

America

Gun violence rising

Grief counselors in 'short supply'

PHILADELPHIA, July 11, (AP): As Brett Roman Williams stood at the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's office staring at a photo of his older brother's face, a familiar feeling welled in his chest.

Williams' father was shot and killed in 1996, when Williams was 11, and the ebb and flow of grief had washed over him for 20 years. But in 2016, when his brother was killed by gunfire, Williams reached out to a grief counselor for help coping.



McGlynn

Now, Williams serves on the board for the organization where he once sought solace, and he's trying to provide that same kind of support to others. But the demand is far outpacing the supply of counselors because of spiking crime.

With more than 270 homicides in Philadelphia during the first half of 2021, the city has been outpacing the number of murders in 2020, when 499 people were killed, mostly from gunfire - the highest homicide numbers in more than two decades. The number of people injured in shootings has also exploded over the past 18 months.

Williams is chairman of the board for the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, which provides counseling services to people affected by violence. He said there were 174 people on the waitlist at the end of June, compared with about 30 people at the same time last year.

"Hurt people, hurt people. And this is a pivotal moment in Philly, because there are a lot of people hurting in this city right now," Williams said.

Counseling

Executive Director **Natasha McGlynn** said that since September, the agency has provided counseling services to 425 teenagers who have lost family or friends, or who have themselves survived gunfire. She said counselors are seeing layers of trauma and re-victimization as gun violence increases.

Crime has been spiking nationwide after it plummeted in the early months of the pandemic, with many cities seeing the type of double-digit increase in gun violence that is plaguing Philadelphia. The Biden administration has sent strike forces to Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., to help take down gun networks.

Biden has encouraged states to use COVID-19 relief money to hire police or additional counselors. Philadelphia is one of 15 cities nationwide joining a federal effort to expand and enhance community violence interruption programs. Williams' group and others that provide counseling to victims are applying for grants to hire more counselors.

Lynn Lindy, chief knowledge and learning officer at the Ameri-

can Counseling Association, said there was already a shortage of mental health professionals, especially in rural areas, when the coronavirus hit. Add the economic, emotional and other losses from the pandemic and lockdown, and now waves of gun violence in small and large cities across the country, and Lindy says most mental health professionals are stretched to their limit.

"Anecdotally, I don't know anyone who has openings ... and there are a lot of mental health professionals who are working extra hours and just burning out," Lindy said.

For the counselors at places such as Philadelphia's AVP, who only treat people experiencing trauma and loss from violence, the rise in violent crime is the reason they are stretched thin.

There were more than 1,800 people wounded by gunfire in Philadelphia last year. As the hot summer months that typically bring more gun violence begin, the city has already reported close to 900 gunshot victims in 2021 - 150 more than the same time in 2020.

Nonprofit

Adam Garber, executive director of CeaseFirePA, a statewide nonprofit group working to end gun violence, said people see the homicides above the surface, like an iceberg. All below the surface are the other effects of gun violence: the lifelong injuries, the trauma, the fear that forces parents to keep their children indoors.

"We are missing all the damage underneath that is permanently altering the lives of so many people," he said.

Elinore Kaufman, assistant professor of surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Presbyterian Medical Center of Philadelphia, said there are two times to three times more gunshot survivors than fatalities at her trauma center. Survivors have increased as trauma treatment has improved.

"The goal is to help people to survive, and we're very good at that part. We get people through that most acute time," Kaufman said. "We are not as good at helping people get back to a full and complete life. That part is a lot harder in a lot of ways."

She said the hospital is working on a program to provide patients with a peer mentor to help them connect to programs that offer help including counseling, applying for victims' assistance or finding education and a new career if their injuries prevent them from returning to their jobs.

"We send people back to situations that were not safe to begin with. And they are traumatized and hurt and probably at a higher risk than they were in the first place," she said.

Latrice Felix's son, Alan Womack, Jr., chose to live in an upscale suburb of Philadelphia, spending most of his time at the gym or with family, in part to avoid the drama and violence he saw in the city.



Vehicles that were pulled from the rubble of the Champlain Towers South are transported on Saturday, July 10, 2021 in Surfside, Fla. Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett said crews were making good progress, especially in clearing debris from the section of the building that didn't collapse but was later demolished. That section will likely be cleared sooner than originally expected, he said. (AP)

America

'Condo collapse kind of a wake-up call'

Officials rethink inspection policies

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 11, (AP): Across Florida, people living in the thousands of condominiums rising above the state's 1,350 miles of coastline wonder if the building collapse in Surfside could happen to their home as state and local officials discuss what they can do to make sure it doesn't.

Although building collapses are rare, local governments are looking at whether they need to adopt new inspection policies - the vast majority of counties don't require reinspection of a building once it's completed.

"We inspect bridges every two years and yet a high-rise can go up right on the coast and it's inspected at the time it's built and never again," said Volusia County Chair Jeff Brower, who said residents have sent photos of damaged buildings. "It's kind of a wake-up call, and some of the pictures I have seen of our own structures are scary."

He's in contact with the governor's office on the issue but thinks acting locally will be quicker. One idea is reinspecting new buildings after 10 years and, depending on what's found, inspecting again another decade later.

Miami-Dade County, where the 40-year-old Champlain Towers South partially collapsed last month, requires buildings to be re-certified as safe once they reach 40

years and every 10 years after that.

"We definitely have to have inspection of the infrastructure of these buildings," Brower said. "They're not falling all over the place, but we don't want even one more like the tragedy at Surfside."

Florida's beachfront high-rises take a beating from storms, salt-water and sea air, which can wear down concrete and rust rebar. There isn't a mile of Florida's coastline that hasn't been affected in one way or another by hurricanes and tropical storms in the past 40 years - with some areas taking multiple hits.

Improved

Although construction standards improved when statewide building codes were strengthened in the 1980s, the quality before then was often questionable, said Brett Turner, a project manager in southwest Florida who has been in the construction industry for 45 years.

"Up until the late '80s, there virtually were no inspections. Our codes were horrible. So any building or house that was built prior to 1986 is suspect," Turner said. "It was the Wild West - whatever you could get away with if you were making a buck."

Turner, who previously specialized in repairing older buildings, said he's seen very dangerous damage in Florida buildings. "I'm surprised that (Surfside) is the first one

that I've seen this happen to," he said. "I'm not surprised it happened; I'm surprised it's the first one."

In Boca Raton, officials are working quickly to establish a recertification process for older buildings, Councilman Andy Thomson said.

"We have a number of high-rise condos on the beach, particularly. And I think that's what causes the most heartburn for people because of the potential of corrosion due to saltwater," Thomson said.

Steven Rogers lives at the Chalfonte condominiums in Boca Raton, where neither the city nor Palm Beach County requires building recertification. But Rogers, who was elected the condominium association president, said they're not waiting for either to set a policy.

The association hired engineers two years ago to inspect the two 22-story towers built in the late 1970s on the Atlantic Ocean. Rogers said he called engineers again after the Surfside collapse and told them he wants an inspection policy that's more stringent than Miami-Dade's. The association is now making repairs with plans to do so every year.

"Do inspections that you feel are necessary, not what the city or the state feels is necessary," Rogers said. "It's going to take time for the city or the state to come out with new laws, and in that time, we have to move. We have to do the right things now."



A child cools off in a fountain in Cordoba, southern Spain, Sunday, July 11, 2021. Spain is suffering a weekend of record-breaking high temperatures, with the thermometer set to top 44 Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) in some areas. (AP)

News in Brief

Car plows into crowd: A car plowed into a crowd at a Sunday market in the Austrian town of St. Florian, injuring 13 people - at least three of them seriously, police said.

It wasn't immediately clear why the vehicle had crashed into the stall, said Clemens Lehner, a spokesman for Upper Austria police. The 87-year-old driver was among the injured. The crash happened close to the St. Florian monastery south of Linz. (AP)

Spain bakes under hot air: Southern Spain sweltered under intense heat for a second straight day on Sunday, when thermometers were expected to reach well over 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in large swathes of the European Union country.

A mass of hot air carrying dust and sand from Africa was forecast to push temperatures 5-to-10 degrees Celsius above average in many areas of the country.

The State Meteorological Agency issued warnings for extremely hot weather for most of southern and central Spain for the weekend.

Forecasts indicate 44 degrees Celsius (111 F) could potentially be hit in several

points in southern Spain. Spain's highest temperature on record is 49 degrees Celsius (120 F). (AP)

2 die as plane goes down: Two firefighters died Saturday after an aircraft they were in to respond to a wildfire crashed in Mohave County, Arizona, local media reported.

The Arizona Bureau of Land Management told KPHO-TV that the aircraft helping perform aerial reconnaissance and command and control over the Cedar

Basin Fire burning near Wikieup, a tiny community of about 100, crashed around noon.

The two crew members on board did not survive, officials told KPHO and the Arizona Republic.

The plane performing aerial reconnaissance helps direct aviation resources responding to a wildfire, said Dolores Garcia, a spokesperson for the bureau, told the Republic. (AP)

Police arrest factory owners: Po-

lice in Bangladesh arrested eight people Saturday on murder charges in connection with a factory fire that killed at least 52 people, many of whom were trapped inside by an illegally locked door, a senior police official said.

The blaze began Thursday night at the five-story Hashem Foods Ltd. factory in Rugganj, just outside the capital Dhaka, sending huge clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky. Police discovered piles of bodies Friday afternoon after the fire was extinguished. (AP)

The wait is over! Huawei's new Super Device products have now arrived in Kuwait

Enjoy your entertainment like never before with the shifting capabilities between the HUAWEI MateBook D15, the HUAWEI MateView and the HUAWEI MatePad 11

Huawei today announced the launch of its innovative Super Device products, which include the brand-new HUAWEI MateBook D15 laptop, a standalone monitor the HUAWEI MateView and the HUAWEI MatePad 11. These products all fall under one umbrella - Super Device products - which bring futuristic ways to seamlessly connect multiple devices and takes how you work and get entertained to a whole new level.

Huawei's Super Device products will be up for grabs in Kuwait on 2nd August with pre-orders starting on 26th July at price of KWD 124,900 for the HUAWEI MatePad 11 and starting from KWD 169,900 for the HUAWEI MateBook D15. On the later stage HUAWEI MateView will also be available in the same category.

Super Device Capabilities Offering a Smart Office Experience

The Super Device experience provides a common language for different kinds of devices to connect and collaborate, providing you with a more seamless, smooth, and secure experience. It uses distributed technology to meet the varied

needs of all types of different scenarios. It also combines independent devices into a cohesive and holistic Super Device that integrates hardware resources to leverage the capabilities of the devices based on your needs.

In layman terms, the all-new HUAWEI MatePad 11 can be wirelessly projected to the HUAWEI MateView while the HUAWEI MateBook D15 can be connected to the HUAWEI MateView via a USB-C cable to create an inter-connected hub that breaks through boundaries for maximum productivity, creativity and efficiency. Whether you are in the office or working from home, the tablet, monitor and laptop can work seamlessly together offering futuristic ways in getting tasks accomplished. The advantage or added value of having a Smart Office is the easy swapping of wireless and wired connection screen sharing, cross-device file dragging and dropping to deliver a more efficient and collaborative multi-device experience. Ultimately, this allows us to easily switch between Work Mode, and Personal Mode.

Huawei also upgraded the Huawei Share feature to incorporate the new Tablet-PC Multi-screen Collaboration that come with three modes: Mirror, Extend and Collaborate. In Mirror Mode, as the name implies, you can mirror your HUAWEI MateBook D15 screen to your tablet display, allowing you to directly work on files and annotate documents, or draw/



HUAWEI Super Device - Smart Office Experience

sketch on your laptop with the stylus of your tablet. There is also Extend Mode that transforms your tablet into a second screen, providing extra screen space to display more content, great for online shopping or when you are browsing the Internet and there are so many items to explore!

Additionally, the innovative Collaborate Mode enables cross-platform interactions, allowing you to transfer content such as text, images and documents between the connected tablet and laptop with a simple drag and drop! Tearing down the boundaries that separate tablets and laptops, Huawei Share enriches and elevates what you could possibly do with

the HUAWEI MatePad 11 and the new HUAWEI MateBook D15, empowering you and definitely letting you become more productive and creative than before.

The HUAWEI MateBook D15: Powerful and light

Huawei also refreshed the HUAWEI MateBook D series with the launch of the HUAWEI MateBook D15, which comes with a thin and light metal body for easy portability. Eye Comfort HUAWEI FullView display for a protective and immersive viewing experience, Intel Core processor for power and reliability in addition to many features which make

it one of the most sought after 15-inch laptops today.

The HUAWEI MateView: The next generation of standalone monitors

Huawei also announced the release of HUAWEI MateView, the first flagship standalone monitor from the company. The HUAWEI MateView is beautifully minimalist Wireless · Real Colour Monitor that supports a wide range of smart features, including a large 4K+ UHD Pro 28.2-inch large screen with an impressive 3840 x 2560 screen resolution. The aesthetically pleasing design is complimented by the HUAWEI Smart Bar, dual-speaker and dual-microphone sound system for total audio-visual immersion.

Expanding creativity with the HUAWEI MatePad 11

The HUAWEI MatePad 11 is the first Huawei tablet to feature a 10.95-inch; 120Hz high refresh rate display with a 16:10 aspect ratio. This does not just translate to smoother viewing, but also a more responsive touch control along with low-latency handwriting input. Along with that, users can now play games that support high FPS mode that means improved visuals and even better feedback when using the touch controls.

Meta Description: Huawei launches a range of Super Devices Products enabling a truly Smart Office Experience