



Gun Violence and Our Health: Finding Solutions through the Lens of Social Justice

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The 21st Annual UCLA Health Care Symposium

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA



Background

The Health Care Symposium is an annual conference organized by students at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine for their fellow students, the broader UCLA community and the general public, with the intent of exploring a topic of importance to modern health care. For the 21st Annual UCLA Health Care Symposium, we explored the topic of gun violence and its intersection with healthcare, especially in light of multiple recent tragic events that have occurred in our country.

Objectives

- Provide a forum where students of every level and field—including undergraduates, medical students, and graduate students in various domains—can learn from established experts about gun violence as a public health issue.
- Understand the wide range of health systems, programs, and community organizations that are involved in finding solutions to gun violence.
- Bring together students, faculty, and community members from diverse backgrounds to engage in a multidisciplinary conversation about the intersection between gun violence and health.

Aims

In order to measure the impact of the Symposium on attendees' opinions, we asked participants to respond to a short survey both before and after the event.

Methods

- Using Google Forms, we created a short pre- and post-survey that would allow us to analyze the impact of the event on attendees' perspectives on gun violence as a public health issue.
- Attendees RSVP'd for our event via EventBrite. We used the "email respondents" tool to send the survey link to everyone who had responded.

Pre-Survey:

- How strongly do you feel that gun violence is connected to social justice issues? (1-5 rating scale)
- How strongly do you feel that gun violence is connected to public health issues? (1-5 rating scale)
- How involved do you feel you currently are in gun violence prevention? (Very involved, Somewhat involved, Not involved, Thinking about becoming involved, and Prefer not to state)
- How motivated are you to become involved (or more involved) in gun violence prevention? (1-5 rating scale)
- How confident are you that you have the knowledge/tools to become involved (or more involved) in gun violence prevention? (1-5 rating scale)

Post-Survey:

- After attending the symposium:
- How strongly do you feel that gun violence is connected to social justice issues? (1-5 rating scale)
- How strongly do you feel that gun violence is connected to public health issues? (1-5 rating scale)
- How motivated are you to become involved (or more involved) in gun violence prevention? (1-5 rating scale)
- How confident are you that you have the knowledge/tools to become involved (or more involved) in gun violence prevention? (1-5 rating scale)
- How likely are you to become involved in gun violence prevention in the next year? (1-5 rating scale)

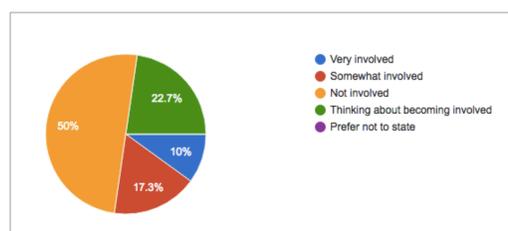
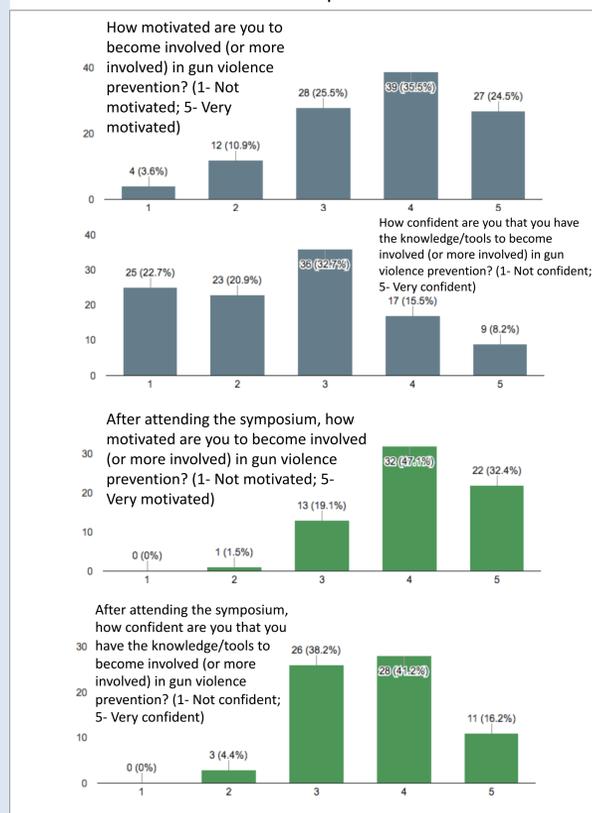


Figure 1. Pre-survey responses to the question, "How involved do you feel currently are in gun violence prevention?"

Results

- **Pre-Survey:** 112 responses
 - 58.6% of the respondents feel *very strongly* that gun violence is connected to social justice issues.
 - 55.9% of the respondents feel *very strongly* that gun violence is connected to public health issues.
- **Post-Survey:** 69 responses
 - 77.9% of the respondents feel *very strongly* that gun violence is connected to social justice issues.
 - 80.9% of the respondents feel *very strongly* that gun violence is connected to public health issues.



Conclusions

- After the symposium, more respondents feel very strongly that gun violence is both social justice and public health issues.
- The UCLA Health Care Symposium offers a unique opportunity for the educational, medical and lay communities to come together and discuss a controversy at the forefront of medicine.
- Things to improve for next year: day-of-event volunteer coordination; extending opportunities for planning to other graduate programs such as public health, nursing, dentistry, law, etc.; and estimating percentage-attendance

Quotes

- Symposium was fascinating and impactful.
- I enjoyed the range of speakers from a previous gang member to researchers that could provide a historical perspective to a trauma surgeon work to create hospital based violence prevention. Very inspiring! I thought everything related to logistics was very well organized and food was delicious. THANK YOU!
- The students organized a very good symposium. I enjoyed each presenter who addressed the problem from different vantage points but complimented each other nicely. Well done to organizers. Clear that you put a lot of thought to the content as well as are comfort (loved the flower arrangements on the tables). Happy that there was enough time for questions as well.

Acknowledgements

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