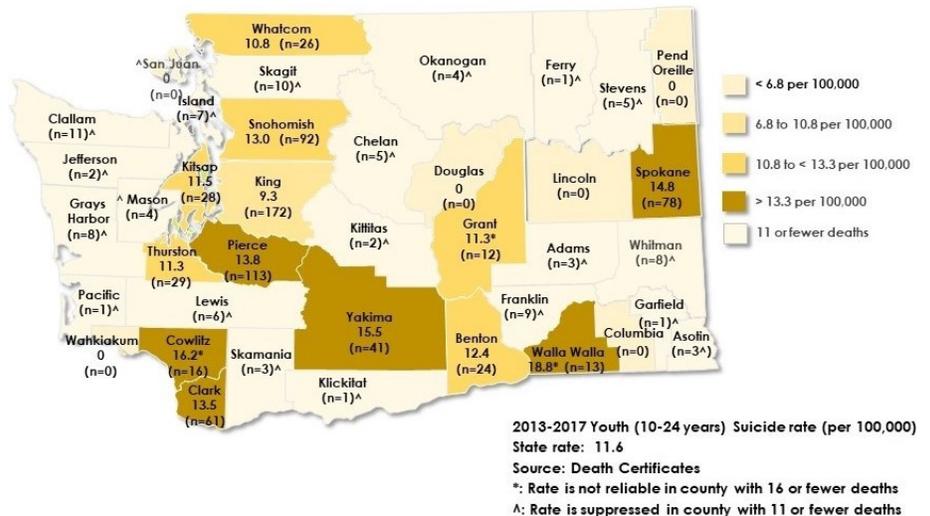


*WSPTA recognizes the essential need for children to be safe at home and school. Gun violence, and the potential for it, represents a threat to the mental and physical well-being and safety of children and youth in Washington. Responsible legislation can prevent children from accessing firearms and prevent those who should not own firearms from having them.*

## Background

- In Washington, **firearms are the second cause of fatal injury** and are involved in about 20% of all youth deaths annually.<sup>1,2</sup>
- There were seven **school shootings** from 1994-2017 in Washington, resulting in 10 deaths and more wounded.<sup>3</sup>
- Suicide was the cause of death for 206 Washington state youths (age 10-24) in 2017 and 192 deaths in 2018.<sup>4</sup>
- Firearms were involved in the deaths of 147 Washington state youths (age 10-24) in 2017 and 157 deaths in 2018.<sup>4</sup>
- Adolescents with access to firearms are 2.6 times as likely to die by suicide as adolescents without access.<sup>5</sup>

WA Suicide Rate by County for Youth Ages 10-24 (2013-2017)



## Proposed Solutions

The Washington State PTA advocates for the implementation of the policies Washington voters approved in I-1639 that reduce dangerous access to firearms. In addition, WSPTA supports legislation that:

- Ensures continued eligibility and safety training for firearms ownership, using the best available background check;
- Permits and encourages destruction of crime guns by the Washington State Patrol and other agencies;
- Prohibits the arming of school staff except trained school resource officers (SROs);
- Extends the law regarding possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities to childcare, daycare, and early learning settings;
- Prohibits the sale and use of high-capacity magazines;
- Requires notification of relevant school district authorities of Extreme Risk Protection Orders pertaining to a minor.

The Washington State PTA affirms the policies outlined in the National PTA positions statements on [Gun Safety and Violence Prevention](#) and [Firearms](#).

## For More Information

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*\*For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website ([www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org))*

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