THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN NEW JERSEY

While New Jersey has the sixth-lowest gun death rate in the nation, 482 New Jerseyans are still killed with a gun each year. State lawmakers must continue to enact proactive gun safety measures.

GUN SUICIDE
• Nearly 40% of gun deaths in New Jersey are suicides, and nearly a quarter of all suicide deaths in New Jersey involve firearms.
• From 2013 to 2017, 957 people in New Jersey died by gun-related suicide.

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE
• Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on urban communities of color.
• Black men make up less than 8% of New Jersey’s population, but account for more than 70% of the state’s gun homicide victims.
• In New Jersey, black men ages 18–24 are more than 90 times more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
• Guns make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death.
• Nearly 40% of New Jersey’s intimate partner homicides involve a gun.
• From 2007 to 2016, 82 women were killed with a gun by their intimate partner in New Jersey.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUNS
• Exposure to gun violence can cause lasting trauma in young people, leading to PTSD, chronic stress, and decreased future earnings.
• From 2013 to 2017, 603 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in New Jersey.
• Guns are the third-leading cause of death for New Jersey children ages 1–17.

New Jersey earned an A on our Annual Gun Law Scorecard. Visit gunlawscorecard.org to learn how to raise your state’s grade.

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE:
$3.3 BILLION
$368 PER RESIDENT

Someone is killed with a gun every 18 hours in New Jersey. That’s 482 people a year.

PROVEN SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE IN NEW JERSEY
New Jersey has some of the strongest gun laws in the country. The state has the sixth-lowest gun death rate and the nation’s lowest crime gun export rate. To further strengthen New Jersey’s gun laws, legislators could increase funding to proven community violence intervention programs and require firearms to be stored safely when not in use. Learn more about New Jersey’s gun laws at lawcenter.giffords.org/NJ.

Published January 2020. Sources: CDC WONDER, FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports.