

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

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

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 82% of gun deaths in South Dakota are suicides, and more than 47% of all suicide deaths in South Dakota involve firearms.
- From 2008 to 2017, 717 people in South Dakota died by gun-related suicide.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Guns make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death.
- Nearly 40% of South Dakota's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.

TRAFFICKING

- Because of the state's weak gun laws, guns are purchased in South Dakota 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, 897 guns originally purchased in South Dakota 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, 189 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in South Dakota.
- Guns are the second-leading cause of death for South Dakota children ages 1-17.

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

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota made marginal gun safety strides in 2018 by requiring concealed carry permit applicants to pass a federal background check, but the state's laws remain very weak. South Dakota fails to restrict bulk firearm purchases or regulate military-style weapons, and does not allow local governments to regulate firearms. The state could reduce gun deaths, including suicide, by **implementing private-sale background checks and an extreme risk protection order law**. [Learn more about South Dakota's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/SD](https://www.lawcenter.giffords.org/SD).



South Dakota 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:

**\$440
MILLION**

\$528 PER RESIDENT



4 DAYS

Someone is killed with a gun every four days in South Dakota. That's 95 people a year.