



FACT SHEET

# Washington Gun Violence

October 2016

## Gun violence takes a devastating toll on Washington

- From 2005 to 2014, 6,119 people were killed with guns in Washington.<sup>1</sup>
- From 2005 to 2014, more people in Washington were killed with guns than the total number of soldiers killed in combat in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.<sup>2</sup>
- Washington is one of the 21 states where more people are killed with guns than in car accidents.<sup>3</sup>

## The burden of gun violence in Washington falls disproportionately on communities of color

While African Americans make up close to 5 percent of the state population, they account for approximately 18 percent of gun-related homicide victims in the state.<sup>4</sup>

While Hispanics make up close to 11 percent of the state population, they account for approximately 21 percent of gun-related homicide victims in the state.<sup>5</sup>

## Gun-related suicides are a substantial problem in Washington

- From 2005 to 2014, a gun-related suicide occurred every 19 hours.<sup>6</sup>
- From 2005 to 2014, 4,639 people in Washington died by a gun-related suicide.<sup>7</sup>

## Young people are killed with guns in high numbers in Washington

- From 2005 to 2014, 516 people younger than age 21 were killed by gun violence in Washington.<sup>8</sup>



In Washington,  
a person is killed  
with a gun every  
14 hours.<sup>11</sup>



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

From 2006 to 2015 Washington had one of the highest rates of mass shootings in the nation

- From 2006 to 2015, Washington had the 12th-highest rate of mass shootings defined as four or more people fatally shot during a single incident.<sup>9</sup>

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

- During 2014, around 60 percent of Washington state voters approved a ballot initiative to expand background checks.<sup>10</sup>

From 2005 to 2014,

# 516

young people under 21 were killed with a gun in Washington.

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## 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\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.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 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Center for American Progress analysis of USA Today, "Behind the Bloodshed: The Untold Story of America's Mass Killings," available at <http://www.gannett-cdn.com/GDContent/mass-killings/index.html#title> (last accessed June 2016). The authors of this fact sheet analyzed those cases where four people or more were killed and guns were used in all or the majority of the murders. The rate is per every 1 million people.

10 Sabrina Siddiqui, "Washington State Gun Control: Voters Approve Ballot Initiative to Expand Background Checks," *The Huffington Post*, November 6, 2014, available at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/05/washington-state-background-checks\\_n\\_6103282.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/05/washington-state-background-checks_n_6103282.html).

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