

# Gun Violence in Kentucky

## OVERVIEW

**In an average year, 880 people die and 1,857 are wounded by guns in Kentucky. Kentucky has the 11th-highest rate of gun violence in the US.**



**Data on states and counties:**  
[EveryStat.org](https://EveryStat.org)

### SOURCES:

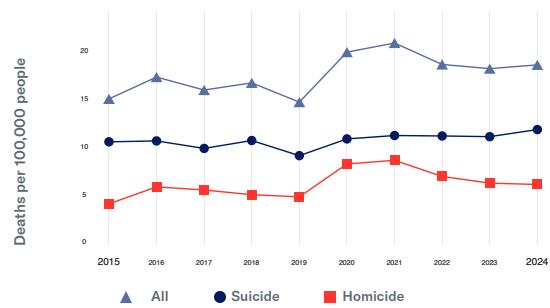
Gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2020–2024 (provisional).  
 Gun violence trends: CDC, WONDER, 2015–2024 (provisional).  
 Gun injuries: Everytown analysis of Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) data, 2020.  
 Cost of gun violence: Ted R. Miller and Bruce Lawrence analysis of CDC 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](https://EveryStat.org)

Updated: December 2025

## GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Kentucky, the rate of gun deaths increased 23% from 2015 to 2024, compared to a 18% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides increased 12% and gun homicides increased 48%, compared to a 19% increase and a 16% increase nationwide, respectively.

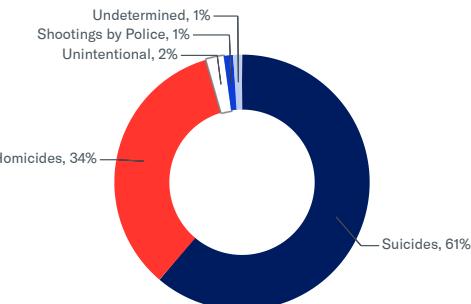


## COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

## GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

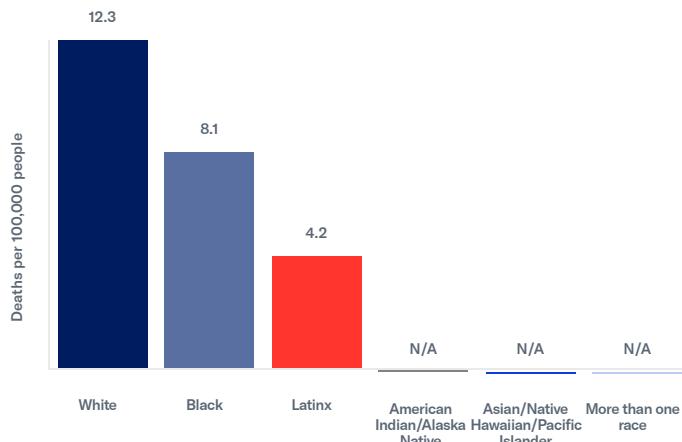
In Kentucky, 61% of gun deaths are suicides and 36% are homicides (including shootings by police). This is compared to 57% and 41% nationwide, respectively.



## GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Every year, an average of 539 people in Kentucky die by gun suicides and 49 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 11.4 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.

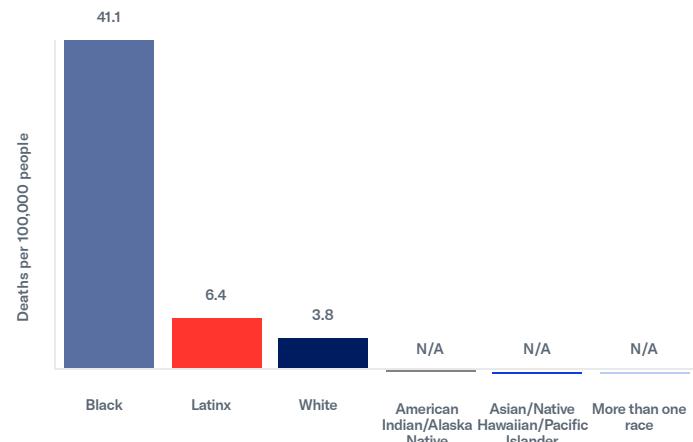
### Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky



## GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS

Every year, an average of 313 people in Kentucky die by gun homicides and 494 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 7.4 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, 84% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 79% nationwide.

### Gun Homicides By Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky



## CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Kentucky. In Kentucky, an average of 84 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 36% of these deaths are suicides and 56% are homicides. In the US, 29% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 65% are homicides.

### SOURCES:

Gun suicides and gun homicides: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2020–2024 (provisional). 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: 2020–2024 (provisional), ages 0–19; Leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2024 (provisional), ages 1–19.

Intimate partner homicides: CDC, National Violent Death Reporting System, three-year average: 2020–2022.

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.

[EveryStat.org](https://www.EveryStat.org)

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## INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

There is insufficient data on intimate partner homicides for Kentucky. In the US, 69% of female intimate partner homicide victims are killed with a gun.