

**31<sup>th</sup> National Black Nurses' Day on Capitol Hill**  
**Theme: "Addressing the Epidemic of Health Inequity: NBNA's Call to Action"**

**Gun Violence and Related Consequences**

The National Black Nurses Association supports comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence and its devastating effects. NBNA calls on the 116th Congress to address gun violence as a leading public health epidemic that negatively impacts the health and well-being of all communities. Moreover, gun violence disproportionately impacts the physical, mental and social well-being of Black communities in comparison to other communities and this is especially concerning.

**Background**

Multifaceted and comprehensive measures are sorely needed to reverse the following trends in gun violence and related consequences in the United States:

- Recurrent and recent mass shootings at schools (*Parkland High School and Sandy Hook Elementary School*), multiple places of worship (*Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Tree of Life Synagogue*), concerts (*Las Vegas*), and nightclubs (*Pulse Night Club*).
- In the United States, gun violence is a major public health problem and a leading cause of premature death.<sup>1</sup>
- While gun violence affects all communities in the United States, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on young adults, males, and racial ethnic minorities.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 85 percent of black homicide victims are shot and killed with guns.<sup>2</sup>
- An estimated 360,000 people are killed with firearms in non-conflict situations each year.<sup>3</sup>

**Recommendations to Legislators**

- NBNA encourage legislation that would provide for a 7-day waiting period before a semiautomatic firearm, a silencer, armor piercing ammunition, or a large capacity ammunition magazine may be transferred.
- NBNA encourages legislation that limits overall access to semiautomatic assault weapons.
- NBNA supports current recommendations from the American Public Health Association requesting common sense measures to reduce gun violence namely but not limited to:
  - Requiring and strengthening criminal background checks for all firearm purchases, including all firearms sold at guns shows and on the internet.
  - Reintroduce, sponsor, or support the *Gun Violence Research Act* (H.R. 1478) that repeals the practices that prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from sponsoring research on gun violence.
  - Expanding the collection and analysis of data related to gun violence and other violent deaths by increasing the funding for CDC's National Violence Death Reporting System (the only state-based surveillance reporting system that pools data on violent deaths from multiple sources into a usable, anonymous database).
  - Expand access to comprehensive mental health services to anyone affected by gun violence, and those with mental health conditions that might pre-dispose them to consider using guns.

## References

1. American Public Health Association (APHA) (2018). *Preventing Gun Violence*. Retrieved from [https://www.apha.org//media/files/pdf/factsheets/160317\\_gunviolencefs.ashx?la=en&hash=AB71DE1BEDEBB2A797F8EC378E672791904FCF87](https://www.apha.org//media/files/pdf/factsheets/160317_gunviolencefs.ashx?la=en&hash=AB71DE1BEDEBB2A797F8EC378E672791904FCF87)
2. Violence Policy Center (2018). *Black Homicide Victimization*. Retrieved from [vpc.org/blackhomicide.htm](http://vpc.org/blackhomicide.htm)
3. World Health Organization (2018). *Violence Prevention: The Evidence*. Retrieved from [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77936/9789241500845\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6DE80E60E9CDEADB93B58E0A6BA7C2C?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77936/9789241500845_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6DE80E60E9CDEADB93B58E0A6BA7C2C?sequence=1)