

Community Violence



788

Gun homicides spiked 39% in 2020 reaching a deadly milestone.



25x

Black Pennsylvanians are 25 times more likely to be killed in a gun homicide.



2x

Children living near a shooting were twice as likely to visit an ER for mental health concerns.

Too many Pennsylvanians live in communities where gun violence is part of the fabric of daily life. Parents bury their children at alarming rates. Children grow up losing friends before they graduate from high school. And the constant shootings mean everyone in the community struggles to thrive.

People pulling the trigger make up less than 1% of a city's population, often using illegally purchased firearms. It doesn't have to be this way. Our laws are failing to keep people safe from this violence by continuing to allow access to illegal firearms and historic disinvestment. No one is safe, until we are all safe.

MORE FACTS



Most illegal firearms start as legal ones. About 21 go missing in PA each day, fueling underground sale of guns that are used in community violence.



A Philadelphia Inquirer analysis found the 57 blocks with 10 or more people shot have a poverty rate double the city average.



DIY, homemade ghost guns that can be assembled in hours are increasingly the weapon of choice for shootings. Recovery of them rose 152% in Philadelphia from 2019 and 2020



Community violence prevention programs interrupt cycles of violence through outreach and engagement. Some have cut shootings by 50%.



States that require reporting of lost or stolen firearms saw a 46% reduction in traced illegal gun movement. It targets people who choose to not report a missing firearm. Pennsylvania lacks this law.

TAKE A STAND

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