

Milagros Canales Old Fairground Neighborhood Association

GAMES FOR GUNZ



Community gun violence inflicts an enormous burden upon our city particularly within under-resourced Black and Latino communities. In our under-resourced city neighborhoods, community gun violence has become routine. The health and wellbeing of everyone living within the neighborhoods are adversely impacted. As a result, community gun violence further perpetuates the cycles of concentrated poverty, structural disadvantage, and health inequity that has already exist within this communities. Policies and programs that address community gun violence are essential to tackle the public health epidemic of gun violence in the United States and promote health equity. Strong gun violence prevention laws, like the one about firearm licensing laws that require individuals to obtain a license before purchasing a firearm, must be paired with measures to ensure law enforcement accountability.

For police officers to enforce gun laws in an effective and equitable manner they need to be viewed by community members as legitimate resource. Many Black and Brown communities across America, including the lehigh valley are apprehensive to trust law enforcement and often are reluctant to partner with police to act as witnesses and prevent violence. Given the long history of state sanctioned violence, racism, and mass incarceration often carried out by the criminal justice system, this reticence is understandable. Policymakers and police departments must work to mend these relationships. They can do this by building authentic relationships with communities and enacting police reforms

Community-based violence intervention efforts work with those impacted by gun violence to reduce the cycles of community gun violence, address the underlying causes of gun violence, and promote health equity. Community-based violence intervention and prevention programs bring together community members, social service providers, and, in some cases, law enforcement to identify and provide support for individuals at highest risk for gun violence.



This community Gun Buy Back program is being demanded by the community to help get guns off the street but also open the lines of communication for all that are invested in having a safer city. This leaves the community with a sense of belonging and better understanding of their value to the City and neighborhood. Violent crime prevention is a shared responsibility and today's overwhelming community participation is evidence of the success we can achieve if we can do this together. We have not only a duty, but we have a vested interest in the community because we are from here, our children are being raised here. This is not only our community, this is our family. And when it comes to our family, our people in our community, they know us. They know we're not going to sell them smoke, they know that we're not going to take that information and twist it to make us look negative, but the facts are what there are. We must own what is happening in our community, the families who are addicted to drugs, families who are homeless, families with members who are in prison—these are our family members in the community. We understand these things happen in all socioeconomic levels. That's why this gun buy back is so unique, because it's coming from a very honest and personal place.

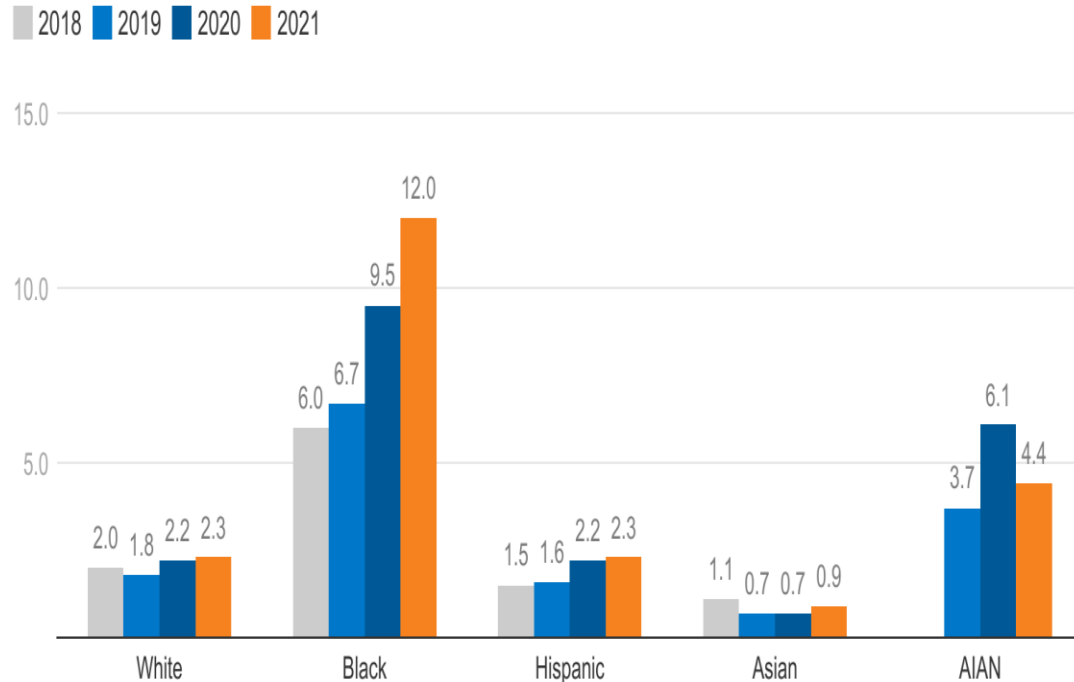
ROOT CAUSE

The root causes of gun violence include:

- Income inequality
- Poverty
- Underfunded public housing
- Under-resourced public services
- Underperforming schools
- Lack of opportunity and perceptions of hopelessness
- Easy access to firearms by high-risk people

Figure 3

Firearm-Related Death Rates for Children and Adolescents by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2021



NOTE: Rates from 2021 reflect provisional data. Rates are per 100,000 children and adolescents ages 17 and below. Causes of death attributable to firearm mortality include ICD-10 Codes W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, and Y35.0. AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native people. AIAN data for 2018 was unavailable. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; other groups are non-Hispanic. Persons of more than one race are not included in the data.

SOURCE: KFF analysis of CDC Wonder Online Database - Provisional Mortality Statistics, 2018-2021



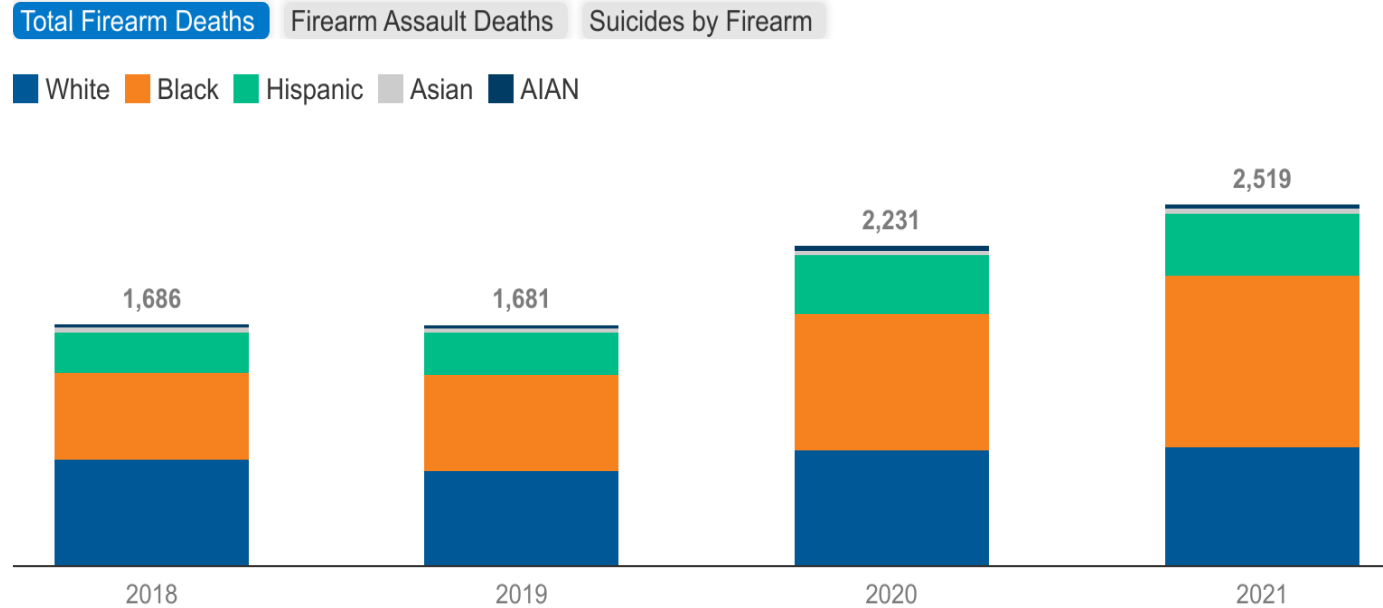
Firearm injuries and deaths in the United States have increased in recent years and adversely affect many children and adolescents. In 2020, firearms became the leading cause of death among children ages 19 and below and in the first six months of 2022, there were over 300 mass shootings across the U.S., including the shooting at a Elementary in Uvalde, Texas.

Firearm death rates sharply increased among Black and Hispanic youth during the pandemic. In 2021, the rate of firearm-related deaths among Black youth was 12.0 per 100,000 – substantially higher than any other racial and ethnic group and six times higher than White youth (Figure 3). Although Black children made up [14%](#) of the youth U.S. population in 2021, they accounted for [46%](#) of youth firearm deaths. Additionally, from 2018 to 2021, the rate of firearm-related deaths doubled among Black youth and increased by 50% among Hispanic youth. While firearm death rates for American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) youth fluctuated over the same period, they remained higher than the rates of their White peers. White youth experienced relatively stable and lower firearm mortality rates from 2018 to 2021 (from 2.0 to 2.3 per 100,000), while Asian youth had the lowest firearm mortality rates across the period.

See Slide 3

Figure 4

Firearm Deaths Among Children and Adolescents, by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2021



NOTE: Firearm death counts are for children and adolescents ages 17 and below. Data from 2021 reflect provisional data. Causes of death attributable to firearm mortality include ICD-10 Codes W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, and Y35.0. AIAN refers to American Indian and Alaska Native people. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race but are categorized as Hispanic for this analysis; other groups are non-Hispanic. Persons of more than one race are not included in the data.

SOURCE: KFF analysis of CDC Wonder Online Database - Provisional Mortality Statistics, 2018-2021.

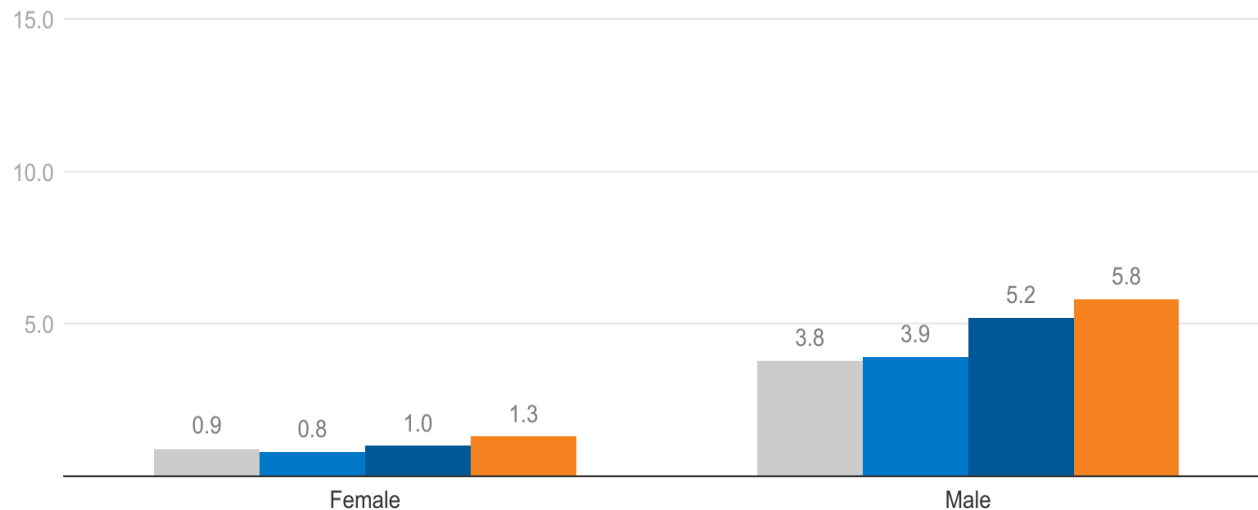


RECENT STUDY FOUND THAT THIS DISPARITY IN EXPOSURE TO GUN VIOLENCE HAS BEEN EXACERBATED DURING THE PANDEMIC, PARTICULARLY FOR BLACK AND LATINO CHILDREN. FURTHER, A SEPARATE STUDY FOUND THAT CHILDREN LIVING IN AREAS WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE FIREARM-RELATED DEATHS AND POVERTY DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS CHILDREN OF COLOR

Figure 5

Firearm-Related Death Rates for Children and Adolescents by Sex, 2018-2021

■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021



NOTE: Rates are per 100,000 children and adolescents ages 17 and below. Causes of death attributable to firearm mortality include ICD-10 Codes W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, and Y35.0. Rates from 2021 reflect provisional data.

SOURCE: KFF analysis of CDC Wonder Online Database - Provisional Mortality Statistics, 2018-2021

KFF

MALE YOUTH ARE OVER FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR FEMALE PEERS TO DIE BY FIREARM.

FROM 2018 TO 2021, THE RATE OF DEATHS DUE TO FIREARMS INCREASED BY 53% AMONG MALE YOUTH BUT REMAINED LOWER AND STABLE AMONG FEMALE YOUTH (FIGURE 5).

THANK YOU

Milagros Canales

Games for Gunz

610 483 8537

Millystore@yahoo.com

