TITLE: Children Aged 11 and Under Fatally Shot in Oregon: Familicide, Filicide, Suicide, Unintentional Shootings

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Policy makers, pediatricians, mental health professionals

ABSTRACT: Children in Oregon aged 11 and younger are more likely to be shot by a parent than to shoot themselves or to be shot by someone who is not a family member. Between Jan 1, 2014 and June 1, 2022, twenty-one children in Oregon aged 11 and under were fatally shot. Of the 21 children fatally shot, 16 were killed by a family member. Four children fatally shot themselves. Our study uses data from the Gun Violence Archive to examine the number of children in Oregon aged eleven and under who were shot, who shot them, and the circumstances of the shootings. Our findings indicate the need to support health care providers in discussions about firearms in the home and to learn about Oregon’s Extreme Risk Protection Order law. Our findings also indicate the need for better public health policy and education about firearm storage, storing firearms out of the home, and convenient methods for people to dispose of unwanted firearms. Filicide, familicide, and femicide, which are usually committed with firearms, are rarely discussed. We hope this information will act as a catalyst for more research into these violent acts.

OBJECTIVE(S): Define filicide, familicide, and femicide. Compare the number of children aged 11 and under who are shot by a family member versus shot by themselves. List two actions health care providers can take to prevent family shootings.