

# Fact-Based Insights on Gun Violence in St. Mary's County

ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE





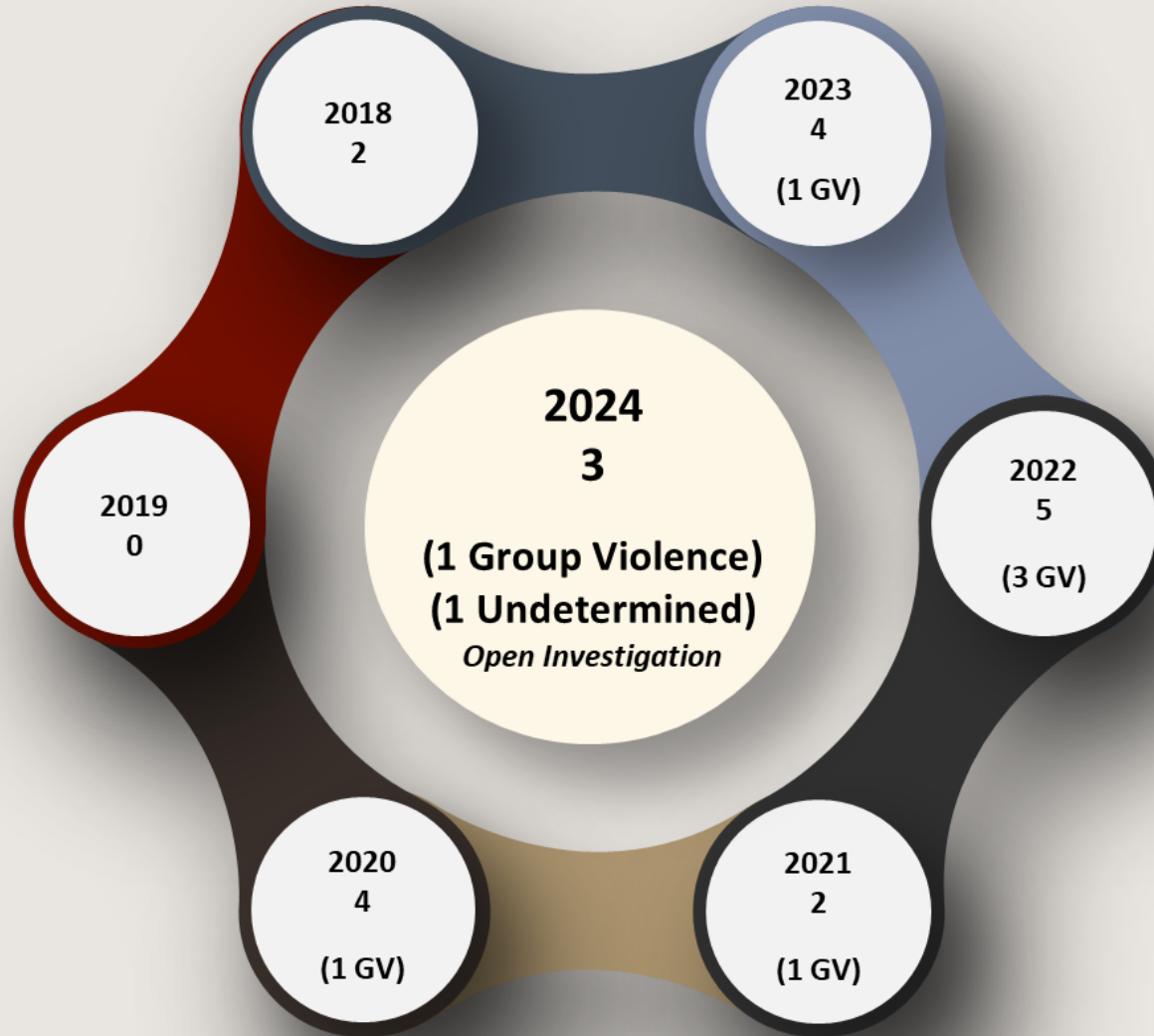
# Understanding Gun Violence in Our Community

## **WHAT ARE GROUPS?**

**The term "group" refers to any social network whose members commit violent crimes together. This can include anything from chapters of organized national gangs with recognized symbols (such as the Gangster Disciples) to loose neighborhood crews with no hierarchy or business (such as a set that claims a particular block). All "gangs," "posses," "sets," "crews," "blocs," and other associations are names for groups.**

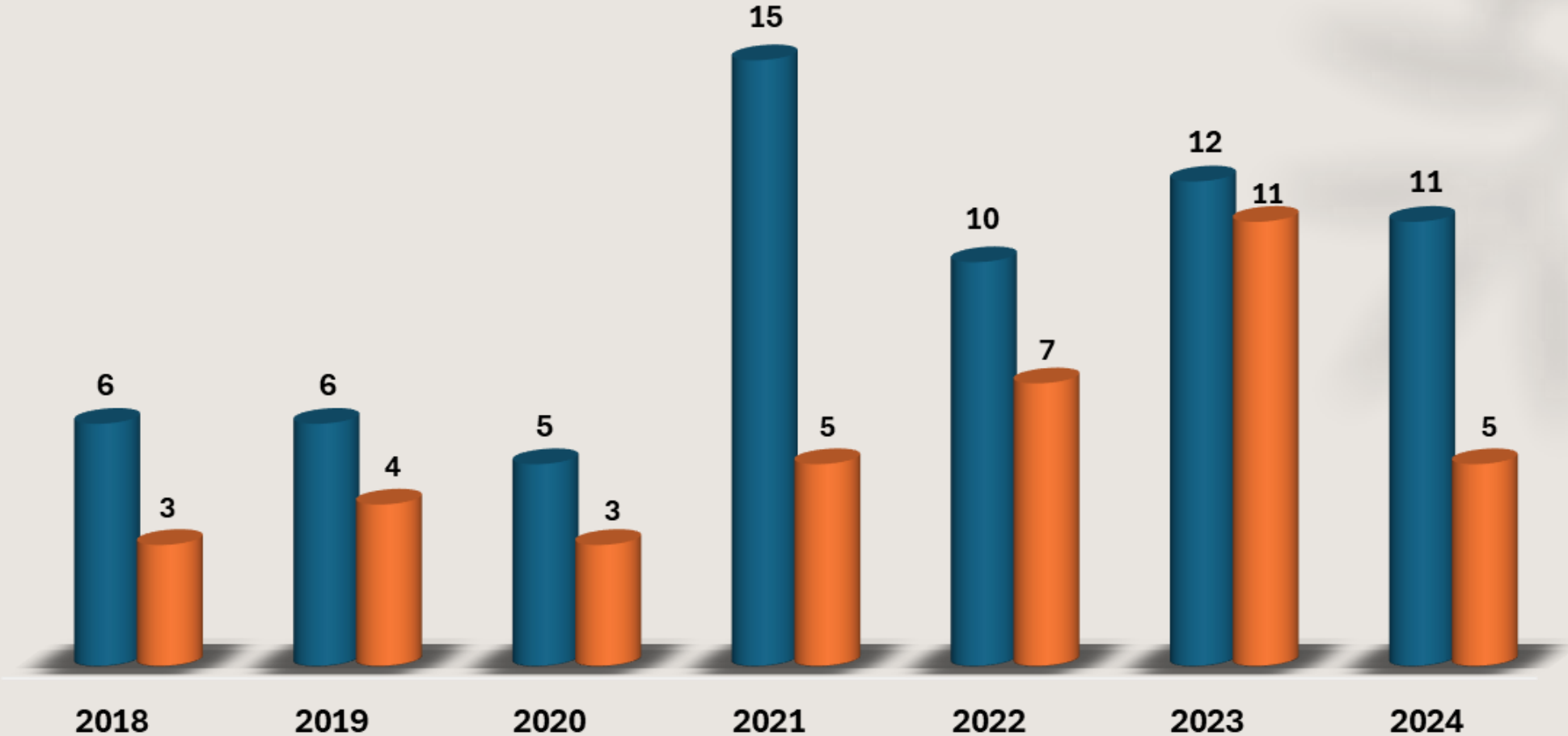


# Murder By Firearm





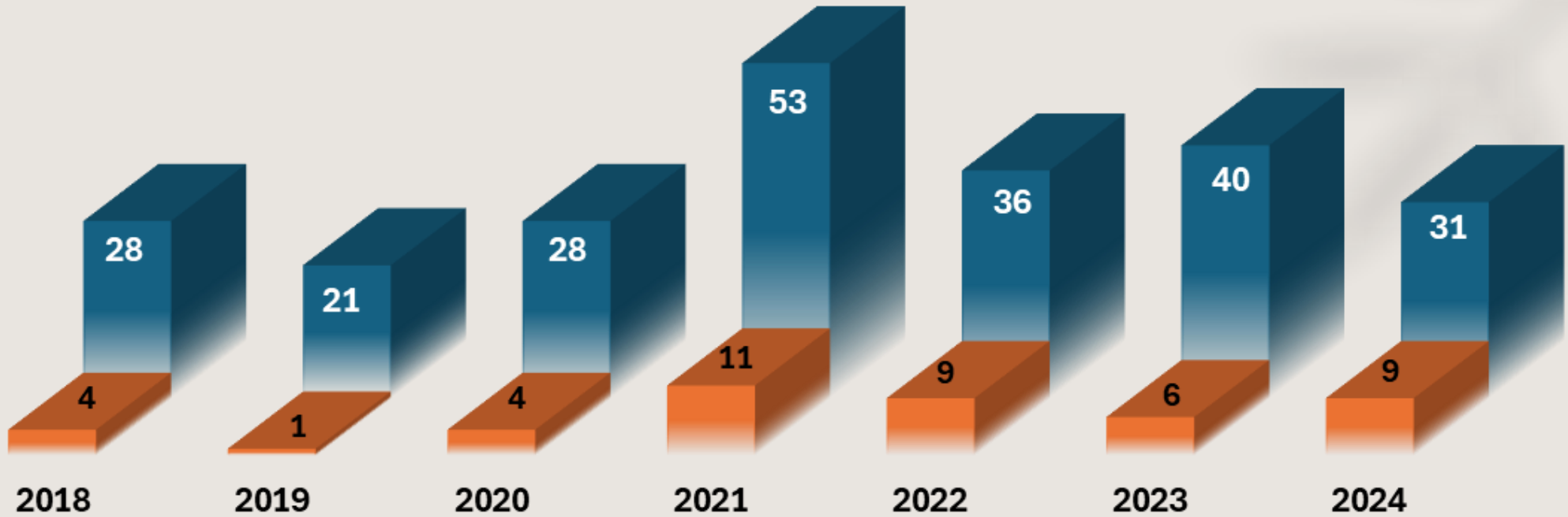
■ CONTACT SHOOTING ■ GROUP VIOLENCE



**Contact Shooting: non-fatal shooting; person physically struck by bullet**



GROUP VIOLENCE      ASSAULT - FIREARM

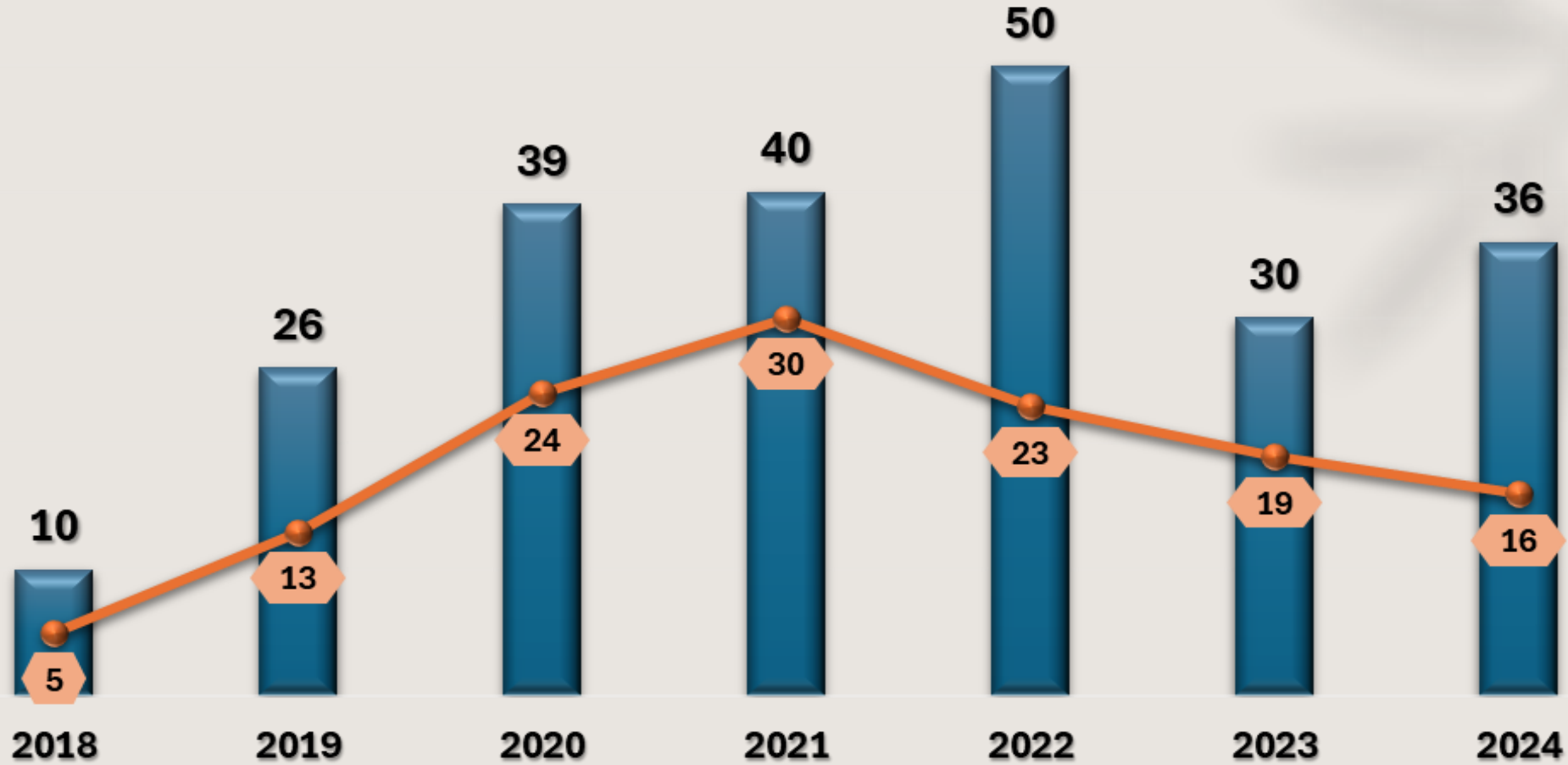


**Assault with Firearm:** non-contact shooting, pointing/displaying a gun at someone, physically hitting someone with a gun, etc.



**RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT**

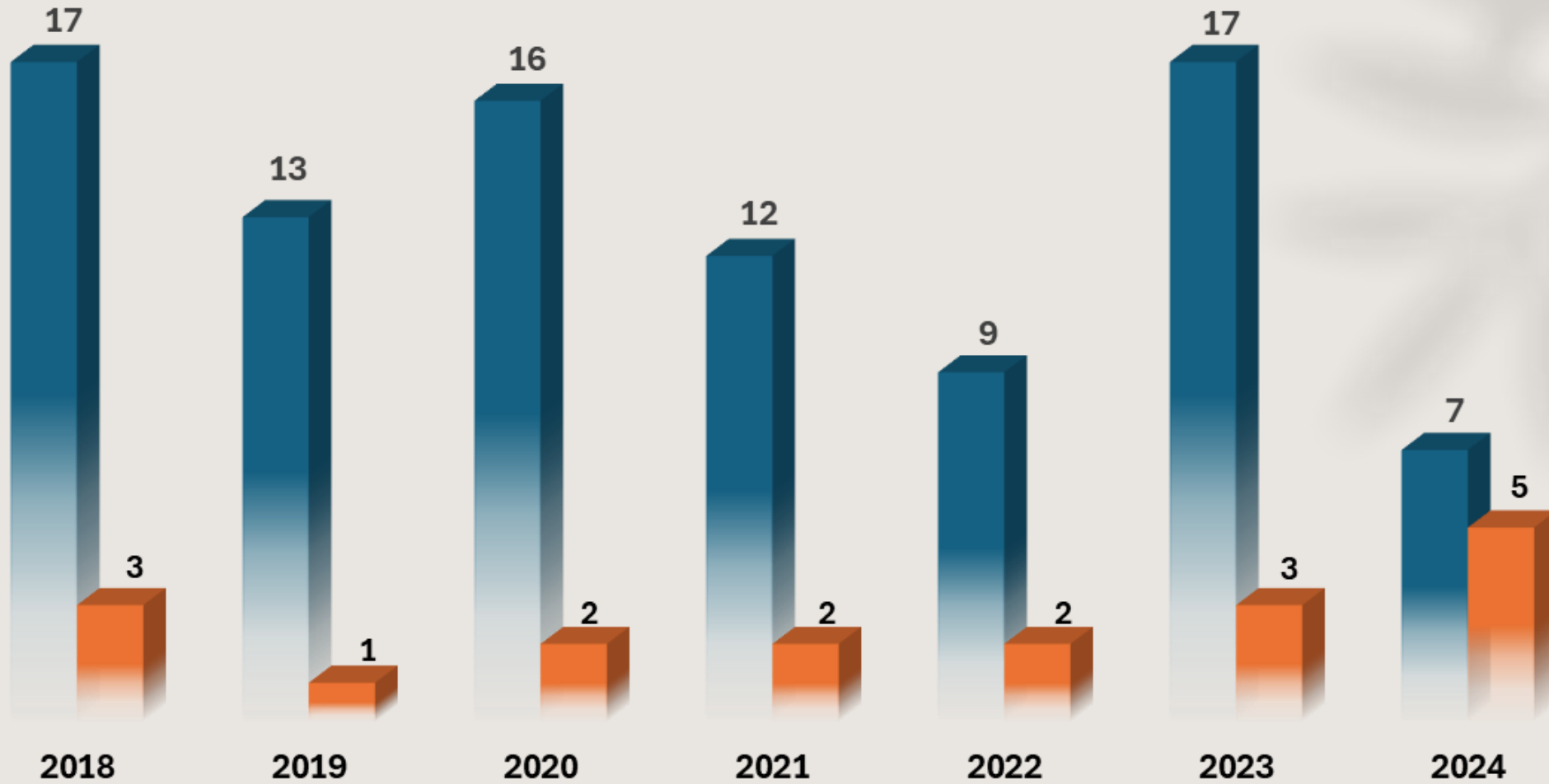
**GROUP VIOLENCE**



**Reckless Endangerment:** property damage caused by bullets and/or recovered casings



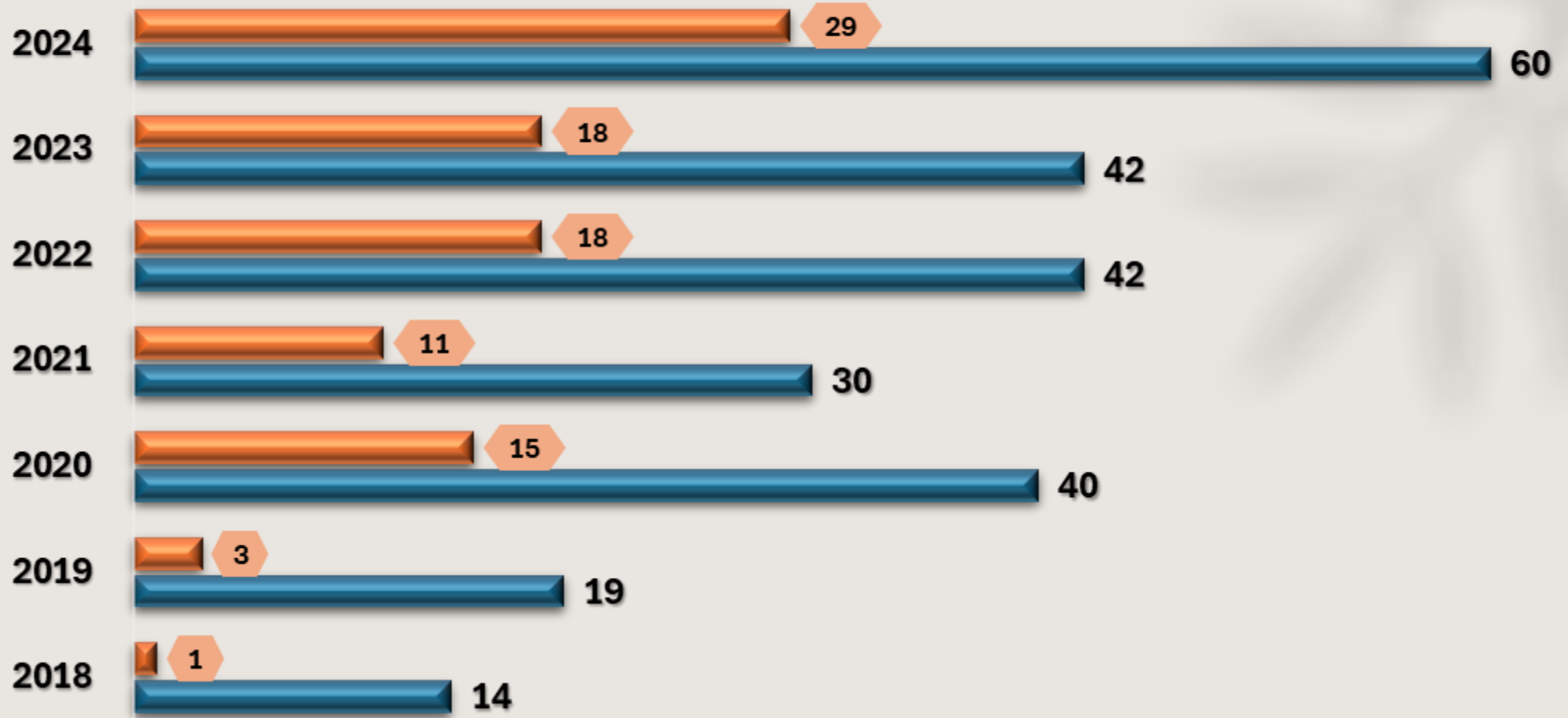
■ ROBBERY - FIREARM    ■ GROUP VIOLENCE



**Robbery - Firearm: Person or business robbed at gunpoint (suspect displaying/implying a gun)**



GROUP VIOLENCE WEAPON OFFENSE

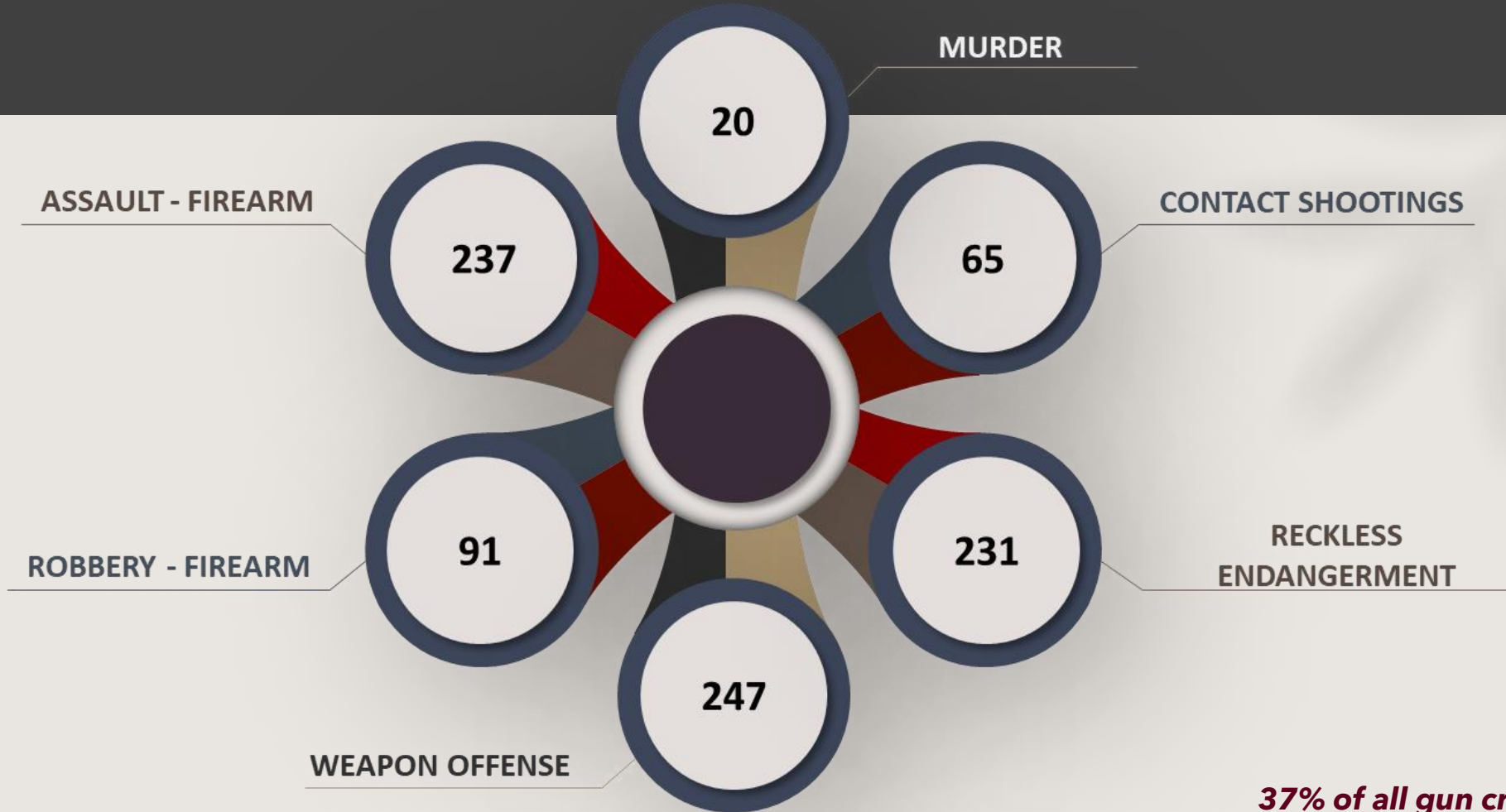


**Weapon Offense:** violation of a law that regulates the use, possession, or sale of deadly weapons





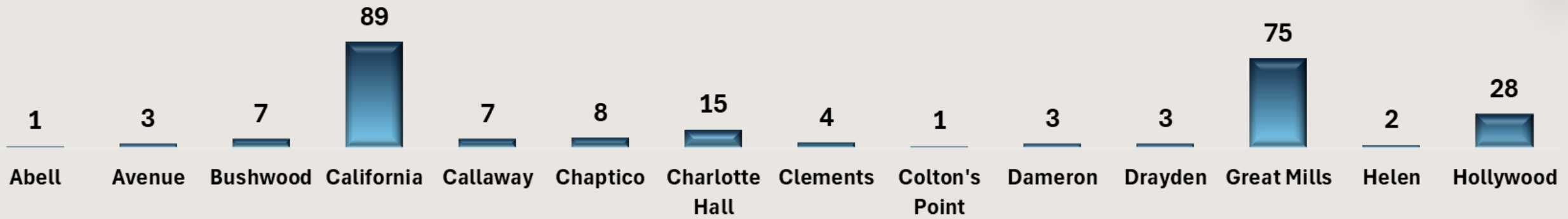
# 2018-2024 GUN VIOLENCE



***37% of all gun crimes have been group violence-related***

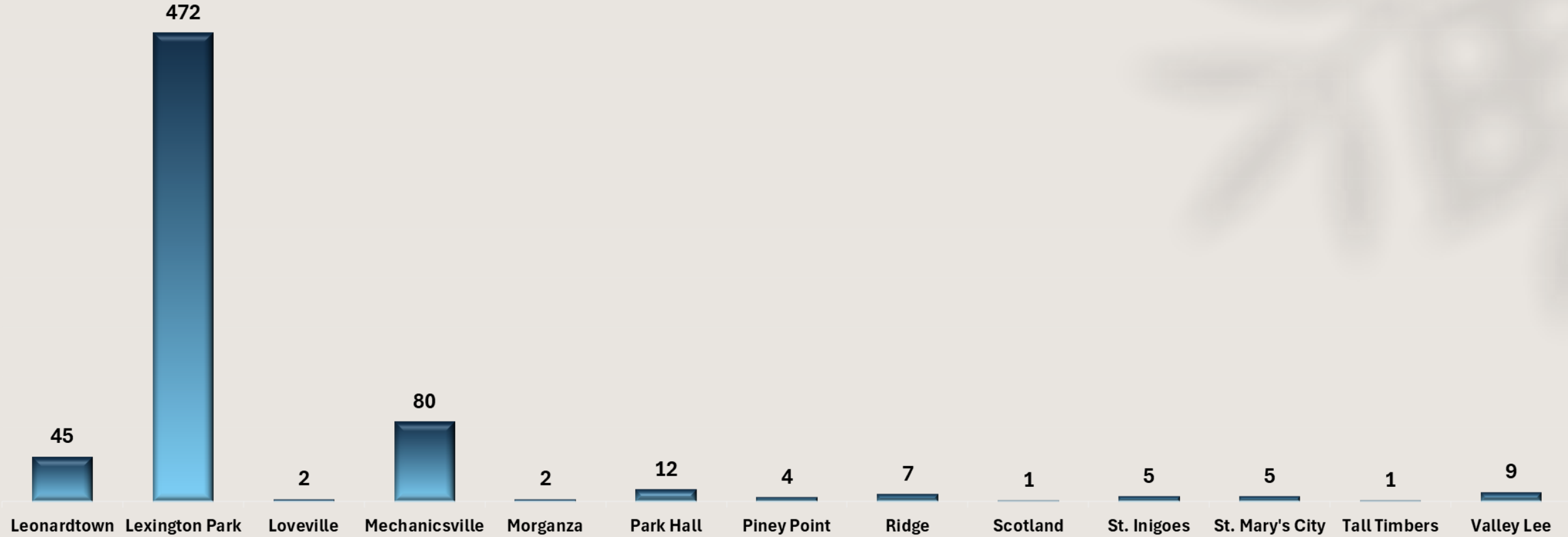


# 2018 - 2024 GUN CRIMES BY CITY



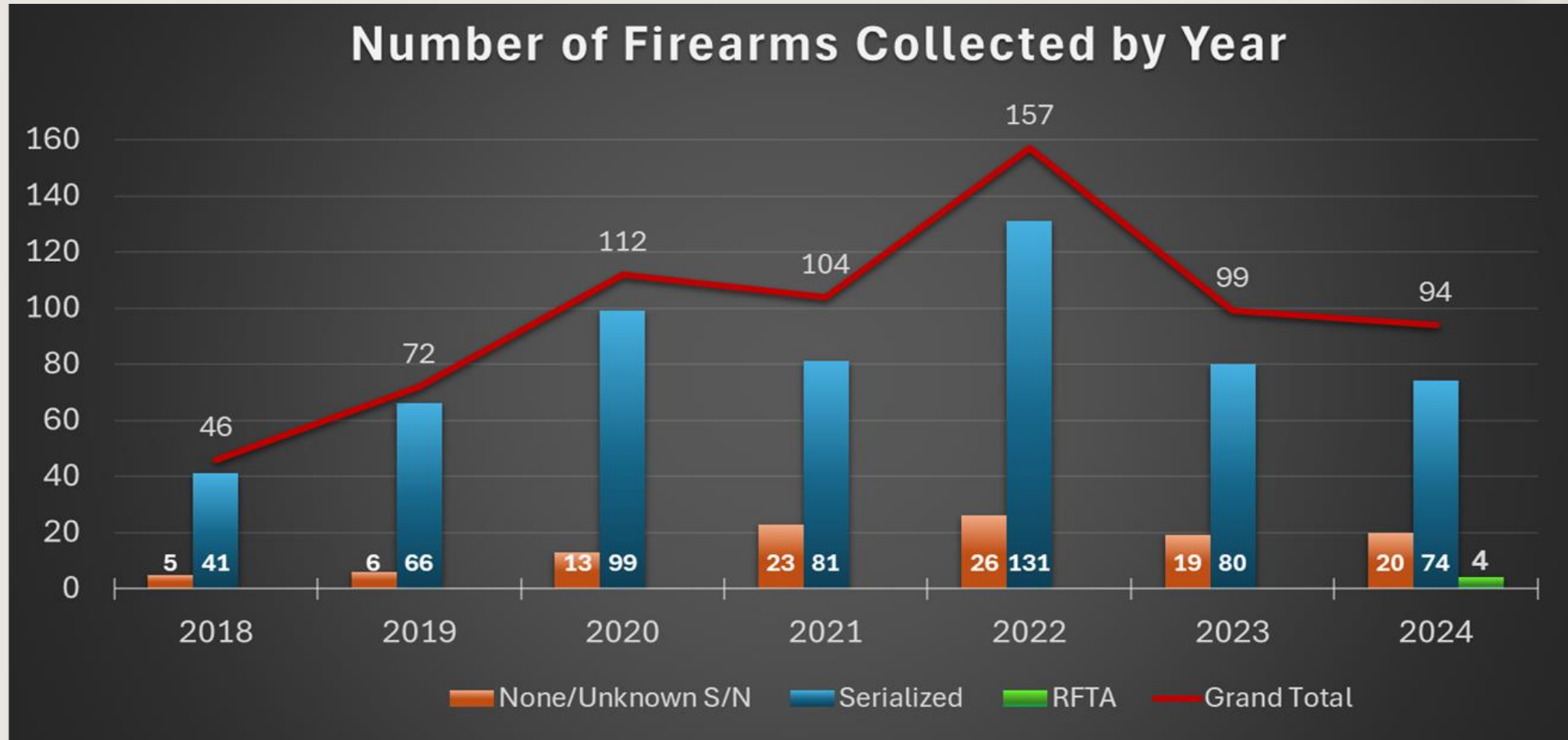


# 2018 - 2024 GUN CRIMES BY CITY





# 2018 – 2024 Firearms Collected from Gun Crimes



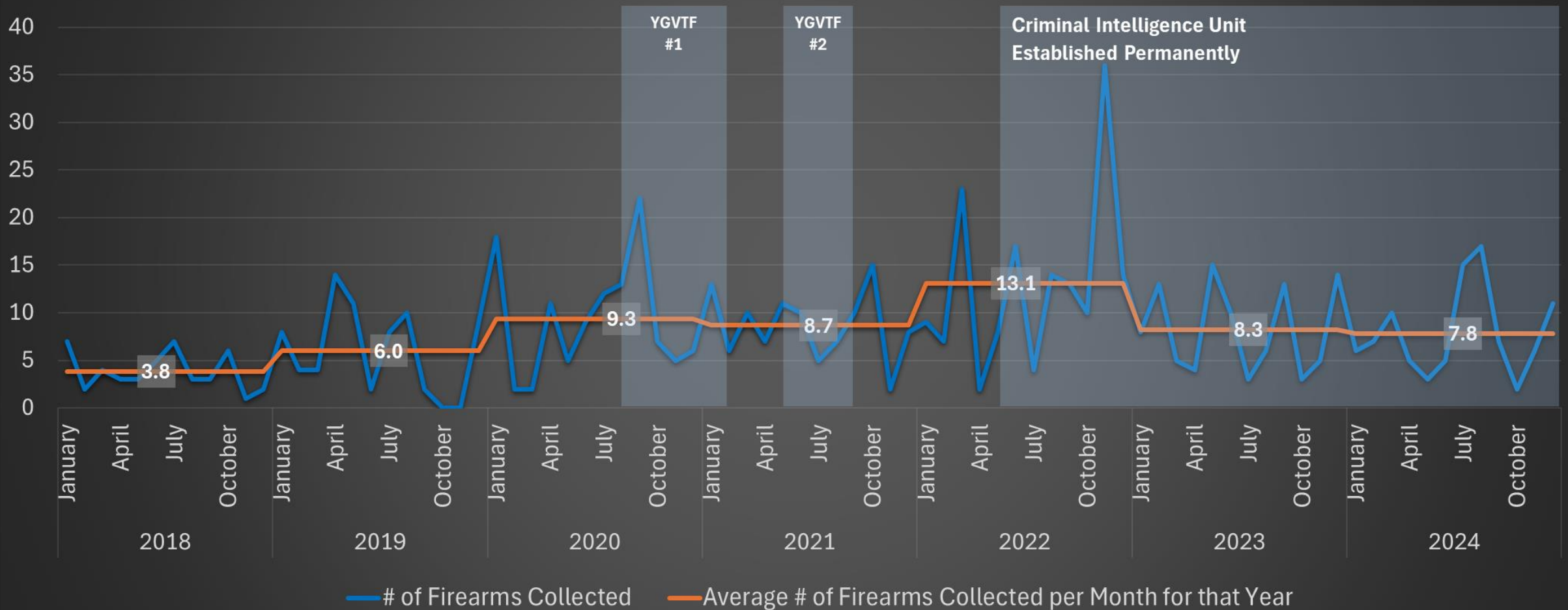
The following data was excluded from the count above as they were singular anomalies that would have skewed the results depicted:

- 2018 - One case in which 96 firearms (33 lowers) were collected
- 2024 - One case in which 80 firearms and 122 RFTAs were collected
- 2024 - One case in which SMCSO assisted the ATF and 109 firearms were collected



# 2018 – 2024 Firearms Collected from Gun Crimes

## Number of Firearms Collected Per Month





# CORRECTIONS DIVISION

- **Detention and Rehabilitation Center**

- The following is data from Gun Related Charges of Incarcerated Individuals in custody of the Sheriff's Office.

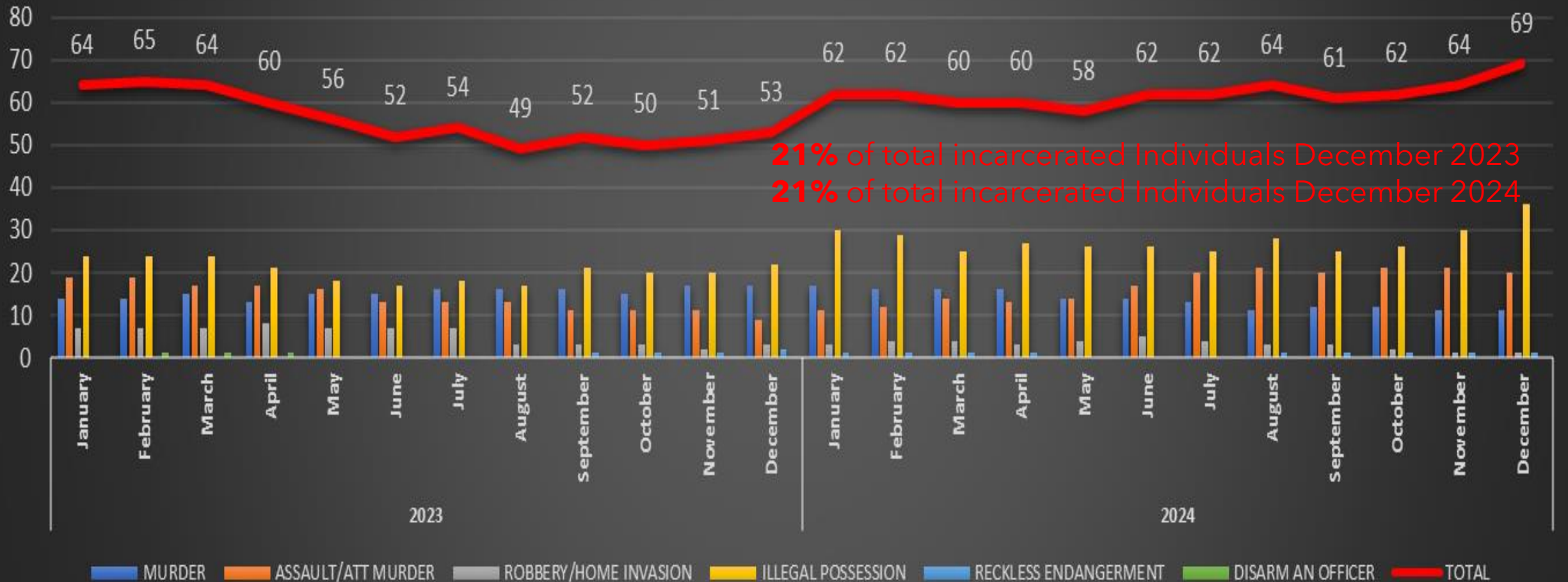
- **Incarcerated Status**

- **Awaiting Trial** - Charged, not convicted
- **Pre-Sentence Investigation** - Found guilty, awaiting sentencing
- **Local Sentence** - Sentenced to the local detention center (up to 18 months)
- **State Sentence** - Sentenced to the State Department of Corrections (state prison, periods over 18 months)



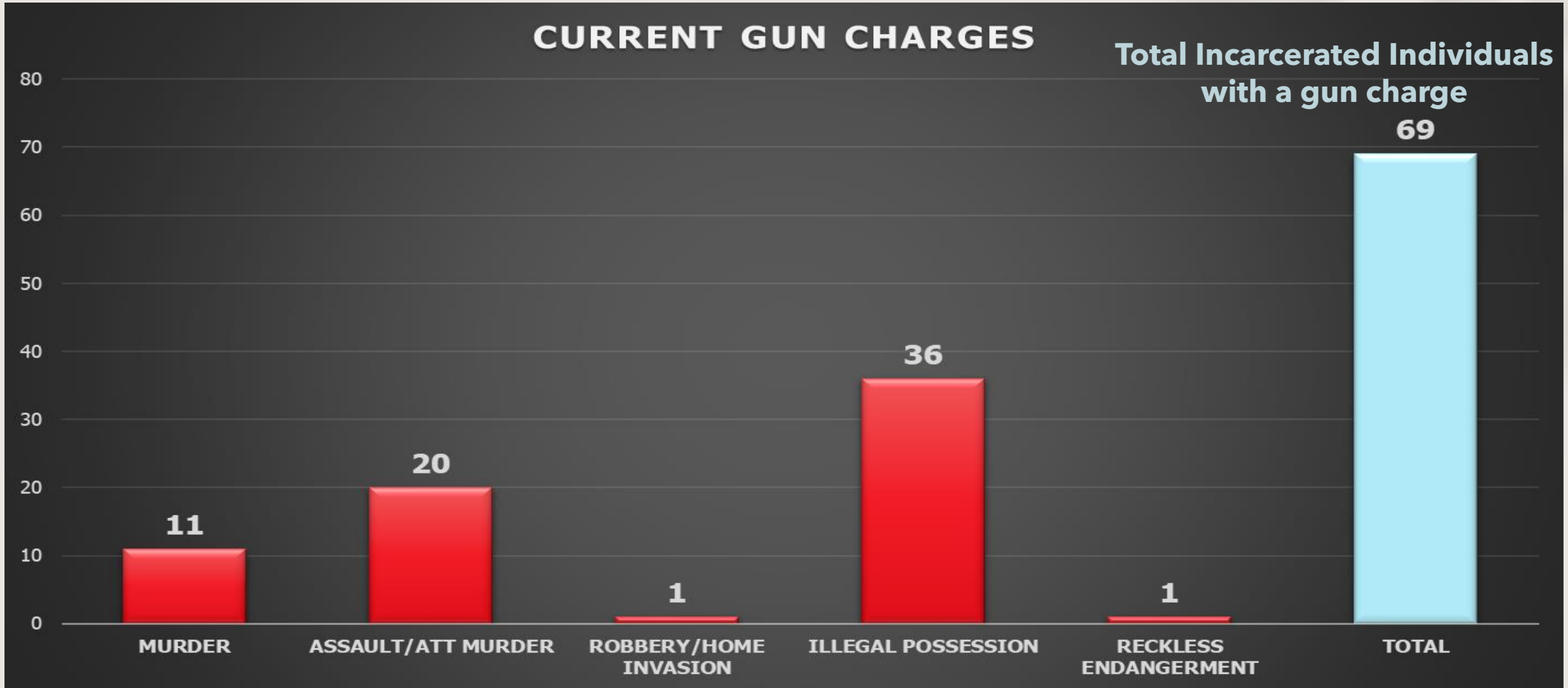
Office of the Sheriff  
 St. Mary's County, Maryland  
 Corrections Division  
**IN CUSTODY GUN CHARGES**  
 2023 and 2024

# GUN CHARGES 2023 and 2024





Office of the Sheriff  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Corrections Division  
**IN CUSTODY GUN CHARGES**  
CURRENT December 31, 2024

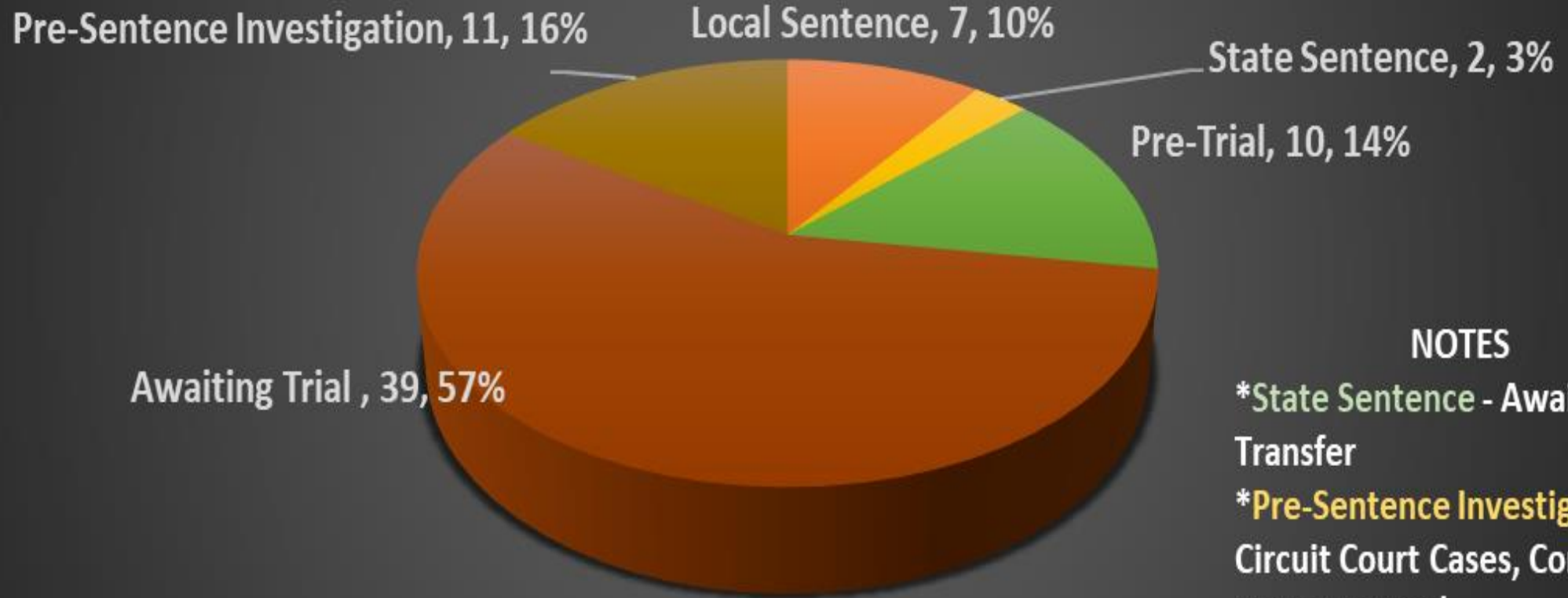






Office of the Sheriff  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Corrections Division  
**IN CUSTODY GUN CHARGES**  
CURRENT December 31, 2024

## INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL STATUS



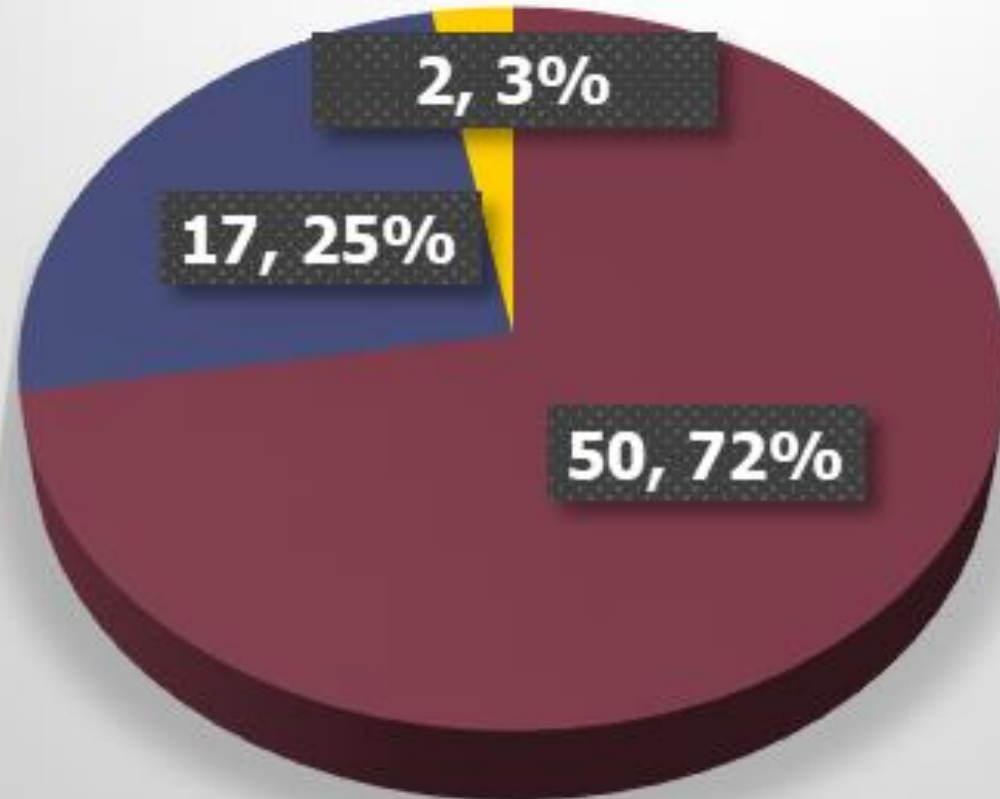
### NOTES

- \*State Sentence - Awaiting Transfer
- \*Pre-Sentence Investigation - Circuit Court Cases, Convicted, not sentenced



Office of the Sheriff  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Corrections Division  
**IN CUSTODY GUN CHARGES**  
CURRENT December 31, 2024

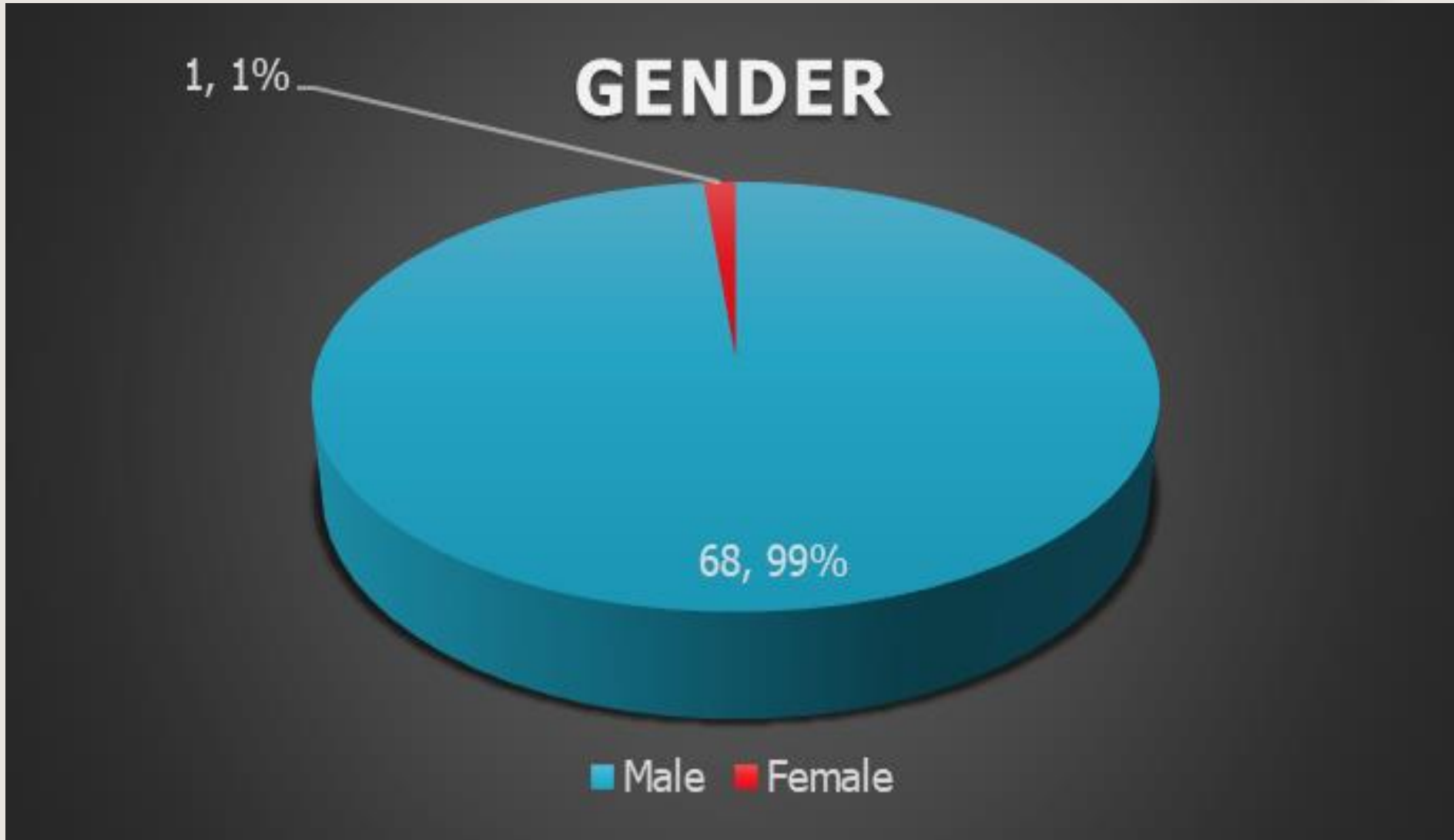
# RACE



- African American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic



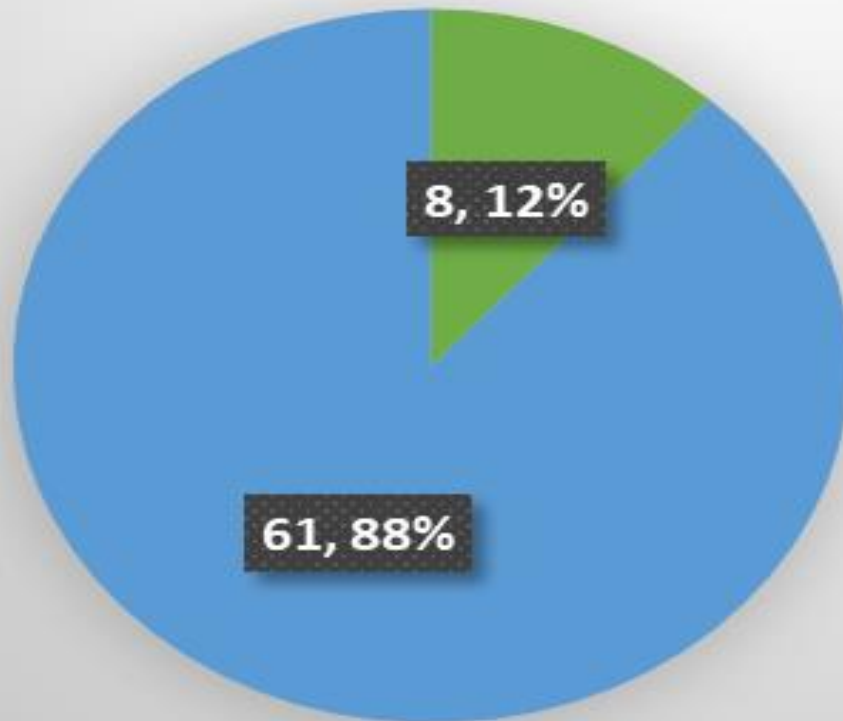
Office of the Sheriff  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Corrections Division  
**IN CUSTODY GUN CHARGES**  
CURRENT December 31, 2024





Office of the Sheriff  
St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Corrections Division  
**IN CUSTODY GUN CHARGES**  
CURRENT December 31, 2024

## JUVENILES CHARGED AS ADULTS WITH GUN CHARGES

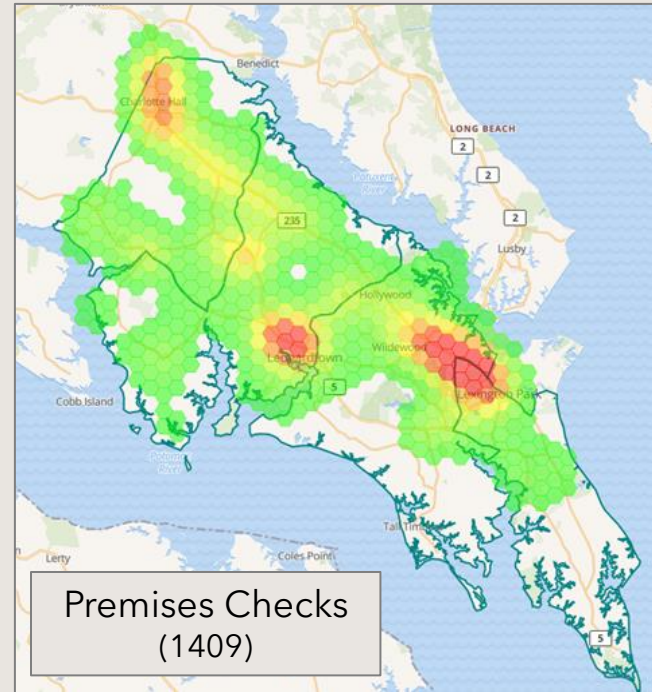
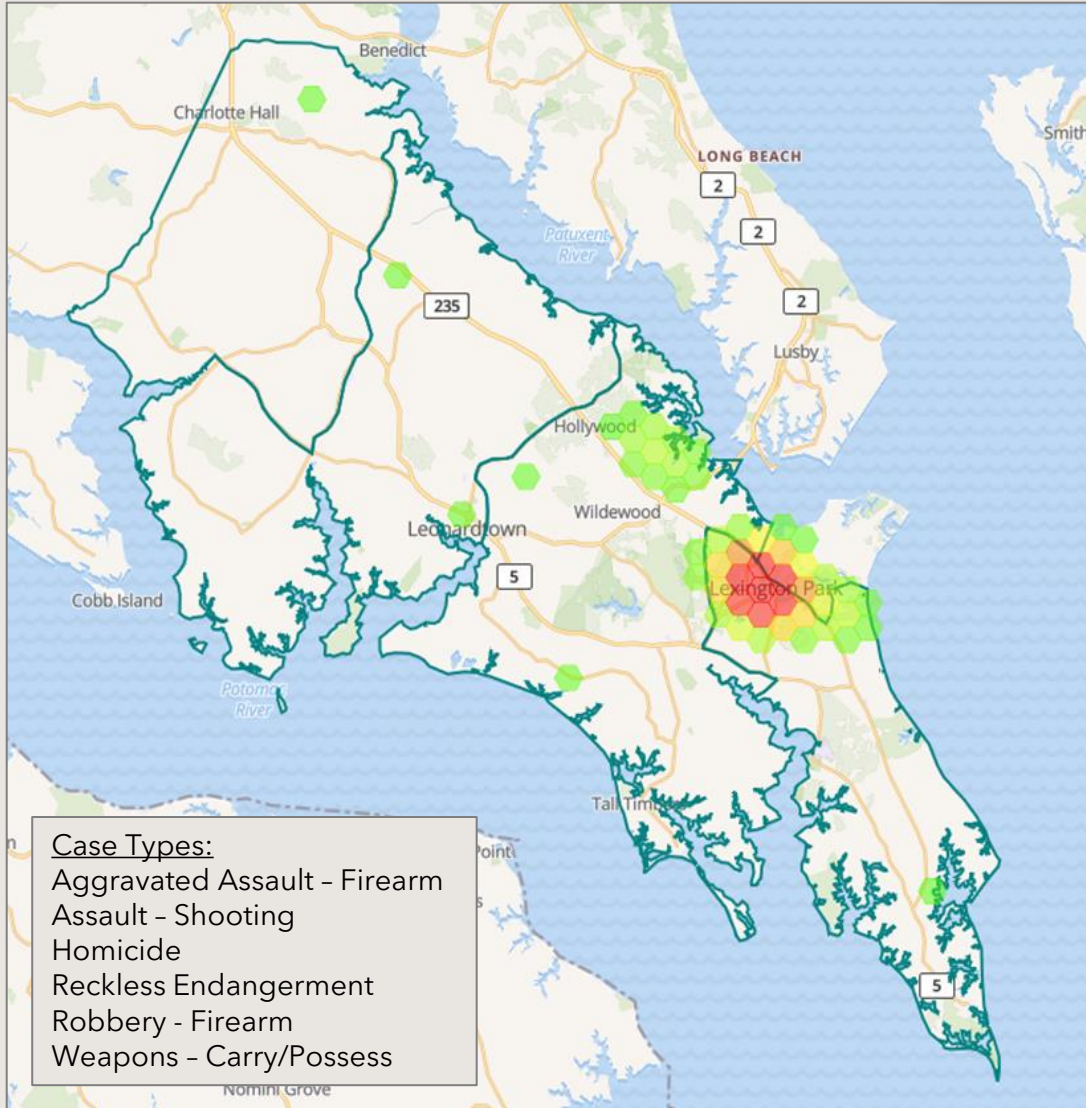


- Juveniles Charged as Adults
- 18 years of age and older

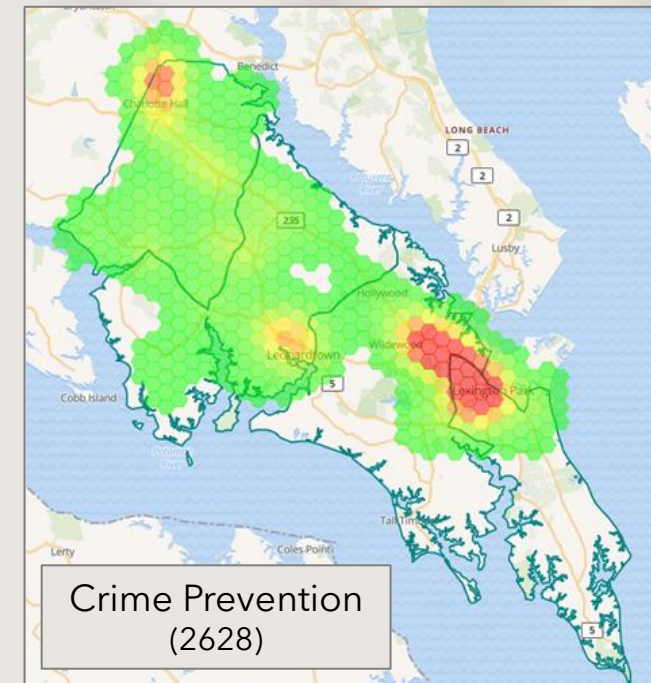
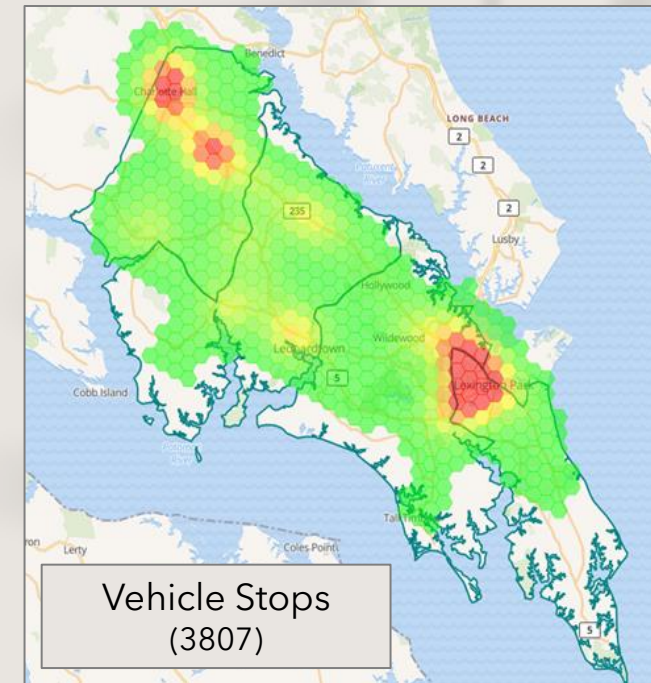


# Patrol – 4th Quarter 2024

## Firearm Related Crimes



## Patrol Activity





# Youth Gun Violence Task Force

- In late 2020, the Sheriff's Office recognized the pressing need for a specialized unit to address the precipitous rise in gun violence in St. Mary's County.
- The Sheriff's Office knew much of the gun violence was being perpetrated by youth (federally defined as 7-25 years of age) in the community. Recognizing that traditional policing methods, such as saturation patrol, would not effectively address the issue due to the age of the perpetrators and the nature of their crimes, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Youth Gun Violence Task Force was established in May 2021.
- The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Youth Gun Violence Task Force was created as a collaborative effort that leveraged several law enforcement partners including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Maryland State Police (MSP) and the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County.
- The task force, from its inception, was designed to be a temporary (approximately 90 day) initiative, whose responsibility was to create a lasting effect in the community by identifying and apprehending those who are responsible for perpetrating gun violence.
- At the conclusion of the 90 days, the task force was responsible for executing 105 search and seizure warrants, seizing 19 firearms, and effectuated 65 arrests.



# Youth Gun Violence Task Force / Criminal Intelligence Unit

- Despite the YGVTF's success, the Sheriff's Office recognized that lasting firearm violence reduction requires more than a law enforcement only approach, and that harnessing our community partnerships, and engaging the strengths of our community leaders would be necessary for long term success.
- In the months that followed the conclusion of task force, firearm violence again began to rise and the need for a permanent unit was recognized.
- On May 13, 2022, the Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) was created and assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division.
- The unit aims to continue the objectives established by the task force while also focusing on long-term firearm/violent crime reduction.



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- Traditional policing strategies have proven to be ineffective when dealing with firearm / violent crimes. Understanding this, the Sheriff's Office implemented the Group Violence Intervention Program, which the CIU administers along with its community partners. GVI is an evidence-based strategy created by the National Network for Safer Communities at John Jay College.
- Understanding that a law enforcement only approach would ultimately prove ineffective, the Sheriff's Office has partnered with the following organizations for the implementation of the Group Violence Intervention Program:
  - The St. Mary's County Health Department
  - The St. Mary's County Department of Juveniles Services
  - The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
  - The St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office
  - Community leaders to include faith-based





# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- The GVI model utilizes the resources and capabilities already established within our community and focuses on the root causes surrounding firearm-related/violent crime:
  - Distressed Families
  - Education
  - Job opportunities
  - Housing

**EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOTLINES**  
For all medical and behavioral health emergencies, Call 911.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline  
Call or Text 988

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office  
301-475-8008

Adult/Child Protective Services  
240-895-7000

Community Behavioral Health Warmline  
410-768-5522

**FOOD RESOURCES**  
Scan the QR code below to access the St. Mary's County Food Connection Map!

**SCAN ME**

**GROUP VIOLENCE OUTREACH RESOURCES**

A. 21580 Peabody St.  
P. Leonardtown, MD 20650  
M. 301-475-4330  
W. smchd.healthdept@maryland.gov  
smchd.org

A. 23150 Leonard Hall Dr.  
P. Leonardtown, MD 20650  
M. 301-475-8848  
W. firstsheriff.com

**HOUSING SUPPORT**

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services  
240-895-7000

Housing Authority of St. Mary's County  
301-866-6590

Three Oaks Center  
301-863-9535

Gayle's House  
1-866-293-0623

WARM "Wrapping Arms Round Many" Program  
240-895-7000

Angel's Watch Shelter  
301-274-0680

**LEGAL SERVICES**

Center for Family Advocacy  
301-863-8500

SOMD Legal Aid Bureau  
301-274-1922 ext. 400

**MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE**

Beacon of Hope Recovery and Wellness Center  
240-298-0212  
firstrecoverysond.org

Pathways  
301-373-3065  
pathwaysinc.org

Center for Children  
301-475-9315  
center-for-children.org

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH HUB**

A community partnership that aims to address social determinants of health, by increasing access to mental and physical health services, connecting residents to key services that promote equity, and providing community support and financial well-being coaching to help residents achieve their educational and occupational goals.

301-904-8949  
smchd.org/hub

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Hope of Southern Maryland  
301-737-2870

St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services  
301-475-4200

Lifestyles of Maryland  
St. Mary's Office  
240-237-8236

Three Oaks Center  
301-863-9535

St. Mary's County Department of Social Services  
240-895-7000

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

LPUMC Clothes Closet  
301-863-8500

St. Mary's County JobSource  
301-274-1922 ext. 400



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- The GVI Executive Board meets on a semiannual basis to discuss program updates, the program's progress and ensures the program has the necessary resources. The Executive Board consists of members from:
  - The Sheriff's Office
  - The St. Mary's County Health Department
  - The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
  - The St. Mary's County State's Attorneys Office
  - The St. Mary's County Department of Juvenile Services
  - The St. Mary's County Mediation Center



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- The GVI Administrative team meets weekly to discuss program updates, disseminate relevant information, and coordinate upcoming events.
- The GVI Administrative Team also meets bi-weekly for a Shooting Review.
  - The Shooting Review provides an opportunity for the Sheriff's Office representative to discuss recent shootings that have occurred in St. Mary's County.
  - During the review, shootings that are related to group violence are discussed as well as the location and the known subjects involved.
  - These shooting reviews are used to paint a clear picture of the group violence related incidents, in hopes of identifying those at risk of being victimized or perpetrating firearm violence within our community.



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- Once a month, the GVI Notification Team will go into the community to make *Custom Notifications*. These *Custom Notifications* are made to individuals who have been identified as being potential victims or potential perpetrators of firearm violence.
- When making notifications, the GVI team begins by explaining the GVI Program, the partners involved in the program, and the desire to ensure they are successful and safe. The team then makes the custom notification, highlighting the Consequences, Opportunities, Responsibility, and ultimately Empowering these individuals to make intelligent decisions to divert them away from a life involving firearm violence to ensure they stay safe and alive. This notification method is referred to as the C.O.R.E model.
  - Consequences
  - Opportunity
  - Responsibility
  - Empowerment



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- Consequences:
- In this brief segment of the GVI notification, law enforcement communicates directly with the identified individual.
- The recipient is informed of their identification as someone who is at risk of gun violence, with law enforcement acknowledging their awareness of the recipient's identity.
- The message underscores a zero-tolerance stance towards firearm violence in our community.
- Law enforcement explains that living a life involved in perpetuating firearm violence subjects them to a great deal of danger. Officers explain there are significant consequences to their choices and actions, including criminal charges which, if convicted, carry significant incarceration terms.
- The most important portion of the law enforcement message to the recipient, is that both law enforcement and the community are invested in their success, safety, and overall well-being.



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- Opportunity:
- This segment of the GVI notification is presented by the Health Department. In this section, the emphasis is on the community's desire for the recipient's safety, well-being, and freedom.
- The Health Department also explores the opportunities available to the recipient, including assistance with housing, financial support, legal services, and various other opportunities that may assist them and ultimately divert them away from the decision to become involved in firearm violence.
- These services aim to eliminate any hindrances faced by recipients, with the hope that utilizing these resources will effectively clear the path forward to ensure they remain safe and alive.



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- Responsibilities:
- This recurring element of the GVI notification serves as a straightforward reminder, consistently reiterated throughout the Custom Notification.
- It emphasizes the fundamental principle that the recipient holds the ultimate responsibility for their actions and choices.
- Whether opting to engage in firearm violence, associating with individuals involved in such actions, or availing themselves to the provided services, the recipient is reminded that they bear responsibility for the outcomes of their decisions.



# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- Empowerment:
- Community leaders, including faith-based figures, such as Pastor Bell and Pastor Smith, take the stage in this section of the notification.
- Their primary role is to empower the recipient and offer a supportive space, recognizing that not everyone requires housing, financial, or legal assistance.
- Several meaningful and lasting connections have been made since the first notification.





# Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI)

- The original GVI notification team comprised of an officer with the CIU, a Health Department employee and a faith-based community leader.
- On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the GVI team made the first custom notification. Since that day, 49 notifications have been made.
- Recently, an additional community leader, John Smith, was added to the team, as well as Marcus Johnson, a street outreach worker with the Health Department.
- Additional info about the GVI program can be found at <https://gvi.smchd.org/>





# Community Violence Prevention Day

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Heart. Science. Service.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GROUP VIOLENCE TEAM IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESENTS:

**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION DAY**  
**END THE CYCLE**

**STOP  
GUN  
VIOLENCE!**

FREE GUNLOCKS AND  
GUN SAFES WHILE  
SUPPLIES LAST!  
PHOTO BOOTH  
AND SWEET TREATS

JOIN US IN TAKING A STAND TODAY!  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2024**  
12 PM - 4 PM

Nicolet Park  
21777 Bunker Hill Drive  
Lexington Park, MD 20653

UNITE AND WEAR  
ORANGE

Food Trucks - Music - Activities  
Face Painting - Games

The poster features a black handgun with an orange prohibition sign over it in the top left corner. The background is white with orange splatters and a lined paper texture. Logos for the St. Mary's County Health Department and Sheriff's Office are in the top right. The main title "STOP GUN VIOLENCE!" is in large, bold, black and orange letters. A list of activities is in a black box on the left, and the date and time are in orange and black text. The location is in black text, and a call to action "UNITE AND WEAR ORANGE" is in a white box with a black border. A list of activities is in a black box at the bottom.



# HELP US COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE

If you have a tip about guns, shootings, or any crime that has occurred in St. Mary's County please contact the Sheriff's Office, Crime Solvers, or submit ANONYMOUS tips online:

**CRIME SOLVERS HOTLINE 301-475-3333**

**CRIME SOLVERS TEXT LINE 274637**

- Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND
- After receiving a response, continue the conversation
- Note: "Tip239" is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown

**SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS TIP ONLINE**

- Go to [www.firstsheriff.com](http://www.firstsheriff.com)
- Click on "Resources" in the top right-hand corner
- Select "Crime"
- Select "TipSoft"
- Submit an ANONYMOUS tip

You may also go directly to the City Protect website to submit the anonymous tip:  
<https://www.cityprotect.com/forms/stmarysmd.com/anonymous>



Stay up-to-date by following our official social media platforms and website.



firstsheriff



@firstsheriff



firstsheriff



@first-sheriff



[www.firstsheriff.com](http://www.firstsheriff.com)