Gun Violence in Missouri

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 1,288 people die and 2,584 are wounded by guns in Missouri. Missouri has the 6th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Missouri, the rate of gun deaths increased 70% from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 37% and gun homicides increased 130% compared to a 12% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Missouri has the 4th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,606 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Missouri $10 billion, of which $507 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Missouri, 54% of gun deaths are suicides and 44% 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 692 people in Missouri die by gun suicides and 68 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 10.9 suicides and 1.1 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Missouri has the 10th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 569 people in Missouri die by gun homicides and 1,253 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 9.9 homicides and 20.5 assaults per 100,000 people. Missouri has the 5th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Missouri, 85% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 76% nationwide.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Missouri. In Missouri, an average of 116 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 34% of these deaths are suicides and 60% 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, 33 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Missouri. 79% 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.

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