



Gun Violence in Illinois

- From 1999 to 2005 guns killed 8,018 Illinois residents.¹
- In 2005, 1,019 people died from firearm-related injuries in Illinois, 569 of which were homicides.^{2, 3}
- In 2005, African Americans were victims in 42% or 429 of firearm-related deaths in Illinois. Of these deaths, 91% were homicides.⁴
- In 2005, guns were used in 424 suicides in Illinois, a 10% increase from 2004. 81% of these suicides were committed by white males.⁵
- In Illinois, from 1999-2005, 37 children and youth in Illinois died from unintentional gunshot wounds.⁶
- In 2005, 130 children aged 0-19 in Illinois were killed by guns. From 1999 to 2005, 1,169, children have been killed by guns in Illinois.⁷
- The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (grades 9-12) found that 5% of Chicago high school students reported having carried a gun in the last 30 days.⁸
- From 2002 to 2006, 687 Chicago youth were killed by guns.⁹
- In 2005, 92% of Chicago youth killed by firearms involved handguns.¹⁰
- In 2005, firearms were the primary weapon used in violent deaths in Kane, Cook, and Peoria counties. Firearms account for more violent deaths than all other means combined.¹¹
- In 2005, 71% (435) of homicides and 36% (164) of suicides were committed with firearms in Kane, Cook, and Peoria counties.¹²
- Firearms were used as a weapon in 10 out of 14 murder-suicide incidents in Kane, Cook, and Peoria counties in 2005, or 70% of the time. Children witnessed or were present at eight of the 14 murder-suicide incidents, or 57% of the time.¹³

Gun Violence Nationwide

- Firearm injuries are the second leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide, surpassed only by motor vehicle injuries.¹⁴
- In 2005, 30,694 Americans were killed with firearms – in homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings. The number of gun deaths has increased by 6% since 1999.¹⁵
- In 2005, 69,825 Americans were treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal gunshot wounds.¹⁶
- Children and young people under the age of 25 constituted over 40% of all firearm deaths and injuries in 2001.¹⁷

- Every day in the U.S., guns cause the deaths of 20 children and young people under the age of 25.¹⁸
- In 2007, 35% of teens nationwide reported that they knew someone who had been shot.¹⁹
- Last year, 56% of teens nationwide reported that they believe the government wouldn't care if they were a victim of gun violence.²⁰
- The overall firearm-related death rate among U.S. children under age 15 is nearly 12 times higher than it is in 25 other industrialized nations combined.²¹
- African Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population,²² but in 2001 suffered almost 25% of all firearm deaths – and 52% of all firearm homicides.²³
- Firearm homicide is the leading cause of injury-related death for African Americans ages 15-34.²⁴
- White males, accounted for about 40% of the U.S. population,²⁵ and 80% of firearm suicides in 2001.²⁶
- Once all the direct and indirect medical, legal and societal costs are factored together, the annual cost of gun violence in America amounts to \$100 billion.²⁷
- States with higher rates of household gun ownership have significantly higher homicide victimization rates for men, women and children.²⁸
- Homicides and aggravated assault with a firearm both increased by 10% from 2004 to 2006.²⁹

1 2005 is the most recent year for which state-level data is available on National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005*

2 - 7 *Id.*

8 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States 2005*, MMWR 2006; Vol. 55, No. SS05, Table 7

9 Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, "Issue Brief: Chicago Youth and Violence." January 2008.

10 *Id.*

11 Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IDVRS), *Volume 1, Issue 1 – August 2007*. Children's Memorial Research Center.

12-13 *Id.*

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15 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005*

16 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports*

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18 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005*

19 UCAN Teen Gun Survey Results, 2005-2007 Comparison.

20 *Id.*

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22 Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, *The Black Population: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, Aug. 200

23 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005*

24 *Id.*

25 Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, *The White Population: 2000*, Census 2000 Brief, Aug. 2001 at 3

26 *Id.*

27 Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, *Gun Violence: The Real Costs*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, 115.

28 Matthew Miller, David Hemenway, and Deborah Azrael, *State-level homicide victimization rates in the U.S. in relation to survey measures of household firearm ownership, 2001 -2003*, *Social Science & Medicine* 64 (2007) 656-664.

29 Police Executive Research Forum, *Violent Crime in America: 24 Months of Alarming Trends*, March 2007