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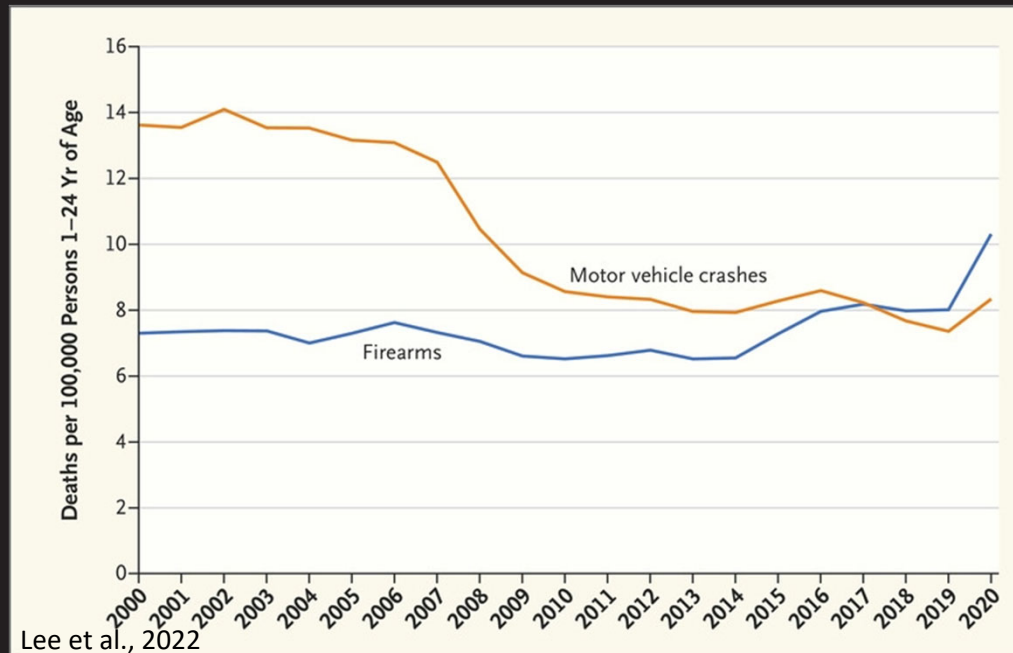
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
IUPUI

A Public Health Approach to Addressing Youth Gun Violence

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Background



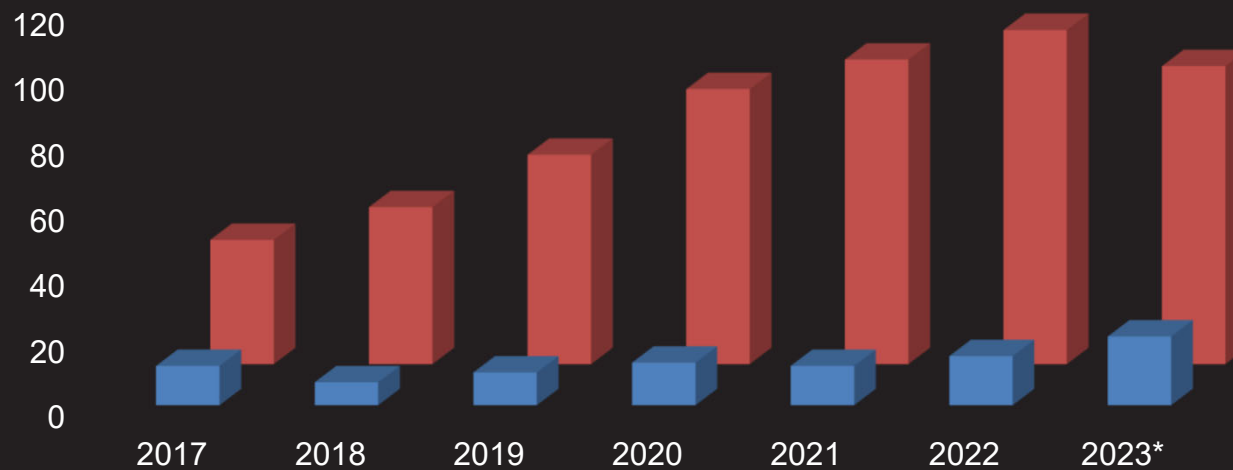
“No one cares about us because we survived.”



Firearm Injury Data



Youth (<18) Firearm Injuries



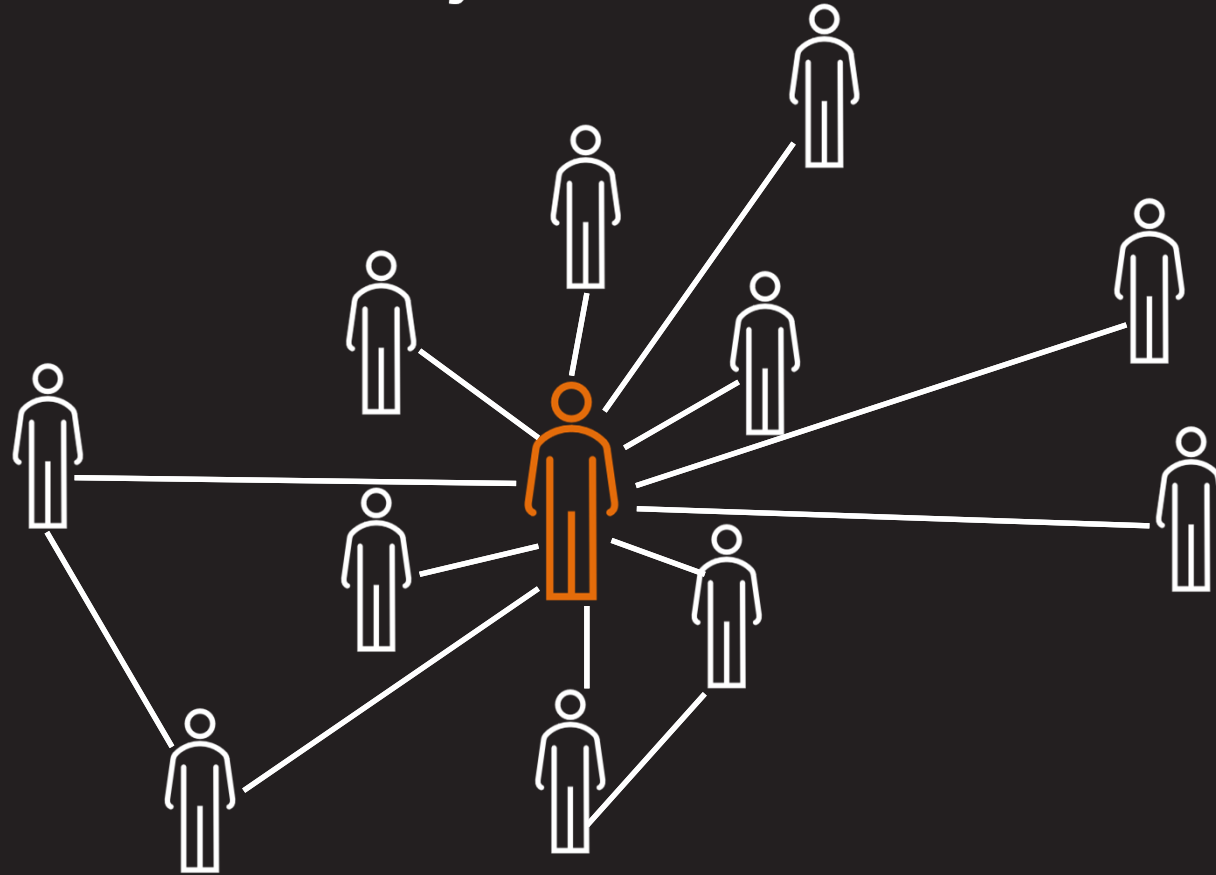
■ Homicide ■ NFS

Source: IMPD Homicide & NFS data, 2017 – Nov. 30 2023



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Ripple Effect of Firearm Injuries



Unhealed Trauma



Survivors



Siblings/Children



Community

Firearm injuries are associated with higher rates of depression, anxiety, and PTSD



From Indianapolis Youth Firearm Survivors

“It’s been more difficult. It’s gonna be that way, b/c the things you used to do, you can’t do anymore. And that kinda hurts. So you go through your life hurting behind your tragedy.”

“I didn’t really rely on the doctor, I relied on my mom a lot. It’s just a thing about me with other people. I don’t trust a lot of people and with that situation, it just really boosted up my anxiety a lot, and upped the ante for me not to trust people more.”

“I told them in the group this, any my counselors and everything, they had no answer. What do I do when I’m out with my family? B/c like I said, I wanna go on my trips, I wanna go to the pool, I wanna go out to eat, I wanna go to baseball. And I’ll walk, and it’s one thing if I see him [offender] from a distance. It’ll be like ‘Oh, ya’ll we gotta go.’ It’s another thing when I’m up and I look up, and he [offender] see me. Then its like, ‘damn.’”

Magee, L. A., Ortiz, D., Adams, Z. W., Marriott, B. R., Beverly, A. W., Beverly, B., ... & Ranney, M. L. (2023). Engagement with mental health services among survivors of firearm injury. *JAMA network open*, 6(10).

From Indianapolis Youth Exposed to Gun Violence

“Just have guns out like it’s normalized. Many people would rather be caught with a gun than without. It’s to save their life.”

Social media

Retaliation

Protection

“ When my friend died. I really lost it all. When he died, I just lost it all for fighting people and I wanted a gun to fight people.”

“ People don’t care anymore. They feel like their life is already over. So they’ll shoot up a neighborhood.”

The Public Health Approach

- Define the problem
- Identify risk and protective factors
- Develop and evaluate prevention strategies
- Assure widespread adoption

