

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN WEST VIRGINIA

Gun violence enacts a serious toll in West Virginia, with 305 lives lost each year to firearms and even more wounded. More should be done to protect residents, particularly those at elevated risk of suicide.

GUN SUICIDE

- More than 76% of gun deaths in West Virginia are suicides, and more than 65% of all suicide deaths in West Virginia involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 1,162 people in West Virginia 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 West Virginia's population, but account for nearly 20% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In West Virginia, black men ages 18–24 are more than 10 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 53% of West Virginia's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 43 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in West Virginia.

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

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

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia weakened its minimal gun laws in 2018 by eroding private property rights with a law requiring property owners to allow firearms in their parking lots. The state has some of the weakest gun laws in the nation, and a correspondingly high gun death rate. West Virginia should improve its gun safety laws by **instituting universal background checks, requiring permits for concealed carry of firearms, and passing an extreme risk protection order.** [Learn more about West Virginia's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/WV.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/WV)



West Virginia 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:

\$1.6 BILLION

\$858 PER RESIDENT



Someone is killed with a gun every 29 hours in West Virginia. That's 305 people a year.