Gun Violence in Massachusetts

OVERVIEW

In an average year, 255 people die and 557 are wounded by guns in Massachusetts. Massachusetts has the lowest rate of gun violence in the US.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME

In Massachusetts, the rate of gun deaths stayed the same from 2012 to 2021, compared to a 39% increase nationwide. The rate of gun suicides decreased 18% and gun homicides increased 32% compared to a 19% increase and 73% increase nationwide, respectively.

COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Massachusetts has the lowest societal cost of gun violence in the US at $503 per resident each year. Gun deaths and injuries cost Massachusetts $3.5 billion each year, of which $85.4 million is paid by taxpayers.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT

In Massachusetts, 55% of gun deaths are suicides and 42% are homicides. This is compared to 57% and 40% nationwide, respectively.

SOURCES:


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 2023
GUN SUICIDES AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
Every year, an average of 140 people in Massachusetts die by gun suicides and 19 are wounded by gun suicide attempts—a rate of 1.8 suicides and 0.3 suicide attempts per 100,000 people. Massachusetts has the 2nd-lowest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.

Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in Massachusetts

GUN HOMICIDES AND ASSAULTS
Every year, an average of 111 people in Massachusetts die by gun homicides and 271 are wounded by gun assaults—a rate of 1.6 homicides and 3.9 assaults per 100,000 people. Massachusetts has the 3rd-lowest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Massachusetts, 65% of all homicides involve a gun, compared to 78% nationwide.

Gun Homicides By Race/Ethnicity in Massachusetts

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS
In Massachusetts, an average of 16 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 21% of these deaths are suicides and 78% are homicides. In the US, 33% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 62% are homicides.

CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

INTIMATE PARTNER Homicides
In 2020, fewer than 10 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Massachusetts. 38% of female intimate partner homicide victims were killed with a gun, compared to 66% nationwide.

Female Intimate Partner Firearm Homicides by Race/Ethnicity in Massachusetts

SOURCES:


Children and teens gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, four-year average: 2018–2021, ages 0–19; Leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2021, ages 1–19.


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.