GUN VIOLENCE IN KING COUNTY

A preventable public health problem

Karen Milman, MD, MPH
Prevention Division Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Overview

- Local data
- Firearm ownership
- Public health approach
- Current activities and issues
Gun violence in King County

- More people in King County are killed each year by gun violence than car crashes.
- On average, 130 people die from gun violence.
Firearm deaths in King County

- Homicide: 29%
- Suicide: 68%
- Unintentional: .02%
Firearm homicide rates

Per 100,000 people

King County: 2
Washington State: 1.8
U.S.: 4
Firearm homicides

- Young males are most likely to die from firearm homicides
- African Americans face firearm homicide rates seven times higher than whites
Firearm Homicide Death Rates by Health Reporting Area
King County, Washington, 10-year Average 2001-2010

Legend

- King County border
- Water

Rate per 100,000

- 0.0 - 0.4
- 0.5 - 0.9
- 1.0 - 1.7
- 1.8 - 2.8
- 2.9 - 5.2
- 5.3 - 8.2

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Public Health Seattle & King County

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics
Produced by: Public Health - Seattle & King County; Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation Unit
Firearm suicides

King County: 4.5
Washington State: 6.5
U.S.: 5.8

Per 100,000 people
Firearm suicides

- Adult men 8 times more likely than adult women
- Highest rate in older men
- Whites & American Indian/Alaska Natives have the highest firearm suicide rates
- Risk of completed firearm suicide in youth < 18 is 9.2 times higher when firearms are stored unlocked
Firearm Suicide Death Rates by Victim Residence by Health Reporting Area
King County, Washington, 10-year Average 2001-2010

Legend
King County border
Water

RATE
1.7 - 2.9
3.0 - 4.1
4.2 - 5.1
5.2 - 6.3
6.4 - 7.9
8.0 - 9.9

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Public Health
Seattle & King County

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics
Unintentional firearm deaths & injuries

- 2 unintentional deaths from 2006-2010
- 84 hospitalizations from unintentional firearm injuries
- Men are more likely than women to be injured by firearms
Firearm ownership

- One-quarter of King County homes have firearms.
- Of the 30,000 homes that keep their firearms loaded and unlocked, 5,000 King County children live in those homes, which doesn’t account for relatives or friends who may come in contact with a loaded and unlocked gun.
- If firearms are kept in the home, the residents are associated with an increased risk homicide in the home, especially by a family member or intimate acquaintance.
Public Health approach

- Data-driven, science based
- Prevention focus
- Population focus
- Multifaceted
  - Educational/Awareness
  - Systems and Environmental Changes
  - Policy
Data-driven

- Last winter: “Gun Violence in King County”
- This past fall: “Impact of Firearms on King County’s Children”
- Additional data efforts in process
National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

- Designed by CDC
- System of capturing and linking information
- Identify trends and risk factors
- 18 states currently participate
- Federal funding for expansion
- Working with WA DOH to apply
Prevention focus

Safe Storage Saves Lives Campaign – partnering with law enforcement and retailers of firearm storage devices

www.lokitup.org
## 2014 WA legislative activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HI 591</td>
<td>“Protect Our Gun Rights”</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI 594</td>
<td>“Gun Sales Background Checks”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 2475</td>
<td>“Shotguns and Rifles”</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 2529</td>
<td>“Firearms, Ammo Sales Tax Exemption”</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 5956</td>
<td>“Short-Barreled Rifles”</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 6039</td>
<td>“Hunter Safety”</td>
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Policy success: Colorado

- New law requires all firearm sales to conduct a Federal Firearm License background check,
- Includes private sales, online sales, and gun shows
- July and December 2013: 4792 background checks on private sales
- 72 sales were blocked--would-be buyer was convicted of or charged with a serious crime, or was under a domestic restraining order
Questions?