

## THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN **WEST VIRGINIA**

Gun violence enacts a serious toll in West Virginia, with 305 lives lost each year to firearms and even more wounded. More should be done to protect residents, particularly those at elevated risk of suicide.

### GUN SUICIDE

- More than 76% of gun deaths in West Virginia are suicides, and more than 65% of all suicide deaths in West Virginia involve firearms.
- From 2013 to 2017, 1,162 people in West Virginia 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 West Virginia's population, but account for nearly 20% of the state's gun homicide victims.
- In West Virginia, black men ages 18–24 are more than 10 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.
- More than 53% of West Virginia's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
- From 2007 to 2016, 43 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in West 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 2008 to 2017, 345 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in West Virginia.
- Guns are the second-leading cause of death for West Virginia children ages 1–17.

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

## PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia has very weak gun laws. The state has the ninth-highest gun death rate in the country and exports crime guns at the second-highest rate. Basic steps West Virginia could take to save lives from gun violence include **requiring a background check and waiting period before each gun purchase and repealing its dangerous permitless carry law.** [Learn more about West Virginia's gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/WV.](https://www.lawcenter.giffords.org/WV)



West Virginia 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:

**\$1.6  
BILLION**

\$858 PER RESIDENT



Someone is killed with a gun every 29 hours in West Virginia. That's 305 people a year.