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# Research Week 2023

## It's in our Lane: A Mixed Method's Evaluation of a Firearm Injury Prevention Curriculum for Medical Students

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### Keywords

Gun Violence, Firearm Injury, Medical Education, Medical Curriculum, Medical Students, Public Health

### Abstract

#### Background

Firearms are the leading cause of death of U.S. children and young adults. Although physicians believe counseling on firearm injury prevention is within their scope of practice, few routinely counsel patients on firearm injury prevention and most have not received formal education on how to do so. Most medical schools do not teach firearm injury prevention curriculum.

#### Objectives

To evaluate medical students' perceived knowledge, confidence, and intention to engage in clinical and policy advocacy approaches to firearm injury prevention following a two-hour, case-based firearm injury prevention curriculum.

#### Design

Retrospective pre-post survey

#### Participants

105 second-year medical students (71.4% response rate) from a single U.S. academic medical center

## Main Measurements

Students' perceived knowledge of firearm injury epidemiology and firearm injury prevention strategies; students' self-confidence about engaging in firearm injury prevention strategies; students' intentions to engage in firearm injury prevention.

## Key Results

Statistically significant increases between the pre- and post-periods were observed for all study variables ( $p > 0.001$ ). The greatest increases were in participants' understanding of evidence-based public health approaches to firearm injury prevention (1.97 to 4.01;  $p > 0.001$ ) and in their confidence in ability to recommend secure storage to firearm owners (2.77 to 4.11;  $p > 0.001$ ). Students appeared to embrace the roles of physician as both clinicians and policy advocates, indicating that they intend to integrate public advocacy activities into their work as physicians in the future.

## Conclusion

A single, two-hour, case-based firearm injury prevention curriculum for second year medical students appears to improve students' perceived knowledge and skills in clinical and policy advocacy roles. Second-year medical students appeared to view firearm injury prevention training as timely and important, and they desired more training.