

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Giffords
DATE: June 17, 2019
RE: 19 Shootings, 28 Victims, 1 Weekend in Philadelphia

As people gathered on Sunday to celebrate at a graduation party, gunfire erupted and one person was killed with seven others shot and injured. Sadly, this was one of many shootings that took place in Philadelphia this weekend. **Over two days, [at least five people died](#) and [23 more were injured in 19 separate shootings](#) across Philadelphia.** On Saturday afternoon, a [38-year-old woman died when a gunman fired into a deli](#) in the northern part of the city. [Two men were fatally shot](#) in separate shootings between 1 and 2 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Our team is monitoring this situation and provide updates as we learn more. In the meantime, the following experts are available for interviews. To arrange an interview, email media@giffords.org.

- [Peter Ambler](#), Executive Director, Giffords
- [Robyn Thomas](#), Executive Director, Giffords Law Center
- [David Chipman](#), Former ATF Agent, Senior Policy Advisor, Giffords
- [Laura Cutilletta](#), Managing Director, Giffords Law Center
- [Robin Lloyd](#), Managing Director, Giffords
- [Lindsay Nichols](#), Federal Policy Director, Giffords Law Center
- [Allison Anderman](#), Senior Counsel, Managing Attorney, Giffords Law Center
- [David Pucino](#), Staff Attorney

Background about Pennsylvania Gun Laws

Pennsylvania received a C+ in the Giffords Law Center's most recent [gun law scorecard](#). Among other things, Pennsylvania law does not:

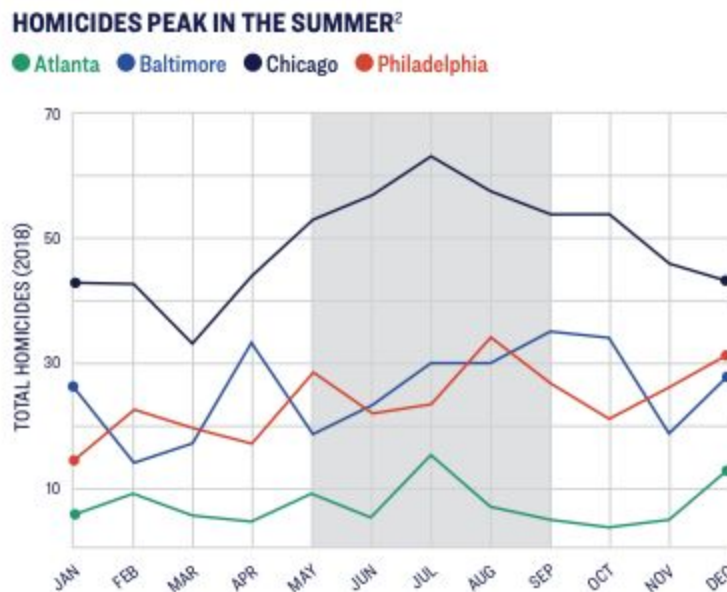
- Require a [background check when an unlicensed person](#) sells a rifle or shotgun;
- Require gun owners to report if their [guns are lost or stolen](#);
- Allow courts to issue [protective orders to prevent dangerous people](#) other than domestic abusers from having access to guns;
- Have laws to prevent [children or other unauthorized people from having easy access to unlocked firearms](#);
- Allow [local governments to regulate](#) firearms or ammunition;
- Prohibit the transfer or possession of [assault weapons](#), [50 caliber rifles](#) or [large capacity ammunition magazines](#);
- Require firearm owners to obtain a [license](#);
- Require the [registration of firearms](#);
- Regulate [ammunition sales](#); or
- Provide local law enforcement with discretion to deny a [license to carry firearms](#).

Pennsylvania law does include the following provisions, among others:

- Requires a [background check prior to the unlicensed sale](#) of a handgun;
- Conducts [its own background checks](#) when licensed dealers sell firearms;
- Requires firearm dealers to obtain a [state license](#);
- [Prohibits straw purchases](#), a common source of illegally trafficked firearms, and has a [“Straw Purchaser Education Program”](#);
- Maintains a [state database](#) of information regarding the sale handguns and certain other types of firearms;
- Requires licensed dealers to include [locking devices](#) when transferring handguns or short-barreled rifles or shotguns.

Background on Rise in Gun Violence During the Summer

With the summer months come rising temperatures, longer days, and in many cities, more gun violence. 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. In fact, during the summer, there are approximately [20 additional gun homicides](#) of children and teens each month in communities across the country.



Background on Violence Intervention and Prevention Strategies in PA

- Interpersonal gun violence in Pennsylvania is highly concentrated in just a few cities. Homicides in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh alone account for [about half of all homicides in the state](#).

- Black men make up just 6% of Pennsylvania’s population, but account for [nearly 64%](#) of the state’s gun homicide victims.
- In Pennsylvania, black men ages 18–24 are [over 36 times](#) more likely than white men the same age to be murdered with a gun.
- To combat gun violence cities should consider evidence-based, community driven solutions like focussed deterrence, street outreach, and hospital-based violence intervention. These strategies aim to reduce shootings and homicides by focusing on the root causes of community violence.
- In recent years, the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have begun to implement research-backed strategies to address gun violence. Pennsylvania could substantially reduce its gun homicide rate by investing in these local violence reduction initiatives.

Research, Data & Related Studies

- In 2017, Pennsylvania had the [26th highest gun death rate](#) among the states, with a gun death rate of 12.4 gun deaths per 100,000 persons—roughly the national average.
- Gun violence claims the lives of [1,503 Pennsylvania residents each year](#). Someone is [killed with a gun every six hours](#) in the state.
- According to the Gun Violence Archive, America has already experienced [172 mass shooting in 2019](#) (incidents in which four or more people were killed or injured by a shooter). The shooting at the graduation party in Philadelphia over the weekend is the sixth mass shooting in the state of Pennsylvania since January 1, 2019.
- Gun violence costs the state of Pennsylvania more than [\\$3 billion in directly measurable costs](#). When indirect costs that impact families and communities, such as pain and suffering, are factored in, the overall estimate of the economic cost of gun violence rises to \$8.5 billion per year.

Statement from Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords:

“Until our lawmakers take action to address American’s gun violence crisis, it will be an inescapable part of our daily lives. It will continue to impact communities in cities, like Philadelphia, that are too often are ignored by politicians in Washington, DC. Graduation parties and playgrounds should be filled with joy and laughter -- not grief and worry. We know how to solve this problem. We know there are solutions that can be signed into law today that will save lives. But we need elected officials at all levels of government who will act on our demand for change.”

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[Giffords](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Founded by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Giffords inspires the courage of people from all walks of life to make America safer.

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.