

The findings below resulted from a GVPedia study that compared mass shooting incidents from 2013-2019 to the strength of gun laws in each state. The study used the *Giffords Law Center's* state law grading system and the *Gun Violence Archive's* definition of a mass shooting to produce the first comprehensive and in-depth study of its kind. The goal of this paper is to give advocates and policymakers access to academic research so that policy decisions can be made based on fact.

## ***Mass Shootings State Fact Sheet***

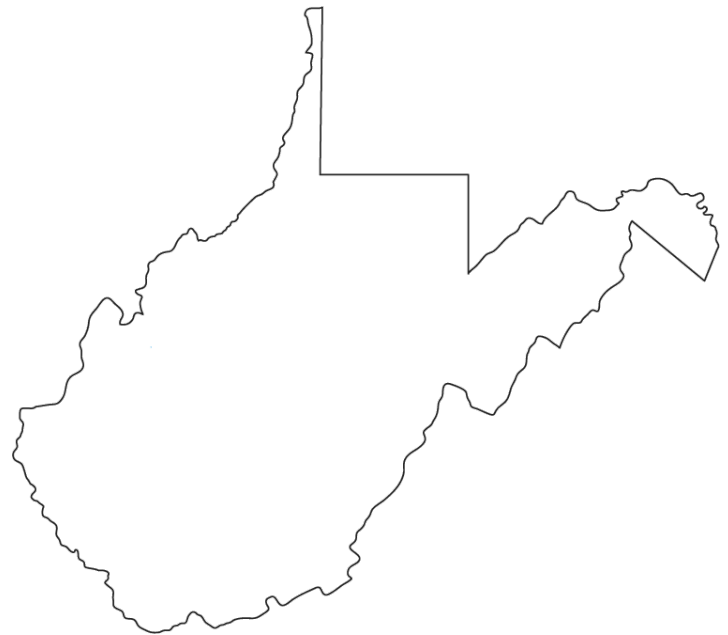
# WEST VIRGINIA

### **What is a MASS SHOOTING?**

According to the *Gun Violence Archive*, the definition of a mass shooting is an incident in which **four or more people are shot**, not including the shooter.

### **Giffords Law Center Rating: F**

The *Giffords Law Center* annually grades the strength of states' firearm laws on a scale of A to F. For this study, GVPedia considered states with A, B, or C grades "Strong Law States." States with a Giffords rating of D or F were considered "Weak Law States."



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### ***Highlights from the Mass Shootings Study***

- Strong gun laws save lives. From 2013 to 2019, **states with weak gun laws had 5% more mass shootings and 50% more mass shooting fatalities than states with strong gun laws.** During that time period, 2,341 mass shootings left 2,642 people dead and 9,766 physically wounded.
- **Since 2013, the number of annual mass shootings nationwide jumped by 65%.** In states with strong laws, mass shooting incidents increased by 33% and fatalities by 26%, but in states with weak laws, mass shootings increased by a staggering 91% and fatalities by 92%.
- **States with weak laws experienced 63% more mass shootings with an assault weapon.**
- **The use of an assault weapon makes mass shootings 4 times more lethal.**

# Mass Shootings in West Virginia, 2013 - 2019: The Facts

In the charts below, *CDC* and *Mass Shooting* ranks are per capita (per million individuals). A rank of 1 is the highest rate of shootings, deaths, or casualties. The *Giffords Law Center* also ranks states from 1 to 50 based on the strength or weakness of their laws. A ranking of 1 indicates the strongest laws and 50 indicates the weakest laws.

West Virginia: Mass Shootings 2013-2019			
	Number	Per Capita	Rank
Shootings	3	0.2391	42
Deaths	5	0.3986	42
Casualties	14	1.1160	43

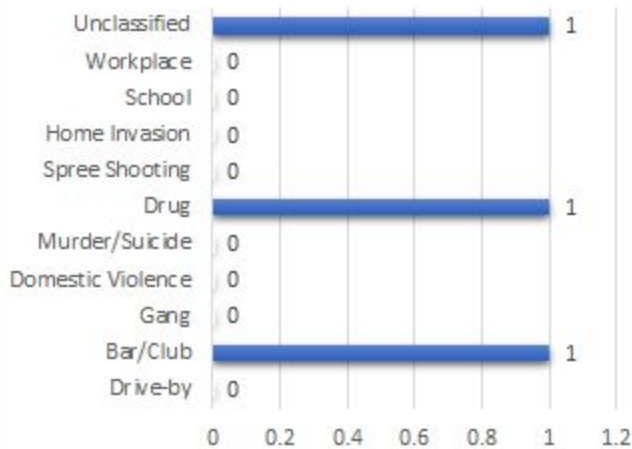
West Virginia suffered 3 mass shootings between 2013-2019, resulting in 5 deaths and 9 injuries.

West Virginia: CDC Gun Deaths in 2018			
	Number	Per Capita	Rank
Total	343	181.1	9
Homicides	66	40.4	27
Suicides	257	130.4	5

Total number of deaths includes the CDC categories "unintentional" and "legal intervention," which are not listed in this chart.

West Virginia: Giffords Law Grade & Rank by Year						
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
25	24	24	34	32	38	34
F	F	D-	F	F	F	F

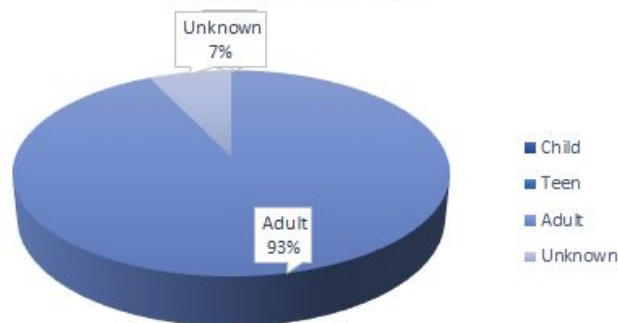
## West Virginia: Mass Shootings by Type 2013-2019



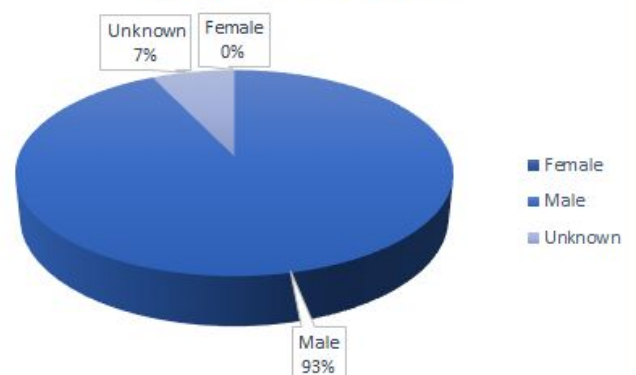
Some shootings have more than one classification, which results in the total number of shooting types differing from the total number of actual mass shootings. For example, a domestic violence shooting could take place at a workplace or a bar/club and therefore have at least two types.

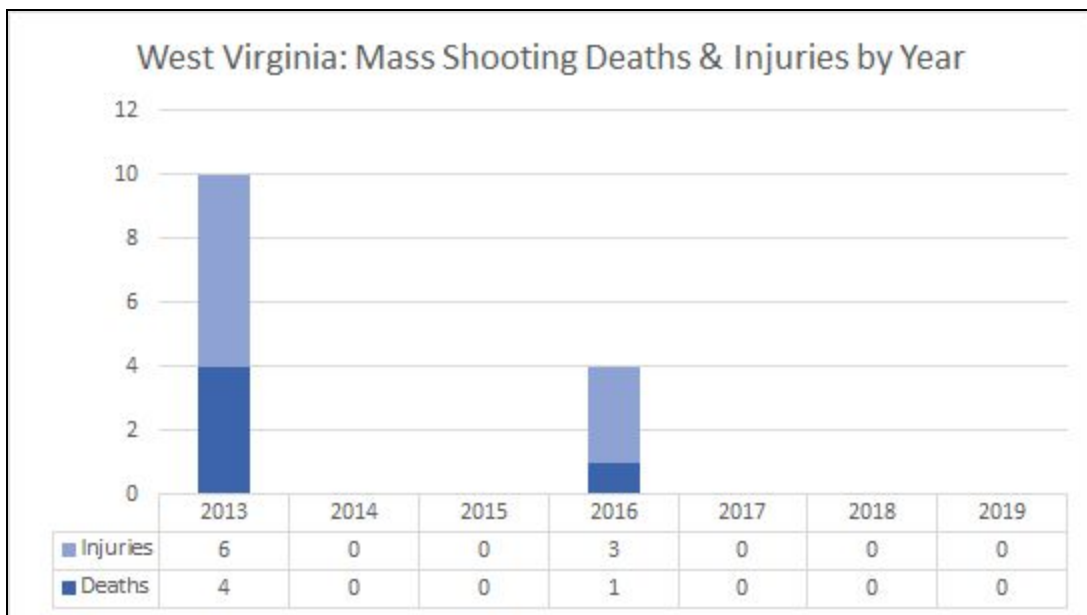
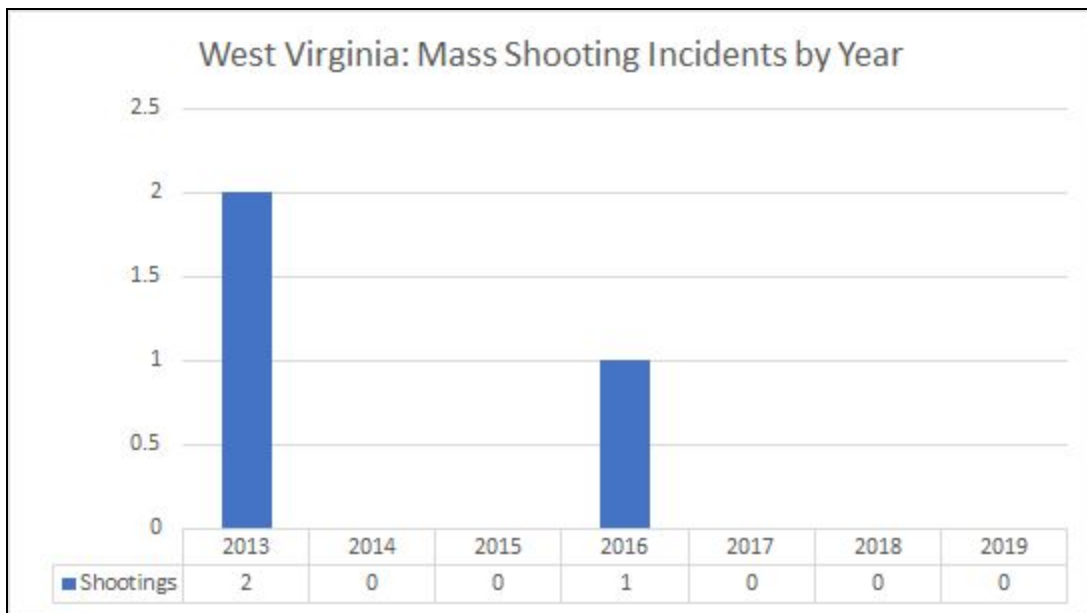
Categories are defined and determined by the Gun Violence Archive.

## West Virginia: Mass Shooting Victims by Age 2013-2019



## West Virginia: Mass Shooting Victims by Gender 2013-2019





You can read the full mass shooting report online [here](#).

Additional recommended reading includes:

- [Giffords Law Center State Based Report](#)
- [Denver Accord](#)
- [Gun Violence Archive](#)



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