

Increasing FY23 Appropriations for Gun Violence Prevention Research

Gun violence – including mass shootings, homicides, suicides, and domestic partner violence – victimizes more than 45,000 individuals and their loved ones per year, tears families and communities apart, and has a disproportionate effect on communities of color. Emergency physicians, surgeons, pediatricians, psychologists, and other clinicians agree: gun violence is a public health crisis.

abc NEWS
Weekend of mass shootings
highlights rise in gun deaths

Los Angeles Times
'Why do we do this to ourselves?'
The pandemic supercharged
easy access to guns

ArmyTimes
Army suicides hit new
post-9/11 peak in 2021

4 NEW YORK
Ghost Gun Bust Reveals 'Arsenal'
at NYC Apartment: Prosecutors

Despite this crisis, the 1996 “Dickey Amendment” had a chilling effect on the provision of CDC and NIH funds to study gun violence. Under Democratic leadership, Congress appropriated \$25 million annually in FY2020-2022 to study firearm-related injuries and deaths and the effectiveness of interventions. Among the studies funded by NIH and CDC are:



Firearm Practices and
Suicide Risk in U.S. Army
Soldiers & Veterans

-Jackson Foundation for
the Advancement of
Military Medicine



Firearm Involvement in
Adolescent Children of
Formerly Incarcerated
Parents

-Northwestern
University



Preventing Violent Firearm
Use Among Urban Youth
Seeking Emergency
Department Care

-University of Michigan

Even with this funding, CDC and NIH receive many more proposals than they can fund. Increasing investment in gun violence research could support multi-year studies on interventions like:

- The optimal way to craft ERPO laws to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals
- How to address social determinants of health and inequities that lead to greater risk of injury and death from firearms
- Preventing school shootings and other mass shootings;
- Protecting women and children from violent domestic partners.

Nearly 300 medical, public health, and research organizations have called on Congress to match President Biden’s budget request by appropriating \$35 million to the CDC and \$25 million to NIH for gun violence prevention research. Expanded resources would allow for further study of this critical public health issue.

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