VIOLENCE PREVENTION: GUNS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD
Dean, College of Medicine and Professor, Internal Medicine
Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine and Science
VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

- Magnitude of the problem
- Characteristics of violence
- Contact health professionals have with victims and perpetrators
- Application of public health strategies to understanding and preventing it
On violence:
“If it’s not a health problem, then why are all those people dying from it?”

- Dr. David Satcher, 1993
2015 HEADLINE CAPTURES THE PREDICAMENT

33,804 people die in car accidents and Congress approves more than $830M for safety research. 33,636 die by guns and these frauds sign off on a paltry $5M.
MORE SUICIDES THAN HOMICIDES – EACH YEAR

Of the total 33,594 who died in 2014 there were...

21,386 Suicides

11,008 Homicides

of which 14 died in mass shootings

1,200 Other*

*Other includes accidental deaths and war casualties

Source: CDC/Mother Jones. All figures 2014
The vast majority (77%) of white gun deaths are suicides; less than one in five (19%) is a homicide.

It is opposite in the black population, where only 14% of gun deaths are suicides but 82% are homicides.
“We found that keeping a gun in the home was strongly and independently associated with an increased risk of homicide (adjusted odds ratio, 2.7; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.6 to 4.4). Virtually all of this risk involved homicide by a family member or intimate acquaintance.”
Dismayed by the lack of marksmanship shown by their troops, Union veterans formed the **National Rifle Association** in 1871 after being granted a charter in NY.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1889</td>
<td>The Cleveland Elementary School shooting in Stockton, CA. 34 people shot, 5 children killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1991</td>
<td>Luby's Mass Shooting at Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen, Texas that left 23 people dead and 27 wounded</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1993</td>
<td>101 California Street shooting in San Francisco, CA killed 8 people and wounded 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1994</td>
<td>Federal Assault Ban signed by President Clinton. Prohibited the manufacture for civilian use of certain semi-automatic firearms it defined as assault weapons</td>
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Involved semi automatic rifles and handguns
DICKEY AMENDMENT (1996)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING

To carry out titles II, III, VII, XI, XV, XVII, and XIX of the Public Health Service Act, sections 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203, 301, and 501 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, and sections 20, 21 and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; including insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries; and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, $2,262,698,000, of which $30,553,000 shall remain available until expended for equipment and construction and renovation of facilities, and of which $32,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 1998 for mine safety and health activities, and in addition, such sums as may be derived from authorized user fees, which shall be credited to this account: Provided, That in addition to amounts provided herein, up to $48,400,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act, to carry out the National Center for Health Statistics surveys: Provided further, That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control: Provided further, That the Director may redirect the total amount made available under authority of Public Law 101–502, section 3, dated November 3, 1990, to activities the Director may so designate: Provided further, That the Congress is to be notified promptly of any such transfer: Provided further, That the functions described in clause (1) of the first proviso under the subheading “mines and minerals” under the heading “Bureau of Mines” in the text of title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, as enacted by section 101 (c) of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–134), are hereby transferred to, and vested in, the Secretary of Health

A WELL REGULATED MILITIA BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

-- The 2nd Amendment

“...That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.”
“This bill won’t stop every mass shooting, but it will begin removing these weapons of war from our streets. The first Assault Weapons Ban was just starting to show an effect when the NRA stymied its reauthorization in 2004.”

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), 2017

“There are just more and more assault rifles out there, and it is becoming a bigger threat to law enforcement each day. We are literally outgunned.”

Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty, 2011
RACE BASED IMPRISONMENT IN THE US

Rate of Imprisonment per 100,000, by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity, 2015

- White women: 52
- Black women: 103
- Latina women: 63
- White men: 457
- Black men: 2,613
- Latino men: 1,043


United States rate of imprisonment in state prisons 1978-2007

In the DOJ Uniform Crime Reports Program, justifiable homicide is defined as and limited to:

- The killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty.
- The killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>TOTAL FIREARMS</th>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>375</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>429</td>
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Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) published by the Department of Justice
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

United States from 2007 to 2019

Number of Situations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Law enforcement officers</th>
<th>Private citizens</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>398</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Police fatally shot 987 people last year, or two dozen more than they killed in 2016, according to an ongoing Washington Post database.

Officials fatally shot 94 unarmed people in 2015, but that number has been lower in the past two years, with 51 killed in 2016 and 68 in 2017.

Black males accounted for 22 percent of all people shot and killed in 2017, yet they are 6 percent of the total population. White males accounted for 44 percent of all fatal police shootings, and Hispanic males accounted for 18 percent.

In 2015, police shot and killed 36 unarmed black males.
POLICE ON BLACK MEN

Trayvon Benjamin Martin (February 5, 1995 – February 26, 2012)
CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and
advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston.

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR &
ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS
AND
Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in
KIDNAPPINGS, CATCHING, AND KEEPING
SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY,
and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, show
them in every possible manner, as many ROUNDS
on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.
An earlier practice of taking caged canaries into coal mines as a warning for the miners, is a

If the birds stop chirping then dangerous gases were present alerting the miners.
Eric Garner: “He was complex, funny, larger-than-life, flawed. He was the kind of character that people talk about in the street. Everybody has a story about Garner. They’re all funny.”
RISK FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE

- Poverty and Income Inequality
- Access to Guns
- Alcohol and Other Drug Use
- Witnessing Violence & Victimization
- Biologic/Organic Abnormalities
- Culture of Violence
CULTURE EATS STRATEGY FOR LUNCH: AMERICAN DUELING

Jack K. Williams, *Dueling in the Old South* - In Mississippi in the 1840s, duels were said to be "as plenty as blackberries."

Fox Butterfield, *All God’s Children: The Boskett Family* - An “undercount” yields a rate in Edgefield, SC from 1844-1858 of 18/100,000 per year with a 1991 Louisiana rate of 17.4/100,000.

Harriet Martineau, famous authoress and traveler, wrote - "It is understood that in New Orleans there were fought, in 1834, more duels than there are days in the year, fifteen in one Sunday morning; that in 1835, there were 102 duels fought in that city between the 1st of January and the end of April and no notice is taken of shooting in a quarrel..."
AMERICAN DUELING

Alexander Hamilton’s Pros and Cons:

Cons
- Wife and Children
- Deeply in debt
- Bore Burr no ill-will
- Illegal in NY
- Condemned by Christianity

Pros
- Pressing necessity not to decline the call
- Cost him political support
- Essential to his ability to be useful in the future
• Based on a review of 12 U.S. studies (multiple cities) - domestic violence incidents increased 8.1% after pandemic-related lockdown orders were imposed.

• Unlike some early reports on domestic violence trends, the studies in this review used data from crime reports, emergency hotline registries, hospital and other health records, and additional administrative documents – not just police reports.

• Lockdowns and pandemic-related economic impacts likely exacerbated factors typically associated with domestic violence, such as
  • increased male unemployment,
  • stress associated with childcare and homeschooling, and
  • increased financial insecurity.
  • increased use of alcohol and other substances, may have elevated the risk of abuse.

• The authors also conclude that COVID-19 left parents and children confined to their homes, cut off from friends, neighbors, colleagues, and others who might have reported signs of abuse and violence and intervened to help potential victims escape violent situations.
THANK YOU!

dprothows@cdrewu.edu