



Safe Tennessee Project

Working together to end gun violence in Tennessee

Tennessee Youth Gun Deaths: 2017

According to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tennessee has one of the highest rates of firearm mortality and one of the highest rates of firearm homicides for young people. Firearm suicides for Tennessee young people was also much higher than most all other states in the country.

In 2017, Tennessee was ranked:

- Fourth in the nation for firearm deaths for ages 0-19
- Fourth in the nation for firearm homicides for ages 0-19
- Twelfth in the nation for firearm suicide for ages 0-19

TENNESSEE FIREARM MORTALITY AGES 0-19: 2017

Rank	State	Deaths	Rate per 100k
1	Alaska	25	13.27
2	Louisiana	121	10.13
3	District of Columbia	12	8.18
4	Tennessee	129	7.65
5	Arkansas	59	7.50
6	Missouri	113	7.25
7	Mississippi	58	7.14
8	Alabama	84	6.70
9	Illinois	215	6.49
10	Kentucky	73	6.42

Between 2007 and 2017, firearm mortality **increased 53** percent for ages 0-19

In 2007, there were **61** firearm fatalities in this age group; in 2017, there were **129**

TENNESSEE FIREARM HOMICIDE AGES 0-19: 2017

Rank	State	Deaths	Rate per 100k
1	District of Columbia	11	7.50
2	Louisiana	87	7.29
3	Illinois	174	5.25
4	Tennessee	74	4.39
5	Alabama	55	4.37
6	Missouri	61	3.92
7	Arkansas	30	3.81
8	Mississippi	30	3.68
9	Maryland	50	3.28
10	South Carolina	41	3.23

Between 2007 and 2017, firearm homicide **increased 47** percent for ages 0-19

In 2007, there were **40** firearm fatalities in this age group; in 2017, there were **74**

TENNESSEE FIREARM SUICIDE AGES 0-19: 2017

Rank	State	Deaths	Rate per 100k
1	Alaska	18	9.63
2	Idaho	20	4.12
3	Montana	10	3.97
4	Utah	31	3.19
5	Oklahoma	33	3.15
6	Arkansas	23	2.92
7	New Mexico	16	2.90
8	Missouri	45	2.88
9	Kansas	22	2.77
10	Kentucky	30	2.64
11	Nevada	19	2.64
12	Tennessee	42	2.49

Between 2007 and 2017, firearm suicide **increased 55** percent for ages 0-19

In 2007, there were **19** firearm fatalities in this age group; in 2017, there were **42**

Although the rates of gun death for Tennessee young people dramatically outpaced U.S. averages in the last six years, that has not always been the case.

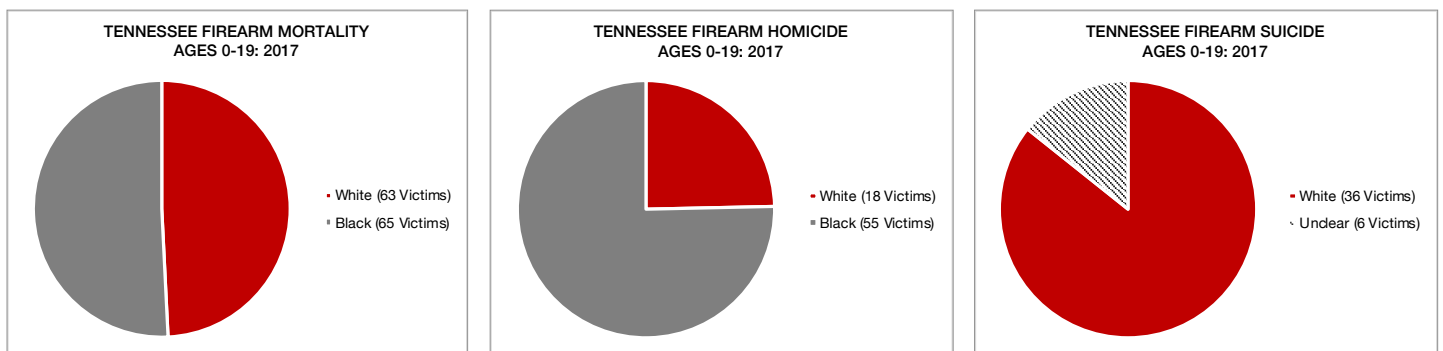
In 2007, Tennessee's rate of firearm mortality for this age group was virtually identical.

In 2007, Tennessee's rate of firearm homicide was lower than the U.S. average and in 2010, it was tied with the U.S. average.

In 2011, Tennessee rate of firearm suicide for this age group was lower than the U.S. average and in 2012, it was tied.

By 2017, Tennessee's rate of gun deaths in each category for the 0-19 age group had increased substantially. More young people lost their life to a bullet in 2017 than in any previous year on record.

Tennessee gun deaths ages 0-19: 2017 by race of victims



Based on this data, Safe Tennessee urges lawmakers to consider the following policies:

- Implement MaKayla's Law, child access prevention legislation
- Implement safe storage laws requiring guns to be secured in locked vehicles to prevent gun theft
- Provide funding to community groups and violence interrupters working in communities most impacted by gun violence
- Provide funding for "safe storage" PSAs to address not only unintentional shootings involving minors, but also tween and teen firearm suicides
- Provide funding for "safe storage" PSAs to encourage gun owners to secure guns left in vehicles to prevent gun thefts
- Provide funding for research to study key drivers of gun violence in Tennessee

For more information, please visit safetennesseeproject.org



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
- Margaret Meade