Data to Guide Solutions to Gun Violence in America

Daniel W. Webster, ScD, MPH
Bloomberg Professor of American Health
Dir., Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research
Ratio of US youth homicide rates to mean of other high-income nations, 2010
88% of US homicide victims ages 14-18 years die by gunfire
Homicide and suicide rates with guns in U.S. ages 14-18 years by race

- **Gun Homicide**
  - Whites: 0
  - Blacks: 25

- **Gun Suicide**
  - Whites: 4
  - Blacks: 1

Legend:
- 🟠 Whites
- 🔴 Blacks
The Importance of Standards for Legal Gun Ownership
Age-Specific Homicide Offending Rates

![Graph showing the age-specific homicide offending rates with a sharp increase from ages 15 to 18, followed by a decline across older ages.](image-url)
Beer vs. Guns: Which is more dangerous in the hands of 18-20 year-olds?

- 50 states and DC set 21 as minimum legal age for alcohol consumption.

- 12 states and DC set 21 as minimum legal age for handgun possession.
% of persons incarcerated for violent crimes with guns prohibited vs. legal gun owners

13 states weakest standards vs. all other states:
- Prohibited: {value}
- Legal: {value}

Legend:
- Red: prohibited
- Yellow: legal
Percentage of gun offenders who were legal gun possessors in states with weakest standards and the conditions which would have prohibited their gun ownership in states with strict standards. Vitesse et al., 2013.
Population Attributable Risk of Minor or Serious Violent Behavior Towards Others:

BUT: Serious mental illness, on its own, contributes very little to overall violence towards others (a much bigger risk factor for suicide)

96% of violence toward others occurs due to reasons other than serious mental illness alone.
Recommendations to expand disqualifying conditions for firearms - *Consortium on Risk-Based Firearm Policy*

- Convictions for:
  - Misdemeanor violence – (-29% violence, -25% IPH)
  - 2+ alcohol abuse violations within 5 years (no data)

- Temporary restraining orders for domestic violence (-16% IPH)
- Extend DVRO firearm protections to dating partners (-14% IPH)

- Extreme Risk Protection Order laws (CT, IN, CA, WA, OR) – Reduced suicide risks (Swanson 2017)
Policies to Keep Guns from Prohibited Persons
Mick Beatovic, former co-owner of Badger Guns & Ammo and Badger Outdoors, in 2007

Walter Allan, former co-owner of Badger Guns & Ammo and Badger Outdoors, in 1999

Curtis Beato-ovic, former Badger Guns & Ammo co-owner, in 1999
Changes in Handgun Sales Regulation in Missouri after Permit-to-Purchase Law was Repealed

• After Aug. 28, 2007, private handgun sales no longer require background checks or record-keeping.

• Applications to purchase handguns no longer involve trip to local sheriff’s office. Just apply through gun dealer who will profit from the sale.
Difference between Missouri and rest of US firearm homicide rates, 1999-2015
Difference between Missouri and rest of US firearm suicide rates, 1999-2016
PTP repeal effects on homicides and suicides in Missouri (Update to Webster et al., 2014)

- Controlling for policing levels, incarceration, poverty, crime, unemployment, other policies, PTP repeal effect:
  - +20% firearm homicide rates (50 per year) – increased in all metro areas.
  - No state had larger increase in gun homicide rates.
  - No change in non-firearm homicide rate.

- Firearm suicide rate increased 16% (64 per year). No change in non-firearm suicides. Crifasi et al. 2016.
Connecticut’s Permit-to-Purchase Handgun Law Effects on Homicides
Rudolph, Stuart, Vernick, & Webster, 2015

• PTP law adopted Oct. 1995, strengthened background check requirement, fingerprint by police, 8 hours safety training.

• Gun homicides 40% lower in CT vs. controls 1st 10 years. No control state had as dramatic change. Update: -29% over 18 years.

• Firearm suicide rate reduced -16% Crifasi et al. 2016.
% Increase in Violent Crime Associated with Each Year a RTC Law is in Effect  

Donohue, Aneja, & Weber, 2017
Assault Weapons, High Capacity Magazines and Mass Shooting Casualties
(Data from Mother Jones 1982-2018)

- For every year the Federal ban of AW and HCM was in place, 10% decline in the number of mass shooting victims

- For every year after Federal ban was lifted (2004), number of victims in mass shootings has increased 12%.