

# Interim Report: Pennsylvania's Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Initiative

**UPDATED AUGUST 2024** 

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### Introduction

#### **ABOUT THE INITIATIVE**

In June 2023, PCCD's Chair Lt. Governor Austin Davis directed PCCD's Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) to undertake a new statewide *Resources for Victims of Gun Violence initiative*. This initiative was modeled on federal legislation introduced by U.S. Senator Bob Casey and Congressman Dwight Evans, and was established to identify existing resources and address gaps to better support survivors, families, and caregivers in Pennsylvania affected by gun violence.

Figure 1: Initiative's Definition of a "Gun Violence Victim/Survivor"

An individual who has been wounded as a result of gun violence

An individual who has been threatened with an act of gun violence

An individual who has witnessed an act of gun violence

A relative, classmate, coworker, or other associate of an individual who has been killed as a result of gun violence A relative, classmate, coworker, or other associate of an individual who has been threatened with an act of gun violence A relative, classmate, coworker, or other associate of an individual who has witnessed an act of gun violence

The directive provided specific deliverables and action items for PCCD focused on identifying and addressing survivors' needs, including:



Basic needs, like personal safety, housing, and food supports.



Health and well-being needs, including medical and health insurance, mental and behavioral health, and other resources necessary for emotional well-being.



Legal and financial needs, including those necessary to seek legal redress for injuries and/or protections against any ongoing threats to safety, victim's compensation, and other benefits/resources victims may be entitled to receive.



Other needs, including, but not limited to, education, workplace and employment, transportation, assistive technology, accessibility needs, etc.

Specifically, VSAC and PCCD were directed by PCCD's Chair to accomplish the following deliverables through the initiative:

- 1. Survey victims of gun violence and victim assistance professionals.
- 2. Conduct a literature review and assess past or ongoing programs designed to assist victims of gun violence or individuals with similar needs to determine effectiveness.
- 3. Identify best and promising practices for assisting victims of gun violence.
- 4. Assess the administration of compensation funds (provided through PCCD's Victim's Compensation Assistance Program/VCAP) to determine best and promising practices to direct gun violence victims to sources of funding.<sup>1</sup>

In its first year, VSAC has gathered input from stakeholders through listening sessions and other mechanisms. PCCD's FY 2022-23 Byrne SCIP Funding Plan, approved by the U.S. Department of Justice in August 2023, also dedicated \$3 million in federal funds to support this new initiative. Earlier this year, PCCD approved a grant award to ICF International to support the first phase of this work through a statewide needs assessment that will inform the development of a Resiliency Center in a Philadelphia neighborhood that has been greatly affected by gun violence.

Ultimately, these efforts will help PCCD and its partners better coordinate and disseminate information, resources, and best practices for individuals and communities impacted by gun violence, with a focus on meeting the basic needs, mental health, well-being, and legal recourse for injuries and protection for personal safety of gun violence victims.

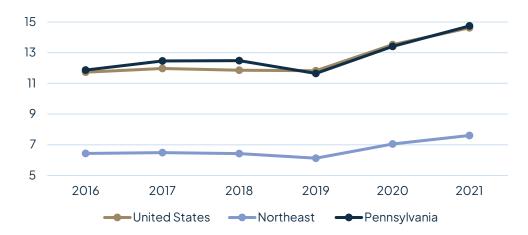
#### ABOUT THIS INTERIM REPORT

The Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Initiative directive specifically tasks VSAC with providing "interim reports on identified gaps to PCCD's Chairman and the Secretary of Policy and Planning during the project period." This first interim report was prepared by PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) in collaboration with the agency's Policy staff to provide an update on the agency's efforts to date. A final report of findings and recommendations is expected to be prepared and finalized by early 2025.

## Gun Violence in Pennsylvania

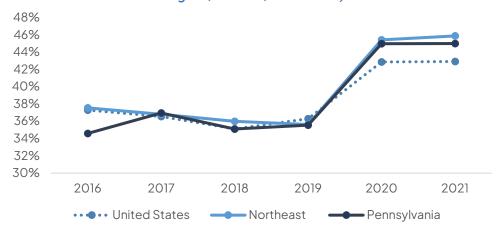
Gun violence impacts people, families, and communities all across Pennsylvania – from big cities to rural towns. Across the Commonwealth, an estimated four people are killed and more injured daily due to firearm-related injuries.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 2: Age-Adjusted Rate of Firearm-related Deaths per 100,000 Population – U.S., Northeast Region, and Pennsylvania (2016-2021)<sup>1</sup>



Over 1,900 Pennsylvanians died from gunshot wounds in 2021, the highest number on record.<sup>3</sup> Figure 2 shows a sharp increase in gun violence deaths in Pennsylvania and nationwide in 2020 and 2021. Pennsylvania's firearm-related fatality rate (14.61 per 100,000 population) matched the national average (14.54) and was significantly higher than the Northeast Region's average (7.56).<sup>4</sup>

Figure 3: Homicide as Percent of Firearm-related Deaths (U.S., Northeast Region, and PA, 2016-2021)<sup>5</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Note:** 2021 is the latest available firearm mortality data from the CDC. This report also cites other public safety data sets, such as Uniform Crime Report (UCR) System data on firearm-related crime, that go beyond this period. Data sources are cited throughout for reference and clarity.

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During this period, gun homicides increasingly contributed to firearm-related deaths in Pennsylvania, neighboring Northeast states, and the U.S. (see Figure 3). While most gun-related deaths in Pennsylvania were suicides (53%), homicides rose from 34% of gun deaths in 2016 to 45% in 2021.

While gun violence has statewide impacts, research clearly shows those impacts are disproportionately felt by marginalized individuals and communities. As described in the next section, Black Pennsylvanians are 21 times more likely to be murdered with a firearm compared to White Pennsylvanians.<sup>6</sup> In addition, research has shown linkages between mental and behavioral health and crime victimization, suggesting that individuals who struggle with serious mental illness and other behavioral health concerns are more likely to experience violence.<sup>7</sup> LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender people, experience rates of crime victimization, including violence, at higher rates.<sup>8</sup> People with disabilities are also more than four times as likely to experience violence compared with those without disabilities.<sup>9</sup>

This speaks to a need for gun violence intervention and response protocols, including victim services, need to be culturally competent and specific in addition to being trauma-informed. Recognizing the importance of this approach, PCCD's Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards include "Cultural Responsiveness" as a core standard: 10

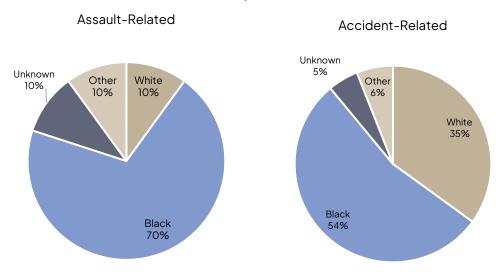
"The diversity of a community – by race, age, ethnicity, religion, language, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, and neuro-diversity – is woven into the fabric that defines local communities across Pennsylvania. Each person's belief system is built on and influenced by their cultural, social, and family experiences. These beliefs will affect the choices that a victim of crime, a survivor, and their family makes in seeking support from Victim Service Providers (VSPs). To ensure a victims' trust and comfort, the VSP must eliminate organizational biases that discourage or prevent victims from accessing services. VSPs must be *culturally responsive* to the needs of all victims."

## DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS OF GUN VIOLENCE BY RACE & POVERTY

While gun violence is a national and statewide problem, it disproportionately impacts people and communities of color. Black individuals, who make up 11% of Pennsylvania's population, represent two-thirds of gun violence survivors treated in hospitals. Black patients in Pennsylvania make up a disproportionate number of firearm injuries, with 70% of assault and 54% of accident injuries compared to 11% of the statewide population. A recent study also found that young Black Americans (15-19 years) are 27 times more likely to die by gun homicide than their white peers.

Across the U.S., children living in areas with high poverty concentrations were also more likely to experience firearm-related deaths<sup>14</sup> – a finding consistent with the increased rates of firearm-related injury in Pennsylvania associated with high poverty communities found by researchers examining Pennsylvania hospitalization rates for gun injuries published in 2022. <sup>15</sup> Economic disparities are also evident, with the poorest 20% of zip codes accounting for 60% of firearm injury medical costs (2016-2021). <sup>16</sup>

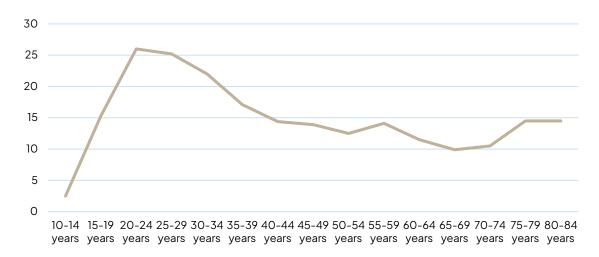
Figure 4: Nonfatal Firearm Injuries in Pennsylvania Hospitals by Race (2016-2020)<sup>17</sup>



#### SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON YOUTH & YOUNGER ADULTS

Gun violence has become the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States. <sup>18</sup> A report recently published by PCCD found that Pennsylvania lost 1,151 children and young adults between the ages of 10 and 19 to gun violence incidents between 2011 and 2020. <sup>19</sup> As shown in Figure 5, the rate of gun deaths is highest among young adults between 20-24 years old in Pennsylvania <sup>20</sup>

Figure 5: Average Rate of Gun Deaths by Age Group per 100,000 Population in Pennsylvania, 2018-2022



A report published by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 2024 also documented surging levels of firearm-related fatalities among youth in states across the U.S., including in Pennsylvania. <sup>21</sup> That report found a growing share of gun violence deaths among children and adolescents nationally was attributed to gun assaults, accounting for two out of three firearm-related deaths among youth in 2022. <sup>22</sup>

While overall levels of violence and delinquency among youth in Pennsylvania have decreased steadily over the past few decades, gun violence and gun involvement are growing problems that disproportionately impact Pennsylvania youth, especially youth of color. Formerly detained youth also face elevated risk of gun violence victimization, reinforcing the need to provide comprehensive wraparound supports to justice-involved youth as they return to their communities.<sup>23</sup>

Beyond the physical injuries that many youth sustain, research has demonstrated significant and long-lasting mental health effects for young people who are exposed to gun homicide, including increased anxiety and depression symptoms.<sup>24</sup>

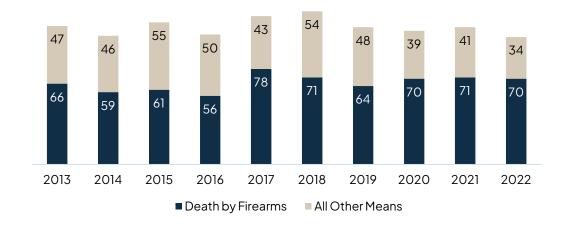
The growing impacts of gun violence on youth was identified as a top concern by both members of VSAC and members of PCCD's Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDPC). In their 2023 Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Plan, JJDPC recommended that the Commonwealth develop and invest in youth-informed/co-developed strategies to prevent and reduce gun involvement and gun violence.<sup>25</sup>

#### INTERSECTIONS OF GUN VIOLENCE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Data and research also suggest strong linkages between domestic violence and intimate partner violence and gun violence. More than half of all intimate partner homicides in the U.S. involve a firearm. <sup>26</sup> Gun access is linked to increased severity of nonfatal intimate partner violence, <sup>27</sup> and victims are five times more likely to die if their abusive partner has access to a gun. <sup>28</sup>

According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), two-thirds (67%) of domestic violence homicide victims in Pennsylvania were killed with a gun in 2022.<sup>29</sup> As shown in Figure 6, the majority of domestic violence homicides over the past decade have involved firearms.

Figure 6: Domestic Violence Homicide Deaths by Firearms in Pennsylvania, 2013-2022<sup>30</sup>



Recognizing the need to address this pressing problem, PCCD has prioritized investments of federal funding streams like Byrne SCIP and STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds to expand adoption of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). This evidence-based protocol is used by law enforcement and social service professionals to identify victims of domestic violence who are at high risk of being killed by their intimate partners and connect them with immediate support and resources. Thanks to those investments, 51 counties have LAP in place, with 436 law enforcement agencies and 48 domestic violence programs.<sup>31</sup>

In addition, PCCD has invested in training, technical assistance, and research efforts to understand and enhance local jurisdictions' implementation Act 79 of 2018, a groundbreaking state law that went into effect in 2019 designed to reduce access to weapons, including guns, by domestic abusers.

#### FIREARM-RELATED CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Firearms play a major role in driving violence and crime in Pennsylvania. In 2022, 83.5% of homicides in Pennsylvania involved guns, according to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). 32 Firearms were also used in 46% of robberies and 32% of aggravated assaults. As shown in Figure 8 below, in 2023, Pennsylvania counties' homicide rates in 2023 ranged from 0 to 25.67 per 100,000.

Figure 7: Involvement of Firearms by Violent Crime Incident Type in PA<sup>33</sup>

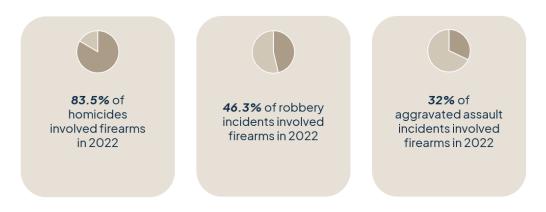
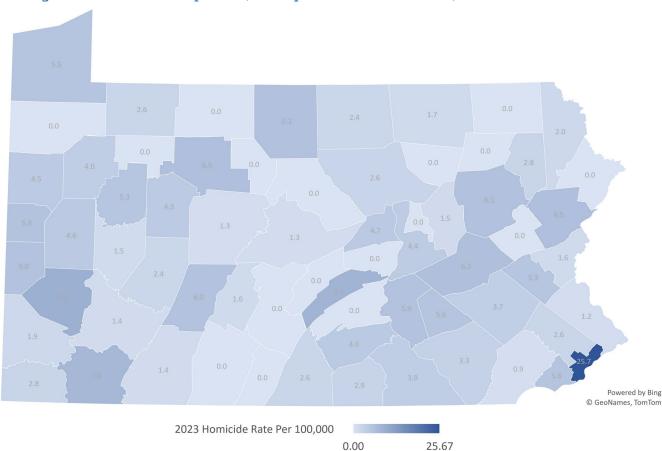


Figure 8: Homicide Rate per 100,000 Population in PA Counties, 2023



Following a period of significant increases in violent crime, Pennsylvania has begun to see some welcome signs of progress in the fight against gun violence. In 2023, homicides decreased by 16% statewide, with 29 out of 67 counties saw declines in homicides compared to the prior year. Several Pennsylvania cities reporting even larger reductions, as shown in Figure 9. Philadelphia's homicides decreased 23% in 2023 compared to the prior year, and has sustained those reductions heading into 2024; a recent analysis of homicides in major U.S. cities found that Philadelphia led the nation with the greatest decline in homicides per capita. <sup>34</sup>

Figure 9: Homicide Trends Statewide & Select PA Cities, 2023 vs. 2022<sup>35</sup>

STATEWIDE 854 homicides in 2023 (17% decrease vs. 2022)	PHILADELPHIA  403 Homicides in 2023 (23% decrease vs. 2022)	PITTSBURGH  43 homicides in 2023 (39% decrease vs. 2022)	CHESTER CITY  13 homicides in 2023 (13% decrease vs. 2022)
READING	YORK CITY	HARRISBURG	ERIE CITY
14 homicides in 2023 (22% decrease vs. 2022)	7 homicides in 2023 (53% decrease vs. 2022)	14 homicides in 2023 (36% decrease vs. 2022)	13 homicides in 2023 (83% increase vs. 2022)

These trends suggest that the Commonwealth's comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to gun violence reduction efforts are having their intended impact. However, behind each number, there are still too many gun victims, loved ones, and communities grappling with trauma, loss, and pain in the aftermath of killings.

### What We've Learned So Far

#### **EFFORTS TO DATE**

The Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Initiative aims to bring hope and healing to individuals impacted by gun violence across Pennsylvania. Since the initiative's launch in 2023, PCCD's early efforts have focused on listening to stakeholders and examining available data, research, and best practices nationally and here in the Commonwealth.

Figure 10: Recent Efforts to Address Gun Violence in Pennsylvania



#### RESEARCH ON IMPACTS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Gun violence profoundly impacts survivors and communities by causing long-term physical and emotional trauma, disrupting social cohesion, and instilling fear and insecurity. It also burdens healthcare systems, hinders economic development, and perpetuates cycles of violence and poverty in affected communities.

Figure 11: Impacts of Gun Violence on Individuals and Communities<sup>36</sup>

- Psychological trauma/PTSDMedical care costs (short- &
- Medical care costs (short- & longterm)
- •Fears for personal safety
- •Loss of work
- •Disability, permanent disfigurement, chronic pain, and injury
- •Financial burdens
- Mental health issues
- •Substance use disorders
- Lower levels of social functioning

Individual Level

- •Community trauma
- •Secondary trauma
- Effects of chronic and persistent violence exposure for individuals living in communities impacted by gun violence (e.g., acute stress, PTSD)
- •Lower community trust, cohesion, and cooperation
- Economic costs

Community Leve



A report recently published by Everytown Research & Policy highlighted the profound impact of gun violence on survivors.<sup>37</sup> Key findings include:

- 90% of gun violence survivors report trauma.
- Survivors often lack access to necessary mental health and legal support.
- The effects of gun violence extend beyond immediate victims, affecting witnesses, loved ones, and communities.
- There is a significant need for long-term counseling and support services.
- Black and Latinx communities are disproportionately impacted by gun violence, including police shootings.

Gun violence also has ripple effects on entire communities. In 2023, PCCD surveyed youth, families, community members, and practitioners to gauge top priorities for Pennsylvania's youth-serving systems. When asked about the biggest issues facing young people and communities today, a significant share of system practitioners (42%) and youth, family, and community stakeholders (26%) identified gun violence and youth access to guns as a top concern.<sup>38</sup>

#### PATHWAYS & BARRIERS TO HEALING & RECOVERY

Everytown's report also identifies common barriers faced by survivors of gun violence. These barriers ranged from mental and behavioral health supports to financial supports to legal assistance. Fewer than one in two survivors of gun violence said that the services, support, or assistance they needed was available to them in the first six to 12 months after the trauma.<sup>39</sup>

Figure 12: Common Barriers Faced by Gun Violence Victims<sup>40</sup>

Mental health services, therapy, and support were cited as a need by two-thirds of survivors who were shot/wounded.

Legal assistance for crime victims was cited by nearly half of people who survived gunshot wounds (49%).

40% of firearm injury survivors said they needed financial assistance to cover costs associated with medical expenses (e.g., physical therapy, rehabilitation services, surgical equipment, etc.).

One in four gun injury survivors said they needed home health care (25%).

Nearly a third of other gun violence survivors cited a need for other legal assistance, either as a victim or for the death of a family member. Nearly a third of other gun violence survivors needed financial support to help cover funeral costs or medical costs, or for loss of income resulting from death or injury.

These findings echo what PCCD heard during recent listening sessions on gun violence held with Philadelphia and Pittsburgh victim service providers (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Key Themes from PCCD Listening Sessions with Victim Service Providers<sup>41</sup>

#### Theme #1: Coordination & Collaboration

- Contacting a victim/survivor multiple times by different service providers can
  exacerbate the distress and trauma they're already facing, leading to increased
  frustration and exacerbating their current trauma.
- Greater coordination is crucial for effectively serving gun violence victims and their families.

#### Theme # 2: Victim-Centered Services

- Victims/survivors face barriers such as long waiting lists for counseling services, challenges in accessing basic necessities like housing and transportation, and navigating complex systems like the justice system to access support.
- Services need to be trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and accessible, with an emphasis on providing assistance without conditionalities like cooperation with law enforcement.

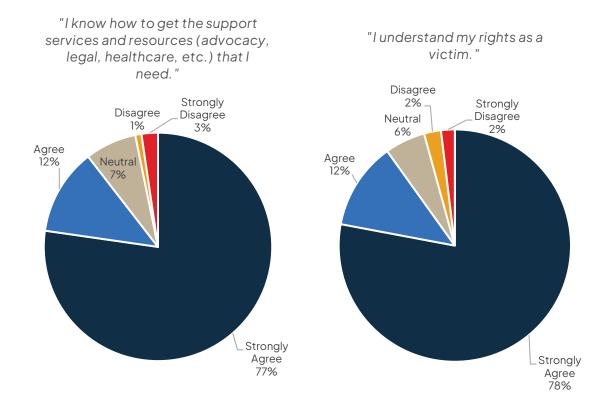
#### Theme #3: Inconsistencies in Firearm Relinquishment

- Significant inconsistencies and challenges exist related to the removal of firearms and weapons (Act 79 of 2018).
- The lack of uniformity creates barriers to effectively implement firearm relinquishment requirements, potentially compromising victim safety and broader public safety. (Note: This theme echoes findings from a study recently published by PCCD researchers on Act 79 implementation. 42)

In addition, data from the victim services outcome tool required by PCCD's Office of Victims' Services, between July 2023 and February 2024 highlights experiences of survivors/victims of crime, including gun violence survivors, who received services through either local victim service program and/or victims compensation assistance through VCAP.

Overall, these survey findings show that victim service agencies do an outstanding job explaining victims' rights and helping victims navigate how to access and receive supports they need, as shown in Figure 14.

Figure 14: Findings from Statewide Victim Services Outcome Tool (2023-24)



#### MEDICAL & ECONOMIC COSTS OF GUN VIOLENCE

A recently published study from PCCD's research team found that the average cost of initial treatment per patient for non-fatal firearm-related injuries in Pennsylvania hospitals was \$34,837 in 2020. <sup>43</sup> That research also found that 16% of new injuries required additional hospital visits and incurred nearly four times the medical costs, averaging more than \$70,000 per patient. Over 3% of new firearm injuries in Pennsylvania result in paralysis, increasing medical costs for these patients to over \$100,000 in for the first year alone.

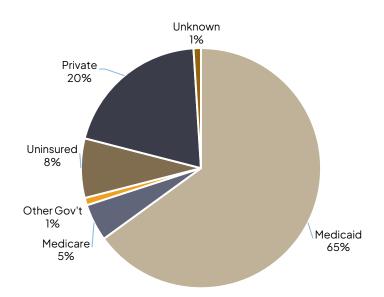


Figure 15: Distribution of PA Firearm Injuries by Patient Plan (2016-2021)

The total economic costs of firearm injury in Pennsylvania are estimated to be at least \$300 million annually. Costs are also born by publicly-funded healthcare systems: over five years, more than 70% of firearm injury patients had government insurance, with Medicaid covering 65%, and costs rising from \$27 million in 2016 to \$59 million in 2020.

### **VICTIM'S COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VCAP)**

The Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Initiative tasked PCCD with examining Pennsylvania's Victim's Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), which serves as a critical financial lifeline for victims and survivors. Over the past five years, VCAP has paid more than 76,000 compensation claims totaling \$65 million in eligible expenses (see Figure 16).

Figure 16: Examples of VCAP Eligible Expenditures



In 2023, two of the highest paid types of victim compensation claims were for victims/survivors of homicide and victims/survivors of assault, including victims/survivors of gun violence. Philadelphia, Allegheny, Delaware, and Berks counties were the top counties for homicide expenses paid in 2023; these were also the top four counties noted previously with the Commonwealth's highest number of gun homicides.

In its statewide data from the victim services outcome tool, PCCD asked respondents to share whether they were informed about the availability of VCAP and whether they understood the VCAP process. More than three quarters of victims surveyed said they strongly agreed or agreed that they were provided information about VCAP and financial supports, while 15% said they disagreed or strongly disagreed.

In addition, nearly 84% of individuals surveyed said they understood the VCAP process, with about 10% indicating they did not. These data point to the important role that education, outreach, and awareness efforts play in ensuring all crime victims know about VCAP and how to navigate the VCAP process.

PCCD also recently hosted listening sessions with victim advocates and other victim service professionals to gather feedback on VCAP's current statute and regulations, which guide how PCCD operates the program (see Figure 17).

Figure 17: Themes from Recent VCAP Stakeholder Listening Sessions

#### Need #1: Increase Access to Crime Victim Compensation

- Current VCAP eligibility criteria requires victims to report crimes to "proper authorities" and cooperate with law enforcement and prosecution.
- Gun violence victims and their families may face barriers such as fear of retaliation, distrust of law enforcement, and fear of deportation if undocumented. These requirements can prevent individuals from accessing victim compensation benefits.
- Requests to revise the Crime Victim Compensation Guidelines to broaden eligibility requirements and eliminate the requirement that victim/survivor must demonstrate they cooperated with law enforcement and prosecution.

#### Need #2: Increase the Expense Amounts for Funeral & Relocation

- Families of homicide victims often struggle with funeral costs, which often can exceed the \$6,500 maximum provided by VCAP.
- Gun violence victims and their families fearing retaliation and feeling unsafe, find the \$1,000 relocation assistance insufficient for covering moving expenses.
- Gun violence victims deserve fair and equitable compensation to address their immediate needs and alleviate financial strain caused by loss and trauma.

### Need #3: Cultural Competency & Diversity

- Culturally sensitive services are needed to accommodate the diverse needs of victims.
- Ensuring equitable treatment and support for victims from all backgrounds emerged as a recurring theme, highlighting the importance of cultural competence and diversity with service providers, law enforcement, and allied professionals.
- Considering the unique needs of gun violence victims from marginalized communities is vital for developing culturally sensitive interventions and services.

## Looking Ahead

On May 24, 2022, a gunman killed 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, marking them among the more than 370,000 students affected by school gun violence since Columbine in 1999. 44 In response, the federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) was enacted in June 2022 to address gun violence and improve behavioral health crisis responses, including \$750 million for the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP).

Administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, SCIP funds State Administering Agencies (SAAs) to implement crisis intervention programs. As the SAA for Pennsylvania, PCCD oversees the allocation of \$8,548,557 in Byrne SCIP funds for FY 2022-23.

PCCD's federally-approved FY 2022-23 Byrne SCIP Funding Plan allocates a total of \$3 million in SCIP State Share funding to support a two-phased implementation approach for the Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Initiative.

Figure 18: PA's 2022-23 Byrne SCIP Funding Plan & Nexus to Initiative

#### Priority Area #2

•Improve coordination of services and responses to gun violence victimization.

#### Objective 2.1.

•Improve coordination of services and reduce barriers to getting help for gun violence survivors (short- and long-term)

#### Two-Phased Implementation Approach

- •\$3M total in State Share SCIP Funds
- •\$1M to identify a qualified entity to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment + identify an area of Philadelphia to pilot a Resiliency Center.
- •\$2M for implementation of pilot

#### PHASE 1: STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE

On March 13, 2024, the Commission approved an award recommended by VSAC to ICF International to design and conduct a comprehensive, statewide needs assessment and gap analysis.

Figure 19: Resources for Gun Violence Victims Statewide Needs Assessment
Timeline



The statewide needs assessment is utilizing a multi-phased approach to complete the project's key deliverables, as shown in Figure 20. Pursuant to the directive, VSAC will prepare a final report detailing key findings and recommendations following the conclusion of this statewide needs assessment and gap analysis project (expected late 2024/early 2025).

Figure 20: Multi-Phased Needs Assessment Approach

groups.

#### Step 1: Pre-Assessment Step 2: Data Collection Step 3: Analysis & Reporting 2024: Q1& Q2 2024: Q2 & Q3 2024: Q3 & Q4 • Complete formal literature review. • Disseminate survey via web- Analyze collected data to identify key findings, themes, patterns, • Meet with PA stakeholders (gun based platform. violence victims, victim service • Facilitate in-person and virtual and gaps in services. • Submit a comprehensive final providers, community members, focus groups first responders, local Conduct 1:1 interviews. report to VSAC that includes best government officials). practices, a detailed gap analysis • Identify the needs and in the existing support system, • Develop survey instrument, focus experiences of gun volence group protocol, and interview and data-driven "lessons victims, gaps in services and learned". guide for individual interviews. resources needed to address • Develop a communications immediate, mid-, and long-term Recommendations on developing and implementing a pilot strategy strategy to announce and deploy needs, as well as emerging trends ("Resiliency Center" approach) in a the survey. in victim services. Philadelphia neighborhood that • Conduct outreach to service Prepare and submit interim has experienced high rates of gun providers to identify participants reports to PCCD. violence. for individual interviews and focus

## PHASE 2: IDENTIFYING & LAUNCHING PHILADELPHIA-BASED PILOT

Following the completion of 'Phase 1' needs assessment activities, PCCD will invest the remaining \$2 million in federal SCIP State Share funds to pilot a new strategy to coordinate outreach and service delivery in an area of Philadelphia with chronic and/or increasing levels of gun violence. PCCD expects to award these funds in 2025 to support a project modeled off the federal Resiliency Center approach, which has been used by the federal Office for Victims of Crime for responding to mass violence incidents across the country, including in Pennsylvania.

### The Resiliency Center approach will:

- Focus on mid- and long-term services that go beyond the immediate aftermath of gun violence incidents.
- Establish a "one stop shop" for assistance, using a "no wrong door" approach.
- Provide and coordinate counseling and other trauma-informed, healingcentered services.
- Connect new and existing outreach services.
- Provide long-term case management services.
- Offer ongoing support and training for first responders.
- Address other needs identified through the assessment process completed in Phase 1.

- <sup>2</sup> Gun Violence in PA, CeaseFire PA, accessed May 1, 2024.
- <sup>3</sup> Data source: CDC WISQARS, accessed May 1, 2024.
- <sup>4</sup> Data Source: CDC WISQARS, accessed May 1, 2024. Northeast Region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- <sup>5</sup> Data source: CDC WISQARS, accessed May 1, 2024.
- <sup>6</sup> Gun Violence in PA, CeaseFire PA.
- <sup>7</sup> Jeanne Y. Choe, Linda A. Teplin, and Karen M. Abram, Perpetration of Violence, Violent Victimization, and Severe Mental Illness: Balancing Public Health Concerns, *Psychiatric Services* February 2008 Volume 59 Number 2.
- <sup>8</sup> Jennifer L. Truman and Rachel E. Morgan, <u>Statistical Brief: Violent Victimization by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</u>, 2017-2020, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, June 2022.
- <sup>9</sup> Erika Harrell, <u>Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2019 Statistical Tables</u>, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, November 2021.
- <sup>10</sup> Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards, PCCD.
- <sup>11</sup> Brandon Vick, Robert Orth, and Charles Gartside, <u>Cost of Non-fatal Firearm Injuries in PA, 2016-2021</u>, PCCD, August 2022.
- <sup>12</sup> Cost of Non-fatal Firearm Injuries in PA, 2016-2021, PCCD, August 2022.
- <sup>13</sup> Piquero AR, Roman JK. Firearm Homicide Demographics Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2024;7(5):e2412946. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.12946
- <sup>14</sup> Nirmita Panchal, <u>"The Impact of Gun Violence on Children and Adolescents,"</u> Kaiser Family Foundation, February 22, 2024.
- <sup>15</sup> Cost of Non-fatal Firearm Injuries in PA, 2016-2021, PCCD, August 2022.
- 16 Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> Summary of Initial Findings from CDC-Funded Firearm Injury Prevention Research, CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, October 5, 2023.
- <sup>19</sup> Cost of Non-fatal Firearm Injuries in PA, 2016-2021, PCCD, August 2022.
- <sup>20</sup> Data Source: CDC WONDER, accessed May 1, 2024.
- <sup>21</sup> Nirmita Panchal, <u>"The Impact of Gun Violence on Children and Adolescents,"</u> Kaiser Family Foundation, February 22, 2024.
- <sup>22</sup> "The Impact of Gun Violence on Children and Adolescents," Kaiser Family Foundation, February 22, 2024.
- <sup>23</sup> Zheng N, Abram KM, Welty LJ, Aaby DA, Meyerson NS, Teplin LA. Nonfatal Firearm Injury and Firearm Mortality in High-risk Youths and Young Adults 25 Years After Detention. JAMA Netw Open. 2023;6(4):e238902. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.8902
- <sup>24</sup> <u>Summary of Initial Findings from CDC-Funded Firearm Injury Prevention Research</u>, CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, October 5, 2023.
- <sup>25</sup> Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Plan, PCCD, March 2024.
- <sup>26</sup> Zeoli M. et al., "Risks and Targeted Interventions: Firearms in Intimate Partner Violence," Epidemiologic Review 38 (2016): 125–139.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Domestic Violence & Firearms, Giffords Law Center.
- <sup>29</sup> Domestic Violence Fatality Report 2022, PCADV.
- <sup>30</sup> Data Source: *Domestic Violence Fatality Report 2022*, PCADV.
- <sup>31</sup> Lethality Assessment Program, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV).
- <sup>32</sup> 2022 Firearms Annual Report, Pennsylvania State Police. *Note: This report uses data from the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)*.
- 33 Ibid.
- <sup>34</sup> Philadelphia Sees Huge Drop in Gun Violence. Here's Why | TIME
- <sup>35</sup> Data source: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System Data.
- 36 When the Shooting Stops: The Impact of Gun Violence on Survivors in America, Everytown for Gun Safety, February 2022.
- <sup>37</sup> When the Shooting Stops: The Impact of Gun Violence on Survivors in America, Everytown, February 2022.
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Note: Pennsylvania's VCAP is also participating in a research study being conducted by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. See <u>Examining Equity in State Victim Compensation Programs: A Multilevel Analysis</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> When the Shooting Stops: The Impact of Gun Violence on Survivors in America, Everytown, February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> When the Shooting Stops: The Impact of Gun Violence on Survivors in America, Everytown for Gun Safety, February 2022.

<sup>41</sup> When the Shooting Stops: The Impact of Gun Violence on Survivors in America, Everytown for Gun Safety, February 2022.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> <u>School Shootings Database</u>, The Washington Post, accessed 6/20/2024.