Gun Violence in West Virginia

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 320 people die and 760 are wounded by guns in West Virginia. West Virginia has the 8th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In West Virginia, the rate of gun deaths have increased 18% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides decreased 3% and gun homicides increased 78%, compared to a 13% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

West Virginia has the 13th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,261 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost West Virginia $2 billion, of which $67 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In West Virginia, 73% of gun deaths are suicides and 21% are homicides. This is compared to 60% and 38% nationwide, respectively.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 235 people in West Virginia die by gun suicides and 41 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 11.9 suicides and 2.3 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. West Virginia has the 4th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Did You Know?

The gun homicide rate in West Virginia increased 78% from 2010 to 2019