

Children's Defense Fund

Protect Children, Not Guns

Gun Violence in the States, 2000-2010



January 18, 2013

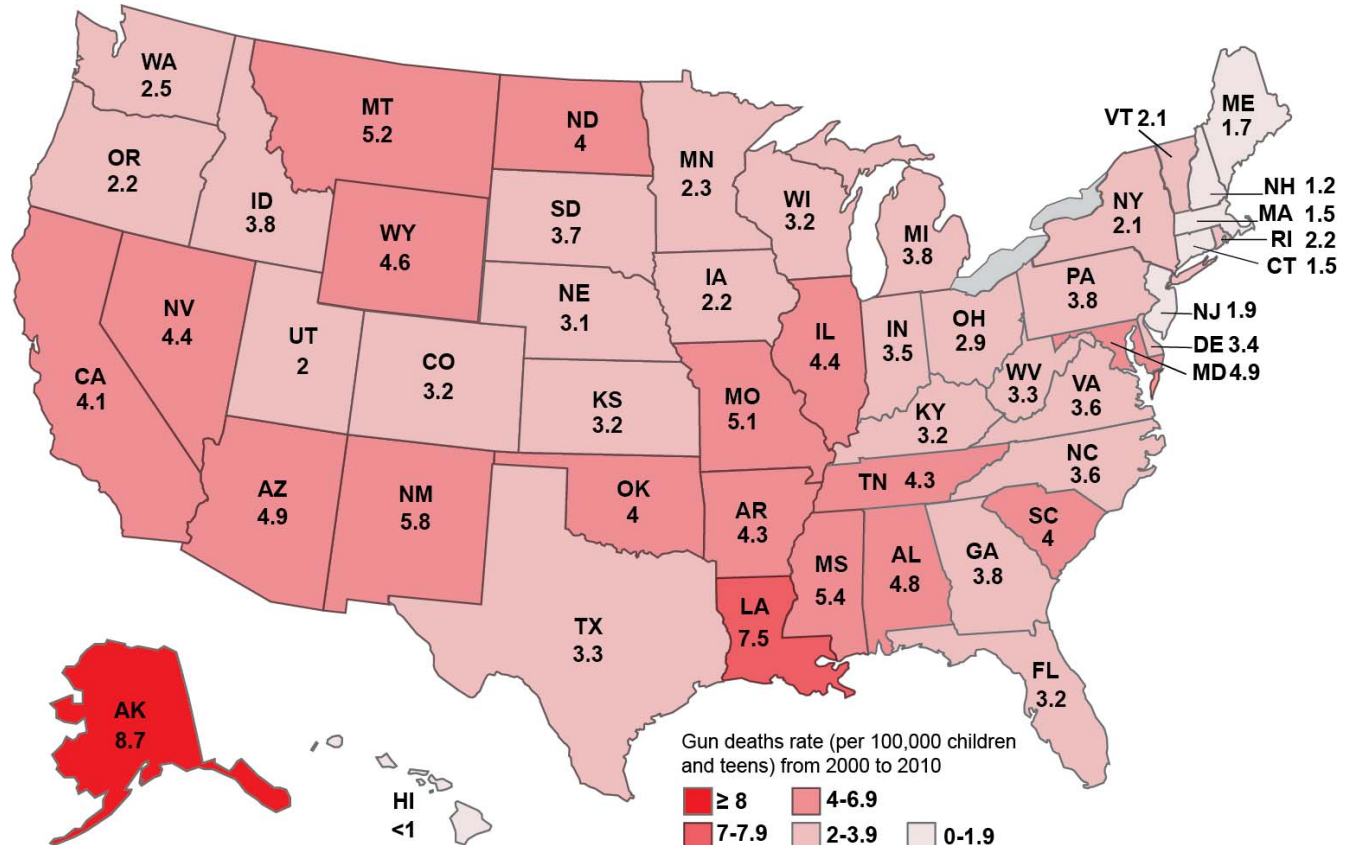
Children and teens die from gun violence in all states.

- In the 11 years following the Columbine High School shooting, a total of 32,108 children and teens died in gun homicides, suicides and accidents across the United States. This is an average of 2,919 children and teens, or 117 classrooms of 25 children each, dying every year for 11 years.
- Every state lost children to gun violence between 2000 and 2010. The number of deaths varied from 15 in Hawaii to 4,668 in California.

The risk of children and teens dying from guns varies widely from state to state.

- The deadliest state was Alaska with 8.7 gun deaths for every 100,000 children and teens each year, more than twice the nationwide rate of 3.6. Alaska was 21 times more deadly for children and teens than the safest state, Hawaii.

Rate of Child and Teen Gun Deaths by State



Highest 10 states for overall gun deaths of children and teens

Gun deaths per 100,000 children and teens each year (Number of deaths 2000-2010)		
Alaska	8.7	(197)
Louisiana	7.5	(1,063)
New Mexico	5.8	(360)
Mississippi	5.4	(508)
Montana	5.2	(145)
Missouri	5.1	(888)
Maryland	4.9	(819)
Arizona	4.9	(903)
Alabama	4.8	(671)
Wyoming	4.6	(73)

Highest 10 states for homicides

Highest 10 states for suicides

Gun homicides per 100,000 children and teens each year (Number of deaths 2000-2010)			Gun suicides per 100,000 children and teens each year (Number of deaths 2000-2010)		
Louisiana	5.2	(739)	Alaska	5.3	(120)
Maryland	4.1	(685)	Montana	3.6	(99)
Illinois	3.7	(1,442)	Wyoming	3.3	(53)
California	3.4	(3,920)	South Dakota	2.8	(68)
Missouri	3.3	(577)	Idaho	2.7	(131)
Arizona	2.9	(542)	North Dakota	2.6	(50)
Alabama	2.9	(404)	New Mexico	2.6	(161)
Nevada	2.9	(212)	West Virginia	1.7	(84)
New Mexico	2.8	(174)	Nebraska	1.7	(92)
Mississippi	2.7	(256)	Mississippi	1.6	(153)

(**Bolded states** are also among top ten for highest overall gun deaths for children and teens; **bolded and italicized states** are among top ten highest overall and for homicides and suicides.)

Lowest 10 states for overall gun deaths of children and teens

Gun deaths per 100,000 children and teens each year (Number of deaths 2000-2010)		
Hawaii	0.4 ¹	(15)
New Hampshire	1.2	(44)
Massachusetts	1.5	(273)
Connecticut	1.5	(156)
Maine	1.7	(60)
New Jersey	1.9	(484)
Utah	2.0	(195)
Vermont	2.1	(36)
New York	2.1	(1,192)
Oregon	2.2	(228)

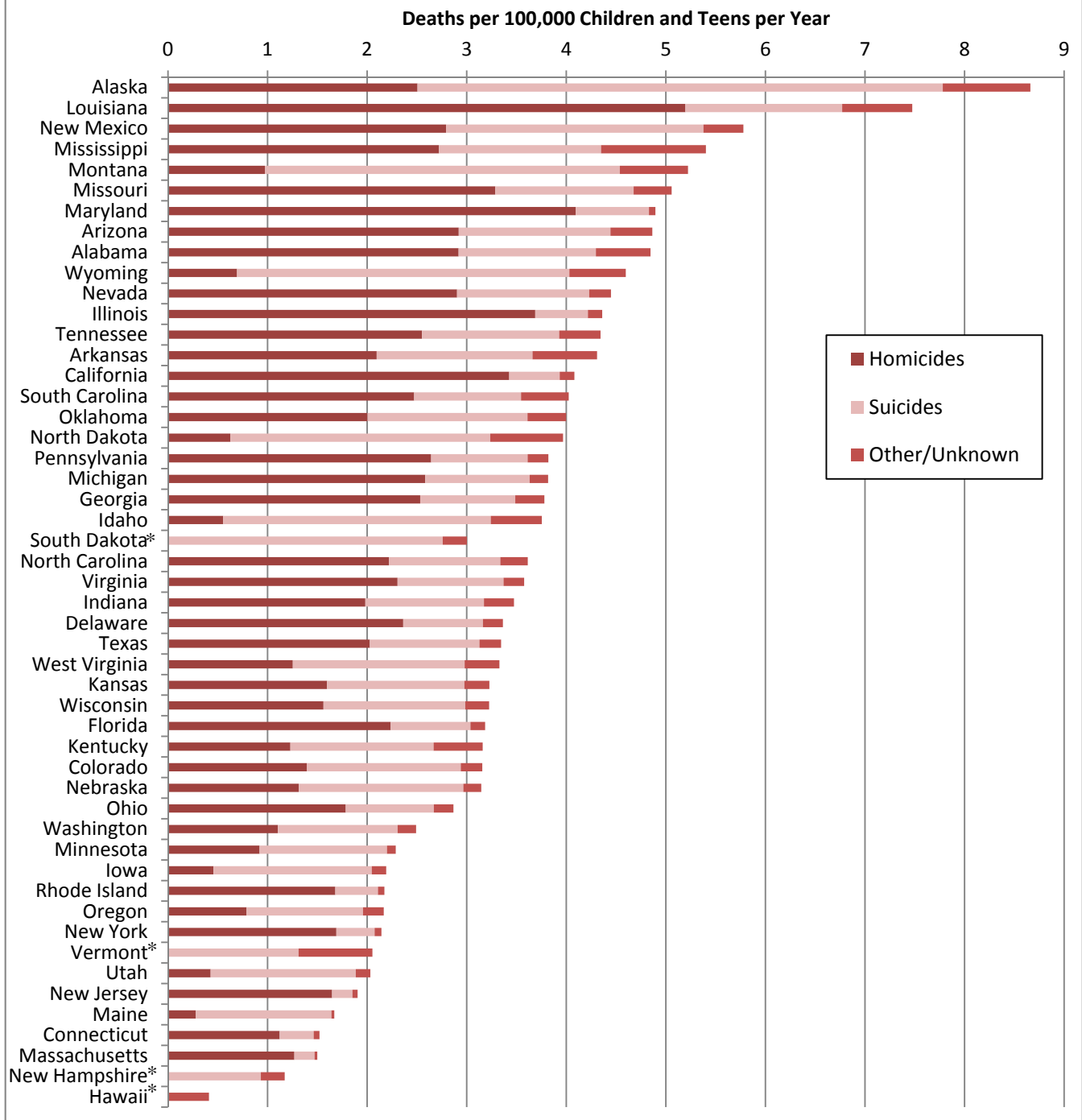
¹Based on small numbers so the rate is unreliable.

Children and Teen Gun Deaths by State, 2000-2010

State	Overall			Homicide		Suicide		Gun	
	Overall Gun Deaths	Gun Death Rate	State Rank	Gun Deaths	Gun Death Rate	Gun Deaths	Gun Death Rate	Accident Deaths	Accident Death Rate
Alabama	671	4.8	42	404	2.9	191	1.4	63	0.5
Alaska	197	8.7	50	57	2.5	120	5.3	15	0.7**
Arizona	903	4.9	43	542	2.9	283	1.5	39	0.2
Arkansas	366	4.3	37	178	2.1	133	1.6	44	0.5
California	4,668	4.1	36	3,920	3.4	580	0.5	146	0.1
Colorado	451	3.2	17	199	1.4	221	1.5	18	0.1**
Connecticut	156	1.5	4	115	1.1	35	0.3	*	*
Delaware	84	3.4	24	59	2.4	20	0.8	*	*
Dist. of Columbia	309	21.7	--	301	21.1	*	*	*	*
Florida	1,527	3.2	19	1072	2.2	384	0.8	54	0.1
Georgia	1,088	3.8	30	729	2.5	275	1	64	0.2
Hawaii	15	0.4**	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Idaho	183	3.8	29	27	0.6	131	2.7	25	0.5
Illinois	1,705	4.4	39	1,442	3.7	207	0.5	47	0.1
Indiana	682	3.5	25	389	2.0	234	1.2	45	0.2
Iowa	197	2.2	12	41	0.5	143	1.6	13	0.1**
Kansas	283	3.2	21	140	1.6	121	1.4	22	0.3
Kentucky	391	3.2	18	152	1.2	178	1.4	53	0.4
Louisiana	1,063	7.5	49	739	5.2	224	1.6	89	0.6
Maine	60	1.7	5	10	0.3**	49	1.4	*	*
Maryland	819	4.9	44	685	4.1	123	0.7	*	*
Massachusetts	273	1.5	3	231	1.3	37	0.2	*	*
Michigan	1,175	3.8	31	795	2.6	323	1.0	41	0.1
Minnesota	361	2.3	13	145	0.9	202	1.3	*	*
Mississippi	508	5.4	47	256	2.7	153	1.6	82	0.9
Missouri	888	5.1	45	577	3.3	244	1.4	49	0.3
Montana	145	5.2	46	27	1.0	99	3.6	16	0.6**
Nebraska	175	3.1	16	73	1.3	92	1.7	*	*
Nevada	325	4.4	40	212	2.9	97	1.3	13	0.2**
New Hampshire	44	1.2	2	*	*	35	0.9	*	*
New Jersey	484	1.9	6	419	1.6	52	0.2	12	0.05**
New Mexico	360	5.8	48	174	2.8	161	2.6	20	0.3
New York	1,192	2.1	9	940	1.7	214	0.4	33	0.1
North Carolina	948	3.6	27	582	2.2	294	1.1	56	0.2
North Dakota	76	4.0	33	12	0.6**	50	2.6	*	*
Ohio	991	2.9	15	617	1.8	306	0.9	54	0.2
Oklahoma	443	4.0	34	222	2.0	178	1.6	36	0.3
Oregon	228	2.2	10	83	0.8	123	1.2	16	0.2**
Pennsylvania	1,356	3.8	32	938	2.6	344	1.0	58	0.2
Rhode Island	66	2.2	11	51	1.7	13	0.4**	*	*
South Carolina	521	4.0	35	320	2.5	139	1.1	55	0.4
South Dakota	91	3.7	28	*	*	68	2.8	17	0.7**
Tennessee	773	4.3	38	454	2.6	245	1.4	59	0.3
Texas	2,596	3.3	23	1,573	2.0	854	1.1	143	0.2
Utah	195	2.0	7	41	0.4	140	1.5	11	0.1**
Vermont	36	2.1	8	*	*	23	1.3	*	*
Virginia	796	3.6	26	513	2.3	237	1.1	32	0.1
Washington	470	2.5	14	208	1.1	227	1.2	20	0.1
West Virginia	162	3.3	22	61	1.3	84	1.7	15	0.3**
Wisconsin	539	3.2	20	261	1.6	238	1.4	32	0.2
Wyoming	73	4.6	41	11	0.7**	53	3.3	*	*
US Total	32,108	3.6		21,026	2.3	8,984	1.0	1,672	0.2

Notes: Overall gun deaths include deaths of children and teens from homicide, suicide, accidents and deaths where the type could not be determined. Rates are per 100,000 children and teens per year. Higher rank means a higher overall gun death rate. The District of Columbia is not included in the ranking. * denotes cases where the number of deaths was below 10 and the exact number was not released by the CDC to protect the anonymity of victims. ** means that the rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.

Children and Teen Gun Homicides, Suicides and other Gun Deaths, by State, 2000-2010



Notes: Excludes District of Columbia. Other/Unknown gun deaths include gun deaths from accidents and gun deaths where the cause could not be determined. * For Hawaii, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Vermont the exact number of homicides and/or suicides was between 0 and 9 and was not released by the CDC to protect the anonymity of victims. These deaths are included in the Other/Unknown category.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on Jan 7, 2013. Gun deaths include deaths from homicide, suicide, accident and deaths where the type could not be determined, and exclude gun deaths due to legal intervention or war. Children and teens are 0-19 years of age. Rates of death are not age-adjusted and are based on the April 1 Census count for 2010 and on the July 1 intercensal bridged-race estimates for 2000-2001.