



Pennsylvania Gun Violence

November 2019

Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Pennsylvania

- From 2008 through 2017, 14,409 people were killed with guns in Pennsylvania.¹
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 69 mass shootings in Pennsylvania. A total of 77 people were killed and 259 were injured.²

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

- From 2008 through 2017, Pennsylvania had the 18th-highest rate of gun murders, with a rate of 4.07 gun homicides per 100,000 people.³
- From 2008 through 2017, a gun homicide occurred every 17 hours.⁴
- Law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania face an enormous risk of gun violence. From 2008 through 2017, 23 police officers were feloniously killed with a firearm in Pennsylvania.⁵

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

- Approximately 67 percent of the state's gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 11 percent of the state's population is Black.⁶

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

- From 2007 through 2016, 226 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Pennsylvania.⁷
- In Pennsylvania, 48 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner; out of those, 53 percent are killed with a gun.⁸

Gun suicides are a substantial problem in Pennsylvania

- From 2008 through 2017, 8,775 people in Pennsylvania died by gun-related suicide, meaning a gun suicide occurred every 10 hours.⁹

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Pennsylvania

- From 2008 through 2017, 1,531 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Pennsylvania.¹⁰

Fatal unintentional shootings are also common in Pennsylvania

- From 2008 through 2017, 253 people in Pennsylvania were killed as a result of an unintentional shooting. Twenty-two percent of these victims were under the age of 21.¹¹

Gun theft is a substantial problem in Pennsylvania

- From 2012 through 2018, close to 1,438 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in Pennsylvania.¹²
- Overall, an estimated 43,768 firearms were stolen in Pennsylvania from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.¹³

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 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 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.
- 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.