iowa enacted a deadly Stand Your Ground law, as well as a law allowing concealed carry in the state capitol. Activists defeated two dangerous gun lobby-backed bills in 2018, including a bill to allow guns in K–12 schools and a permitless carry bill. Legislators should take action to save lives from gun violence by **enacting an extreme risk protection order law and strengthening existing background check laws**. [Learn more about Iowa's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/IA](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/IA).



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

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$1.3
BILLION**
\$422 PER RESIDENT

