

# Gun Violence in Kentucky

### **OVERVIEW**

In an average year, 827 people die and 1,857 are wounded by guns in Kentucky. Kentucky has the 11th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.



# SOURCES:

Gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2018-2022.

Gun violence trends: CDC, WONDER, 2013-2022

Gun injuries: Everytown analysis of Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) data, 2020.

Cost of gun violence: Ted R. Miller and Bruce Lawrence analysis of CDC fatal injury: 2019 and HCUP nonfatal injury: 2019.

Rankings are based on the 50 states and Washington, DC, with first being highest, 51st lowest. Death and injury rankings are based on rates, economic cost rankings are based on average societal per-resident cost. Overall state gun violence rankings are calculated by adding count of gun deaths plus count of nonfatal gun injuries divided by population.

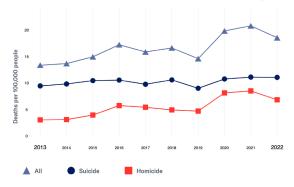
Totals do not always sum to 100% due to rounding.

### EveryStat.org

# Updated: May 2024

### **GUN DEATHS OVER TIME**

In Kentucky, the rate of gun deaths increased 38% from 2013 to 2022, compared to a 36% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 17% and gun homicides increased 115% compared to an 18% increase and 70% increase nationwide, respectively.

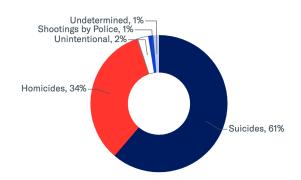


# **COST OF GUN VIOLENCE**

Kentucky has the 18th-highest societal cost of gun violence in the US at \$2,155 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Kentucky \$9.6 billion each year, of which \$183.4 million is paid by taxpayers.

# **GUN DEATHS BY INTENT**

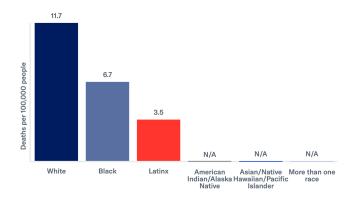
In Kentucky, 61% of gun deaths are suicides and 34% are homicides. This is compared to 57% and 40% nationwide, respectively.



## **GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

Every year, an average of 507 people in Kentucky die by gun suicides and 49 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 10.8 suicides and 1.1 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Kentucky has the 16th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

# Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky



#### CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Kentucky. In Kentucky, an average of 74 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 35% of these deaths are suicides and 56% are homicides. In the US, 31% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 63% are homicides.

#### SOURCES:

Gun suicides and gun homicides: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2018–2022. Homicides include shootings by police.

Gun suicide attempts and gun assaults: Everytown analysis of Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) data, 2020.

Children and teens gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2018–2022, ages 0–19; Leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2022, ages 1–19.

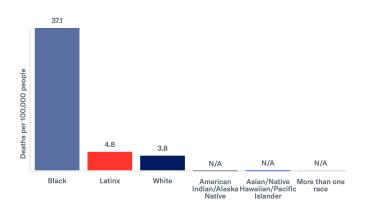
Intimate partner homicides: CDC, National Violent Death Reporting System, 2020; Intimate partner homicides by race and ethnicity: CDC, National Violent Death Reporting System, 2016–2020.

Note: Gun violence data on EveryStat and in this fact sheet includes individuals who die or are wounded by guns and visit a hospital for care. The impact of gun violence extends far beyond those who are killed or physically injured, but data on those who witness gun violence, are threatened with a gun, or know or care for someone wounded or killed is not systematically collected at this time.

#### **GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS**

Every year, an average of 289 people in Kentucky die by gun homicides and 494 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 6.9 homicides and 11.0 assaults per 100,000 people. Kentucky has the 17th-highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Kentucky, 83% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 78% nationwide.

# Gun Homicides By Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky



#### **INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES**

There is insufficient data on intimate partner homicides for Kentucky. In the US, 66% of female intimate partner homicide victims are killed with a gun.