

# THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN IOWA

Gun violence exacts a serious toll in Iowa, with hundreds of Iowans killed with a gun each year and even more wounded. State lawmakers can and must pass stronger gun laws to keep residents safe.

## GUN SUICIDE

- 80% of gun deaths in Iowa are suicides, and nearly 48% of all suicide deaths in Iowa involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 1,058 people in Iowa died by gun-related suicide.

## URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up just 2% of Iowa's population, but account for approximately a third of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Iowa, black men ages 18–24 are more than 23 times more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Guns make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death.
- Nearly 40% of Iowa's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.

## 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 2008 to 2017, 429 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Iowa.
- Guns are the third-leading cause of death for Iowa children ages 1–17.

Published January 2020. Sources: CDC WONDER, FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports.

## PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN IOWA

Iowa has taken initial steps toward gun safety, but still has significant room for progress. The state has the tenth-lowest gun death rate and is a net exporter of crime guns. To save lives from gun violence, Iowa legislators could **pass an extreme risk protection order law and require a background check and waiting period on all firearms, not just handguns.** [Learn more about Iowa's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/IA.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/IA)



Iowa earned a C on our Annual Gun Law Scorecard. Visit [gunlawscorecard.org](http://gunlawscorecard.org) to learn how to raise your state's grade.

## ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$1.3  
BILLION**  
\$422 PER RESIDENT

