



**GUN VIOLENCE**  
INTERVENTION TEAM  
DATA, POLICY, PARTNERSHIP



WE CAN END  
GUN VIOLENCE

Anne Arundel County  
Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT)

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Strategic Plan to  
**Prevent and Reduce  
Gun Violence**

June 28, 2022

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GUN VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION TEAM  
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2022

# Overview

# Letter from the County Executive

Everyone should read this report. It shows us a path forward on a mission shared by most residents of our county and nearly every American - a path and a process to prevent injury and death by shooting.

Upon signing Executive Order #9 on April 5, 2019 to create our county's Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I was told by some that it was a waste of time because state law preempts counties from regulating firearms. I signed the order because I had promised to do so. It was a promise that I made in a column that I wrote to the Capital Gazette after all candidates were asked for a plan to prevent another shooting like the one that terrorized that paper's newsroom and took the lives of Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters. These were only five of the preventable shootings that devastate whole families every year in our county.

I honestly did not know what the task force would produce, but when it recommended the creation of a permanent Gun Violence Intervention Team staffed by the Department of Health and including police, mental health, emergency management, and health and human service agencies. It's a model that brings the full force of county government to the task, and it has proven to be effective in our opioid intervention work.

This report shows us data that we can use to inform policy. It identifies social determinants of gun violence that we can impact. Most importantly, this report describes a work plan that can engage and benefit people on both sides of the raging national debate about who should or should not have access to firearms. We all want to save lives, and for those of us who don't want the government to take our guns away, preventing gun violence is an effective strategy.

Congress passed the Dickey Amendment, banning the use of federal funds to study gun violence in 1996. Congressman Dickey had a change of heart in 2012 and finally, with the support of public health leaders, convinced Congress in 2020 to reinvest in research to prevent gun violence through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Anne Arundel County is showing just how constructive this kind of analysis and coordination can be. The agency representatives and community leaders involved are engaging with passion and enthusiasm, because it's work that has not been done before, and it's work that will save lives.

Again, everyone should read this.



Steuart L. Pittman



# Letter from the Health Officer

Community members and partners,

Gun violence is the cause of death, injury and heartbreak in our county. When we think of gun violence, mass shootings grab the headlines, but there's a daily toll of homicides, suicides and injuries in our county. It traumatizes families and communities along with those who are injured and survive.

For decades our energies in addressing gun violence have focused on the word 'gun' in 'gun violence'. There are different opinions about whether there should be more or fewer guns and those debates have paralyzed our efforts to keep people safer. When we focus on the word 'violence' in 'gun violence' we have a broad consensus that there should be less violence. This is our shared understanding: to save lives, make our communities safer, and protect our health.

The Department of Health has taken on the challenge of addressing gun violence as a public health issue by forming and leading a Gun Violence Intervention Team. This team brings together a wide range of expertise from Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City agencies and nonprofits, academics from Anne Arundel Community College and experts from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. We're unique in Maryland, and in the country, in our countywide structured public health approach to gun violence.

Our shared goal is to keep people healthy and safer. Over the past few years, we have laid the foundation for addressing gun violence as a public health issue. Moving forward will require a shared commitment to enact these strategies to end gun violence. In partnership with communities we can eliminate the violence that leads to countless deaths and injuries. The time is here for us to rise to this challenge.

In solidarity,



Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP

# Coalition Partners

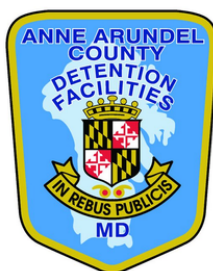
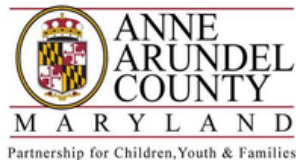
## Education



## City of Annapolis



## Anne Arundel County



Anne Arundel County  
Public Library





# About the Coalition

## Background

Gun violence is a public health issue on the national forefront, with more than 45,000 gun deaths and over 70,000 gun injuries reported in the United States each year. Anne Arundel County is not immune. Over the past year, the county lost 10 lives to gun homicide and 33 lives to suicide by firearm. On average, 114 individuals suffer non-fatal gun injuries each year in the county.

An interdisciplinary Gun Violence Prevention Task Force was formed by an Executive Order from Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman on April 5, 2019. The task force compiled data on county gun incidents and recommendations for intervention. Their final report was published on June 5, 2020. In response to the Task Force's recommendation, the Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT) was formed under the leadership of the Anne Arundel County Department of Health. The GVIT recognizes the complexity and scale of the issue of gun violence, and most importantly, honors the very real lives touched by the issue.

## Mission

The mission of the Gun Violence Intervention Team is to prevent and reduce gun-related injuries and deaths in Anne Arundel County.

This is done by implementing change at a policy, systemic and environmental level with the goal of lessening the social and emotional impacts of gun violence on our community.

## Vision

The Gun Violence Intervention Team envisions a community where all residents are safe from gun violence.

Our county fatality rate:

**7.6** per 100,000 county residents.

*This includes the average rate for gun homicides, suicides and other gun-related fatalities.*



Find out more by visiting  
[aahealth.org/gvit](https://aahealth.org/gvit)

National Vital Statistics System, Mortality Data (2020) via CDC WONDER

Gani F, Sakran JV, & Canner JK. (2017). Emergency department visits for firearm-related injuries in the United States, 2006–14. Appendix 13. Health Affairs.

# Guiding Principles

## 1 Implement a public health approach

The American Public Health Association declared gun violence as a public health crisis in 2018. County Executive Steuart Pittman established gun violence as a priority issue for his administration under Executive Order 9 on April 5, 2019, and declared gun violence a public health crisis and core county issue on June 4, 2021. Rather than an individual problem, gun violence is a multi-faceted public health issue and the result of a confluence of social determinants of health.

Preventing and reducing gun violence with a public health approach means understanding and addressing the many different types. Gun violence manifests through suicide, homicide and injury, among others, that each require unique prevention and deterrence strategies. Further, different forms of gun violence disproportionately impact different populations, putting those individuals at greater risk. The GVIT is utilizing public health interventions to prevent the injuries and deaths of these many types of gun violence on an individual, community and societal level, as well as to support the communities impacted.

### **Risk and Protective Factors of Gun Violence**

The many different forms that gun violence can take share several underlying factors. Each have far-reaching impacts on victims and their family, friends, neighbors and colleagues. Additionally, they share many root causes that underlie other major public health concerns. These root causes include poverty, racial and economic inequities, underfunded social programs, exposure to trauma, lack of access to safe housing, lack of opportunity and perceptions of hopelessness that all increase the risk for gun violence. These factors disproportionately impact specific communities and can put communities of color especially at risk.

A prime example of the various risk factors for gun homicides are the circumstances that increase the risk of youth gun violence. These risk factors include childhood or adolescent trauma, poverty, gang involvement, lack of positive role models, lack of training or job opportunities, poor outlook on the future and poor school performance. These factors, shaped by policy and environment, are disproportionately found in marginalized communities.



However, those with risk factors are not guaranteed to be perpetrators or victims of gun violence. Protective factors for youth gun homicide include nonviolence conflict resolution tactics, entry-level employment opportunities with good wages, after-school and summer programming for youth, positive, relatable mentors, workforce development opportunities for seniors and recent graduates, hope for the future and college readiness programs.

## 2 Data-driven and evidence-based

The GVIT aims to implement data-driven, evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies to address gun violence. Community violence intervention programs have been systematically evaluated and shown to be successful in other communities and can be adapted to Anne Arundel County. These programs include community violence interruption, focused deterrence, and hospital-based interventions. This past year, the coalition made publicly available county-level data on gun violence incidents. This data source will be expanded in the coming year and will continue to be tracked to assess and address gun violence issues more prevalent in Anne Arundel County, such as gun deaths by suicide. By using both local data and public health peer-reviewed interventions, the GVIT can implement a county-specific, evidence-based approach to gun violence.

## 3 Center community engagement

Gun violence is a community problem that requires community solutions and, recognizing that, the GVIT engages with the communities to collaboratively address the drivers of and implement the solutions to gun violence. The coalition itself is made up of a variety of local leaders in public health, education, law enforcement among others. Additionally, the GVIT holds quarterly community discussions, open to the public, to integrate the lived experiences and on-the-ground knowledge of county residents to inform the GVIT's approach. In the coming year, the GVIT will incorporate community conversations to further assess perceptions about and potential solutions for gun violence in the Anne Arundel County community. Only through interdisciplinary collaboration can our community tackle the issue of gun violence.



# Headline Indicators

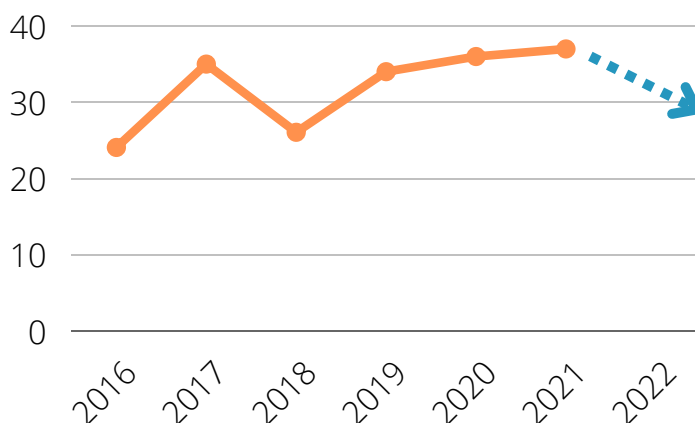
## Measuring Our Success Over the Next Five Years

### Results-Based Accountability

The GVIT uses results-based accountability (RBA) as a framework for understanding the drivers of gun violence, improving programming and determining how to take action in ways that will meaningfully and sustainably reduce gun violence. RBA starts with the desired ends of a program, which for the GVIT is an Anne Arundel County community where all residents are safe from gun violence, and works backward to identify measures and action steps to get there. This framework has two levels of evaluation: indicators and performance measures. The following are three indicators and accompanying performance measures that all work towards the county's desired result of improved community safety and well-being.

### Indicator #1

#### Gun Suicide and Suicide Attempt Victims



Source: Data on suicide fatalities comes from Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City police department incident data from 2016-2021.

#### Reduce suicides and suicide attempts by 33%.

*To match the lowest annual number of suicide fatalities in the past five years (24 gun suicides per year in the county).*

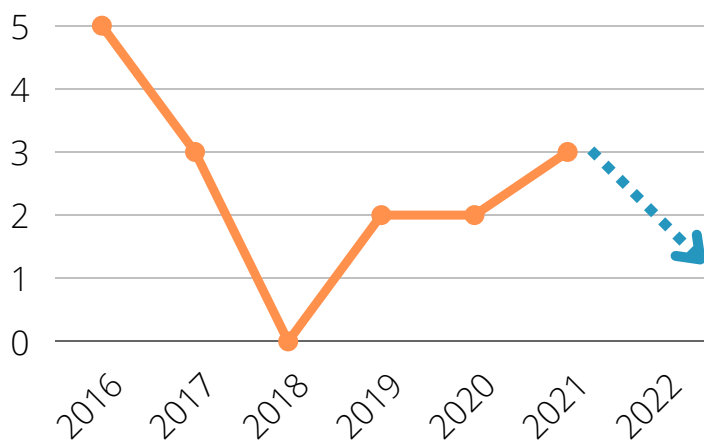
#### Performance Measures:

- All county residents have access to information and resources on suicide prevention.
- All county residents have access to lethal means reduction and safe storage resources.



## Indicator #2

Gun Homicide Victims Under 25 Years in Annapolis



Source: Data on homicide fatalities comes from Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City police department incident data from 2016-2021.

### Decrease the number of youth homicide victims in Annapolis to zero.

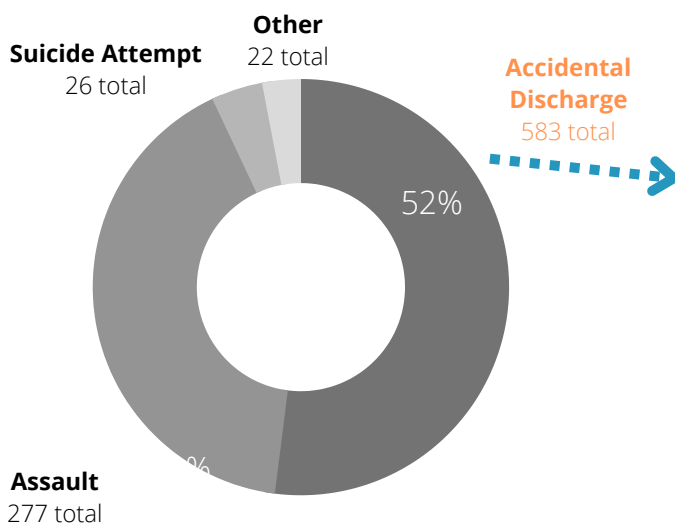
*To match the lowest annual number of homicide fatalities in the past five years (0 youth gun homicides per year in the city).*

#### Performance Measures:

- All county youth have access to conflict resolution, mediation, mental health, and education and economic support resources.
- All Annapolis youth who are at risk for gun violence are able to access violence intervention programming and mediation services.

## Indicator #3

Cause of Firearm Injury for Inpatient Hospitalization and Emergency Department Visits



Source: Data on firearm and violent injuries come from the Health Services Cost Review Commission Outpatient Discharge and Inpatient Admissions data files from 2016-2020. These data include all Emergency Department (ED) and inpatient visits for Anne Arundel County residents at any hospital in Maryland.

### Decrease the number of unintentional shooting injuries by 30%.

*To match national health indicator goals of a 60% decrease in 10 years (408 gun injuries per year in the county).*

#### Performance Measures:

- Information and available are available for gun owners and their loved ones to prevent accidental discharges.
- All gun injury victims are connected with trauma-informed resources following gun violence incidents and hospital visits.

# Coalition Progress

2020 - 2021

## Gun Safety Consortium

The Gun Safety Consortium formed in January of 2020 after a convening of mayors and police chiefs by the *Do Not Stand Idly By* campaign against gun violence. The consortium is a coalition of municipalities, counties and states applying their expertise and purchasing power to advance gun safety. Since forming, the coalition has completed several rounds of testing and evaluation for innovative gun safety products including locks, apps and devices. These products are designed to prevent unintended access to firearms for law enforcement officers and the general public. Anne Arundel County is a leading member of the Consortium and has participated in product testing rounds.

## Coalition Website

The GVIT launched a website in the spring of 2021 to provide a central source of information on local gun violence intervention efforts. The website serves as the hub for finding coalition updates, new events, links to resources, data dashboards and interactive engagements.

## Progress Timeline



### 2020

- JUNE  
Final report released
- AUGUST  
Formation of the Gun Violence Intervention Team
- SEPTEMBER  
Formation of the workgroups



Find out more by visiting  
[aahealth.org/gvit](https://aahealth.org/gvit)





## 2021

- FEBRUARY  
Quarterly community meeting
- JUNE  
National Gun Violence Awareness Day events  
Coalition website
- JULY  
Monthly fatalities dashboard
- AUGUST  
Suicide Prevention Toolkit
- OCTOBER  
Youth Gun Safety Toolkit  
Quarterly community meeting
- DECEMBER  
Domestic Violence Toolkit

## 2022

- MARCH  
Data dashboard  
Responsible Gun Ownership Toolkit
- APRIL  
Quarterly community meeting
- JUNE  
National Gun Violence Awareness Day events  
Strategic plan

# Roadmap

2022



## Priority #1

### Messaging

about safe storage and gun violence as a public health issue.



## Priority #2

### Community Conversations

to engage public perspective and experience about gun violence and inform the work.



## Priority #3

### Programs and Interventions

based on leading evidence-based practices to target the outcomes for our county.



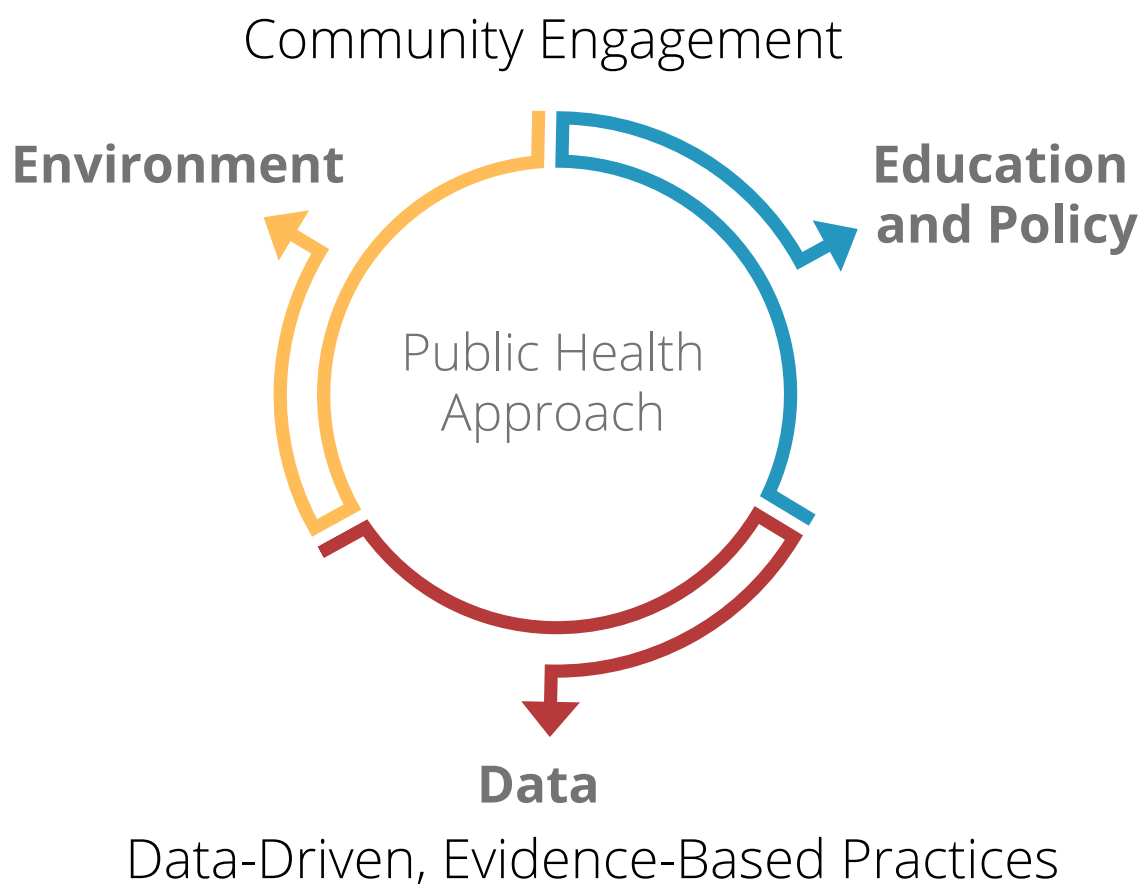
Looking  
AHEAD

# Framework

## Policy, System and Environment (PSE) Framework

The GVIT established three workgroups to develop and implement gun violence interventions at a policy, system and environment level of change. The PSE model addresses community needs by examining the various systems either supporting or limiting progress. By focusing on change at this level, the work of the coalition targets the root causes of gun violence and introduces changes that can be sustained over time.

## Gun Violence Intervention Team Model







GUN VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION TEAM  
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2022

# Gun Data

for Anne Arundel County



# National Measures

## Healthy People 2030

National health indicators are a helpful reference to see how Anne Arundel County's rates of gun violence over time compare to the rest of the country. Healthy People 2030 is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion that sets federal objectives to improve community health and well-being over a 10-year period. Indicators are measured as a rate per 100,000 residents. By comparing our county rates to these national measures, we can understand where our areas of greatest need are and set measures for achieving gun violence reduction.

### Reduce Gun-Related Deaths

**National Rate:** 11.9 per 100,000 individuals

**Our county rate:**

**7.6** per 100,000 county residents

*This includes the average rate for gun homicides, suicides, and other gun-related fatalities.*

### Reduce Gun Homicides

**Our county rate:**

**2.5**

gun homicides  
per 100,000  
county residents.

**60%**

The majority of all homicides are gun-related, on average.

The rate for all homicides is **4.2 per 100,000 residents**. This is slightly lower than the national rate of 6.0 homicides per 100,000 individuals.

### Reduce Non-Fatal Gun-Related Injuries

**National Rate:** 26.3 per 100,000 individuals.

**Our county rate:**

**26.3** per 100,000 county residents.

Our county matches the national rate. Gun injuries need to **reduce to a rate of 10.1** to meet the federal goal for 2030.

*This includes the average rate for gun-related inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits.*

### Reduce Gun Suicides

**Our county rate:**

**4.9**

gun suicides  
per 100,000  
county residents.

**40%**

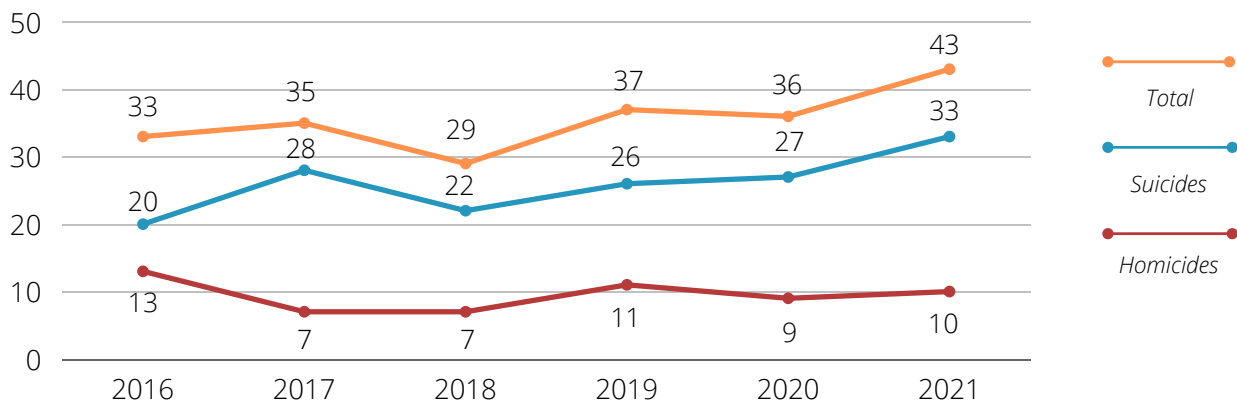
Guns are the most common method of suicide death, on average compared to all other methods.

The rate for all suicides is **12.1 per 100,000 residents**.

This is slightly lower than the national rate of 13.9 suicides per 100,000 individuals.

# Gun Fatalities

## Number of Gun Deaths by Year in Anne Arundel County

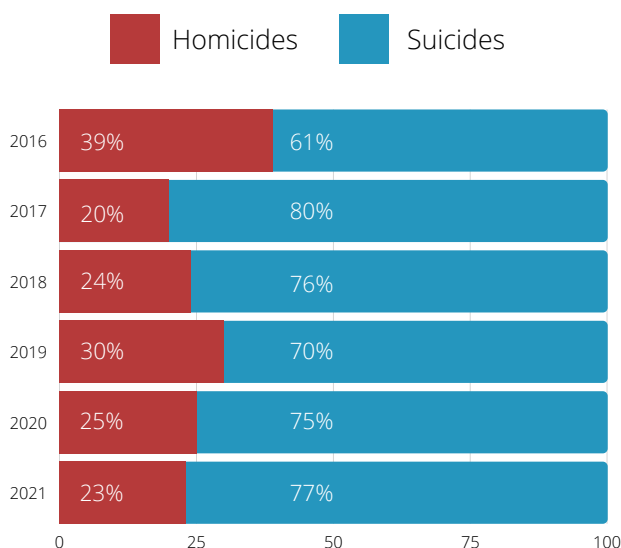


### Gun Fatality Trends

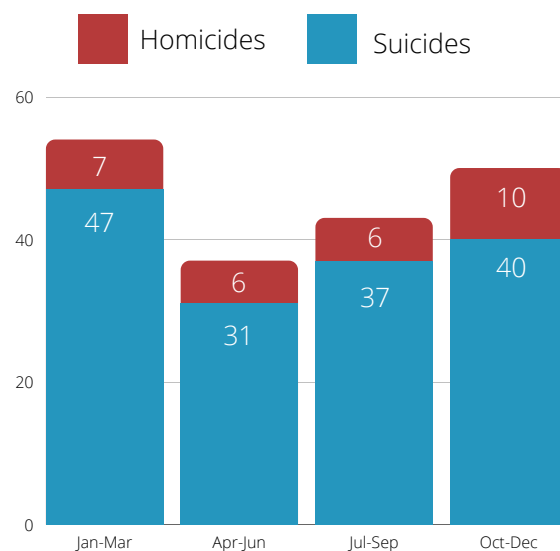
Gun fatalities in the county have been steadily rising, reaching the highest total number of fatalities in 2021. This is largely due to a rise in gun suicides in recent years. Annual gun suicides have steadily risen since 2018, passing the previous peak in 2017. Gun homicides were at their highest in 2016, remaining steady since 2019.

As a proportion of all gun deaths, suicides make up the majority at almost three-quarters (73%) each year on average in the county. This is different from Maryland where homicides make up the majority.

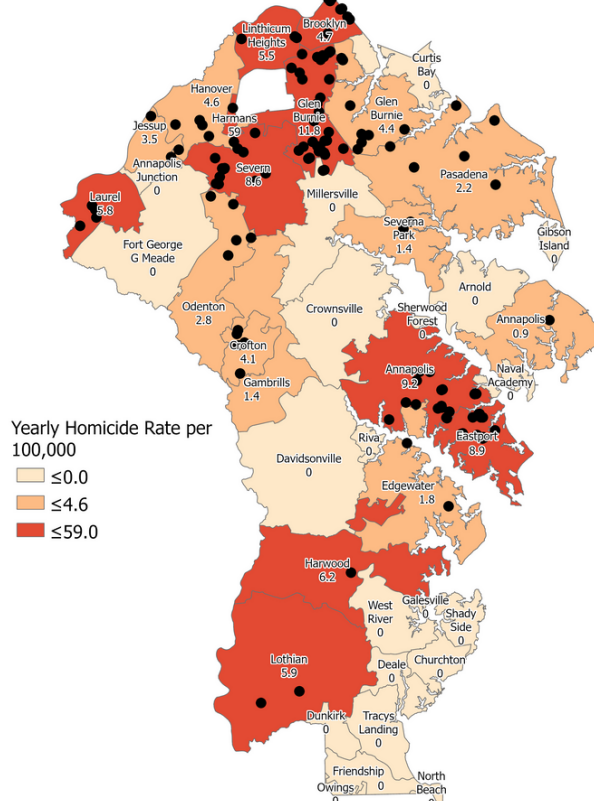
## Causes of Gun Death by Year



## Seasonality of Gun Deaths



Yearly Firearm-Related Homicide Rate by Incident Zip Code,  
Anne Arundel County, 2016 - 2020



Based on data from the Anne Arundel County and Annapolis Police Departments

Source: Police report incident data from Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City Police Departments (2016-2020).

## Gun Homicides

### Gun Homicide Trends

From 2016 to 2021, there were a total of 57 reported gun-related homicides in Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City. This is an average of **9.5 gun-related homicide deaths** each year.

When comparing rates of gun violence across the county, the ZIP codes with the highest rates of gun homicides were Harmans, Glen Burnie, Annapolis, Eastport and Severn.

In Annapolis City, just under a fifth (16%) of all gun homicide victims are juveniles under 18 years old. Half of all victims (44%) are young adults under 25 years old.

## Gun Suicides

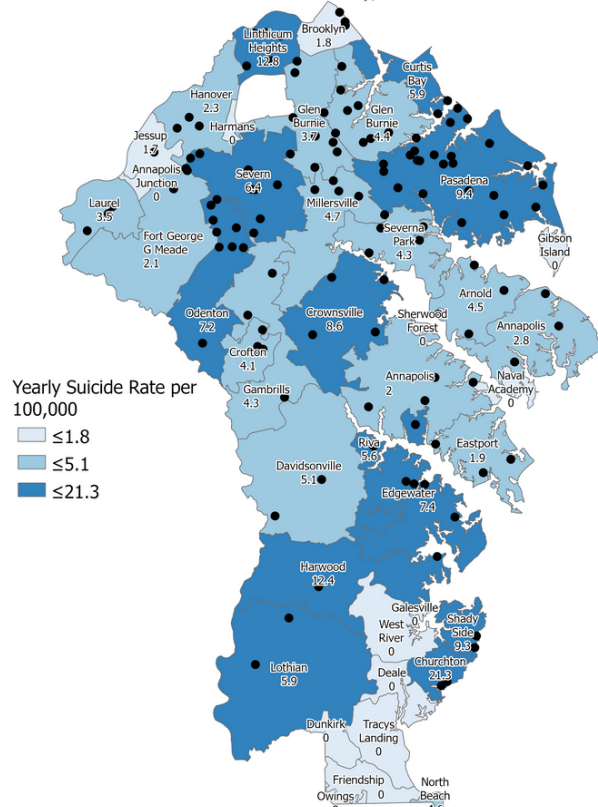
### Gun Suicide Trends

From 2016 to 2021, there were a total of 156 reported gun-related suicide fatalities across the city and county. This is an average of **26 gun-related suicide deaths** each year.

When comparing rates of gun violence across the county, the ZIP codes with the highest rates of gun suicide fatalities were Churchtown, Harwood, Linthicum Heights, Pasadena and Shady Side.

The majority of gun suicide victims (78%) are white males, median age 55.

Yearly Firearm-Related Suicide Rate by Incident Zip Code,  
Anne Arundel County, 2016- 2020

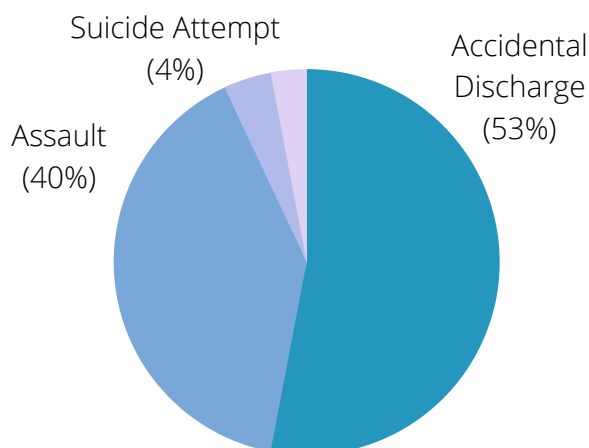


Based on data from the Anne Arundel County and Annapolis Police Departments

Source: Police report incident data from Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City Police Departments (2016-2020). Demographic data comes from the VSA (2013-2019).

# Gun Injuries

**Cause of Nonfatal Gun Injuries**

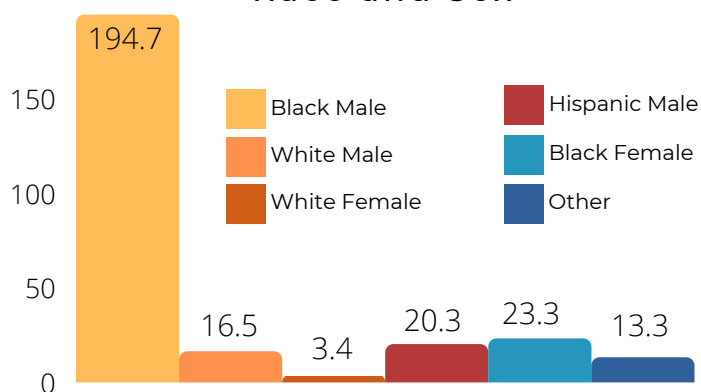


## Nonfatal Gun Injury Trends

For every gun death of a county resident, there are many victims who survive but can face long-term hardship. For those who have experienced gun violence, there can be potentially lifelong physical and mental challenges. These impacts can also affect family members, friends, neighbors and other loved ones of the victim.

Just over half of nonfatal gun injuries are due to accidental discharge (52%), or an unintentional shootings. The second most common cause is due to an assault involving a gun (40%).

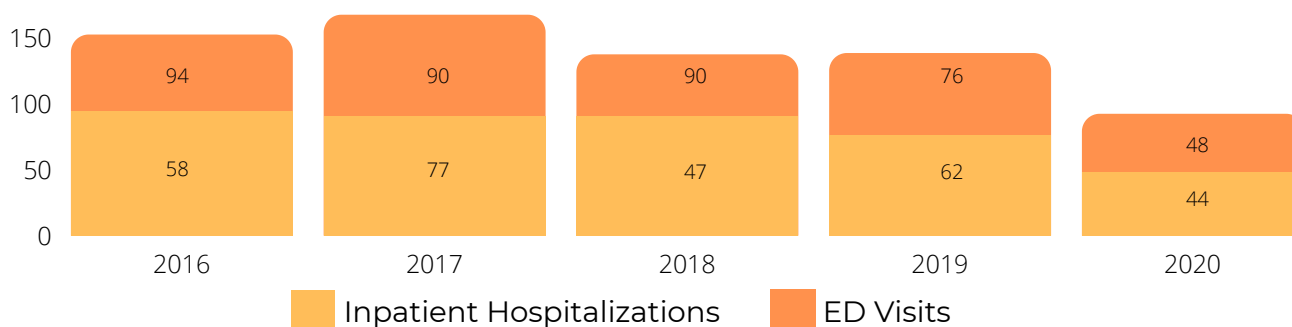
**Nonfatal Gun Injuries by Race and Sex**



According to inpatient hospitalization and emergency department (ED) visit records, between 2016 and 2020 a total of 686 individuals were admitted due to a gun-related injury. **This is an average of 114 visits each year.** The majority of these nonfatal gun injury visits were by black males between the ages of 26 and 37.

For every one gun fatality, there are three hospital visits due to a gun injury, each year on average in Anne Arundel County.

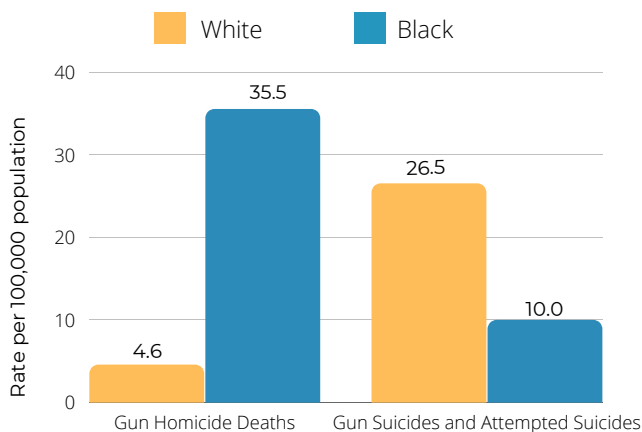
**Nonfatal Gun Injuries by Location**



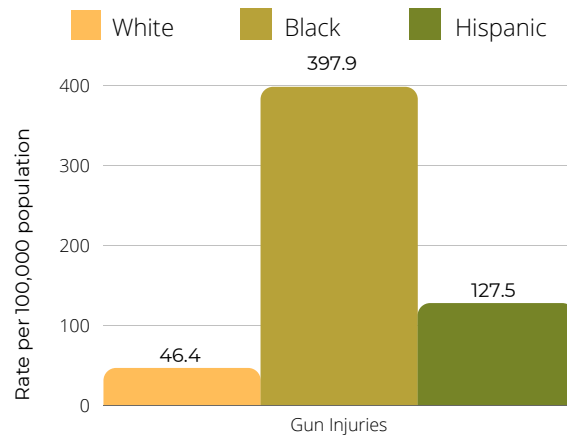


## Victim Demographics

Rate of Gun Suicides and Homicides by Race/Ethnicity



Rate of Gun Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

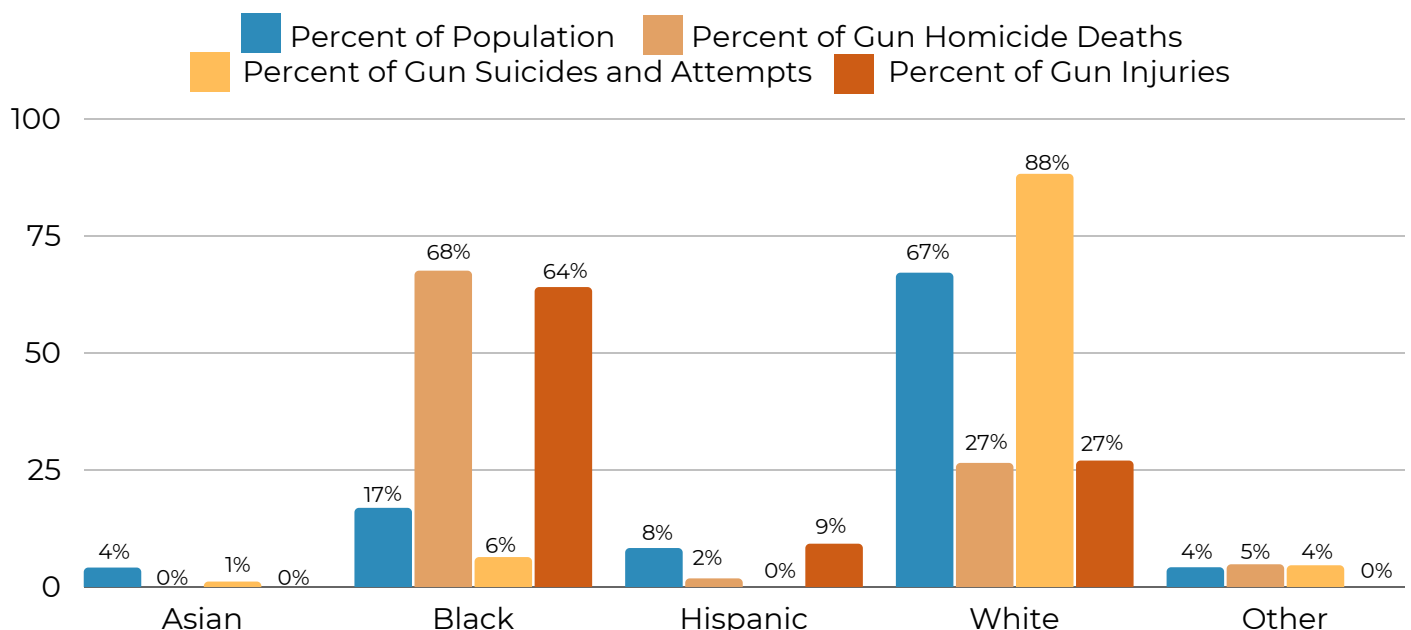


### Disparities in Gun Deaths

Gun violence is a racial justice issue. Race is not an independent factor, but rather a risk factor that one may be a victim of gun violence. This correlation is due to underlying factors such as generational poverty, neighborhood disinvestment and structural racism in communities of color. Gun violence, in turn, has downstream impacts on earning potential, educational funding and community trauma, perpetuating cycles of violence.

Black community members make up 17% of the population, yet make up 68% of gun homicide victims and 64% of gun injury victims.

### Percent of Population for Gun Deaths and Injuries by Race/Ethnicity



Gun homicide and suicide percentage data come from five-year averages of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Police Department incident data where race/ethnicity and gender were reported (2016-2020). Gun injury percentage data come from five-year averages of VSA death certificate data (2016-2020).

# Other Trends

## Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs)

ERPOs are court issued orders that temporarily prohibit a person from purchasing and possessing guns and ammunition during a period of crisis, sometimes called "red flag laws." ERPOs became available in Maryland in October of 2018. Since then, they've had a steady uptake in most counties. To date, Anne Arundel County files more petitions for ERPOs than anywhere else in the state. This has direct implications on gun violence incidents because the orders are a means to temporarily remove guns from individuals for whom there is substantial evidence that they want to harm themselves or others, until the threat subsides.

### What are ERPOs?

They are civil court orders and do not involve criminal charges. They are an important tool for preventing gun violence because they limit access to lethal means for someone at serious risk of harming themselves or others, most notably for threats of suicide and domestic violence.

### What is the process?

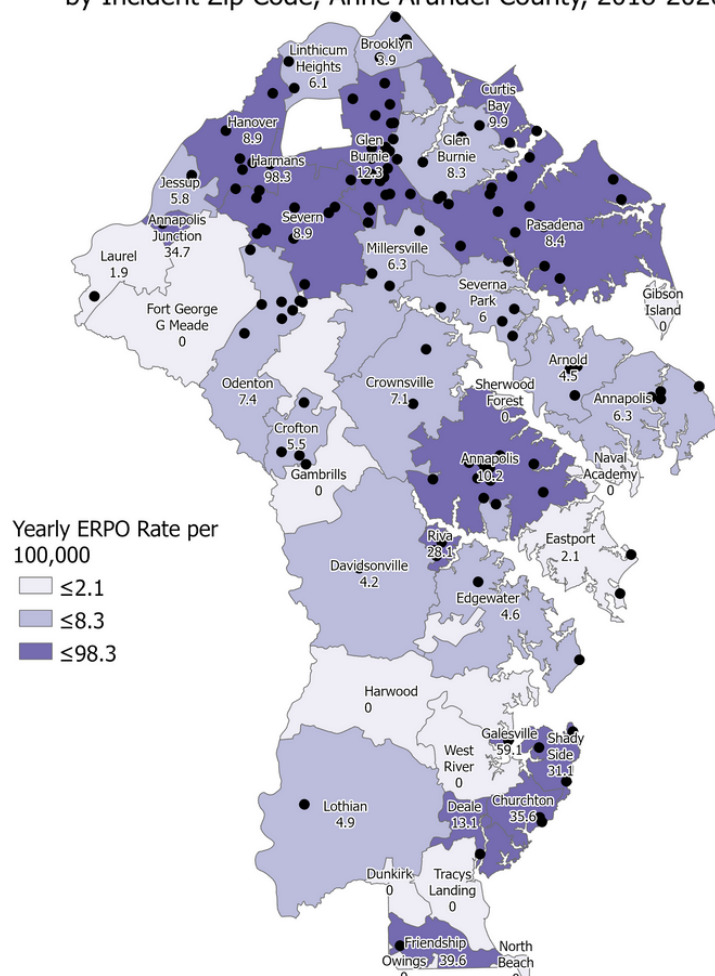
There are many resources available about ERPOs and to guide individuals seeking to file a petition to protect themselves or a loved one.

Find out more:

Johns Hopkins ERPO Resource  
[americanhealth.jhu.edu/implementERPO](https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/implementERPO)

Maryland Courts FAQ  
[mdcourts.gov/district/ERPO](https://mdcourts.gov/district/ERPO)

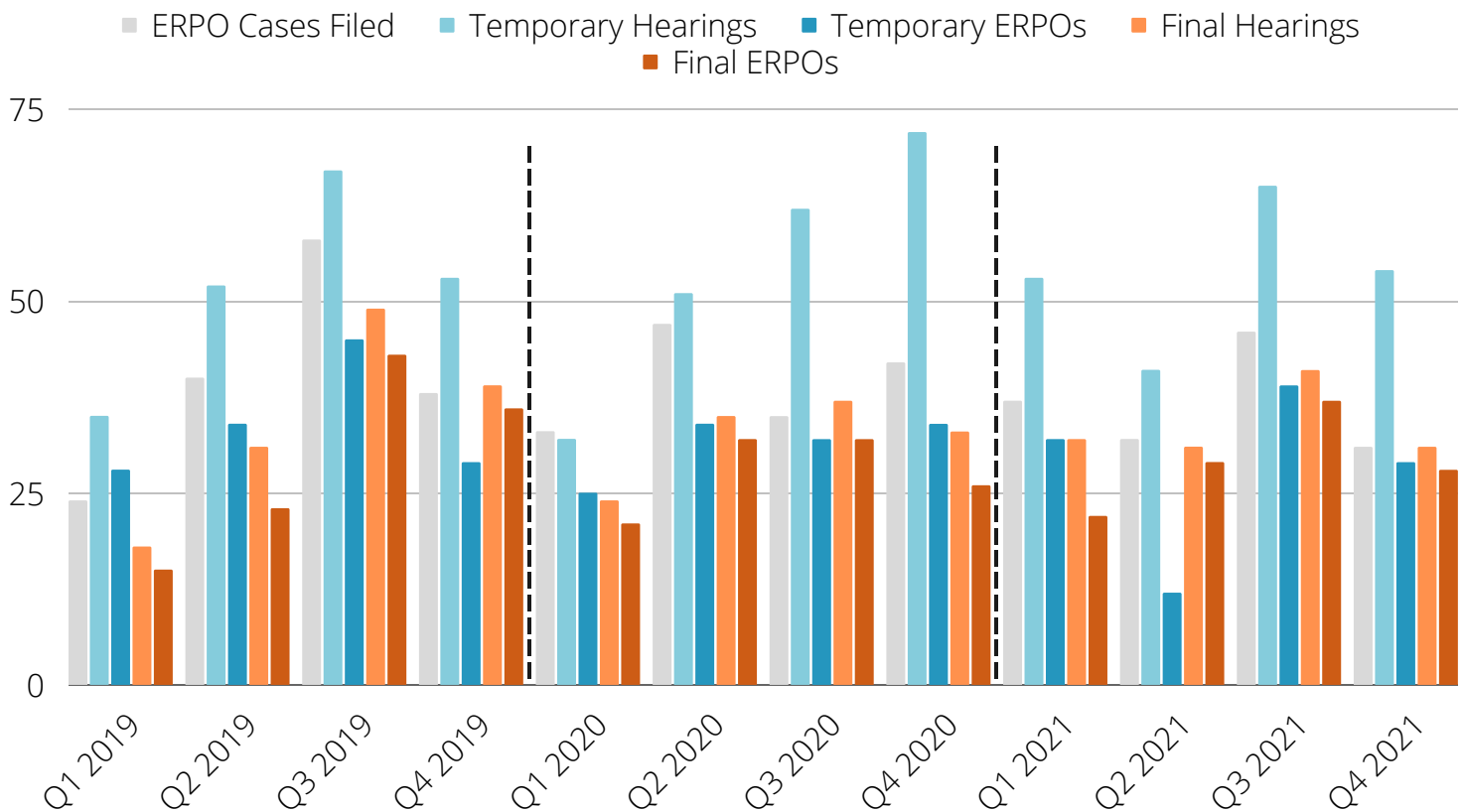
Yearly Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) Rate  
by Incident Zip Code, Anne Arundel County, 2018-2020



Based on data from the Anne Arundel County and Annapolis Police Departments

## ERPO Data

### Maryland Court ERPO Records for Anne Arundel County



#### 2019 Annual Totals

ERPOs Cases Filed: **160**  
 Temporary ERPOs Issued: **136**  
 Final ERPOs Issued: **117**

#### 2020 Annual Totals

ERPO Cases Filed: **157**  
 Temporary ERPOs Issued: **125**  
 Final ERPOs Issued: **111**

#### 2021 Annual Totals

ERPO Cases Filed: **146**  
 Temporary ERPOs Issued: **112**  
 Final ERPOs Issued: **116**

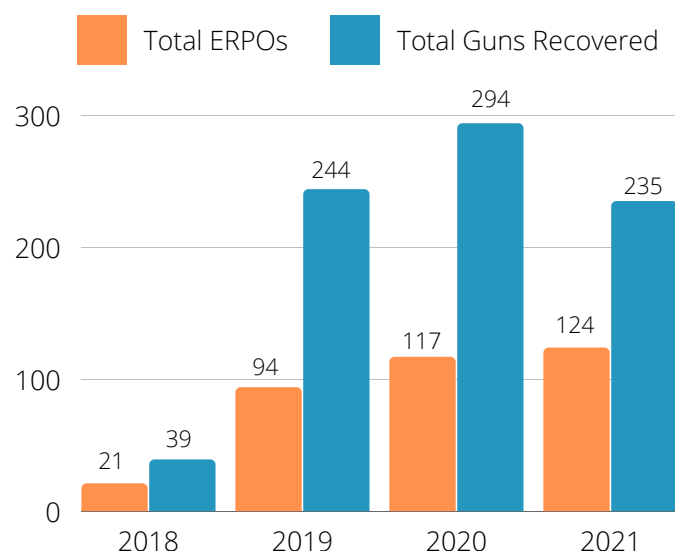
#### ERPOs Filed and Issued

This data details the number of ERPOs applied for each month and the percentage of hearings held that resulted in an ERPO issued.

Statewide, around 55% of District Court petitions result in a protective order issued. As of late 2020, Anne Arundel County ranked third in the state at a **73% issuance rate**.

Currently, most ERPOs that are filed in the county are by a police detective on behalf of a petitioner.

#### Police Reports of ERPOs Issues and Guns Recovered



# Other Trends

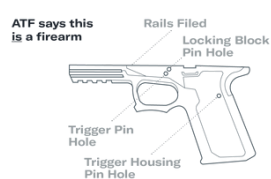
## Ghost Guns

The Department of Justice defines ghost guns as firearms that are often assembled from kits, do not contain serial numbers and are sold without background checks, making them difficult to trace. These "kits" are available widely online and at gun shows. Ghost guns can be purchased by anyone without a background check, as they are federally unregulated. This includes individuals that ordinarily would be prohibited from owning a firearm, such as youth or those convicted of domestic abuse and drug traffickers.

On June 1, 2022, a new Maryland law went into affect requiring all ghost guns be held to the same requirements as registered firearms, specifically that they be serialized with a personal identification number. This bill came about after growing concerns about rising numbers of ghost guns recovered across the United States, including Anne Arundel County.

### What makes a ghost gun different?

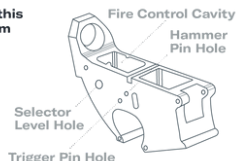
Ghost guns are often purchased as 80% complete kits that the purchaser can finish assembling on their own. The physical difference between a ghost gun and regulated firearm are holes or cavities on the frame or receiver. Gun pieces without these qualities are not defined as firearms under the Bureau for Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco's current ruling meaning the buyer is not legally required to register the firearm or stamp it with a serial number.



ATF says this is *not* a firearm



ATF says this is a firearm



ATF says this is *not* a firearm

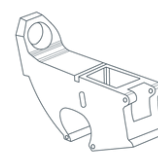


Photo credit: Everytown for Gun Safety

Police began to track ghost guns recovered in Anne Arundel County in 2020. A total of 36 were recovered in 2020 in the county. This rose to a total of 86 recovered in 2021. This matches trends seen locally in Baltimore City and nationally of yearly rises in ghost gun procurement and use by prohibited individuals.

Between 2020 and 2021,  
there was a

# 138%

increase in the number of  
ghost guns recovered in  
Anne Arundel County.



# Sources

## Background

Decades-long disinvestment in gun violence research has created a gap in robust data nationally. This in turn limits local understanding of gun violence trends for programmatic and intervention purposes. Anne Arundel County is unique in that our community has access to gun data from local and state police reports and health databases. The GVIT depends on these sources to track trends over time, understand gun violence in all of its various forms and inform where to target violence intervention efforts.

## Police Report Incident Data

Gun-related fatality and crime data come from Annapolis City and Anne Arundel County Police Department incident reports. Each of the department records are collated into a central repository for the GVIT data dashboards. This includes fatal and nonfatal incidents of gun violence, recovered gun details and contributing factors. There is an overlap in city and county data for the six-year period 2016-2021.

## Health Service Cost Review Commission

Nonfatal gun injury data come from the state Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). This includes all inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits due to a gun-related injury. Victim demographics, visitation costs and reason for visitation are available. The county has access to these measures for the five-year period 2016-2020.



Find all of our data at  
[aahealth.org/gvit#data](https://aahealth.org/gvit#data)





GUN VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION TEAM  
DATA. POLICY. PARTNERSHIP.

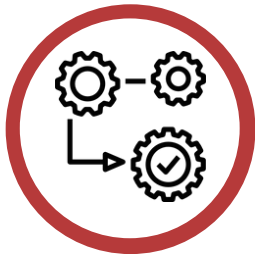


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2022

# Strategic Plan

# Strategic Priorities



## Data Workgroup

Create and publish a monthly data report.

## Progress to Date

Through the combined efforts of the members of the data workgroup, the GVIT launched the gun violence dashboard in July of 2021. The release of this dashboard addressed a need for timely, local data on the two primary forms of gun fatalities: homicides and suicides. The measures in this dashboard draw directly from preliminary police report incident data, mirroring the reporting process for the National Gun Archive. All numbers included in the report are subject to change as incidents are reclassified or new evidence is verified.

In early 2022, the data workgroup released a second, detailed data dashboard that includes additional incident types, victim demographics and contributing factors of gun violence in Anne Arundel County.

The group will pursue additional data sources to better inform our understanding of gun violence locally and in the context of state and national trends. The coalition will explore emergent issues and local trends, including Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs), untraceable firearms otherwise known as "ghost guns," and tracing of firearms into the county.

## 2022 Strategic Priorities

### Goal 4, Objective B:

Strategize around gathering more localized data through untapped sources.

### Goal 4, Objective C:

Disseminate data to inform and guide intervention activities.

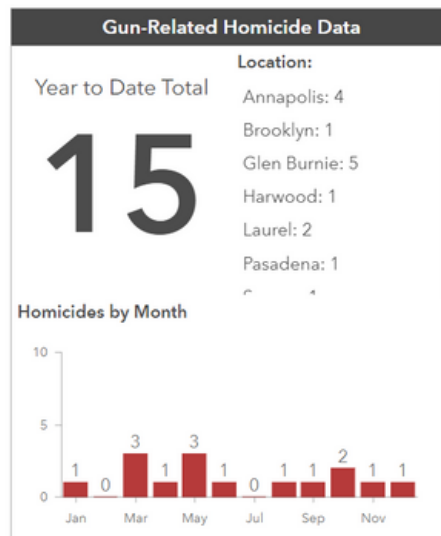
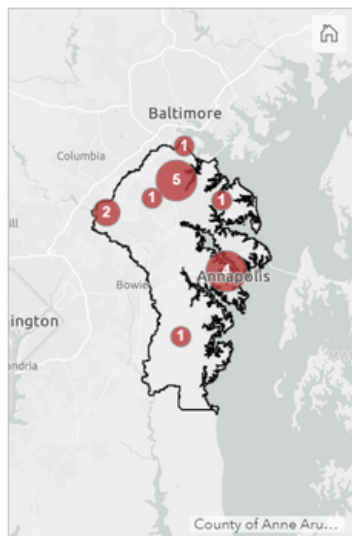
*See Appendix A for the full strategic plan.*



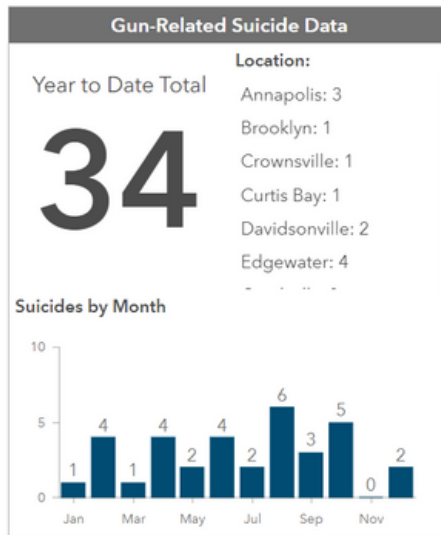
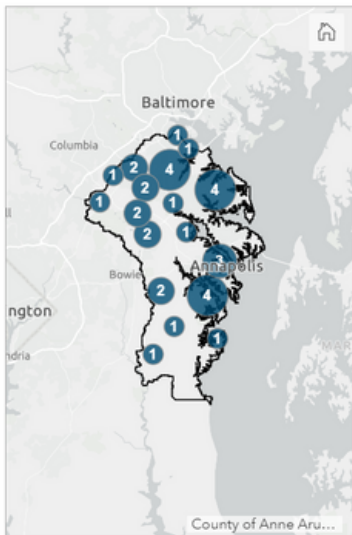
# Gun Fatalities Dashboards

for all of 2021

## Gun-Related Homicides



## Gun-Related Suicides



Methodology/Notes: Crime incident report data is provided by Anne Arundel County and Annapolis Police Departments and compiled by the Department of Health. All numbers are subject to change as incidents are recategorized. Dashboard prepared by ArundelStat.



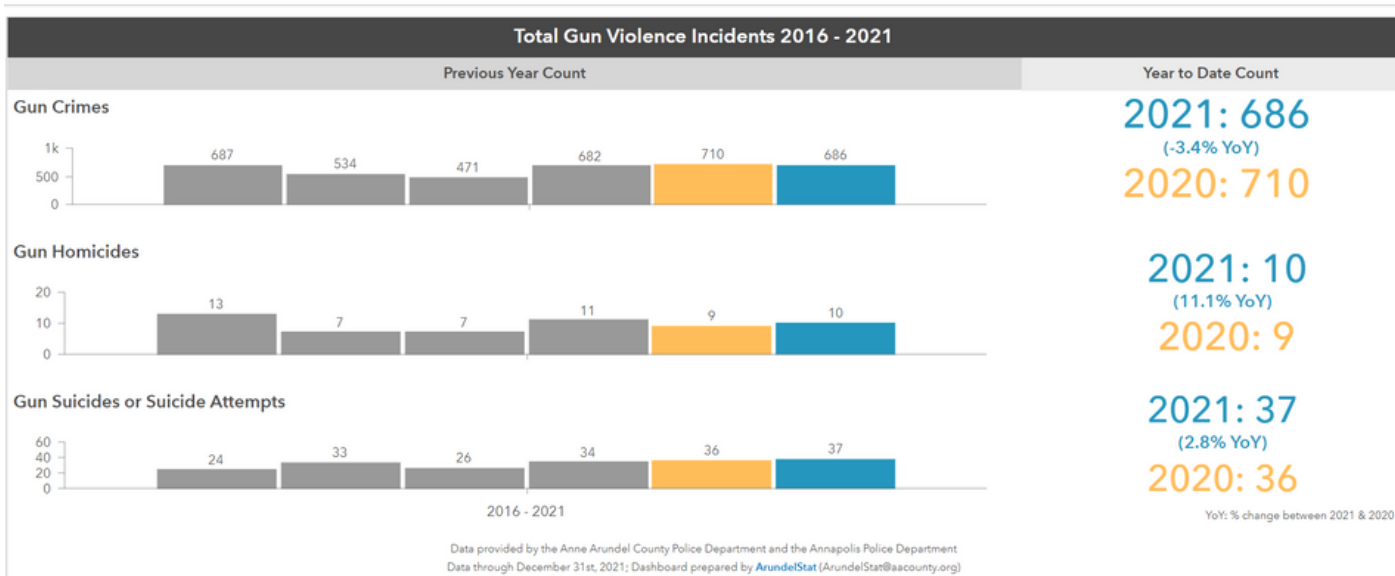
Find all of our data at  
[aahealth.org/gvit#data](https://aahealth.org/gvit#data)

See Appendix B for the disaggregated data dashboard.



# Data Dashboard

## Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Incidents



## Years

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

## Incident Types

Assault

Contact  
ShootingSexual  
OffenseSuicide or  
Attempted Suicide

Homicide

Robbery /  
Carjacking /  
Home Invasion

Threat Only

Wear / Carry /  
Transport Violation



### Environment Workgroup

Implement a coordinated crisis response for reporting and following up on gun-related incidents.

## Progress to Date

The environment workgroup explored the county's crisis response process for gun violence incidents, both fatal and nonfatal. They mapped out the groups involved in reducing cycles of community violence including those who intervene before violence happens, immediately following a gun violence incident and ongoing support afterward to deter future violence. The workgroup will continue to identify opportunities for expanding and coordinating the county's response system for gun violence incidents, building on existing partnerships and protocols.

The workgroup will directly expand efforts to engage the community in the coalition's work. The team supports public engagement through the coalition's community meetings, public awareness campaigns and other outreach opportunities that target local gun violence and populations disproportionately affected.

## 2022 Strategic Priority

Goal 5, Objective A:

Involve community members in gun violence intervention efforts.

*See Appendix A for the full strategic plan.*

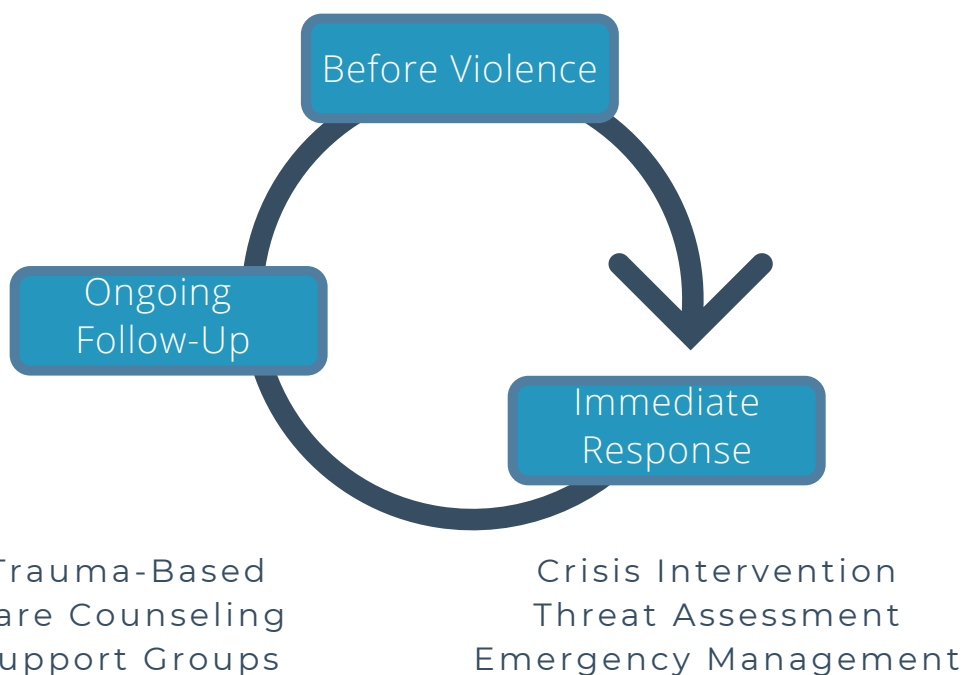


## Response System

### Cycles of Community Violence

Conflict Mediation  
Resource Navigation

Health Education  
Deterrence Strategies



## Community Meetings

February  
2021

June  
2021

October  
2021

April  
2022

June  
2022





### **Education and Policy Workgroup**

Implement a public awareness campaign about gun safety.

## **Progress to Date**

The education and policy workgroup developed a series of community resource toolkits with information about gun violence and safety topics to increase public awareness and connection to services. Since 2020, the workgroup has developed and released four toolkits on suicide prevention, youth gun safety, domestic violence and responsible gun ownership.

The workgroup will focus next on connecting community members and partners with these resources through a coordinated outreach plan and at in-person community events. Future resource sharing will include the distribution of gun locks with guidance on safe storage.

## **2022 Strategic Priorities**

Goal 2, Objective C:

Support gun safety storage policies.

Goal 3, Objective B:

Disseminate gun violence intervention resources and support.

*See Appendix A for the full strategic plan.*

## Community Resource Toolkits



Suicide  
Prevention  
Toolkit



Youth Gun  
Safety Toolkit



Domestic  
Violence  
Toolkit



Gun  
Ownership  
Toolkit



Check out all of the toolkits at  
[aahealth.org/gvit#toolkits](https://aahealth.org/gvit#toolkits)



# Planning Process

The GVIT is built on the guidance and strategies provided by the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force in their Final Report, released in June of 2020. This strategic plan is the next step in advancing our work to reduce gun violence. The goals, objectives and activities of this plan are inclusive of the 55 recommendations of the Task Force in addition to priorities identified by the GVIT since its launch and in consideration of more recent gun violence trends.

The GVIT Strategic Plan closely aligns with documented gun violence reduction and prevention strategy recommendations from Everytown for Gun Safety, the National Urban League, the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions and the Prevention Institute. The planning process included a review of the gun violence prevention strategic plans of Baltimore (2021) and Philadelphia (2021) to compare the goals and actions of leading gun violence intervention programs to those for Anne Arundel County.

Each reviewed strategic plan or list of recommendations involves a multi-pronged approach to gun violence prevention spanning pre and post-violence interventions. Strategies generally include supporting evidence-informed gun policies, tracking local gun violence data, ensuring a community-based approach, addressing upstream factors and building collaboration between key community players.



Strategic  
PLAN

The GVIT Strategic Plan includes each of these prevention elements and tailors them to the specific needs of the county. The GVIT has six overarching goals. Each goal has its own objectives, activities, evaluation metrics and future steps.

## Goals

### ONE:

Lead and coordinate gun violence interventions in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

### TWO:

Monitor and advance evidence-based gun laws.

### THREE:

Prevent gun violence through education and public awareness.

### FOUR:

Collect and report data on gun-related incidents, injuries and deaths.

### FIVE:

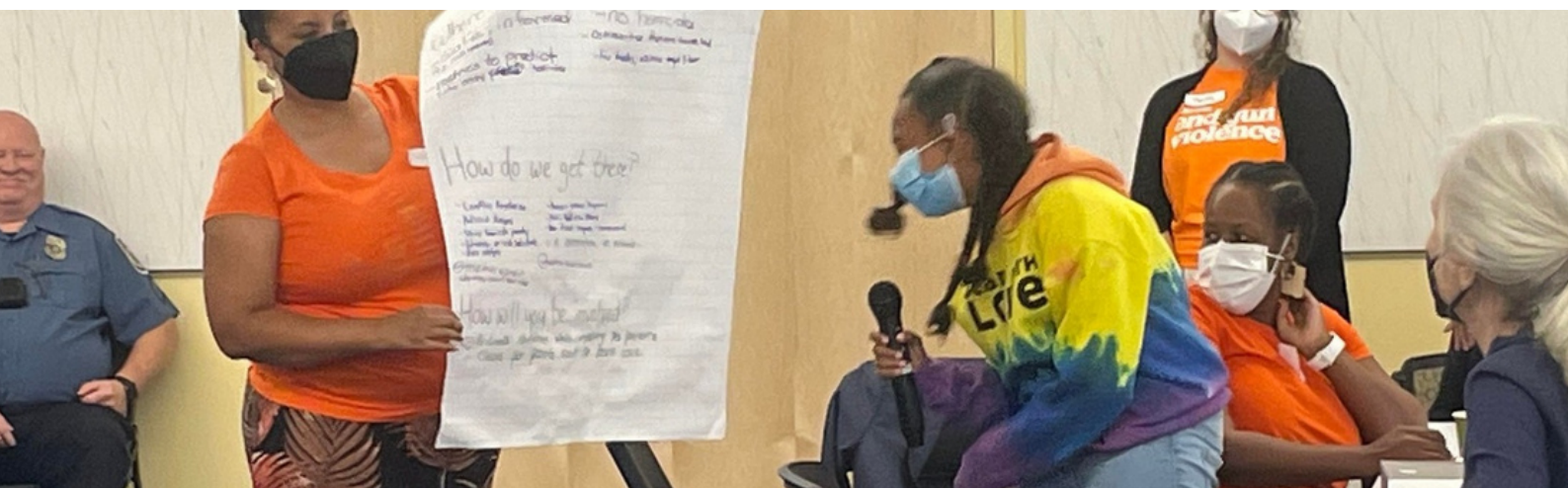
Disrupt cycles of community violence through engagement with community members.

### SIX:

Coordinate a response process to support victims of gun violence.

What differentiates the Anne Arundel County GVIT plan from those of other gun violence programs is our countywide public health approach at the center, emphasis on gun suicide prevention to address the most common cause of gun death locally, state and county-specific gun policies and proposed amendments, safe storage practices and harm reduction for current gun-owners, localized communications and messaging, especially the development of resource toolkits, as well as maximizing county gun violence data sources.

The future directions of the GVIT include the promotion of community and hospital-based trauma-informed care, victim services and evidence-based violence reduction strategies such as hospital-based and violence-interruption interventions.



# Strategic Plan

## Goal #1

### Lead gun violence interventions in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

Strategy	Actions
A. Address gun violence as a public health crisis.	Issue a formal declaration from the County Executive that declares gun violence as a public health crisis and a core county issue. (Complete: June 4, 2021)
B. Establish a collaborative body of government and non-government agencies to coordinate and implement gun violence initiatives in the county.	<p>Form an interagency coalition (GVIT) of invited representatives from organizations and agencies of Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. (Complete: August 2020)</p> <p>Convene the coalition on a monthly basis. (Ongoing)</p> <p>Develop a strategic plan that outlines the priorities of the GVIT toward its mission of preventing and reducing gun-related injuries and deaths. (Complete: June 2022)</p>
C. Participate in national gun safety associations and conferences.	Join the Gun Safety Consortium and participate in gun lock and smart security product testing. (Ongoing)
D. Develop a communication strategy to share gun violence intervention messaging, events and progress.	<p>Develop communication strategies for increasing public awareness and reaching diverse audiences. (Ongoing) ♦</p> <p>Create a social media strategy for promoting coalition and gun violence intervention news, events and engagement opportunities on partner pages. (Ongoing)</p> <p>Develop, maintain and promote a centralized website that documents interventions, educational content and gun violence prevention activities. (Complete May 2021)</p>

Note: Status and community recommendations are noted for each action. Status can include complete, ongoing, in development or not yet started. Asterisks indicate a community priority, or a strategy identified by public as a key area of focus at quarterly community meetings.

♦ Identified priority by community members. See Appendix D for more information.

## Goal #2

## Monitor and advance evidence-based gun laws.

## Strategy

## Actions

A. Support requirements and restrictions for certain individuals to purchase a gun.

Define the process and requirements for purchasing a gun in Anne Arundel County:

- Universal background checks: federally licensed firearm dealers are required to conduct a background check prior to the purchase of any regulated firearm.  
(Complete; updated based on policy changes)

Monitor changes to gun purchase requirements at a county, state and federal level. (Ongoing) ♦

Support additional gun purchase and registration requirements for untraceable firearm components, otherwise known as "ghost guns."  
(Complete; SB387 went into effect June 1, 2022)

B. Support temporary and permanent prohibitions for individuals to possess a gun.

Define the circumstances where an individual would be prohibited from owning a gun in Anne Arundel County:

- Possession restrictions: a person may not possess a regulated firearm if they have been convicted of a disqualifying crime, are addicted to a dangerous controlled substance, is a habitual drunkard, suffer from a mental disorder, and have a history of violent behavior, among other restrictions. (MD Public Safety Code § 5-133).  
(Complete; updated based on policy changes)

Monitor changes to gun possession prohibitions at a county, state and federal level. (Ongoing) ♦

Enforce gun possession prohibitions including ERPOs, prohibitions for individuals convicted of domestically-related crimes, alcohol-related offenses or that have a history of violent behavior.  
(Ongoing: Police Departments are issuing and tracking ERPOs issued and guns collected)



## Goal #2

## Monitor and advance evidence-based gun laws.

## Strategy

## Actions

C. Support safe gun storage policies.

Define gun safety laws in Anne Arundel County:

- Child Access Prevention Law: a person may not store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child would gain access to the firearm. (MD Criminal Law Code § 4-104)
- Lost or Stolen Firearm Policy: if a regulated firearm is lost or stolen, the owner of the regulated firearm shall report the loss or theft to the local law enforcement agency within 72 hours after the owner first discovers the loss or theft. (MD Public Safety Code § 5-146)
- Safe Storage Law: handguns sold from a licensed dealer are required to include an external safety lock (for guns manufactured before 2003) or are required to have an integrated mechanical safety device (if manufactured after 2003). (MD Public Safety Code § 5-132)

*(Complete; updated based on policy changes)*

Monitor changes to gun safety laws at a county, state and federal level. *(Ongoing)*

Support additional gun safety policies, including:

- Changing the report of a lost or stolen gun from the current 72-hour window to a 48-hour window.
- Improvements to state Child Access Prevention Law.

*(Ongoing)*

"Every year [in June], National Safety Month is an opportunity to remind gun owners that their **most important responsibility is to store their firearms securely when not in use.**"

Joe Bartozzi

National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF)  
President and CEO

## Goal #3

## Prevent gun violence through education and increased public awareness.

Strategy	Actions
A. Launch an educational campaign to increase public awareness about gun violence and safety.	<p>Create a toolkit of resources for gun violence topics, including suicide prevention, gun ownership, injuries and accidents, offender reentry and domestic violence. <i>(Complete: March 2022)</i> ♦</p> <p>Distribute the toolkit materials virtually and in person with partners and community members. <i>(Ongoing)</i></p> <p>Release a public awareness campaign on the strategies and significance of addressing gun violence as a public health issue. <i>(In development)</i></p>
B. Promote gun safety resources, training and services.	<p>Promote sources for free gun locks and identify funding opportunities to subsidize gun safety products. <i>(In development)</i> ♦</p> <p>Host lock give-away events and distribute information about gun storage options and how to use safety products. <i>(In development)</i> ♦</p>
C. Engage credible messengers to promote firearm safety.	<p>Partner with individuals with expertise and lived experience to promote firearm safety and preventative practices, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gun owners</li> <li>• Domestic violence prevention advocates</li> <li>• Suicide prevention advocates</li> <li>• Service members, veterans and their families</li> <li>• Gun shops</li> </ul> <p><i>(Ongoing: County Bill 108-21 requires that gun retailers must distribute suicide prevention materials with all gun and ammunition purchases.)</i> ♦</p>

## Goal #4

## Collect and report data on gun-related incidents, injuries and deaths.

Strategy	Actions
A. Gather data to track county gun violence trends.	<p>Establish central data collection of aggregate and disaggregated data from the county police department, city police department, Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) outpatient discharge and inpatient admissions, and Vital Statistics Administration death certificate data. <i>(Complete)</i></p> <p>Launch an all-in-one data collection system to replace the county's current system. <i>(Complete)</i></p> <p>Establish a Firearms Examiner position within the Anne Arundel County Police Department and a firearms lab. <i>(Complete)</i></p> <p>Collect lived experiences, recommendations and other qualitative data from community members and partners who have experienced gun violence. <i>(In development)</i></p>
B. Collect additional data from local, state and national sources.	<p>Collect gun violence data from other localized sources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans data from the VA, Fort Meade and the Naval Academy</li> <li>• Maryland State Police</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• FBI warrants</li> </ul> <p><i>(In development)</i></p> <p>Include additional gun violence variables, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Log of gun and ammunition sales in the county</li> <li>• Registered gun owners</li> <li>• Gun purchasing licenses</li> <li>• Gun retailers</li> <li>• Gun fatalities and injuries among military members</li> </ul> <p><i>(In development)</i></p>
C. Disseminate data to inform and guide intervention activities.	<p>Publish a monthly data snapshot with gun-related fatalities. <i>(Complete: August 2021)</i></p> <p>Establish a disaggregated gun violence dashboard for multiple incident types, years and metrics. <i>(Complete: March 2022)</i> ♦</p>

♦ Identified priority by community members. See Appendix D for more information.

## Goal #5

## Disrupt cycles of community violence through engagement with community members and partners

Strategy	Actions
A. Involve community members in gun violence intervention efforts.	<p>Host quarterly community meetings to share information, gather feedback on GVIT progress and identify opportunities for community collaboration and intervention. <i>(Ongoing) *</i></p> <p>Launch a community advisory group to provide feedback on coalition efforts and put forward recommendations. <i>(In development)</i></p> <p>Facilitate community engagement to understand local context and contributing factors of local gun violence including a community survey, focus groups, listening sessions and interviews. <i>(In development) *</i></p> <p>Invest funding strategically to communities impacted by gun violence. <i>(In development)</i></p>
B. Implement evidence-based focused deterrence strategies to prevent and reduce gun violence.	<p>Utilize evidence-based strategies from leading community violence intervention (CVI) programs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital-based interventions</li> <li>• Street outreach</li> <li>• Environmental and safety improvements</li> </ul> <p><i>(In development) *</i></p> <p>Reduce gun violence by connecting students, parents and caregivers to services through coordination with the schools and community college. <i>(In development) *</i></p> <p>Establish protocols for screening individuals for gun safety practices during medical visits and establish a response protocol. <i>(Not yet started)</i></p>

✦ Identified priority by community members. See Appendix D for more information.



## Goal #5

## Disrupt cycles of community violence through engagement with community members.

## Strategy

## Actions

C. Consider social determinants, contributing factors and inequities of local gun violence.

Target populations and neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by gun violence according to countywide data.

*(Complete)* ♦

Consider the role of contributing factors of gun violence including mental health and suicide risk, re-entry, domestic violence and gang-related gun violence. *(In development)* \*

Identify opportunities to address social determinants of health and racial inequities that underpin local gun violence. *(In development)* ♦

Develop equitable, culturally-responsive strategies to expand opportunities for marginalized populations and expand the capacity of community-based organizations. *(In development)* ♦

"What happens when you shift the focus from the 'gun' part of gun violence to the 'violence' part of gun violence, you get **broad consensus that we want to decrease levels of violence.** It's that focus on decreasing violence that we really want to be keyed in on because that's where the agreement is."

Dr. Niles Kalyanaraman  
Anne Arundel County  
Department of Health  
Health Officer

♦ Identified priority by community members. See Appendix D for more information.

## Goal #6

## Coordinate a response process to support victims of gun violence.

Strategy	Actions
A. Establish immediate and long-term response protocols for gun violence incidents.	<p>Outline a workflow for gun violence incidents in collaboration with crisis intervention, emergency response, schools, hospitals and community-based organizations. <i>(In development)</i></p> <p>Incorporate gun violence recovery into emergency response plans including the Family Information Plan and Family Assistance Plan. <i>(In development)</i></p> <p>Identify and expand community resources available for public outreach that address gun violence victims and risk factors that lead to gun violence. <i>(In development)</i></p>
B. Integrate trauma-informed care principles into reporting and follow-up protocols.	<p>Focus on programming that reduces stigma around mental health care, identifies risk factors and trauma early, and uses evidence-based gun violence interventions <i>(Not yet started)</i> ♦</p> <p>Integrate trauma-informed care into prevention, intervention, and response activities and expand trauma-based care and services to victims of gun violence and their loved ones. <i>(In development)</i> ♦</p> <p>Organize and host trauma training for coalition and community advisory group members to prevent secondhand trauma or retraumatization. <i>(In development)</i></p>

♦ Identified priority by community members. See Appendix D for more information.

# Declaration



## EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

*On behalf of The Residents of Anne Arundel County,  
Maryland*

**WHEREAS**, gun violence is a threat to the safety of local communities with far-reaching impacts that devastate the families, communities, and workplaces of Anne Arundel County, and

**WHEREAS**, firearms amplify violence and contribute to a growing public health burden as a leading cause of fatalities and injuries, with more than 100 Americans killed by gun violence each day, and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, Maryland had 757 gun deaths at a rate of 33 per 100,000 people, and on average, Anne Arundel County has 40 resident gun deaths and 150 gun-related hospital visits, and

**WHEREAS**, suicides account for more than half of all firearm fatalities in Anne Arundel County at a rate of 4.9 per 100,000 people, making firearms the leading means of suicide deaths as well as a public health crisis, and

**WHEREAS**, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Executive Order 9 established a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force to research crimes and suicides involving guns, and on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Task Force published their Final Report of 55 recommended actions and urged the county to apply a public health approach to reduce gun violence, and

**WHEREAS**, on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, under the directive of County Executive Pittman, the Department of Health established a Gun Violence Intervention Team to implement public health strategies to reduce firearm injuries and fatalities through an interagency coalition of county leaders and in coordination with county residents and stakeholders, and

**WHEREAS**, the county will prioritize strategies that reduce gun violence and support families and communities affected by gun violence, and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring public safety by preventing and reducing community violence is the highest responsibility of government.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, STEUART L. PITTMAN, County Executive, do hereby proclaim June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as National Gun Violence Safety Awareness Day in Anne Arundel County, and call upon all of our residents to recognize and commend its observance, and to find their own ways to give back to their communities. Given Under My hand and the Great Seal of Anne Arundel County this 4th day of June in the Year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty One.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steuart L. Pittman".

**STEUART L. PITTMAN**  
*County Executive*  
*June 4, 2021*



# Community Meeting Input

## Community Input

### Where do we as a county want to be in terms of gun injuries and deaths?

- A **safe, informed community** who is well-connected.
- Reduction of **gun injuries** and unintentional shootings.
- Metrics to predict who may commit homicides, towards a goal of **no gun homicides**.
- Decrease the trend of increased **gun suicides**, especially among white males relative to counties similar to Anne Arundel County.
- Address the impact of repeated trauma as a result of **mass shootings**.

### How do we achieve these goals?

Eliminate - currently exists but should not.			Create - does not yet exist, or exists elsewhere.		
<b>NOT YET STARTED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban assault weapons.</li> </ul>	<b>UNDER CONSIDERATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict resolution using violence.</li> </ul>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Root causes (poverty).</li> <li>• Stigma around mental health services, particularly among targeted populations.</li> <li>• Ghost guns, or untraceable firearms.</li> </ul>	<b>NOT YET STARTED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic pain support.</li> <li>• Home visit/Telehelath care plus coverage.</li> <li>• Gun buyback programs.</li> <li>• Social media post a threat monitoring.</li> </ul>	<b>UNDER CONSIDERATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum for parents to equipt them with training and information for how to talk with children about gun violence.</li> <li>• Curriculum for schools.</li> <li>• Connect survivors and family members to help through support groups, and rauma-informed care.</li> </ul>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gun safety information for parents/guardians.</li> </ul>
Reduce - less of this is needed.			Increase - more of this is needed.		
<b>NOT YET STARTED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic pain support.</li> <li>• Home visit/Telehelath care plus coverage.</li> <li>• Notoriety of shooters in the media.</li> <li>• Quantity of guns sold, particularly to youth.</li> </ul>	<b>UNDER CONSIDERATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase and possession of rapid fire weapons and unauthorized access to guns.</li> </ul>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor coping mechanisms to stress.</li> <li>• Barriers to access of mental health care.</li> <li>• Social isolation due to covid-19 and especially among older communities.</li> </ul>	<b>NOT YET STARTED</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic pain support</li> <li>• Home visit/Telehelath care plus coverage</li> </ul>	<b>UNDER CONSIDERATION</b> <p><b>Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For parents and caregivers about gun safety.</li> <li>• Among the older community</li> <li>• Anti-bullying initiatives.</li> <li>• Social involvement and a sense of community.</li> <li>• Use of the 988 mental health line.</li> <li>• Gun safety trainings.</li> <li>• Build and instill hope.</li> <li>• Stricter child access prevention laws.</li> <li>• Voting and political action towards change.</li> <li>• Interventions that target the root causes of gun violence.</li> </ul>	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> <p><b>Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide myth debunking.</li> <li>• Proper gun storage.</li> <li>• Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs)/Red Flag Law rules.</li> <li>• For new gun owners, including training at gun ranges.</li> <li>• Target populations and communities based on local data.</li> <li>• Mental health first aid.</li> <li>• Access to gun locks</li> <li>• Community discussions that normalize conversations about gun violence.</li> <li>• Resources for healthcare workers and mental wellness.</li> <li>• Non-violent coping skills including stress management and conflict resolution.</li> <li>• Involvement of young people in gun violence efforts.</li> <li>• Number of gun shops participating in the county's safe storage map.</li> <li>• Domestic violence programs.</li> <li>• Home visit/Telehelath care plus coverage.</li> <li>• Suicide prevention literature where guns are sold</li> <li>• Suicide prevention counseling for students, adults and leaders.</li> </ul>

### How can the community get involved?

- Let people know it's okay to be yourself and to ask for help.
- Educate children while involving parents and caregivers.
- Join volunteer organizations or engage community groups working in affected areas.
- Join community events to normalize conversations about gun violence.
- Learn more about and use gun violence interventions like Extreme Risk Protective Orders or child gun safety.