



***Advocating for common sense policies that prevent violence.***

We have a gun violence crisis in Georgia. We can no longer ignore the fact that Georgia has some of the highest levels of gun-related violence in the country, and it has taken a devastating toll on our communities. The Georgia Coalition for Safe Communities (GCSC) shares a committed willingness to have the difficult conversations surrounding gun violence. We are troubled by the lack of funding on the local and federal levels, especially on gun violence effects on the health of all citizens. Since the 1990's there has been a void in funding gun research. We support expanding federal, state and private funding for gun violence research to understand the overall patterns of gun violence, how our communities are affected by it and identify those most at risk. Broadening research is a necessary priority to provide answers and shape policy that will help advance gun violence prevention.

**Georgia facts:**

- Georgia ranked 18th highest for gun-related deaths of any state. This rate is 25% higher than the national average. <sup>1</sup>
- Georgia has a higher rate of gun-related crime in the country. Georgia ranked 11<sup>th</sup> highest for gun-related murders. <sup>2</sup>
- Georgia has seen an increase in the lethal combination of domestic violence and guns with firearms being the cause of death in 71% of recorded domestic violence fatalities in 2016. <sup>3</sup>
- Georgia gun violence is a health crisis deserving scientific research similar to that targeting cancer and heart disease. Data is crucial in this process, to validate that there is a problem, identify any root causes, and to evaluate the effectiveness of any interventions.
- More than 1,200 people died from gunshot wounds each of the past several years in Georgia. Given that 61% of gun violence victims die by their own hand, the potential for clinical intervention with evidence-based and evidence-informed policies is powerful. <sup>4</sup>

*The Georgia Coalition for Safe Communities is comprised of passionate advocates from organizations across our state that seeks to advance gun violence research, inform, educate, and help engage individuals and localities on actions and practices that promote common sense policies that prevent violence. We share a committed willingness to have the difficult conversations surrounding gun violence and its dangerous effect on the health of our communities. We are motivated to help encourage gun violence research, improve the safety and enhance the quality of life for all Georgians, without the threat of violence.*

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[www.SafeGeorgia.org](http://www.SafeGeorgia.org); [www.facebook.com/pg/GACoalitionforSafeCommunities/posts/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/GACoalitionforSafeCommunities/posts/); @1safega

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<sup>1</sup> Georgia Gun Violence Fact Sheet; <https://s3.amazonaws.com/interactives.americanprogress.org/maps/raphael/AmericaUnderFire/pdfs/GA-GunViolence-factsheet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Nation Center for Health Statistics/ Georgia: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report (2016) <http://www.georgiafatalityreview.com/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://specialprojects.myaic.com/point-one-three-seconds/?icmp=AJC\\_internallink\\_05112015\\_AJctoMyAJC\\_gundeathsstub](http://specialprojects.myaic.com/point-one-three-seconds/?icmp=AJC_internallink_05112015_AJctoMyAJC_gundeathsstub)