University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention

Three-Year Impact Report





Letter from the Co-Directors





s the third year of the Institute comes to a close, we are poised to carry forward the significant progress made to date, and to continue the advancement of preventing firearm-related injury. This document serves as an annual report to share and highlight the Institute's key initiatives and successes in generating new knowledge and advancing solutions to prevent and reduce firearm injury across the United States.

Over the past year, our faculty and staff have led new and innovative projects and programs, ranging in topic from school safety to suicide prevention. We have fostered increased engagement with communities nationwide and developed new partnerships across campus and with state and local governments and policy leaders. We have expanded the pipeline of researchers in the field by welcoming our third cohort of postdoctoral fellows and summer student interns, disseminating our comprehensive and free online firearm injury prevention course, and supporting and co-organizing a national conference for firearm injury prevention researchers.

It is critical that the momentum of this research field continues, as the issue of firearm injury and death will not be solved quickly or with just one solution. It requires a multi-faceted, collaborative approach. To ensure diverse perspectives are included, we continue to offer a seat at the table for anyone who wishes to work with us on finding evidence-based strategies to prevent firearm-related harms.

As you move through this report, you will find key highlights and updates from the past three years, including the launch of a statewide Extreme Risk Protection Order toolkit, the launch of a national school threat assessment toolkit, the development of a statewide data and reporting system for firearm incidents and the launch of a nationwide self-paced youth violence prevention training program, among others.

As always, we thank our donors for their continued support, and our colleagues and communities for their engagement and partnership in these efforts to save lives across the nation and world.

Patrick Carter, M.D. Marc Zimmerman, Ph.D.

Co-Directors, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention

Overview of the Institute

Cause of death in the United States, affecting all communities and age groups. Despite this immense burden, firearm injuries and deaths are preventable through a multi-faceted approach using evidence-based injury prevention science. As the nation's largest public research university, the University of Michigan is leading these prevention efforts through its Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention by generating new knowledge and advancing innovative solutions to reduce firearm injuries and deaths, all while respecting the rights of responsible, law-abiding firearm owners.

The Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention:



► Generates actionable research to reduce and prevent firearm injury and death



► Develops innovative evidence-based programs and scholarship



► Collaborates with communities most affected by firearm harms



► Catalogs and mobilizes relevant data to inform new solutions



► Evaluates new and existing policy solutions

Focus Areas for Research and Scholarship The Institute explores firearm injury across the lifespan in an effort to identify and implement effective solutions. Our multidisciplinary team currently has projects focused on reducing firearm harms caused by:



▶ Community Firearm Violence



► School Violence



► Intimate Partner Firearm Violence



▶ Firearm Suicide



► Mass Shootings



Unintentional or Accidental Firearm Injuries



► Officer-Involved Shootings

U-M researchers have secured more federal funding to study firearm injury prevention than any other academic institution nationwide. Our teams lead the field in developing and testing evidence-based programs to reduce and prevent firearm-related harms.

Highlights of the First Three Years



Received 540 million+ in new firearm-related funding to expand programs of research across Michigan and the United States



Provided testimony to congressional committees and the evidence base for bipartisan state legislative proposals in Michigan seeking to implement

and update background checks, safe storage and Extreme Risk Protection Orders - the most significant policy update on firearm injury prevention in Michigan in almost 30 years



Providing Training and Technical Assistance to 200+ Michigan schools and school safety organizations and 5000+ schools and school safety organizations nationwide to improve school safety and reduce school shootings.



 Providing support for communities and partners in understanding and

implementing secure storage and Extreme Risk Protection Orders through trainings, technical assistance and the creation of digital resources and toolkits



► Institute faculty from the School of Public Health, Michigan Medicine, Social Work and other disciplines across campus helped disseminate knowledge through 750+ media engagements

► Currently leading the Community Firearm Violence Prevention Network, the NIH's largest funding investment to date, to evaluate new programs being implemented to reduce firearm violence in communities across the United States

Provided the Structure ever federal grant for a postdoctoral training program focused specifically on training the next generation of researchers on the prevention of firearm injuries



Created a realtime surveillance system of firearm incidents to help guide public health responses in Michigan



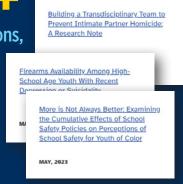


Launched the most comprehensive evidencebased firearm injury prevention online course to date which includes 37+ hours of education for researchers, practitioners, students and the broader public

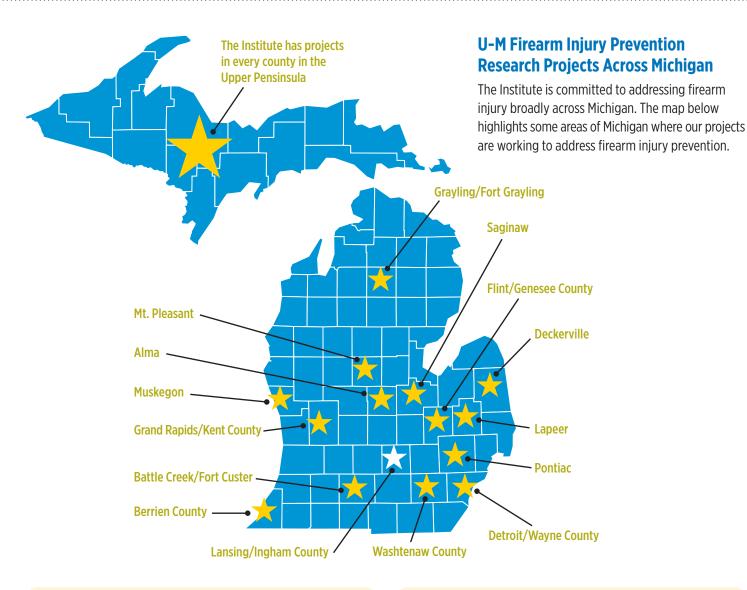


► Maintains the largest existing national firearm data repository in the country, with 100+ data-sets accessible to researchers nationwide to generate new knowledge to address firearm injury





A Resource for the State





Working with Rural Communities to Prevent Firearm Suicide and Unintentional Injury among Children & Teens

► Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac,

Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft Counties

Ensuring firearms are stored safely and used correctly is a critical piece of preventing firearm injury and death. The Institute has been working to develop and implement a new firearm safety education program for rural, firearm-owning families in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This project, Store Safely, is a collaborative effort - bringing together local public health practitioners, local business owners, law enforcement officials, K-12 school personnel, suicide prevention specialists and local firearm owners. The program works to tailor firearm safety strategies for families living in rural communities and consists of a four step online process that provides tools and resources to prevent firearm injuries and misuse among children and teens. A main focus of the project is to work closely with law-abiding firearm owners to ensure their reasons for owning a firearm are valued and honored while also providing evidence-based safety strategies.



Reducing Youth Risky Firearm Behavior
Through Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programing

Saginaw, Flint

Emergency Department visits can serve as an opportunity to work with youth at risk for violence before they experience a violent injury. The Institute currently leads an Emergency Department study in Flint and Saginaw that engages with youth and young adults that report they carry firearms and provides one-to-one counseling during and after their hospital visit. This counseling approach focuses on discussions around why and how to reduce their involvement with risky firearm behaviors. Counselors work collaboratively with patients to identify resources and services in the community that will help them meet their goals and safety needs, and assist in connecting the patients with these services. The research study, which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is also investigating ways that technology can support the counseling sessions by utilizing a smartphone application to enhance the messaging delivered through the counseling sessions, as well as helping to link youth to services in their community.



Understanding the Relationship between Public Art, Community Engagement, and Reducing Firearm Violence

▶ Detroit

In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, this project builds on the Institute's prior work in environmental and place-based interventions. A main goal of the project is to understand the role of the arts and humanities in improving health and well-being by promoting community factors that protect youth from firearm violence. Working with community partners and Detroit residents, this project seeks to deepen our understanding of relationships between public art and firearm and other interpersonal violence, and support community engagement via public art projects.



Increasing Help-Seeking Behaviors and Improving the Use of the Suicide Crisis Line with National Guard Members

► Grayling, Battle Creek

Military personnel are disproportionately affected by firearm suicide, especially in the National Guard where suicide rates are the highest of all Armed Forces. In collaboration with National Guard training weekends, project leaders work to provide education and training to National Guard members on the national crisis line. The study also promotes a peer outreach approach to increase the use of the crisis line among National Guard members and to encourage help-seeking behaviors for themselves and their peer soldiers during periods of elevated risk.



Preventing Suicide in Michigan Men Through Training Agencies on Lethal Means Counseling

► Marquette, Lapeer, Muskegon, Ingham, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties

Reducing access to lethal means, such as firearms, especially during moments of crisis is an evidence-based suicide prevention strategy. In collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Institute teams provide training to Michigan agencies on how to identify clients and patients that could benefit from lethal means counseling. In addition to this training, our teams are also assisting MDHHS by evaluating the program, ensuring that this work is reaching the intended audience and having the intended impact.



Understanding Firearm Violence and Firearm Injury Prevention Efforts among LGBTQ+ Youth of Color

▶ Detroit

LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by both suicide and interpersonal violence. Currently, there is a lack of research on the extent of firearm violence and injury experienced by LGBTQ+ youth and young adults of color, and the specific supports and tailored programs that are necessary to prevent firearm harms. Our team is currently working in Detroit with LGBTQ+ youthserving organizations to fill these gaps by identifying the specific structural, social, organizational and psychological factors that may influence firearm violence and injury, and to inform tailored prevention efforts among LGBTQ+ youth of color to improve health outcomes.



Educating Lawmakers on the Research and Evidence Behind State Firearm Policies

▶ Statewide

Institute leadership provided policymakers with information about what we know from existing research literature regarding the effectiveness of three policies that were under consideration by the Michigan Legislature in 2023: Extreme Risk Protection Orders, background checks and secure storage. Our faculty provided testimony during legislative committee meetings, and the three bills were later signed into law. The bills went into effect in early 2024 and the Institute is providing evaluation support to ensure the laws are having an impact in reducing firearm injury outcomes. Institute faculty and staff are also providing education and training and technical assistance support to key constituencies as the new policies are being implemented.



Addressing Youth Suicide in Michigan

▶ Statewide

The Institute is working to address youth suicide by establishing suicide prevention as a core priority in Michigan's Child Welfare (CW) system and a growing network of Emergency Departments (EDs). The University of Michigan's Psychiatric Emergency Service and School of Social Work, in partnership with the Institute, serve as a Technical Assistance Center to support dissemination and implementation of suicide assessment, brief intervention and continuity of care strategies to at least eight general medical emergency departments across Michigan. The Institute also hosts a free self-paced online course for Child Welfare providers to complete the suicide prevention competency requirement of the Michigan Child Welfare Certificate Program.

Serving as a Resource for Michigan's New Firearm Laws

In 2023, Michigan passed a series of comprehensive evidence-based firearm safety laws, the most significant changes to firearm-related policies in the state in more than 30 years.

These laws include an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO or red-flag) law, a safe storage law, an updated background check law and a domestic violence misdemeanor firearm possession prohibition.

The University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention serves as a resource for the state – sharing information and resources on these new laws, providing training and technical assistance on effective implementation and conducting evaluations to ensure the laws are having the intended effect of reducing firearm injury and death in Michigan.

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Toolkit

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), also known as red flag orders, are a tool to prevent firearm violence, including mass shootings, suicides and firearm-involved assaults. These laws create a civil court process to file a petition to temporarily prevent someone deemed to be at risk of harming themselves or others from purchasing or possessing firearms. When implemented properly, ERPOs have shown to be life-saving measures by restricting access to firearms during moments of crisis.

In an effort to support the use and implementation of Michigan's new ERPO law, as well as nationwide ERPO implementation, the Institute published a web-based toolkit in 2024. The toolkit includes information on:

- ▶ The process for filing an ERPO
- ▶ Who can file an ERPO petition
- ▶ When it is appropriate to file an ERPO petition
- ▶ What someone should do if they are served an ERPO

Access the ERPO toolkit here:



Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Code Law, effective February 13, 2024. An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) and insurance a five flag point, is a full sourd only the a important particular production of the property particular production of the production of the property particular production of the production of

Michigan's Other Firearm Safety Laws

The Institute also provides resources, educational material and training and technical assistance for the secure storage, updated background check and domestic violence misdemeanor firearm possession laws. Additional information can be found on the Institute's website: https://firearminjury.umich.edu/mi-firearm-laws/

Providing Real-Time Firearm Incident Data in Michigan

A key barrier to addressing firearm injury in the United States and Michigan is the lack of timely information needed to make data-driven decisions for resource allocation and intervention support.

Near real-time data about firearm incidents can help inform public health and public safety response efforts by identifying sites for place-based interventions and providing a timely basis for evaluating ongoing activities. This information is critical for making resource allocation decisions, such as facilitating access to services for those living in areas with violence spikes or providing suicide prevention strategies and resources.



Real-Time Firearm Incident Dashboard

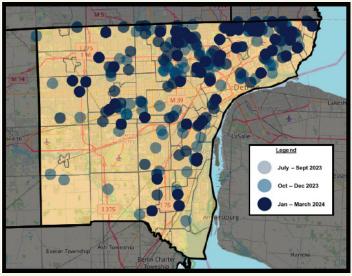
To meet this need, the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention has created a web-based statewide dashboard for firearm injury incidents to help guide the public health response to firearm injury and death in Michigan.

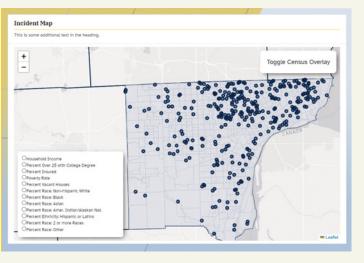
Public health and public safety practitioners across the state will have access to this interactive dashboard, which maps firearm incidents in near real-time (i.e., daily) and provides demographic information.

Users can select a timeframe to tailor visualizations or generate printable reports. Data summaries can be customized by demographics (e.g., age range; gender) and manner of death (e.g., homicide; suicide) with an option to overlay place-based data (e.g., census).

Currently, the dashboard utilizes mortality data obtained from Medical Examiner partners from 47+ counties across the state, with plans to incorporate data from all Michigan Medical Examiners as well as non-fatal firearm data in the near future.

Examples of dashboard screenshots:



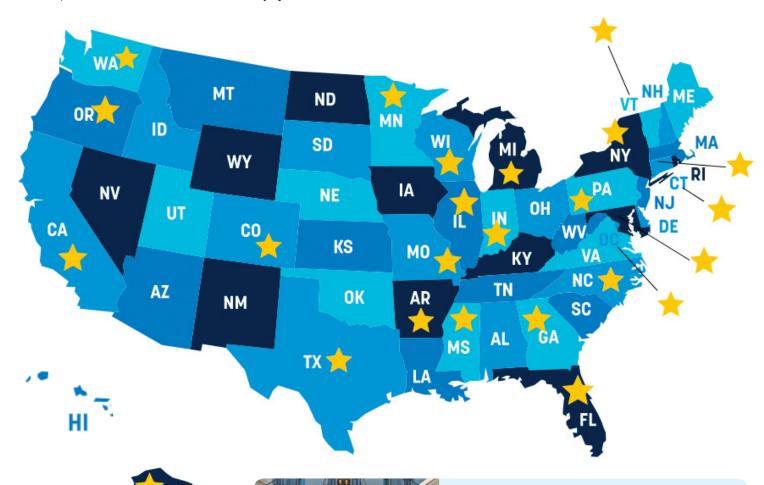




A Resource for the Nation

U-M Firearm Injury Prevention Research Projects Across the Nation

The Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention is a national leader in conducting firearm injury prevention research. Our team works with communities in over 24 states to provide data-driven, evidence-based solutions to firearm injury.





► Michigan, Washington, D.C.

The Michigan Youth Violence Prevention Center, one of the five Centers of Academic Excellence funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, is housed within the Institute and works in partnership with two

communities to study the implementation and effectiveness of two distinct strategies for firearm violence prevention. In Muskegon, Michigan, the Center is implementing SafERteens, an evidence-based brief intervention program designed to reduce youth violence, across 6 clinical-settings (emergency department, primary care office, etc.) to determine the effectiveness of the program in reducing firearm violence. In Washington, D.C., the Center is working with the TRIGGER program, which engages youth in employment, social and emotional learning and civic learning and leadership to raise awareness of the root causes of firearm violence in their communities. Institute and Center teams have partnered with program leaders to study best practices around implementation and evaluation of the program. In 2024, members of the MI-YVPC hosted and participated in the first annual Youth Learning Exchange event in Washington, D.C. The Exchange brought together youth advisory board members from Muskegon, MI and Washington, D.C. together to begin initial planning for collaborative firearm injury prevention projects and campaigns.



Leading the NIH Firearm Violence Prevention Coordinating Center to Provide Technical Assistance and Scientific Expertise to Research Projects Across the Nation

► Michigan, Illinois, Mississippi, Washington, D.C., Arkansas, Texas

The Institute houses the Coordinating Center for the Community Firearm Violence Prevention Network, which represents the NIH's largest investment to date to develop and evaluate community-oriented programs focused on reducing firearm violence outcomes. The Coordinating Center is funded to lead this Network, providing support to NIH funded projects across the nation, including assistance with research design, community-based participatory research methods and statistical analysis. The Institute is also harmonizing data collection across these projects to allow for cross-site research, enhancing the potential impact of the Network to generate new solutions to reducing firearm violence. Currently. the team is working with funded projects in Washington, D.C., Illinois, Mississippi, Michigan, Arkansas and Texas.



Family Safety Net: Developing a Suicide Prevention Approach to Enhance Safe Firearm Storage in Rural Alaska

➤ Alaska

Rural Alaska Native communities are disproportionately affected by youth suicide, with 60% of Alaskan Native suicides resulting from firearms. Partnering with local tribal leaders, this project is developing and testing a family-centered suicide prevention approach that is implemented through primary care clinics in remote Alaskan villages and addresses the need for locked storage of household firearms.



Evaluating How Extreme Risk Protection Orders are Being Used and Associated Reductions in Suicide Risk

► California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Washington (state)

Institute faculty co-lead this study which examines Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) laws, characteristics of ERPO petitions that are filed, factors associated with petitions being granted or denied by judges and associated violence outcomes within and across six states—California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland and Washington. This study will provide evidence on how ERPOs are being used and whether ERPO laws are associated with reduced suicide risk, which will help inform improvements to current or future ERPO policies.



vention Programs: Reducing Risk for Repeat Injuries Among Assault-Injured Youth

► Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan

In an effort to reduce retaliatory violence and the potential for repeat violent injuries, the Institute is developing and evaluating hospital-based violence prevention programs that intervene with youth after they have sustained an assault injury. Health Coaches meet via telehealth with patients in the immediate aftermath of a violent injury and for the subsequent 12-weeks, providing in-depth counseling, support and linkage to resources. The program also provides skills in navigating difficult situations such as anger management, non-violent conflict resolution, positive communication, violence avoidance and de-escalation, as well as reducing firearm and weapon carriage. This program utilizes artificial intelligence technology to personalize the intervention delivery approach and the intensity of intervention content to best meet each patient's individual needs. This work is being conducted across hospitals in Flint, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Atlanta.



Examining Anonymous Reporting System Data to Prevent Youth Suicide and Firearm Violence

► North Carolina

Anonymous and confidential reporting systems (ARS) are widely implemented in the United States, with more than 50 percent of schools having access to at least one such reporting system. ARS and related school-based tip lines are designed to facilitate student sharing of concerning or suspicious behaviors by eliminating barriers to reporting, such as the social cost of 'tattling', supporting students' self-efficacy to correctly identify and report a threat and creating norms around school safety. This project analyzes school-based anonymous and confidential reporting system submissions in North Carolina to characterize the types of tips reported, what factors influence student tip submissions and content and whether exposure to training influences tip behavior and content.



Understanding Racism, Firearm Injury Risks and Resiliency Among Asian Americans

▶ Nationwide

The rise in Anti-Asian sentiment during the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with long-existing structural racism, has elevated the risk of racial violence and discrimination towards the Asian-American Community. This research study, led by Institute faculty, applies a mixed-method approach to improve our understanding of how this recent rise in racism is associated with firearm behavior, injury and mortality among Asian Americans, and to inform culturally competent prevention strategies.

School Safety Initiatives and Programs

The Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention is dedicated to supporting our schools and communities with evidence-based school safety strategies, resources and programs, and training and technical assistance. Highlighted below are some key initiatives and programs housed within the Institute.



National Center for School Safety

The National Center for School Safety provides training and technical assistance support to improve school safety and prevent school violence through two projects:

- ➤ The Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Program Training and Technical Assistance Provider
- ► The Michigan School Safety Initiative

The Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Provider

The Bureau of Justice Assistance-funded STOP School Violence Training and Technical Assistance Program provides support to grantees throughout the United States that are implementing school



safety projects. This includes step-by-step implementation support, tailored training opportunities, expert referrals and small group peer-to-peer learning. Grantees include schools, districts, mental health agencies, community-based

organizations and state, local and tribal agencies. The STOP TTA team is composed of national leaders with expertise in school safety research and practice, and provides training on topics such as comprehensive school safety plans, coordination with first responders, mental health, notification technology, school climate, school-based law enforcement and behavioral threat assessments. More information can be found at https://www.nc2s.org/

Michigan School Safety Initiative

In 2023, the Institute launched a statewide initiative to enhance school safety and prevent school violence, including school shootings. The Michigan School Safety Initiative, funded by the State of Michigan, is available to all K-12 schools in the state. Institute faculty and staff provide training and technical assistance to district



staff regarding evidence-based best practices such as socialemotional learning, behavioral threat

leadership and

assessments and related screening programs and trauma-informed responses. Additionally, the Institute conducts comprehensive needs assessments of Michigan schools and evaluates the effectiveness of existing school safety actions. More information on this program, including resources available to all communities, can be found at https://firearminjury.umich.edu/mi-school-safety-initiative/



YES Training Program

Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES), an evidence-based program hosted at the Institute, is designed to help middle and high school aged youth become active participants and leaders in addressing violence through youth empowerment and community engagement. In 2024, YES developed a Self-Paced Online Training, which helps future group leaders become more confident in teaching, adapting and evaluating the program. The training, approved for 10 continuing Social Work education contact hours, is available here: https://myumi.ch/VGDDj

Supporting Data & Evaluation

The Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention supports the data and evaluation needs of researchers and communities. Highlighted below are examples of programs the Institute currently conducts to support national and local data and evaluation needs.

The National Firearm Attitudes and Behaviors Study (NFABS)

The National Firearm Attitudes and Behaviors Study (NFABS) examines contextual factors, beliefs and practices surrounding firearms among a nationally representative sample of adults age 18 and over. The cross-sectional survey includes information about firearm ownership and motivation, carriage, healthcare and parent interactions about firearms, recent firearm purchase and storage practices. The web- and paper-based survey seeks to identify risk and protective factors for firearm-related harm. Results will inform the Institute's development of firearm injury prevention programs, advance science in the growing field of firearm injury prevention and expand opportunities for more intensive study of firearm-related disparities.





Data Repository

The Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention maintains the largest database of publicly available data on firearm-related harm in the United States. Users can browse available data from more than 100 studies and 200,000 variables and sort by subject terms, funding agency, types of analysis, time period, geography and more. The Institute also established a free self-publishing deposit workflow, which provides secure upload of files and a form for describing the deposited data collection. This form and process meets National Institutes of Health requirements for data archiving. Access the repository on the Institute's website https://firearminjury.umich.edu/data-reporting/

Determining Community Needs by Evaluating Statewide Violence Prevention Efforts

In 2023, the Michigan State Police received federal funding to launch a statewide community violence prevention project for which the Institute measures effectiveness. In addition to developing and leading an evaluation plan for community programs and strategies, Institute faculty and staff provide community needs assessments to determine high-risk locations for firearm incidents across the state. Institute teams also provide project implementation support to communities identified by the Michigan State Police, monitor and report progress to communities, and communicate results and disseminate findings. Institute teams are currently working in Berrien, Kent and Marquette Counties as well as with a statewide association on projects relating

to juvenile justice, safe storage, Extreme Risk Protection Orders, conflict resolution and behavioral threat assessment training in healthcare settings.



Training the Next Generation of Researchers

The Institute is committed to educating and training the next generation of faculty and students.

The Institute is focused on providing diverse and collaborative learning opportunities such as:

- ▶ The first-ever NIH-funded training program solely dedicated to the study of the prevention of firearm injuries among children and teens
- ▶ A robust summer internship and research program for graduate and undergraduate students
- Access to the most comprehensive, free online training course on the science of firearm injury prevention (the course is available to all levels of learners)
- ▶ Co-organizing and supporting the largest multidisciplinary research conference dedicated to the scientific study of firearm injury prevention – the National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms



Our NIH-funded postdoctoral program is dedicated to addressing the leading cause of pediatric mortality by providing research training on the prevention of firearm injuries among children and teens.



Current and past trainees:

Karissa Pelletier, PhD, MS





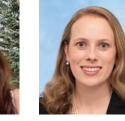
Leigh Rauk, PhD



Briana Scott, PhD



Laura Seewald, MD



high-risk populations, arms trafficking and school safety.

Post-doctoral Research Fellowship Training

Our postdoctoral fellows and their efforts have already made significant contributions to our understanding of this public health crisis and assisted in the Institute's mission of developing and rigorously testing evidence-based prevention strategies. Since launching the postdoctoral training program in 2022, the Institute has worked with 11 trainees to develop and expand their portfolios of research in the topic areas of criminology, gender studies/gender-based violence, youth violence prevention and treatment, homicide, intimate partner violence, policy,





Eugenio Weigend Vargas, PhD

The University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention offers paid summer internship positions for University of Michigan graduate, medical school and upper-level undergraduate students to support their development and generate interest in the area of firearm injury prevention.

Research Internship Program for Undergraduate & Graduate Students

The Institute has trained more than 40 interns or research assistant students representing more than 9 U-M schools.



























Free Online Course For Learners of All Levels

The Institute, in partnership with the FACTS Consortium and the University of Michigan Center for Academic Innovation, launched the most comprehensive, free firearm injury prevention online course to date in 2023. The course covers a range of firearm injury topics through 37+ hours of training and interviews, including: firearm-related suicide, unintentional firearm injury, firearm-related community and youth violence, firearm-related intimate partner violence, school and mass shootings and officer-involved shootings. Eligible learners can earn free continuing education credits.





As always, we thank our donors for their continued support, and our colleagues and communities for their engagement and partnership in these efforts to save lives across the nation and world.

