

# RURAL GUN VIOLENCE



**37%**

Rural counties have a 37% higher firearm death rate than urban counties.



**54%**

54% of gun owners reported that they do not store all their guns safely.



Overall, children in rural areas are equally as likely to die by firearm as those in urban areas.

Gun violence is not only an urban issue but also a rural one. While gun homicides, violent crimes, and community violence disproportionately impact those in urban areas, rural communities consistently report higher rates of unintentional firearm deaths, firearm suicide, higher rates of gun ownership, and unsafe gun storage. Education and legislation that addresses rural gun violence can help to create safer and healthier communities.

## THE ISSUES



Children in rural areas are 4x more likely to die by firearm suicide, and 5x more likely to die unintentionally by a firearm than those living in urban areas. Safe gun storage laws can keep rural children and teens safe.



Firearm suicide rates are 54% higher in rural areas compared to urban. Enacting safe gun storage laws, waiting periods, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders in the state of Pennsylvania can prevent future lives from being lost.



In states where gun safety laws are weakest, there are higher rates of police officer fatalities due to firearms. Passing gun safety laws can help to protect those who work to protect Pennsylvanians.



In rural areas, 46% of adults own guns, compared to 19% in urban areas. Of all gun owners, 54% reported that they do not store all their guns safely. In Pennsylvania, proposed legislation would require gun owners to store their firearms securely, saving lives and bringing PA into the majority of states with such requirements.



Women who live in rural areas reported a 22.5% higher rate of domestic violence. Firearms are used in 54% of all domestic homicides. Passing Extreme Risk Protection Orders can allow Pennsylvanians to protect their loved ones who are in domestic violence situations.

**TAKE A STAND**

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 [info@ceasefirepa.org](mailto:info@ceasefirepa.org)

 215-923-3151