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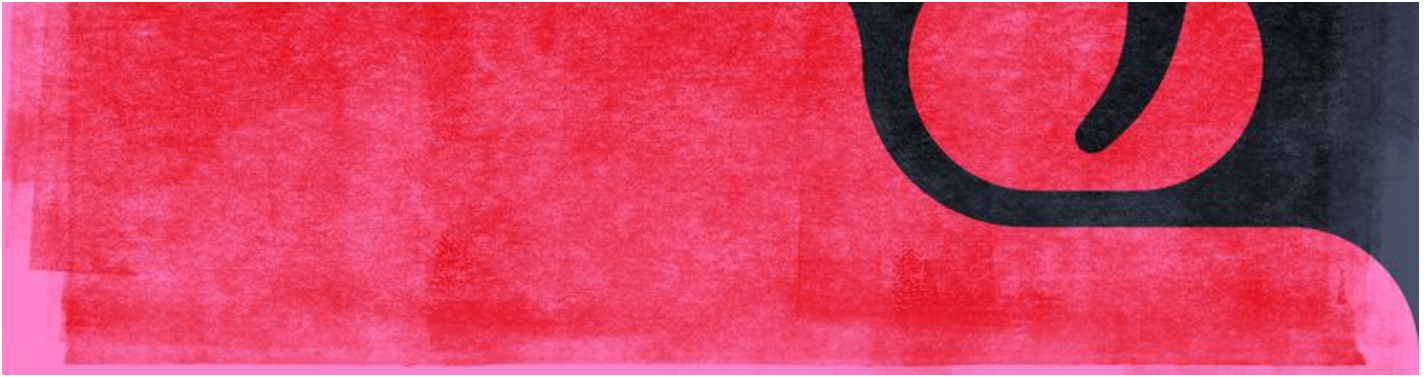
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THOMAS ABT | IDEAS

# Democrats are skipping out on the most important gun fight of all

By Thomas Abt , July 19, 2019, 10:38 a.m.





(ADOBE/GLOBE STAFF)

IN THE DEMOCRATIC primary campaign for president, candidates are going bigger and bolder on guns than ever before. Senator Elizabeth Warren has called for a “public health approach” to preventing gun violence. Before withdrawing from the race, Representative Eric Swalwell proposed a mandatory buyback for military-style weapons. Senator Cory Booker has advocated for a national gun licensing program and tried to highlight his policies in Boston recently (before bad weather forced him to cancel).

All that said, the candidates are still failing to focus on what is simultaneously the most serious and most solvable form of such violence: shootings and killings on the streets of our cities.

Urban violence accounts for the overwhelming majority of homicides in the United States, and it disproportionately affects poor people of color. For young Latino men, homicide is the [second-leading cause of death](#). For young African-American men, it is not just the [leading cause of death](#); homicide accounts for more deaths than the nine other top causes combined.

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