Talking About Gun Violence: Changing the Conversation to Move Policy Forward

Wednesday, August 27, 2014
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Pacific

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Q&A Feature

Please submit questions via the Q&A Feature

Please submit questions to All Panelists
Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP(E), Hon FRSPH, is the executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the United States oldest and largest organization of public health professionals. For the last 20 years he has been actively practicing public health at the local, national and international level. He is the publisher of the American Journal of Public Health, The Nation’s Health Newspaper and the APHA’s publication on infectious diseases, the Communicable Disease Manual (CCDM).

Dr. Benjamin is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians; a Fellow Emeritus of the American College of Emergency Physicians; an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health; a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

Website: www.apha.org
Linda Degutis, DrPH, MSN is a consultant specializing in policy, advocacy, and injury and violence prevention. Previously, she served as Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she led initiatives in preventing violence and injuries, addressing risk factors and developing closer links between research and practice. Prior to joining CDC, she was Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Public Health, and Associate Clinical Professor of Nursing at Yale University, and served as Research Director for Emergency Medicine. She was a 1996-97 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, working in Senator Paul Wellstone's (D-MN) office.

Dr. Degutis is Past President of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and served as Chair of its Executive Board. She is an active member of the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section of APHA. She recently completed 2 terms on the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship Advisory Board. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of DePaul University’s College of Sciences and Health, editorial board of Injury Prevention, and National Advisory Committee for Public Health Systems and Services Research at the University of Kentucky. She co-chairs the data and surveillance task force of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and the Policy and Advocacy Committee for the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR).
Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. was appointed Dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs in September 2008. A longtime UCLA professor of public policy and political science, his research focuses on strategic communications, public policy, electoral politics, and racial and ethnic politics.

Since becoming dean, Gilliam has launched new campaigns to elevate the School of Public Affairs’ mission of public service, which comprises graduate programs in public policy, social welfare, and urban planning; an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in public affairs (one of UCLA’s most popular); and active research centers, including the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, the Institute for Transportation Studies, the Center for Policy Research on Aging, and the Luskin Center for Innovation. He is the author of Farther to Go: Readings and Cases in African-American Politics (Harcourt Brace) and his work has been published in many leading academic journals.

Website:  www.luskin.ucla.edu
“This is an important time to help policy makers and the public understand that violence is preventable, not inevitable, and that a comprehensive approach -- what we would call a public health approach that addresses the root causes of violence -- can help communities make a difference.”

– Moving from them to us: Challenges in reframing violence among youth
Berkeley Media Studies Group, 8/01/09
www.bmsg.org
On the average day in the U.S.:

47 CHILDREN AND TEENS
270 people in America, 47 of them children and teens, are shot in murders, assaults, suicides, accidents and police intervention.

8 CHILDREN
And teens die from gun violence.

87 PEOPLE
Die from gun violence, 33 of them murdered.

183 PEOPLE
183 people are shot but survive their gun injuries.

38 CHILDREN
38 children and teens are shot, but survive their gun injuries.

SOURCES
nyc.gov: Coalition to Stop Gun Violence; Brady Campaign; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Bureau of Justice Statistics; Center to Prevent Youth Violence; Mooney.com; Federation of American Scientists; Violence Policy Center; Washington Post; New Yorker; National Shooting Sports Foundation
82% of Americans believe we should strongly enforce the gun laws we have on record.

54% of Americans want harsher punishment for illegal gun sales than illegal drug sales.
31,347 total number of Americans killed by guns in 2009

11,493 number of homicides involving a gun in 2009

18,735 suicides in the United States involving a firearm in 2009

66,769 non-lethal gunshot wounds in America in 2009

10.3 = deaths by gun per 100k in US

Red states on average have the most deaths from gun violence.
Firearm deaths are lower in states with strict gun control.

270 million guns in America
That’s equal to roughly 90 guns for every 100 people

Homicides per 100,000 population, select countries, most recent years available

10.2  Russia
4.8  United States
1.6  Canada
1.2  Great Britain
1.1  France
1.0  China
0.9  Italy
0.8  Germany
0.4  Japan

SOURCES
ny.gov; Coalition to Stop Gun Violence; Brady Campaign; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Bureau of Justice Statistics; Center to Prevent Youth Violence; hoovers.com; Federation of American Scientists; Violence Policy Center; Washington Post; New Yorker; National Shooting Sports Foundation
IN THE RIGHT HANDS?
Strong gun regulations aren’t always paired with strict enforcement.

2 OUT OF 5
Guns sold in the U.S. without background checks

SOURCES
nyc.gov; Coalition to Stop Gun Violence; Brady Campaign; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Bureau of Justice Statistics; Center to Prevent Youth Violence; hoogerv.com; Federation of American Scientists; Violence Policy Center; Washington Post; New Yorker; National Shooting Sports Foundation
“News coverage such as the Times series reinforces people's tendency to understand race-related problems in terms of personal failings rather than structural inequities, and to view racism as a product of personal prejudice, not systems or conditions.”

– Moving from them to us: Challenges in reframing violence among youth
Berkeley Media Studies Group, 8/01/09
www.bmsg.org
GUNS & SUICIDE

31,000 GUN RELATED DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES

19,000 OF THOSE ARE SELF INFLECTED

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and the third-leading cause of death for people ages 10-24 years.

In July 2007, a nationwide report indicated that male veterans are twice as likely to die by suicide as compared to their civilian peers.

SOURCES

PHOTOS: Sourced from the CDC
CREATED BY: cdc4Media.com
“One of the most common frames in coverage of gun policies was that we must do more to keep firearms out of the hands of children and youth. The focus on children is a "winning" frame, which allows for agreement among those who may not agree on other aspects of firearms policies. However, this frame may be counterproductive in that it implies that guns are only a problem in the wrong hands.”

– Issue 8: The debate on gun policies in U.S. and midwest newspapers
Berkeley Media Studies Group, 4/20/00
www.bmsg.org
“Studying framing can help prevention advocates understand that there are no blank slates. That is, people come to any communication with ideas already in their heads. There are some who understand violence through the kinds of shared responsibility frames inherent in a public health perspective. There are those who understand violence exclusively as an individual, personal, behavioral problem. In many cases, people can hold both views simultaneously. But if most cues reinforce the default frame, the public health perspective remains hidden. It then becomes the job of public health advocates to articulate and make visible the public health frame by delivering messages that can activate a frame beyond individualism.”

– Moving from them to us: Challenges in reframing violence among youth
Berkeley Media Studies Group, 8/01/09
www.bmsg.org
Women in the U.S. are **11 times more likely to be murdered with guns than women in other high-income countries.**

Women in the U.S. are killed at alarming rates by intimate partners, and firearms play a key role in turning domestic abuse into murder. Over the past 25 years, more intimate partner homicides in the U.S. have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined.
The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500 percent.

People with a history of committing domestic violence are more likely to subsequently murder an intimate partner, and firearms significantly increase the risk of homicide for women.
A majority of mass shootings involve incidents of domestic violence.

A Mayors Against Illegal Guns analysis of every identifiable mass shooting between 2009 and 2013 found that in 32 of those 56 incidents (57%), the shooter killed a current or former intimate partner or other family member. In at least 8 of those shootings, the perpetrator had a prior domestic violence charge.

That’s why federal law prohibits certain domestic abusers from buying guns.
There’s a gas station maybe a five-minute drive away from us, and the gas station sells guns. I didn’t realize places like that existed. Ryan just walked in and bought a handgun. We had gotten into an argument—which we hardly ever did—and he left. The next morning, the police knocked on my door. A construction crew had found him dead in his car at an abandoned railroad station.

—Emily Frazier, 27, widow of Ryan Frazier, who shot himself with a semiautomatic in 2008

**Guns & Suicide, The Hidden Toll**
Harvard School of Public Health Magazine
“Cut it however you want it: in places where exposure to guns is higher, more people die of suicide.”

–Deborah Azrael, Associate Director, Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

_Guns & Suicide, The Hidden Toll_  
Harvard School of Public Health Magazine  
When you ask people who’ve made attempts and survived—even attempts that are life threatening and would have proved lethal [without emergency medical care], what they say is, ‘It was an impulsive act, and I am glad I am alive.’”

–Matthew Miller,
Professor, Harvard

*The Gun Toll We’re Ignoring: Suicide*
Leon Neyfakh, Boston Globe, January 20, 2013
# Gun Deaths Exceed Motor Vehicle Deaths in 14 States and D.C. in 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Gun Deaths</th>
<th>Motor Vehicle Deaths</th>
<th>Gun Death Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Motor Vehicle Death Rate per 100,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>17.41</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>554</td>
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[www.vpc.org](http://www.vpc.org)
The Ku Klux Klan, Ronald Reagan, and, for most of its history, the NRA all worked to control guns. The Founding Fathers? They required gun ownership—and regulated it. And no group has more fiercely advocated the right to bear loaded weapons in public than the Black Panthers—the true pioneers of the modern pro-gun movement. In the battle over gun rights in America, both sides have distorted history and the law, and there’s no resolution in sight.

Adam Winkler, *The Secret History of Guns*
Atlantic Monthly, September 2011