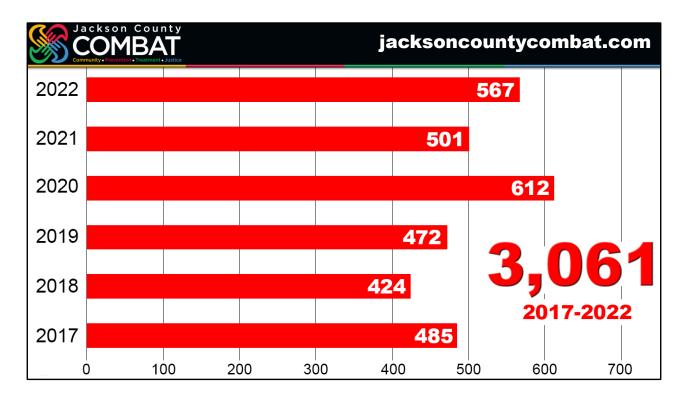


PRESENTED 06/21/23 COMBAT Impact Symposium PRESENTERS Joe Loudon (COMBAT Communications Administrator) & Shannon Bobo (COMBAT Crime Analyst)

- Were at the point, where we want to hear more from you. Ask you questions...
- And—again, together—seek answers.
- Unfortunately, we can't discuss all the topics we suggested—and all the important ones that many of you suggested. We hoping for time this afternoon for some open discussion.
- We decided to focus on two key issues—one related to COMBAT's violence prevention mission, the other related to drug abuse prevention.
- Now gun violence is, of course, an issue that impacts our country as a whole—our county in particular.
- Missouri is home to two of the counties that rank among the top 10 in the nation in

terms of gun violence per capita: St. Louis county is No. 1, and Jackson County is also in the top 10.

- We aren't going to now throw a lot of stats at you—and there is a lot of data out there on gun violence.
- But there is one stat we're going to share with you right now that we'd like you keep in mind as we proceed...



- We tend to focus, rightfully so, on homicides. The most serious act of violence.
- But in Jackson County, from New Year's Day 2017 through New Year's Eve 2022, there were 3,061 non-fatal shootings.
- Shootings in which someone was shot but survived. "Bullet-to-skin" is the expression you'll hear used.
- My uncle was a Navy corps in World War II, treating wounded Marine. As he told me once, "Personally, I don't care if you were just grazed in the arm by a bullet... When a bullet has struck you—or even just grazed you—that is a near-death experience."
- And as many of you know those shot once are more likely to be shot again—being shot
  is rarely a once-in-a-lifetime experience—and they are more likely to later be the victim
  of a homicide.
- And many of the non-fatal survivors may seek to retaliate, resulting in more shootings, more victims.



- Before we start asking you to discuss with those at your tables the question we want to pose, let's remember one thing.
- We want to focus on what we can do.
- There are certain things beyond our control.
- What happens in the legislative chambers, in Jefferson City and Washington DC, are beyond our control.
- Jackson County COMBAT is a taxpayer-supported program, which means we are prohibited from advocating for or against any proposed legislation. As the old expression goes, we can education—not advocate.
- Now those of you who aren't government employees have a little more freedom to speak out...
- But for our purposes today, let's again, focus on what COMBAT—we together—can attempt to do.

- In doing research about this topic, searching through Google for "recommendations to reduce gun violence," almost all the recommendations required passing new laws.
- So trying to develop a question that did not go into the realm of "out of our control" has not been easy.



## Jackson County COMBAT Community - Provention - Treatment - Justice

## What more can we do—that is IN OUR CONTROL—to reduce gun violence in our community?

- So, let's ask of you a simple question—that may be difficult to answer.
- What can we do together—that is IN OUR CONTROL—to reduce gun violence in our community?