



**2023 NATIONAL
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**
FOR THE PREVENTION OF
FIREARM-RELATED HARMS

CHICAGO, IL
NOVEMBER 1-3

**ABSTRACTS FOR
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Workshop 1: The role of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in preventing firearm violence: Research and implementation opportunities for the field

Main Ballroom, November 1, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

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Moderator: Josh Horwitz, Johns Hopkins University

Panelists:

Lisa Geller, Johns Hopkins University

Shannon Frattaroli, Johns Hopkins University

Chelsea Parsons, Everytown for Gun Safety

Spencer Cantrell, Johns Hopkins University

Ruhi Bengali, Everytown for Gun Safety

Workshop Summary:

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) are a promising tool to address gun violence, including firearm suicide and mass shooting threats. As of August 2023, twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have enacted ERPO laws, and, thanks to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), there is now dedicated funding to implement ERPOs and other crisis intervention initiatives. This workshop will discuss the work of designing, implementing, and evaluating ERPO laws. Presenters will discuss the data that informed the development of ERPOs, new research that examines the implementation and early impact of ERPO laws and what this research suggests about how to improve implementation of these laws at the local and state level, and the role that researchers can play in evaluating their impact. Presenters will also discuss gaps in ERPO data, how data collection is included in Department of Justice implementation funding requirements, and share ways for researchers to collaborate with on-the-ground advocates to evaluate ERPO implementation and effectiveness.

Finally, panelists will review recommendations identified at a December 2022 ERPO convening which they published in [Promising Approaches for Implementing Extreme Risk Laws: A Guide for Practitioners and Policymakers](#). Building on promising practices identified to inform effective ERPO implementation, presenters will discuss evaluation opportunities to further inform ERPO implementation.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the emerging data available to inform ERPO implementation and how researchers can evaluate the impact of this new law.
2. Explain how ERPOs fit into the suite of tools to prevent gun violence.
3. Apply promising practices for ERPO implementation.

Workshop 2: Strategies to leverage participatory methods in firearm-related violence and suicide prevention research

Sheraton I, November 1, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

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Panelists:

Krista Mehari, Vanderbilt University
Caitlin Elsaesser, University of Connecticut
Reagan Thomas, University of South Alabama
Jasmine Coleman, University of Tennessee
Taylor Stevens, Vanderbilt University

Workshop Summary:

The limited impact of suicide and violence prevention programs points to a cultural disconnect between existing prevention strategies and populations at risk of intentional gun injuries and fatalities. This cultural disconnect may be rooted in the traditional prevention research cycle, in which researchers tend to work in academic siloes; with limited or no interaction with the populations they seek to understand and serve. There has been an increasing focus on the need to leverage participatory methods to work collaboratively with communities in all stages of research to improve the relevance, value-congruence, and positive impact of public health research. However, there has been little academic conversation about practical strategies to engage in participatory methods in firearm-related research. The purpose of this workshop is to develop knowledge and skills in participatory methods in research on firearm-related violence and suicide. The workshop facilitators will discuss strategies for building relationships within communities; planning research projects and grant proposals with community partners; implementing research projects and trouble-shooting when those strategies are unsuccessful; engaging in participatory approaches in data analysis; and collaborating in dissemination and planning the next steps. The workshop places special emphasis on applying participatory methods to quantitative research, intervention development, and evaluation, beyond exclusively qualitative work. The workshop facilitators will describe theories and principles that drive participatory research methods, as well as discuss how values that underlie participatory research guide decision-making throughout the research process. This workshop is intended to be active and generative. The facilitators will discuss their experiences using participatory methods to conduct firearm-related injury prevention research. Participants will be invited to engage in knowledge generation and discussion. Facilitators include researchers with varying lived experiences who are members of the communities of focus and who also engage in participatory research methods.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will understand theories and values underlying participatory methods.
2. Participants will engage in generating, sharing, and learning practical strategies for pursuing a research agenda embedded in participatory processes.
3. Participants will examine the usefulness and application of participatory methods in all types of research, including quantitative and qualitative observational research; intervention research; and program evaluation.

Workshop 3: How to better use and improve data systems for firearm research: Opportunities and challenges

Sheraton III, November 1, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

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Panelists:

Catherine Barber, Harvard University

Paul Bonta, Safe States Alliance

Matt Hall, Children's Hospital Association

Christian Pulcini, University of Vermont

Workshop Summary:

Rapid growth of firearm injury research using large databases has stimulated new opportunities but also is wrought with ongoing challenges. No single public health or public safety data system provides timely, accurate data on firearm injuries (fatal, nonfatal, and threatened) at the local, state, and national level by intent type (assault, self-harm, etc.). Many individual databases offer significant strengths, but as researchers we sometimes fail to consider their limitations and may mischaracterize aspects of the firearm injury problem. Our overall goal in this workshop is to therefore enhance firearm injury researchers' knowledge of the data systems we rely on and to foster a network of collaboration to improve these data systems and our understanding of them through the following:

- 1) Share strengths and limitations of commonly used large databases for firearm injury research, such as Vitals (including WISQARS and WONDER), NVDRS, HCUP and other hospital discharge data, NEISS, FASTER/AVERT, Pediatric Health Information System (PHIS), Gun Violence Archive, FBI's UCR-SRS/NIBRS systems, and Medicaid Market Scan database.
- 2) Discuss common methodologic and analytic pitfalls to avoid and strengths to capitalize on for large database research in relation to firearm injury.
- 3) Summarize a current Safe States Alliance effort to advocate for changes outlined in the NORC report, "Improving Data Infrastructure to Reduce Firearms Violence," and organize a network of interested researchers and data providers to stay in touch throughout the year to share updates on firearm injury surveillance systems and to advocate for changes.

Learning Objectives:

Attendees will be able to:

1. Discriminate between different commonly utilized large database sources available to characterize firearm injury.
2. Recognize common methodological and analytical pitfalls in utilizing large databases to describe firearm injuries.
3. Increase injury surveillance and data source expertise among firearm injury researchers.
4. Identify critical problems in key data systems (such as the intent classification issue in ICD coding, low NIBRS participation), common pitfalls in methodology (such as incorrect utilization of ICD10-CM codes) and identify potential solutions.
5. Create an active network of informed injury data providers & firearm researchers.

Workshop 4: A primer for collaborations with criminologists and criminal justice practitioners

Erie, November 2, 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM

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Panelists:

Jesenia Pizarro, Arizona State University

Beth Huebner, Arizona State University

Stephen Bishopp, Dallas Police Department

Laura Zimmerman, US Department of Homeland Security

Workshop Summary:

In the past five years, there has been an uptick in research centered on understanding the various causes of firearm-related violence and best practices for its prevention. Medicine, epidemiology, and public health lead the way in firearm-related harm research. However, other fields, such as criminology and criminal justice, also engage in relevant work that can offer critical methodological insights and partnerships, which the leading fields in this line of research lack. For example, criminologists often rely on agency data, such as police, court, and correctional institution records. These records include valuable information that can shed light on trends and the causes of firearm violence, such as demographics and criminal histories of parties involved, spatial information of where the incidents occur, and narrative descriptions of the event and what led to its occurrence. Collaborations with criminologists can also provide other valuable information via interviews, surveys, and observations with individuals tasked with enforcement and prevention efforts. In addition to providing essential data sources, criminal justice practitioners can provide much-needed resources in prevention efforts. Indeed, criminal justice practitioners, particularly law enforcement personnel, are the first responders in acts of firearm violence and injuries and are tasked with prevention and suppression efforts by enforcing state laws.

In an effort to foster interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations, this workshop will focus on the "criminology" of firearm violence research and prevention. Criminologists and criminal justice practitioners with ample experience in applied research will outline their methods for creating partnerships and research methodologies best suited for collecting criminal justice-related data that inform firearm-related harm prevention action research. The workshop aims to show how to effectively partner with those working in the criminal justice field and best practices for data collection. The workshop will have two sections. The first will focus on an overview of criminal justice-related methodologies that can benefit the study of firearm-related harm research. The second section will focus on a discussion on how to access relevant data and relationship-building with criminal justice practitioners, including engaging in action research to address real firearms-related problems. The workshop will provide insight into building and sustaining relationships with criminal justice practitioners and collaborations that can inform prevention and suppression efforts.

Learning Objectives:

1. Increase knowledge of criminology data sources relevant to firearm-related harm research.
2. Provide evidence-based recommendations for building and maintaining collaborations with criminal justice professionals.
3. Provide evidence-based recommendations for accessing criminal justice-related data.