Firearm Violence
It’s Different This Time

California Conference of Local Health Officers
May 9, 2018
Garen Wintemute, MD, MPH
On violence:

“If it’s not a health problem, then why are all those people dying from it?”

- Dr. David Satcher, 1993
All Those People

• US, 2007-2016:
  • 321,557 deaths from firearm violence (homicide, suicide)
  • 333,890 total firearm deaths

• US, 2016:
  • 37,353 deaths from firearm violence
  • 74.4% of homicides, 51.0% of suicides involved firearms
Death Rates from Firearm Suicide and Homicide, 1981-2016

VPRP
Death Rates from Firearm Homicide Males, 2016

Deaths/100,000 Population

Age

Black
Hispanic
White
Death Rates from Firearm Suicide
Males, 2016

Deaths/100,000 Population

- White
- Black
- Hispanic

Age

Death Rates from Firearm Violence
Males, 2016

Deaths/100,000 Population

Age


Black
White
Hispanic
Deaths from Firearm Violence
Males, 2016

Number of Deaths

Age

White
Black
Hispanic

Deaths from Firearm Violence
Males, 2016

VPRP
This Just in: The California Story

A Homicide

Rate (per 100,000)
- 1.05, 1.77
- 1.83, 2.38
- 2.45, 3.14
- 3.14, 4.41
- 5.17, 10.40

B Suicide

Rate (per 100,000)
- 2.12, 4.00
- 4.01, 4.98
- 5.08, 5.64
- 6.10, 8.58
- 8.84, 21.0
The Rest of the Story


Original article

Firearm mortality in California, 2000–2015: the epidemiologic importance of within-state variation

Veronica A. Pear, MPH *, Alvaro Castillo-Carniglia, PhD, MSc, Rose M.C. Kagawa, PhD, MPH, Magdalena Cerdá, DrPH, MPH, Garen J. Wintemute, MD, MPH

* Violence Prevention Research Program, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, CA
State of the Field

• Public mass shootings, law enforcement shootings
• Increased research effort
• New investigators, strong teams
• Concerns about quality
• Disappearance (again) of federal leadership
• Attention on states and private sector
• Will it last?
California as Democracy’s Laboratory

- Uniquely rich data
- Practitioner-researcher collaboration
- Legislative leadership and responsiveness
- Public funding
The Lab at Work

- Background checks
- Expanded denial criteria
  - Misdemeanor violence
  - Alcohol abuse
- Firearm recovery
  - Armed Prohibited Persons System
  - Gun violence restraining orders
Coming Up

• California Safety and Wellbeing Survey (CSaWs)
  • Firearm ownership and use
  • Exposure to violence, and consequences
• Risk factors for recurrent injury
• Concealed carry policy and future violence
• Support for health professionals
  • “Yes, You Can”
Access the Comments feature to see who has committed to talk to their at-risk patients about firearm safety. Make your commitment now.

Mass shootings are reshaping the character of American public life. Whoever we are, they happen to people just like us; they happen in places just like our places. We all sense that we are at risk.
Access the Comments feature to see who has committed to talk to their at-risk patients about firearm safety. Make your commitment now.

Mass shootings are reshaping the character of American public life. Whoever we are, they happen to people just like us; they happen in places just like our places. We all sense that we are at risk.
Welcome to *What You Can Do*, a resource to support health care providers in reducing firearm injury and death.

Did you know:

- In 2016, an average of 105 people in the U.S. died from firearms each day.\(^1\)
- Mass shootings account for only 1% to 2% of deaths from firearms in the U.S.\(^2\)
- Many people who are involved in firearm violence have recognizable risk factors, some of which bring them into contact with health care providers before the violence happens.\(^2\)

*What You Can Do (WYCD)* highlights the potential of a simple, focused intervention that you, as a health care provider, can implement.

- Ask your at-risk patients about firearms.
- Counsel them on safe firearm behaviors.
- Take further action when imminent hazard is present.

---

**The Commentary**

View [Dr. Wintemute's commentary](#), *What You Can Do to Stop Firearm Violence, in *Annals of Internal Medicine*.*

---

**The Commitment**

If you're a healthcare provider, [click here to make the commitment](#) to ask your at-risk patients about firearms and counsel them on safe firearm practices.