

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN WASHINGTON

While Washington has relatively strong gun safety laws, hundreds of residents are still killed with a gun each year and even more are wounded. State lawmakers must continue to enact proactive gun safety measures.

GUN SUICIDE

- 76% of gun deaths in Washington are suicides, and nearly 48% of all suicide deaths in Washington involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 2,725 people in Washington died by gun-related suicide. That's one every 16 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up less than 3% of Washington's population, but account for more than 21% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Washington, black men ages 18–24 are 20 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 47% of Washington's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 94 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in Washington.

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, 622 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Washington.
- Guns are the third-leading cause of death for Washington children ages 1–17.

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



Washington earned a B+ on our Annual Gun Law State Scorecard. Visit gunlawscorecard.org to learn how to raise your state's grade.

ANNUAL COST OF
GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$3.8
BILLION**
\$544 PER RESIDENT



Someone is killed with a gun every 12 hours in Washington. That's 717 people a year.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN WASHINGTON

Washington improved its already strong gun laws in 2018. In the November midterm elections, voters passed a ballot initiative that, among other things, raises the minimum age to buy firearms to 21 and requires safe storage of firearms under certain circumstances. State legislators also made it harder for domestic abusers to access firearms and banned bump stocks. The state should build on this progress by **banning military-style weapons and requiring a waiting period on gun purchases.** [Learn more about Washington's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/WA.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/WA)