Targeting Gun Violence in Minnesota

An analysis of gun deaths in Minnesota in 2017

Prepared by Protect Minnesota

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1,234 Minnesotans were shot in 2017—more than three per day.

In 2017, the last year for which CDC data is available, there were 465 deaths by firearms in Minnesota, which resulted in a gun death rate of 8.2 per 100,000 population. This is an increase from 2016, when there were 432 deaths by firearms in Minnesota. In addition, 769 Minnesotans suffered non-fatal hospital-treated injuries from firearms in 2017, up from 574 in 2016. Together, gun deaths and injuries increased 23% in just one year!

Nearly 80% of gun deaths in Minnesota are suicides.

In 2017, 365 Minnesotans died by gun suicide—one every day. Gun suicides increased 65% between 2000-2017 in Minnesota while gun homicides increased less than 3% during the same time span. The average gun suicide victim in Minnesota is a white male who lives in a rural area.

Gun violence has been steadily increasing in Minnesota—at faster than the national average.

Between 2000 and 2017, deaths from firearms increased 50% in Minnesota. During the same period, gun deaths increased 38% nationally.

All information on this page was received or calculated from 2000-2017 Minnesota gun death statistics from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Gun violence affects all ages in Minnesota—especially the young.

Youth and young adults between the ages of 15-25 made up the largest percentage of gun deaths in 2017; both gun suicide and gun homicide peaked in that age range. There was another peak in gun suicides in the 56-60 age range.

**Minnesota gun deaths by age range and type in 2017**

![Graph](Image)

Calculated from data from 2017 gun death statistics from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Gun violence impacts every Minnesota community, but takes different forms in different parts of the state.

**Minnesota gun deaths by region in 2017**

Although two-thirds of Minnesotans live in the Twin Cities, nearly half of all gun deaths in 2017 occurred in Greater Minnesota.

A disproportionate number of gun suicides took place in Greater Minnesota, while more than three-quarters of gun homicides occurred in the metro area.

Over 80% of unintentional and uncategorized shootings happened in Greater Minnesota.

More Minnesotans die from guns than from car accidents or opioids.

Once again in 2017, more Minnesotans lost their lives to guns than either car accidents or opioids.

1dps.mn.gov Crash Facts 2017
2“Minnesota’s Corporate Leaders Join Fight Against Opioids”, Star Tribune, September 18, 2018
3Minnesota Department of Health 2017 gun death statistics.

2017 Cause of death comparison

- 358 Minnesotans died in car accidents
- 401 Minnesotans died from opioids
- 465 Minnesotans died from firearms

Gun violence in Minnesota steals more than lives.

Based on expenses that can be directly measured, the initial price tag of gun violence in Minnesota is $764 million per year. When the reduced quality of life attributable to pain and suffering is taken into account, the estimate rises to $2.2 billion per year — as much as two new Vikings stadiums.

The High Costs of Gun Violence in Minnesota

- $31 million Law Enforcement
- $32 million Healthcare
- $4.5 million Employer Costs
- $696 million Lost Wages
- $764 million Directly Measurable Costs

- $1.4 billion Quality of Life Costs
- $64 million Hospital Costs
- $41 million Emergency Dept. Costs
- $1.3 billion Fatal Injuries

The mission of Protect Minnesota is to promote a culture of health and safety for all Minnesotans by preventing gun violence through research, legislation, education and community investment. Founded in 1991, Protect Minnesota is the only independent, state-based gun violence prevention organization in Minnesota. As a 501.(c)(3) non-profit organization, we receive no funding from national gun violence prevention groups. Go to www.protectmn.org for more information, or email info@protectmn.org.