

REMEMBERING THE EFFECTS OF GUN VIOLENCE ON INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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Press Contact:

Diane Park- vicechair@bridgebeyond.org

Vinh Dang- Externalaffairs@bridgebeyond.org

On Sunday, June 12th, 2022, the United States Senate announced a bipartisan framework for implementing strategies to curb gun violence in response to the over 250 mass shootings that have occurred in 2022, particularly in response to the shootings in Uvalde, Texas, Buffalo, New York, among others. Although this framework itself is not enough, it is a step in the right direction in getting federal action to address gun violence in this country.

Bridge Beyond fully supports the implementation of stricter gun safety laws to protect all members of society. Similarly, our organization wants to shed light on the intersection of gun violence and individuals experiencing homelessness. Both are high-priority public health issues that have historically been viewed as two separate and distinct problems. We must look at and address the overlap between the two injustices, to ensure the treatment of one does not reinforce the other. It is an unfortunate truth that when individuals live without housing, they are at a higher risk of experiencing some sort of violence. In addition, little data is available on individuals experiencing homelessness and gun violence, yet many news reports have highlighted the growing rate of homeless individuals being killed by guns. Of the data available, one study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, found that over 400 young adults experiencing homelessness were victims of gun violence across seven cities; Los Angeles, Denver, New York, Houston, Phoenix, St. Louis, and San Jose between 2016 and 2017 (Hsu et al, 2021).

Gun violence in the U.S can't be viewed as a separate issue from homelessness and housing insecurity. The everyday victims of gun violence are members of these vulnerable populations, yet they are often forgotten and overlooked in the conversation. Economic and housing status is a contributing factor to homicide and should be treated as such when discussing violence in these communities.

We as members of Bridge Beyond recognize that our organization is not directly working to implement gun control strategies. However, we encourage those who support us to consider donating to or learning more about organizations working every day to put an end to gun violence :

[CeaseFirePA](#)

[PA Safety Alliance](#)

[March For Our Lives](#)

[Everytown \(For Gun Safety\)](#)

[Sandy Hook Promise](#)

