



Lethal Violence: Policy and Prevention

David Hemenway
Harvard Injury Control Research Center

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Virginia Tech Shooting (2007)

Worst single act of gun violence in American
history

32 murdered

15 wounded

1 suicide

One of many school shootings in the U.S. in
past 20 years

Amish School (2006)

5 murdered

6 wounded

1 suicide

Red Lake, MN (2005)

10 killed

7 wounded

Arizona School of Nursing (2002)

3 professors killed

1 suicide

Santee, CA (2001)

Flint, MI (2000)

Littleton, CO (1999) Columbine HS

Jonesboro, AR (1998)

West Paducah, KY (1997)

Pearl, MS (1996)

Also mass shootings in retail establishments
businesses

Mass shootings the tip of the tip of the Iceberg in terms of gun deaths

In 2004: Per Day

>250 shot

> 80 die

>900 criminal gun uses
many gun intimidations

Why does US have so many more school shootings and other mass deaths than other developed countries?

Probably same reason we have so many more overall shooting deaths

U.S. vs. Other First World Countries (Similarities)

Similar Crime
Similar Violence

Similar Bullying rates

Percentage of People Victimized in 2000 (from comparable victimization surveys)

Nation	Car Theft	Burglary	Robbery	Sexual Incident	Assault or Threat	11 Crimes
United States	0.5	1.8	0.6	1.5	3.4	21.1
17 Industrialized Nations	1.0	1.8	0.8	1.7	3.5	21.3

Source: Van Kesteren et al. 2000

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Catalonia (Spain), Denmark, England & Wales, Finland, France, Japan, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, USA



U.S. vs. Other First World Countries (Differences)

- More guns
- More handguns
- Permissive gun laws
- More (gun) homicides

Firearm Regulations

Country	License System	Storage Regulations	Training Certificate Needed for Purchase	Handgun Ownership Permitted for Protection
Australia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Austria	Yes	Yes		Yes
Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Canada	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*
Denmark		Yes		No
Finland	Yes	No		No
France			Yes	Yes
Germany	Yes	Yes		Yes
Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Luxembourg	Yes	Yes		No
New Zealand	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Norway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	Yes	Yes		No
Switzerland	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes		No*
United States	No	No		Yes

Source: United Nations International Study of Firearm Regulation. New York: United Nations. 1998.
 A blank indicates "No Response." *In exceptional cases, permit may be issued.

Gun Prevalence and Homicide Rates 26 Developed Countries (1990s)

	<u>Coefficient</u>
26 Countries	.74***
Excluding the U.S.	.62**

Source: Hemenway & Miller, J Trauma 2000

Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Gun Deaths among 5-14 year olds:
 The United States vs. 25 Other High Income Populous Countries, early 1990s.
 (Rates per 100,000)

	United States	Other Countries	Mortality Rate Ratio
Homicides			
Gun homicides	1.22	0.07	17.4
Non-gun homicides	0.53	0.23	2.3
Total	1.75	0.30	5.8
Suicides			
Gun Suicides	0.49	0.05	9.8
Non-gun Suicides	0.35	0.35	1.0
Total	0.84	0.40	2.1
Unintentional firearm deaths	0.46	0.05	9.2

Source: CDC, MMWR 1997

U.S. Ecological Studies

U.S. Case Control Studies

Where more guns,

more homicide because more gun homicide

more suicide because more gun suicide

Gun Lobby Solution – Arm Students...

Opposed by Police

Educators

Public

“Do you think regular citizens should be allowed to bring their guns into...”

	Pre Columbine		Post Columbine	
College campuses	Yes	6%	Yes	2%
	No	92%	No	96%

Hemenway et al. *Injury Prevention* 2001

Who Currently Has Guns at College?

% of Students with Guns at College

Yes

(4.3%)

Binge Drink & Drive	12.0%**
Smoke	6.1%**
Cocaine	9.0%**

Miller et al. *J Am College Health* 2002

Puts others at risk

% students victimized by gun at college

Yes

(1.6%)

In regions with more guns, more college
students have guns

Where more college guns, more college
students victimized/threatened with guns.

Miller et al. *J Am College Health* 2002

Prevention:

After 1996 massacre in Tasmania,
Australia massive mandatory gun buyback

18 years before intervention, 13 mass shootings
11 years after intervention, 0 mass shootings

Plus major falls in firearm homicide, firearm suicide
non-firearm homicide, non-firearm suicide
unchanged

Chapman et al. *Injury Prevention* 2006

Virginia Tech Massacre

In no other developed country could the shooter have obtained his firearms so easily

e.g. Canada:

1. handgun magazine restricted to 10 rounds or less
2. handgun acquisition requires proof of legitimate purpose (e.g. bona fide collector)
3. requires firearm LICENSE

To obtain License:

- criminal background check
- training certificate
- 2 references (who sign application)
- 28 day waiting period

Non-Governmental Action Also Can Help:

In some US college towns with waiting periods,
when local student asks for permit,
sheriff contact university to check if any
problem

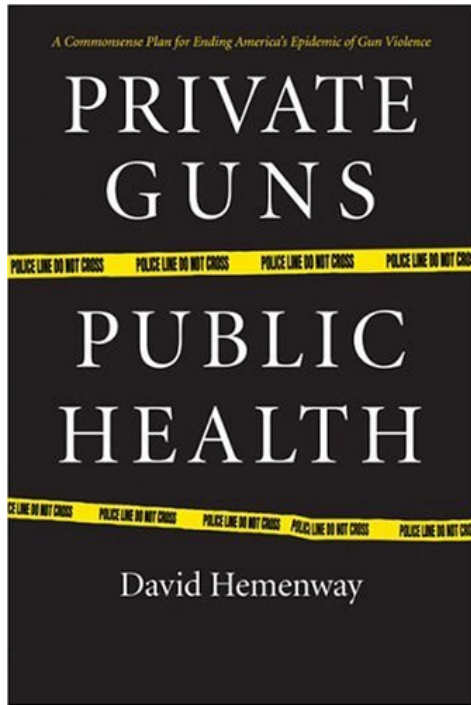
Keep guns away from drunk students
depressed students...

Many school shooting homicide-suicides...

Means Matter Campaign

Encourage mental health professionals to recommend making guns less accessible to at-risk youth.

Help reduce overall suicides and homicide-suicides (e.g. school shootings).



Private Guns Public Health

David Hemenway
Harvard Injury Control Research Center

University of Michigan Press, 2006