Gun Violence in South Carolina

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 964 people die and 2,358 are wounded by guns in South Carolina. South Carolina has the 6th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

DATA ON STATES, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, AND COUNTIES:
EveryStat.org

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In South Carolina, the rate of gun deaths increased 48% from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 18% and gun homicides increased 92% compared to a 12% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

South Carolina has the 10th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $2,716 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost South Carolina $14 billion each year, of which $371.9 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In South Carolina, 55% of gun deaths are suicides and 42% are homicides. This is compared to 59% and 38% nationwide, respectively.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 529 people in South Carolina die by gun suicides and 58 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 9.8 suicides and 1.1 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. South Carolina has the 19th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in South Carolina

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 410 people in South Carolina die by gun homicides and 864 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 8.6 homicides and 16.8 assaults per 100,000 people. South Carolina has the 6th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In South Carolina, 81% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 76% nationwide.

Gun Homicides By Race/Ethnicity in South Carolina

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS
Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in South Carolina. In South Carolina, an average of 92 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 31% of these deaths are suicides and 59% are homicides. In the US, 35% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 60% are homicides.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES
In 2019, 26 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in South Carolina. 81% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 67% nationwide.

Intimate Partner Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in South Carolina

SOURCES:
Gun suicides and gun homicides: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2016-2020. 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.