



Florida Gun Violence

November 2019

Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Florida

- From 2008 through 2017, 24,616 people were killed with guns in Florida.¹
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 125 mass shootings in Florida. A total of 194 people were killed and 575 were injured.²

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

- From 2008 through 2017, Florida had the 15th-highest rate of gun murders, with a rate of 4.39 gun homicides per 100,000 people. This rate is 14 percent higher than the national average.³
- From 2008 through 2017, a gun homicide occurred every 10 hours.⁴
- Florida has high rates of aggravated assaults committed with a gun. From 2008 through 2017, there were 78.3 aggravated assaults with a gun per 100,000 people in Florida, giving it a rank of 12th highest among all states.⁵
- Law enforcement officers in Florida face an enormous risk of gun violence. From 2008 through 2017, 28 police officers were feloniously killed with a firearm in Florida.⁶

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

- Approximately 56 percent of the state's gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 16 percent of the state's population is Black.⁷

Gun suicides are a substantial problem in Florida

- From 2008 through 2017, 15,492 people in Florida died by gun-related suicide, meaning a gun suicide occurred every six hours.⁸

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Florida

- From 2008 through 2017, 2,131 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Florida.⁹

Fatal unintentional shootings are also common in Florida

- From 2008 through 2017, 225 people in Florida were killed as a result of an unintentional shooting. Twenty-four percent of these victims were under the age of 21.¹⁰

Gun theft is a substantial problem in Florida

- From 2012 through 2018, close to 2,756 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in Florida.¹¹
- Overall, an estimated 122,428 firearms were stolen in Florida from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.¹²

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 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).

6 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).

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 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 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.

12 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.