

**PROTECT  
MINNESOTA**  
working together to prevent gun violence



*Targeting  
Gun Violence  
in Minnesota*



An analysis of gun deaths  
in Minnesota in 2017

Prepared by  
Protect Minnesota

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# Targeting Gun Violence in Minnesota

An analysis of gun deaths in Minnesota in 2017



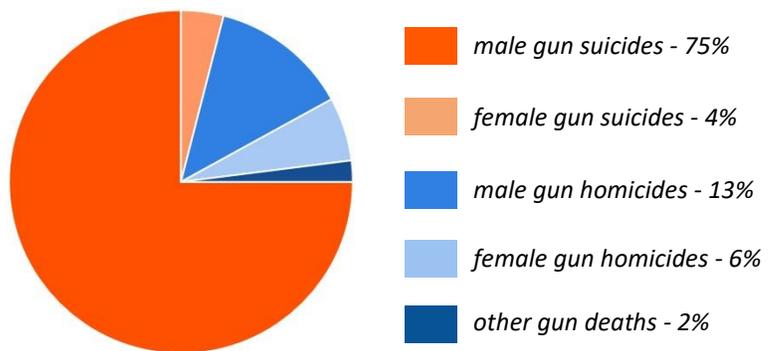
**1,234 Minnesotans were shot in 2017—more than three per day.**

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.

**Minnesota gun deaths by gender and type in 2017**



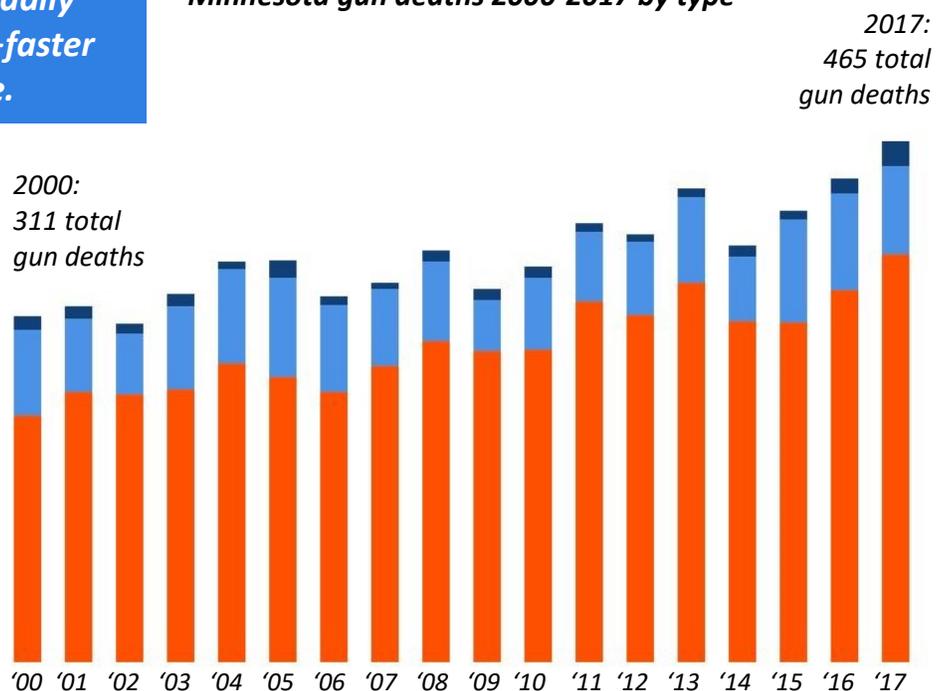
**Gun violence has been steadily increasing in Minnesota—faster than the national average.**

Between 2000 and 2017, deaths from firearms **increased 50%** in Minnesota.

During the same period, gun deaths increased **38%** nationally.



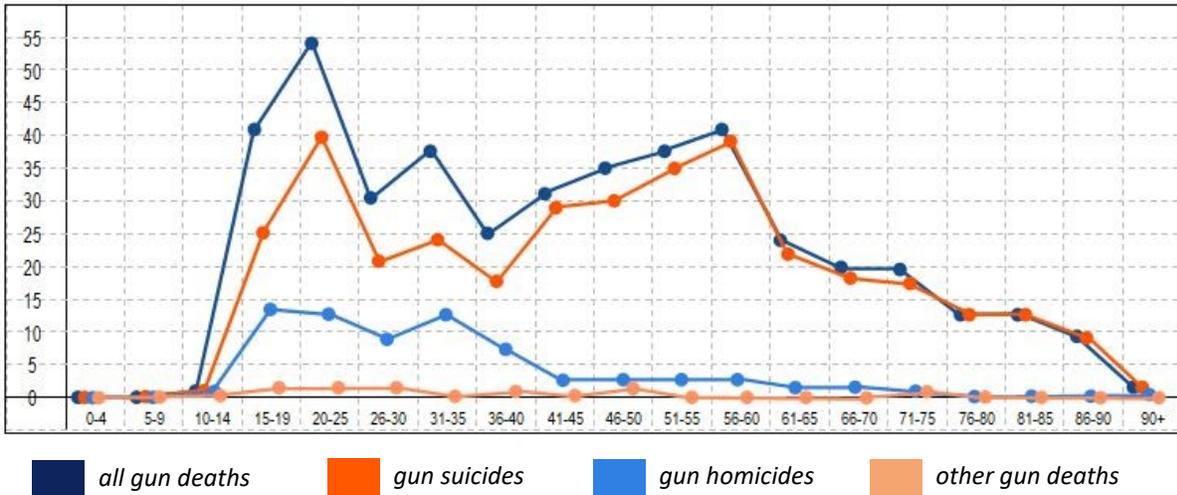
**Minnesota gun deaths 2000-2017 by type**



## 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.

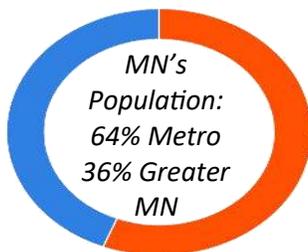
**Minnesota gun deaths by age range and type in 2017**



Calculated from 2017 Minnesota 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.



■ Twin Cities Metro
 ■ Greater Minnesota

Calculated from data from 2017 gun death statistics from the Minnesota Department of Health and *United States: Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metro Area, 213 Zip Codes.*

**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.

<sup>1</sup>dps.mn.gov Crash Facts 2017

<sup>2</sup>"Minnesota's Corporate Leaders Join Fight Against Opioids", Star Tribune, September 18, 2018

<sup>3</sup>Minnesota Department of Health 2017 gun death statistics.

**2017 Cause of death comparison**

358 Minnesotans died in car accidents<sup>1</sup>

401 Minnesotans died from opioids<sup>2</sup>

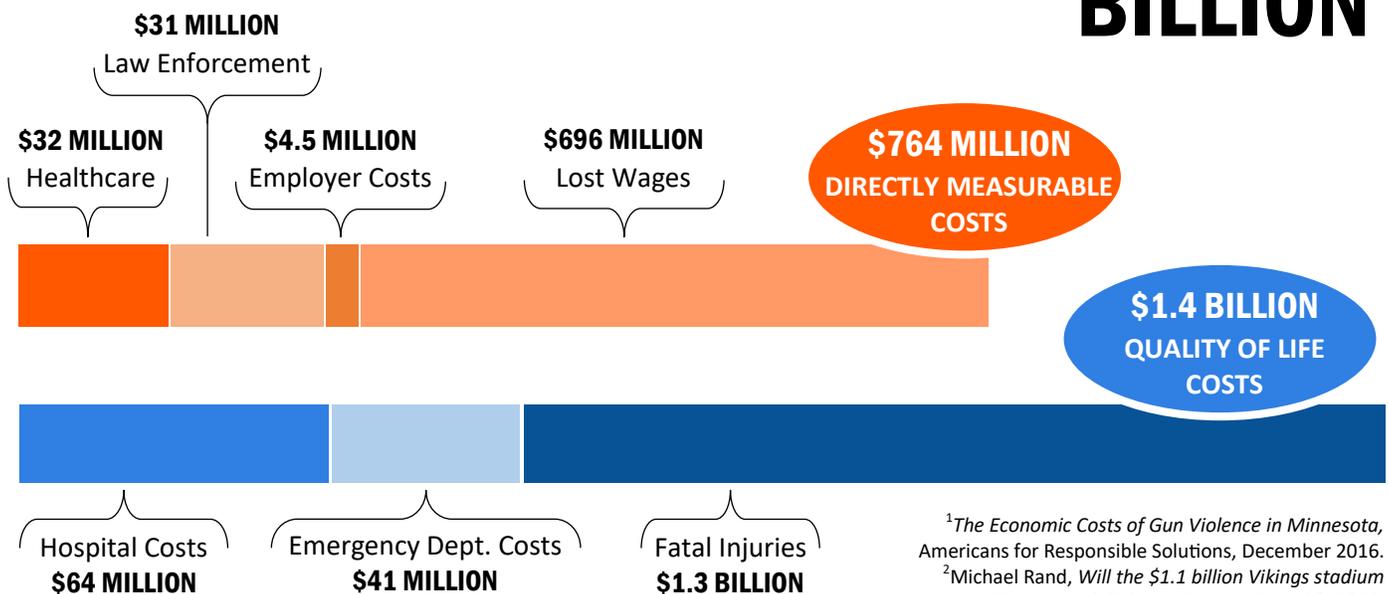
465 Minnesotans died from firearms<sup>3</sup>

**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<sup>1</sup> — as much as two new Vikings stadiums!<sup>2</sup>

**\$2.2  
BILLION**

**The High Costs of Gun Violence in Minnesota**



<sup>1</sup>The Economic Costs of Gun Violence in Minnesota, Americans for Responsible Solutions, December 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Michael Rand, Will the \$1.1 billion Vikings stadium look like a bargain?, Star Tribune, March 28, 2018.



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](http://www.protectmn.org) for more information, or email [info@protectmn.org](mailto:info@protectmn.org).