

# MARYLAND WEAR ORANGE

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is committed to preventing and reducing gun violence in Maryland through a public health approach. Gun violence harms individuals, families, and communities without distinction. To raise awareness and encourage collaborative action among Marylanders on this critical issue, the **MDH Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention** provides the **Maryland Wear Orange toolkit**.

The **Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention** was established within MDH to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the state by partnering with federal, state, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm violence reduction.

## Background

**June is Gun Violence Awareness Month**, with Friday, June 5, marking a special day of honor for gun violence victims and survivors. The commemorative day and month are synonymous with the color orange, often called [Wear Orange](#), and many choose to wear or highlight it to show their allyship with the gun violence prevention movement. The day and color were initially developed by the family and friends of a young woman, Hadiya Pendleton, who was shot and killed in Chicago. The day has evolved to support all victims of gun violence and to engage the community in prevention efforts.

## Key Statistics

### National Statistics

- On average, in the United States, 46,686 people die from gun violence each year\*.

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2024 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2025

### Maryland Statistics

- On average, 723 people die from gun violence each year.
- Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teens aged 1-19. (Source: CDC WONDER 2024)

- In 2025, 606 people died from gun violence. Among those, 45% were homicides and 53% were suicides.
- Since 2022, gun deaths have dropped by 20%. This is due mostly to the significant decline in firearm homicides, which declined by 45% in the same time period.
- Firearm suicides have not seen the same declines. Since 2022, firearm suicides have increased by 24%.
- In 2025, 78% of all homicides involved firearms. 51% of all suicides involved firearms.
- In 2025, there were 644 nonfatal shootings. Since 2022, there has been a 44% decline in nonfatal shootings.
- Just over half of decedents were non-Hispanic Black males who make up only 14% of the state's population
- On average, firearm homicide rates are 23 times higher among Black males compared to White males.
- Non-Hispanic White males 65+ experience firearm suicide at a rate four times higher than the Maryland state average.

Maryland Department of Health. Firearm Violence Data Dashboard. 20225.  
[Health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/mdh-dashboard/Pages/firearm-violence.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/mdh-dashboard/Pages/firearm-violence.aspx)

## MDH Social Media

### Accounts to Follow:

- [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Bluesky](#)
- [Threads](#)

**Hashtags to use:**

#EndGunViolence, #WearOrange, #GunViolence is #PublicHealth

**Websites to Share:**

- English: [health.maryland.gov/violence-prevention](https://health.maryland.gov/violence-prevention)
- Spanish: [health.maryland.gov/violence-prevention/Pages/Home-Spanish.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/violence-prevention/Pages/Home-Spanish.aspx)
- Wear Orange: [wearorange.org](https://wearorange.org)

**Wear Orange on June 5**



Gun Violence Awareness Month  
Show your support. Wear orange.



**English Social Media Copy:**

Everyone deserves a life free from gun violence. We wear orange on June 5 for National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Join us as we honor those who lost their lives and work toward a safer future for all of Maryland. Share with us why you #WearOrange. #GunViolence is #Public Health

**Spanish Social Media Copy:**

Toda persona merece una vida libre de violencia armada. Nos vestimos de naranja el 5 de junio para celebrar el Día Nacional de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada. Acompáñenos a honrar a quienes perdieron la vida y a trabajar por un futuro más seguro para todo Maryland. Cuéntenos por qué usted se viste de Naranja.

**English Alt Text:**

National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Show your support. Wear orange on June 5. Gun Violence Awareness Month.

**Spanish Alt Text:**

Día Nacional de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada. Muestre su apoyo. Vístase de naranja el 5 de junio. Mes de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada.

## **Gun Violence Prevention is Public Health**



Gun Violence Awareness Month  
Show your support. Wear orange.



### **English Social Media Copy:**

Gun violence is a public health issue. Similar to how disease outbreaks are treated, gun violence policies and programs can focus on whole communities and populations and support those at greatest risk.

To learn more about gun violence as a public health issue, visit: [bit.ly/4dKXtWq](https://bit.ly/4dKXtWq).

#GunViolence is #PublicHealth #WearOrange

### **Spanish Social Media Copy:**

La violencia armada es un problema de salud pública. Al igual que con los brotes de enfermedades, las políticas y los programas sobre violencia armada pueden enfocarse en comunidades y poblaciones enteras, y brindar apoyo a quienes corren mayor riesgo.

Para obtener más información sobre la violencia armada como un problema de salud pública, visite: [bit.ly/4dKXtWq](https://bit.ly/4dKXtWq).

### **English Alt Text:**

Gun violence prevention is public health. Gun Violence Awareness Month. Show your support. Wear orange.

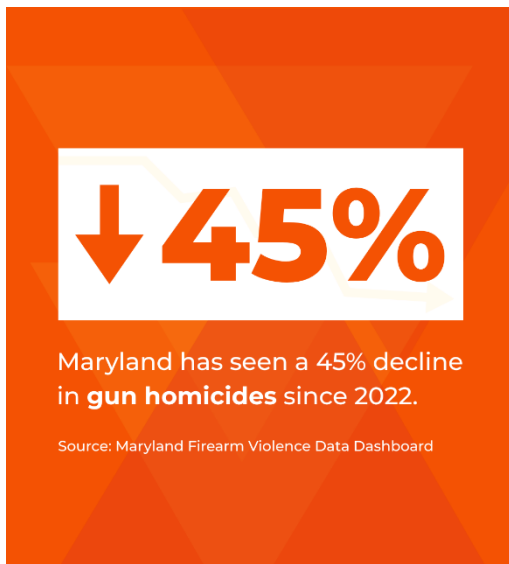


**Center for Firearm Violence  
Prevention and Intervention**

**Spanish Alt Text:**

La prevención de la violencia armada es salud pública. Mes de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada. Muestre su apoyo. Vístase de naranja.

## 45% Decline in Gun Homicides



**Gun Violence Awareness Month**  
Show your support. Wear orange.



### English Social Media Copy:

Joining the nation for Gun Violence Awareness Day, the @Maryland Department of Health honors the victims and survivors of gun violence.

Thanks to state prevention strategies, Maryland has seen a 45% decline in gun homicides since 2022. Today, we recommit ourselves to continuing the work to keep our communities healthy and safe. #WearOrange #GunViolence is #Public Health

### Spanish Social Media Copy:

Al unirse a la nación en el Día de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada, el @Maryland Department of Health honra a las víctimas y sobrevivientes de la violencia armada.

Gracias a las estrategias estatales de prevención, Maryland ha registrado una disminución del 45 % en los homicidios con armas de fuego desde 2022. Hoy, renovamos nuestro compromiso de continuar el trabajo para mantener nuestras comunidades sanas y seguras.

### English Alt Text:

Maryland has seen a 45% decline in gun homicides since 2022. Source: Maryland Firearm Violence Data Dashboard. Gun Violence Awareness Month. Show your support. Wear orange.

**Spanish Alt Text:**

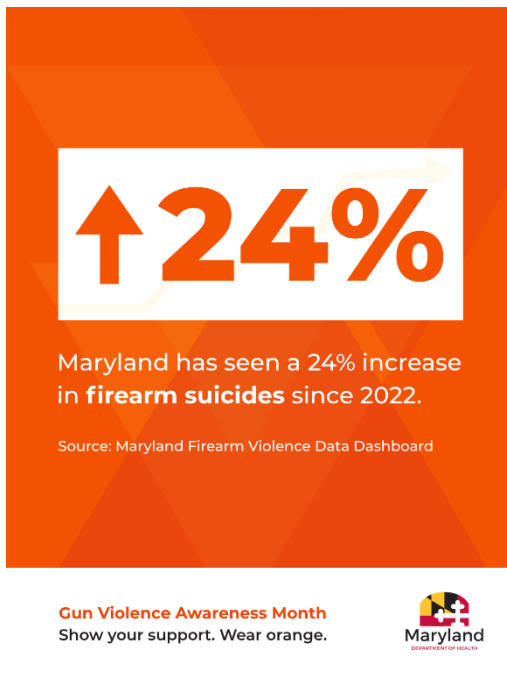
Maryland ha registrado una disminución del 45 % en los homicidios con armas de fuego desde 2022.

Fuente: Maryland Firearm Violence Data Dashboard. Mes de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada.

Muestre su apoyo. Vístase de naranja.



## 24% Increase in Firearm Suicides



### English Social Media Copy:

Joining the nation for Gun Violence Awareness Day, the Maryland Department of Health honors the victims and survivors of gun violence.

While firearm homicides have been declining, firearm suicides have not shown similar trends. Since 2022, firearm suicides have increased by 24%. It is essential that we work toward effective strategies to prevent those in crisis from accessing lethal means and to get them the help and support they need to thrive.

Today, we recommit ourselves to continuing the work to keep our communities healthy and safe.

#WearOrange #GunViolence is #Public Health

If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs to talk, call, text, or chat 988.

### Spanish Social Media Copy:

Al unirse a la nación en el Día de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada, el Maryland Department of Health honra a las víctimas y sobrevivientes de la violencia armada.

Si bien los homicidios con armas de fuego han ido disminuyendo, los suicidios con armas de fuego no han mostrado tendencias similares. Desde 2022, los suicidios con armas de fuego han aumentado un 24

%. Es fundamental que trabajemos en estrategias efectivas para evitar que las personas en crisis accedan a medios letales y para brindarles la ayuda y el apoyo que necesitan para salir adelante.

Hoy, renovamos nuestro compromiso de continuar el trabajo para mantener nuestras comunidades sanas y seguras.

**English Alt Text:**

Maryland has seen a 24% increase in firearm suicides since 2022. Source: Maryland Firearm Violence Data Dashboard. Gun Violence Awareness Month. Show your support. Wear orange.

**Spanish Alt Text:**

Maryland ha registrado un aumento del 24 % en los suicidios con armas de fuego desde 2022 Fuente: Maryland Firearm Violence Data Dashboard. Mes de Concientización sobre la Violencia Armada. Muestre su apoyo. Vístase de naranja.

## Safe Storage

Practicing safe storage  
**can save lives.**

Keep firearms locked, unloaded,  
and separate from ammunition.

Learn more:

[health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety](https://health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety)

Gun Violence Awareness Month  
Show your support. Wear orange.



### English Social Media Copy:

Hundreds of Maryland children and teenagers come into contact with unsecured guns annually. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19.

Practicing safe storage can save lives. Keep all firearms locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition.

Learn more about safe storage and youth gun violence prevention: [health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety](https://health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety).

#WearOrange

### Spanish Social Media Copy:

Cientos de niños y adolescentes de Maryland entran en contacto con armas de fuego sin asegurar cada año. La violencia armada es la causa principal de muerte en niños y adolescentes de 1 a 19 años.

Practicar el almacenamiento seguro puede salvar vidas. Mantenga todas las armas de fuego bajo llave, descargadas y separadas de la munición.

Obtenga más información sobre el almacenamiento seguro y la prevención de la violencia armada juvenil: [health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety](https://health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety).

**English Alt Text:**

Practicing safe storage can save lives. Keep firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition. Learn more at [health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety](https://health.maryland.gov/firearm-safety). Gun Violence Awareness Month. Show your support. Wear orange.

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**Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention****DID YOU KNOW?**

The **Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention** uses a public health, evidence-based approach to make **Maryland communities safer.**

Learn more:  
[bit.ly/MDViolencePrevPlan](http://bit.ly/MDViolencePrevPlan)

Gun Violence Awareness Month  
Show your support. Wear orange.

**English Social Media Copy:**

The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention uses a public health, evidence-based approach to make Maryland communities safer. The Center invests in community violence intervention programming, research and evaluation, safe storage dissemination and education, and policy implementation.

Learn more about the Center's evidence-based strategy: [bit.ly/MDViolencePrevPlan](http://bit.ly/MDViolencePrevPlan).

#WearOrange #GunViolence is #Public Health

**Spanish Social Media Copy:**

El Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention utiliza un enfoque de salud pública basado en evidencia para hacer que las comunidades de Maryland sean más seguras. El Centro invierte en programas de intervención en violencia comunitaria, investigación y evaluación, difusión y educación sobre almacenamiento seguro, e implementación de políticas.

Obtenga más información sobre la estrategia basada en evidencia del Centro:

[bit.ly/MDViolencePrevPlan](http://bit.ly/MDViolencePrevPlan).

**English Alt Text:**

Did you know? The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention uses a public health, evidence-based approach to make Maryland communities safer. Learn more at [bit.ly/MDViolencePrev](https://bit.ly/MDViolencePrev). Gun Violence Awareness Month. Show your support. Wear orange.

**Spanish Alt Text:**

¿Lo sabía? El Centro para la Prevención e Intervención de la Violencia con Armas de Fuego utiliza un enfoque de salud pública basado en evidencia para hacer que las comunidades de Maryland sean más seguras. Más información: [bit.ly/MDViolencePrev](https://bit.ly/MDViolencePrev).