

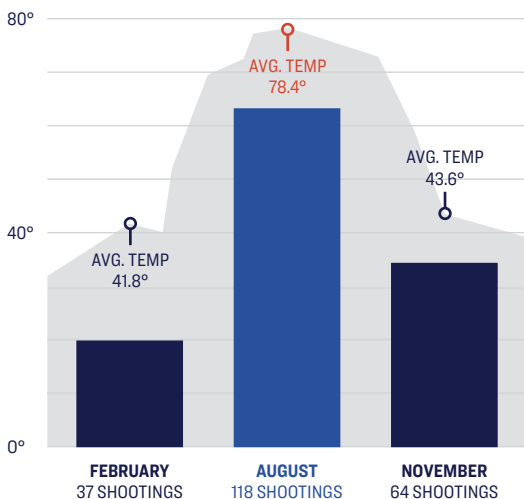
SHOOTINGS, CITIES, AND THE SUMMER

With the summer months come rising temperatures, longer days, and in many cities, more gun violence. The disturbing trend is particularly pronounced among children and youth. In the absence of structured school days and under the oppressive summer sun, conflicts arise and everyday altercations can turn deadly.

RISING HEAT, RISING SHOOTINGS

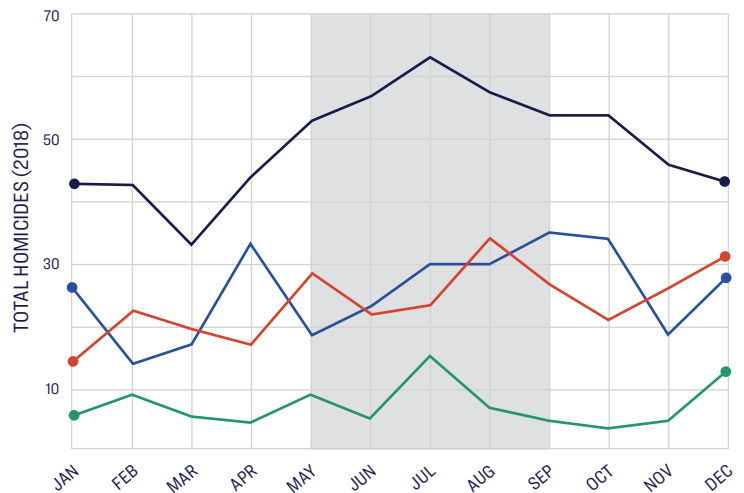
Shootings and homicides in cities like Baltimore already have an outsized impact on underserved communities. During the summer, this burden intensifies. While some residents can retreat to the comfort of air conditioned homes and business, economically disadvantaged residents have no choice but to brave the scorching temperatures and violence of the streets.¹

BALTIMORE'S COMBINED FATAL AND NONFATAL SHOOTINGS OVER AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE IN 2018

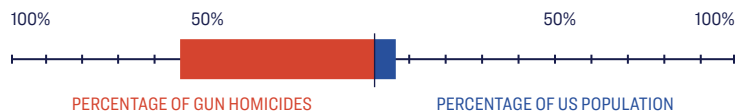


HOMICIDES PEAK IN THE SUMMER²

● Atlanta ● Baltimore ● Chicago ● Philadelphia



BLACK MEN COMPRISE LESS THAN 7% OF THE US POPULATION BUT OVER 50% OF GUN HOMICIDE VICTIMS, MOST OF WHICH ARE CONCENTRATED IN UNDERSERVED URBAN COMMUNITIES.³



The Problem

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRIME AND HEAT

Year after year, violent crime reaches its highest levels in the summer.⁴ The relationship is not all that surprising: warm weather encourages people to spend more time outside where more social interactions occur.⁵ 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.⁶

A CRISIS IN OUR CITIES

Gun homicides in America are concentrated in urban areas, particularly in minority communities. Cities with large minority populations—like New Orleans, St. Louis, and Baltimore—can have homicide rates that are 10 times higher than the national average.⁷ These rates reach their peak in the summer months.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

In addition to the devastating human cost, gun violence in our cities has enormous economic consequences, leading to lowered property values, shuttered businesses, and increased healthcare and law enforcement costs.⁸ Economic suppression in turn drives gun violence, fueling a deadly cycle.⁹

Proven Solutions

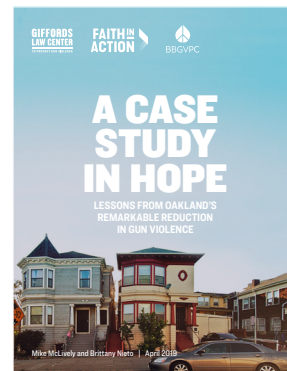
While the statistics paint a bleak picture, the good news is that solutions to reduce gun violence in our cities exist. By investing in a concerted violence prevention strategy, Oakland, California, cut gun violence by nearly 50% within six years.¹⁰

- **Universal background checks** make it harder for guns to fall into the wrong hands by closing dangerous loopholes in our federal gun laws.
- **Group violence intervention programs** identify those most likely to commit gun violence and provide opportunities and resources to break the cycle of violence.
- **Hospital-based violence intervention programs** reduce injury recidivism rates by working directly with shooting victims to prevent future violence.
- **Evidence-based street outreach programs** work to interrupt the transmission of violence among community members by connecting high-risk individuals with mediation and peer support services.
- **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.

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Learn more about proven solutions to urban gun violence in our report *A Case Study in Hope: Lessons from Oakland's Remarkable Reduction in Gun Violence* at giffordslawcenter.org/hope

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For more than 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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SHOOTINGS, CITIES, AND THE SUMMER CITATIONS

1. Jeff Asher, "A Rise in Murder? Let's Talk About the Weather," *The New York Times*, September 21, 2018, <https://nyti.ms/2C88S1h>.
2. Homicide data represent the number of homicide victims, not number of incidents. Additionally, the homicide counts include data about homicides of all means, including firearms, knives, and other weapons. However, evidence indicates that the majority of homicides, particularly in urban areas, are committed with firearms; for instance, 90% of homicides in Chicago were perpetrated with a gun (see the University of Chicago's "Gun Violence in Chicago, 2016" report, available at <http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/projects/gun-violence-in-chicago-2016>). "Victim Based Crime Data," Baltimore Police Department, accessed June 2, 2019, <https://data.baltimorecity.gov/Public-Safety/BPD-Part-1-Victim-Based-Crime-Data/wsfq-mvij>; "Crimes - 2018," Chicago Police Department, accessed June 2, 2019, https://data.cityofchicago.org/d/3i3m-jwuy?category=Public-Safety&view_name=Crimes-2018; "Crime Incidents," Philadelphia Police Department, accessed June 2, 2019, <https://www.opendataphilly.org/dataset/crime-incidents>.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER), "Detailed Mortality," accessed June 5, 2019, <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.
4. Martin A. Andresen and Nicolas Malleson, "Crime Seasonality and its Variations across Space," *Applied Geography* 43 (2013): 25–35; Matthew Ranson, "Crime, Weather, and Climate Change," *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 67, no. 3 (2014): 274–302; Janet L. Lauritsen and Nicole White, "Seasonal Patterns in Criminal Victimization Trends," US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2014), <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/spcvt.pdf>.
5. James Rotton and Ellen G. Cohn, "Global Warming and US crime rates: an Application of Routine Activity Theory," *Environment and Behavior* 35, no. 6 (2003): 802–825.
6. From May 2017 to August 2017, there was an average of 173 gun homicides of 0–19 year olds. In the non-summer months (January 2017–April 2017 and September–December 2017), there was an average of just 154 gun homicides of 0–19 year olds each month. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER), "Detailed Mortality," accessed June 5, 2019, <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.
7. See, e.g., "New Orleans Quarterly UCR Data," New Orleans Police Department, accessed June 6, 2019, <https://nola.gov/nopd/data/>; "SLMPD Downloadable Crime Files," St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, accessed June 6, 2019, <http://www.slmpr.org/Crimereports.shtml>; "Victim Based Crime Data," Baltimore Police Department, accessed June 2, 2018, <https://data.baltimorecity.gov/Public-Safety/BPD-Part-1-Victim-Based-Crime-Data/wsfq-mvij>.
8. Yasemin Irvin-Erickson, et al., "A Neighborhood-Level Analysis of the Economic Impact of Gun Violence," Urban Institute, June 2017, <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/neighborhood-level-analysis-economic-impact-gun-violence>.
9. *Id.*
10. Mike McLively and Brittany Nieto, "A Case Study in Hope: Lessons from Oakland's Remarkable Reduction in Gun Violence," Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, April 2019, <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/a-case-study-in-hope-lessons-from-oaklands-remarkable-reduction-in-gun-violence/>.