



Louisiana Gun Violence

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Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Louisiana

- From 2008 through 2017, 8,935 people were killed with guns in Louisiana.¹
- Louisiana is among the deadliest states for gun violence. From 2008 through 2017, Louisiana had the second-highest rate of gun deaths of any state, with a rate of 19.44 gun deaths for every 100,000 people. This rate is 79 percent higher than the national average.²
- From 2014 through 2018, there were 66 mass shootings in Louisiana. A total of 62 people were killed and 282 were injured.³

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

- From 2008 through 2017, Louisiana had the highest rate of gun murders, with a rate of 9.91 gun homicides per 100,000 people. This rate is 157 percent higher than the national average.⁴
- From 2008 through 2017, a gun homicide occurred every 19 hours.⁵
- Louisiana has high rates of aggravated assaults committed with a gun. From 2008 through 2017, there were 105 aggravated assaults with a gun per 100,000 people in Louisiana, giving it a rank of fourth highest among all states.⁶
- Law enforcement officers in Louisiana face an enormous risk of gun violence. From 2008 through 2017, 22 police officers were feloniously killed with a firearm in Louisiana.⁷

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

- Approximately 80 percent of the state's gun homicide victims are Black; however, only 33 percent of the state's population is Black.⁸

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

- From 2007 through 2016, 169 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Louisiana.⁹
- In Louisiana, 48 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner; out of those, 66 percent are killed with a gun.¹⁰

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Louisiana

- From 2008 through 2017, 1,177 people under the age of 21 were shot to death in Louisiana.¹¹
- With a rate of 9.04 gun deaths for every 100,000 people among people under the age of 21, the state ranks second in the nation.¹²
- In Louisiana, shootings are the leading cause of death for young people.¹³

Fatal unintentional shootings are also common in Louisiana

- From 2008 through 2017, 261 people in Louisiana were killed as a result of an unintentional shooting. Twenty-three percent of these victims were under the age of 21.¹⁴

Gun theft is a substantial problem in Louisiana

- From 2012 through 2018, close to 1,000 firearms were stolen from gun dealers in Louisiana.¹⁵
- Overall, an estimated 50,829 firearms were stolen in Louisiana from both individual gun owners and gun dealers from 2012 through 2017.¹⁶

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

- Louisiana has the 16th-highest rate of crime gun exports—guns sold in Louisiana that are later used in crimes in other states—in the country.¹⁷
- From 2010 through 2018, Louisiana had a rate of 27.1 crime gun exports for every 100,000 people—19 percent higher than the national average.¹⁸

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 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).
- 7 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).
- 8 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."
- 9 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.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 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.
- 14 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."
- 15 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.
- 16 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.
- 17 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).
- 18 Ibid.