Gun Violence in West Virginia

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 320 people die and 760 are wounded by guns in West Virginia. West Virginia has the 8th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In West Virginia, the rate of gun deaths have increased 18% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 3% and gun homicides increased 78%, compared to a 13% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

West Virginia has the 13th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,261 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost West Virginia $2 billion, of which $67 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In West Virginia, 73% of gun deaths are suicides and 21% are homicides. This is compared to 60% and 38% nationwide, respectively.

Sources


EveryStat.org

Updated: January 2021
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 235 people in West Virginia die by gun suicides and 41 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 11.9 suicides and 2.3 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. West Virginia has the 4th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides by Race/Ethnicity in West Virginia

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 75 people in West Virginia die by gun homicides and 258 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 4.5 homicides and 14.2 assaults per 100,000 people. West Virginia has the 18th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In West Virginia, 71% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 75% nationwide.

Gun Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in West Virginia

GUN DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN AND TEENS

Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in West Virginia. In West Virginia, an average of 15 children and teens die by guns every year, and 62% of these deaths are suicides. In the US, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

There is insufficient data on intimate partner gun homicides for West Virginia.

Did You Know?

The gun homicide rate in West Virginia increased 78% from 2010 to 2019

Sources


Children/teen deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2015–2019, ages 0–19; leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2019, ages 1–19.


Note: Gun violence data on EveryStat and in this fact sheet includes individuals who die by guns or are wounded by guns and visit a hospital for care. We recognize that the impact of gun violence extends far beyond those who are killed or physically injured. However, data on those who witness an act of gun violence, are threatened with a gun, or know or care for someone wounded or killed is not systematically collected at this time.

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