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.

- 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 suicides were by firearm, and even among females, guns account for 1 in 5 suicide deaths.⁷

- 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
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
⁸ Connecticut Gun Violence, Center for American Progress, Nov 2019
⁹ The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Connecticut, Giffords Law Center