

The public health model to prevent gun violence:

1. Is concerned with the health of the whole **population**, as opposed to the individual. This means studying trends in gun ownership and gun violence in aggregate, rather than focusing on one individual shooter at a time.
2. Is **data driven and evidence-based**. Members of the Health Care Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence are actively involved in collecting and studying data and developing a body of evidence through which to develop public policy. We are also working to overturn data collection prohibitions about gun ownership and gun violence in Minnesota state law.
3. Emphasizes **prevention** of gun violence, instead of blame or punishment. The goal is to make gun ownership **safer** by keeping guns out of the wrong hands, creating safer guns, and storing guns securely away from vulnerable people.
4. Is **collaborative and multi-disciplinary**, recognizing that the solution will include education, litigation, technological advances, and changing hearts and minds in addition to legislation.
5. Takes into account **all determinants** of health, recognizing systemic racism, injustice, disparities and adverse childhood experiences as important causal factors in gun violence.
6. Is **values-based but pragmatic**. Individual and societal values are at the heart of the gun violence debate. Our goal is to achieve a balance between valuing the rights of individuals to possess firearms and the rights of the community to be safe from gun violence.

Join Our Efforts to Protect Minnesota!

Go to www.protectmn.org to make a donation, sign up to join the **Health Care Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence**, make a gift, or request a speaker. You can also “like” us on Facebook and follow us on twitter @protectmn.

**PROTECT
MINNESOTA**
working together to prevent gun violence

Protect Minnesota is a 501.c3 tax exempt organization. All donations to Protect Minnesota are tax deductible and will be used for educational purposes.



Public health professionals, social workers and health care providers working together to **PROTECT MINNESOTA** from the epidemic of gun violence.

Every day in America, 300 people are shot; 48 are children. Every day in America, 90 people die from gun shot wounds; 7 are children.¹

One American is killed by a firearm every 17 minutes; 11,000 are murdered with guns each year; more than 32,000 die annually of all gun violence.¹

The presence of a gun in the home makes it three times more likely a person living there will commit suicide², and five times more likely a woman will be murdered by her domestic partner.³

Gun violence is expected to surpass motor vehicle accidents as a cause of death in 2016.⁴ Firearm injuries cost American citizens \$174 billion in 2010 alone.⁵

We have an epidemic of gun violence in our county, and it negatively impacts every Minnesotan every day.

Health care providers and social workers are in a unique position to see its devastation in the lives of their patients and clients. Many also know the dangers of visiting homes where there are unsecured guns.

Public health professionals are in a unique position to collect relevant data pertaining to gun injuries and deaths and formulate sound public policy.

Protect Minnesota's **Health Care Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence** brings these professional groups together, to work to prevent gun violence and save lives.

We invite you to join us!



¹ Brady Center.

² Andrew Anglemyer, PhD, MPH; Tara Horvath, MA; and George Rutherford, MD. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Vol. 160, No.2, Jan. 21, 2014.

³ D. Hemenway and E.G. Richardson, *Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States with Other High-Income Countries, 2003*, 70 *Journal of Trauma* 238-42 (2011).

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data completed by Bloomberg.

⁵ Children's Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Research Center.

⁶ *Gun Violence and Background Checks in Minnesota. Everytown for Gun Safety.*

Protect Minnesota

was founded in 1991 as a coalition of 16 statewide groups committed to working together to prevent gun violence. The Minnesota Public Health Association was one of our first and most active member organizations, establishing the public health model as our primary approach. The Minnesota Nurses Association and physicians associations were also founding members. 25 years later, Protect Minnesota is still the only independent, statewide gun violence prevention organization in Minnesota. We've created the **Healthcare Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence** to give a voice and vehicle for action to the healthcare community.

Our goals

Legislative Priorities

- 1) Closing the background check loopholes that enable felons, domestic abusers and other legally prohibited individuals to purchase guns from unlicensed dealers, at gun shows, and online without a criminal background check. Our #1 priority is passing legislation that would mandate background checks before ALL gun purchases.
- 2) Passing legislation authorizing Gun Violence Protection Orders, also called "Red Flag" legislation, so that family members and law enforcement officers can have firearms temporarily removed from the possession of individuals who are exhibiting signs of depression or serious mental illness, until they get the help they need.
- 3) Removing prohibitions in state law against the collection of data about gun violence and gun deaths which prevent law makers from having the information they need to make informed decisions about gun safety.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Over 80% of gun deaths in Minnesota are suicides⁶. The **Healthcare Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence** works with medical, mental health and public health partners to educate families about the need to identify, get help for, and keep guns away from those vulnerable to suicide.

Practitioner Education and Protection

It's not illegal in Minnesota for physicians and other practitioners to ask their patients and clients about gun ownership and provide information about gun safety— but many think it is. Our members work to encourage all health care professionals and social workers to become educated about gun violence prevention to help keep their patients and clients safe. But it's also important to keep health care practitioners safe from the growing risk of gun violence in the workplace. No practitioner should be expected to enter a home where there is an unsecured gun.