Gun Violence in North Carolina

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 1,588 people die and 3,530 are wounded by guns in North Carolina. North Carolina has the 14th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

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

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In North Carolina, the rate of gun deaths increased 47% from 2012 to 2021, compared to a 39% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 18% and gun homicides increased 91% compared to a 19% increase and 73% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

North Carolina has the 27th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,855 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost North Carolina $19.5 billion each year, of which $471.0 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In North Carolina, 54% of gun deaths are suicides and 41% are homicides. This is compared to 57% and 40% nationwide, respectively.

EveryStat.org
Updated: May 2023
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 862 people in North Carolina die by gun suicides and 74 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 7.7 suicides and 0.7 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. North Carolina has the 31st-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 676 people in North Carolina die by gun homicides and 1,340 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 6.7 homicides and 12.8 assaults per 100,000 people. North Carolina has the 16th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In North Carolina, 81% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 78% nationwide.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in North Carolina. In North Carolina, an average of 156 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 32% of these deaths are suicides and 62% are homicides. In the US, 33% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 62% are homicides.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

In 2020, 49 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in North Carolina. 72% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 66% nationwide.

SOURCES:

Gun suicides and gun homicides: CDC, WONDER, four-year average: 2018-2021. Homicides include shootings by police.


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.