

# GUN VIOLENCE IN WASHINGTON STATE BY THE NUMBERS



**Gun violence is a public health crisis impacting every corner of the state.** Though every Washingtonian is impacted by the gun violence epidemic, we are not impacted equally. These numbers help illustrate the crisis in our communities.

## FAST FACTS

Every year, **896 Washingtonians are killed by guns**, a rate of 11.2 per 100,000 people.

Someone is killed by a gun **every 10 hours** in Washington state. Across the United States, someone is killed by a gun every **11 minutes**.

**69 percent of gun deaths in Washington are suicides.**

For two years in a row, gun violence is the **leading cause of death for children and teens**.

Gun violence costs Washington state an average of **\$11.8 billion every year**.

**234 people** have been fatally shot by Washington police since 2015.

More people are killed by guns than die in **car accidents** in Washington.

Washington has the **40th highest rate** of gun violence in the United States.

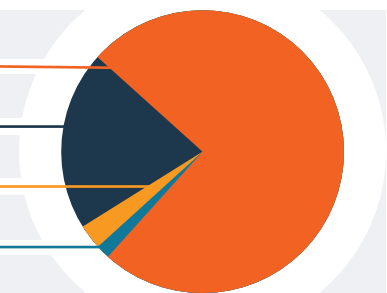
## GUN VIOLENCE BY INTENT

**Suicide 69%**

**Homicide** (including domestic) **28%**

**Police Involved 2%**

**Other 1%**



**SUICIDE:** The vast majority of gun deaths in Washington state—about **70 percent**—are suicides. White people have the highest rate of gun suicide in Washington at a rate at 9.0 per 100,000 people.

**HOMICIDE:** 73 percent of all homicides in Washington involve firearms. Homicides, including police shootings, account for **28 percent** of all gun deaths in the state and disproportionately impact Black communities. Black Washingtonians are about eight times more likely to die by gun homicide than white Washingtonians.



**POLICE VIOLENCE:** Since 2015, **234 people** have been fatally shot by law enforcement in Washington. While white people represent the largest number of victims of police violence, BIPOC Washingtonians are disproportionately likely to be fatally shot by police. For example, 40 percent of victims of fatal police shootings were white but white people account for 61 percent of the state population.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** **56 percent** of intimate partner homicides in Washington are carried out with a firearm. Perpetrators of domestic violence homicide in Washington use firearms more often than all other weapons combined. Women account for **80 percent** of intimate partner homicide victims in Washington.

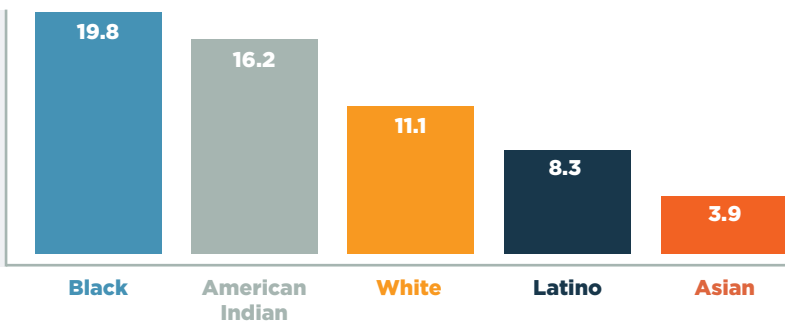
**CHILDREN AND TEENS:** Firearms are the **leading cause of death for children and teens in Washington state**. While school shootings dominate the narrative around children and gun violence, young people are more likely to be victims of unintentional shootings, domestic violence, or suicide. In fact, suicide accounts for **51 percent** of all youth firearm deaths in Washington. Black children and teens in Washington are twice as likely to be killed by a gun as their white peers.

**RACE AND ETHNICITY:** Black, Indigenous, and people of color in Washington are significantly more likely to be killed by a gun than white people. Black Washingtonians are killed by a gun at the highest rate in the state—16 per 100,000 people—followed closely by American Indian and Alaska Native people, who are fatally shot at a rate of 15.8 per 100,000 people.

**ALL FIREARM DEATHS**  
per 100,000 people in  
Washington

CDC, UNDERLYING CAUSE OF  
DEATH, FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE:  
2018-2021

Deaths per 100,000 People



**GUN VIOLENCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** Beginning in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic increased the risks of all types of gun violence. Washington, like the country as a whole, saw a record number of murders in 2020. From 2019 to 2021, the gun homicide rate in Washington increased 52%. Fortunately, the suicide rate declined 6% in Washington between 2019 and 2021, defying most predictions and going against the national increase in firearm suicide rate. While it is not possible to identify one reason, it's clear that the presence of suicide prevention policies like Extreme Risk Protection Orders, voluntary waivers, and safe storage incentives, work to reduce gun suicide.

**To learn how to be part of the gun violence prevention movement,  
go to [wagunresponsibility.org](http://wagunresponsibility.org)**

SOURCE: Unless otherwise linked, data is from CDC WONDER, UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH, 2015-2019

