The Role of Medical Providers in Prevention of Gun Violence

Jenna Wolff
Clinical Research Coordinator II
Center for Deployment-Related Lung Disease/Miners Clinic of Colorado
National Jewish Health
WestON Quick Takes – September 14\textsuperscript{th}, 2018
In 2016, the CDC reported 38,658 firearm deaths.

• This data does not include nonfatal firearm injuries, which totaled 116,414 in 2016.
Firearm Deaths by Age and Sex: Rates per 100,000

Gunman fired ‘well over 100 rounds in 3 min’

Expelled teen opens fire on flexing students in Florida, killing 17, officials say

PRAISING ISIS, GUNMAN ATTACKS GAY NIGHTCLUB, LEAVING 50 DEAD IN WORST SHOOTING ON U.S. SOIL

TERROR, AGAIN, IN SCHOOL

WBUR fires Ashbrook after inquiry into bullying

A Tie to ISIS? Uncertainty Awaits Strategy

"We Will Not Give In to Fear," Obama Says as Florida Aches

The Boston Globe

The New York Times
Physicians and other health care professionals can do more... As with any epidemic, prevention is important. Clinicians and others should ask about guns in the home, especially for high-risk patients, and advise about removal and safe storage. Good evidence has shown that safe storage of firearms is effective in reducing misuse.
Clinicians should respectfully educate patients about firearm safety, including known statistics about the risks of injury or death; written educational materials with resources may support this less judgmental approach...Ideally, gun safety counseling could incorporate a range of safe storage options from which patients could choose the most acceptable and feasible option.
Gun violence is a public health epidemic and the key to reducing firearm deaths is to understand and reduce exposure.

https://healthcareinamerica.us/gun-violence-in-america-994febf1f5ee
Suicide Risk Factors:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Depression
- Feelings of hopelessness
- History of trauma
- Suicidality
- Physical illness
- Access to firearms
Our patient population includes two high risk groups:

**Military Personnel/Veterans**
- Median age: 37
- 86% male
- PTSD
- Physical illness
- Depression
- History of Trauma
- Access to firearms

**Miners**
- Median age: 68
- 96% male
- Physical illness
- Depression
- Access to Firearms
Our patient population includes two high risk groups:

**Military Personnel/Veterans**
- Median age: 37
- 86% male
- PTSD
- Physical illness
- Depression
- History of Trauma
- Access to firearms

**Miners**
- Median age: 68
- 96% male
- Physical illness
- Depression
- Access to Firearms
Violent Injuries Resulting in Days Away from Work, by Industry, 2002–2013

Cases per 10,000 full-time employees

Year


Healthcare and social assistance
Private industry (overall)
Retail trade
Construction
Manufacturing

https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3826.pdf
Health care providers should be trained to ask about guns in the home and give advice about safe storage and removal.
Our approach in our Miners Clinic of Colorado and our Center for Deployment-Related Lung Disease

**HEALTHY LIVING**

1. Do you use seatbelts when riding in an automobile or truck? □ Yes □ No
2. Do you have a gun in your home? □ Yes □ No
   - If YES, do you have any questions about safe gun storage? □ Yes □ No
3. Would you like more information about diabetes or healthy eating? □ Yes □ No
4. Would you like more information about exercise, balance, or stretching? □ Yes □ No

**Gun Safety**

7. Do you have a gun in your home? □ Yes □ No
   - If yes, do you have any questions about safe gun storage? □ Yes □ No

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.
Our approach in our Miners Clinic of Colorado and our Center for Deployment-Related Lung Disease

### HEALTHY LIVING

1. Do you use seatbelts when riding in an automobile or truck?  
   - Yes  
   - No

2. Do you have a gun in your home?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - If YES, do you have any questions about safe gun storage?  
     - Yes  
     - No

3. Would you like more information about diabetes or healthy eating?  
   - Yes  
   - No

4. Would you like more information about exercise, balance, or stretching?  
   - Yes  
   - No

### Gun Safety

7. Do you have a gun in your home?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - If yes, do you have any questions about safe gun storage?  
     - Yes  
     - No

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.
PROJECT CHILDSAFE LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS IN COLORADO

Contact an agency below to inquire about a free Safety Kit from Project ChildSafe
1. Lock Instructions [English]
2. Instrucciones del candado [en español]

View All

A

Alamosa
Alamosa County Sheriffs Office

Aurora
Aurora Police Department

D

Del Norte
Rio Grande County Sheriffs Department

Delta
Delta Police Department

Denver
Denver Police Department

Denver
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives

Denver
ATF

Dove Creek
Dolores County Sheriffs Department

Durango
Durango Police Department
CABLE LOCK
Price Range: $10–$50

A cable lock can be used on most firearms, allows for quick access in an emergency and offers security from theft. The cable runs through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from being accidentally fired, requiring either a key or combination to unlock it.

FULL SIZE AND BIOMETRIC GUN SAFES
Price Range: $200–$2,500

A gun safe protects its contents from the elements and allows owners to safely store multiple firearms in one place. Gun safes of all sizes are now available with biometric options to ensure only certain people have access.
Additional Gun Safety Campaigns

• End Family Fire
• Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
• Colorado Gun Shop Project (sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)
• Be Smart
Acknowledgements

*National Jewish Health*

- **Cecile Rose, MD, MPH**
- **Silpa Krefft, MD, MPH**
- **Bibi Gottschall, MD, MSPH**
- **Richard Meehan, MD**
- **Jenny Smith, PA-C**
- **Lauren Zell-Baran, MPH**
- **Dymond Ruybal**
- **Wendy Vonhof, MS**