

### **Gun Violence**

#### **Research Update: Understanding the Problem**

as of February 4, 2022

To understand the local problem of gun violence, CAJM leaders have read articles and reports from local and national experts on gun violence and policing. As of February 4th, **we met with the National Network for Safe Communities, Kimball Thomas of the TEMPO program, which works with at-risk and “disconnected” young Black males, and staff from the Sheriff’s office about the recent “Anatomy of a Homicide” report.** Below is a summary of what we know so far.

- ❖ There have been nearly **300 shootings and 80 shooting deaths** in the city of Tallahassee since 2018.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ Sheriff McNeil’s report found that both offenders and victims are **typically young men between the ages of 15 - 24** who have a prior record.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ In addition, local and national experts say that shootings are committed by a relatively **small number of young men who tend to run in risky social groups.** <sup>4</sup>
- ❖ Most gun violence homicide offenders **committed their first crime around the age of 12.**<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ **Last year, of the 112 youth who were eligible for a proven diversion program called civil citations, more than half were arrested by both local law enforcement agencies for non-serious, nonviolent offenses**<sup>5</sup> Most of the eligible children who were arrested were Black. These arrests paint children with a criminal record.

#### **Who we want to meet next to uncover more about the problem:**

Tallahassee Police Department regarding shooting stats and civil citations ♦ Leon County Sheriff’s office, the public defender office, and state attorney’s office regarding civil citations ♦ Leon County schools regarding suspensions ♦ Professionals who work with “disconnected youth” ♦ Professionals who divert youth from the criminal justice system ♦ The Giffords Law Center to learn more about effective strategies for stopping gun violence in local communities

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<sup>2</sup> <https://data.tallahassee.com/tallahassee-shootings/all/>

<sup>3</sup> ["Anatomy of a Homicide" Summary and Full Report](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Group Violence Intervention - National Network for Safe Communities \(NNSC\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Juvenile Justice website