

Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention

Overview of DPH Progress for Community Violence Prevention Program

Susan Logan - DPH Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit

Colleen Violette - DPH Office of Injury and Violence Prevention

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Connecticut Department of Public Health
Keeping Connecticut Healthy



Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue

Gun Violence in Connecticut is a Public Health Issue

*3 major areas of concern:

1. Homicide/assaults - intentional violent shootings leading to injury or death
2. Suicide/self-harm - by firearm among other lethal means
3. Unintentional firearm injuries and deaths

CT Violent Death Statistics

Data Source: Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System

CTVDRS Data about Violent Death Victims

- Since 2015, DPH has been collecting data about victims of homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, and deaths of undetermined intent
 - Homicide data include intimate partner violence, family violence, and legal intervention
- Data sources: police reports from local police and state police, medical examiner's office, and death certificate data
- Time period: 2015 to current date. Funded through August 2027.

CTVDRS Variables Collected Circumstances

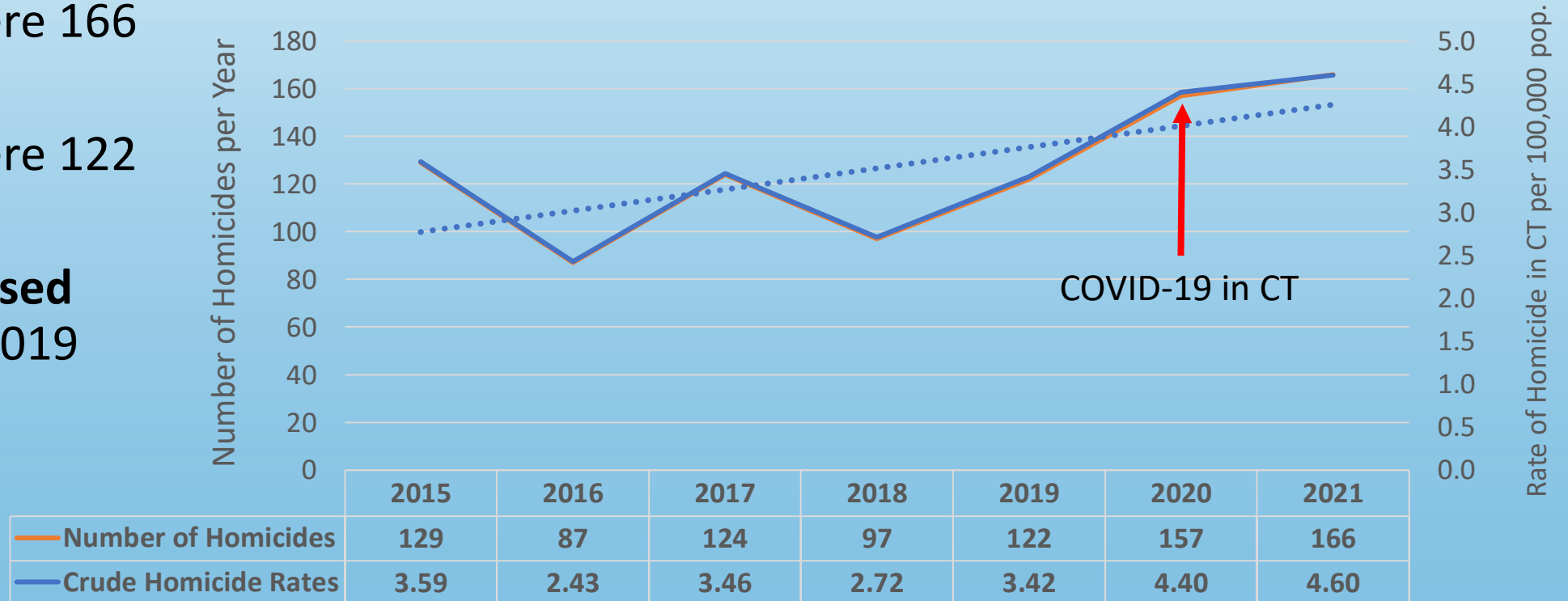
Examples of Circumstances related to Homicides:

- Result of an argument;
- During commission of a crime (e.g. robbery, drug trade, etc.)
- Drive-by shooting
- Gang-related
- Criminal history or past arrests/conviction
- History of family violence or intimate partner violence

Homicide Rates In Connecticut 2015 to 2021

- In 2021, there were 166 homicides*
- In 2019, there were 122 homicides
- Homicides **increased 36.1%** between 2019 and 2021

Crude Homicide Rates and Numbers for CT 2015 to 2021



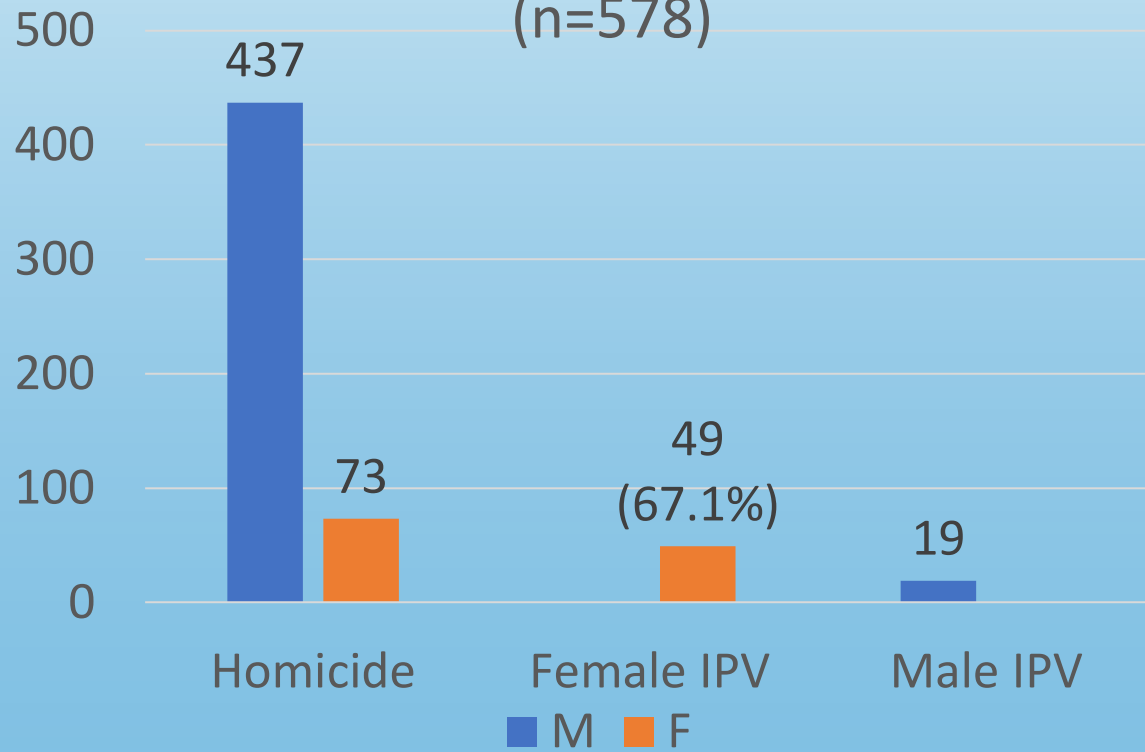
Note: 2020 and 2021 data are preliminary; Rates are provisional

Currently using 2020 population data for CT

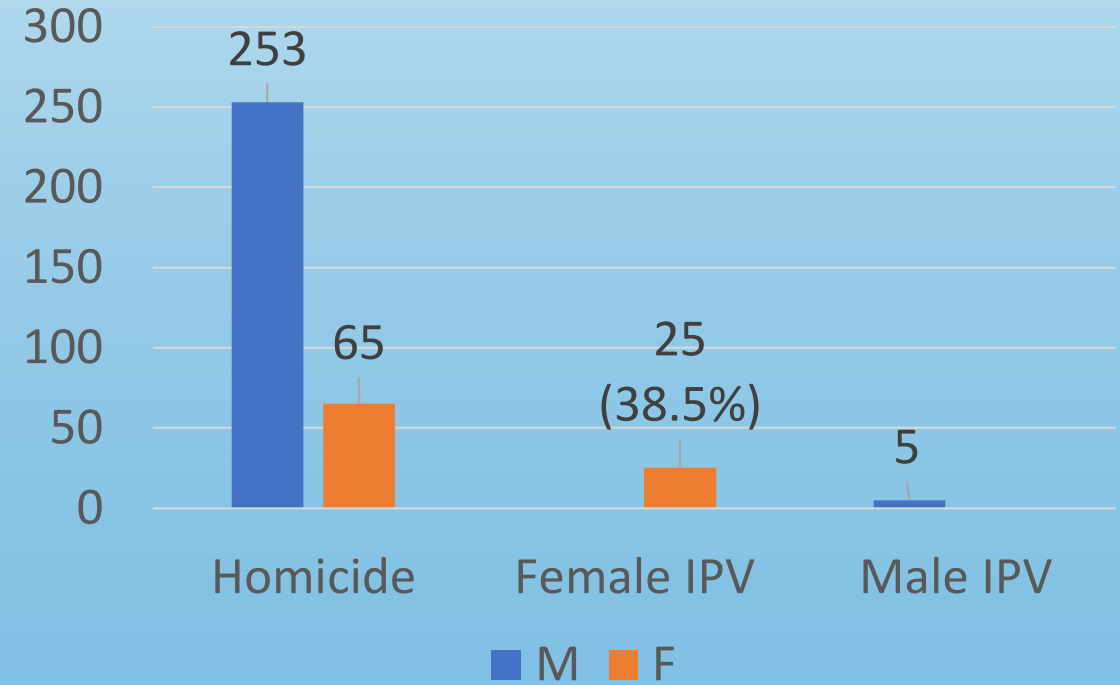
*Data as of 12/31/21

Homicide 2015 to 2021 by Sex

Homicides 2015 to 2019 by Sex
(n=578)



Homicide 2020 & 2021 by Sex
(n=348)





DPH's Role: Prevention and Intervention

- *The bulk of DPH activities related to gun violence:
 - Data surveillance and reporting
 - CT Violent Death Reporting System
 - Partnership building and engagement
 - Suicide prevention
 - Intimate Partner Violence Prevention
 - Gun policy review and response to legislative bill proposals

- *Historically, lack of state or federal funding dedicated to DPH to implement public health prevention initiatives in high risk areas, among vulnerable populations and communities of color.



Partnerships for Prevention

DPH partnership building and consulting activities:

- * Participate in gun violence prevention workgroups:
 - * CT HVIP Collaborative
 - * CT Suicide Advisory Board lethal means committee
- * DPH Commissioner designees in the legislatively-mandated Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council
- * Membership in multiple fatality review panels
- * Responds to gun-related data requests from stakeholders throughout CT.



Public Health Response to Gun-related Policy

- * DPH Commissioner and program staff prepare testimony on the public health and health equity impact of proposed bills.
- * Pursuant to **CT Public Act 21-36**, DPH is required to approve at least one accredited Violence Prevention Professional (VPP) training and certification program that meets the standards set in the new legislation effective October 1, 2021.



DPH Violence and Homicide Prevention Program Webpage

DPH Webpage has new information on Violence Prevention Professionals Training and Certification

DPH approved The HAVI (Health Alliance for Violence Intervention) as an accredited training and certification program

Pending DPH approval are:

- * ROCA Impact institute
- * Brother Carl Hardwick Institute

Both are pending accreditation by external accrediting body

See webpage pdf: [Violence-Prevention-Professionals-Training-and-Certification.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)

Located at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Education-Management--Surveillance/The-Office-of-Injury-Prevention/Violence-and-Homicide-Prevention-Program>

ARPA and State Funding

Proposed DPH Strategies



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ARPA Funding Award Proposals

CT DPH Proposes to use ARPA funding:

1. Establish a Community Violence Prevention (CVP) Program to effectively address and respond to the sharp rise in
 - gun-involved homicides and injuries,
 - stabbing/sharp force homicides and injuries, and
 - community violence and gun violence in CT since the start of pandemic
2. Support the growth of existing evidence-based or -informed CVP and gun violence prevention and intervention programs throughout the state.
3. Establish a Request for Proposals (RFP) mini-grant program that will award five (5) qualified applicants ARPA funding to build capacity and resources within their programs.
4. Support the CT HVIP Collaborative to help them strengthen partnerships within the community, state, and federal agencies involved in community violence prevention and intervention. Build and strengthen partnerships between CBOs and hospitals across Connecticut.
5. Contract with the CT Injury Prevention Center (IPC) at CT Children's with a history of community outreach and connections to trauma centers. IPC will assist with starting and coordinating the RFP mini-grant program that will award funds to qualified applicants from
 - Community-based violence and gun violence prevention and intervention programs,
 - Trauma-informed health and behavioral health care, and
 - Violence prevention professional training programs



CT General Fund Award Proposals

DPH Awarded \$400,000 from CT General Fund

- Start a Community Violence Prevention (CVP) Program at DPH
- **Advisory Body** of the CVP Program: ***Commission on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention***
- Manage and Coordinate the Public Health-related CVP Strategies with Partners and Stakeholders
- Conduct Awareness Campaign Initiatives

Proposed Positions:

- Program Manager for coordination of program, contracts, grants and dedicated Epidemiologist for surveillance of CV/CGV injury and death, evaluation



Outcomes of the Community Violence and Gun Violence Prevention Funding

Desired Outputs and Outcomes:

- (1) Strong relationships with local organizations involved in community violence and gun violence prevention and intervention (VPI).
- (2) Effective community-based and hospital-based VPI programs are supported and funded by the State for growth and expansion to high risk geographic areas throughout Connecticut.
- (3) Trauma-informed care and wrap-around services are provided to all those in most need of these services.
- (4) Enhanced surveillance data are utilized to design and target interventions and monitor progress in reducing firearm and sharp force-involved injuries and deaths.
- (5) Community-based VPI programs use evidence-based/-informed and data-driven public health strategies to reduce and prevent injury and deaths.
- (6) Firearm- and sharp force-involved morbidity and mortality are reduced and prevented.

Thank you

For questions, contact:

Susan Logan

Supervising Epidemiologist, Injury and Violence
Surveillance Unit, CT DPH: susan.logan@ct.gov

Colleen Violette

Health Program Supervisor, Office of Injury and
Violence Prevention, CT DPH:

colleen.violette@ct.gov