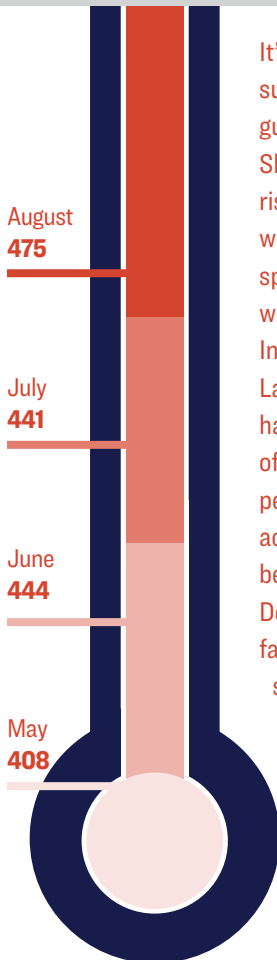


SHOOTINGS, CITIES, AND THE SUMMER

As temperatures rise, so does gun violence, particularly in underserved urban areas. **Over Fourth of July weekend alone last year, 102 people were shot in Chicago, a record.** With school out, longer days, and oppressive heat—and easy access to guns—conflicts turn more violent more quickly, and lives end too soon.

RISING HEAT, RISING SHOOTINGS

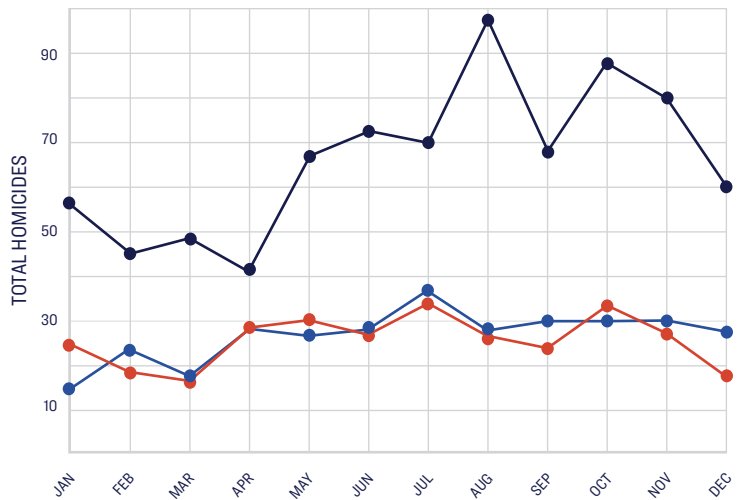
Monthly fatal and nonfatal shootings in Chicago in 2016.



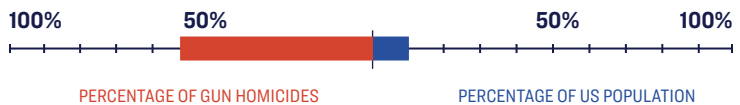
It's no secret that Chicago suffers some of the worst gun violence in the country. Shootings in the Windy City rise in the summer months, with particularly dramatic spikes during holiday weekends—Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. While Chicago has the highest number of shootings each year, its per capita shooting rate is actually only 11th in the US, behind cities like Atlanta, Detroit, and Memphis. In fact, St. Louis, located in a state with weak gun laws, has a nonfatal shooting rate seven times higher than Chicago's.

MURDERS PEAK IN THE SUMMER

Homicides in 2016: ● Baltimore ● Chicago ● Detroit



BLACK MEN COMPRISE JUST 7% OF THE US POPULATION BUT OVER 50% OF GUN HOMICIDE VICTIMS, MOST OF WHICH ARE CONCENTRATED IN UNDERSERVED URBAN COMMUNITIES.



The Problem

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRIME AND HEAT

Year after year, violent crime reaches its highest levels in the summer. The relationship is not all that surprising: warm weather encourages people to spend more time outside where more social interactions occur. There are more chances for violence to break out on hot days, especially when employment opportunities or summer programs for high-risk youth are not readily available. Young adults that have fallen through the cracks are disproportionately both the victims and perpetrators of shootings.

A CRISIS IN OUR CITIES

Gun homicides in America are concentrated in urban areas, particularly in impoverished and underserved minority communities. Cities with large minority populations, like New Orleans, Detroit, and Baltimore, have a homicide rate up to 10 times higher than the national average, a rate that reaches its peak in the summer months.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

In addition to the human cost, urban gun violence has enormous economic consequences, leading to lowered property values, shuttered businesses, and increased healthcare and law enforcement costs. Economic suppression in turn drives gun violence, creating a deadly cycle.

Proven Solutions

While the statistics paint a bleak picture, the good news is that proven solutions exist to reduce gun violence in our cities, in some cases, like Richmond, California, by up to 66% within seven years.

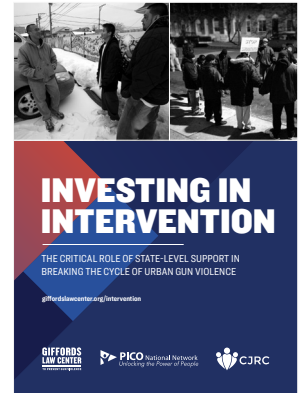
- **Universal background checks** make it harder for guns to be sold to prohibited people.
- **Group violence intervention programs** identify those most likely to commit gun violence and provide opportunities and resources to break the cycle of violence.
- **Lost and stolen reporting laws** discourage trafficking and straw purchasing and help law enforcement trace crime guns.
- **Hospital-based violence intervention programs** reduce injury recidivism rates by working directly with shooting victims.
- **Summer-specific interventions** reduce shootings by giving at-risk youth alternative activities in the hottest months. For example, Chicago's One Summer program provides summer jobs to young people, while Los Angeles's Summer Night Lights program offers free events and activities for young people in the public spaces of high-risk neighborhoods.

PUBLISHED JUNE 2018

For more details and underlying research, visit lawcenter.giffords.org/heat

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Learn more about proven solutions to urban gun violence in our report *Investing in Intervention* at giffordslawcenter.org/intervention

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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