

2025

 CIVIC COALITION TO
SAVE LIVES

ANNUAL UPDATE



SUSTAINING THE SYSTEM THAT SAVES LIVES

The Civic Engine Championing Evidence-Based
Intervention to Reduce Gun Violence in Philadelphia

A Message From Our Leadership

Philadelphia is proving something important: gun violence can be reduced when cities commit to coordinated, evidence-based intervention and sustain it over time.

In 2025, Philadelphia recorded 222 homicides, the fewest since 1966 and a 60% decline from the 2021 peak of 562. Both fatal and non-fatal shootings continue to fall year over year. Philadelphia now stands as a national model for what coordinated, evidence-based intervention can achieve. That progress resulted from the focused, data-driven leadership of Mayor Cherelle Parker, Chief Public Safety Director Adam Geer, Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel and law enforcement officers, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Gun Violence Task Force, and the extraordinary network of frontline organizations, credible messengers, hospital-based programs, and community partners who do this work every day.

The Civic Coalition to Save Lives ("CCSL"/"the Coalition") did not reduce gun violence in Philadelphia. The City's strategy did. The frontline partners did. What the Coalition has worked to do is serve as connective tissue and strategic partner within the intervention ecosystem — helping the right partners find each other, helping problem-solving and the right conversations happen, and helping good work survive the pressures that so often cause it to fade.

We write this with urgency, not celebration. People are still dying. Progress, while historic, is not permanent. Cities across the country have seen hard-won reductions in violence collapse when attention shifted, funding waned, or coordination faltered. Philadelphia is not immune to that pattern. The threat right now is not a failure of strategy, because the strategy is working. The risk lies in a failure of sustained will to continue and improve.

That is precisely why the Coalition exists: to be the durable, cross-sector civic infrastructure that keeps intervention efforts moving, regardless of political cycles, budget pressures, or shifting attention. The Coalition's dedication to evidence-based intervention predates the current administration and must outlast any single one. The CCSL exists to make Philadelphia's intervention ecosystem work better than it would without it.

We invite you to read this report, understand what is working and why, and help ensure Philadelphia does not let up.

Every life saved affirms the impact of focused intervention. Every life lost is one too many. Our responsibility now is to protect these gains and ensure intervention remains central to the City's approach to safety.



Pedro A. Ramos, Esq.

President & CEO, The Philadelphia Foundation
CO-CHAIR, STEERING COMMITTEE



Shawn McCaney

Executive Director, William Penn Foundation
CO-CHAIR, STEERING COMMITTEE



Rev. David W. Brown

Executive Director, Civic Coalition to Save Lives



What the Coalition Is and Does

MISSION

The Civic Coalition to Save Lives unites civic, business, and community leaders in championing gun violence intervention efforts focused on high-risk individuals as the most effective near-term strategy to reduce shooting deaths and injuries and as a key component of the City's overall community safety strategy.

Photo courtesy of Abdul Sulayman, The Philadelphia Tribune

WHO WE ARE

The Coalition is a volunteer alliance of civic, community, business leaders and organizations serving together as a unifying civic infrastructure campaigning for strengthening and sustaining the conditions that allow the City's evidence-based intervention strategy to work and endure. Administrative support is provided by The Philadelphia Foundation. The Coalition operates under the leadership of a volunteer Steering Committee.

WHAT DOES THE COALITION DO?

Champions evidence-based gun violence intervention focused on high-risk individuals as a sustained, non-negotiable element of Philadelphia's community safety strategy.

HOW DOES THE COALITION DO IT?

Through Connecting, Convening, Collaborating, and Communicating — serving as the civic framework that helps support and strengthen the systems, relationships, and public understanding behind Philadelphia's gun violence intervention strategy and promoting the sustained commitment that work requires.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Civic, philanthropic, business, and government leaders across sectors maintaining sustained, aligned commitment to intervention — across administrations, budget cycles, and political environments. The strategy endures. The systems strengthen. Lives are saved.

How the Coalition Works — The 4 Cs

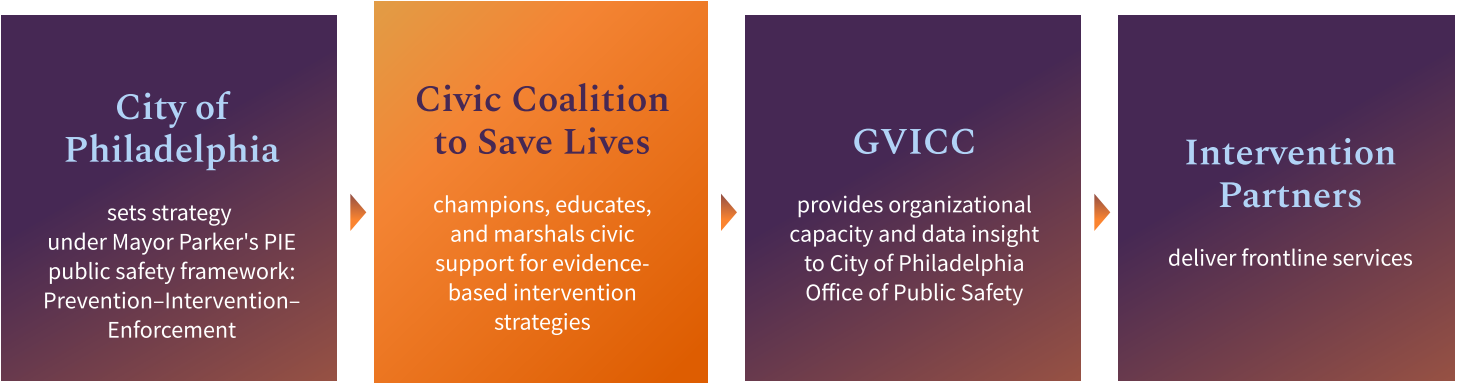


The Coalition’s Clearly Defined Role

The Coalition occupies a specific and intentional role within Philadelphia's comprehensive community safety ecosystem. While the Office of the Mayor, the Office of Public Safety, and the Philadelphia Police Department lead coordination, policy development, and direct service delivery, the Coalition operates as a catalyzing civic force. The Coalition established the Gun Violence Intervention Coordination Center (GVICC) in 2023 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to drive data strategies and strategic planning that help the City’s intervention coordination system increase capacity and response.

The Coalition champions the continued collaborative centrality of intervention in reducing gun violence, connects and convenes key stakeholders, and ensures that Philadelphia's broader intervention ecosystem has the visibility, support, and momentum it needs to save lives.

THE COALITION'S ROLE WITHIN PHILADELPHIA'S INTERVENTION ECOSYSTEM



Note: GVICC — the Gun Violence Intervention Coordination Center, an independent nonprofit established with Coalition support in 2023 — will be covered in a separate report.

Why the Coalition Was Formed

— and Why Intervention Works

Intervention was already happening in Philadelphia, but it lacked consistent prioritization, sustained infrastructure, and alignment across sectors. That insight drove the formation of the Civic Coalition to Save Lives.

When gun violence reached its peak in 2021 — 562 homicides, the highest in Philadelphia's history — civic and philanthropic leaders came together in recognition of a simple truth: a public crisis demands a civic response. Led by the Philadelphia Foundation and the William Penn Foundation, they commissioned research. They engaged local and national practitioners, researchers, and community leaders with deep expertise in evidence-based violence intervention. They studied what was working in other cities, examined the data on Philadelphia's own intervention ecosystem, and asked hard questions about where nongovernmental, civic partners could make the most meaningful contribution. That disciplined, evidence-driven process by the founding steering committee members produced three foundational insights and launched the Civic Coalition to Save Lives, the same year of record-breaking homicides.

1 | PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TRANSFORMATION ARE DISTINCT — ALL ARE ESSENTIAL.

Individuals at the highest risk require specialized, immediate, relationship-based intervention.

2 | INTERVENTION WORK WAS ALREADY HAPPENING BUT LACKED SUSTAINED SUPPORT.

Trusted messengers, trauma responders, hospital-based teams, and community organizations were doing life-saving work. What they needed was coordination, stability, and infrastructure — not new programs layered on top.

3 | STRENGTHENING A STRATEGY MATTERS MORE THAN FUNDING ISOLATED PROGRAMS.

The role for civic partners was not to run intervention, but to reinforce the ecosystem behind it.

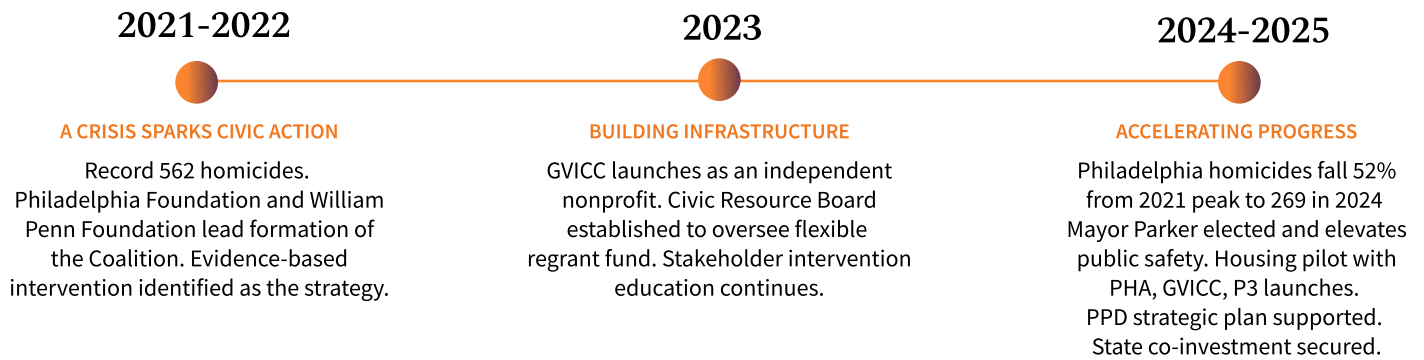
When Mayor Parker took office in 2024 and elevated public safety as her top priority, the Coalition was positioned to align with the City's comprehensive strategy. When CCSL helped launch the Gun Violence Intervention Coordination Center (GVICC) in 2023, it created a durable infrastructure to support the City's intervention strategies. This civic armature, built on rigorous research and shaped by the expertise of practitioners and subject matter experts from across the field, offers additional strength and reinforcement where little had existed before, enabling the intervention ecosystem to function at greater capacity.

Today, the Coalition continues to evolve alongside the ecosystem it serves — learning, adapting, and finding the places where civic support makes the greatest difference.





CCSL GROWTH TIMELINE



A Model Other Cities Are Watching

What Philadelphia has built is not just a local success story. It is an emerging national model for how cities can sustain gun violence reduction through coordinated, cross-sector civic infrastructure and operate regardless of changes in leadership, funding, or program cycles.

While many cities have achieved meaningful gun violence reductions through government-led strategies and philanthropic investments, Philadelphia's Prevention-Intervention-Enforcement (PIE) strategy is also backed by sustained civic infrastructure: a cross-sector coalition of business, philanthropic, community, and government leaders aligned around a shared, evidence-based intervention strategy and committed to it across administrations.

The Civic Coalition to Save Lives contributes civic steel to the City's intervention infrastructure – providing strategic reinforcement within the ecosystem to keep momentum sustained.

Why This Strategy Works

Most gun violence in Philadelphia is preventable. Research from the National Network for Safe Communities and multiple city analyses has consistently found that less than 0.5% of a city's population are involved in roughly 60% of shootings and homicides.¹ That makes this problem addressable – but only through sustained, targeted intervention.

Effective intervention is not broad or generalized. It uses data to identify individuals at the highest risk of gun violence — those most at risk of shooting someone or being shot themselves — builds trust through credible messenger relationships, and connects them to coordinated supports, opportunities and consequences. Through trusted relationships and coordinated support, intervention meets people where they are, at the moments when it matters most, to interrupt cycles of violence and prevent retaliation.

Prevention and intervention work hand in hand to reduce gun violence, but operate on different timelines. Prevention addresses upstream risk factors, poverty, trauma, and lack of opportunity, before violence occurs. It builds the foundation for safer communities over the long term.

Communities need both. Prevention reduces future risk, while intervention saves lives today.

Evidence-based intervention can reduce gun deaths by at least 10% within 12 to 36 months. And the need goes beyond fatalities — for every person killed, four survive, often traumatized and still at risk. Survivors are more likely to be shot again or to retaliate. Intervention stops that cycle before it restarts.

¹National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, "Group Violence Intervention," nnscommunities.org/strategies/group-violence-intervention. The NNSC is an internationally recognized research center that provides evidence-based violence reduction strategies to communities across the United States and beyond, with a focus on the safety of the most vulnerable.

~ **0.5%**

Half of one percent of the population accounts for the majority of gun violence, making this problem targeted and addressable

10% +

Evidence shows reduction in gun deaths is achievable by at least ten percent within 12–36 months with effective, sustained intervention

4:1

For every fatal shooting, four people survive nonfatal shootings — injured, traumatized, and at an even higher risk of future gun violence

The Four Strategic Pillars

For individuals directly impacted by gun violence, reducing violence requires more than just traditional public safety measures. These four service pillars are informed by evidence-based frameworks developed by leading national violence intervention organizations and peer-reviewed research.²

HOUSING STABILITY

THE EVIDENCE:

Stable housing lowers retaliation risk, provides access to safer environments, and makes sustained participation in intervention programs possible.³

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

THE EVIDENCE:

Culturally-grounded and trauma-informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) models for individuals and groups help support healing, emotional resilience, and self-motivated positive change to disrupt negative response patterns and decrease the likelihood of escalation.

WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

THE EVIDENCE:

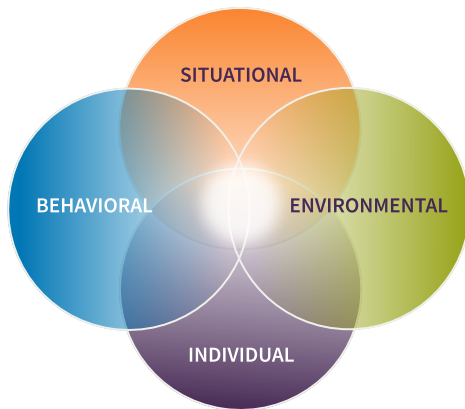
Strengthening fair-chance pathways creates real off-ramps from high-risk networks through stable work and economic opportunity.

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATION

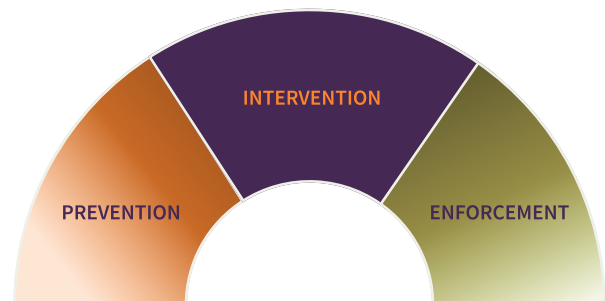
THE EVIDENCE:

When City agencies, law enforcement, and community partners operate in alignment, shared data and coordinated referral pathways close system gaps and enable faster, more targeted response.

GUN VIOLENCE RISK FACTORS



THE COALITION'S LANE — THE "I" IN PIE



² Cure Violence Global's public health approach to community violence intervention (cvg.org/impact); the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention's (HAVI) hospital-based violence intervention model and CVI ecosystem standards (thehavi.org); and the John Jay College Research and Evaluation Center on housing stability, economic security, and violence reduction ("Reducing Violence Without Police," 2020, johnjayrec.nyc). Trauma-informed CBT models are grounded in an established body of behavioral health research on emotional resilience and violence de-escalation. A note on sourcing: Cure Violence Global maintains a comprehensive evidence database supporting its public health approach to violence prevention, endorsed by the U.S. Department of Justice, UNICEF, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The HAVI supports an interdisciplinary community of violence intervention specialists and advances evidence-based policies to improve the healthcare landscape while advocating to curtail community violence and trauma.

³ John Jay College research found that individuals who received housing stability assistance were 51 percent less likely to be arrested for a violent crime compared to eligible applicants who did not receive help.

2025: What the Coalition Helped Make Possible

The Coalition's contributions are strategic, structural and catalytic. Progress in all areas belongs to the City's leaders, practitioners, and participants. The Coalition's role is to help strengthen the systems that made these outcomes more possible.



COLLABORATING

Provided funding support for the Philadelphia Police Department's First-Ever Five-Year Strategic Plan

Improving communication and reducing service gaps across the intervention network. Building bridges between systems, practitioners, and civic partners.



You can't drive down gun violence without trust, and you can't build trust without a plan. The Civic Coalition to Save Lives understood that from the beginning. Their support helped us build something this department has never had before — and something this city deserves."

— COMMISSIONER KEVIN BETHEL, PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT



CONNECTING

Housing Stability — Supporting the PHA Intervention-Focused Pilot

Helped bring the concept of an intervention-focused housing pilot to the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), provided catalytic support for staffing and administrative capacity, and helped convene PHA, Pushing Progress Philly (P3), and the GVICC to co-design referral pathways. By the end of 2025, all 30 available housing units were filled. PHA, P3, and GVICC built and operated the pilot. The Coalition helped initiate the partnership and provided full funding for the pilot program through its Civic Resource Board regrant.



CONNECTING

Behavioral Health — Operating Support for Black Men Heal and EMIR Healing Center

Provided general operating support to two community-based behavioral health organizations as nonprofits navigate an increasingly challenging funding environment. Both Black Men Heal and EMIR Healing Center offer culturally responsive and trauma-informed services and programming for intervention initiatives, and the Coalition continues to help both organizations provide these critical resources.



COLLABORATING

State Co-Investment in Strengthening Capacity

Helped attract state co-investment championed by Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent J. Hughes and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to strengthen data capacity and system-level support for Philadelphia's gun violence intervention strategy — reinforcing the links between City agencies and community partners.

CONNECTING

Workforce & Economic Mobility — Research and Coordination Capacity

In partnership with the Truist Foundation, supported an Econsult Solutions workforce study mapping structural barriers and high-opportunity sectors for justice-impacted individuals. The report has guided a new phase of work: strengthening fair-chance hiring pathways and clarifying the support employers need to create viable employment opportunities for high-risk individuals. The Coalition also helped connect P3 and Beat the Block to map job opportunities, coordinate referrals, and build employer relationships.



CONVENING

Annual Convening

On April 30, 2025, the Coalition hosted its second annual convening, bringing together civic, business, philanthropic, and government leaders to hear directly from those doing frontline intervention work every day. The gathering featured a video message from Mayor Cherelle Parker, remarks from Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel and Chief Public Safety Director Adam Geer, and a Frontline Voices panel centered on practitioners working with individuals at highest risk. Panelists included Pastor Carl Day (Beat the Block), Patrick Clancy (Philadelphia Works), Dr. Elinore Kaufman (Penn Trauma Violence Recovery Program), Scott Charles (Temple University Hospital), Zakia Williams (Black Men Heal), and Chantay Love (EMIR Healing Center). The convening closed with calls to action from Coalition Steering Committee Co-Chair Shawn McCaney and Steering Committee Member Bret Perkins urging greater civic and private sector engagement. Steering Committee member Michael Innocenzo opened with a charge that captured the Coalition's purpose: "The safety of our city is not someone else's responsibility — it's all of ours."

COMMUNICATING

Public Education & Civic Engagement

A sustained public education effort works to ensure civic, business, community, and government leaders understand how evidence-based intervention works and why it must remain a non-negotiable element of the City's community safety strategy. Examples in 2025 include a joint appearance with Chief Public Safety Director Adam Geer on 6abc's Inside Story; a joint presentation at The Trace National Conference on gun violence intervention; multiple Op-Eds in The Philadelphia Inquirer; and direct engagement with Pennsylvania elected officials including Attorney General David Sunday, Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, and State Senator Vincent Hughes. The Coalition also launched a partnership with data scientist Nick Hand to host an interactive gun violence dashboard at SavePhillyLives.org — giving residents, advocates, and decision-makers direct access to real-time shooting data by location, time, and victim demographics. Originally maintained by the City Controller's Office before going offline, the tool is now publicly available through the Coalition.

A CLOSER LOOK

Philadelphia Police Department: Supporting the First-Ever Five-Year Plan

The Coalition supported this plan because effective intervention depends on partnership — community trust, coordinated systems, and a public safety strategy built with, not just for, the people of Philadelphia.

ADVANCING A MORE INTEGRATED PUBLIC SAFETY MODEL

The plan emphasizes coordination across agencies and sectors — SEPTA Transit Police, university police, behavioral health providers, and the District Attorney's Office. The Coalition helped reinforce this alignment by connecting civic, business, and institutional partners to the City's strategy and ensuring intervention remains a central, non-negotiable component.

STRENGTHENING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BEHIND THE STRATEGY

The plan prioritizes data-driven deployment, technology modernization, workforce development, and expanded community partnership. The Coalition supported these priorities by helping align external expertise and reinforcing that these elements are core public safety infrastructure, not optional enhancements.

GROUNDING THE STRATEGY IN COMMUNITY VOICE

The plan was shaped through a 10-month engagement process involving residents, youth, and business leaders. This "plan by Philadelphians" reflects a deliberate effort to rebuild trust. The Coalition helped amplify this approach by encouraging broad civic participation and reinforcing the importance of transparency and public accountability.

POSITIONING FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

The Strategic Plan aligns closely with the Coalition's core premise: reducing violence requires a disciplined, data-driven focus on those at highest risk, supported by coordinated systems and sustained leadership. The Coalition's contribution here is consistent with its broader role — helping the right strategies take hold, the right partners stay aligned, and the work built to last.





Voices From The Field

These voices speak to what Philadelphia's intervention ecosystem — and the sustained civic commitment behind it — makes possible. They are expert and practitioner perspectives on why this strategy works, why it must be sustained, and what it produces when it does.

THE EVIDENCE BASIS

The evidence on where to focus first is remarkably clear. Research consistently shows that in most cities, roughly half of a percent of a city's population is responsible for 60 to 70 percent of its shootings and homicides — and Philadelphia's own data bear that out. Cities need to approach this extreme concentration with a clear and unified strategy, and in every city we've studied, conducting focused high-risk intervention appears to be an essential part of the strategic mix. There is much to be proud of in Philadelphia — including an impressive ecosystem to reduce violence, and significant reductions and meaningful innovation. Yet, there is still important work ahead to help the city strengthen, scale, and sustain what is working. Ultimately, long-term success requires cities to focus resources where violence is most concentrated and to thoughtfully coordinate efforts across city agencies and partners to sustain results over time. Philadelphia has already made meaningful progress in this work and is well positioned to build on that foundation and continue advancing beyond what many cities have been able to achieve.

Ben Struhl

Senior Research Director,
Crime and Justice Policy Lab,
University of Pennsylvania

NATIONAL CONTEXT & WHY SUSTAINED COMMITMENT MATTERS

Philadelphia has done what most cities don't: built a genuine cross-sector coalition — philanthropy, business, community, and government — that treats this as a long-term commitment rather than a political moment. The data show real progress. But what separates cities that hold their gains from those that backslide is almost always the same thing: sustained investment and coordination after the headlines fade. There is no finish line. The investment has to be as relentless as the problem has been.

David Muhammad

Executive Director,
National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR)

HOSPITAL VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS & ECOSYSTEM COORDINATION

Temple University Hospital is the busiest Level I trauma center for the treatment of penetrating injury in Pennsylvania. That means we see, firsthand, what gun violence actually does to a human body — and to the people who love that person. What hospital-based intervention recognizes is that the moment someone arrives in that trauma bay, something shifts. They're not thinking about retaliation yet. They're scared, they're in pain, and they're reachable in a way they may not be again for a very long time. That's the window we work in. But what we can do alone is limited — we can intervene with the person in front of us, connect them to services, and try to prevent the next shooting. What a coordinated ecosystem makes possible is something bigger: the street outreach worker who knew that person before they got shot, the GVI case manager who follows up after discharge, the employment program that gives them somewhere to be. When those pieces are talking to each other, you're not just treating violence — you're interrupting it at every point in the cycle.

Scott Charles

Trauma Outreach Manager,
Temple University Hospital



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INTERVENTION

The men we work with in Beat the Block are not going to walk into a program — you have to go to them, earn their trust, and meet them where they are. What that requires is people who are from those blocks, who've lived that life, who can look a young man in the eye and be believed. But here's what I know after years of doing this: the programs that work don't work in isolation. When the city, philanthropy, and civic leaders stay committed, when the resources don't dry up the moment the headlines move on, we can hold young men long enough to actually change something. The progress Philadelphia has made is real. But the men still on those blocks need sustained investment, sustained presence, and sustained proof that somebody gives a damn.

Pastor Carl Day

Founder and Executive Director,
Beat the Block

LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION & CROSS-SECTOR ALIGNMENT

Gun Violence Task Force's effective cross-agency coordination between the multiple law enforcement partners allows us to approach neighborhood violence as one cohesive story instead of a series of disconnected cases. When prosecutors, Philadelphia Police, and the Attorney General's Office are working from the same investigative timeline, patterns emerge that none of us would see working alone: two small groups going back and forth, a retaliatory cycle that's been running for years, a trafficking network that links cases across districts. That's what produces accountability even when witnesses won't cooperate. But enforcement doesn't stand alone. When outreach workers, intervention programs, and law enforcement are aligned around the same high-risk individuals, you get something more durable than an arrest. You get a neighborhood that actually gets to breathe. Sustained cross-sector investment is what makes that possible. Without it, you're just responding to the next shooting.

Bill Fritze

Chief,
Gun Violence Task Force,
Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

THE LONG VIEW: WHAT SUSTAINED CIVIC COMMITMENT MEANS TO FRONTLINE ORGANIZATIONS

EMIR Healing Center was born in 1997 from unimaginable loss, the murder of my brother, Emir Greene, and from the painful reality that families like ours had nowhere to turn for support, healing, or guidance. For decades, we carried this work forward with limited resources but an unwavering commitment to the people most impacted by violence.

Today, there is a growing recognition among city leaders, philanthropy, and civic institutions that public safety cannot be separated from trauma recovery and community healing. Violence reduction is not only about intervention, but it's also about restoring people, families, and neighborhoods. When systems, institutions, and communities invest together in sustained, trauma-informed solutions, we create the conditions to break cycles of violence and build pathways to HOPE. That commitment must remain long-term and intentional, because while homicide statistics may fluctuate, the trauma carried by families and communities does not simply disappear. At EMIR, we remain committed to healing the community, one family at a time.

Chantay Love

President,
EMIR Healing Center

Progress Is Real — but Fragile

The Results Belong to the City's Strategy & Implementation

These numbers reflect what becomes possible when a city moves in sustained alignment under evidence-based strategy. They belong to the City's leaders, the frontline workers, and the participants who chose a different path. As *The Philadelphia Citizen* noted in March 2026, Philadelphia's turnaround represents some of the most significant gun violence progress any major U.S. city has achieved — with the Community Justice Violence Prevention Index ranking Philadelphia first among the 10 biggest U.S. cities for its readiness to address gun violence.



222

homicides in 2025
fewest since 1966

60%

decline from the 2021 peak
down from 562 homicides

935

shooting victims in 2025
first time below 1,000 since at least 2007

STEEPEST DROP OF ANY MAJOR U.S. CITY

Philadelphia recorded the most significant per capita gun violence reduction of any major U.S. city.

RESIDENTS ARE STARTING TO FEEL IT

A majority of Philadelphians now report feeling safer in their neighborhoods at night, reversing years of declining confidence.

Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2025



“

We're very conscious of not having a 'Mission Accomplished' moment. There are still 200 deaths a year. We're keeping our head down, doing the work.”

— ADAM GEER, CHIEF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
THE PHILADELPHIA CITIZEN, MARCH 2026

Why Civic Leaders Must Stay Engaged Even as Numbers Decline

While the declining numbers indicate progress, the decrease is not universal across all neighborhoods and ZIP codes in Philadelphia. High-risk individuals and vulnerable populations still remain at greater risk. Progress without sustained commitment to proven intervention strategies is precarious.

Other cities have achieved comparable reductions, only to see violence surge back when coordination faltered or investment faded. The evidence from other cities is unambiguous and instructive:

Boston: The Warning

Operation Ceasefire produced an 80% reduction in homicides between 1990 and 1999 — a celebrated national model. When the program faded, youth gun violence climbed 132% by 2006.

Chicago: The Pattern

In the early 2000s Cure Violence produced a 73% reduction in shootings in program communities. When funding was cut in 2008, homicides rose 58% citywide within a year.

The pattern is consistent: progress erodes when attention shifts, funding wanes, key partners disengage, or political transitions disrupt coordination. Philadelphia is not immune. The threat right now is not a failure of strategy — the strategy is working. The threat is long-term continuity beyond a single administration.

The Painful Reality That Remains

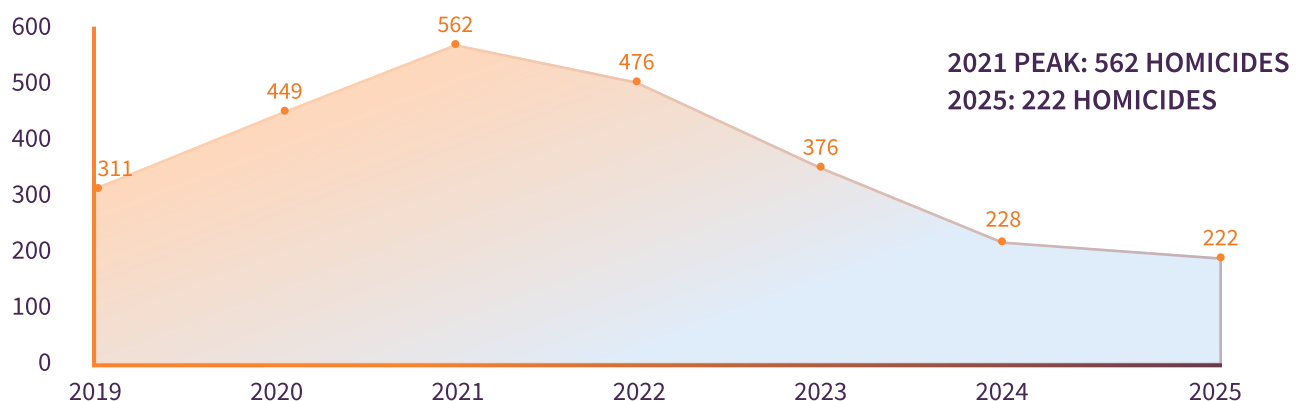
- Gun violence remains disproportionately concentrated in Philadelphia's most under-resourced neighborhoods and communities that have absorbed decades of harm and cannot afford a retreat from progress.
- Every number represents a life, a family, a neighborhood still carrying the weight of this crisis and the rippling effects of community violence that extend beyond ZIP codes and trauma centers.
- The goal is not a better statistic. It is a city where no community bears a disproportionate share of violence.



“

*One gunshot is a lot.
We can't sit or act like
we don't see that.”*

— COMMISSIONER KEVIN BETHEL, PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, JANUARY 2026



Protecting Philadelphia's Progress

Sustained civic commitment isn't the follow-through to the strategy. It **is** the strategy.

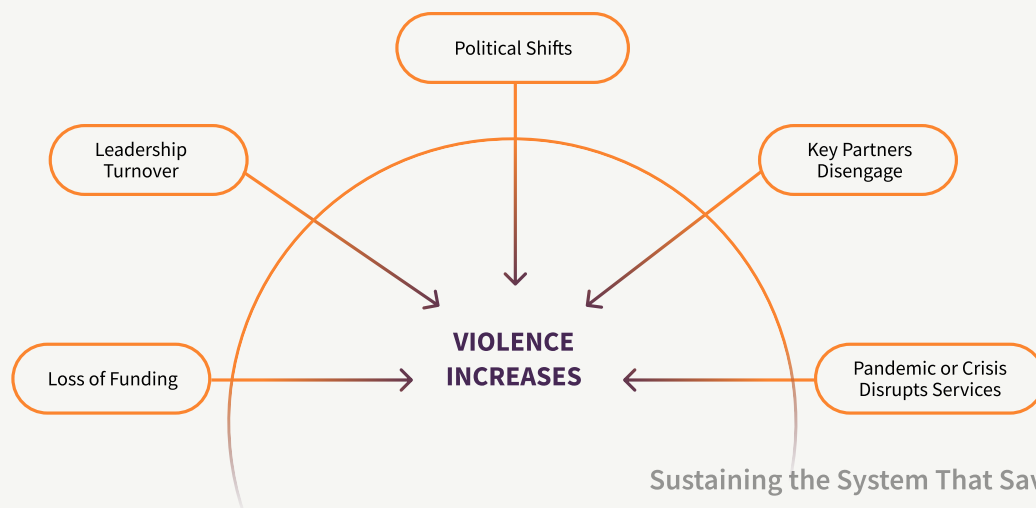
Philadelphia's progress is real, meaningful, and fragile. The strategy is working — but strategies require sustained investment, sustained coordination, and sustained civic will to keep working. People are still dying. Progress is not permanent. It requires permanent commitment.

The Civic Coalition to Save Lives exists precisely for this moment – to protect the gains and progress made. Not to deliver intervention, but to ensure the systems behind it hold. That means keeping partners aligned, keeping civic and political will engaged, and ensuring Philadelphia does not repeat the cycle of progress and retreat that has undermined other cities.

SUSTAINED STRATEGY, SUSTAINED PROGRESS	THE RESULT FOR THE ECOSYSTEM
CIVIC CONVENING ACROSS SECTORS	Partners stay aligned even when political or funding pressures shift
DATA INFRASTRUCTURE AND COORDINATION SUPPORT	Programs work from shared, reliable information and referral pathways
CATALYTIC DISCRETIONARY INVESTMENT	Friction points in the system get addressed before they become gaps
PUBLIC EDUCATION	Civic and political will for intervention is maintained over time
CROSS-SECTOR RELATIONSHIP BUILDING	New partners — employers, housing providers, state leaders — are brought into the ecosystem

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT SUSTAINED SUPPORT

History shows that the greatest threat to Philadelphia's progress is not a failure of strategy — it is a failure of sustained will.



Looking Ahead

The Civic Coalition to Save Lives will continue championing the evidence-based intervention strategies that are reducing gun violence in Philadelphia. The work is not finished. It will not be finished. Gun violence can be reduced — significantly, sustainably, measurably — but only if the commitment to intervention is maintained with the same focus and discipline that has produced Philadelphia's historic progress.

The Coalition will continue serving as the civic infrastructure supporting the City and partners in intervention. To support this work, the Coalition will educate and align across sectors for the sustained commitment this strategy requires:

- Expanding connections across intervention partners through cross-sector engagement
- Sustaining the public education campaign — ensuring civic, business, community, and government leaders understand how and why intervention works and must be protected
- Engaging directly with elected officials at city, state, and federal levels to protect investment in evidence-based intervention across budget and political cycles
- Strategically responding to needs of the intervention ecosystem





Acknowledgments

The Civic Coalition to Save Lives extends deep gratitude to the community-based organizations, City agencies, hospital partners, funders, researchers, credible messengers, and intervention workers on the frontlines who make Philadelphia's progress possible every day. They are the work. The Coalition is honored to champion their leadership and help strengthen the systems through which their work drives impact.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND FOUNDING MEMBERS

Pedro A. Ramos, Esq.
President & Chief Executive Officer,
The Philadelphia Foundation
Co-Chair,
Civic Coalition to Save Lives

Shawn McCaney
Executive Director,
William Penn Foundation
Co-Chair,
Civic Coalition to Save Lives

Rev. David W. Brown
Executive Director,
Civic Coalition to Save Lives

Daniel Berkowitz
Executive Director,
The Green Family Foundation

David Burkavage
Managing Partner,
Greater Philadelphia Office,
Ernst & Young LLP

Gwyneth Gaul
Vice President,
Strategic Partnerships &
Philanthropy,
Comcast NBCUniversal

Michael Innocenzo
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer,
Exelon Corporation
President & CEO,
PECO

Susan Jacobson
President,
Jacobson Strategic
Communications

Carniesha Kwashie
Director,
Corporate & Community Impact,
PECO Exelon

Sharmain Matlock-Turner
Chief Executive Officer,
Urban Affairs Coalition

Meaghan McDonald
Senior Officer,
Community Violence,
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Bret Perkins
Senior Vice President,
Community Growth &
Economic Development,
Comcast Corporation

Ted Qualli
President & Chief Executive Officer,
The Catholic Foundation of
Greater Philadelphia

Estelle Richman
Founding Executive Director,
Civic Coalition to Save Lives

Romona Riscoe Benson
President & CSO,
Riscoe Benson Strategies

Laura Sparks
Head of Corporate Engagement,
FS Investments
President,
FS Foundation

Julie Wertheimer
Senior Program Officer,
Neubauer Family Foundation

STATE & LOCAL LEADERS ADVANCING INTERVENTION

The following leaders have been instrumental in advancing the Coalition's mission in Philadelphia. We are equally grateful to the many colleagues, staff, and public servants across City and state government whose contributions may not be named here but are no less valued.

Mayor Cherelle Parker
Mayor,
City of Philadelphia

Adam Geer
Chief Public Safety Director,
City of Philadelphia

Kevin Bethel
Police Commissioner,
Philadelphia Police Department

Lawrence S. Krasner
District Attorney,
City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia City Council

Kelvin Jeremiah
President & CEO
Philadelphia Housing Authority

Austin Davis
Lieutenant Governor,
Pennsylvania

David Sunday
Attorney General,
Pennsylvania

Art Haywood
Senator,
Pennsylvania State Senate

Vincent J. Hughes
Senator,
Pennsylvania State Senate

Morgan Cephas
Representative,
Pennsylvania House of
Representatives

Jim Kenney
former Mayor,
City of Philadelphia

INTERVENTION PARTNERS

Hospital Violence Intervention Programs:

Penn Medicine/Presbyterian Medical Center • Thomas Jefferson University Hospital • Jefferson-Einstein Philadelphia Hospital • Children's Hospital of Philadelphia • Temple Health • Drexel University Healing Hurt People

Community-Based Organizations: Black Men Heal • Beat the Block • Philadelphia CeaseFire • Eddie's House • EMIR Healing Center • Father's Day Rally Committee • Pushing Progress Philly

Public Entities: City of Philadelphia • Office of Public Safety • Philadelphia Police Department • Philadelphia Housing Authority • Philadelphia District Attorney's Office — Gun Violence Task Force

Early Supporters and Community Drivers

A full list of early supporters and community drivers is available at www.savephillylives.org.

COVER IMAGE by Carl Day Jr.

FUNDERS





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