

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS

Despite the state's relatively strong gun laws, 1,310 lives are lost to gun violence in Illinois each year. Firearms trafficked in from states with weaker laws play a major role in the high number of gun deaths in Chicago.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 40% of gun deaths in Illinois are suicides, and more than 37% of all suicide deaths in Illinois involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 2,607 people in Illinois died by gun-related suicide—one every 17 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up just 7% of Illinois's population, but 72% of gun homicide victims.
- In Illinois, black men ages 18–24 are 61 times more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun.

TRAFFICKING

- Illinois's relatively strong gun laws are undermined by gun trafficking. Guns purchased in states with weaker gun laws are brought into Illinois, where they end up in the hands of criminals.
- From 2013 to 2017, 21,024 guns originally purchased in other states were recovered after being used in crime in Illinois.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUNS

- Exposure to gun violence can cause lasting trauma in young people, leading to PTSD, chronic stress, and decreased future earnings.
- From 2013 to 2017, 2,074 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Illinois.
- Guns are the leading cause of death for Illinois children ages 1–17.

Published January 2020. Sources: CDC WONDER, ATF Firearms Trace Data Reports.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS

Illinois has stronger gun laws than the majority of the country. The state has the 20th-lowest gun death rate and imports crime guns from other states at the third-highest rate. To save lives from gun violence, lawmakers could **strengthen the state's licensing requirement and increase funding to community violence intervention programs.** [Learn more about Illinois's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/IL.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/IL)



Illinois earned an A- on our Annual Gun Law Scorecard. Visit gunlawscorecard.org to learn how to raise your state's grade.

ANNUAL COST OF
GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$7.2
BILLION**

\$561 PER RESIDENT



7 HOURS
Someone is killed with a gun every seven hours in Illinois. That's 1,310 people a year.