Gun Violence in California

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 3,160 people die and 7,293 are wounded by guns in California. California has the 35th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

California has the 45th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,060 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost California $41.9 billion each year, of which $1.1 billion is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In California, the rate of gun deaths increased 10% from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides decreased 11% and gun homicides increased 31% compared to a 12% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In California, 50% of gun deaths are suicides and 45% are homicides. This is compared to 59% and 38% nationwide, respectively.

SOURCES:
Rankings are based on the 50 states and Washington, DC, with first being highest, 51st lowest. Death and injury rankings are based on rates, economic cost rankings are based on average societal per-resident cost. Overall state gun violence rankings are calculated by adding count of gun deaths plus count of nonfatal gun injuries divided by population.
Totals do not always sum to 100% due to rounding.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 1,594 people in California die by gun suicides and 107 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 3.8 suicides and 0.3 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. California has the 44th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in California

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 1,514 people in California die by gun homicides and 3,459 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 3.9 homicides and 8.8 assaults per 100,000 people. California has the 29th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In California, 71% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 76% nationwide.

Gun Homicides By Race/Ethnicity in California

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS
Guns are the 3rd-leading cause of death among children and teens in California. In California, an average of 247 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 23% of these deaths are suicides and 72% are homicides. In the US, 35% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 60% are homicides.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES
In 2019, 55 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in California. 68% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 67% nationwide.

Intimate Partner Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in California

SOURCES:
Gun suicides and gun homicides: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2016–2020. Homicides include shootings by police.
Children and teens gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2016–2020, ages 0–19; Leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2020, ages 1–19.
Note: Gun violence data on EveryStat and in this fact sheet includes individuals who die or are wounded by guns and visit a hospital for care. The impact of gun violence extends far beyond those who are killed or physically injured, but data on those who witness gun violence, are threatened with a gun, or know or care for someone wounded or killed is not systematically collected at this time.