Gun Violence in Massachusetts

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 255 people die and 688 are wounded by guns in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has the second lowest rate of gun violence in the US.

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

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.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Massachusetts has the lowest 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, 56% of gun deaths are suicides and 41% 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 143 people in Massachusetts die by gun suicides and 15 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 1.9 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 HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 109 people in Massachusetts die by gun homicides and 404 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 1.6 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, 65% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 76% nationwide.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS
Guns are tied for the 4th 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
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
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