Gun Safety Task Force Update

September 17, 2016
Topics

• The Big Picture: Where does the Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) movement stand?
• Where do we, as the LWV of VA, fit in?
• How can we / you take action and make a difference?
Gun violence is at epidemic proportions – How did we get here?

Defund, Delegitimize, Deprive

Their Tactics
- Turn back the clock on gun laws at local / state level
- Congressional ban on public health research
- Tiahrt amendments constrain ATF trace data
- State laws exempt permit data from public view
- A secretive collusive industry
- Misinformation produced by the gun lobby

The Consequences?
- Lack of detailed, timely data on deaths
- Near total lack of data on injuries
- Lack of data from cities
- Lack of data on gun ownership / practices

"Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America" Authored by Krisin Goss
Sandy Hook - a Watershed Moment

Why was this time different?

• 1st Wake Up Call - the gravity and horror of the attack brought gun violence to the public's consciousness


Other Contributing Factors

• Increased frequency of mass shootings (2014 FBI Study)
• Advent of social media
• Changing demographics
Big Picture – GVP Movement Goals

Different phenomenon contribute to different firearm injuries. Risk behaviors associated with each category are carefully researched and analyzed to make effective policy.

• **Assaults**: Associated w/ prior criminal behavior; domestic violence; alcohol abuse

• **Unintended shootings**: Associated with irresponsibly stored guns

• **Suicide**: Associated w/ firearm ownership; mental illness; substance abuse
Risk and Assault

• About **50% of gun crime** is perpetrated by people prohibited from having guns
• **30% of crime guns nationwide** come from out-of-state — half of them from just 10 states where gun laws are weak

According to a recent report, Virginia now ranks 3rd in absolute number of crime guns exported.
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Risk and Unintentional Shootings

- **1.7 million children** in households with a gun stored loaded and unlocked. (CDC 2002)
- CDC data fail to account for **40% of unintentional shooting deaths** of children
- Research shows **70% of unintentional child shootings** could be prevented by safe storage

As of September 11, at Least 177 Child Shootings in 2016

#NotAnAccident Index at http://everytownresearch.org/notanaccident/
The GVP Movement – Playing Offense and Defense

GVP Priorities
• Background Checks
• Domestic Violence (possession, dating partners, stalking)
• Reducing unintentional child gun deaths and injuries
  – education of safe storage,
  – Moms Demand Action BeSMART Campaign and the Brady ASK campaign
• Strengthening tools to stop gun trafficking

NRA Lobby Priorities
• Weaken the permitting system to point of elimination
• National Reciprocity
• Reduce gun free zones (e.g., Campus Carry)
In 2015 the LWV of Virginia established the Firearm Safety Task Force

• Resolution addressed 2 issues:
  – nexus of domestic violence / guns
  – improving Virginia's child access prevention (CAP) law

• Virginia passes domestic violence firearm Protective Order prohibition as part of larger gun deal package - effective July 1, 2016
  – Previously, respondents of a family abuse final protective order could not purchase or transport firearms; but could possess existing guns.
  – The new law expands the prohibition to include possession.
  – After being served with a final protective order, the respondent has 24 hours to transfer or sell the firearm.
  – Violation of this law is a Class 6 Felony, punishable up to 5 years in prison, as well as loss of certain civil rights, including the right to own a gun.
  – Does not apply to emergency or preliminary Family Abuse Protective Orders.

• What's next?
Child Access Prevention Laws

• About 2 children a week are unintentionally shot and killed
• In isolation they are tragedies. But seen as a group, patterns emerge - as do opportunities for prevention.
  – 70% were not safely stored; remaining were mishandled (e.g., target practice, hunting)
  – Boys at greatest risk; 10X more likely to pull the trigger
  – At great risk when they are toddlers (age 2-4) and older children (ages 12 -14)
  – Toddlers are more likely to shoot themselves; older children are more likely to be shot by someone else
  – The majority of incidents occur in towns w/ populations less than 50,000 people. Only 10% occur with > 500,000 people
  – Gun: 41% belonged to the parent and 35% to another relative
  – 2/3 were legally owned guns
  – If legally owned charges were brought in only 25%; if unlawfully owned, charges were brought 90% of the time.
Summary of State Child Access Laws

- **23 States** have no Child Access Prevention (CAP) Laws
- **27 states and D.C.** have CAP laws. Strongest impose criminal liability when a minor gains access to a negligently stored firearm - the weakest merely prohibit persons from directly providing a gun to a minor.

23 No Child Access Laws: AL, AK, AZ, AR, ID, KS, LA, ME, MI, MT, NE, NM, NY, ND, PA, OH, OR, SC, SD, VT, WA, WV, WY

Source: Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence - Smart Gun Laws
Next Steps

What Can The League Do? What can you do?

• Join our LWV of VA Gun Safety Facebook Page
• Write letters to the editor
  – September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
  – October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
  – December 12th is the 4th Anniversary of Sandy Hook
• Host a screening of a film
  – Under the Gun produced by Katie Couric
  – Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA directed by Robert Greenwald who also directed “The Burning Bed” in 1984