



THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE: INDIANAPOLIS

The recent repeal of Indiana's handgun permit requirement makes it easier for people to arm themselves and more difficult for law enforcement to solve shootings. This new legislation will impact public safety in our city.

Despite the challenges this presents, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office remains committed to combating gun violence through prosecution, prevention, and education. The following report examines historical and current measures used to combat gun violence, and the work that prosecutors do every day to hold violent individuals accountable.



PROSECUTING GUN-RELATED CRIMES

POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A SERIOUS VIOLENT FELON



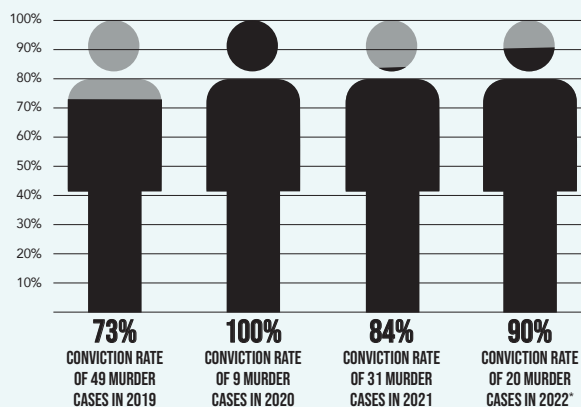
An individual who has already been convicted of a violent felony can no longer lawfully possess a firearm.

78%

CONVICTION RATE

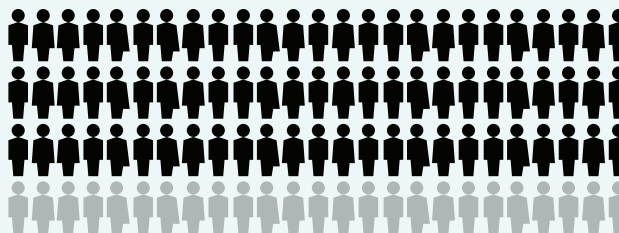
FOUND GUILTY OF A SERIOUS VIOLENT FELONY, GUILTY OF A HIGHER CHARGE, OR ADOPTED FOR FEDERAL PROSECUTION.

TRYING & CONVICTING MURDERERS



*Data collected for the first quarter of 2022.

75% FELONY CONVICTION RATE FOR CHARGES RELATED TO CARRYING A HANDGUN WITHOUT A LICENSE SINCE 2020



74% conviction rate for misdemeanor gun charges since 1/1/2020.

2,911

The number of carrying a handgun without a license cases filed since 1/1/2020. **With the new permitless carry legislation, these safeguards will essentially vanish, making it harder for law enforcement to identify violators.**



EASE OF ACCESS TO FIREARMS



Exposure to guns and gun violence can cause lasting trauma in young people, leading to PTSD, chronic stress, and decreased future earnings. The ease of access to firearms make domestic violence incidents far more likely to end in death—nearly 53% of Indiana's intimate partner homicides involve a gun.

HOW EASY IS IT TO MODIFY A HANDGUN INTO AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON?

An emerging trend on Indianapolis' streets is the use of what is called a 'Glock switch'. **This is a simple, and illegal device that allows a conventional semi-automatic pistol to function as a fully automatic machine gun.** These devices are roughly the size of a bottle cap and can be 3D printed in less than 20 minutes.



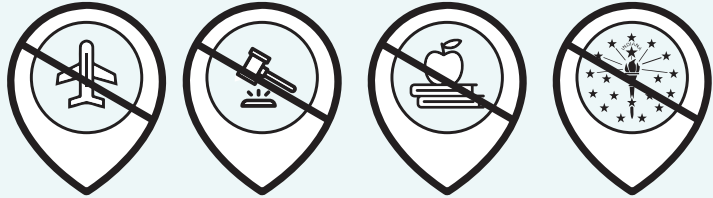
ACTUAL SIZE OF A 3D PRINTED 'GLOCK SWITCH' IS NO LARGER THAN A PENNY. ONCE ATTACHED TO A HANDGUN THIS PART MAKES IT SEEMINGLY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM A GUN THAT HAS NOT BEEN MODIFIED.

32 PENDING CASES

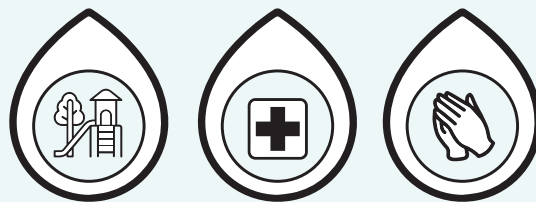
For possession of a machine gun. In Marion County, the Prosecutor's Office has taken an aggressive stance on prosecutions involving "Glock switches" by filing an enhanced felony charge for cases involving the use of a modified weapon.

WHERE ARE GUNS NOW (NOT) PERMITTED IN INDIANA?

A permit is no longer required to legally carry, conceal or transport a handgun within Indiana; though still prohibited in a few locations, such as: airports, courthouses, schools, and the Statehouse.



HOWEVER, GUNS ARE PERMITTED IN PUBLIC PARKS, CHURCHES AND HOSPITALS.



OFFICERS NOW NEED TO CONFIRM MORE THAN A DOZEN FACTORS SUCH AS WARRANT AND CONVICTION STATUS TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT AN INDIVIDUAL IS QUALIFIED TO POSSESS A FIREARM; VERSUS A SINGLE PERMIT CONFIRMATION BEFORE LEGISLATION CHANGED ON JULY 1.

ADDITIONALLY, INDIANA PROHIBITS CITIES FROM ENACTING THEIR OWN (LOCAL) GUN LAWS.

Sources: giffords.org/lawcenter/state-laws/preemption-of-local-laws-in-indiana



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS ARE FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED WHEN THEIR ABUSER HAS ACCESS TO A GUN

The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), increases the risk of homicide by 500%. **The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) examined eight Marion County cases to identify common lethality factors in domestic violence cases. The top lethality factors identified were (1) access to a firearm and (2) carrying a firearm without a permit.**

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE?

\$4.4 BILLION TOTAL

\$671 PER RESIDENT



The cost of gun violence goes beyond dollar value—the human toll is far greater. Nearly every Marion County resident will know at least one victim of gun violence in their lifetime. Indiana has the 20th-highest gun death rate. Indiana exports crime and guns to other states at the 11th-highest rate.

Sources: CDC WONDER, FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports.

COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office is currently prosecuting more than 1,300 cases involving an individual alleged to be carrying a handgun without a license—new legislation will impact these efforts to hold individuals accountable.

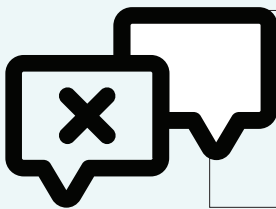
Each one of those cases represents a gun that has been taken off the street and, more importantly, processed by the Indianapolis crime lab. Any time police seize a gun, it is test-fired and compared to shell casings found during the investigations of other incidents, allowing investigators to identify "crime guns" that have been used in prior shootings. This strategy has helped identify guns used in crimes, which can lead to holding those who perpetuate violence accountable.



INCREASED EFFORTS WORKING TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

To disrupt the cycle of violence that follows too many shootings, the Prosecutor's Office has focused resources to investigate violent crime by:

- ASSIGNING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AND RESTRUCTURING THE HOMICIDE CHARGING PROCESS TO IMPROVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN PROSECUTORS AND INVESTIGATORS AND BUILD STRONGER CASES FOR SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
- ADDING DEPUTY PROSECUTORS WHO ARE EMBEDDED WITH THE CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SHOOTINGS
- ADDING A DATA ANALYST FOR BETTER PROSECUTION AND DETAILED TRACKING OF DATA
- PURCHASING NEW FORENSIC TESTING TOOLS
- WORKING TO BUILD TRUST THROUGH PROVIDING SECOND CHANCES THROUGH DATA-LED PROGRAMMING



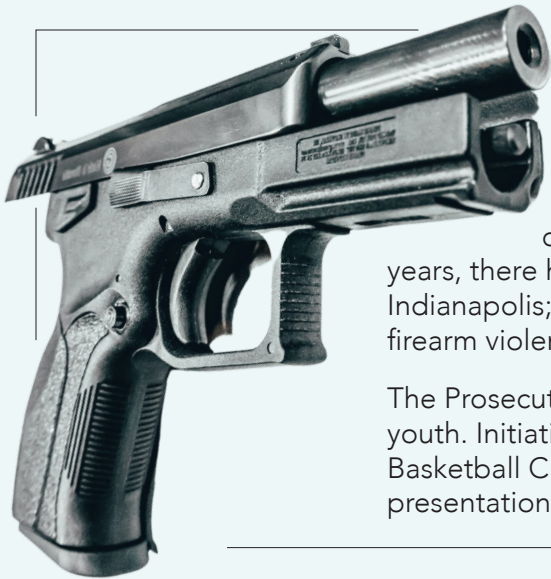
REPORTING CRIME IS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY—YET MORE THAN HALF OF VICTIMS DON'T REPORT

More than 65% of the victims in non-fatal shootings refuse to cooperate with the police. The key to resolving this challenge is building trust with law enforcement and creating a criminal justice system that is viewed as a safe and fair way to settle disputes.

Using handgun cases to investigate violent crime has become a key strategy of the Indianapolis Crime Gun Intelligence Center, which traces guns that have been matched to violent crimes back to the shooters. This forensics-based approach is essential when victims and witnesses do not cooperate with investigations. **These efforts have been hindered by the new gun legislation.**

WE HAVE SEEN UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY IN THESE INVESTIGATIONS. WITNESS COOPERATION LEADS TO STRONGER INVESTIGATIONS, QUICKER ARRESTS, AND PUTS PROSECUTORS IN A BETTER POSITION TO HOLD INDIVIDUALS ACCOUNTABLE.

— Prosecutor Ryan Mears



YOUTH + GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION METHODS

As both victims and perpetrators, adolescent males are disproportionately affected by homicide. Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of youth homicides in Indianapolis; carrying a gun increases an individual's risk of involvement in firearm violence.

The Prosecutor's Office has taken numerous steps to invest in Indianapolis youth. Initiatives such as our Juvenile Second Chance Program, Basketball Clinics, Violence Prevention Fellowship, and crime prevention presentations are available year-round to ensure youth safety in our city.

USING COLLECTIVE IMPACT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Organizations such as community partners:



are working to engage Indianapolis youth in community programming and diversion initiatives alongside the prosecutor's office to provide inclusive programming to more successfully reach and serve the youth population in Marion County and provide gun education.

418

**CASES INVOLVING JUVENILES
WITH POSSESSION OF A FIREARM
IN MARION COUNTY SINCE 2020**



1ST

GUNS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR YOUTH IN INDIANA

WHERE ARE YOUTH GETTING GUNS?

Many Indianapolis youth are now turning to social media to purchase and trade guns with peers and others.

The Prosecutor's Office has intervened in multiple cases to identify unsafe youth communication and even used tactics to help prosecute offenders using these channels to access illegal firearms.



ABOUT THE MARION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office holds criminals accountable for their actions and works hard to preserve the rights of victims. It seeks to place public safety as the number one priority and responsibility of government. The office is dedicated to continually seeking justice and maintaining the highest of ethical standards. Visit www.indy.gov/MCPO for more info and follow [@MCProsecutors](https://twitter.com/MCProsecutors).