



# White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention

## YEAR ONE PROGRESS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024



THE WHITE HOUSE  
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## **Overview**

This report outlines the Biden-Harris Administration's progress to reduce gun crime and other forms of gun violence since President Biden established the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, overseen by Vice President Harris, on September 22, 2023. On that day, President Biden directed the office to coordinate a government-wide and nation-wide effort to save lives and tasked the office with four key responsibilities:

- 1) Expedite implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and already-announced executive actions;
- 2) Coordinate more support for survivors of gun violence;
- 3) Identify new executive actions; and
- 4) Expand our coalition of partners in states and cities across the country.

This report provides a summary, but not an exhaustive list, of key actions that fall under each of these four objectives.

## **Background: The Biden-Harris Record of Gun Violence Prevention**

The Biden-Harris Administration's work to reduce gun violence started long before President Biden established the new office. After the prior administration oversaw the largest one-year increase in murders ever recorded, President Biden and Vice President Harris took action from the start of their Administration to reduce violent crime. Because firearms are used in approximately 80% of murders in the United States, addressing gun crime is essential to addressing violent crime. President Biden and Vice President Harris secured funding through the American Rescue Plan for law enforcement and community violence interventions, and they announced executive actions to keep guns out of dangerous hands. By the middle of 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration had already taken more executive actions to reduce gun violence than any other administration. On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the most significant gun violence prevention law in nearly 30 years. Year-over-year comparison shows that 2023 likely had the single largest homicide rate drop in recent history.

After two and a half years of significant progress, President Biden and Vice President Harris's next step was to establish a White House office dedicated to coordinating across the federal government and partnering with gun violence survivors, law enforcement, state and local officials, and community leaders on our shared goal of reducing gun violence. Over the past year, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken additional life-saving action and the reduction in homicides has only accelerated, with the Department of Justice reporting that, from January to June, homicides dropped 17% compared to the same time last year. In addition, data from the Gun Violence Archive indicates that the number of mass shootings to date in 2024 has decreased by 20 percent compared to the same period last year.

Lives are being saved, but there is still so much more to do. At the direction of President Biden and Vice President Harris, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and the entire Biden-Harris Administration will continue to do the work of reducing gun violence and supporting survivors every day.

*“I’ve spent countless hours meeting with families impacted by gun violence as they mourn their loved ones. They’ve all had the same simple message for their elected officials: ‘do something.’ Vice President Harris and I responded to their call: I signed the most significant gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years, and we announced dozens of executive actions to reduce gun violence. But we knew more was needed. That’s why I established the first-ever White Office of Gun Violence Prevention, overseen by the Vice President. In just one year, it has accelerated my Administration’s efforts to reduce gun violence and save lives.”*

President Joseph R. Biden



*“President Biden and I have worked to address the epidemic of gun violence with the urgency it demands by enacting the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – the most significant gun safety law in nearly 30 years – and launching the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention. In the year since President Biden asked me to oversee this office, our Administration has improved and expanded background checks, announced the single largest investment in youth mental health in history, and been an unprecedented resource to states, cities, and local communities. We have also supported, convened, and worked alongside gun violence survivors, the families of those who have lost loved ones to shootings, and other impacted individuals to tackle the trauma caused by gun violence. I am committed to continuing this urgent work to ensure that every person in our nation has the freedom to live safe from gun violence.”*

Vice President Harris

## **Expediting the Implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and Executive Actions to Address Gun Violence**

### *Implementing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*

In June 2024, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention published a comprehensive [report](#) on implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), which President Biden signed into law in June 2022. In just the one year since President Biden established the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the Biden-Harris Administration has made the following progress to implement BSCA:

- **Expanding Gun Background Checks and Making Clear the Gun Show Loophole Does Not Exist:** BSCA expanded the definition of who must become a licensed gun dealer and run background checks before transferring a firearm. In April 2024, the Department of Justice finalized a [rule](#) that implements this BSCA provision by making clear the circumstances in which a person is “engaged in the business” of dealing in firearms and thus required to become a licensed dealer that must run background checks and keep records of firearm transaction to assist with the tracing of firearms recovered at crime scenes. By making clear the circumstances when someone is dealing firearms, the rule will increase compliance with the law and keep our communities safe. As Vice President Harris [said](#), “all gun dealers must now conduct background checks no matter where or how they sell their merchandise.” The rule also makes clear that the gun show loophole does not exist. The Department of Justice estimates that over 20,000 unlicensed sellers are engaged in the business of firearm dealing through online advertisements, gun shows, and other means. These unlicensed sellers should be licensed and therefore conducting background checks.
- **Enhancing Gun Background Checks for Individuals Under Age 21:** BSCA establishes enhanced background checks for individuals under age 21 seeking to obtain firearms from federally licensed gun dealers. Over the past year, the Administration focused on working to ensure that state and local officials are providing the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) with relevant juvenile records solely for the purpose of the enhanced background check. The Administration raised awareness of this new NICS process and worked with states on fixing any legal impediments to sharing this information. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, through NICS, has now conducted over 300,000 enhanced background checks of individuals under 21, denying over 3,500 of those transactions. Of that total, the enhanced checks alone are responsible for a quarter of all denials. Nearly 900 firearms transfers to individuals under age 21 have been denied because of BSCA.
- **Enforcing Gun Trafficking and Straw Purchasing Laws:** In the past year, the Department of Justice hit new enforcement milestones as it seeks to prevent the flow of illegal firearms into our communities. The Department has now charged more than 600 defendants using BSCA’s new gun trafficking and straw purchasing laws. In November 2023, the U.S. Sentencing Commission finalized new [sentencing guidelines](#) that responded to the directive in BSCA to increase certain firearms penalties for straw purchasing, trafficking in firearms, and organized crime affiliation, and consider a decrease to account for straw purchasers with mitigating circumstances (e.g., any domestic violence survivor history).
- **Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Abusive Dating Partners:** BSCA narrowed the so-called “boyfriend loophole” by prohibiting a person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence against a person with whom they were in a dating relationship from

purchasing or possessing firearms for at least five years. The Justice Department has conducted extensive trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts on the new law and published a [resource card](#) for court systems and law enforcement to help them understand this change in the law. The Department is working with states to help ensure that the records of these abusive dating partners are available to NICS and that the records have sufficient information about the intimate partner relationship to assess if the relationship qualifies as a dating relationship under federal law. More broadly, so far this year the gun background check system has blocked over 4,600 sales to individuals convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.

- **Implementing State Red Flag Laws:** State Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, also known as red flag laws, are an effective tool to temporarily remove firearms from an individual a court determines is a danger to themselves or others. However, these laws are only effective if people know when and how to use them. BSCA includes \$750 million for states to implement crisis interventions such as red flag laws. However, by March 2024, only six states had accessed BSCA’s crisis intervention funding for the purpose of implementing red flag laws. After Vice President Harris visited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, to walk through the building where the 2018 mass shooting took place and meet with families who lost loved ones in that tragedy, she [called on states](#) to use BSCA funding to implement red flag laws. The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention followed up on her call to action by extensively engaging states. As a result, 15 states are now already using or planning to use BSCA’s crisis intervention funding to increase effective use of red flag laws.
- **Establishing the Extreme Risk Protection Order Resource Center:** BSCA provided funding for the establishment of the first-ever National Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Resource Center to support the implementation of state red flag laws. In March 2024, Vice President Harris [announced](#) the launch of this [ERPO Resource Center](#). The ERPO Resource Center (erpo.org) has been assisting states, local governments, law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys, judges, clinicians, victim service providers, and behavioral health and other social service providers in optimizing the use of red flag laws.
- **Identifying Stolen Guns:** The Department of Justice published an [interim final rule](#) to implement the provision of BSCA that allows a licensed gun dealer to search the records of stolen firearms in the National Crime Information Center to determine whether a firearm the dealer is acquiring is reported as stolen. This change will disincentivize individuals from stealing guns by making it more difficult for them to sell stolen guns to pawn shops.
- **Investing in Youth Mental Health:** BSCA provided a historic \$1 billion in funding for mental health supports in K-12 schools. In January 2024, the Department of Education released its latest installment of BSCA funding (\$285 million) to support efforts to hire and train 14,000 mental health professionals in schools over five years. This program is the single largest investment in student mental health in our country’s history. Vice President Harris [traveled](#) to Charlotte, North Carolina, to meet with students who experienced gun violence and announce these new investments. To help ensure the funds support the training and hiring of professionals who represent the communities they serve, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Department of Education [convened](#) leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country to increase awareness about the availability of this new funding. Also in January 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, [announced](#) \$50 million in

BSCA-funded grants for states to connect children to health care services, including mental health services, at school. Recognizing the need to strengthen and diversify the mental health workforce, including to address the trauma caused by gun violence, Vice President Harris also issued a call-to-action for young leaders to enter the mental health professions during her nationwide “Fight for Our Freedoms” college tour.

- **Investing in Safer Communities:** On September 28, 2023, the Department of Justice [announced](#) it was awarding over \$4.4 billion to support community safety, with a significant portion of that funding coming from BSCA. These awards included more than \$90 million for community violence interventions, over \$150 million for school safety, and \$140 million to strengthen the federal gun background check system.

### *Implementing Executive Actions*

By the time President Biden established the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the Biden-Harris Administration had already announced approximately 40 executive actions related to gun safety. While implementation of some of those actions was complete, the new office took charge of expediting implementation of the remaining actions. Examples of this implementation work are described below.

- **Promoting Safe Storage of Firearms:** In 2023, President Biden signed an Executive Order directing multiple agencies to promote safe firearm storage. Over the past year, agencies have taken meaningful action in response to this directive. For example:
  - In January 2024, the Department of Justice released a comprehensive [guide to safe storage](#) of firearms to help educate parents and families on the issue and ensure youth in crisis do not have access to firearms. The Department of Homeland Security added this resource to *SchoolSafety.gov*. The Department of Justice also published a [model safe storage](#) law to facilitate state efforts to enact legislation requiring gun owners to safely store their firearms. The model state legislation includes a provision to hold gun owners accountable if they fail to safely store their weapons.
  - The Department of Education sent a [letter](#) to school principals across the country, highlighting the importance of safe storage and the role school leaders can play to raise awareness of the importance of families and caregivers safely storing their firearms. The Department also shared a [communications template](#) principals can use to engage community members on safe firearm storage. The Department of Homeland Security added this resource to *SchoolSafety.gov*.
  - The Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, published papers on how safe storage and lethal means counseling can meaningfully prevent [suicide](#) and [unintentional injury](#) of children and teens. The Assistant Secretary for the Mental Health and Substance Use [wrote about](#) how safe storage of firearms is a critical component of comprehensive suicide prevention efforts. The Department of Health and Human Services also released an updated [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) and a Federal Action Plan that specifically highlights lethal means safety and, for the first time, explicitly focuses on firearm safety as part of effective suicide prevention.
  - The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded safe storage options in its suicide prevention program. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Department created a Lockbox Distribution Program that for the first time will enable clinicians to provide at-risk

Veterans with lockboxes. The Department’s Office of Suicide Prevention continues to distribute cable locks and in Fiscal Year 2024 has already distributed more than one million of these cable locks.

- The Department of Agriculture incorporated safe gun storage into their suicide prevention program for the first time. The Department’s virtual and in-person trainings use lethal means safety training developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Vice President Harris has been pushing for robust safe storage laws and efforts across the country, including with [young leaders](#), advocates, and survivors in Las Vegas, Nevada, in April 2024.

- **Publishing Information Regarding Firearms Trafficking:** In 2021, President Biden announced that the Department of Justice would be issuing a comprehensive report on firearm trafficking. In 2024, the Department released [Volume 3](#) of the report. Volume 3 provided insights into gun trafficking patterns through an analysis of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive’s gun trafficking investigations. The report shines a light on where illegally trafficked guns originate.
- **Stopping the Threat of Undetectable Firearms:** In 2023, President Biden directed the Attorney General to work with Congress to reauthorize the Undetectable Firearms Act. This year, agencies teamed up to highlight the serious consequences that would come with the Act’s expiration. After securing Congress’s passage of the Undetectable Firearms Act reauthorization, President Biden signed the reauthorization into law in March 2024.
- **Preventing Firearms Developed for the Military from Being Sold to the Public:** In 2023, the President directed the Department of Defense to leverage its acquisition of firearms to further gun safety. In May 2024, in response to the President’s directive, the Department of Defense began requiring that, in planning acquisitions to develop new firearm technology, Department officials are to consider placing limitation on the future commercial sales of such newly-developed custom technology covered by the contract. As part of the decision-making in acquisition planning, the Department will consider the lethality of the Department-specific technologies and their possible effect on civilian safety.
- **Funding Community Violence Interventions:** Building on its already historic investments in community violence interventions, the Biden-Harris Administration secured another \$50 million in Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations for the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative, for a total investment of \$400 million in this program. While this initiative is solely dedicated to community violence interventions, many federal grant programs could support community violence interventions. To help community violence intervention programs navigate all of the relevant federal grant programs, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention published a [fact sheet](#) outlining these resources. The office also worked to inform hundreds of community violence intervention organizations, elected officials, and other community leaders about this funding through in-person and virtual briefings.

### **Improving Support for Survivors, Families, and Communities Impact by Gun Violence**

When the President announced the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, he remarked that “shootings are the ultimate superstorm” affecting communities throughout the country. He directed the new office to improve federal coordination of support for communities

and individuals impacted by gun violence, just like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) does when a natural disaster devastates a community.

Weeks after President Biden and Vice President Harris created the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, tragedy struck in the form of a mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine. To support the individuals and community affected by this shooting, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention coordinated federal agencies to make sure they were doing all they could to address the physical, emotional, and financial impacts. For example, the Biden-Harris Administration helped Lewiston by [deploying](#) a senior White House official from the office to serve on the ground as the primary federal contact, helping to set up a family assistance center, ensuring that sign language interpreters were available to assist the Deaf and hard of hearing community, producing informative videos in sign language with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and working with state officials trying to access federal emergency grants.

The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention then created the [first-ever federal gun violence emergency response team](#) to support communities in the wake of mass shootings and concentrated surges of gun violence. Before the launch of the emergency response team, the office hosted listening sessions with survivors of gun violence and community leaders impacted by violent tragedies in Buffalo, Uvalde, Parkland, Brooklyn Homes in Baltimore, Highland Park, and Columbine. The stories told in these sessions informed the structure and process of the emergency response team. The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention also convened federal agencies to assess what federal resources were already available and protocols for deployment of such resources to support communities during mass shootings and concentrated surges of gun violence.

The gun violence emergency response team has already taken action. When a significant incident of gun violence occurs, the members of the team reach out to their city or state counterparts to ask if any support is needed and provide that support, to the extent feasible. The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention convenes the team to ensure information-sharing across agencies regarding unmet community needs. For example, the gun violence emergency response team supported the community of Kansas City after the Super Bowl parade shooting and the City of Chicago after 119 people were shot during the July 4th weekend.

In the months ahead, the gun violence emergency response team will continue to help communities impacted by gun violence and identify what additional resources and authorities Congress needs to provide in order for the federal government to more effectively support these communities.

Over the past year, the President, the Vice President, the First Lady, and the Second Gentleman have all personally engaged with survivors of gun violence. For example, the President and First Lady visited Lewiston, Maine, to support the families of individuals killed or injured in the shooting. The Vice President traveled to Parkland, Florida, to tour the site of the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and [meet](#) with families of victims. This year, the Vice President also met with former [Congresswoman Gabby Giffords](#) and Trevon Bosley, both survivors of gun violence; [survivors](#) of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut; survivors of the shooting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; artist



[Quavo](#), a survivor of gun violence, and other gun violence prevention advocates in Atlanta, Georgia; and [middle school](#) students, parents, teachers, and counselors who experience the impacts of community gun violence in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Second Gentleman spoke at the National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence and attended an event to mark the groundbreaking to honor the victims of the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Over the past year, senior Biden-Harris Administration officials also traveled to support communities in their grief, including by traveling to Lewiston, Maine; Buffalo, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, California; El Paso, Texas; Parkland, Florida; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Uvalde, Texas; and at the National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence. These engagements ranged from private meetings with impacted families to public vigils where Administration officials read letters from the President and Vice President.

### **Identifying New Executive Actions to Combat Gun Violence**

Below are highlights of new executive actions the Biden-Harris Administration has announced over the past year to reduce gun violence and save lives.

- **Declaring Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis:** This year, the U.S. Surgeon General [declared](#) gun violence in America a public health crisis in the first-ever U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on gun violence. The advisory details the need for critical research investments, community risk reduction and prevention strategies, firearm risk reduction strategies, and mental health support that can help curb gun violence.
- **Restricting the Export of Firearms to Stop Arming Violence Abroad:** The Department of Commerce announced more [stringent standards on gun exports](#). These firearm export restrictions: 1) apply a “presumption of denial” for exports to non-government end users in over 35 countries where there is a substantial risk of firearms being diverted or misused; 2) require the Bureau of Industry and Security, with interagency partners, to increase scrutiny on each potential transaction to ensure firearms are only exported to trustworthy foreign entities, including by evaluating the lethality of the firearm being exported; and 3) refine the data collection practices so the Department of Commerce can track the types of firearms exported from the United States.
- **Disrupting Firearms Trafficking Networks:** The Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security have expanded firearms trafficking investigations to disrupt and dismantle networks that are transporting weapons illegally to drug traffickers, who use these firearms to grow their enterprises and move deadly drugs into the United States. Through Operation Southbound, the Department of Justice has employed a whole-of-government effort, consisting of nine interagency Firearms Trafficking Task Forces deployed in eight cities along the Southwest Border. This effort has led to an increase in both seizures and firearms trafficking investigations, allowing us to hold traffickers accountable and reduce gun violence.
- **Supporting State Efforts to Remove Firearms from Domestic Abusers:** To help keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, the Department of Justice expanded technical assistance and federal funding opportunities for state and local law enforcement programs that remove firearms from people who have been convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence or are subject to protective orders. The Department’s new resources—

which include training, toolkits, and best practices from the Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Firearms Technical Assistance Project—follow the Department’s recent publication of a [resource guide](#) that encourages states to use federal funds for law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts to address this critical intersection. North Carolina, for example, is pursuing opportunities to use federal funding to address firearms and domestic violence by creating training materials for judges, district attorneys, and survivors.

- **Mobilizing AmeriCorps Sites to Help Make Our Communities Safer:** AmeriCorps launched the [Safer America Network](#), consisting of nearly 400 AmeriCorps sites that are working to strengthen public safety and address the crisis of gun violence across the country. Vice President Harris and AmeriCorps Executive Director Michael D. Smith [announced](#) this initiative at the Rocket Summit with Grammy nominated artist Quavo. The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention presented at the AmeriCorps State and National Symposium to discuss the critical role AmeriCorps can play in addressing gun violence.
- **Improving Job Opportunities for Communities Impacted by Gun Violence:** The Department of Labor is making sure its workforce funding reaches communities impacted by gun violence. To highlight the availability of this funding, the White House hosted a [roundtable discussion](#) with Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, leaders from the Department of Labor, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, and workforce programs funded by the Department of Labor. In 2024, the Department of Labor awarded \$98 million in YouthBuild grants to 72 organizations in 30 states and Guam, and awarded \$47 million in Growth Opportunities grants to 14 organizations across nine states.
- **Expanding Access to Victims of Crime Act Funds:** The Department of Justice published a [proposed rule](#) that, if finalized, would break down barriers to accessing crime victims’ compensation funds nationwide for those impacted by crimes, including gun violence.

### **Expanding Partnerships to Reduce Gun Violence and Save Lives**

President Biden and Vice President Harris created the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention because they believe the challenge of gun violence prevention requires coordinated action by all of the federal departments and agencies. We need experts in the federal government working in law enforcement, civil rights, public health, workforce development, economic opportunity, national security, and education to all work together to address gun violence in a comprehensive manner. The White Office of Gun Violence Prevention has worked to build out this model not only at the federal level, but also at the city and state levels.

#### *Partnering with States and Cities*

Much of the day-to-day work of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention consists of one-on-one or small group meetings with state and city elected officials to help them navigate the wide range of federal resources that can be used to reduce and respond to gun violence. The office has also traveled to cities across the country to help advance city leaders’ work to save lives. For example, we spent a day with the Philadelphia Mayor Cherrille Parker’s public safety team, Philadelphia law enforcement, and community leaders to strategize how to continue the city’s progress to reduce gun violence. We also joined Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Rainey, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, U.S. Congresswoman Summer Lee, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Ceasefire PA, and over 100 community leaders to discuss the robust public

safety ecosystem thriving in Pittsburgh, which the Biden-Harris Administration has helped strengthen. In addition, Vice President Harris [moderated](#) a conversation on gun safety at the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting in Washington, D.C.

In particular, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention has focused on:

- **Helping States and Cities Establish and Strengthen Their Own Offices of Violence Prevention:** The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention has encouraged other states and cities to establish their own offices of violence prevention to coordinate their work to reduce gun violence, and partnered with existing offices of violence prevention to share best practices. Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Maine have all established their own offices of violence prevention in the past year. In May 2024, we [convened](#) over 80 leaders from city and local offices of violence prevention in over 50 cities across the country to share common challenges their offices face; identify what collaboration with local, state, and federal offices can and should look like; discuss the importance of raising awareness around gun violence prevention work; and share information on federal resources available to their offices. In July 2024, we [convened](#) over 30 officials from 16 states, including 12 states with offices of violence prevention, to again discuss federal resources available for their work and strengthen the network of violence prevention advocacy at the state level.
- **Helping State Legislators Advance Legislation to Combat Gun Violence:** The White House Office of Gun Violence released the [Safer States Agenda](#), a playbook of 14 legislative actions that states can pursue to prevent gun violence and save lives. In December 2023, Vice President Harris [convened](#) state legislators to discuss the Safer States Agenda. In partnership with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, we reconvened these state legislators in January to discuss strategies for advancing gun violence prevention legislation during their 2024 legislative sessions. In June 2024, we welcomed state leaders back to celebrate their progress and discuss lessons learned for future legislative sessions. Since December 2023, at least 31 states have introduced new legislation to address gun violence. At least 17 states have enacted new legislation, including a safe storage law in California, a gun dealer accountability law in Washington, a victims compensation law in Maryland, a ghost gun ban in Vermont, a background check expansion in Maine, and a permit to purchase law in Delaware.

### *Partnering with Non-Elected Leaders*

The Biden-Harris Administration cannot make progress on gun violence prevention without actively engaging survivors of gun violence. Partnering with survivors is core to the work of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Our meetings with survivors inform policy and fill us with the motivation to keep working to save lives. In addition to the President's, the Vice President's, the First Lady's, and the Second Gentleman's visits with gun violence survivors described in the prior section, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention coordinated convenings with:

- Mothers affected by gun violence who are also leading victim service organizations and survivor support efforts in their communities. After the convening, the Vice President delivered brief remarks to the group about how critical these mothers are to efforts to help our communities recover from gun violence.

- Survivors of domestic violence and representatives of advocacy organizations fighting to end both gender-based violence and gun violence. Survivors shared their stories and discussed the harm caused when domestic violence and guns intersect.
- Young leaders who experienced different forms of gun violence.

President Biden and Vice President Harris, as well as the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, have also worked with gun violence prevention advocates and experts to drive progress forward. For example, President Biden delivered [remarks](#) to a crowd of gun violence prevention advocates at Everytown’s Gun Sense University. Vice President Harris participated in a [moderated conversation](#) with Angela Ferrell-Zabala and Xochitl Gomez on the impact of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Law enforcement officials, who risk their lives to combat gun violence, have also been critical partners in the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention’s work. Regular meetings with law enforcement organizations representing both leadership and rank-and-file officers, as well as meetings with individual city and county law enforcement officials, have informed our policy agenda. In addition, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention joined SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, for their annual conference, where we discussed the life-saving work being done to collect, share, and analyze data that can prevent violence and hold perpetrators accountable.

In addition, the Biden-Harris Administration is working to mobilize all parts of society to address the issue of gun violence. Vice President Harris made gun violence prevention a core part of her college tour, during which she has talked to more than 15,000 students about fighting for our fundamental freedoms, including the freedom to be safe from gun violence and the fear of gun violence. In addition, the Biden-Harris Administration is:

- **Mobilizing Health Systems and Health Care Providers:** We [convened](#) health system executives and health care providers from across the country to elevate their role in addressing gun violence through improved victim services, wound care, educational awareness, screenings, and hospital-based violence interventions. The Second Gentleman joined the convening of health care providers and spoke to them about the important role they play in keeping people safe.
- **Mobilizing Artists and Influencers:** We met with hip hop artists and entertainment executives to share our efforts to address community violence and youth violence across the country and hear how the issue of gun violence has affected them. In partnership with the Players Coalition, we met with professional athletes to talk about the important connection athletes have to communities heavily impacted by gun violence. On Gun Violence Awareness Day, the Washington Mystics played a video of the Second Gentleman discussing gun violence prevention at the game between the Mystics and the Indiana Fever. We also met with mom social media influencers to share our gun violence prevention work and encourage them to educate their networks about safe storage and other strategies to reduce youth gun violence.
- **Mobilizing Faith Leaders:** Vice President Harris [convened](#) faith leaders on gun violence and other key issues. In partnership with the Office of Public Engagement and the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, we convened faith leaders to identify ways that

gun violence prevention efforts can better connect with faith communities, including through houses of worship and burials of gun violence victims.

- **Mobilizing Educators:** Regular engagements with educators have informed the Biden-Harris Administration’s approach to preventing and responding to gun violence while ensuring a positive learning environment. In July 2024, Vice President Harris delivered [remarks](#) at the American Federation of Teachers’ national convention on gun violence prevention and other challenges educators are facing. The White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention held a [town hall](#) with U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, and principals from around the country to uplift the Administration’s work on safe firearm storage to keep schools safe. The First Lady also spoke about gun violence at the National Parent Teacher Association’s Legislative Conference. The Administration hosted a White House meeting with school principals from across the country who experienced gun violence, as well as survivors of school shootings such as those at Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary School, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and Robb Elementary School.
- **Mobilizing Communities Uniquely Impacted by Gun Violence:** The Administration has intentionally created space to hear from communities uniquely impacted by gun violence. This year, the White House recognized the first-ever federal [Community Violence Awareness Week](#) to elevate community violence and the solutions that have produced significant impacts in cities across the country. The week concluded with [remarks](#) from the Vice President at the White House to honor community violence intervention leaders from 31 cities. In addition, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention:
  - Represented the Biden-Harris Administration on panels at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference.
  - Convened nearly 100 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander leaders to discuss the growing impacts of gun violence on this diverse community.
  - Participated in the NAACP’s annual conference to elevate the unique impacts of gun violence on Black youth in America.
  - Represented the Biden-Harris Administration in Los Angeles at a national convening of Latino leaders on gun violence.