

# Gun Violence in Charlottesville & Albemarle

A Community-Driven Report Compiled by The Equity Center at the University of Virginia

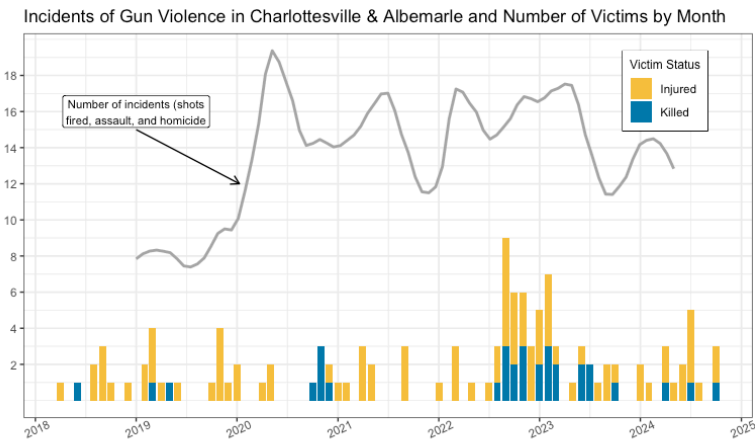
## Approach

By bringing together multiple sources of data we are better able to understand the many challenges posed by gun violence in our region. The harm of gun violence takes many forms – deaths and injuries are the most obvious, but the collective trauma of hearing or witnessing gunshots also erodes community safety. This report aims to clarify current knowledge, as well as knowledge gaps, to support community solutions. Each source of data tells a part of the story, and by bringing these sources together we hope to tell a broader story about the nature, shape, and impacts of gun violence in our community. The broader goal is to expand and support the voices in our community working to identify solutions.

## What is the prevalence in our region?

Between 2018-2022, **68** people lost their lives to gun violence in Charlottesville and Albemarle.<sup>1</sup> In the Blue Ridge Health District, which includes Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Fluvanna, and Greene County, **76%** of the **141** firearm-related deaths were suicides, **22%** were homicides, and the remaining were other forms of violence, including unintentional shootings.<sup>2</sup>

Firearm Deaths in the Blue Ridge (2018-2022)		
Intent	Number of People	Rate of Firearm Deaths Per 100k People
Suicide	107	8.3
Homicide	31	2.4
Undetermined	2	0.2
Unintentional	1	0.1



Source: Gun Violence Archive (Victim Statuses) & Local Police Reports (Incident Counts)

## A Collective Toll

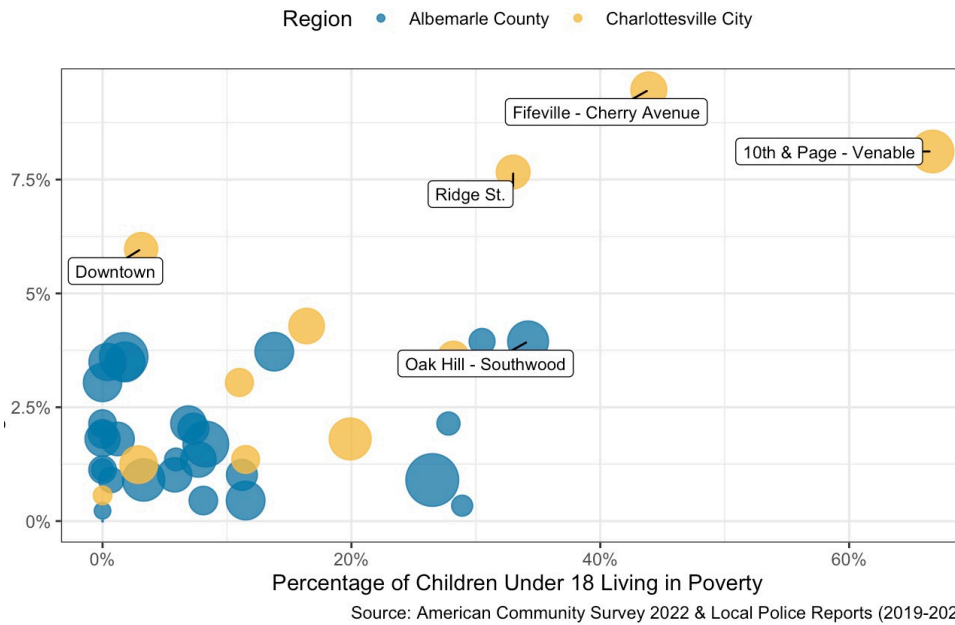
Following the COVID-19 pandemic, incidents of gun violence increased both nationally and locally.<sup>3</sup> In 2024, the US Surgeon General’s Advisory declared gun violence as a public health crisis.<sup>4</sup>



# Who is impacted?

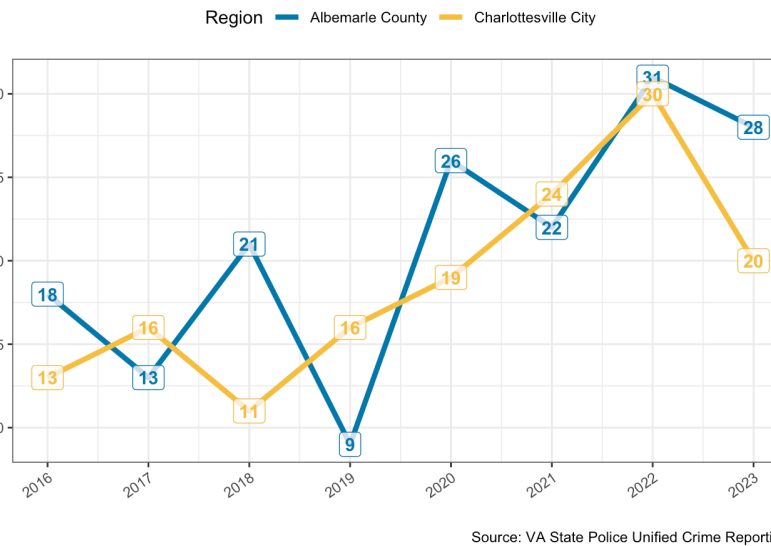
Gun violence is often concentrated in neighborhoods with high poverty, few job opportunities, and a history of neglect. Structural racism, like unfair policies and unequal education, has left many racially and ethnically marginalized groups in underfunded areas where gun violence is more common. In Charlottesville and Albemarle, Black individuals make up only **11%** of the population<sup>5</sup> but **55%** of gun violence victims, with those aged 25-34 being especially affected.<sup>6</sup>

Childhood Poverty Rates Compared to Incidents of Gun Violence  
Each circle represents a different census tract



# Where are the guns coming from?

Theft of Firearms from Vehicles



In addition to purchasing guns from any of the **22** licensed dealers in the region, theft of firearms from vehicles has also become a means of obtaining firearms. In 2023, there were **48** guns and ammunition stolen out of vehicles in Charlottesville and Albemarle, totaling almost **\$33,000**. This is a decrease from the 61 guns stolen in 2022. In Virginia in 2023, **\$1.6 million** dollars of firearms were stolen out of vehicles.

# About The Equity Center

Founded in 2019, the Center for the Redress of Inequity through Community-Engaged Scholarship (The Equity Center) builds on years of social justice advocacy and groundbreaking efforts to address racism and inequity, aiming to transform UVA’s research mission, institutional values, pedagogy, and operations while serving as a model for equity and justice in higher education; learn more at [virginiaequitycenter.org](http://virginiaequitycenter.org).



Sources:

- 1 - Center for Disease Control, National Vital Statistics. About Underlying Cause of Death, 2018 - 2022.
- 2 - Virginia Department of Health, Office of Vital Records. Firearm Deaths by Intent, 2018 - 2022.
- 3 - Everytown Research & Policy. Gun Violence and COVID-19 in 2020. May 7, 2021.
- 4 - The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on Firearm Violence: A Public Health Crisis in America. July 2, 2024.
- 5 - U.S. Census Bureau, "Age and Sex," American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2022.
- 6 - Charlottesville, Albemarle, & UVA Police, Verified Incident Reports, 1/1/2019 - 5/18/2024.
- 7 - U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives. Federal Firearms Licences, April 2024.
- 8 - Virginia State Police. Uniform Crime Reporting. Accessed May 1, 2024.

**Contact**  
Samantha Toet  
[sct2td@virginia.edu](mailto:sct2td@virginia.edu)  
[virginiaequitycenter.org](http://virginiaequitycenter.org)