

# 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

**887 Washingtonians are killed by guns** annually, at a rate of 11.6 per 100,000 people

Someone is killed by a gun **every 9 hours** in Washington state. Across the United States, someone is killed by a gun every **11 minutes**.

In 2022, 27,032 people died by firearm suicide in the US, the highest number ever recorded. **65 percent of gun deaths in Washington are suicides.**

Since 2020, gun violence has been the **leading cause of death for children and teens**, both nationally and in our state. 124 Washingtonians under the age of 25 died as a result of gun violence in 2022.

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

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

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

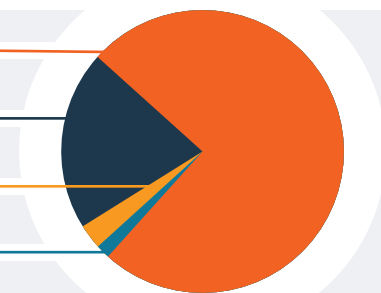
## GUN VIOLENCE BY INTENT

**Suicide 65%**

**Homicide** (including domestic) **30.5%**

**Police Involved 4%**

**Undetermined .5%**



**SUICIDE:** The vast majority of gun deaths in Washington state—**65%**—are suicides. White people have the highest rate of gun suicide in Washington at a rate at 9.0 per 100,000 people, followed closely by American Indian and Alaskan Native people at 8.4 people per 100,000.

**HOMICIDE:** 74% of all homicides in Washington involve firearms. Homicides, including police shootings, account for over 30% of all gun deaths in the state and disproportionately impact Black communities. Black Washingtonians are **over 8 times** more likely to die by gun homicide than white Washingtonians.

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



**POLICE VIOLENCE:** Since 2015, **273 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% of victims of fatal police shootings were white but white people account for about 70% of the state population.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** In 2021, **54% of domestic violence-related homicides** were committed by a firearm in Washington. We know that a woman is 5 times more likely to die in a domestic violence homicide when her abuser has access to a firearm.

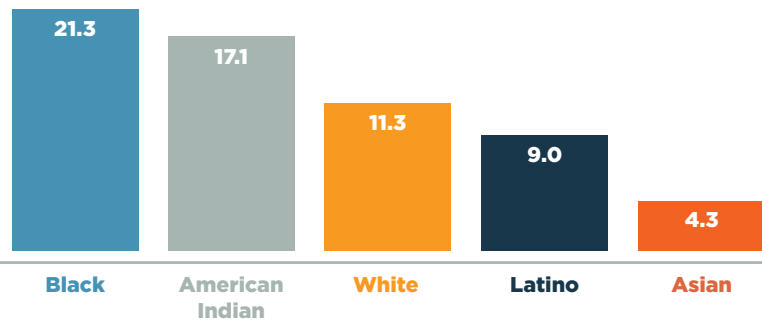
**CHILDREN AND TEENS:** Firearms are the **leading cause of death for children and teens in Washington state**. While school shootings dominate the narrative around children and gun violence, young people are more likely to be victims of unintentional shootings, domestic violence, or suicide. In fact, suicide accounts for 53% of all youth firearm deaths in Washington. Black children and teens in Washington are three times as likely to be killed by a gun as their white peers.

**RACE AND ETHNICITY:** Black, Indigenous, and people of color in Washington are 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—21.3 per 100,000 people—followed closely by American Indian and Alaska Native people, who are fatally shot at a rate of 17.1 per 100,000 people.

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

CDC, UNDERLYING CAUSE OF  
DEATH, FOUR-YEAR AVERAGE:  
2018-2022

Deaths per 100,000 People



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Source: Unless otherwise linked, data is from CDC WONDER, UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH, FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE: 2018-2022

