



Arizona Gun Violence

November 2019

Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Arizona

- From 2008 through 2017, 9,670 people were killed with guns in Arizona.¹
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 18 mass shootings in Arizona. A total of 37 people were killed and 52 were injured.²

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

- From 2008 through 2017, Arizona had the 19th-highest rate of gun murders, with a rate of 4.01 gun homicides per 100,000 people.³
- Arizona has high rates of aggravated assaults committed with a gun. From 2008 through 2017, there were 66.6 aggravated assaults with a gun per 100,000 people in Arizona, giving it a rank of 16th highest among all states.⁴
- Law enforcement officers in Arizona face an enormous risk of gun violence. From 2008 through 2017, 16 police officers were feloniously killed with a firearm in Arizona.⁵

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

- While Hispanics make up close to 30 percent of the state's population, they account for approximately 43 percent of gun homicide victims in the state.⁶

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

- From 2007 through 2016, 179 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Arizona.⁷
- In Arizona, 48 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner; out of those, 64 percent are killed with a gun.⁸

Gun suicides are a substantial problem in Arizona

- With 10.13 gun suicides per 100,000 people, Arizona ranks 12th in the United States with a rate 53 percent higher than the national average.⁹
- From 2008 through 2017, 6,694 people in Arizona died by gun-related suicide, meaning a gun suicide occurred every 13 hours.¹⁰

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Arizona

- From 2008 through 2017, 814 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Arizona.¹¹
- In Arizona, shootings are the leading cause of death for young people.¹²

Gun theft is a substantial problem in Arizona

- From 2012 through 2018, close to 1,122 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in Arizona.¹³
- Overall, an estimated 43,014 firearms were stolen in Arizona from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.¹⁴

Weak gun laws make Arizona a favorite state for illegal gun traffickers to purchase guns

- Arizona has the 10th-highest rate of crime gun exports—guns sold in Arizona that are later used in crimes in other states—in the country.¹⁵
- From 2010 through 2018, Arizona had a rate of 35.9 crime gun exports for every 100,000 people—58 percent higher than the national average.¹⁶

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 The authors' analysis of aggravated assault rates is based on FBI state population estimates. See FBI, "Crime in the U.S.," available at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s> (last accessed June 2019).
- 5 Center for American Progress analysis of FBI, "Uniform Crime Reports: Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted," available at <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/leoka> (last accessed June 2019).
- 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "About Compressed Mortality, 1999-2016," available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cm-f-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.
- 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.