

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN **MAINE**

Maine's weak gun laws endanger its residents, particularly those at risk of suicide. Legislators owe it to their constituents to take proactive measures to save lives from gun violence.

GUN SUICIDE

- More than 88% of gun deaths in Maine are suicides, and nearly 54% of all suicide deaths in Maine involve firearms.
- From 2008 to 2017, 1,173 people in Maine died by gun-related suicide.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Guns make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death.
- Nearly 56% of Maine's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.

TRAFFICKING

- Because of the state's weak gun laws, guns are purchased in Maine and trafficked to states with stronger gun laws, where they end up in the hands of criminals and people unable to pass a background check.
- From 2013 to 2017, 1,416 guns originally purchased in Maine 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 2008 to 2017, 164 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Maine.
- Guns are the third-leading cause of death for Maine children ages 1-17.

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

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN MAINE

Though Maine has a low gun death rate, its weak gun laws make it a significant source of guns trafficked across state lines and used in crimes in nearby states. State legislators continue to jeopardize public safety by failing to pass basic gun safety laws like universal background checks. Ways that Maine could save lives from gun violence include **instituting universal background checks, enacting extreme risk protection order legislation, and prohibiting bulk firearm purchases.** [Learn more about Maine's gun laws at \[lawcenter.giffords.org/ME\]\(http://lawcenter.giffords.org/ME\).](#)



Maine 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:

**\$733
MILLION**

\$551 PER RESIDENT



3 DAYS

Someone is killed with a gun every three days in Maine. That's 146 people every year.