

## THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN MAINE

Maine's weak gun laws endanger its residents, particularly those at risk of suicide. Legislators owe it to their constituents to take proactive measures to save lives from gun violence.

### GUN SUICIDE

- More than 88% of gun deaths in Maine are suicides, and nearly 54% of all suicide deaths in Maine involve firearms.
- From 2008 to 2017, 1,173 people in Maine died by gun-related suicide.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Guns make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death.
- Nearly 56% of Maine's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.

### TRAFFICKING

- Because of the state's weak gun laws, guns are purchased in Maine and trafficked to states with stronger gun laws, where they end up in the hands of criminals and people unable to pass a background check.
- From 2013 to 2017, 1,416 guns originally purchased in Maine were recovered after being used in crime in other states.

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

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



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

### ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$733  
MILLION**

**\$551 PER RESIDENT**



Someone is killed with a gun every three days in Maine. That's 146 people every year.

## PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN MAINE

Maine has generally weak gun laws. The state has the 16th-lowest gun death rate in the country and supplies crime guns to other states at the 25th-highest rate. To protect residents from gun violence, lawmakers in Maine could **repeal the state's dangerous permitless carry law and require background checks on all gun sales.** [Learn more about Maine's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/ME.](https://lawcenter.giffords.org/ME)