Gun Violence in Virginia

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 1,065 people die and 2,050 are wounded by guns in Virginia. Virginia has the 29th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Virginia, the rate of gun deaths increased 28% from 2011 to 2020, compared to a 33% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 7% and gun homicides increased 77% compared to a 12% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Virginia has the 31st-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $836 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Virginia $7 billion, of which $292 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Virginia, 63% of gun deaths are suicides and 34% are homicides. This is compared to 59% and 38% nationwide, respectively.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 676 people in Virginia die by gun suicides and 62 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 7.5 suicides and 0.7 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Virginia has the 35th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 371 people in Virginia die by gun homicides and 659 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 4.5 homicides and 7.8 assaults per 100,000 people. Virginia has the 31st-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Virginia, 79% 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 Virginia. In Virginia, an average of 96 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 40% of these deaths are suicides and 56% 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, 24 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Virginia. 75% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 67% nationwide.