

The Crisis of Community Gun Violence

Community gun violence (aka urban gun violence) is a type of interpersonal violence that takes place in cities between individuals that are typically known to each other, but not as intimate partners. It accounts for the majority of gun homicides in the U.S., and in Connecticut.

The victims and perpetrators of community gun violence are disproportionately young Black and Hispanic men who are caught up in disputes, retaliation and ongoing cycles of violence. Because it typically occurs in public places or outside, community gun violence creates ever-present dangers in already disadvantaged Black and brown communities, and is why innocent bystanders are so frequently its victims.

- 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
- In Connecticut the story is similar; victims of gun violence are disproportionately people of color. Black men account for approximately 53% of the state's gun homicide victims; but make up only 6% of the state's population. While accounting for about 14% of Connecticut's population, Latinx accounts for approximately 23% of gun homicide victims. Young Black men in Connecticut are at profound risk—almost 39 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than white men⁶
- Exposure to violence is commonplace among children of color, which leads to a wide range of immediate and lifelong harmful effects related to learning, chronic health problems, mental illness, substance abuse, forming healthy relationships and having stable employment.⁷

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 State of Gun Violence in Connecticut](#), Giffords Law Center

⁷ CAGV Fact Sheet: Impact to Children of Exposure to Gun Violence