



Funding community-led efforts to interrupt cycles of violence can cut shootings up to 50 percent. It's time for Pennsylvania to invest.

Everyone in the Commonwealth should be able to live, work, play and learn free from gun violence. But in too many of the most under-resourced and marginalized communities, the risk of being shot is part of daily life. It can turn a simple trip to the grocery store or a walk to school for a child into a harrowing, life-risking journey.

Gun homicides are the top killer of young Black men, but the reality is people pulling the trigger make up less than 1 percent of a city's population. Cities throughout the country have proven that targeted programs that use the wisdom and connections of the community can reduce violence quickly by interrupting cycles of violence and helping people heal.

The Commonwealth invested \$30 million in these programs in 2022, but that's dwarfed by the size of this crisis that costs PA \$12 billion each year. It's why we're calling for a \$300 million five-year investment in community based violence reduction programs.

OUR MISSION To end the gun violence epidemic, CeaseFirePA organizes with communities closest to the issue, holds those in power accountable and maximizes the strengths of every member in its broad coalition.

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IT IS TIME FOR PA TO INVEST IN SAFER COMMUNITIES

The evidence is in: community-driven efforts can reduce violence, and that life-saving impact can be maintained. These programs include:

- Hospital-based intervention helps survivors of gun violence heal from trauma and prevent retaliation;
- Group violence intervention engages those most at risk of being involved in violence, replacing enforcement with deterrence and community support. It has been associated with a 30%-60% reduction in homicides;
- Street outreach with credible messengers uses a public health model where interrupters mediate potentially violent conflicts, respond to shootings and help victims. An independent evaluation found a 73% decrease in shootings in targeted areas in Atlanta;

These are a few of community violence prevention programs that have reduced violence. Successful efforts have three things in common:

THE ISSUES



DATA DRIVEN IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH -RISK INDIVIDUALS

Most shooters and victims make up a small percentage of the overall population of a city. Targeting limited services helps interrupt the violence and prevent it from continuing.



SUPPORT SERVICES TO ADDRESS NEEDS

Focusing efforts on providing for an individual's economic needs, healing trauma, and addressing other risk factors can prevent future involvement in gun violence by addressing its root causes.



TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

Hurt people, hurt people. A study found children living in community violence are more likely to be anxious and respond to threats with violence. Healing that trauma can prevent it from becoming deadly.



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