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[The most distinctive cause of death in every state](https://www.statnews.com/2016/02/25/death-rates-gun-violence/)

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*G*un deaths crop up more frequently in certain areas in the US, according to new [research](http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2016/01/04/injuryprev-2015-041833.abstract?sid=04917073-6201-4448-99b2-68ee30127d8e) published in Injury Prevention. Here’s what the analysis found:

* Seven states in the South — Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia — had high rates of unintentional firearm deaths, between two and four times the national average.
* Deaths involving an interaction with a police officer were noticeably higher on the West Coast. California, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah had rates as high as three and a half times the national average. In fact, those five states accounted for one-third of all “legal intervention deaths” (where a police officer kills or is killed by another individual) between 2010 and 2014.

The findings were part of a broader look at the most distinctive cause of death in each state, meaning the cause that cropped up significantly more often in that state than in the US as a whole. Other items of note:

* Deaths involving machinery are more common in the agricultural states of Iowa and North Dakota.
* Suicides are more prevalent in Oregon, New York, Minnesota, Colorado, and New Hampshire.
* Accidental deaths involving a bicycle are more common in Florida.
* Unintentional suffocation deaths are more frequent in Connecticut.