Gun Violence in Illinois

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 1,622 people die and 2,715 are wounded by guns in Illinois. Illinois has the 27th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Illinois, the rate of gun deaths increased 77% from 2012 to 2021, compared to a 39% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 34% and gun homicides increased 110% compared to a 19% increase and 73% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Illinois has the 40th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,468 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Illinois $18.6 billion each year, of which $625.5 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Illinois, 36% of gun deaths are suicides and 62% are homicides. This is compared to 57% and 40% 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.

EveryStat.org
Updated: May 2023
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 578 people in Illinois die by gun suicides and 46 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 4.3 suicides and 0.4 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Illinois has the 43rd-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 1,019 people in Illinois die by gun homicides and 1,270 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 8.4 homicides and 10.0 assaults per 100,000 people. Illinois has the 12th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Illinois, 84% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 78% nationwide.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Illinois. In Illinois, an average of 193 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 16% of these deaths are suicides and 80% are homicides. In the US, 33% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 62% are homicides.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

In 2020, 14 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Illinois. 44% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 66% nationwide.

SOURCES:

Gun suicides and gun homicides: CDC, WONDER, four-year average: 2018-2021. Homicides include shootings by police.


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.

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