

Fact Sheet – Executive Directive on Improving Firearm Safety

Governor Cooper continues to push for common sense firearm safety measures and issued an Executive Directive on Improving Firearm Safety on August 12, 2019.

“The time for condolences alone has long passed, and now it is time for action.”

-- Governor Cooper

The directive requires state agencies to take increased action on closing crime reporting gaps between state and federal agencies and expands firearm safety education.

Strengthening Background Check System and Protections from Domestic Terrorism (SBI Directives)

- The SBI is directed to continue the work begun by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Working Group to close information gaps where the state should be sharing information with NICS. Convened by Governor Cooper in 2018, the working group identified 284,289 individual instances of criminal convictions that went unreported in the NICS database. Identifying and rectifying these gaps strengthens the safety net provided by firearm background checks.
- The SBI will also provide Behavioral Threat Assessment training to local law enforcement agencies to help local law enforcement connect these individuals identified as a potential risk to harming others with supportive community services.
- The SBI will increase the North Carolina Information Sharing and Analysis Center’s outreach to businesses and community groups in order to build community awareness of domestic terrorism indicators.

Improving Public Health and Incident Response (DHHS Directives)

- The directive orders the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to promote safe storage of personal firearms.
- DHHS and the Division of Emergency Management will develop guidance for local governments to help share information and reunite loved ones in the wake of a mass shooting or other major incident.
- DHHS will also convene a coalition of suicide prevention stakeholders to update the state’s Suicide Prevention Plan.

FACTS ABOUT FIREARM FATALITIES

There has been more than one [mass shooting a day](#) in 2019, including one at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in April, 2019, that left two dead and four wounded.

- On average, 1,113 North Carolinians per year are [killed by firearms](#), and a person is killed by a gun every seven hours in the state.
- Firearms are the [third-leading cause](#) of death for North Carolina children, and in just two years, at least [672 children and teenagers](#) in North Carolina visited a hospital for a firearm-related injury.
- The annual [cost of gun violence](#) in North Carolina is \$7.4 billion and \$754 per resident.
- Suicide is the [leading cause](#) of firearm-related deaths in North Carolina, and nearly 57 percent of all suicide deaths in the state involve firearms.
- 61 percent of NC’s intimate- partner homicides involve a gun, and abused women [are five times more likely](#) to be killed if their abuser has a firearm.