Gun Violence in Massachusetts

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 244 people die and 688 are wounded by guns in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has the 50th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Massachusetts, the rate of gun deaths decreased 16% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides decreased 7% and gun homicides decreased 26%, compared to a 13% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Massachusetts has the 51st-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $261 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Massachusetts $2 billion, of which $92 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Massachusetts, 57% of gun deaths are suicides and 39% are homicides. This is compared to 60% and 38% nationwide, respectively.

Sources


EveryStat.org
Updated: January 2021
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 140 people in Massachusetts die by gun suicides and 15 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 1.8 suicides and 0.2 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Massachusetts has the 49th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides by Race/Ethnicity in Massachusetts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Deaths per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 101 people in Massachusetts die by gun homicides and 404 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 1.5 homicides and 5.9 assaults per 100,000 people. Massachusetts has the 42nd-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Massachusetts, 63% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 75% nationwide.

Gun Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in Massachusetts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Deaths per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GUN DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN AND TEENS
Guns are the 4th-leading cause of death among children and teens in Massachusetts. In Massachusetts, an average of 18 children and teens die by guns every year, and 75% of these deaths are homicides. In the US, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES
From 2015 to 2019, 13 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Massachusetts. 26% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 59% nationwide.

Did You Know?
Black children and teens in Massachusetts are 7 times more likely than their white peers to die by guns.

Sources
Children/teen deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2015–2019, ages 0–19; leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2019, 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.