

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Gun violence poses a serious public safety risk to South Carolinians, more than 800 of whom die from gun violence each year. By failing to enact strong gun laws, lawmakers continue to endanger their constituents.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 60% of gun deaths in South Carolina are suicides, and more than 64% of all suicide deaths in South Carolina involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 2,474 people in South Carolina died by gun-related suicide. That's one every 18 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up just 13% of South Carolina's population, but account for 58% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In South Carolina, black men ages 18–24 are nearly 14 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.
- More than 65% of South Carolina's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 175 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in South Carolina.

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, 813 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in South Carolina.
- Guns are the second-leading cause of death for South Carolina children ages 1–17.

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

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina has extremely weak gun laws. The state does not require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms or regulate ammunition sales, which contributes to the state's high death rate. South Carolina could save lives from gun violence by **instituting universal background checks and passing extreme risk protection and child access prevention legislation**. Additional policies the state should consider include regulating ammunition sales, implementing lost and stolen reporting laws, and imposing a waiting period. **Learn more about South Carolina's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/SC.**



South Carolina 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:

**\$4.3
BILLION**
\$915 PER RESIDENT



11 HOURS
Someone is killed with a gun every 11 hours in South Carolina. That's 829 people a year.