



**2022 NATIONAL
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**
FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION

Washington, D.C.
November 29-December 1

MEDIA TOOLKIT

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Our Mission

The 2022 National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention is focused on highlighting the current state of the science and research on firearm injury prevention across the lifespan.

Attendee Statement of Conduct

The 2022 National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention mission is to enable attendees to receive continuing education, build professional networks, and discover new research strategies for professional use. The Conference aims to provide all attendees - members and other attendees, speakers, staff and volunteers - the opportunity to benefit from the event in a harassment-free environment. All participants are expected to observe these conduct guidelines in all conference venues, including online venues, and Conference social events. Participants asked to stop a hostile or harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and hold that environment for the benefit of all.

Conference Information

Meeting organized and supported by: the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, the RAND Corporation, the Columbia Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence (SURGE), and the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR).

Federal sponsors and federally funded initiatives: the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/National Institutes of Health (NICHD/NIH) FACTS Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute for Justice

Philanthropic Sponsors: The Joyce Foundation, Arnold Ventures, the California Wellness Foundation, the Missouri Foundation for Health, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Tow Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Fund for a Safer Future.

Conference Goals

- To focus on science-based and rigorous solutions, and data in the study and prevention of firearm violence.
- Maximize awareness and return on our current resource investment in firearm violence research as a nation.
- Promote the most innovative and forward thinking firearm violence research from public safety and public health scientists that includes both community-based and broader policy approaches.
- Focus on methodologically sound research and exchange of science and data showcasing current grantees.
- Elevate under-represented minority (URM) firearm violence researchers, advance approaches that look at gun violence through an equity lens, and increase URM participation.
- Provide networking, travel, and other awards for early-stage scientists to grow the field and new careers in firearm violence research.
- Continue the process of advancing and cultivating the field of firearm violence science and prevention and supporting it by holding a large, well-recognized science conference.
- Establish infrastructure for a sustained annual scientific conference on firearm violence prevention, possibly including a membership organization, an elected conference planning committee, and a journal or special edition of a journal.



MEDIA AT THE CONFERENCE

Media Access/Process

In order to encourage robust and open discussion among attendees, media will not have access to the presentations/discussions. Due to a large number of presentations including early-stage data and work, Conference organizers seek to provide a space for constructive feedback from fellow researchers.

Media will have access to a media room onsite for interviews, as well as access to all scientific programming schedules and abstracts. Media will coordinate interviews with the onsite conference contact to conduct in the Media Room (Chairman's Room), and any Media personnel will be required to wear a badge while onsite. If a particular researcher or presentation is of interest to the Media, they will let the onsite Conference contact know, and that contact will facilitate with the researcher/Media.

The Conference will make available via the conference website a panel of researchers, with each person on the list available for comment or interviews throughout the entirety of the conference (and after the meeting has concluded). The Conference will share pre- and post-conference press releases with Media for use. This toolkit, as well as a social media toolkit, will be available on the conference website. The conference schedule can be viewed [here](#) and all scientific programming abstracts can be viewed via the links below.

The Conference Media contact is Kate Barnes, katebarn@umich.edu, 517-881-0730. Please reach out with any questions, interview process inquiries, or for general conference information.

Scientific Programming/Information

The full conference schedule is available on the conference website under the Agenda tab. Please see below for links to all of the scientific programming abstracts.

[Symposia Abstracts](#)

[Oral Presentation Abstracts](#)

[Flash Science Presentation Abstracts](#)

[Poster Presentation Abstracts](#)



PANEL OF RESEARCHERS

Panel of Researchers

This group of individuals is available for comment throughout the entirety of the conference.



Charlie Branas, Columbia University

Charles Branas is a Professor of Epidemiology and directs the Columbia University Department of Epidemiology and is a lead of the Columbia Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence. He has been studying gun violence for multiple decades, led the first major NIH study of gun violence, and multiple citywide randomized controlled studies of solutions to gun violence.



Rebecca Cunningham, University of Michigan

Dr. Rebecca Cunningham is vice president for research at the University of Michigan, where she is responsible for fostering the excellence and integrity of research across all three campuses. She is the William G. Barsan Collegiate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the U-M Medical School, as well as Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education at the U-M School of Public Health. Over the course of her career, Dr. Cunningham's research has focused on injury prevention, opioid overdose, substance misuse prevention, firearm injury prevention and public health.



Andrew Morral, RAND Corporation

Andrew R. Morral, Ph.D., is a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation, where he studies policy solutions to the problems of gun violence and sexual violence. Morral leads RAND's Gun Policy in America initiative and is the director of the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research, a philanthropy that has awarded more than \$21 million in research funding. Morral has published dozens of peer-reviewed reports and has served as a science advisor to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorist Events, and to the DHS Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program. He holds a Ph.D. in psychology from New School for Social Research.

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Michael Anestis, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Dr. Mike Anestis is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center and an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at Rutgers. He is an expert on firearm suicide prevention in both military and civilian communities and is the author of the book, *Guns and Suicide: An American Epidemic*.



Marian (Emmy) Betz, University of Colorado

Dr. Emmy Betz, MD, MPH, is an emergency physician and researcher who leads the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and co-founded the Colorado Firearm Safety Coalition. Her research, which is funded by the NIH and Department of Defense, focuses on collaborative development and testing of interventions for prevention of firearm injury and death, particularly from suicide, among older adults, and in military communities. A recognized national expert in firearm suicide and collaboration with the firearms community, she has been invited to work with numerous national medical, public health, and military organizations.



Patrick Carter, University of Michigan

Dr. Carter is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine (School of Medicine) and Health Behavior & Health Education (School of Public Health) at the University of Michigan. He is the Co-Director of the UM Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, the Director of the CDC-funded University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center, and part of the leadership team for the NICHD-funded Firearm Safety among Children and Teens (FACTS) Consortium. Dr. Carter's research is within the field of firearm injury prevention, specifically the development, testing, and implementation of emergency department (ED)-based interventions to decrease firearm violence, youth violence, and associated risk behaviors.

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Andrew Papachristos, Northwestern University

Andrew V. Papachristos is a Professor of Sociology, a Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and the founder and Faculty Director of The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (Corners) at Northwestern University. His research applies network science to the study of gun violence, police misconduct, illegal gun markets, street gangs, and urban neighborhoods. Papachristos has more than 15 years of experience working in the area of engaged research having partnered with community groups, state and local criminal justice agencies, schools, hospitals, and government agencies.



Jesenia Pizarro, Arizona State University

Jesenia M. Pizarro, Ph.D. is a Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Arizona State University. Her research focus on the proximal event and situational factors that result in violence, the processing of violent crime in the criminal justice system, and multidisciplinary violence prevention strategies.



Ali Rowhani Rahbar, University of Washington

Ali Rowhani-Rahbar is the Bartley Dobb Professor for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Professor of Epidemiology, Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics, and Adjunct Professor of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Washington. He evaluates community-based interventions, social programs, and public policies for their impact on multiple forms of violence with a particular emphasis on preventing firearm-related harm.

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Sonali Rajan, Teachers College, Columbia University

Dr. Sonali Rajan is an Associate Professor of Health Education in the Department of Health and Behavior Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University. She also holds a secondary faculty appointment in the Department of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health. She is a school violence prevention researcher, studying gun violence, school safety, and adverse childhood experiences. Dr. Rajan's work prioritizes the needs for schools and communities to collectively attend to the well-being of children while keeping them safe, reducing their exposure to violence, and ensuring opportunities for them to thrive.



Joseph Simonetti, University of Colorado Anschutz / Veterans Health Administration Colorado

Dr. Simonetti is a clinician investigator with the VA Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention and Director of Mentorship and Education for the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. His research focuses on developing patient-centered firearm safety interventions for individuals at risk of suicide. As an educator, he works locally and nationally to support VA and community-based clinicians in delivering evidence-based and culturally competent firearm injury prevention interventions.



Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins University

Daniel Webster, ScD, MPH is Bloomberg Professor of American Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he serves as co-director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Dr. Webster is one of the nation's leading experts on the prevention of gun violence and has published widely on the impacts of gun policies on homicides and suicides, the diversion of guns for use in crime, community violence prevention, youth violence, and intimate partner violence.

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April Zeoli, University of Michigan

Dr. Zeoli is interested in the impact of state-level firearm safety laws on interpersonal firearm violence and the implementation of those policies at the local level. Her interdisciplinary research—which aims to bring together the fields of public health, criminology, and criminal justice—is focused on firearm policies that restrict high-risk individuals from purchase and possession of guns and those that facilitate the implementation of firearm restriction policies.



Marc Zimmerman, University of Michigan

Dr. Zimmerman is the Marshall H. Becker Collegiate Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the School of Public Health and editor of the *Youth & Society*. He is the Co-Director of the UM Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, Director of the CDC-funded Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center and the Prevention Research Center, Co-Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance funded National Center for School Safety, and Co-Director of the Outreach and Translation Core of the CDC-funded U-M Injury Prevention Center. Dr. Zimmerman's research focuses on the application and development of empowerment theory and the study of adolescent health and resiliency.