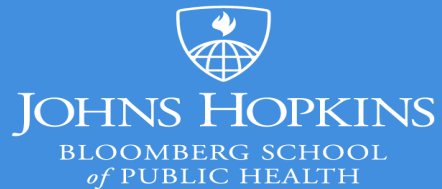


Addressing Gun Violence Through Public Health Policy and Programs



National Dialogues on Behavioral Health Conference
October 31, 2023

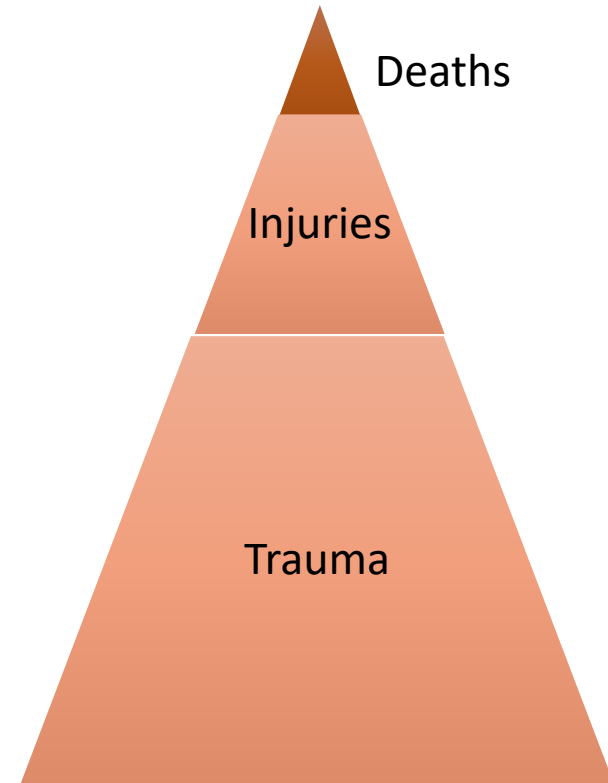
Ari Davis, MPP
Policy Advisor
Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions



**Center for
Gun Violence Solutions**


The Impacts of Gun Violence are Widespread

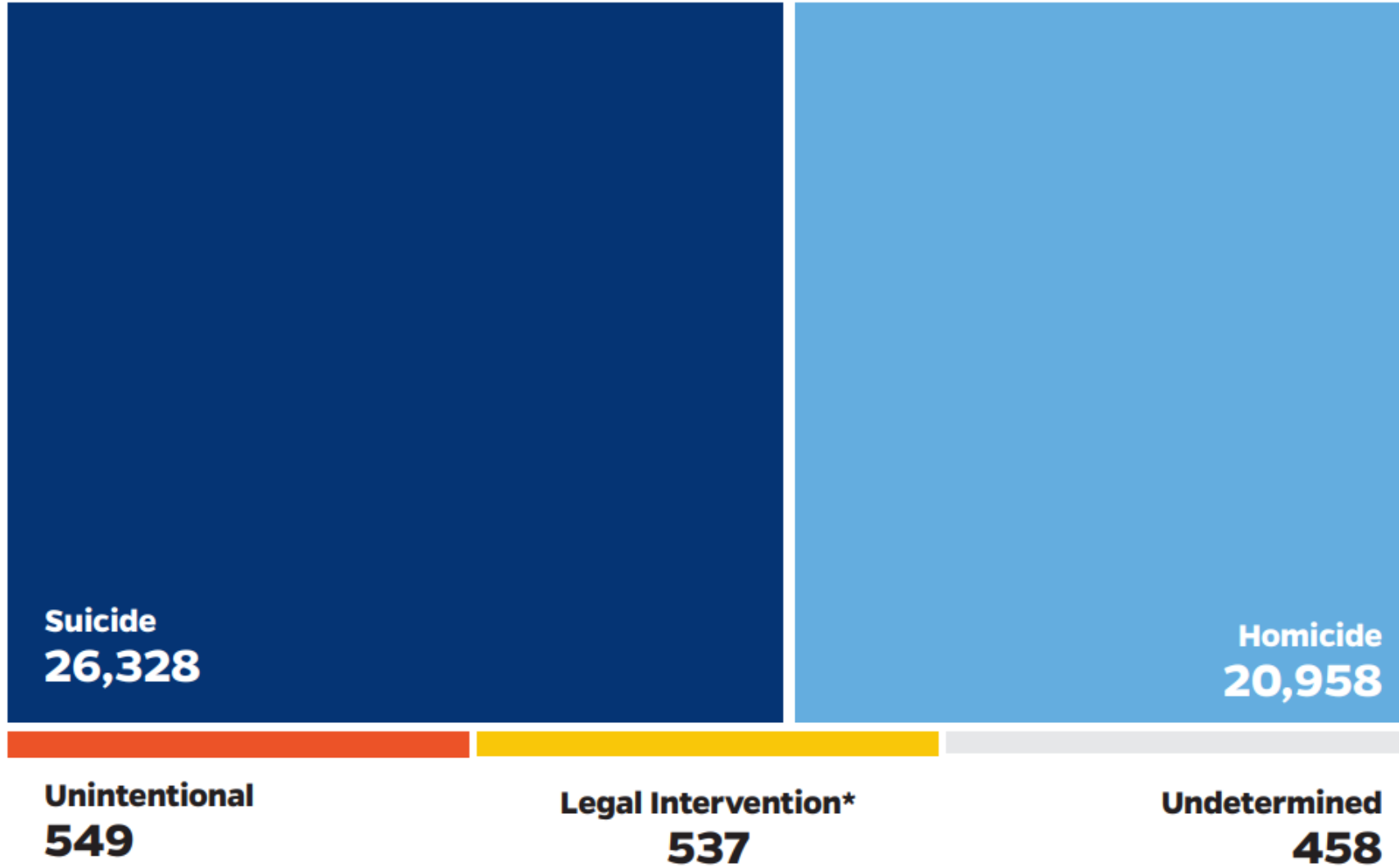
- 48,000 shot and killed.¹
- 70,000-80,000 injured.²
- One in six U.S. adults have witnessed a shooting.³
- One in five report a family member was killed by firearm.³
- Guns are the leading cause of death for children ages 0-19.¹
- Mass shootings make up a small portion (1%) of gun deaths but have wide impact.^{4,5}



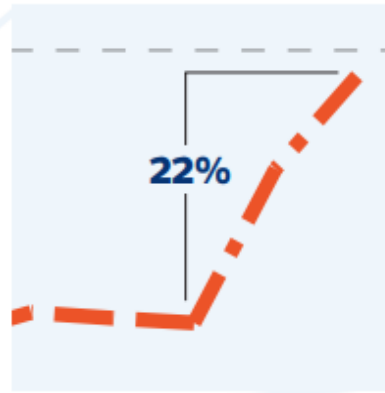
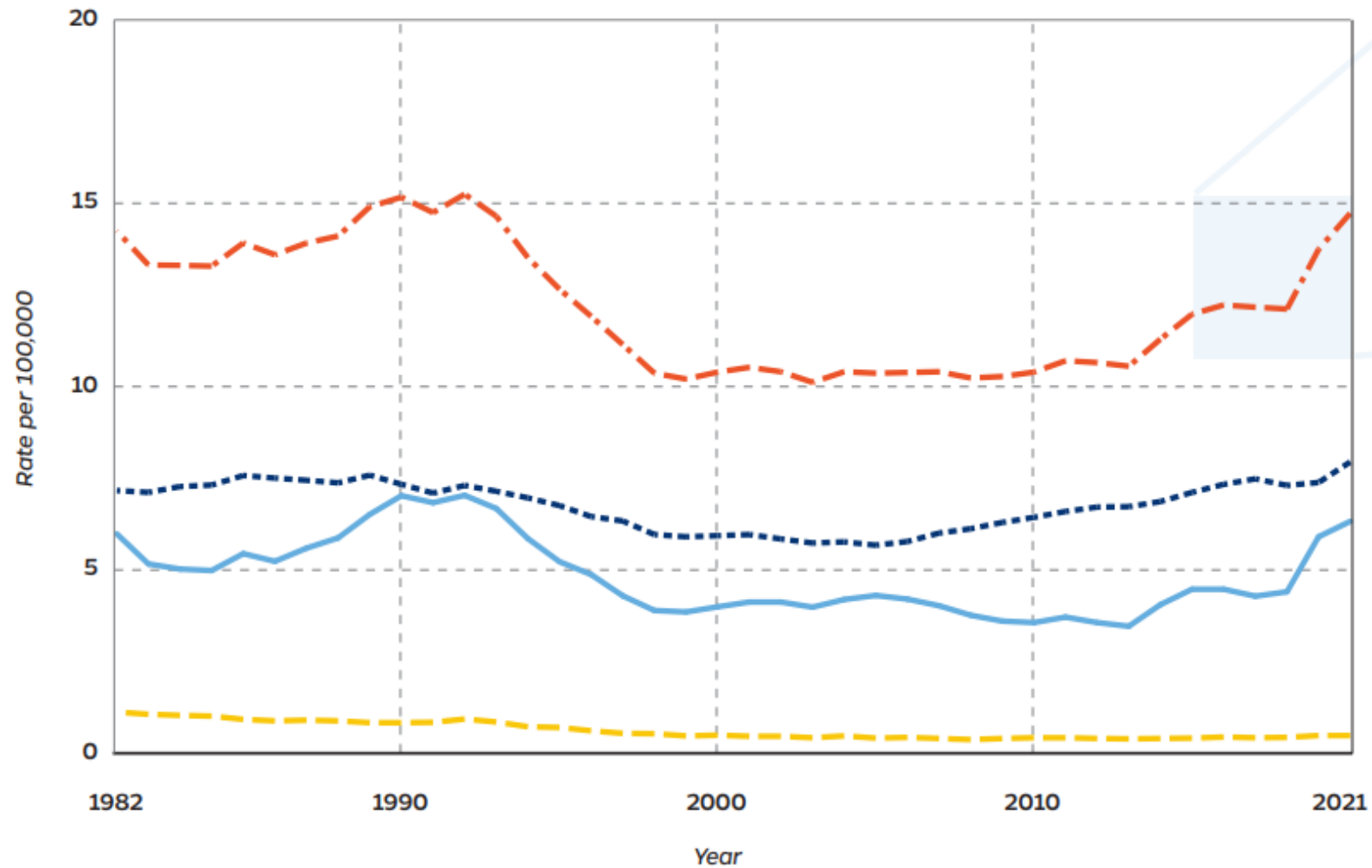
Note: For citations, please see reference slides at the end of the presentation.

48,830 lives were lost to gun violence in 2021¹

 Someone was killed by a gun every 11 minutes



Firearm Deaths Over Time ¹

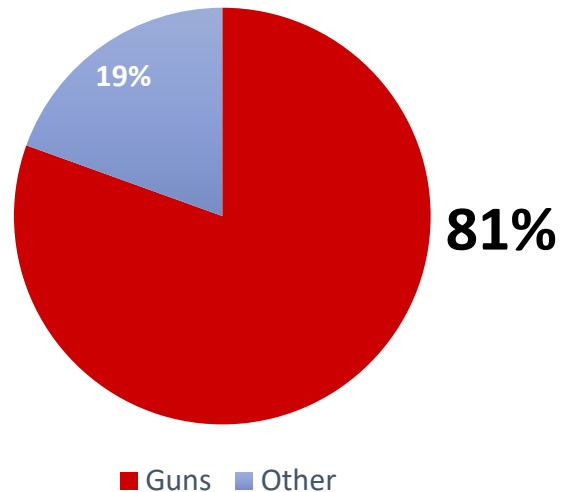


The gun death rate increased by 22% from 2019 to 2021

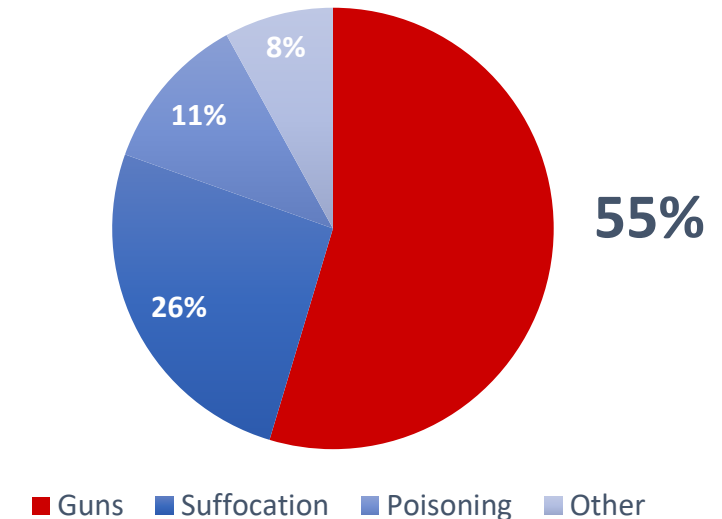
— · — Total firearm death rate - - - Suicide — Homicide - - - Other

Lethality of Guns Drive High Levels of Suicides and Homicides

81% of homicides by gun, 2021¹



55% of suicides by gun, 2021¹



- The U.S. has comparable levels of violence to other high-income countries, but a homicide rate 7.5 times higher.⁶

- 85-90% of suicide attempts by firearm are fatal; other commonly used methods like poison or cutting are far less lethal ~ 5%.⁷

Gun Access Increases the Risk of Violence

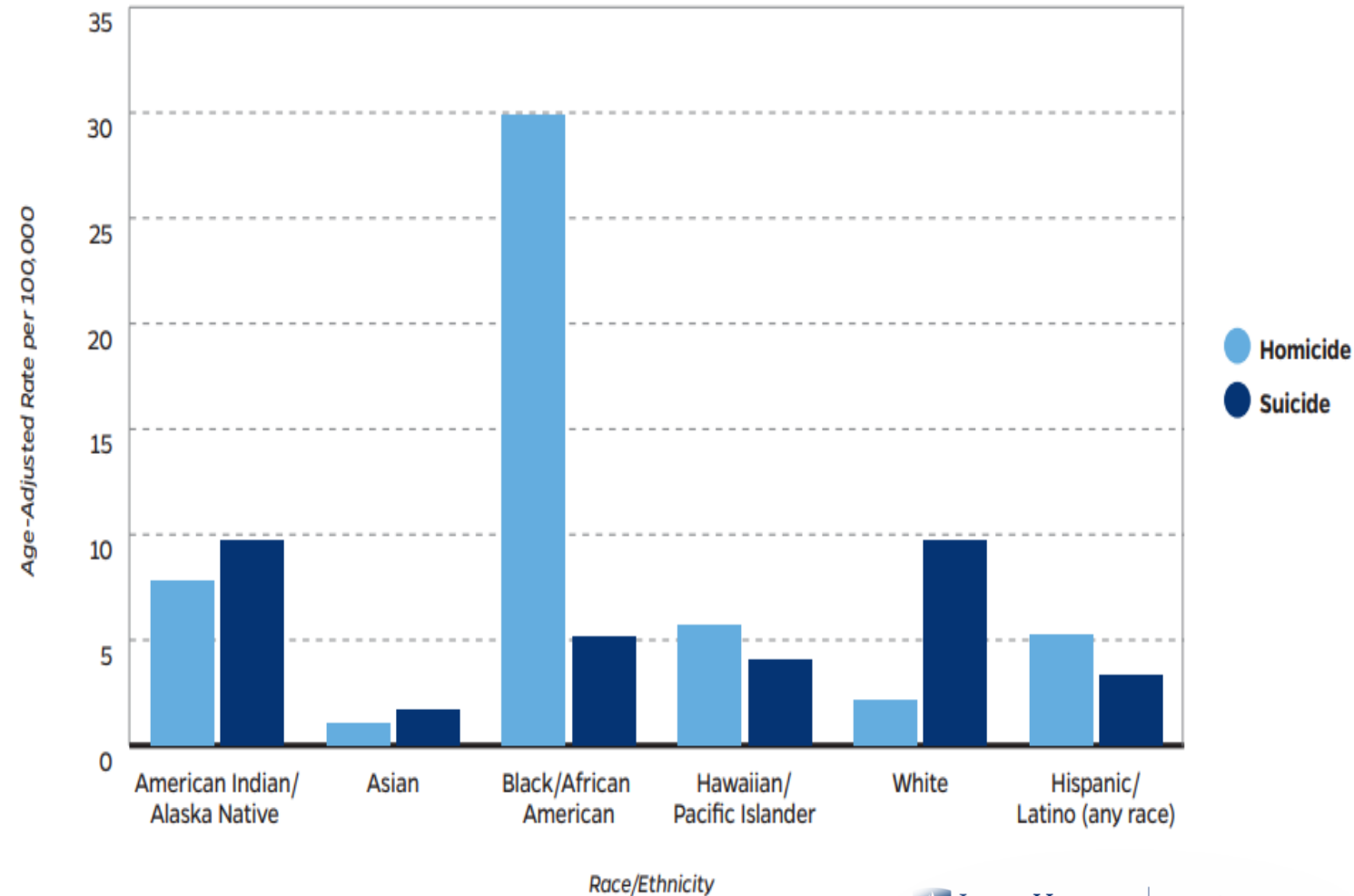
- A gun in the home increases the chances of someone dying in the home by:
 - Doubling the risk for homicide.⁸
 - Tripling the suicide risk.⁸
- A woman is 5 times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun.⁹



Disproportionately Impacted Groups

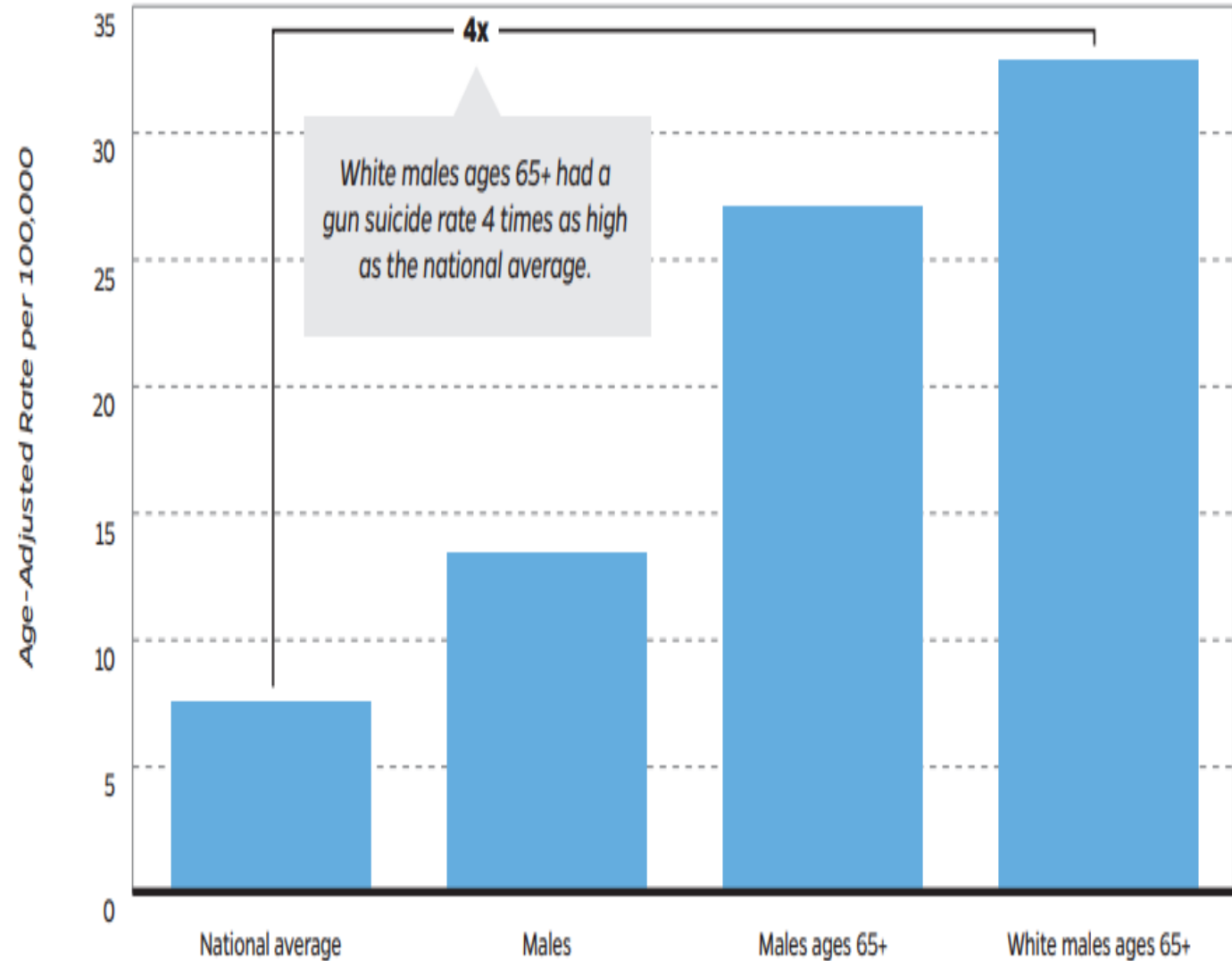
- Gun homicides disproportionately impact Black people.
- Gun suicides disproportionately impact White and American Indians.
- Men are at far high risk for all forms of gun violence.

Gun Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2021.¹



Gun Suicide Risk

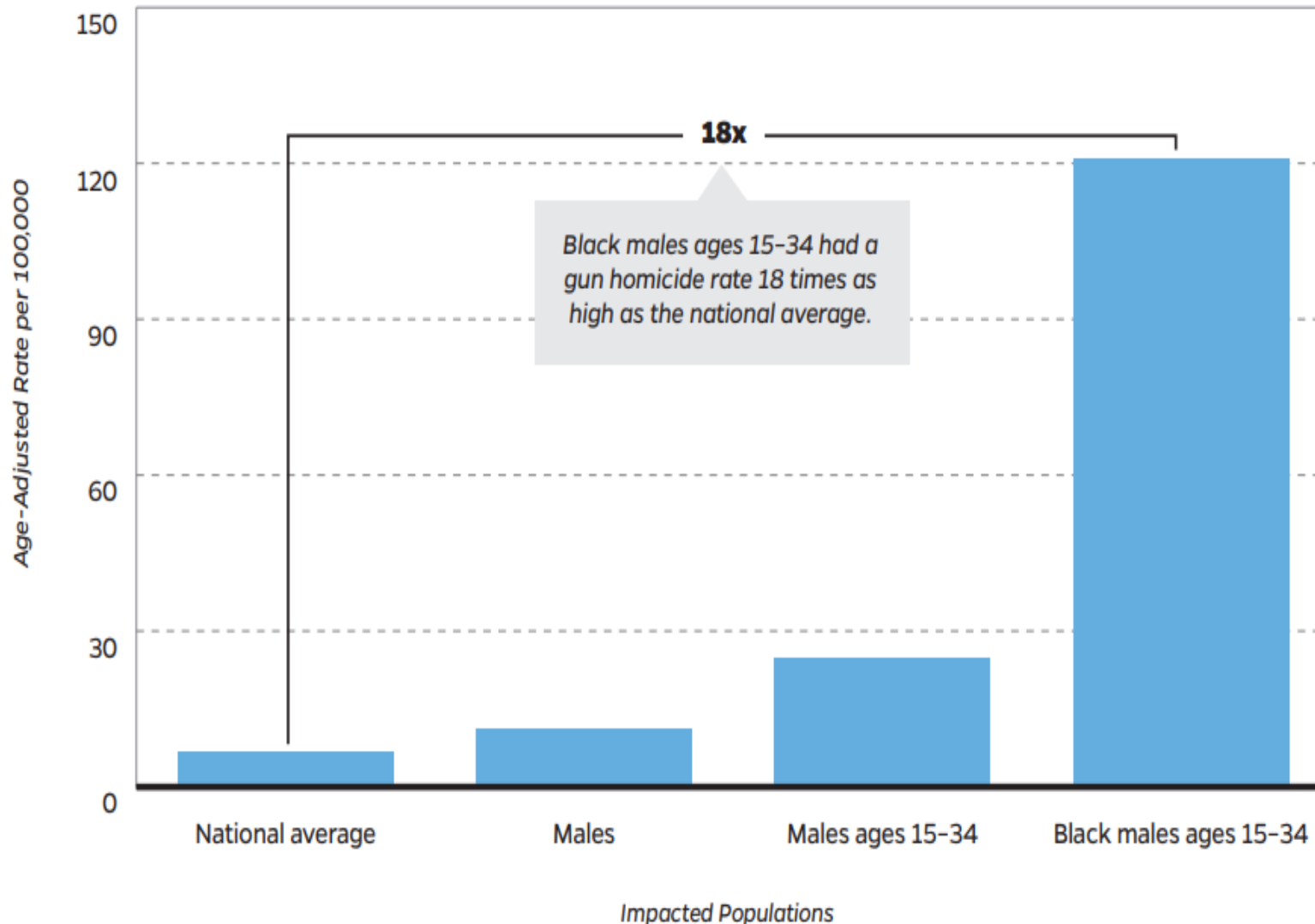
- Rural counties have a gun suicide rate twice as high as urban counties.
- White men make up 29% of the population but 70% of all suicide decedents.
- Handgun ownership increases risk of suicide by 3.3 times among men and 7.1 among females.¹⁰



Addressing Gun Suicide

- Lethal means safety counseling – discussing gun safety with patients
 - Storing guns locked.
 - Storing guns outside of the home when someone is in crisis.
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red flag laws)
 - Considers evidence of clear behavioral risk factors, not based on a mental health diagnosis.
 - 10-20 orders issued, one suicide prevented.¹¹
 - Widespread support 76% of Americans support.¹²
 - Emerging evidence that ERPOs prevent mass shootings, interpersonal violence.¹¹

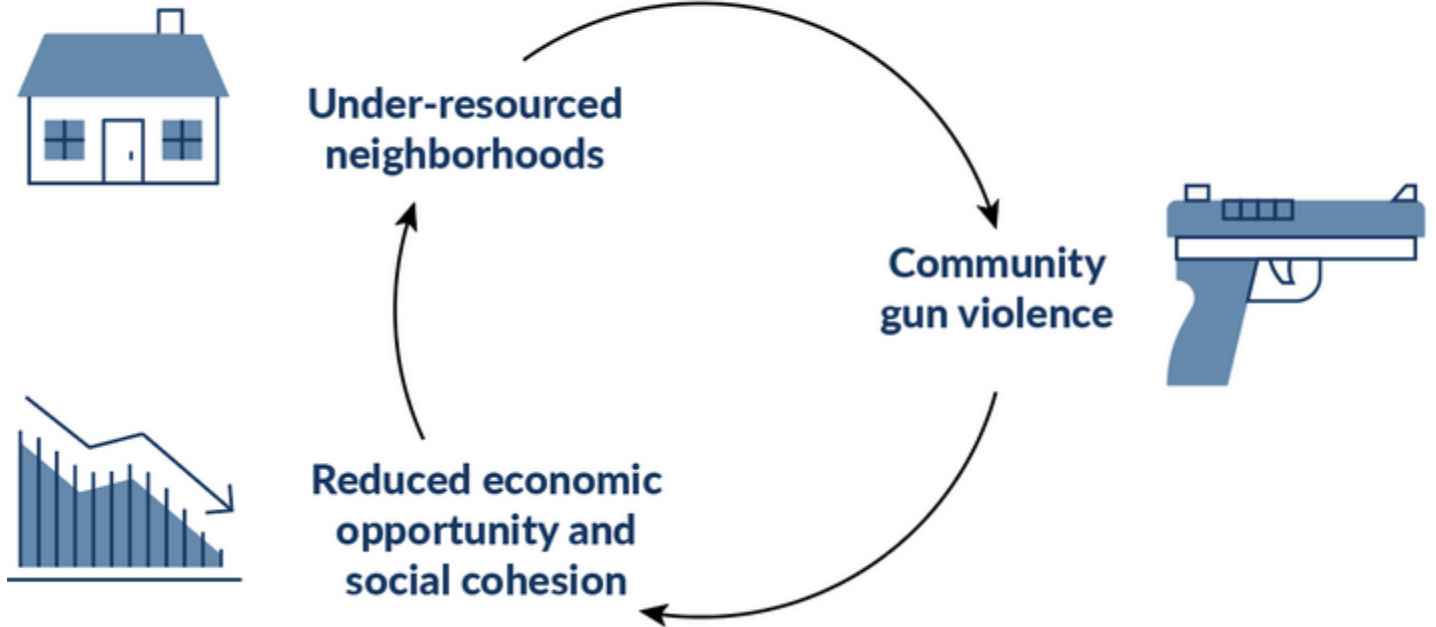
Community Gun Violence



- Major driver of health disparities, life expectancy gap.¹³
- Black males ages 15-34 make up 2% of the population but 36% of all gun homicides.¹
- Highly concentrated in disadvantaged communities and among small networks of individuals caught in cycles of violence.¹⁴

Conditions That Facilitate Community Violence

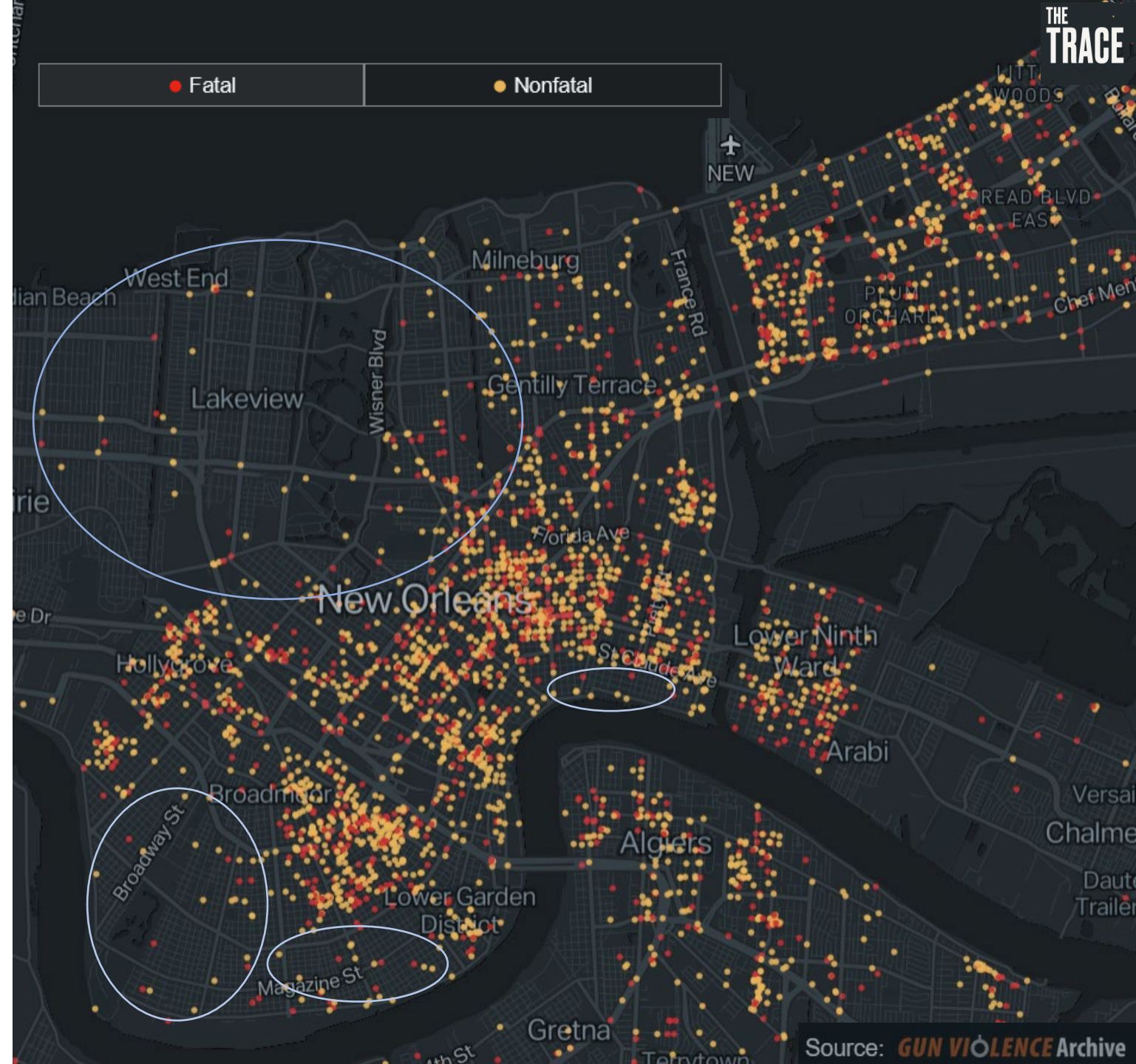
- Deep structural inequities rooted in racism drive community gun violence.
- Community gun violence further perpetuates the cycles of concentrated poverty, structural disadvantage, and poor health.



Uneven Distribution of Gun Assault

New Orleans, 2015-2022¹⁵

- Low levels in wealthy neighborhoods.
 - Median household income \$75-100k.
 - 70% of adults with college degree.¹⁷
- Extremely high levels in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods.



Gun violence is Highly Concentrated in the Most Disadvantaged Communities



Gun Violence in the Seventh Ward, **0.1 square miles**

27 gun homicides

45 gun injuries

Over 8 years, 2015-2022.¹⁵

Median household income:¹⁶

\$16,000

Adults with college degree:

15%

Exposure to
gun violence
is linked to:¹⁷

Post-traumatic stress disorder

Antisocial behavior

Depression

Stunted cognitive and emotional development

Risky alcohol and substance use

High rates of chronic disease

Increased likelihood in engaging in violence

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs

- Interrupt cycles of violence, address trauma, provide community supports, and employment by:
 - Identifying the small number of individuals involved in violence.
 - Building trusting relationships through credible messengers.
 - Leveraging city resources.
 - Tailoring the program to meet the unique needs of the community.

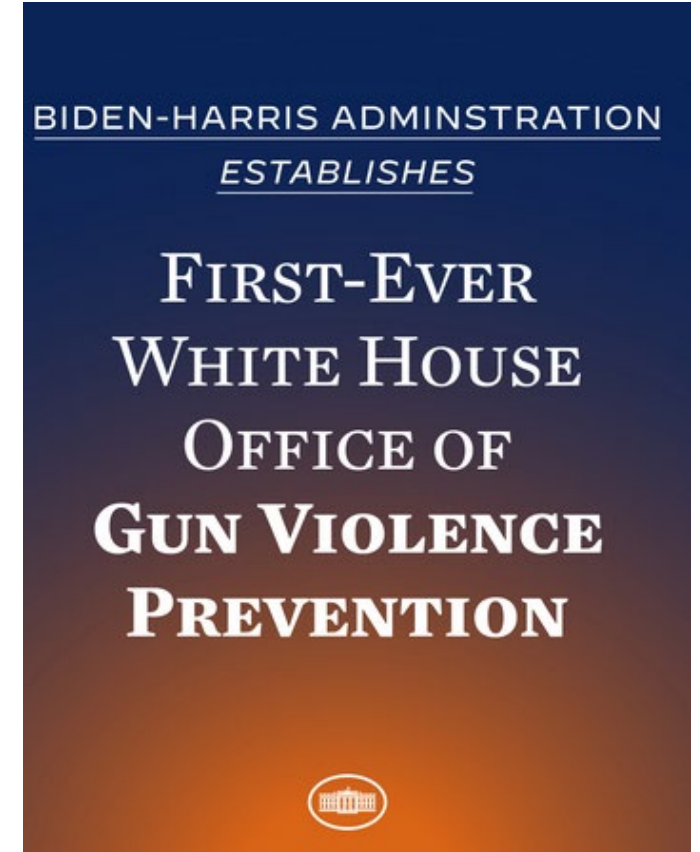
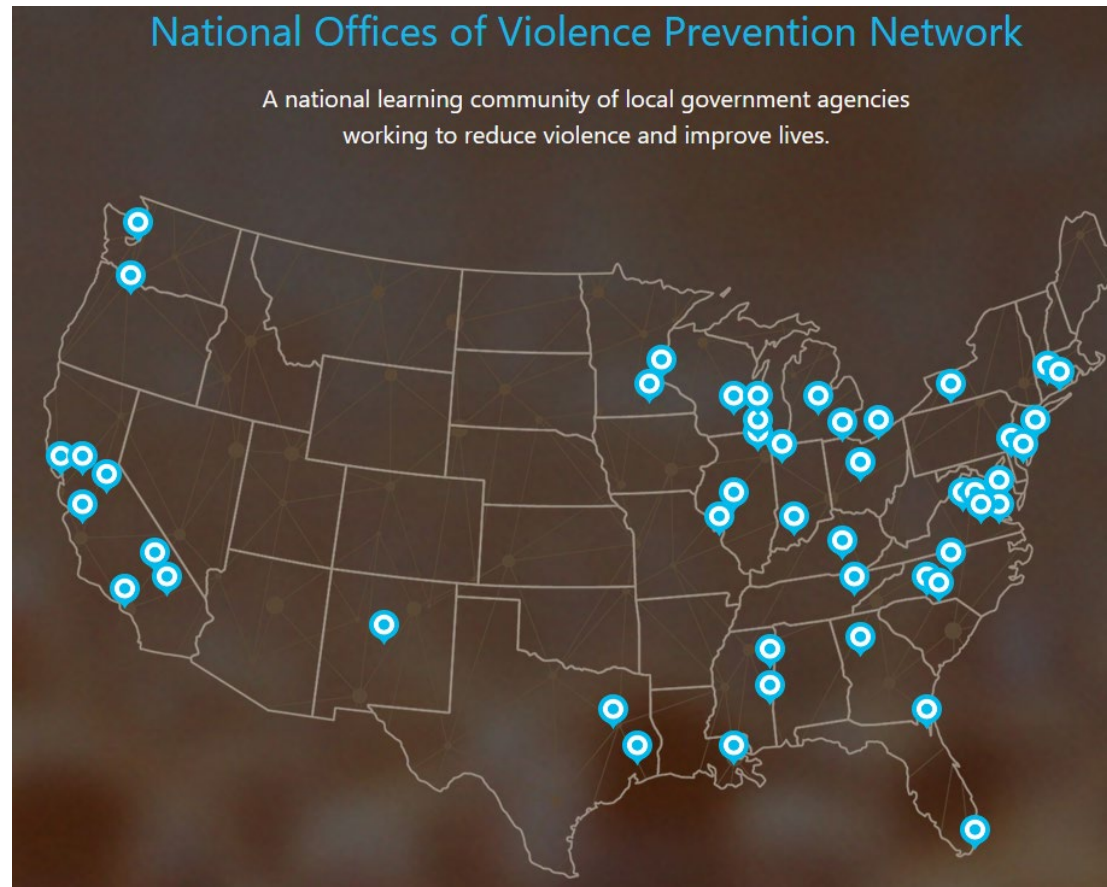
Effective CVI Programs

- Violence interrupter programs, Cure Violence
 - 23% reduction in shootings and homicides in Baltimore program areas.
- Focused deterrence/Group Violence Intervention
 - Systematic review - 30% reduction when properly implemented.¹⁹
- Programs that use cognitive behavioral interventions with wraparound supports
 - Readi Chicago, Advance Peace – sustained reductions in violence and improved outcomes among participants, cost effective.²⁰

Recent Investments to Address Community Gun Violence

PRESS RELEASE

Justice Department Awards \$100 Million to Reduce Community Violence



Together, We Can Prevent Gun Violence

Latest Newsletters *The Atlantic*

IDEAS

The Murder Rate Is Suddenly Falling

The first five months of 2023 have produced an encouraging overall trend for the first time in years.

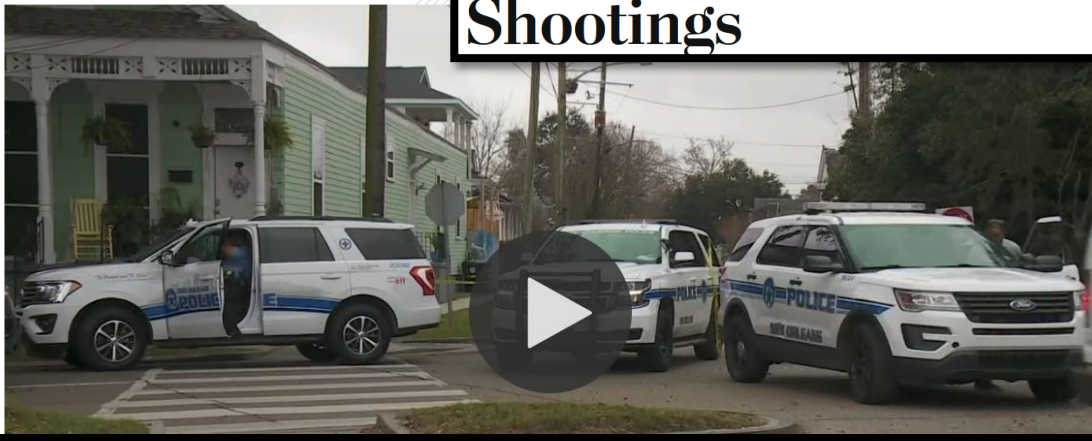
By Jeff Asher

WWL News Weather Sports VERIFY 4WWL+

ADVERTISE WITH US WWL+ RADAR HURRICANE CENTER APP MO

New Orleans goes 12 days without a homicide

For the first time in more than...
in 12 days in the City of New O



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

BUSINESS

Red-Flag Laws Offer Hope Against Mass Shootings

VIEWPOINTS

Doctors and hospitals can help prevent gun deaths. Here's how

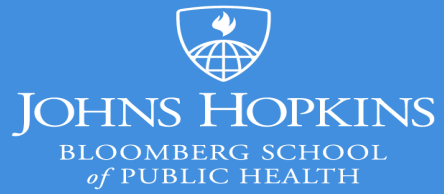
CBS NEWS

U.S. >

A veteran started a gun shop. When a struggling soldier asked him to store his firearms - he started saving lives.

BY CARA TABACHNICK
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 / 11:02 AM / CBS NEWS

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Questions?

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**Center for
Gun Violence Solutions**

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