Gun Violence in Iowa

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 302 people die and 489 are wounded by guns in Iowa. Iowa has the 38th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

Data on states, congressional districts, and counties: EveryStat.org

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Iowa, the rate of gun deaths increased 56% from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 35% and gun homicides increased 168% compared to a 12% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Iowa has the 43rd-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $590 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Iowa $2 billion, of which $45 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Iowa, 78% of gun deaths are suicides and 19% are homicides. This is compared to 59% and 38% nationwide, respectively.

Sources

Totals do not always sum to 100% due to rounding.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 235 people in Iowa die by gun suicides and 21 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 7.2 suicides and 0.7 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Iowa has the 37th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 58 people in Iowa die by gun homicides and 210 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 2.0 homicides and 6.7 assaults per 100,000 people. Iowa has the 41st-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Iowa, 62% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 76% nationwide.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Iowa. In Iowa, an average of 27 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 54% of these deaths are suicides and 38% 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, fewer than 10 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Iowa. 40% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 67% nationwide.

Sources

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 by guns or are wounded by guns and visit a hospital for care. We recognize that the impact of gun violence extends far beyond those who are killed or physically injured. However, data on those who witness an act of gun violence, are threatened with a gun, or know or care for someone wounded or killed is not systematically collected at this time.

EveryStat.org
Updated: January 2022