



Community Benefits



Protect Your Community from Gun Violence

The Impact of Gun Violence in Your Community

Gun violence negatively impacts many communities. In some areas it is pervasive and others less common, but the cost to our society goes far beyond the homicides and wounded victims and their families.

Gunfire-related crimes have a major economic impact. According to a 2016 study by the Urban Institute, one less gun homicide in Minneapolis was associated with the creation of 80 jobs and an additional \$9.4 million in sales across all business establishments the next year. In Washington, DC, 10 fewer gunfire incidents were significantly related to the creation of 20 jobs in new establishments, one new business opening, one fewer establishment going out of business, and \$1.3 million more in sales at new establishments.

When gunfire happens in a community, property values decline and business owners move out, creating a vicious cycle of low economic growth, fewer employment opportunities, and more gun violence. Investing in a gun violence reduction program saves lives, improves quality of life, and yields a positive economic return on investment.*

*Source: The Effect of Gun Violence on Local Economies, Urban Institute, November 2016.

Reducing Gun Violence in Your Community

On average, 80% of gunfire incidents go unreported so police cannot respond. When residents do call 9-1-1 there is precious time lost as an operator collects information. When they do get the information it is often incomplete and inaccurate.

ShotSpotter changes all that by identifying more than 90% of gunfire incidents and relaying location information and tactical intelligence to police departments within seconds.



“ShotSpotter saves lives and helps solve crimes.”
Mayor Toni Harp,
New Haven, CT

The result is faster response times for officers, better collection of evidence and faster care to victims.

Over time, when ShotSpotter is used as part of a comprehensive gunfire reduction program, gun violence begins to decrease and when the police begin showing up to gunfire incidents on a regular basis, community and police department engagement begins to improve.

More Than 90 Cities Trust ShotSpotter

ShotSpotter provides a gunshot detection and location service to help cities and towns combat gun violence in high crime areas. The ShotSpotter system helps police become aware of nearly all gunfire incidents and respond more quickly using acoustic sensors that are tuned to listen for loud, impulsive sounds such as gunshots. ShotSpotter, in operation for over 20 years, is used by more than 90 cities across the country.

There is benefit to both historically underserved communities that have been most impacted by gun violence as well as suburban areas that have small pockets of gun violence. ShotSpotter cities experience stronger community confidence in law enforcement as police respond more frequently and quickly to incidences.

How Does ShotSpotter work?

-  A gun is fired; sensors pick up the impulsive sound
-  Computer triangulation pinpoints location of gunfire
-  Machine classifier confirms the sound is gunfire and identifies number of shots fired
-  Acoustic experts review each incident and publish confirmed gunshots
-  Alerts are sent to police for immediate response to precise location (total time from gunshot to alert is <60 seconds)
-  Within minutes officers arrive to crime scene with greater situational awareness

Don't police know when gunshots are fired?

Other than ShotSpotter, there is no alarm system for gunshots. Police have had to rely on the public to call 9-1-1 to report gunshots and only 20% of gunshot incidents are ever reported. Police cannot respond when they are unaware a gunshot incident has occurred.

Should I still call 9-1-1 if I hear a gunshot?

Yes, we always recommend you call 9-1-1 if you hear a gunshot as it may have come from an area not covered by ShotSpotter.

Will the system be listening in on me?

No There is not a privacy concern because the sensors are specifically tuned to listen to very loud, impulsive outdoor sounds that last for a few seconds. The sensors are usually placed on top of buildings and do not pick up conversations. All data is wiped from the sensor every few days.

How can I learn more?

Visit www.shotspotter.com

“We’re seeing a 40% reduction in gun violence in areas we’re using ShotSpotter. We’re proud to be a ShotSpotter city.”

Mayor John Cranley, Cincinnati, OH