Gun Violence in Massachusetts

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 255 people die and 557 are wounded by guns in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has the lowest rate of gun violence in the US.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Massachusetts has the lowest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $503 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Massachusetts $3.5 billion each year, of which $85.4 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Massachusetts, the rate of gun deaths stayed the same from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 6% and gun homicides decreased 6% compared to a 12% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Massachusetts, 56% of gun deaths are suicides and 41% are homicides. This is compared to 59% and 38% nationwide, respectively.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 143 people in Massachusetts die by gun suicides and 19 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 1.9 suicides and 0.3 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Massachusetts has the 2nd-lowest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in Massachusetts

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS
Guns are tied for the 3rd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Massachusetts. In Massachusetts, an average of 20 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 19% of these deaths are suicides and 78% 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 Massachusetts. 30% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 67% nationwide.

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.