



FACT SHEET

Virginia Gun Violence

October 2016

Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Virginia

- From 2005 to 2014, 8,518 people were killed with a gun in Virginia.¹
- From 2005 to 2014, 1.6 times more people in Virginia were killed with guns than the total number of soldiers killed in combat in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.²
- Virginia is one of the 21 states where more people are killed with guns than in car accidents.³

The burden of gun violence in Virginia falls disproportionately on communities of color

- While African Americans make up close to 20 percent of the state population, they account for approximately 66 percent of gun-related homicide victims in the state.⁴

Domestic violence and access to guns is a lethal combination in Virginia

- From 2005 to 2014, 188 women were fatally shot by their intimate partner in Virginia.⁵
- Virginia ranked 14th-worst in the nation for the rate of gun-related murders of women by intimate partners from 2005 to 2014, with a rate of 4.64 per every 1 million women.⁶

Gun-related suicides are a substantial problem in Virginia

- From 2005 to 2014, a gun-related suicide occurred every 16 hours.⁷
- From 2005 to 2014, 5,541 people in Virginia died by a gun-related suicide.⁸

Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Virginia

- From 2005 to 2014, 840 people younger than age 21 were killed by gun violence in Virginia.⁹



In Virginia, a person is killed with a gun every 10 hours.¹³



From 2005 to 2014, **1.6 times** more people were killed with a gun in Virginia than U.S. soldiers killed in combat in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.

Weak gun laws make Virginia a favorite state for illegal gun traffickers to purchase guns

- Virginia has the ninth-highest rate of crime gun exports—guns sold in Virginia that are later used in crimes in other states—in the country.¹⁰
- With a rate of 31.6 per every 100,000 people, Virginia had a rate of interstate crime gun trafficking that was 60 percent higher than the national average from 2010 to 2015.¹¹

Virginia residents strongly support common-sense measures to prevent gun violence

- A 2015 poll found that 86 percent of Virginia voters supported requiring a background check for every gun sale.¹²



The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gives Virginia a D for the strength of its gun laws.¹⁴



86% of Virginia voters supported requiring a background check for every gun sale.

Endnotes

1 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html> (last accessed June 2016).

2 Ibid; U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Casualty Status (2015), available at <http://www.defense.gov/casualty.pdf>. This number was calculated using the number of deaths from the start of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, respectively, to June 22, 2016.

3 Violence Policy Center, "Gun Deaths Outpace Motor Vehicle Deaths in 21 States and the District of Columbia in 2014" (2016), available at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/guns-vs-cars16.pdf>.

4 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."

5 Center for American Progress analysis of Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplemental Homicide Data (U.S. Department of Justice, 2005–2014); "Intimate partners" includes boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, wives, ex-wives, ex-husbands, common law wives, and common law husbands. The authors only considered those cases with one victim and one aggressor.

6 Ibid.

7 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Authors' analysis of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, "Firearms Trace Data" (2010–2015), available at <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics> (last accessed July 2016).

11 Ibid.

12 Public Policy Polling, "Virginians Favor Background Checks, Paid Sick Days," available at http://www.publicpolicypolling.com/pdf/2015/PPP_Release_VA_72115.pdf.

13 Center for American Progress analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS): Fatal Injury Data."

14 Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, "2015 Gun Law State Scorecard," available at <http://gunlawscorecard.org/> (last accessed May 2016).