

# GUN VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

Make community safety a priority



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## GUN DEATH RATE

The gun death rate per 1,000 people in the state of Pennsylvania in 2018 was 12.4%. The national gun death rate per 1,000 people is 11.9%. PA ranks 26th in gun death rate per state.

<https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/#map>



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## GUN VIOLENCE AFFECTS EVERYONE

Homicide in big cities is not the only type of gun violence communities experience. Roughly 63% of firearm related deaths in Pennsylvania in 2015 were suicides. Suicides by firearm disproportionately affect white men while homicides disproportionately affect black men. Police officers are often victims of violence involving long guns. Women are more likely to be murdered in domestic violence situations where guns are present in the home.

<https://www.publicsource.org/myths-and-truths-about-gun-violence-in-pennsylvania/>



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## STRONGER GUN LAWS ARE CORRELATED WITH LESS GUN VIOLENCE

PA ranks 12th in gun law strength out of the 50 states in 2018 according to the Gifford's Law Center, however, the state still only received a C+ and major gun loopholes remain. Its gun death rate is still slightly above the national average, despite measures to increase the strength of its gun laws.

<https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/#rankings>

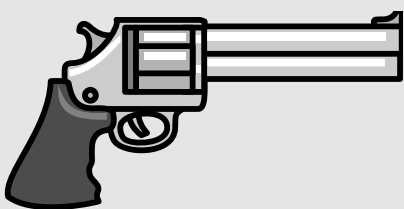


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## GUN TRAFFICKING

Between 2012 and 2014 5,844 guns were exported out of Pennsylvania, used in violent crime, and recovered in other states. Laws mandating the reporting of lost and stolen guns would curb the number of guns trafficked to other states.

<https://lawcenter.giffords.org/scorecard/#rankings>



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## PURCHASING A GUN IN PA

In order to buy a gun in PA, you do not need a license and there is no waiting period. There are no limits on the amount of guns or ammunition you can buy. You must have a background check in order to purchase any kind of gun from a federally licensed dealer. However, if you are buying a **long gun** from a **private seller** you are **NOT** required to have a background check. Gun owners are not legally required to register their guns, report lost or stolen guns, or store their guns in locked safes.

<https://www.ceasefirepa.org/videos-2/t>