Gun Violence in Kentucky

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 728 people die and 1,036 are wounded by guns in Kentucky. Kentucky has the 23rd-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

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

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Kentucky, the rate of gun deaths increased 20% from 2010 to 2019, compared to a 17% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 4% and gun homicides increased 63%, compared to a 13% increase and 26% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Kentucky has the 17th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,104 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Kentucky $5 billion, of which $181 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Kentucky, 66% of gun deaths are suicides and 29% are homicides. This is compared to 60% and 38% nationwide, respectively.

Sources

EveryStat.org
Updated: January 2021
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 484 people in Kentucky die by gun suicides and 39 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 10.3 suicides and 0.9 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Kentucky has the 19th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides by Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 219 people in Kentucky die by gun homicides and 408 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 5.2 homicides and 9.2 assaults per 100,000 people. Kentucky has the 27th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Kentucky, 77% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 75% nationwide.

Gun Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

From 2015 to 2019, 73 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Kentucky. 68% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 59% nationwide.

Did You Know?

The gun homicide rate in Kentucky increased 63% 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.