

Confronting a public health crisis: the medical community's role in preventing gun violence

Peter T. Masiakos, MD, MS
 Chana A. Sacks, MD, MPH
 Co-Directors, MGH Center for Gun Violence Prevention
 Massachusetts General Hospital

Northeastern University
 28 January 2021

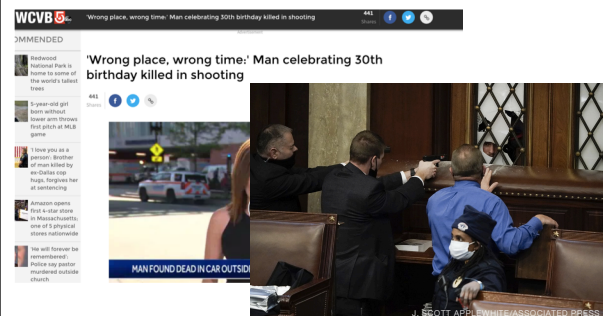


We have no financial disclosures

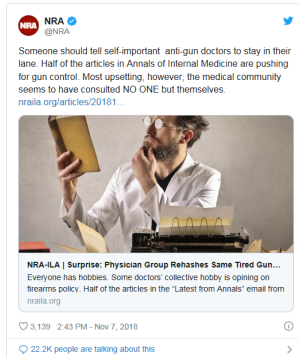
It is hard not to think about gun violence



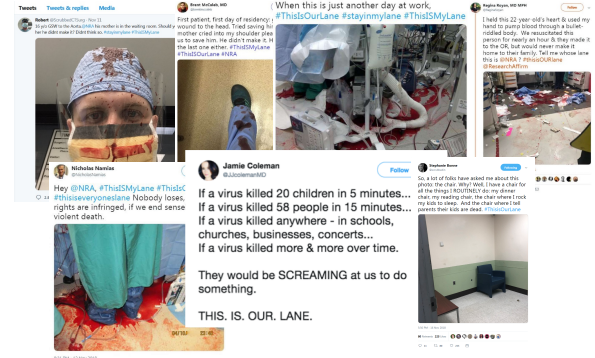
It is hard not to think about gun violence



On November 7, 2018, the NRA told doctors to “stay in their lane”



...And doctors responded



What are the next 10 words?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Gun Control

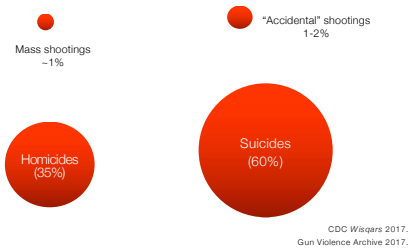
Y	S	E	C	O	N	D	A	M	E	N	D	M	E	N	T	F
A	J	R	W	M	F	N	R	M	I	Y	C	X	O	D	N	L
G	W	D	T	E	F	D	A	P	K	S	I	O	X	G	N	
Q	R	L	F	T	I	W	O	W	O	T	Y	M	U	E	S	
T	W	A	B	V	R	R	B	S	C	A	B	V	G	H	R	
M	Q	N	G	W	E	T	W	I	R	T	C	Y	A	X	A	G
F	C	O	B	I	A	Y	L	T	S	X	V	T	O	T	T	P
U	S	I	F	D	R	V	S	I	M	D	I	T	P	U	R	G
N	S	T	Q	U	U	B	V	O	V	J	R	G	O	V	I	
Z	A	T	K	G	S	E	E	G	P	D	T	J	J	F		
C	F	E	E	D	N	O	M	Q	E	Z	Z	R	Z			
I	E	I	T	D	S	W	L	C	A	I	L	E	V			
U	T	T	K	Y	O	B	W	T	H	E	K	P	L	A		
E	Y	S	W	X	U	R	J	T	I	X	O	H	X	B	S	
W	X	N	V	C	A	R	F	O	S	I	K	C	Z	I	Z	W
P	G	O	R	S	W	K	N	P	Q	J	Z	U	O	C	D	S
B	R	C	O	U	N	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	J	O	Z	A

Negatives: Rights, Second Amendment
Positives: Laws, Protection
Registration: Gun Control, Safety
Constitutional: Firearm

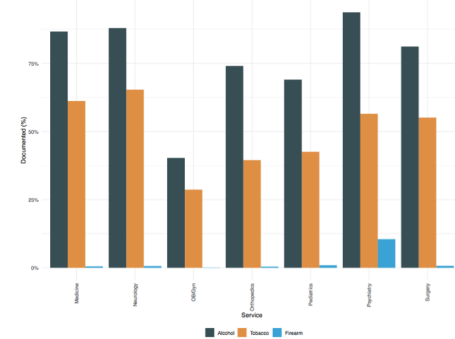
Firearm-related deaths are due to 4 different types of violence



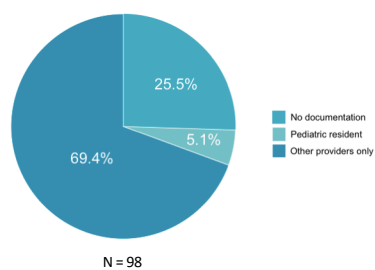
Firearm-related deaths are due to 4 different types of violence



Any discussion of firearm access during hospitalizations is rare (N=80,447)



In 2018, at MGH, trainees asked high-risk adolescents about firearm access ~5% of the time

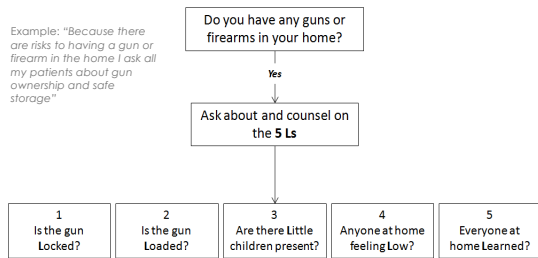


Every incoming MGH intern went through our novel simulation-based training program



When talking about firearms, focus on health and use a non-judgmental approach

Example: "Because there are risks to having a gun or firearm in the home I ask all my patients about gun ownership and safe storage"



Wintemute and colleagues, UC Davis

Vulnerable populations are at increased risk of gun violence

- Women experiencing intimate partner violence are up to 5-12X more likely to be killed if there is a gun in the home
- Gun violence disproportionately affects communities of color
- Gun misuse and suicide is problematic among older adults, especially among people with cognitive impairment

This is true, right here in Boston, one of the safest cities in one of the safest states



Roxbury mom and activist Monica Cannon-Grant speaks to crowd at WBUR's Cityspace as Nasser Ramon, John Rosenblat, and House Speaker Robert DeLeo look on.

GUNS

Students interrupt WBUR gun violence event

Say high-profile panel not addressing their concerns

What won't work? Focusing only on gun deaths.



In contrast to precise tracking of fatalities, data on nonfatal injuries are limited

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7 Saving Lives. Protecting People™				
EXPLORE NONFATAL DATA				
SELECTIONS: All Intents Firearm Injuries Disabilities: All D Year From: 2017 To: 2017 Report Year Selection				
Age Range: All Ages Year Range: 2017 - 2017				
NONFATAL INJURY REPORTS HOME VIEW ADVANCED STATISTICS				
133,895**	325,719,178	41.1**	41.7**	2,442**
Number of Injuries	Population	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate	Number of Records
**Age estimates and rates are provided because of small sample size and/or C.I. > 30%, due to small sample.				
52,330	0.391**	31,329	236,461	
Standard Error	CI	Lower Confidence Limit	Upper Confidence Limit	

In contrast to precise tracking of fatalities, data on nonfatal injuries are limited

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7 Saving Lives. Protecting People™				
EXPLORE NONFATAL DATA				
SELECTIONS: All Intents Firearm Injuries Disabilities: All D Year From: 2017 To: 2017 Report Year Selection				
Age Range: All Ages Year Range: 2017 - 2017				
NONFATAL INJURY REPORTS HOME VIEW ADVANCED STATISTICS				
133,895**	325,719,178	41.1**	41.7**	2,442**
Number of Injuries	Population	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate	Number of Records
**Age estimates and rates are provided because of small sample size and/or C.I. > 30%, due to small sample.				
52,330	0.391**	31,329	236,461	
Standard Error	CI	Lower Confidence Limit	Upper Confidence Limit	

MGH Center for Gun Violence Prevention

About 2 Million Guns Were Sold in the U.S. as Virus Fears Spread

As 2020 unfolded, gun sales in the U.S. rose sharply. In the first 11 months of 2020, more than 2 million guns were sold, according to the National Rifle Association (NRA). The surge in gun sales has raised concerns about the potential for increased gun violence.

Pandemic gun violence: shootings in Boston jump...

Pandemic gun violence: shootings in Boston jump 29% in 2020

NEWS: CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

Reconsidering Risks of Gun Ownership and Suicide in Unprecedented Times

Chen A. Sachs, M.D., M.P.H., and Stephen J. Bartels, M.D.

Article

June 4, 2020

10.1093/ajph.2020.100.000000

Academic Pediatrics

Screening for Access to Firearms by Pediatric Trainees in High-Risk Patients

Chen A. Sachs, M.D., M.P.H., and Stephen J. Bartels, M.D.

Letter-Reply Clinical Review

Civilian Firearm-related Injuries

How Often is a Tourist Beneficial?

Su Zhen Wu, M.D., M.P.H.; David C. Chang, P.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.; Nana P. Pinn, M.D.; Margaret A. Sargent, M.D., M.P.H.; Christopher M. Bertolotti, M.D.; Chen A. Sachs, M.D., M.P.H.; and Peter T. Moushey, M.D., M.P.H.

Confronting Moral Obligations in an Active Shooter Incident: A Reminder to Focus on Prevention

Sacks C., Masiakos PT

10.1093/ajph.2020.100.000000

- Education:** 150+ residents across 6 Departments have undergone simulation training in how to have conversations about firearm safety with patients
- Community Engagement:** Affiliations with Emerson College, MGH/Red Sox Home Base, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute
- Research:** Mini-grant program coming January 2021 – what are your ideas to tackle this public health crisis?

Community partners are critical to this effort, keeping survivors at the center of this work



