

The Impact of Community Gun Violence

- Half of America's gun homicides in 2015 were concentrated in just 127 cities and towns that contained less than one quarter of the U.S. population. Four and a half million Americans living in areas of those cities faced even more extreme levels of gun violence. Accounting for just 1.5% of the country's population, they experienced 26% of the country's total gun homicides.¹
- Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide, and 14 times more likely than white Americans to be injured in a gun assault.²
- Young black men are especially vulnerable to gun violence. While accounting for just 6% of the U.S. population, they account for more than 50% of gun homicides.³
- Firearm homicide is the leading cause of death for black males ages 15-34.⁴ For black children and teens the rate of gun injury is 10 times greater than for white children and teens.⁵
- Unarmed black civilians are nearly five times more likely to be shot and killed by police than unarmed white civilians.⁶
- Suicide rates among African-Americans have increased substantially over the past two decades, and firearms play a substantial role. Half of male suicides⁷ were by firearm, and even among females, guns account for 1 in 5 suicide deaths.
- In Connecticut the story is similar; victims of gun violence are disproportionately people of color.⁸ Approximately 56% of the state's gun homicide victims are black; however, only 10% of the state's population is black. While accounting for about 14% of Connecticut's population, Latinx accounts for approximately 23% of gun homicide victims. Young black men in Connecticut are profoundly at risk—almost 39 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than white men⁹

¹ [Want to fix gun violence in America? Go local](#), The Guardian, Jan 9, 2017

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), "Fatal and Non-fatal Injury Reports"

³ [Healing Communities in Crisis](#), Giffords Law Center, Jan 15, 2019

⁴ Garen J. Wintemute, "The Epidemiology of Firearm Violence in the Twenty-First Century United States," Annual Review of Public Health 36 (2015)

⁵ [African-American Gun Violence Victimization in the U.S.](#), Violence Policy Center and Amnesty International, Jun 30, 2014

⁶ [The Relationship between Structural Racism and Black-white Disparities in Fatal Police Shootings at the State Level](#), Journal of the National Medical Association, Apr, 2018

⁷ [The Changing Characteristics of African-American Adolescent Suicides](#), Journal of Community Health, Aug, 2019

⁸ [Connecticut Gun Violence](#), Center for American Progress, Nov 2019

⁹ [The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Connecticut](#), Giffords Law Center