Welcome to the first edition of Biblio Alert!, a publication designed to inform you about important new resources on various injury and violence prevention topics. This issue focuses on firearm injuries and is divided into two sections: New Resources and Classics.

Questions or comments? The next Biblio Alert! will focus on alcohol and injury. If you have suggestions about materials to include and/or questions or comments about this Biblio Alert!, please contact the Children's Safety Network Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center, National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, 2000 15th Street North, Suite 701, Arlington, VA 22201-2617. Telephone (703) 524-7802/Fax (703) 524-9335.

NEW RESOURCES

Journal Articles


Identifies major issues and proposes specific intervention and prevention strategies for pediatricians and the American Academy of Pediatrics.


Proposes prevention strategies in the areas of firearm design, regulations, product liability actions, public and parent education, and legislation.


Reviews current knowledge about the impact of assault weapons on public health and discusses legislation to restrict the sale and private ownership of these weapons.


Demonstrates that the presence of firearms in the home is associated with an increased risk of adolescent suicide. Concludes that physicians should recommend that firearms be removed from the homes of at-risk adolescents.


Documents self-reported handgun access and ownership among high school students in Seattle, Washington.
Focus on Firearms


Describes self-reported weapon-carrying among U.S. high school students in grades 9–12 in 1990. Suggests several considerations for the design of programs to reduce the incidence of weapon-carrying and prevent weapon-related deaths and injuries, such as targeting frequent weapon-carriers and their families and peers, helping parents reduce their children's access to weapons, and instituting legal sanctions.


Presents pros and cons of 17 possible approaches, ranging from mandatory safety courses in schools to handgun bans.


Examines the current medical/public health approach to gun-associated violence.


Reports findings from an assessment by the U.S. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment. Includes a recommendation that Congress limit adolescents' access to firearms in order to improve their social environments.


Compares rates of firearm- and nonfirearm-homicide among adolescents ages 15–19 in metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties.


Identifies counties with significantly high or low firearm homicide rates among black males ages 15–19 during 1983–1985 and 1987–1989. Also identifies counties with significant increases in the firearm homicide death rate between these two time periods.


Suggests priority areas for intervention at the community level, including developing community consensus on the use and possession of weapons; modifying the environment to reduce opportunities for weapon-associated violence; requiring firearm safety courses; banning the manufacture, sale,
Focus on Firearms

and importation of certain types of weapons; educating the community about product liability litigation against gun manufacturers; and improving enforcement of laws against illegal gun trafficking. Also recommends priority areas for evaluation research.


Examines the pros and cons of making assault weapons manufacturers liable for gun injuries.


Summarizes the epidemiology of firearm-associated injuries and describes the magnitude of firearm injury in the United States as a public health issue. Suggests prevention strategies and a research agenda for establishing a scientific basis for prevention.


Shows that the presence of guns in the home is associated with an increased risk of suicide.


Reiterates the need for a public health/medical approach to the problem of violence in the United States and makes three key recommendations for action. Also compares the responsibilities associated with owning and using a firearm to those associated with owning and operating a motor vehicle, arguing that, like drivers, owners and operators of firearms should be required to meet specific criteria regarding age, mental condition, demonstrable knowledge, and skill; should be monitored; and should forfeit the right to own or operate the firearm if they do not meet all these conditions.


Evaluation of District of Columbia law banning the purchase, sale, transfer, or possession of handguns by civilians. Suggests that, on average, 47 deaths have been prevented each year since implementation of the law.


Evaluation of a Detroit ordinance requiring mandatory jail sentences for anyone convicted of illegally carrying a firearm in public. Suggests that strict enforcement is required in order for such ordinances to have the desired effect.
Focus on Firearms


Describes significant differences between African-American and white adolescents and between males and females regarding their perceptions about gun safety, gun control, and the consequences of gun use.


Analyzes the portrayal of guns during two weeks of regular prime-time programming on four major networks.


Compares the risk of death and non-fatal injury in family and intimate assaults involving firearms to those not involving firearms.


Examines the degree to which inner-city high school students are victimized by gun-related violence or the threat of such violence.


Discusses the need for a firearm fatality reporting system patterned after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS). Argues that uniform, reliable firearm fatality data are essential for the development of effective policy solutions to the gun violence problem and recommends specific information to be collected (e.g., make, model, and serial number of the weapon).


Analyzes temporal patterns in hospital gunshot wound admission rates and wound profiles (number and location) to provide a picture of a community’s violence problem over time.


Examines the relationship between gun availability and homicides, assaults, suicides, and personal protection. Argues that many injuries could be prevented by modifying the design of the firearms themselves; making gun manufacturers liable; passing laws that restrict the manufacture, sale, and possession of handguns; and giving authority over guns to an agency that is more focused on public safety than the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
Focus on Firearms


Discusses the results of surveys and focus groups conducted with parents of children treated by selected pediatricians in Maryland. Suggests that pediatricians will be most effective if they recommend passive interventions to parents (e.g., removing firearms from the home) as part of general injury prevention counseling.


Examines gun injuries in the context of the three E's: engineering, enforcement, and education. Argues that gun manufacturers should be subject to the same safety standards as other consumer products, but that any built-in safety must still be supplemented by interventions that modify the purchase, use, and storage of guns—i.e., education and enforcement.


Suggests that controlling individual access to firearms may be an important suicide prevention strategy.

Reports and Books


Reviews differences in firearm-related injuries by age, race, gender, geographic area, urban/rural residence, and per capita income. Also discusses historical trends and preventive measures.


A good model for cities trying to assess the cost of firearm injuries.


Emphasizes racial and gender differences in homicide and suicide associated with firearms among males ages 15–34.
Focus on Firearms


Compares violence in programs shown on cable television to violence in broadcast network programming.


Examines unintentional firearm-related mortality, firearm-related suicides, and firearm-related homicides in the south central United States and proposes educational/behavioral, technological/environmental, and legislative/regulatory prevention strategies.


Illustrates the effectiveness of mandatory sentencing laws for handgun crimes in six cities.


Compares the crime-related costs and benefits of private gun ownership.


Example of a state report outlining the breadth of the violence epidemic and proposing a range of specific violence prevention interventions such as a tax on gun ammunition. A useful tool for consensus-building and raising public awareness through the media.


Reviews research on patterns and characteristics of violent behavior in the United States. Proposes several intervention strategies that rely on existing laws to reduce firearm-related violence.
Focus on Firearms


Lists national, state, and local data sources for assaultive violence along with risk factors and potential intervention strategies.


Explores the impact of violence on children and discusses promising interventions for pediatricians and other health professionals.


Examines the National Rifle Association's history and its current purpose, finances, political strategies, and political power.


Examines the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms program to help convicted felons legally regain the privilege of possessing firearms.

University of Iowa, Injury Prevention Research Center. (1992). *Firearm Injuries: A Public Health Approach.* Iowa City, IA: Injury Prevention Research Center, University of Iowa. Contact: James Merchant, Injury Prevention Research Center, University of Iowa, 100 Oakdale Campus, Number 126 AMRF, Iowa City, IA 52242. Telephone: (319) 335-4415/Fax (319) 335-4225. One copy available free.

Illustrates the severity of the firearm injury problem and emphasizes the need for a public health response. Recommends intervention strategies that include surveillance, legislative priorities, and education/communication.


Examines how federal firearms license holders play a role in the flow of firearms in the United States and offers proposals to assist state and local governments and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in improving the regulation of firearms distribution. Also examines problems associated with the way ATF issues and regulates federal firearms licenses.
Focus on Firearms

Other Resources


documents the problem of suicide and handguns among youths ages 15-24, emphasizing the increasing rate and changing demographics of adolescent suicide and the relationship between alcohol, suicide, and guns.


Provides guidelines for teaching preschool through twelfth grade children about preventing gun violence. Includes suggested fiction and non-fiction readings for students and a directory of violence prevention programs and organizations.


Emphasizes the safe handling and storage of guns to prevent childhood firearm injuries.


Urges parents to protect their children from gun injuries by storing firearms safely and by talking to their children about the differences between television violence and real violence.


Patient education materials to assist pediatricians in counseling parents about firearm injuries.
Focus on Firearms


Includes 1991 estimate of the number of guns in the United States and uses 1988 data to compare firearm and non-firearm homicides and suicides by age, gender, and race.


Lists facts about handgun-related homicides and handgun ownership and purchases. Compares the United States to other industrialized nations and lists legislative solutions to the problem of handgun violence.


Compares the number of handgun-related deaths in the United States in 1990 to deaths in six other countries.


Provides tips for parents on educating children about firearm safety and on storing guns safely.


Coupon entitles bearer to purchase a trigger lock at a discount rate of 25% (only in Monterey County, CA) and illustrates how a trigger lock can help prevent unintentional firearm injuries.


Sample themes include: "Real men don't play with guns," "Let pride be your weapon," and "Carry your peace."
Focus on Firearms


Training tool for helping health care workers become more comfortable and effective when raising violence, firearm, and personal safety issues with adolescents. Reviews prevention opportunities in clinical settings.


Includes slides presenting information on the economic consequences of fatal and non-fatal firearm injuries from *Cost of Injury in the United States: A Report to Congress, 1989*.

Popular Press


Discusses Virginia's successful effort to pass gun control legislation, gun control legislation currently before the U.S. Congress, and other possible interventions.


Summarizes findings of a poll comparing gun owners to non-owners in their views of gun control laws. Findings are also compared to results of earlier polls.


Uses the story of a 16-year-old male who was able to obtain a semi-automatic weapon in order to illustrate how gun dealers, manufacturers, marketers, and federal regulators contribute to the gun crisis in the United States.
Focus on Firearms

CLASSICS

Journal Articles


Examines the effectiveness of laws that control or discourage private ownership of guns, and the effectiveness of educational efforts to promote firearms safety.


Demonstrates that the increasing availability of, and the lack of adequate legislative restrictions for, firearms contribute to an increase in firearm-related injuries. Discusses intervention strategies such as handgun control laws and bullet-proof garments for persons working in high-risk occupations.


Examines effects of a mandatory sentencing law on firearm-related homicides.


Compares the homicide rate for males ages 15-24 in the United States with the rates for 21 other developed countries and discusses the geographic variation in homicide rates within the United States. Argues that plans to reduce the U. S. homicide rate must incorporate a focus on promoting non-violent conflict resolution and on controlling the availability of handguns.


Suggests that the presence of a firearm in the home is much more likely to be associated with suicide and criminal homicide than with self-protection homicides.


Uses hospital records for patients admitted to San Francisco General Hospital in 1984 for firearm injuries to determine both the costs and sources of payment for these injuries.


Suggests that restricting access to handguns may reduce the rate of homicide in a community.
Focus on Firearms


Suggests that legislation restricting access to handguns may not reduce the overall suicide rate in a community but may help to reduce the suicide rate in persons ages 15–24.


Reviews the activities involved in creating recognition of homicide as a public health issue and in ultimately defeating a referendum to repeal Maryland's innovative gun control legislation.


Examines firearm-associated suicides in Sacramento County, California, from 1983 to 1985.

Reports and Books


Describes a plan to end firearm violence to children by incorporating education, community action, legislation, regulation, and research.


Provides data on gun violence occurring in and around elementary, junior high, and high schools from 1986 to 1990.


Examines the frequency and rate of violent representations in network television dramas between 1967 and 1988–89, and the consequences of exposure to them.

Focus on Firearms

A model for the presentation of county-by-county information on a range of violence issues. Includes a list of 15 questions to help practitioners assess their community with respect to violence prevention activities.


Suggests interventions in the areas of research, prohibition of the purchase or possession of handguns, enforcement of existing firearms laws, restrictions on handguns, firearms modifications, and education.


Reviews existing prevention strategies for preventing firearm violence including educational/behavioral, legal, and technological/environmental interventions, and discusses other potential strategies.

Other Resources


Presents the public health approach to firearm injury prevention, the magnitude and cost of the problem, the epidemiology of fatal and non-fatal firearm injuries, and strategies for prevention.

Popular Press


Uses photographs of the 464 people who died in the United States in just one week in 1989 in order to illustrate the impact of gun violence. A model for illustrating the impact of violence on a particular community.

CSN would like to thank the following people for their suggestions: