Gun Violence: Changing the Conversation

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Objectives

- To describe the current conversation around gun violence
- To summarize barriers to open dialogue around gun violence
- To challenge you to contribute to changing the dialogue
I think that there’s something in the American psyche, it’s almost this kind of right or privilege, this sense of entitlement, to resolve our conflicts with violence. There’s an arrogance to that concept if you think about it. To actually have to sit down and talk, to listen, to compromise, that’s hard work.
Current Stalemate

- Language
- Terminology
- Beliefs
- Perceptions
Emotion

- Polarization
- Defensiveness
Diversion
- 2nd amendment
- Mental health issue
- Multi-victim incidents
Public Health Issue

- Individual rights vs. public safety
- Impact on community
- Long-term impact on health
Science

- Data
- Bias against science
- Research
- Funding
Politics

- Fear
- Campaign funding
- Gun industry
Can we come to a common goal?

- How can we change the conversation and create a dialogue that leads to solutions?
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