THE BURDEN OF GUN VIOLENCE
TRENDS AND POLICY SOLUTIONS
TRENDS IN HOMICIDE AND NONLETHAL VIOLENCE

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Overview

- US and Iowa total and firearm homicide rates, 1981-2017
- Firearm homicide rates by race, 1981-2017
- Serious nonfatal firearm victimization rates by race, 1993-2018
- Mass killings
- Cross-national firearm homicide rates
Data Sources

- National Vital Statistics System
- National Crime Victimization Survey
- Mother Jones
Figure 1. US and Iowa Total and Firearm Homicide Rates per 100,000 Population, 1981 - 2017

Source: National Vital Statistics
Figure 2B. US Firearm Homicide Rates by Race, 1981 - 2017

Source: National Vital Statistics
Figure 2B. US Firearm Homicide Rates by Race, 1981 - 2017

Iowa 2017
Black = 20.5
White = 1.8

Source: National Vital Statistics
Figure 3. US Nonfatal Firearm Victimization Rates per 1,000 Population Age 12 and Older by Race, 1993 - 2018

Nonfatal = Aggravated Assault + Robbery + Rape/Sexual Assault

Source: National Crime Victimization Survey
Figure 4. Mass Killings and Total Homicides, 1982 - 2019

Source: Mother Jones; National Vital Statistics
Figure 5. Firearm Homicide Rates per 100,000 Population in 23 Nations, 2010

Source: Grinshteyn and Hemenway (2016)
GENDER AND GUN VIOLENCE

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Male and Female Nonlethal Firearm Victimization Rates (per 1,000): NCVS 1993-2018

Estimated average annual number of gun victimizations from 2016-2018: 280,000 for males and 190,000 for females.
Male and Female Firearm Homicide Victimization Rates (per 100,000):
CDC 1993-2017

From 2014 to 2017, firearm homicide rates increased 28% among males and 32% among females.

Est = 12,100
Est = 2,300
Intimate Partner Homicide and State Firearm Laws

Effects on firearm-related IPH rates:

- Possession prohibited if subject to IPV-related restraining order
  -15.0% ** (relinquishment required)
  -6.4% NS (relinquishment not required)

- Possession prohibited if convicted of IPV-related misdemeanor
  -7.3% NS (relinquishment required)
  -6.6% NS (relinquishment not required)

- Removal of firearms from the scene of an IPV incident
  -1.1% NS

- Possession prohibited if convicted of stalking
  -4.0% NS
Figure 3. Trends in IPH among states with and without IPV-related restraining order firearm relinquishment laws, 1991 to 2015.

IPH = intimate partner homicide; IPV = intimate partner violence.

REGULATION OF GUNS AND GUN MARKETS

PHILIP J. COOK
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3 Pillars of Gun Policy
1. INSTRUMENTALITY

In violent encounters, the type of weapon matters.

Outcome: Life or death — depends on the power of the weapon, **not just the intent of the attacker.**
INSTRUMENTALITY/SUICIDE

85% die in attempts with gun
5% die in serious attempts, all other means & survivors are unlikely to try again

Means Matter Campaign (Harvard Public Health)
2. AVAILABILITY

Ease of access $\rightarrow$ Weapon choice

Is it feasible to reduce access?

Going forward: red flag laws, smart guns, ban on large magazines
3. ACCOUNTABILITY

Low arrest rates = lack of legal accountability
  – Downward trend nationally
  – Some cities with rates < 10%

Higher clearance rates prevent violence:
1. Deterrence
2. Keep dangerous people off the street
3. Interrupt vigilante retaliation
ACCOUNTABILITY: ARREST & CONVICTION

Improve Police Investigations through:

1. Higher priority for crimes of gun violence
2. Technical support
3. Regulations to assist investigations:
   - Registration
   - Microstamping
4. Investing in community relations
VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGIES

THOMAS ABT
HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
The high price of urban violence

- In 2018, 16,214 murders in U.S.; majority due to urban violence
- Each murder costs society $10-19 million (McCollister et al., 2010; DeLisi et al., 2010); largest impact may be on children
- “[C]ounties that produce better outcomes for children in low-income families tend to have... lower rates of violent crime.” (Chetty, 2015)
- “[C]onverging evidence [shows] exposure to violence may be a central mechanism by which growing up in areas of concentrated disadvantage affects the life chances of children” (Sharkey, 2016)
Focused deterrence

- Police/community partnerships confront high-risk individuals and groups with double message
- Braga et al. (2018) performed systematic review, identifying 24 tests in total
- 19 of 24 tests showed “noteworthy” crime reduction effects
- Large effect size (.657) indicates significant impact on gang/group violence
Street outreach

• Streetwork, i.e. use of street, gang, or outreach workers to identify and address violent conflicts

• Mixed but promising record of success (Whitehill et al., 2012; Wilson & Chermak, 2011; Delgado 2017; Brantingham 2017)

• To move into “proven” category, must be further professionalized and systematized, e.g. outreach academies with certifications
This.

Racism  Segregation  Concentrated poverty  Crime and violence

Racism  Segregation  Concentrated poverty  Crime and violence

Also this.
The Burden of Gun Violence: Trends and Policy Solutions