

CeaseFirePA

Taking a stand against gun violence in Pennsylvania



@CeaseFirePA

info@CeaseFirePA.org

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215.923.3151

Gun Violence Prevention in Pennsylvania 2013 Highlights

2013 has been a year of significant progress in the gun violence prevention movement. Although much work remains, it is important to note these critical achievements.

January 2013

- After years of pressure from CeaseFirePA, the State Police uploaded 642,000 mental health records into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Now, records that would prevent a prohibited purchaser from buying a gun in Pennsylvania are available through the national database to all states.
- CeaseFirePA is invited to meet with Vice President Biden and the President's Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention at a special meeting in Washington, D.C.
- CeaseFirePA brings hundreds of Pennsylvanians to the Capitol to call on our leaders for commonsense action to protect our communities. Rallies and events like this continue throughout the year across the Commonwealth.

February 2013

- Attorney General Kathleen Kane closes the "Florida loophole." This loophole allowed people who could not obtain a Pennsylvania permit to carry a concealed weapon (or who had their Pennsylvania permit revoked) to use out of state permits to carry concealed weapons in Pennsylvania. Now, Pennsylvania residents must obtain concealed carry permits from Pennsylvania, specifically, from the county in which they reside.

Spring 2013

Philadelphia Courtwatch program continues to expand, with CeaseFirePA representatives and community volunteers attending sentencings weekly.

April 2013

- Pennsylvania's United States Senators Robert Casey and Patrick Toomey both vote in favor of expanding the federal background check system.
- The Where Did the Gun Come From Campaign? launches in Western Pennsylvania.

July 2013

- The Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee holds a hearing on the Pennsylvania background check system. The State Police, CeaseFirePA, Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Francine Wheeler of Sandy Hook Promise, who lost her son at Newtown, CT, testify about the need to maintain Pennsylvania's background check system and expand it to cover all gun sales.

Fall 2013

CeaseFirePA expands the Courtwatch program to Allegheny County.

Fall 2013

- CeaseFirePA hosts statewide Gun Violence Prevention Strategy Summit. Partnering with the Center for American Progress, we brought together more than forty organizations and 115 volunteers to learn, network and strategize about the future of gun violence prevention in Pennsylvania.

October 2013

- CeaseFirePA holds first telephone town hall with guest speaker former Governor Ed Rendell. Almost 6,000 callers listen in, with more than 150 "raising their hands" to ask questions.