

Cease-fire Weekend Indianapolis Analysis, 2021

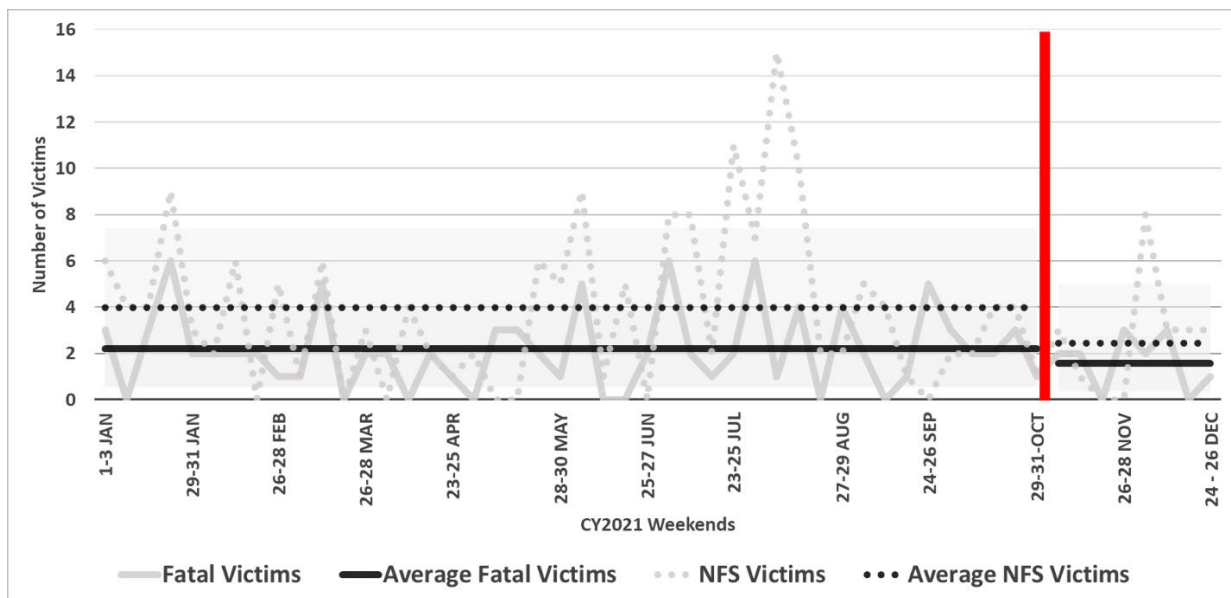
Background: Given the consistent level of gun violence throughout Indianapolis, local community leaders formulated a Cease-fire Indy weekend. The Cease-fire Indy event organized entirely by local leaders over the three weeks preceding Halloween weekend, called for a community ceasefire of no shootings over a 72-hour period. To unify in the call for peace, the event opened and concluded with a faith-based gathering at Monument Circle. Importantly, key leaders utilized extensive connections to the community to facilitate constructive dialogue and disseminate the cease-fire message. Additional events included local business participation, peace rallies, neighborhood cleanups, and neighborhood walks that endeavored to spread awareness of the toll that gun violence is taking on Indianapolis communities.

Objective: Examine the number of weekend shootings during the 72-hour Cease-fire Indy weekend (Oct 29 – Oct 31, Halloween) to data from non-Ceasefire weekends during 2021 by leveraging a unique dataset compiled by the Indianapolis Gun Violence Project.

KEY FINDINGS:

- In 2021, there were 301 shooting victims with an average of 5.8 victims per weekend
- In 2021, there were 108 fatal shootings, an average of 2.1 per weekend
- In 2021, non-fatal shootings (NFS) incidents resulted in 193 victims, an average of 3.7 per weekend
- The Cease-fire Indy weekend involved two victims. Compared to the 2021 weekend average of 5.8 shootings, the Cease-fire weekend suggests a promising reduction (65.%) in number of weekend shooting victims.
- After the Cease-fire weekend, there was a 25.9% reduction in the average number of victims (4.3 shooting victims per weekend), compared to shooting trends before the Cease-fire weekend

Figure 1. Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Trends Before and After Cease-fire Indy Weekend



Limitations: Open-source databases have advanced knowledge on gun violence, mass shootings, police action shootings, and homicides. Open-source databases rely on media coverage and, as a result, may under- or over-report incident counts and characteristics. To provide continuous assessment of the reliability and validity of IGVP records, periodic checks are conducted against official records and the Gun Violence Archive.

About: The Indianapolis Gun Violence Project is an open-source data collection managed by faculty and students from the Paul H. O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at IUPUI. The project seeks to collect and share gun violence data so that organizations, practitioners, and researchers can inform policy and practice decisions.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Email us at IndyGVP@gmail.com or follow us on Twitter @Indy_GVP

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