North Carolina Gun Violence

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Gun violence takes a devastating toll on North Carolina

• From 2008 through 2017, 12,281 people were killed with guns in North Carolina.¹

• From 2014 through 2018, there were 41 mass shootings in North Carolina. A total of 41 people were killed and 156 were injured.²

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

• From 2008 through 2017, North Carolina had the 14th-highest rate of gun murders, with a rate of 4.46 gun homicides per 100,000 people. This rate is 16 percent higher than the national average.³

• From 2008 through 2017, a gun homicide occurred every 20 hours.⁴

• North Carolina has high rates of aggravated assaults committed with a gun. From 2008 through 2017, there were 83.9 aggravated assaults with a gun per 100,000 people in North Carolina, giving it a rank of 11th highest among all states.⁵

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

• Approximately 59 percent of the state’s gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 22 percent of the state’s population is Black.⁶
Domestic violence and access to guns is a lethal combination in North Carolina

• From 2007 through 2016, 208 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in North Carolina.7

• In North Carolina, 49 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner; out of those, 59 percent are killed with a gun.6

Gun suicides are a substantial problem in North Carolina

• From 2008 through 2017, 7,437 people in North Carolina died by gun-related suicide, meaning a gun suicide occurred every 12 hours.9

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in North Carolina

• From 2008 through 2017, 1,115 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in North Carolina.10

Fatal unintentional shootings are also common in North Carolina

• From 2008 through 2017, 295 people in North Carolina were killed as a result of an unintentional shooting. Twenty-one percent of these victims were under the age of 21.11

Gun theft is a substantial problem in North Carolina

• From 2012 through 2018, close to 2,147 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in North Carolina.12

• Overall, an estimated 97,467 firearms were stolen in North Carolina from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.13
Endnotes


2 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.

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

4 Ibid.

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.


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.


10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.


13 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.