

**Joliet Township VPCC Network  
Public Safety Committee  
Tuesday, August 5, 2025**



# Data Impact

## National Mass Shootings in 2024

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 491 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2024, a decrease from 656 in 2023. Mass shootings are defined as events where four or more people are shot, excluding the perpetrator.

## In Will County our database indicates the following homicide trends:

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Illinois had 14,197 firearms recovered and traced in 2022. Among the top recovery cities, Joliet accounted for 291 traced firearms.

### Homicide Trends:

- 2019: 24 homicides – 19 involved firearms
- 2020: 35 firearm-related deaths in Will County
- 2021–2023: 22 homicides reported in Joliet Township
- 2024: Over 112 illegal firearms recovered from Joliet streets

### Recent Incidents (2025):

- June: 13-year-old Manuel Perez fatally shot – first homicide of the year
- Summer: 2 separate shootings injure 4 victims (ages 20–45)
- March: Mass shooting at a gathering leaves 3 victims wounded

### Urgent Reality:

- These incidents reflect a **growing public health and safety crisis**
- Immediate, trauma-informed, and community-driven solutions are critical

## Notable National Mass Shootings (24-25)

### Minnesota (June 2025):

- Impostor police officer fatally shot former House Speaker & husband; Senator and wife critically wounded
- Two-day manhunt revealed political hit list

### Philadelphia (May 2025):

- Mass shooting at Fairmount Park killed 2, injured 9 (teens included)
- Gunman used fully automatic weapon during Memorial Day event

### South Carolina (May 2025):

- 11 injured in mass shooting aboard Hurricane II party boat in Little River

### New Mexico (March 2025):

- Car show shooting killed 3 teens, injured 15
- Triggered by dispute; suspects linked to gang and illegal guns

### Joliet, IL (Jan 2024):

- Romeo Nance killed 8 (including 7 family members) across multiple homes
- Deadliest mass shooting in Illinois history

### Perry, IA (Jan 2024):

- High school shooter (17) killed 6th grader and principal, injured several others
- Shooter died by suicide

### Apalachee, GA (Sept 2024):

- 14-year-old killed 2 students & 2 teachers, injured 7
- Father later indicted for supplying the firearm

### Birmingham, AL (Sept 2024):

- Drive-by shooting outside hookah lounge killed 4, injured 17
- 22-year-old charged with capital murder and attempted murder

# VPCC OVERVIEW

**Reimagine Public Safety Act:** is designed to support Community Areas in Chicago and Municipalities across Illinois that are disproportionately impacted by firearm violence with community-based supports that address the following:

1. High-risk youth intervention programs that have been proven to reduce involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice system, referrals of teens into therapeutic programs that address trauma recovery, and other mental health services.
2. Violence prevention services, including street-based violence interruption work, emotional or trauma-related therapy, housing, employment, job training/placement, family engagement, and wraparound support services.
3. Youth development programs, including after school and summer programming to increase school attendance and school performance, reduce criminal justice system involvement, and build social emotional persistence and intelligence.
4. Trauma recovery services for young people, funded by Medicaid and designed and implemented by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, to address trauma recovery from chronic exposure to firearm violence. A team-based model of care includes case management and school support services, group and individual therapy, and evidence-based family systems interventions.

**VPCC** stands for **Violence Prevention Coordinating Council**. These councils are integral to the state's efforts under the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) to reduce firearm violence through community-based strategies.

Each VPCC is established within designated municipalities across Illinois, particularly in areas identified as having high rates of firearm violence. The councils are responsible for coordinating violence prevention resources, fostering collaboration among service providers, and developing strategic plans to address local safety concerns.

VPCCs are composed of diverse members, including local government officials, public health experts, community residents, and representatives from organizations involved in violence prevention, mental health, and youth development

# VPCC Objectives

## 1. Establish and Sustain the VPCC Structure

- Transition existing Local Advisory Councils (LACs) into formalized VPCCs within each municipality.
- Develop and implement bylaws, strategic plans, and other governance documents to guide VPCC operations.
- Ensure the inclusion of diverse stakeholders, including representatives from local government, public health, community organizations, and residents from areas with high concentrations of firearm violence.

## 2. Facilitate Regular Convenings and Strategic Planning

- Organize monthly meetings to discuss progress, challenges, and strategies related to violence prevention.
- Develop agendas informed by VPCC members and document meeting outcomes to track priorities and action items.
- Engage RPSA-funded service providers and other relevant organizations in collaborative planning efforts.

## 3. Coordinate Community-Based Violence Prevention Efforts

- Promote effective collaboration among providers in disciplines such as violence prevention, mental health, and youth development.
- Support the planning and implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing firearm violence and increasing public safety.
- Convene emergency response meetings as needed to address immediate concerns related to community violence.

## 4. Enhance Service Integration and Resource Allocation

- Facilitate the development of formal agreements among service providers to ensure integrated and comprehensive support for individuals affected by violence.
- Assist in asset mapping and resource allocation to address identified community needs effectively.

## 5. Engage in Data-Informed Decision Making

- Utilize firearm-related data and evidence-based practices to inform the development and implementation of violence prevention strategies.
- Provide regular updates to the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) on planning efforts, outcomes, and community impact.

# Flex Funds OVERVIEW

**\$490,000** of the **Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) Emergency Victims Flex Fund** were recently awarded to Joliet Township to provide rapid, flexible, and trauma-informed financial assistance to individuals and families directly impacted by gun violence. This fund is designed to prioritize equity and accessibility for residents in historically underserved and high-risk RPSA communities, where systemic disinvestment has often left critical gaps in victim support.

## **Rapid, Equitable Support for Gun Violence Victims**

- Provides immediate and flexible financial assistance to victims of gun violence and their families
- Prioritizes underserved and high-risk RPSA communities facing systemic barriers
- Fills critical gaps in services by complementing existing state and local victim support systems
- Enhances the collective impact of Illinois' violence prevention and victim response efforts

## **Fund Objectives**

### **Advance Financial Equity**

- Target communities most disproportionately affected by gun violence
- Address long-standing barriers to emergency financial relief

### **Streamline Access & Responsiveness**

- Rapid delivery of trauma-informed assistance
- Maintain full compliance with Illinois and federal regulations

### **Ensure Accountability & Transparency**

- Fair, data-informed distribution of funds
- Adhere to fiscal best practices and financial equity standards

# CROSS SECTOR COLLABORATION





# VPCC UPDATES AND OPPURTUNITIES

## 2025 Training Modules

- **Increased Funding Update**
  - Overview of new funding allocations
  - \$490,000 Flex Funds and \$150,000 Behavioral Health
  - Strategic priorities for expanded programming
- **Community Liaison/Program Data Specialist Update**
  - Open Positions
- **Partnerships (MOUs and Sector Partners) Update**
  - Expansion of sector collaboration to strengthen services
- **Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) Update**
  - Key initiatives and timelines
  - Integration with broader violence prevention strategies
- **Modules and Trainings Update**
  - New training modules launched
  - Collaboration with CERT and Director John Lukancic

School and Workplace Active Shooter Preparedness	Emergency Response & Incident Command Systems	Trauma Informed Mass Shooting Response
Violence Interruption & Conflict Mediation	Victim and Family Assistance in Crisis Situation	Social Media Threat Assessment and Intervention
Public Health Approach to Gun Violence	Hospital-Base Violence Intervention Training (HVIPs)	Community-Base Crisis Intervention Teams