



THE EDUCATIONAL FUND TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence recognizes that we must engage impacted communities – specifically communities of color – in our work to reduce gun deaths.

Through our Engaging Impacted Communities program we develop authentic relationships with community leaders and organizers, host advocacy workshops, and build community-driven advocacy networks.

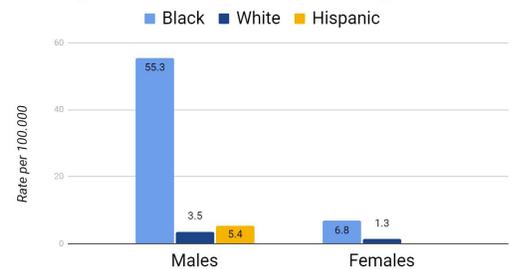
VIRGINIA ENGAGING IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

THE PROBLEM:

Gun violence is highly concentrated within neighborhoods composed of predominantly Black and Hispanic/Latino residents. These neighborhoods face a host of systemic inequalities – hypersegregation, discrimination, lack of economic opportunities, and under-resourced public services – that fuel gun violence.

As a result, young Black and Hispanic/Latino Americans are disproportionately impacted by gun violence. Homicide is the leading cause of death for Black males ages 15 to 34 and the second most common cause of death for Hispanic men ages 15 to 34. Black females ages 15 to 34 are nearly seven times more likely than their non-Hispanic White counterparts to be murdered by firearms.

Virginia Firearm Homicide Rate Ages 15-34



OUR APPROACH

We use a public health and equity lens to partner with impacted communities. Working with impacted communities of color we identify and implement evidence-based policy and programs to reduce gun violence.

To accomplish these aims we first build genuine relationships with community members. We then use our research-based **Education to Action toolkit** to turn these relationships into self-sustaining **Community Advocacy Networks (CANs)**. We facilitate dialogue between the **CANs** and key stakeholders in research and policy development allowing individuals from impacted communities to advocate for policies to reduce gun violence.



The **Education to Action program** mobilizes and trains community members to advocate for policies that reduce gun violence. This toolkit and workshop highlight how advocacy for evidence-based gun violence prevention policies is linked to a broader set of community concerns. It acts as an organizing tool to facilitate increased outreach, involvement, and empowerment within the community.

Community Advocacy Networks (CANs) are advocacy groups from communities statewide that advance an evidence-based, holistic approach to tackle gun violence in communities of color by hosting skills building workshops and events that bring together law enforcement, community members, faith leaders, researchers, and politicians. They create a space for individuals to become active leaders within their communities, fighting for policies that will build healthy communities free of violence and inequity.

ENGAGING IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

The **Engaging Impacted Communities program** provides **CANs** with the latest gun violence prevention research and data. Our programming fosters discussions about equity and gun violence prevention research and policy. We invite leading researchers in the field of public health, law, and policy to engage in dialogue with community members impacted by daily gun violence. These connections allow community members to more effectively use research in their advocacy efforts and researchers to consider equity considerations when conducting their research.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, email van@efsgv.org

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (Ed Fund) is a 501(c)(3) affiliate organization of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence is a public health think tank that identifies and implements evidence-based policy solutions to reduce gun injury and death in all its forms.