



MedStar Health

It's how we **treat people.**

September 29, 2022

Preventing Gun Violence in Our Communities

MWHC Community Violence Intervention Program

No Disclosures



No Disclosures But. . .

- I am not a gun owner
- I am a trauma surgeon and medical director for MedStar Washington Hospital Center's Community Violence Intervention Program
 - Over 600 intentional injuries a year
 - Believe in treating violence as a public health crisis



**99.85% of Americans will know a
victim of gun violence**



Every day in the United States

42 people are
murdered

65 die from gun
suicide

5 children die
from gun
violence

8 children are
unintentionally
shot in family fire



Every year in the United States

- Over 15,000 people are murdered
- 76,000 survive gunshot injuries
- 24,000 die from gun suicide
- 2,000 children die from gun violence



What can we do?



- Many gun deaths and injuries can be prevented by improving firearm handling, safe storage, and keeping guns away from those at risk of hurting themselves or others.



Safe Gun Use

If you own a gun, it is important to know how to safely handle it, load it, and clean it. You can take a gun safety class at your local gun store or shooting range. Some states require this training before getting a license to own a gun.

BASIC RULES OF GUN SAFETY

- ✓ Assume gun always loaded.
- ✓ Finger off trigger until ready to fire.
- ✓ Never point at anything you don't intend to kill or destroy.
- ✓ Always check all chambers before cleaning.



Safe Gun Storage

Two thirds of accidental child gun deaths could have been prevented if guns had been stored locked and unloaded.

The safest way to store a gun in your home is **unloaded** and securely **locked**, with the bullets locked in a separate container.

Safe gun storage will make it difficult for children, teens, and other family members to accidentally hurt themselves with a gun. Only people who will safely use a gun should have access to it.

You should also ask about gun safety and storage when your children are visiting other homes that may have guns.

Easy ways to store a gun safely include:

- Gun cases or safes
- Lock boxes
- Gun cabinets
- Trigger and cable locks

Many states have laws regarding gun storage. To find updated firearm safe storage laws in your state, visit statefirearmlaws.org.



Cable lock



Lock box

To learn more, visit: facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/ipc



Storing Ammunition (Bullets) away from Guns

To lower the chance that someone uses a gun to hurt him or herself or others, a gun owner should store bullets in a separate place away from the gun or dispose of the bullets.

When storing guns or bullets in other places, it is important to securely lock both the gun and the ammunition to prevent access by others.



Storage at a **Safe, Remote Location**

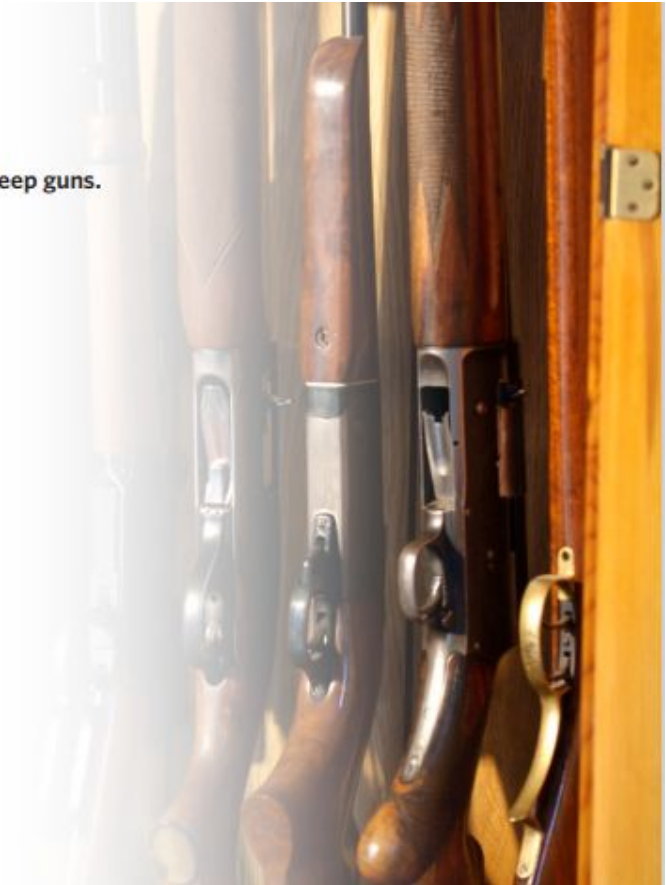
As long as a gun is properly stored, a gun does not legally need to be kept in the owner's home. For instance, if a gun is mostly used for hunting, it could be stored in another location when not being used for that purpose.

Examples of some remote locations might include:

- In a bonded warehouse for gun storage
- In a secure storage unit
- In a garage or attic in a lock box or safe
- In a hunting lodge in a lock box or locked rifle cabinet
- In a lockbox or safe at another person's home

Cars are NOT safe places to keep guns.

Children can easily access guns left in cars, and cars are often targets for gun theft.



Having a gun in the home increases the chance that someone could get hurt

- Suicidal thoughts, depression, or wants to hurt themselves
- Drinking alcohol or using drugs that alter judgement
- Has been violent or is making violent threats
- Has a partner who hurts them or threatens to hurt them
- Has a stalker



**Access to a gun in the home
increases the risk of death by
suicide by 300%**



Extreme Risk Laws

1

Help prevent a person in crisis from harming themselves or others

2

Temporarily remove guns and prohibit purchase of firearms

3

Allow family members, law enforcement, and other key individuals to present evidence to a civil court judge that an individual is a risk to themselves or others



Extreme Risk Laws

- 99% of extreme risk protection orders resulted in removal of at least one gun
- 44% of cases led to respondent receiving psychiatric treatment
- 75% of gun owners support extreme risk laws



**But what about the violence in
our community?**





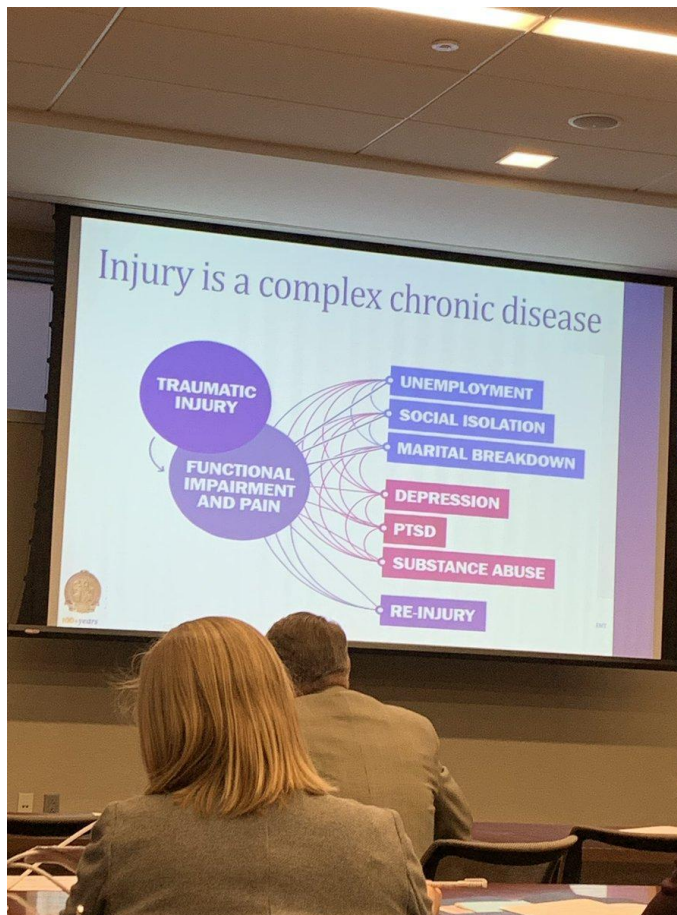
SECONDARY SURVEY	
HEAD AND NECK	
Scalp:	<i>Nml</i>
Eyes:	<i>Nml</i>
Ears:	<i>Nml</i>
Nose:	<i>Nml</i>
Mouth / Throat:	<i>Nml</i>
Neck:	<i>Nml</i>
Mid-face:	<input type="checkbox"/> Stable <input type="checkbox"/> Unstable
TMs:	<input type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Hemotympanium <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to evaluate
Carotids:	<input type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Unequal <input type="checkbox"/> Bruit <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> L
C-Spine Tenderness:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Y - specify:
CHEST	
Excursion:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Symmetrical <input type="checkbox"/> Asymmetrical
Flail Segment:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
SQ Emphysema:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Open Chest Wound:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Tenderness:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Clavicles:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nontender <input type="checkbox"/> Tender <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> L
Sternum:	<input type="checkbox"/> Crepitus <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None
Auscultation:	<i>CETAB</i>
Other:	
ABDOMEN	
Echymosis related to Seat Belts:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Nontender <input type="checkbox"/> Rigid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tender - Location: <i>Diffuse w/ guarding</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to evaluate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distended	
Bowel:	<input type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Hyper <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoactive
Sounds:	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Pelvis:	<input type="checkbox"/> Nontender <input type="checkbox"/> Tender to <input type="checkbox"/> AP compression
<input type="checkbox"/> Lateral compression	<input type="checkbox"/> Suprapubic <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Genital:	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Meatal Blood <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Rv:	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Red/tend <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
ur:	<input type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> High
<i>ur</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recc Blood:	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> occult <input type="checkbox"/> Grossly bloody
Back:	Tender: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Deformity	
EXTREMITIES	
RUE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Deformity:
LUE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Deformity:
RLE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Deformity:
LLE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NL <input type="checkbox"/> Deformity:
KEY (Indicate Injury on Figure)	
Lacerations	⊗
Penetrating Wound	∇
Crush Injury	##
Echymosis	⊗
Abrasion	⊗
Other (Small Burns, etc.) - Outline & Label	⊗
Amputation	△
Fracture	×

- 6 week hospital stay
- 3 surgical procedures
- IR drainage of liver abscess with drain replacement x2
- 3x weekly VAC changes
- 4 weeks antibiotics
- 5 weeks of TPN



Hey Doc, I'm so grateful, so appreciative. I just want you to know – I'm really gonna turn it around, really going to make changes. I've found a new place to live, planned it all out with my Mom, get out of that neighborhood. I just. . .I just need some help. Is there any way you could put a good word for me in at environmental or food-delivery?





When trauma patients are being released from the Trauma Center, they are given all these resources: rehab, counselors, speech therapy. 97% of these things are only focused on the physical part of recovery. But the mental part has the biggest impact on recovery

When you are in the shit storm of getting through a surgery, no one cares about follow-up, they care about getting through the pain, that's the focus. Seven days after they get home, that's when shit is going to get real.



What can we do to intervene now?

- 501 survivors of violence in Detroit
- Followed for five years
- Half lost to follow-up
- 44% recidivism rate
- 20% 5-year mortality rate

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Urban Trauma: A Chronic Recurrent Disease

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Urban trauma, often presumed to be an acute episodic event, may actually be a chronic recurrent disease related to the lifestyle, environment, and other factors of its victims. To test this idea an attempt was made to obtain 5-year followup for 501 consecutive survivors of violent trauma seen at one hospital, 1980-1981.

Followup information for these patients was obtained from medical records at four local Level I trauma centers, death certificates, Medical Examiner's records, and police crime computer files. Of the 501 patients, 263 had medical followup including 148 patients with one trauma and 115 patients with recurrent trauma. Of these 263 patients, 200 (76%) were unemployed and 164 (62%) abused alcohol or drugs. From 1982-1987 142 out of 263 patients were involved in 133 crimes and 52 died.

These data suggest that urban trauma is a chronic disease with a recurrent rate of 44% and a 5-year mortality rate of 20%.



MWHC-Community Violence Intervention Program

- Brief in-hospital intervention with 6 month intensive community-based case management
- Targeted and patient centered services
 - Reduce risk factors
 - Cultivate protective factors



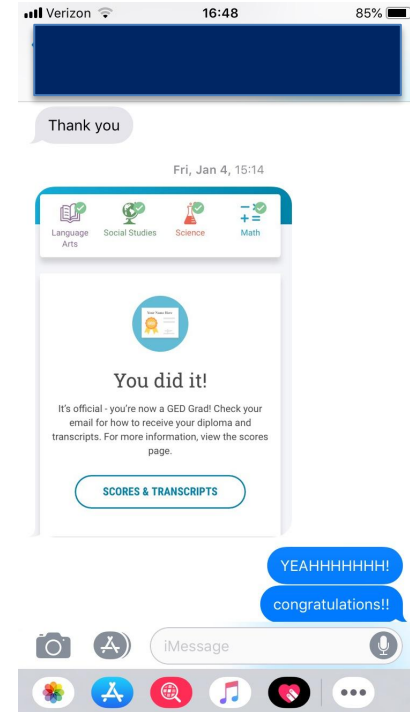
In cohort studies, participants in HVIPs have demonstrated

- Reductions in misdemeanor offenses and feelings of aggression
- Improved self-efficacy
- Decreased likelihood for subsequent convictions and incarcerations
- Decreased recidivism rates
 - 5% from 26%
 - 5% from 16%



CVIP-Services

- 160-200 survivors of violent injury per quarter
- >75% of eligible survivors seen at bedside
- Most common services:
 - Safety planning
 - Navigation of system
 - Victims compensation
 - MPD
 - Adjustment to injury
 - Advocacy
 - Job trainings
 - GED classes
 - Emotional support
- Individual counseling services
- Trauma survivors group
- Access to crime victim's rights attorney



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MedStar Health

CVIP-Services



Stop the Bleed

- Teaches techniques to respond to life threatening bleeding



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THE BLEED®

SAVE A LIFE

STOP THE BLEED® Course
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What can we do?



Be practical

- Take common sense steps to make and keep guns safe
- Simple steps to address social determinants of repeat community violence
- Take a Stop the Bleed course



Educate and Advocate

- Help keep loved ones safe by knowing extreme risk laws in Maryland
- Support Ethan's Law to promote safe gun storage
- Expand Brady Background Checks
- Support legislation to ban assault weapons







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stopthebleed.org

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