



## **New Report: "Two Battlefields": Opps, Cops, and NYC Youth Gun Culture**

Gun violence is a leading cause of death for young people in the United States, especially young Black men; but rarely are young people given a safe space to talk candidly about why they carry guns.

Our [just-released study](#) of more than 100 young people in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, identifies fear—fear for their own lives and for their loved ones—as the overwhelming factor behind their decision to carry a gun.

The young men interviewed, ages 15-24, have experienced, witnessed, and have been threatened with violence at shocking rates—**89% have had a friend or family member shot.**

To end gun violence, we need to listen to the people whose lives are most affected by guns. By creating a trusting space for these young people to open up about their experiences, the report gives policymakers, community leaders, and non-profits new insights into how they can help build safer communities.

## "Two Battlefields"

Opps, Cops, and NYC Youth Gun Culture



[READ THE REPORT](#)

### Community Researchers Connect with Young Gun-Carriers

Hear from the research team who made the study happen—Javonte Alexander, Basaime Spate, and Elise White—as they draw on their personal ties to the social networks of the young people they spoke to. In the [video](#) below, they share more on the widespread fear of cops and “opps” (opposition), the four types of gun-carriers identified in the report, and why young people turn to gun-carrying for survival.



[WATCH JAVONTE, BASAIME, AND ELISE](#)