

# Downingtown Friends Meeting

Friends Ending Gun Violence

Opening Exercises  
March 17, 2024

# Friends Ending Gun Violence: A New PYM Collaborative

Reflects our commitment to our Peace Testimony

Builds on 2008 Peace Conference of same name at Arch Street Meeting House

Partners with Heeding God's Call

Plans to invite all PYM monthly meetings to get under the weight of gun violence  
in our communities

Plans to focus on Chester County

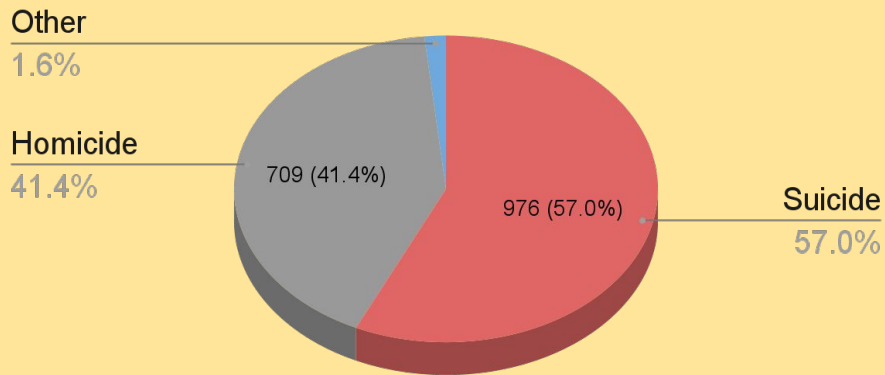
Why are you involved, Barbara?

Why are you involved, Martha?

# Types of Gun Violence

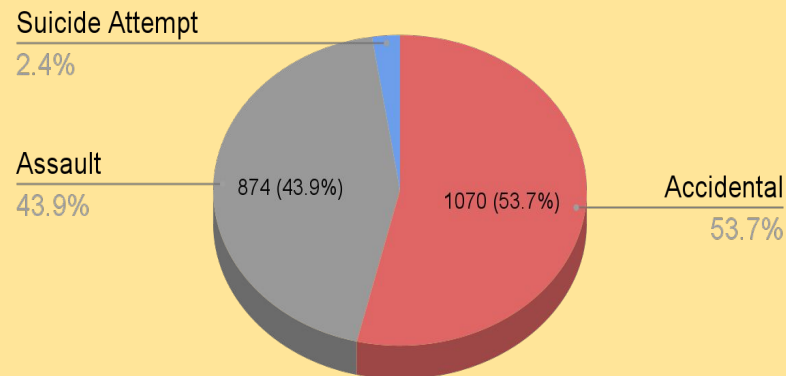
## Gun Death in PA

Total: 1,713 Deaths



## Gun Injuries in PA

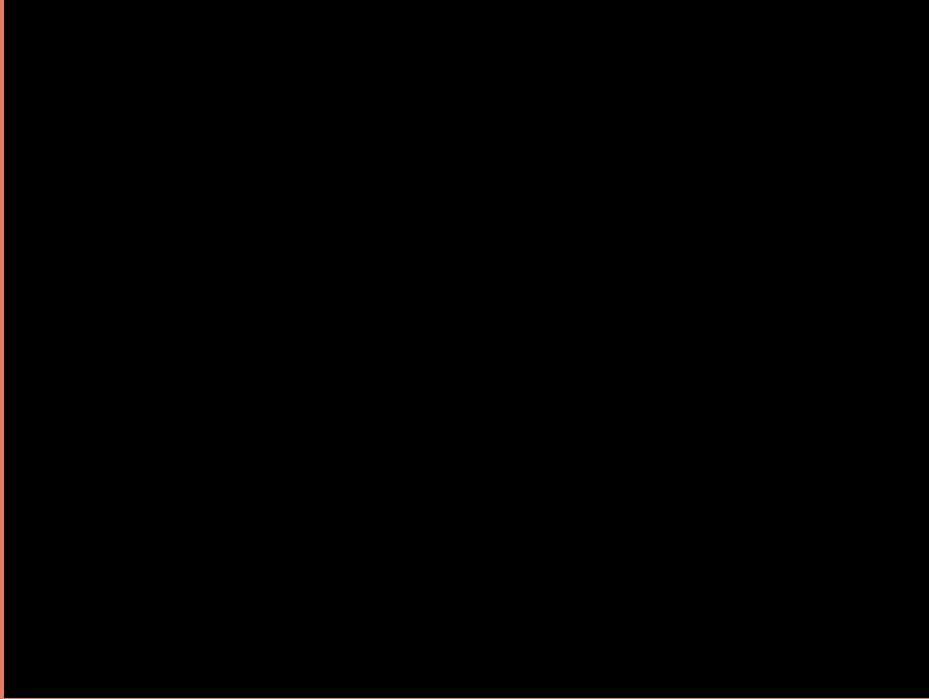
Total: 1,992 Injuries



Data from Everytown for Gun Safety

(Deaths = four year average 2018-2021; injuries = 2019)

# Lansdale Memorial to the Lost



# What Pennsylvania Does Well:

- ★ Universal Background Checks for Handguns
- ★ Domestic Violence Gun Laws
- ★ Extended Background Check Period
- ★ State Database Background Checks
- ★ Disarming Procedures
- ★ Gun Dealer Regulations
- ★ Partial State Firearm Sales Records Retention
- ★ Community Violence Intervention Funding

(Data from Giffords Center)

# What Pennsylvania is Missing

- Universal Background Checks for Long Guns
- Gun Owner Licensing
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders
- Assault Weapons Restrictions
- Large Capacity Magazine Ban
- Waiting Periods
- Strong Concealed Carry Law
- Open Carry Regulations
- Child Access Prevention Laws
- Adoption of Local Gun Ordinances

(Data from Giffords Center)



## Pennsylvania

## New Jersey

**Rank for Gun Law Strength**

**#17 (down from #15 last year)**

**#7 (down from #4 last year)**

Extreme Risk Protection Law

No

Yes

Lost and Stolen Reporting

No

Yes

Training Required to Purchase  
Guns

No

Yes

Limit Purchase of Handguns to  
1/Month

No

Yes

# Legislation Promoted by Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

**One Handgun a Month...** would make bulk buying illegal and severely diminish straw buying and illegal trafficking.

**Extreme Risk Protection Orders...** would allow family members, neighbors or police to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from loved ones who may harm themselves or others.

**Prohibit Sales and Possession of Assault Guns and Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines...** would ban military-style weapons.

**Prohibit Manufacture, Sales, and Possession of "Ghost Guns"...** would ban parts and kits that enable homemade guns lacking identifying markers and avoid background checks.

# A Majority of Americans Support...

81% – prohibiting a person subject to a **temporary domestic violence restraining order** from having a gun for the duration of the order.

72% – allowing family members to ask the court to **temporarily remove guns** from a relative who they believe is at risk of harming themselves or others

72% – requiring a person to **obtain a license** from a local law enforcement agency before buying a gun

72% – laws that require a person to **lock up the guns** in their home when not in use

69% – **funding community-based gun violence prevention programs** that provide outreach, conflict mediation, and social support for people at high risk of gun violence.

# Next Steps for our Meeting

This concern was embraced by Peace & Social Concerns and by Monthly Meeting  
on 2/25/2024

Barbara and Martha will work with Bryan Miller of Heeding God's Call to plan an  
interfaith witness in Chester County

Friends Ending Gun Violence Collaborative will invite all PYM meetings to  
consider this concern

Downingtown Friends Meeting will host a "Memorial to the Lost" sometime in 2024

# Memorial to the Lost at Old Haverford Meeting (June 4, 2022)

## OLD HAVERFORD FRIENDS' MEETING

This site has been a center for Friends' activities since 1684. The older section of the present structure, since remodeled, was built in 1700 as an addition to the original log meetinghouse where William Penn worshipped in the eleventh month, 1699.

*Founded 1683*

## OLD HAVERFORD FRIENDS MEETING

Meeting for Worship  
11:30 am  
*All Are Welcome*

One Shirt =  
One Soul  
Lost to Gun  
Violence

Memor

# How Can You Get Involved?

Learn about the issue

Everytown for Gun Safety; CeaseFirePA; Johns Hopkins Reducing Gun Violence in America: Giffords Center; Evidence for Change; NPR

Ask questions

Offer suggestions

Join Barbara and Martha in planning for Chester County focus

Attend witness in Harrisburg on Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
sponsored by CeaseFirePA

**Questions?**