Gun Violence in New Jersey

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 445 people die and 1,398 are wounded by guns in New Jersey. New Jersey has the 44th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In New Jersey, the rate of gun deaths decreased 21% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides decreased 13% and gun homicides decreased 25%, compared to a 13% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

New Jersey has the 47th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $373 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost New Jersey $3 billion, of which $200 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In New Jersey, 42% of gun deaths are suicides and 56% 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 187 people in New Jersey die by gun suicides and 12 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 1.9 suicides and 0.1 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. New Jersey has the 48th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides by Race/Ethnicity in New Jersey

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 254 people in New Jersey die by gun homicides and 543 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 3.0 homicides and 6.0 assaults per 100,000 people. New Jersey has the 39th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In New Jersey, 72% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 75% nationwide.

Gun Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in New Jersey

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES
From 2015 to 2019, 40 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in New Jersey. 39% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 59% nationwide.

Did You Know?

Essex County, which includes the city of Newark, has the highest rate of gun deaths of all New Jersey counties—90% of gun deaths in Essex County are homicides.

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.