Gun Violence in Iowa

**OVERVIEW**

In an average year, **281** people die and **489** are wounded by guns in Iowa. Iowa has the **38th-highest** rate of gun violence in the US.

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**GUN DEATHS OVER TIME**

In Iowa, the rate of gun deaths increased **33%** from 2010 to 2019, compared to a **17%** increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased **24%** and gun homicides increased **63%**, compared to a **13%** increase and **26%** increase nationwide, respectively.

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**COST OF GUN VIOLENCE**

Iowa has the **43rd-highest** societal cost of gun violence in the US at **$590** per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Iowa **$2 billion**, of which **$45 million** is paid by taxpayers.

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**GUN DEATHS BY INTENT**

In Iowa, **79%** of gun deaths are suicides and **18%** are homicides. This is compared to **60%** and **38%** nationwide, respectively.

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Sources


EveryStat.org

Updated: January 2021
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 221 people in Iowa die by gun suicides and 21 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 6.7 suicides and 0.7 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Iowa has the 37th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides by Race/Ethnicity in Iowa

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 51 people in Iowa die by gun homicides and 210 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 1.8 homicides and 6.7 assaults per 100,000 people. Iowa has the 41st-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Iowa, 59% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 75% nationwide.

Gun Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in Iowa

GUN DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN AND TEENS
Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Iowa. In Iowa, an average of 26 children and teens die by guns every year, and 61% of these deaths are suicides. In the US, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES
From 2015 to 2019, 18 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Iowa. 56% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 59% nationwide.

Did You Know?

While Iowa has one of the lowest gun death rates in the country, the rate increased by 33% from 2010 to 2019.

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.

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