Center for American Progress

Washington, D.C., Gun Violence

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Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Washington, D.C.

- From 2008 through 2017, 985 people were killed with guns in Washington, D.C.[1]
- In Washington, D.C., a person is killed with a gun every four days.[2]
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 24 mass shootings in Washington, D.C. A total of seven people were killed and 103 were injured.[3]

Washington, D.C., has some of the highest levels of gun-related crime in the country

- From 2008 through 2017, Washington, D.C., had a high rate of gun-related murders, with a rate of 13.5 gun homicides per every 100,000 people.[4]

The burden of gun violence in Washington, D.C., falls disproportionately on communities of color

- Approximately 95 percent of Washington, D.C.'s gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 49 percent of its population is Black.[5]

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Washington, D.C.

- From 2008 through 2017, 185 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Washington, D.C.[6]
- In Washington, D.C., shootings are the leading cause of death for young people.[7]

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 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "About Compressed Mortality, 1999–2016," available at http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmf-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.