

THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN **VIRGINIA**

Gun violence poses a serious public safety risk to Virginians, claiming the lives of 958 residents each year and wounding even more. Lawmakers owe it to their constituents to pass strong gun safety laws immediately.

GUN SUICIDE

- Nearly 67% of gun deaths in Virginia are suicides, and nearly 57% of all suicide deaths in Virginia involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 3,200 people in Virginia died by gun-related suicide. That's one every 14 hours.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
- Black men make up less than 10% of Virginia's population, but account for nearly 61% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In Virginia, black men ages 18–24 are nearly 25 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 63% of Virginia's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 197 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in Virginia.

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

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

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA

Virginia has weak gun laws overall. The state has the 19th-lowest gun death rate and exports crime guns to other states at the 12th-highest rate. To save lives from gun violence, Virginia legislators could **require a background check and waiting period before all gun purchases, enact an extreme risk protection law, and increase funding for community violence intervention programs.** [Learn more about Virginia's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/VA.](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/VA)



Virginia earned a D on our Annual Gun Law Scorecard. Visit gunlawscorecard.org to learn how to raise your state's grade.

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:

**\$5.3
BILLION**

\$641 PER RESIDENT



9 HOURS

Someone is killed with a gun every nine hours in Virginia. That's 958 people a year.