



# South Carolina Gun Violence

November 2019

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## Gun violence takes a devastating toll on South Carolina

- From 2008 through 2017, 7,491 people were killed with guns in South Carolina.<sup>1</sup>
- South Carolina is among the deadliest states for gun violence. From 2008 through 2017, South Carolina had the 12th-highest rate of gun deaths of any state, with a rate of 15.74 gun deaths for every 100,000 people. This rate is 45 percent higher than the national average.<sup>2</sup>
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 34 mass shootings in South Carolina. A total of 44 people were killed and 125 were injured.<sup>3</sup>

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## South Carolina has some of the highest levels of gun-related crime in the country

- From 2008 through 2017, South Carolina had the sixth-highest rate of gun murders, with a rate of 5.84 gun homicides per 100,000 people. This rate is 51 percent higher than the national average.<sup>4</sup>
- South Carolina has high rates of aggravated assaults committed with a gun. From 2008 through 2017, there were 136.1 aggravated assaults with a gun per 100,000 people in South Carolina, giving it a rank of second highest among all states.<sup>5</sup>

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## The burden of gun violence in South Carolina falls disproportionately on communities of color

- Approximately 66 percent of the state's gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 28 percent of the state's population is Black.<sup>6</sup>

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## Domestic violence and access to guns is a lethal combination in South Carolina

- From 2007 through 2016, 173 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in South Carolina.<sup>7</sup>
- In South Carolina, 55 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner; out of those, 61 percent are killed with a gun.<sup>8</sup>

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## Gun suicides are a substantial problem in South Carolina

- From 2008 through 2017, 4,445 people in South Carolina died by gun-related suicide, meaning a gun suicide occurred every 20 hours.<sup>9</sup>

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## Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in South Carolina

- From 2008 through 2017, 708 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in South Carolina.<sup>10</sup>
- With a rate of 5.49 gun deaths for every 100,000 people among people under the age of 21, the state ranks 13th in the nation.<sup>11</sup>

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## Fatal unintentional shootings are also common in South Carolina

- From 2008 through 2017, 171 people in South Carolina were killed as a result of an unintentional shooting. Thirty-six percent of these victims were under the age of 21.<sup>12</sup>

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## Gun theft is a substantial problem in South Carolina

- From 2012 through 2018, close to 1,646 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in South Carolina.<sup>13</sup>
- Overall, an estimated 68,628 firearms were stolen in South Carolina from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.<sup>14</sup>

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## Weak gun laws make South Carolina a favorite state for illegal gun traffickers to purchase guns

- South Carolina has the sixth-highest rate of crime gun exports—guns sold in South Carolina that are later used in crimes in other states—in the country.<sup>15</sup>
- From 2010 through 2018, South Carolina had a rate of 40.7 crime gun exports for every 100,000 people—79 percent higher than the national average.<sup>16</sup>

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## Endnotes

1 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html> (last accessed June 2019).

2 Ibid.

3 Gun Violence Archive, "Past Summary Ledgers," available at <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls> (last accessed June 2019). Mass shootings are defined as incidents where four or more people are shot or killed, not including the perpetrator.

4 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."

5 FBI, "Crime in the U.S.," available at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s> (last accessed June 2019). To estimate rates, the authors used the state population presented by the FBI on these reports.

6 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."

7 Center for American Progress analysis of Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, "Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976–2016," available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E100699V5>. The authors only included cases with one victim and one aggressor. In the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports, "intimate partners" include boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, wives, ex-wives, ex-husbands, common-law wives, common-law husbands, and same-sex couples.

8 Ibid.

9 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 Center for American Progress analysis of U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Data and Statistics: Federal Firearms Licensee Statistics Theft / Loss Reports," available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics> (last accessed June 2019). The authors did not include lost firearms in this analysis.

14 Center for American Progress analysis of Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, "Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Property Stolen and Recovered (Supplement to Return A) 1960–2017," available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E105403V2> (last accessed July 2019). Estimations are based on the value of stolen and recovered guns. These figures are based on an average price of \$450 per gun, consistent with data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics from 2005 to 2010.

15 Center for American Progress analysis of U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2018," available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-2018> (last accessed September 2019); U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2017," available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data> (last accessed May 2019); U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2016," available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-2016> (last accessed May 2019); U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2015," available at <https://www.atf.gov/about/firearms-trace-data-2015> (last accessed May 2019); U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2014," available at <https://www.atf.gov/about/firearms-trace-data-2014> (last accessed May 2019); U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2013," available at <https://www.atf.gov/about/firearms-trace-data-2013> (last accessed May 2019); U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data - 2012," available at <https://www.atf.gov/about/firearms-trace-data-2012> (last accessed May 2019).

16 Ibid.