

Gun Violence in Charlottesville & Albemarle

A Report Compiled by the Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Virginia

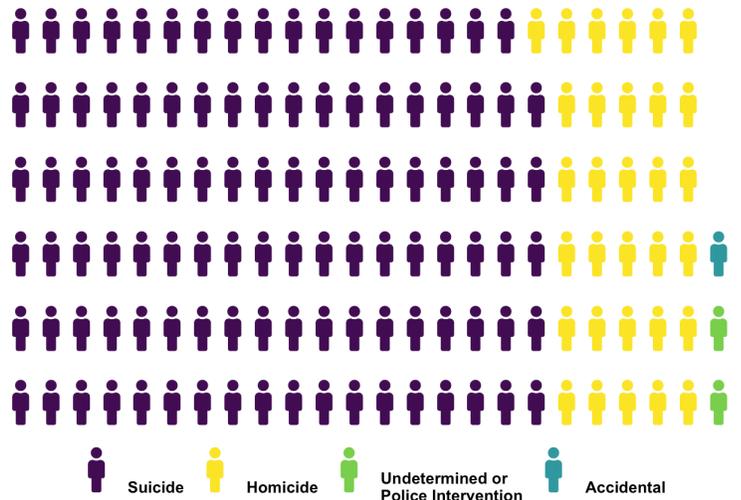
Approach

By bringing together multiple sources of data we are better able to understand the many challenges posed by gun violence in our region. The harm of gun violence takes many forms – deaths and injuries are the most obvious, but the collective trauma of hearing or witnessing gunshots also erodes community safety. This report aims to clarify current knowledge, as well as knowledge gaps, to support community solutions. Each source of data tells a part of the story, and by bringing these sources together we hope to tell a broader story about the nature, shape, and impacts of gun violence in our community. The broader goal is to expand and support the voices in our community working to identify solutions.

What is the prevalence in our region?

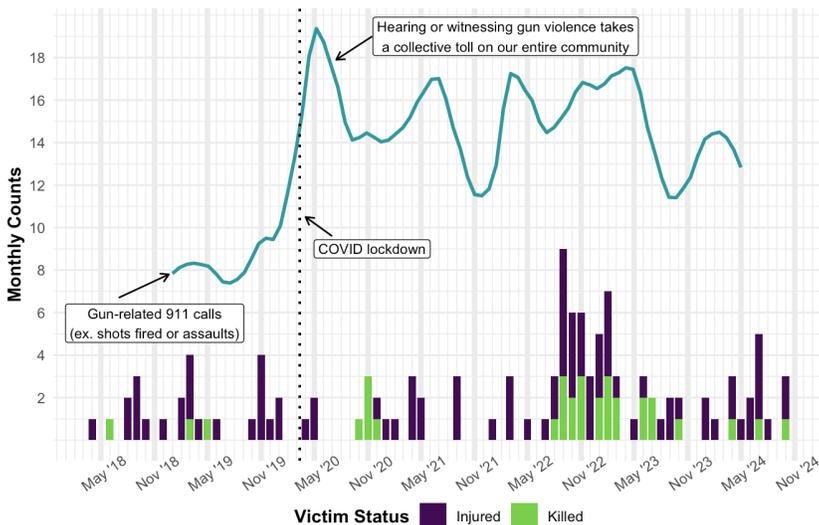
Between 2018-2022, **68** people lost their lives to gun violence in Charlottesville and Albemarle.¹ In the Blue Ridge Health District, which includes Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Fluvanna, and Greene County, **76%** of the **141** firearm-related deaths were suicides, **22%** were homicides, and the remaining were other forms of violence, including unintentional shootings.²

Firearm Deaths in the Blue Ridge Health District (2018-2022)



Data source: Centers for Disease Control, Underlying Cause of Death 2018-2022

Incidents of Gun Violence in Charlottesville & Albemarle and Number of Victims by Month



Data Source: Gun Violence Archive (Victim Statuses) & Local Police Reports (Incident Counts)

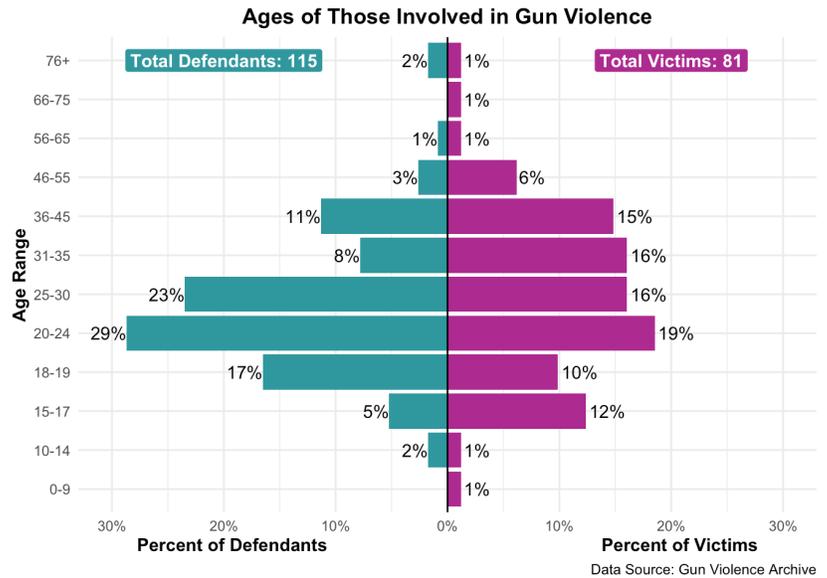
A Collective Toll

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, incidents of gun violence increased both nationally and locally.³ In 2024, the US Surgeon General’s Advisory declared gun violence as a public health crisis.⁴

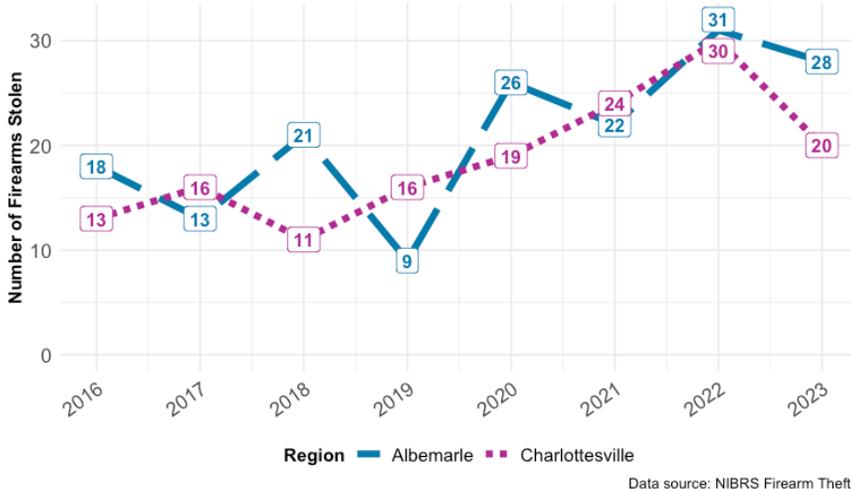


Who is impacted?

Gun violence affects individuals of all ages, with those aged 20-24 being especially affected. Community gun violence is often concentrated in neighborhoods with high poverty, few job opportunities, and a history of neglect while suicide by firearm tends to occur in more rural, isolated areas.⁵



Theft of Firearms from Vehicles in Charlottesville & Albemarle



Access to Firearms

Firearms can be purchased from any of the 22 licensed dealers in our region.⁶ Additionally, theft of firearms, specifically from vehicles, has been on the rise, with 48 guns stolen from vehicles in Charlottesville and Albemarle in 2023.

About the Center for Community Partnerships

Founded in 2019, the Center for Community Partnerships focuses on building mutually beneficial partnerships in university communities by advancing a transformative approach to the fundamental research mission, which will, in turn, reform institutional values, pedagogy, and operations. Learn more at communitypartnerships.virginia.edu

Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control, National Vital Statistics. About Underlying Cause of Death, 2018 - 2022.
- Virginia Department of Health, Office of Vital Records. Firearm Deaths by Intent, 2018 - 2022.
- Everytown Research & Policy. Gun Violence and COVID-19 in 2020. May 7, 2021.
- The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on Firearm Violence: A Public Health Crisis in America. July 2, 2024.
- Centers for Disease Control. Suicide in Rural America. May 16, 2024.
- U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives. Federal Firearms Licenses, April 2024.

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