

Who Needs Help Most? What the Violence Data Says

A plain-language summary of two research briefs on youth vs. adult violence in Austin and Central Texas.

When people picture violence, they picture murder. But murder is only a tiny slice of it. To help the most people — and prevent the most harm — you have to look at **all** violence: shootings, assaults, fights, and violence inside the home. When you do, a clear answer emerges about who needs help, and it's exactly the people Amparo is built to serve.

~65–75

Homicides per year in Austin

85,000+

Aggravated assaults in Texas
(2024)

250,000

Family-violence victims in Texas
(2024)

11

Avg. prior arrests of Austin
homicide victims & suspects

THE BIG PICTURE

Most violence is **not** murder. In Texas, aggravated assaults outnumber murders about **53 to 1**, and **family violence alone harms more than twice as many people** as every “serious” violent crime combined. The everyday reality of violence is assaults and harm between people who know each other — not headline shootings.

AGE TELLS TWO DIFFERENT STORIES

The **deadliest** violence — shootings and murder — is mostly **young men**. In Austin, half of murder suspects are **24 or younger**, and 6 in 10 people involved are 18–34.

But **assault and family violence** spread across a much wider age range — adults roughly **25 to 44**. So “who’s violent” depends entirely on which kind of violence you mean.

Murder /
shootings
teens–24

Robbery
late teens–
20s

Assaults
20s–40s

Family
violence
25–44

WHO IS AT THE CENTER

Violence is **concentrated**, not random. The people most caught up in it are usually:

- **Already in the justice system** — cycling through arrests for years (often non-violent) before a serious act of violence.
- **Concentrated by place and race** — in a few East Austin neighborhoods, and disproportionately young Black and Hispanic men.
- **Both harmed and harming** — most people who hurt others were hurt first.

Local family violence is huge. In Travis County alone, the DA’s office handles **3,000+ family-violence cases a year**, and about **1,840 people** are on family-violence probation at any time — adults who need real help changing, whom many programs turn away.

GOOD NEWS THE RESEARCH IS CLEAR ON

People **age out** of violence. Between **40% and 60%** of justice-involved young people stop on their own by their late twenties — especially with support. Long prison sentences don’t speed this up; steady relationships and a real path home do.

WHO NEEDS AMPARO MOST

- **Young men at risk of shooting or being shot (18–24).** Small in number, but this is where lives are lost — and where reaching one person prevents the next victim.
- **Adults caught in assaults and fights (roughly 20–44).** The largest group by far — where dysregulation, old trauma, and conflict turn physical.
- **People who use violence at home (25–44).** Enormous need, directly in Amparo’s mission, and routinely excluded by other services.
- **Survivors who also carry harm.** People who are both victims and responsible for harm — and need a place that can hold both truths at once.

The bottom line for Amparo: the people at the very center of violence — both the deadly kind and the everyday kind — are justice-involved adults coming home to the same neighborhoods and families. Most programs won't take them. Amparo is built specifically to walk with them — because stopping the next act of violence is how you protect the next victim, the one who never has to become one.

Sources: Texas DPS *Crime in Texas* (2023–24); NICJR Austin Gun Violence Problem Analysis (2024); Texas Juvenile Justice Dept.; CDC / Johns Hopkins gun-violence data; Travis County Family Violence Task Force; national age-crime & desistance research.

Figures are rounded for readability and reflect reported crime; true totals are higher. Full briefs with citations available on request.

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