Gun Violence in Tennessee

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 1,193 people die and 2,220 are wounded by guns in Tennessee. Tennessee has the 14th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Tennessee has the 8th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $1,346 per person each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Tennessee $9 billion, of which $433 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Tennessee, 58% of gun deaths are suicides and 38% are homicides. This is compared to 60% and 38% nationwide, respectively.
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 692 people in Tennessee die by gun suicides and 119 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 9.7 suicides and 1.8 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Tennessee has the 13th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides by Race/Ethnicity in Tennessee

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 460 people in Tennessee die by gun homicides and 829 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 7.2 homicides and 12.3 assaults per 100,000 people. Tennessee has the 13th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Tennessee, 81% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 75% nationwide.

Gun Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in Tennessee

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES
From 2015 to 2019, 132 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Tennessee. 66% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 59% nationwide.

GUN DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN AND TEENS
Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Tennessee. In Tennessee, an average of 111 children and teens die by guns every year, and 62% of these deaths are homicides. In the US, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.

Did You Know?

Tennessee has the 8th highest rate of gun homicide deaths in the US.

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.