Gun violence is a public health issue

The Safe Tennessee Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization made up of physicians, academics, public health researchers, domestic violence advocates, suicide prevention experts, attorneys, and concerned citizens who view gun violence as a public health issue, and who advocate for evidenced-based solutions to reduce the number of Tennesseans injured or killed with guns.

Tennessee has a gun violence problem

- 11th in nation for gun deaths
- 7th in nation for gun homicides
- 4th for gun deaths, ages 0-19
- 5th in the nation for women murdered by men
- 3rd most dangerous state in the country
- More than 50 Tennesseans use a gun to take their own lives every month
- There were 15 mass shootings in Tennessee in 2018

What we do:

Advocacy
We advocate for gun law reform and effective policies that will reduce the number of injuries and deaths linked to firearms by providing policy research and data to state lawmakers, the media and the public.

Education
Knowledge is power. We provide education and training on the issue of gun violence, current federal and state gun laws, and academic research on gun violence and gun violence prevention.

Outreach
We work to empower survivors of gun violence to heal and to speak out. We also work with students who care about the issue, as well as with a coalition of like-minded community and faith-based organizations.

Policies we support:

- **Red flag laws** that allow immediate family members or members of law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a person believed to be an immediate risk to themselves or others.
- **Strengthening firearm dispossession laws** to make it harder for those legally prohibited from possessing firearms to regain access to them.
- **MaKayla's Law**, legislation to hold adult gun owners legally responsible when their choice to leave a loaded firearm accessible to a child under 13 results in injury or death.
- **Expanding background checks** to require all gun sale purchases, not just those from licensed dealers, to undergo a background check prior to sale.
- **Funding for community groups and violence interrupters** working to interrupt cycles of violence in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence.