



Washington Gun Violence

November 2019

Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Washington

- From 2008 through 2017, 6,711 people were killed with guns in Washington.¹
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 18 mass shootings in Washington. A total of 36 people were killed and 48 were injured.²

The burden of gun violence in Washington falls disproportionately on communities of color

- Approximately 20 percent of the state's gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 4 percent of the state's population is Black.³
- While Hispanics make up close to 12 percent of the state's population, they account for approximately 24 percent of gun homicide victims in the state.⁴

Domestic violence and access to guns is a lethal combination in Washington

- From 2007 through 2016, 91 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Washington.⁵
- In Washington, 51 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner; out of those, 49 percent are killed with a gun.⁶

Gun suicides are a substantial problem in Washington

- From 2008 through 2017, 5,122 people in Washington died by gun-related suicide, meaning a gun suicide occurred every 17 hours.⁷

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Washington

- From 2008 through 2017, 576 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Washington.⁸
- In Washington, shootings are the leading cause of death for young people.⁹

Gun theft is a substantial problem in Washington

- From 2012 through 2018, close to 680 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in Washington.¹⁰
- Overall, an estimated 47,974 firearms were stolen in Washington from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.¹¹

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 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 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.

6 Ibid.

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

8 Ibid.

9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "About Compressed Mortality, 1999–2016," available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmfc-icd10.html> (last accessed June 2019). The authors only considered 2016, the year with the latest available data. The authors considered ages 15 to 24 for this statistic.

10 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.

11 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.