

UNITED STATES GUN DEATHS: 2019

39,707

gun deaths in the U.S., including

3,390

children and teens (0-19)



86% MALE

Males are 6 times more likely to die by gun violence than females.



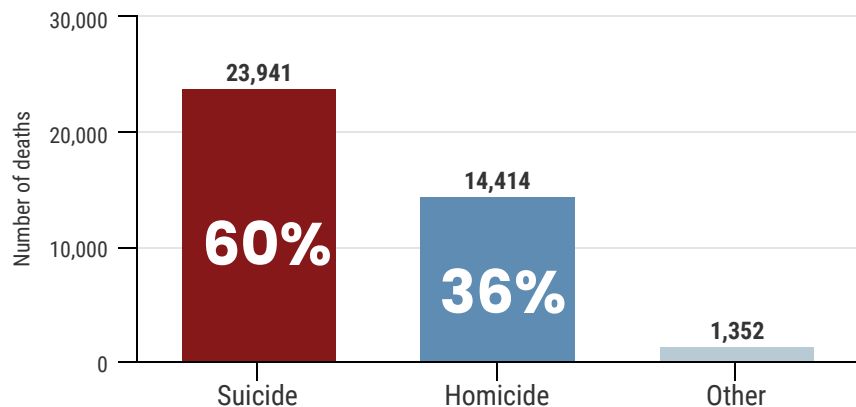
**FIREARMS WERE THE
LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH
FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND
YOUNG ADULTS AGES 1-24.**

FIREARMS ARE A UNIQUELY LETHAL INJURY METHOD

- In 2019, 14 times as many Americans died by a gunshot than by cutting/piercing (knife, etc.)
- Nearly 9 times more Americans died by a gunshot than by drowning.
- Nearly 13 times more Americans died by a gunshot than in a fire.

GUN DEATHS BY INTENT, 2019

In 2019, nearly 40,000 people were killed by gun violence, including over 14,400 by homicide and nearly 24,000 by suicide. Gun violence killed nearly 109 Americans daily, bringing the most recent five-year average (2015-2019) to 106 gun deaths per day.

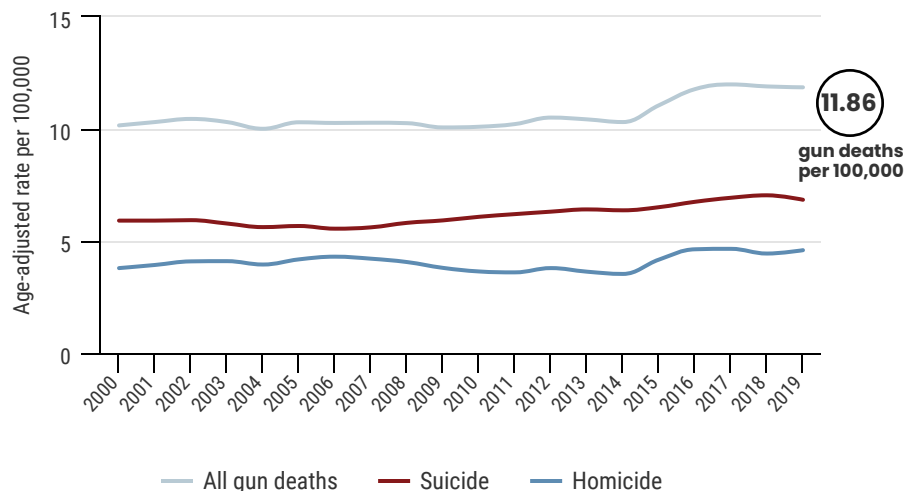


TRENDS OVER TIME

Starting in 2015, the overall gun death rate has continually increased, with few exceptions, driven by a significant spike in firearm homicides and steady growth in firearm suicides.

Over the last two decades, the most recent five years have been the deadliest. The year 2019 capped a two-decade period during which nearly 570,000 lives were lost to gun violence -- similar to the entire population of Wyoming.

Since the U.S. lacks a standard and timely system for collecting and reporting gun deaths, official mortality data for 2020 will not be released until December 2021. However, there are indications that homicides rose dramatically in 2020, and emerging data suggest there may be a disproportionate rise in suicides among Black Americans.



U.S. GUN DEATHS: HOMICIDES, 2019

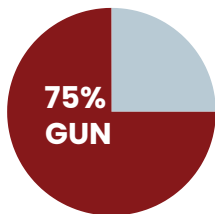
14,414

firearm homicide deaths in the U.S.,
including

2,023

children and teens (0-19)

HOMICIDES BY METHOD



The majority of homicides are
committed with firearms.

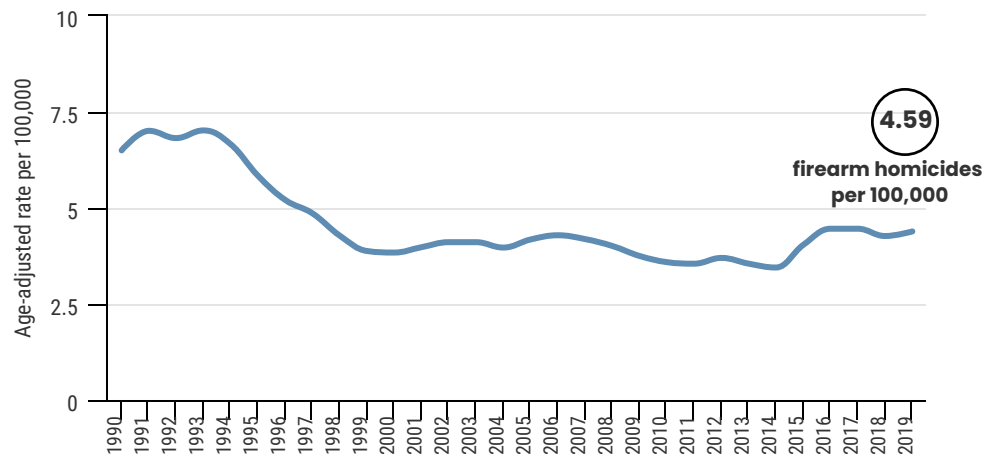
Guns are used in homicides nearly 9
times more often than the second
most common method
(cutting/piercing) and 30 times more
than suffocation.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Males are 5 times more likely to be firearm homicide victims than females.
- In 2019, 53% of all firearm homicide victims were Black males. Across all ages, Black men were 14 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than White men.
- Young Black males (ages 15-34) make up 2% of the population but account for 37% of all gun homicide fatalities. Their rate of firearm homicide was more than 20 times higher than White males of the same age group in 2019.

FIREARM HOMICIDE TRENDS OVER TIME

After years of decline in the 1990s and early 2000s, the firearm homicide rate began increasing in 2015. While no official U.S. gun death data has been released for 2020, preliminary data suggests the firearm homicide rate rose substantially in 2020.



GEOGRAPHY OF HOMICIDE



BY CENSUS DIVISION: The firearm homicide rate is consistently highest in the South (specifically the states in the East South Central division) and lowest in New England -- the firearm homicide rate is nearly six times higher in the deep Southern states (Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky) than in New England states.



BY STATE: Among the states in 2019, Mississippi had the highest firearm homicide rate, followed by Louisiana, Alabama, New Mexico, and South Carolina.



BY URBANIZATION: The rate of firearm homicide is highest in the most urban counties (large central metro counties) and lowest in the suburban counties (large fringe metro counties).

U.S. GUN DEATHS: SUICIDES, 2019

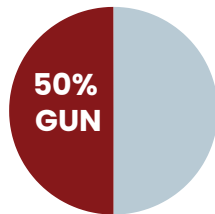
23,941

firearm suicide deaths in the U.S.,
including

1,167

children and teens (0-19)

SUICIDES BY METHOD



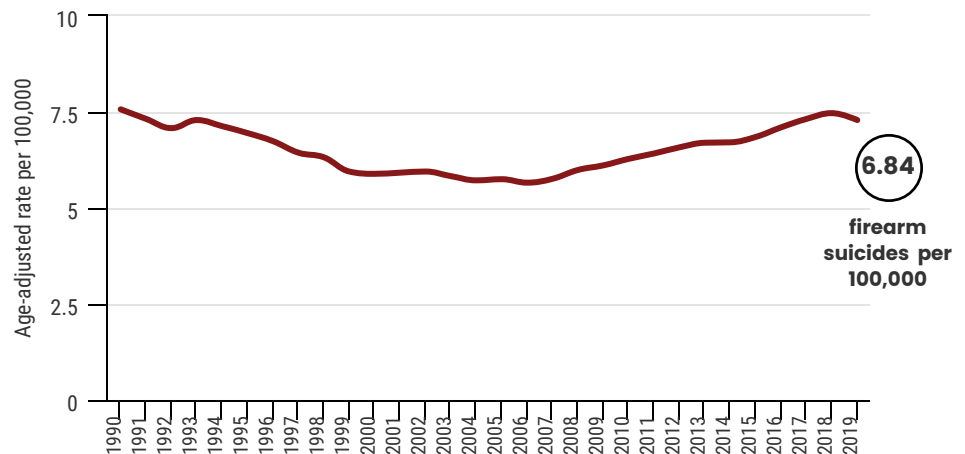
- Firearms are involved in less than 5% of suicide attempts, but are used in 50% of all suicide deaths.
- Firearms are uniquely lethal -- 90% of suicide attempts involving firearms are lethal.
- While poisoning is the most commonly used suicide *attempt* method (used in approximately 60% of all suicidal acts), they are lethal less than 3% of the time.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Males are nearly 7 times more likely to die by firearm suicide than females.
- White males have the highest rates of firearm suicide and the risk increases across the lifespan, peaking at ages 75+.
- Among all other demographic groups, the risk of suicide is highest among young and middle-aged adults.

FIREARM SUICIDE TRENDS OVER TIME

The change in the firearm suicide rate from year to year has been consistently and steadily increasing, with only a few exceptions, since the early 2000s. In 2019, there was a slight reprieve, with the rate dropping by nearly 3% from 2018.



GEOGRAPHY OF FIREARM SUICIDE



BY CENSUS DIVISION: The firearm suicide rate is highest in the Mountain division states and lowest in the Mid Atlantic division states -- the risk of firearm suicide was 3.3 times higher in the Mountain states than in Mid Atlantic states in 2019.



BY STATE: Among the states in 2019, Wyoming had the highest firearm suicide rate, followed by Montana, Alaska, New Mexico, and Idaho. Conversely, New Jersey had the lowest firearm suicide rate, followed by Massachusetts, New York, and Hawaii.



BY URBANIZATION: The firearm suicide rate increases as counties become more rural. Rural counties have the highest rate of firearm suicide -- in 2019 the rate was 2.6 times higher in rural counties compared to the most urban counties (large central metro) counties. However, because the total population is concentrated in metropolitan areas, the majority of firearm suicides (78%) still occur in more heavily populated areas (metro counties), despite the lower rates.