

TITLE: Using the Tools of Public Health to Prevent Gun Violence in Oregon: New and Emerging Efforts

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PRESENTER(S): Yachana Bhakta, MPH; Donna-Marie Drucker; Mike Schmidt, JD; Susan DeFrancesco, JD, MPH; Roy Moore; Kathleen Carlson, MS, PhD

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public health program developers and researchers, clinicians, policymakers, public health practitioners, and community organizations working to prevent gun violence

ABSTRACT: Gun violence and other firearm injuries are a significant public health problem in Oregon. Partnerships are crucial to understanding the problem and identifying, implementing, and sustaining solutions. This panel continues a tradition of presenting on the growing public health response to gun violence in Oregon. This year's panel will highlight new and emerging collaborations between academic, public health, criminal justice, firearm, and community organizations to address gun violence using the tools of public health. Panelists: Yachana Bhakta, MPH will present on the use of trauma-informed methods to disseminate new surveillance data on firearm injuries across Oregon; Donna-Marie Drucker will share the work of the Oregon Firearm Safety Coalition to scale up firearm suicide prevention efforts through firearm retailers and ranges; Mike Schmidt will present his work as Multnomah County District Attorney to partner with public health practitioners to prevent gun violence; and Roy Moore will share new efforts to expand hospital-based violence prevention programs across Oregon. Laura Chisholm, PhD, MPH, MCHES will moderate discussion concerning the importance of partnership, novel approaches, and research/evaluation to inform Oregon's gun violence prevention approach. Similar to previous years, this panel will include four presenters. The first abstract is included in this section, as follows: Title: Development of a Novel, Statewide Firearm Injury Data Report: the Oregon FASTER Project Authors: Yachana Bhakta, MPH; Susan DeFrancesco, JD, MPH; Will Baker-Robinson, MS; Danielle Krushnic, MPH; Dagan Wright, PhD, MSPH; Laura Chisholm, PhD, MPH, MCHES; Kathleen Carlson MS, PhD Presenter: Yachana Bhakta, MPH Abstract: Problem: Fatal and nonfatal firearm injury data are needed to fully understand the gun violence problem in Oregon and promote data-driven prevention strategies. The Oregon FASTER project, an Oregon Health Authority and OHSU-PSU School of Public Health collaboration, makes available, for the first time, firearm injury data from emergency departments across the state, in near-real time. It is important to disseminate these novel data in a way that is useable by community partners working in prevention. Aim: To increase utilization of FASTER data for prevention, and develop a report that reflects the needs of community partners and presents the data in an understandable and relevant way. Approach: We shared a draft FASTER report with 15 community partners. In virtual conversations, we received feedback on sections of the report including our use of the socio-ecological framework and the race/ethnicity and injury intent data. We also discussed data limitations. Results: The FASTER data report was greatly enhanced by the expertise and lived experience of our community partners. We thoughtfully balanced their needs and suggestions with the restrictions and limitations of the data to finalize the report. Conclusions/Implications: Community partner involvement is vital to ensuring the usability and relevance of firearm injury data.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe new and emerging efforts to prevent gun violence and other firearm injuries in Oregon using a public health approach. Discuss the value of bringing together diverse community partners to address a common public health goal and demonstrate the importance of including the firearm owning community in preventing firearm suicide. Evaluate the public health approach to gun violence prevention and the importance of multi-disciplinary and community-based partnerships. Discuss trauma-informed violence intervention programs and the use of evaluation research in supporting program implementation.

PANEL MODERATOR: Laura Chisholm, PhD, MPH, MCHES, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority

PANEL ABSTRACT 1: Title: Gun Owners and the Suicide Prevention Community Collaborate on Firearm Suicide Prevention in Oregon Author: Donna-Marie Drucker, President, Oregon Firearm Safety Coalition (OFSC) Abstract: Problem: More than 80% of firearm deaths in Oregon are due to suicide. Firearm owners often do not trust public health messaging around firearm safety and believe that firearm suicide prevention is code for gun control. Aim: Build trust within the firearm owning community to develop evidence-based trainings, safety messaging, offsite firearm storage, and other firearm suicide prevention strategies. Approach: A coalition of 60 stakeholders from the Oregon firearm owner and suicide prevention communities was launched in September 2020. The coalition has developed firearm suicide prevention pilot projects within the firearm owning community. Results: Partnerships have been developed with the three largest gun clubs in Oregon and with Veteran organizations. Firearm Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) with gatekeeper Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) has been delivered to over 100 firearm owners. A firearm suicide prevention module has been delivered to over 200 new gun club/range members and 50 firearm owners have received firearm suicide prevention when taking concealed carry licensing (CCL) training. Conclusions/Implications: The firearm owner community can play an important role in suicide prevention and is eager to engage in prevention strategies delivered by a trusted community member in a manner respectful of their rights to own firearms.

PRESENTER 1: Donna-Marie Drucker

PANEL ABSTRACT 2: Title: Multnomah County Gun Violence Review Commission Established to Address the Gun Violence Epidemic Authors: Mike Schmidt, JD, Multnomah County District Attorney; Susan DeFrancesco, JD, MPH, Senior Research Associate, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health; Kathleen Carlson, MS, PhD, Associate Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Abstract: Problem: Gun violence has been growing at an alarming rate in Oregon. One indication is the increasing number of cases involving gun violence prosecuted by the Multnomah County District Attorney's office. In 2019, 52 such cases were prosecuted from January through May. For that same period in 2022, 98 cases were prosecuted. Aim: Address gun violence in Multnomah County by taking a data-driven and comprehensive public health approach. Approach: The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, along with city, county, and state public health agencies, established a Gun Violence Review Commission for Multnomah County funded by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Composed of representatives of multiple disciplines, city and county agencies, and community-based organizations, the Commission conducts an intensive examination of firearm-related injury and death data and formulates actionable, community-informed upstream prevention strategies for implementation. Results: The work of the Commission advances an understanding of how and why

firearm-related death and injury occurs and helps to focus available, and often limited, intervention resources toward preventing those causes. Conclusions/Implications: An untraditional partnership between criminal justice and public health, with engagement across county and city entities, and community-based organizations, can work to reduce gun violence.

PRESENTER 2: Mike Schmidt, JD

PANEL ABSTRACT 3: Title: Supporting the Expansion of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs in Oregon with Evaluation Research Authors: Roy Moore, Co-Director, Community Care Team, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center; Kathleen Carlson, MS, PhD, Associate Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health Abstract: Problem: Communities of color in Oregon have experienced long-term, systematic disinvestment and suffer a disproportionate impact of gun violence as a result. Healing Hurt People (HHP) is a hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP), run by the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, offered at three hospitals in the Portland metro region. Focused on young men of color, HHP provides social and behavioral health services by credible messengers with ongoing wraparound supports. HVIPs reduce violence recidivism, hospital costs, and criminal justice system involvement among victims of violence. Little is known about the effects of HVIPs on community violence and the facilitators and barriers to program implementation and retention. Aim: Develop knowledge of the effects of HVIPs on community violence and identify ways to support effective program implementation. Approach: Examine best practices for measuring community-level outcomes, generate methods to share patient experiences, and identify program implementation measures. Results: An environmental scan and sociological research has identified effective outcome measurements and ways to amplify the voices of gun violence survivors; pilot interview guides and survey instruments about implementation are being developed. Conclusions/Implications: Recent Oregon legislation will fund the expansion of HHP to hospitals across Oregon. This work will facilitate the success of this HVIP expansion.

PRESENTER 3: Roy Moore
