

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Gun violence has a devastating impact on Pennsylvania, claiming the lives of 1,503 residents each year and wounding even more. State lawmakers can and must act to strengthen gun laws and keep their constituents safe.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 63% of gun deaths in Pennsylvania are suicides, and approximately half of all suicide deaths in Pennsylvania involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 4,716 people in Pennsylvania died by gun-related suicide—one every 9 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up just 6% of Pennsylvania's population, but account for nearly 64% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Pennsylvania, black men ages 18–24 are more than 36 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 55% of Pennsylvania's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 233 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in Pennsylvania.

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, 1,548 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Pennsylvania.
- Gun violence and car crashes are tied as the leading cause of death for Pennsylvania children ages 1–17.

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



Pennsylvania 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:

**\$8.5
BILLION**

\$665 PER RESIDENT



6 HOURS

Someone is killed with a gun every six hours in Pennsylvania. That's 1,503 people a year.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

While Pennsylvania has a number of important gun safety laws on the books, particularly regarding domestic violence, lawmakers still have a long way to go to protect residents from gun violence. Lawmakers should take action by passing legislation that will **require background checks on private sales of long guns, allow local governments to regulate guns and ammunition, ban military-style weaponry, and establish an extreme risk protection order law**, which removes guns from people at risk of harming themselves or others. [Learn more about Pennsylvania's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/PA.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/PA)