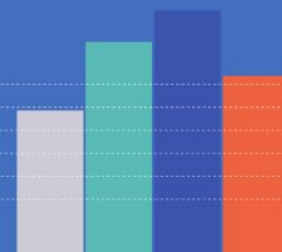




Cheryl Bettigole, MD MPH  
Acting Health Commissioner

# CHART



## Chronic Male Unemployment and Gun Violence in Philadelphia

Gun violence is a serious public health problem in Philadelphia, disproportionately threatening the health, well-being, and safety of Black communities. The drivers of gun violence include the legacy of structural racism and disinvestment in Black communities that impact socioeconomic factors like unemployment and poverty. As gun violence peaked in 2020, unemployment also worsened and unequally affected Black Philadelphians.

This CHART examines the relationship between gun violence and the chronic male unemployment rate—defined as the percent of males ages 16-64 who were not employed in the past 12 months. This issue of CHART builds on findings from the [Unemployment and Mortality CHART](#) which highlighted chronic male unemployment as an important marker of risk of early death. This CHART focuses on men and boys because they are the group most affected by gun violence, especially young Black men and boys. While poverty and unemployment are linked, we focus on chronic unemployment because studies suggest that [joblessness is more strongly related to crime than poverty alone](#). The data in this CHART support the need for [non-law enforcement interventions](#) that create jobs in these affected ZIP Codes, as one way to provide resources to Black and Hispanic/Latinx Philadelphians, break the cycle of social disadvantage, and prevent gun violence.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

Gun violence is on the rise and disproportionately affects young Black men and boys.

ZIP Codes with high levels of gun violence are predominantly Black or Hispanic and have high levels of chronic unemployment among men and boys.

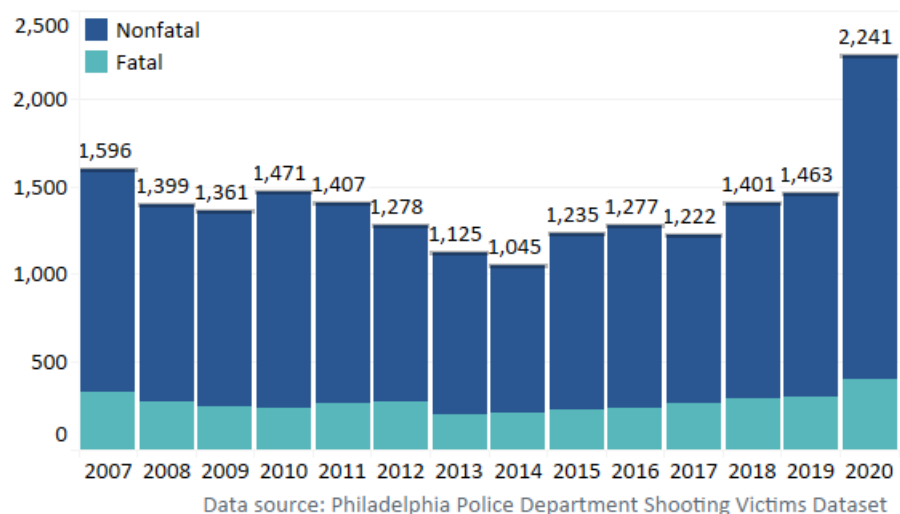
Job programs for Black and Hispanic/Latinx youth and young adults may decrease social disadvantage and may prevent gun violence.

# CHART



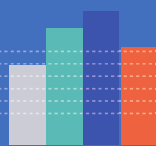
There were 53% more shooting victims in 2020 than in 2019.

Annual number of shooting victims in Philadelphia, 2007-2020



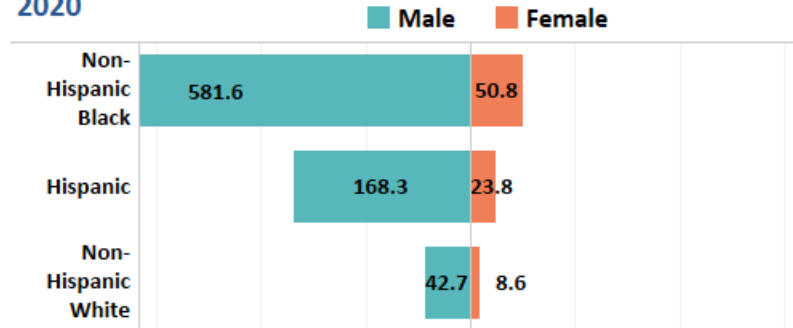
- Gun violence has risen in recent years. 2020 was a [record year for violence in many U.S. cities](#), including Philadelphia. 2,241 Philadelphians were injured or killed by a gun in 2020.
- By the end of May 2021, over 830 people have been injured or killed by gun this year. 2021 is on track to have a higher number of shooting victims than 2020.

# CHART



Gun violence disproportionately affects young Black male Philadelphians.

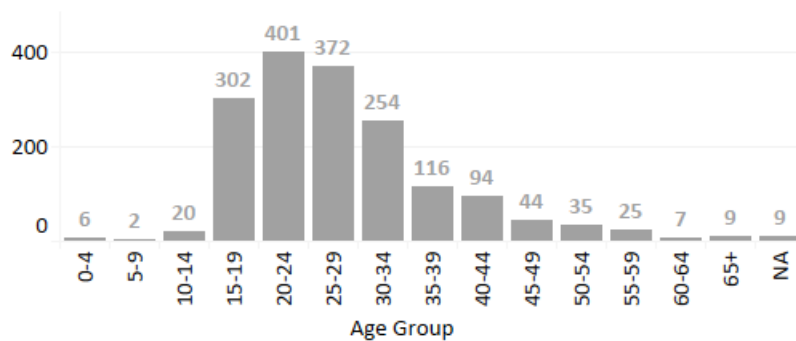
**Firearm shooting victim (fatal and nonfatal) rate by sex and race/ethnicity per 100,000 residents in Philadelphia, 2020**



Data source: Philadelphia Police Department Shooting Victims Dataset

- In 2020, non-Hispanic Black men and boys had a higher firearm shooting victim rate than any other demographic group.
  - The firearm shooting victim rate for non-Hispanic Black males is over 13 times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic White males.
  - The firearm shooting victim rate for Hispanic males was 4 times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic White males.
- 90% of all shooting victims in 2020 were males. However, women and girls are also impacted by gun violence. Non-Hispanic Black females experienced a higher firearm shooting victim rate than females of any other racial/ethnic group.

**Number of non-Hispanic Black male shooting victims (fatal and nonfatal) by age group, 2020**



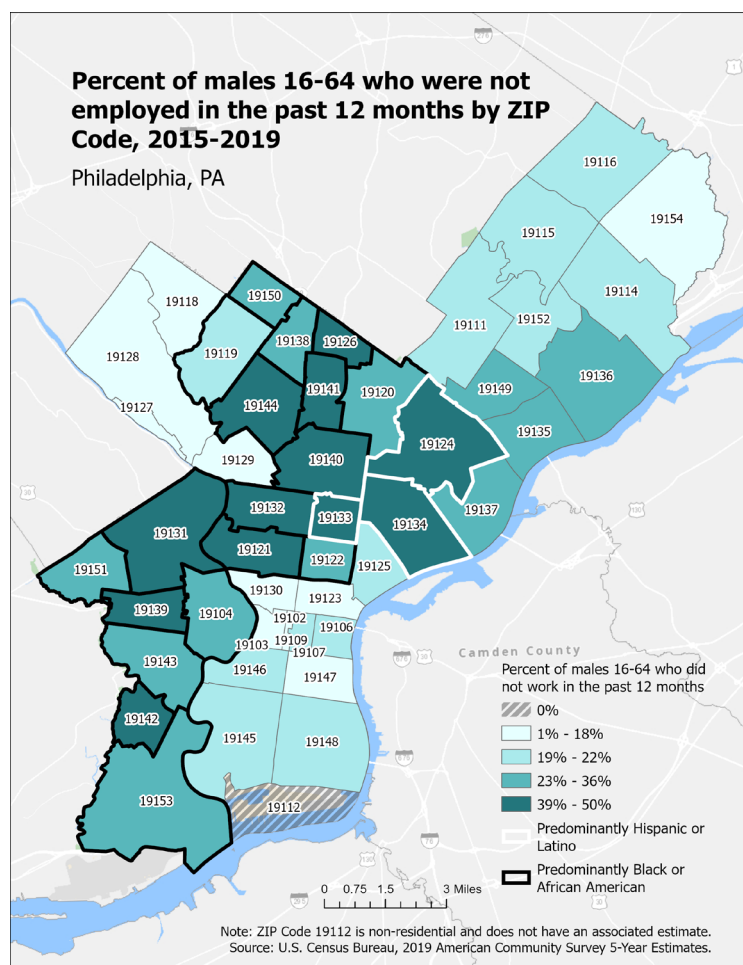
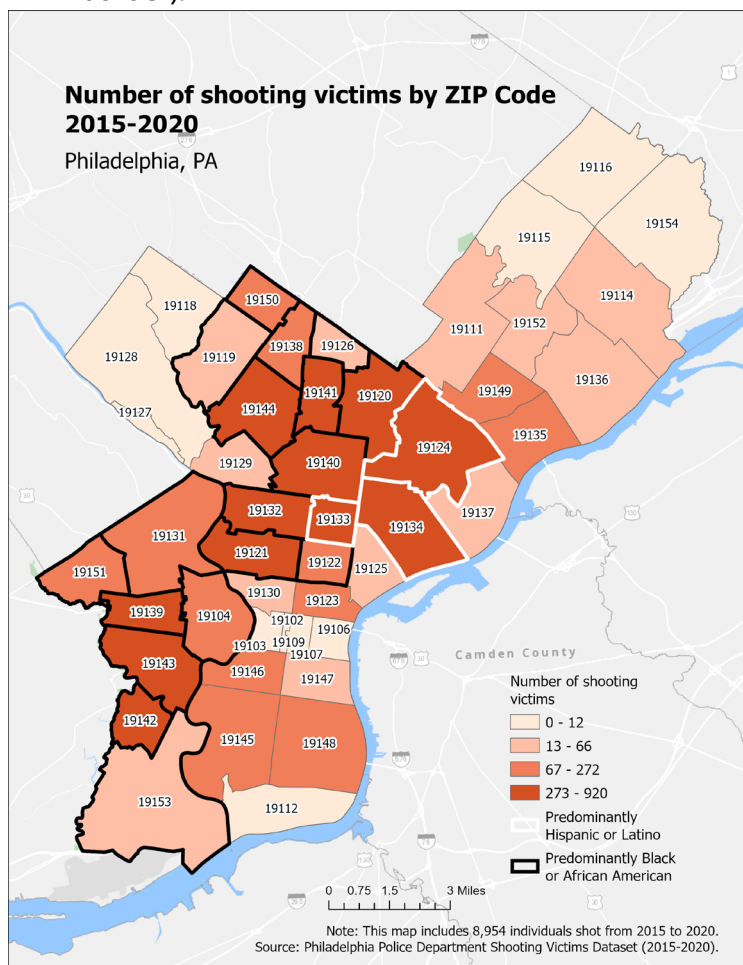
Data source: Philadelphia Police Department Shooting Victims Dataset

- Non-Hispanic Black male shooting victims are mostly in younger age groups (ages 15-34).

## ZIP Codes with a high number of shooting victims also have high levels of chronic male unemployment.

*How to interpret the maps on this page:*

- These maps use color shading to show the magnitude of the problem.
  - o On the left, ZIP Codes shaded the darkest orange have the highest number of shooting victims.
  - o On the right, ZIP Codes shaded the darkest teal have the highest percent of males 16-64 who were not employed in the past 12 months.
- The borders on the maps highlight ZIP Codes where residents are predominantly Black or African American (black border) and ZIP Codes where residents are predominantly Hispanic or Latino (white border).

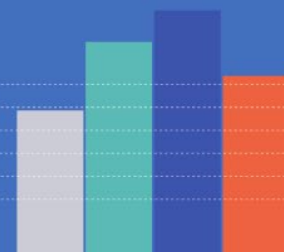


- The orange map shows that predominantly Black communities in the North, West, and Southwest regions of Philadelphia and predominantly Hispanic communities in ZIP Codes 19124, 19133, 19134 have the highest number of shooting victims.
- The teal map has a similar pattern to the orange map—the same ZIP Codes with a lot of gun violence also have high chronic male unemployment. These are ZIP Codes in the North, West, and Southwest regions of Philadelphia where residents are predominantly Black, in addition to the ZIP codes 19124, 19133, and 19134 where residents are predominantly Hispanic.



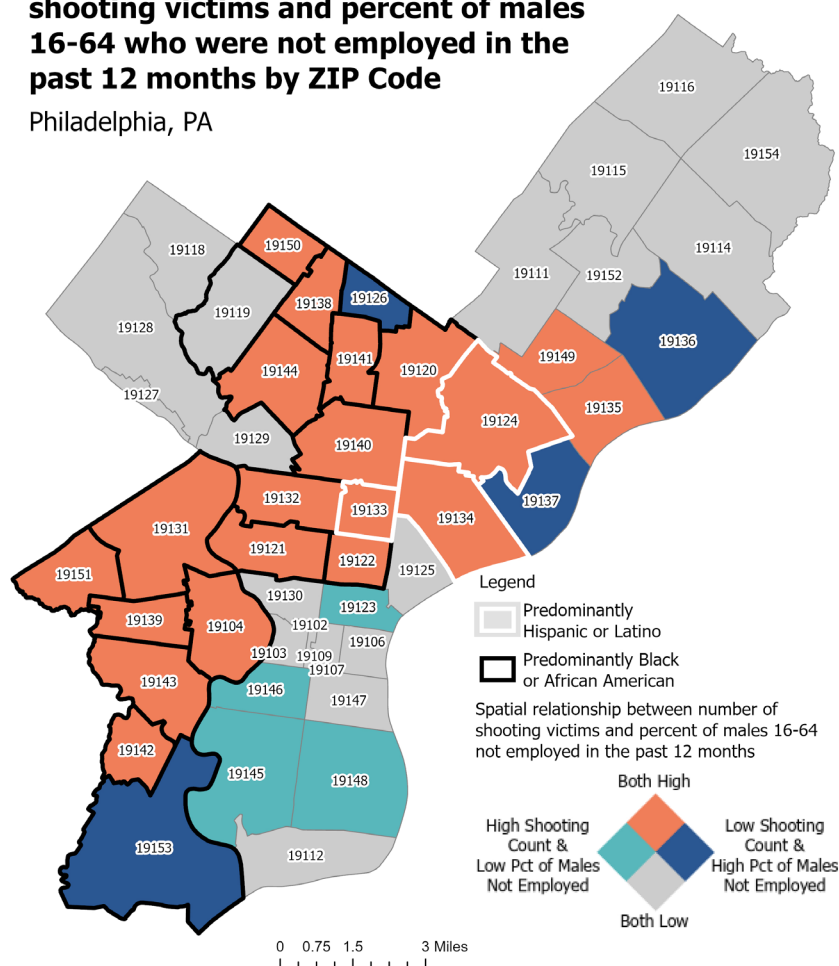
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## Relationship between number of shooting victims and percent of males 16-64 who were not employed in the past 12 months by ZIP Code

Philadelphia, PA



Sources: Philadelphia Police Department Shooting Victims Dataset 2015-2020, U.S. Census Bureau 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Note: 19136 is classified as having a high percent of males not employed due to the prison in this ZIP Code. 19153 is classified as having a low count of shootings because of a low total population in this ZIP Code.

*How to interpret the map on this page:*

- This map combines the findings from the maps on page 4, to show the geographic relationship between gun violence and chronic unemployment, together on one map.
- The legend has four colors to show how “count of shootings” and “percent of males who were not employed in the past 12 months” overlap geographically.

- 40 out of 48 ZIP Codes (about 83%) in the above map are shaded orange (high number of shootings and high percent of males 16-64 who were not employed) or shaded gray (low number of shootings and low percent of males 16-64 who were not employed). This means there is a strong geographic relationship between shootings and chronic male unemployment in Philadelphia.
- A high number of shootings and high rates of chronic male unemployment co-exist in the same ZIP Codes. The affected communities are predominantly Black and Hispanic.



## WHAT CAN BE DONE

### The Health Department is:

- Using data (such as the [Injury Prevention Dashboard](#)) to identify the communities most affected by gun violence as well as those communities with high rates of unemployment to help target relevant interventions.
- Working with the city's Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for Criminal Justice and Public Safety to determine how to [target sustainable employment opportunities and job training in affected parts of the city](#).
- Piloting the Philly Youth Health Corps, a partnership with community-based organizations to provide jobs, mentoring, and skill building in topics related to the prevention of chronic conditions and gun violence to youth in the city.

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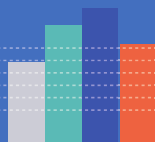
### Health care providers should:

- Ask patients about their employment status and refer to relevant city services:
  - Community College of Philadelphia offers financial aid including Octavius Catto scholarships for first-time college students and links to career services.
  - [Philadelphia Works](#) offers a variety of workforce development opportunities for youth and young adults.
  - [PowerCorpsPHL](#) engages disconnected young adults and returning citizens in advancing their lives through service.
- Recognize chronic male unemployment as a risk factor for poorer health outcomes, recognize its roots in structural racism, and work with patients to optimize control of chronic health conditions to minimize risk.
- Recognize and address barriers to completing education among both [adult](#) and [child](#) patients by referring to appropriate services.

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### Employers can:

- Reach out to [Philadelphia Works](#) to learn more about their programs to help find, grow, and retain workers.
- Learn about [On the Job Training](#), an occupational skills training program that enables employers to hire and train new employees at their place of business while being reimbursed.
- Consider starting an apprenticeship program. To learn more, visit [apprenticeshipphl.org](#).
- Become an *Employer of Choice* with Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine. Contact the [Commerce Department Workforce Division](#) to learn more.
- Engage in equitable and inclusive hiring and promotion practices that are informed by a knowledge of structural racism and systemic disadvantage.



## TECHNICAL NOTES

1. This analysis uses data from the [Philadelphia Police Department's Shooting Victims Dataset](#). This analysis relies on the Shooting Victims Dataset which contains primarily "[criminal shooting victim data](#)." In this CHART analysis, the term shooting victims refers to people injured or killed by a gun, and does not include suicides by firearm, unintentional firearm shootings, or officer-involved shootings.
2. Data on chronic male unemployment is from the [American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S2303, 2019](#).
3. The denominators for rates are sourced from Single-race Population Estimates on [CDC WONDER Online Database](#).
4. The borders on the maps highlight ZIP Codes that are predominantly Black or African American (black border) and ZIP Codes that are predominantly Hispanic or Latino (white border). In this analysis, predominance is defined as the racial or ethnic group making up the greatest percentage of the ZIP Code's population.
5. The "Number of shooting victims by ZIP Code" and "Percent of males 16-64 who were not employed in the past 12 months by ZIP Code, 2015-2019" map categories are based on quartiles.
6. 19153 is classified as having a low count of shootings compared to other ZIP Codes, but when normalizing the count by total ZIP Code population, 19153 has a high shooting victim rate given a low total population.
7. 19136 is classified as having a high percent of males not employed due to the prison in this ZIP Code.

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### Suggested citation:

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