

How Gun Violence Affects Youth in Denver: the Problem and Opportunities for Action

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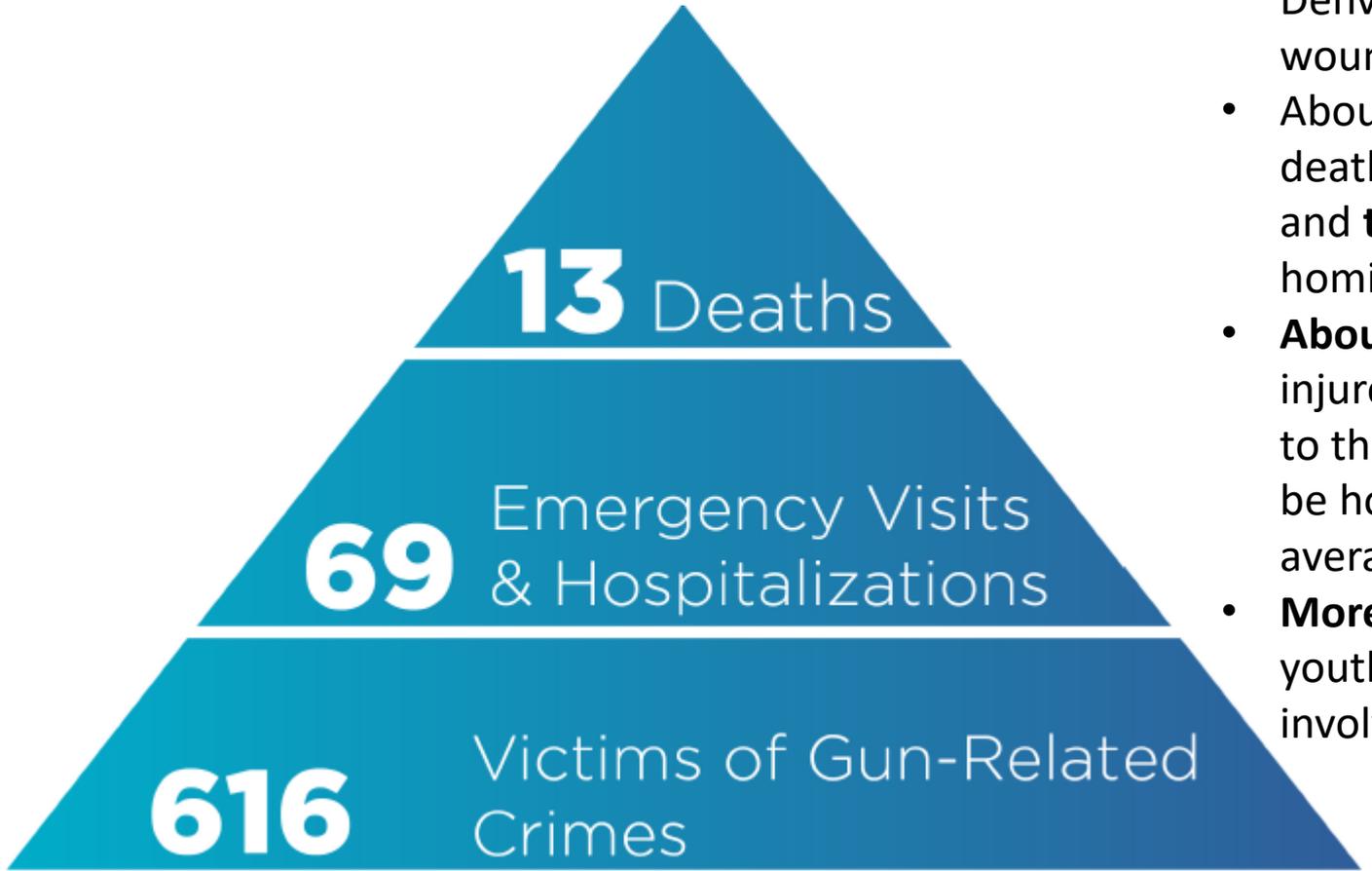


**DENVER
PUBLIC HEALTH™**

Key Points

- Gun violence affecting youth is a serious problem in Denver
- Gun violence is preventable
- Some communities are affected more than others:
 - African-American youth, specific neighborhoods
- We know what works:
 - Public health approach, comprehensive strategic plans
 - Lessons from other cities
- Denver has opportunities for action

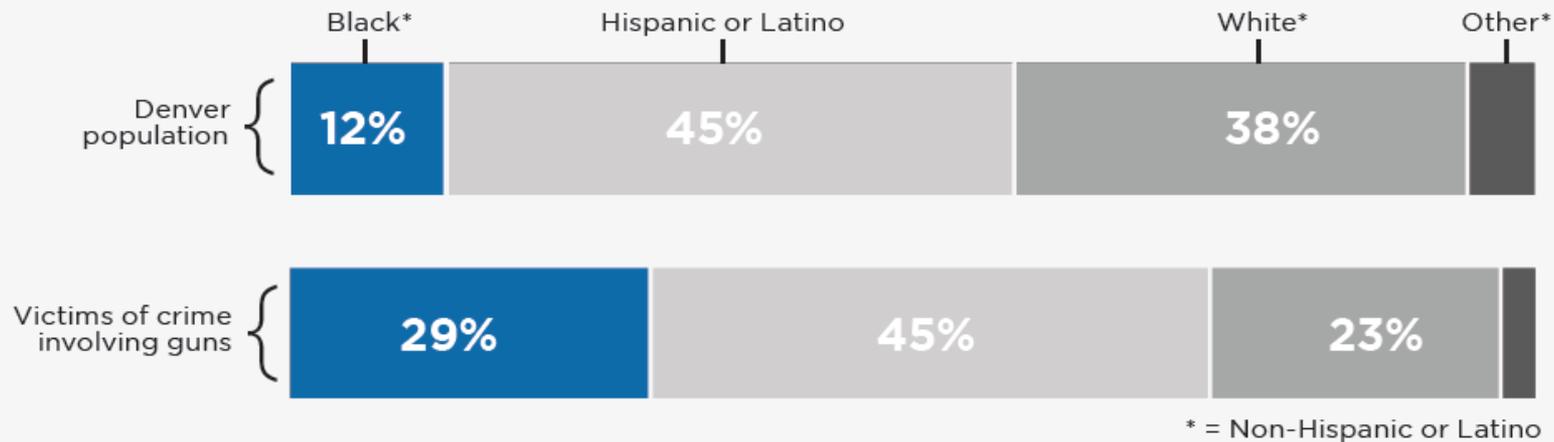
2012-2018 Annual Average



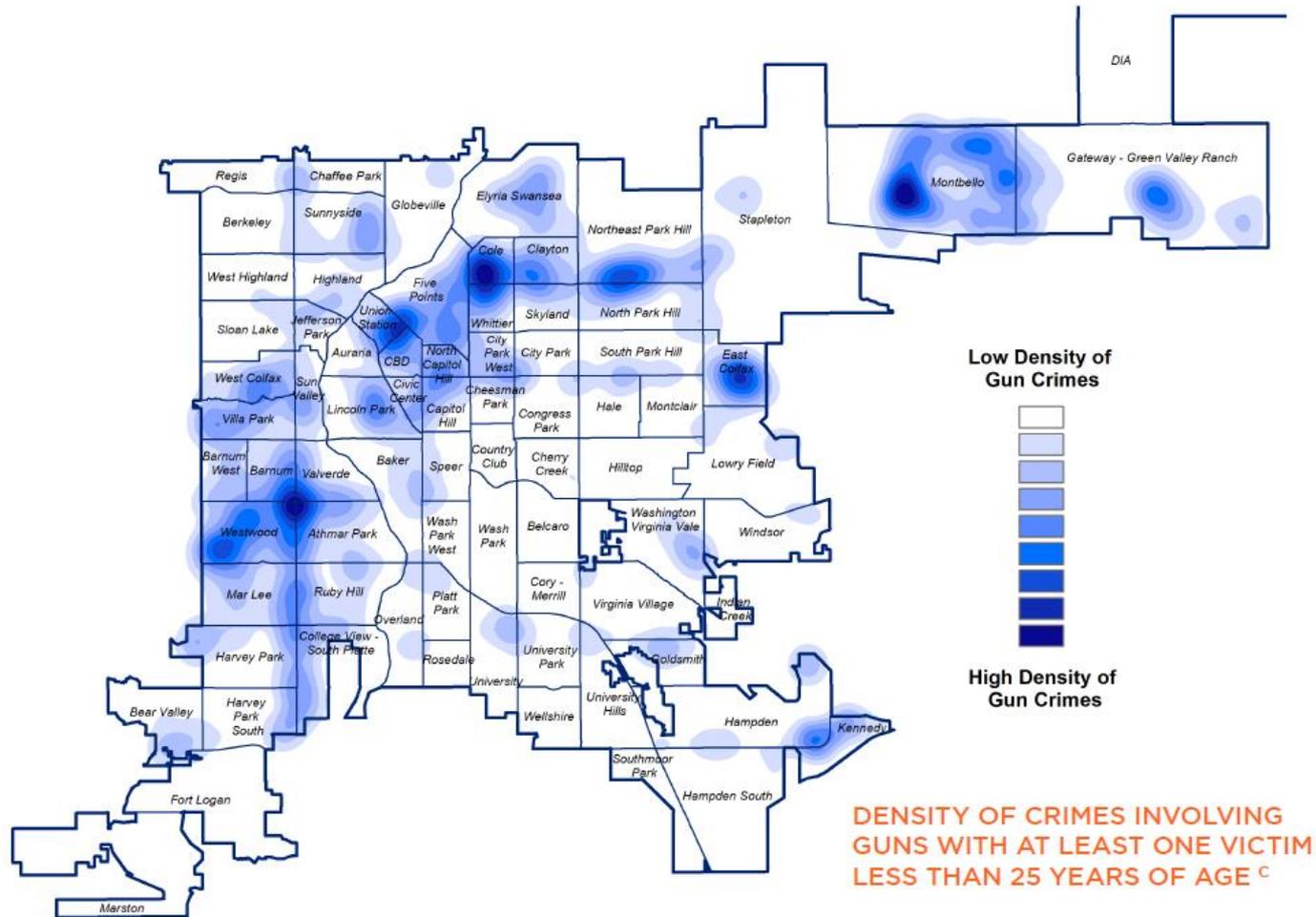
- **An average of 13** young people die each year in Denver from gunshot wounds.
- About **one third** of those deaths are due to suicide and **two thirds** to homicide.
- **About 70** youth a year are injured badly enough to go to the emergency room or be hospitalized. On average.
- **More than 600** Denver youth are victims of crimes involving guns each year.

Youth Directly Affected by Gun Violence Annually

Victims of Violent Crimes Involving Guns by Race, Ages 0-24



Density of crimes involving guns with at least one victim <25 years of age



Opportunities for Action

- Recognize gun violence as a **critical and preventable** public health problem.
- **Develop a community-informed, cross-sector strategic plan** to increase collaboration, leverage funds, and collectively achieve greater reductions in multiple types of violence affecting young people.
- **Expand access to high quality, culturally competent resources** that address the impact of trauma on individuals, families, and whole communities.
- Implement strategies that improve the quality of life for young people like **neighborhood economic development** and **youth employment**.
- **Begin violence prevention efforts during early childhood** since risks of involvement in gun-related crime increase rapidly as young people age.
- **Promote the use of safe storage (lock boxes) for guns** to provide an easy way for families to protect against unsafe use of guns.

THANK YOU

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