

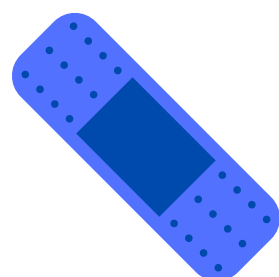
Gun violence and control in Durham County, NC



One in three households possesses a firearm.¹

16% of shootings, occurring in only a few neighborhoods, are conducted by 2% of Durham County's population during the first half of 2022.²

In 2022, 275 firearm injuries were seen at the emergency department in Durham County. This includes assault, unintentional, and intentional injuries.³



Homicide is a leading cause of death in children in the US with firearms being the most common weapon used.⁴

Firearm-related homicides of children rose 47.7% from 2019 to 2020.⁴ Over the years, Black or African American children are victims of firearm injuries at increasing rates.⁴ This is likely due to the inequities faced by this population that were worsened by COVID-19.⁴



North Carolina ranks 9th among all states (with California being number one) in then number of school shootings per population.⁵ Nearly 20% of all school shootings since 1976 occurred between 2020 and 2022.⁵ One in five middle schoolers in Durham County can get and be ready to fire a loaded gun in less than an hour.⁶

Gun Violence and Mental Health

60.7% of suicides in Durham County in 2020 were completed by a firearm.⁷

"Mental illness alone is not a predictor of violence."⁸ Studies have shown that mental illness contributes to only 4% of all violence.⁸ Factors including history of domestic violence, physical or sexual abuse, or trauma often result in an increased risk of gun violence.⁸



The stigma of gun violence and mental health issues prevents those with mental health issues from seeking care and stigmatizes millions of people who are dealing with mental illness who are not violent.⁸



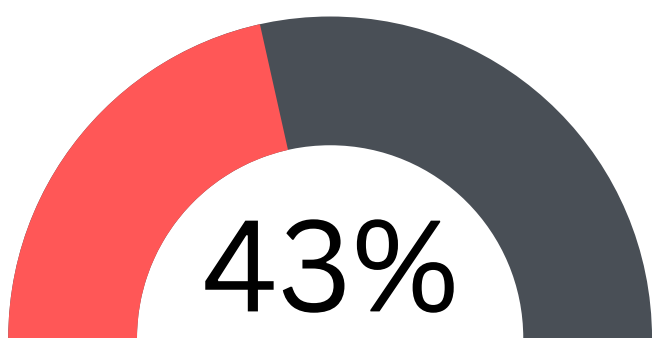
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Gun violence is seen across the United States and has created many gun control initiatives in response. For example, the Durham County Department of Public Health has launched a team called the Durham County Gun Safety Team.¹



The Durham County Gun Safety Team's mission is to "Reduce death/injury related to firearms through broad based and preventive strategies to promote a safe (violence free) environment for children."¹

This team provides free gun locks for households as well as gun educational material on gun safety in both English and Spanish.¹



43% of gun owning parents keep guns unlocked in the home.¹

6-14% of gun owning parents keep guns loaded and unlocked in the home.¹

The Gun Safety Team recommends these actions to keep your guns safe and out of the hands of youth.¹

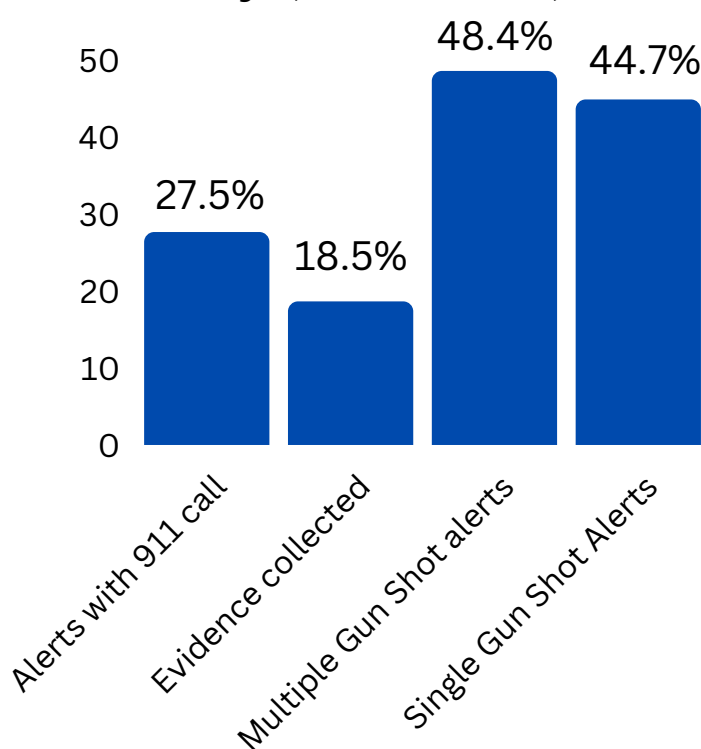
- Keep guns unloaded and locked.
- Ammunition should be kept separate and locked away.
- Keep the key to the lock away from young hands.

Call the Gun Safety Team today to get a free gun lock.¹

919-560-7765

Durham ShotSpotter

**ShotSpotter alerts data
January 1, 2023-June 1, 2023**



Durham City Council approved a pilot program using ShotSpotter for fiscal year 2022-2023.⁹ This program detects gunfire using acoustic sensors (microphones) in designated areas. If the sensor picks up gunfire, the system alerts the police department.⁹

According to ShotSpotter, from January 1, 2023-June 1, 2023 there were 507 unique gunfire incidents.⁹ Saturdays record the most gunfire and most gunfire occurs between 9pm-2am.⁹

Resources:

1. Durham County Department of Public Health. Gun Safety Team. Available here: <https://www.dcopublichealth.org/services/health-education/health-promotion-and-wellness/gun-safety-program>
2. WRAL. 'Shooting constantly:' Data shows highest percentage of gun violence happens in this specific, small part of Durham. August 2022. Available here: <https://www.wral.com/shooting-constantly-data-shows-highest-percentage-of-gun-violence-happens-in-this-specific-small-part-of-durham/20413712/>
3. NC DETECT. Firearm Injuries - All Intent CDC V2 report.
4. Christensen, J. CNN. December 2022. Homicide is a leading cause of death in kids, and rates are rising, study finds. Available here: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/19/health/homicide-child-death/index.html>
5. World population review. April 2023. School shootings by state. Available here: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/school-shootings-by-state>
6. 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Durham County.
7. NC DHHS. Suicide Dashboard. Available here: https://dashboards.ncdhhs.gov/t/DPH/views/NCVDRSDashboard/NC-VDRSDashboard?%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y
8. National Alliance of Mental Illness: California. "The truth about mental illness and gun violence". Available here: <https://namica.org/advocacy/criminal-justice-advocacy/the-truth-about-mental-health-and-gun-violence/>
9. City of Durham. ShotSpotter Durham Dashboard. Available here: <https://www.durhamnc.gov/4827/ShotSpotter-Durham>



Partnership for a Healthy Durham



Public Health

August 2023