

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN KENTUCKY

Gun violence poses a serious public safety risk to the people of Kentucky, claiming the lives of 690 residents each year and wounding even more. State lawmakers can and must do more to keep their constituents safe.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 70% of gun deaths in Kentucky are suicides, and 64% of all suicide deaths in Kentucky involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 2,387 people in Kentucky died by gun-related suicide. That's one every 18 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up less than 5% of Kentucky's population, but account for nearly 37% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Kentucky, black men ages 18–24 are more than 13 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 74% of Kentucky's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 126 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in Kentucky.

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, 562 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in Kentucky.
- Guns are the second-leading cause of death for Kentucky children ages 1–17.

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

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN KENTUCKY

Kentucky has some of the weakest gun laws in the country. The state has the 16th-highest gun death rate and supplies crime guns to other states at the eighth-highest rate. To save lives from gun violence, Kentucky could **require background checks and waiting periods on all gun sales, and prohibit domestic abusers from possessing firearms.** [Learn more about Kentucky's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/KY.](https://www.lawcenter.giffords.org/KY)



Kentucky earned an F on our Annual Gun Law Scorecard. Visit [gunlawscorecard.org](https://www.gunlawscorecard.org) to learn how to raise your state's grade.

ANNUAL COST OF
GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$3.6
BILLION**

\$819 PER RESIDENT



13 HOURS

Someone is killed with a gun every 13 hours in Kentucky. That's 690 people a year.