



In 2023, VPRP researchers led 21 papers and co-authored 9 more with research partners across the country. In addition to studying the role of firearms in violence and the social structures that create and perpetuate environments for violence, we are enhancing our understanding of contemporary political violence risks, firearm suicide, school and mass shootings, firearm injury prevention approaches, and more.

Entering 2024, we are excited to continue exploring novel research questions, sharing new findings, and advancing violence prevention efforts across California and the nation. **Read on for our 2023 research highlights.**

Impact by the Numbers

9

conferences at which we presented.

30

papers published.

25,000+

views of our 30 publications.

1,133

citations of our work.

VPRP-led Publications in 2023

Aubel AJ, Bruns A, Zhang X, Buggs SAL, Kravitz-Wirtz ND. Neighborhood collective efficacy and environmental exposure to firearm homicide among a national sample of adolescents. *Injury Epidemiology*. DOI: [10.1186/s40621-023-00435-8](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-023-00435-8).

Aubel AJ, Wintemute GJ, Kravitz-Wirtz N. Anticipatory concerns about violence within social networks: Prevalence and implications for prevention. *Preventive Medicine*. DOI: [10.1016/j.ypmed.2023.107421](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2023.107421).

Aubel AJ, Wintemute GJ, Kravitz-Wirtz N. Optimism bias in firearm-related risk perceptions. *JAMA Network Open*. DOI: [10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.49656](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.49656).

Bhatt A, Gonzales H, Pallin R, Barnhorst A. Rising rates of adolescent firearm suicide and the clinician's role in addressing firearms. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*. DOI: [10.1016/j.jaac.2022.07.820](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2022.07.820).

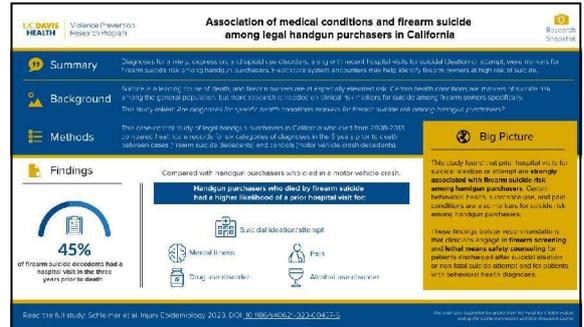
Buggs SAL, Kravitz-Wirtz Nd, Lund JJ. Social and structural determinants of community firearm violence and community trauma. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. DOI: [10.1177/00027162231173324](https://doi.org/10.1177/00027162231173324).

Buggs SAL, Kravitz-Wirtz ND, Lund JJ. Voicing narratives of structural violence in interpersonal firearm violence research and prevention in the United States. *Frontiers in Public Health*. DOI: [10.3389/fpubh.2023.1143278](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1143278).

Dawson M, Ivey A, Buggs S. Relationships, resources, and political empowerment: community violence intervention strategies that contest the logics of policing and incarceration. *Frontiers in Public Health*. DOI: [10.3389/fpubh.2023.1143516](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1143516).

Kagawa RMC, Charbonneau A, McCort C, McCourt A, Vernick J, Webster D, Wintemute GJ. Effects of comprehensive background-check policies on firearm fatalities in 4 states. *American Journal of Epidemiology*. DOI: [10.1093/aje/kwac222](https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwac222).

Our research snapshots and fact sheets share findings and implications of our research. Click the author name to see it in full and find the publication link in the footer.



Across two studies, [Pear et al.](#) found that community-level firearm and alcohol availability are associated with specific individual-level firearm injury risks.

[Schleimer et al.](#) suggests that healthcare system encounters may help identify firearm owners at high risk of suicide.

[Laqueur HS, McCort C, Smirniotis C, Robinson S, Wintemute GJ.](#) Trends and sources of crime guns in California: 2010-2021. Journal of Urban Health. DOI: [10.1007/s11524-023-00741-y.](#)

[Lund JJ, Tomsich EA, Schleimer JP, Pear VA.](#) Changes in suicide in California from 2017 to 2021: a population-based study. Injury Epidemiology. DOI: [10.1186/s40621-023-00429-6.](#)

[Pear VA, De Biasi A, Charbonneau A.](#) Law enforcement officer knowledge of, attitudes toward, and willingness to use extreme risk protection orders. Health Policy. DOI: [10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.38455.](#)

[Pear VA, Wintemute GJ, Jewell NP, Ahern J.](#) The role of firearm and alcohol availability in firearm suicide: a population-based weighted case-control study. Health & Place. DOI: [10.1016/j.healthplace.2023.102969.](#)

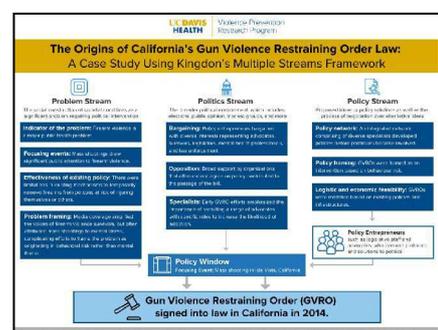
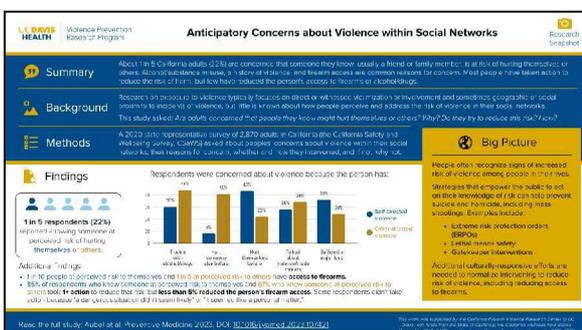
[Pear VA, Wintemute GJ, Jewell NP, Cerdá M, Ahern J.](#) Community-level risk factors for firearm assault and homicide: the role of local firearm dealers and alcohol outlets. Epidemiology. DOI: [10.1097/EDE.0000000000001670.](#)

[Schleimer JP, Kagawa RMC, Laqueur HS.](#) Association of medical conditions and firearm suicide among legal handgun purchasers in California: a case-control study. Injury Epidemiology. DOI: [10.1186/s40621-023-00437-6.](#)

[Shev AB, Wright MA, Kagawa RMC, Wintemute GJ.](#) Importance of categories of crime for predicting future violent crime among handgun purchasers in California. Injury Epidemiology. DOI: [10.1186/s40621-023-00462-5.](#)

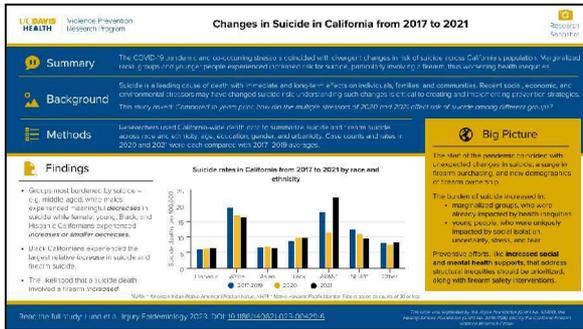
[Tomsich EA, Crawford A, McCort CD, Wintemute GJ, Laqueur HS.](#) Firearm acquisition patterns and characteristics of California mass and active shooters. Journal of Criminal Justice. DOI: [10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2023.102047.](#)

[Tomsich EA, Pear VA, Schleimer J, Wintemute GJ.](#) The origins of California's gun violence restraining order law: an analysis using Kingdon's multiple streams framework. BMC Public Health. DOI: [10.1186/s12889-023-16043-6.](#)

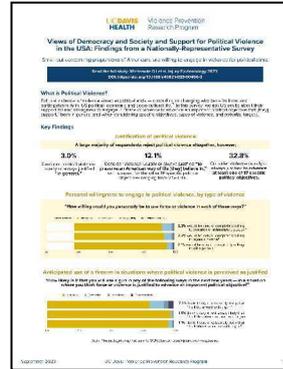


[Aubel et al.](#) suggests that violence prevention efforts can leverage the knowledge of social networks.

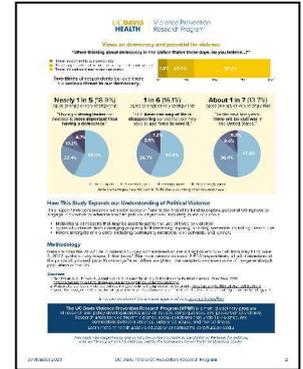
[Tomsich et al.](#) examines the successful enactment of GVROs in California and how it can be used as a framework for other policies.



Lund et al. found the start of the pandemic coincided with unexpected changes in suicide, a surge in firearm purchasing, and new firearm ownership demographics.



Wintemute et al. found that small but concerning proportions of Americans are personally willing to engage in violence for political aims.

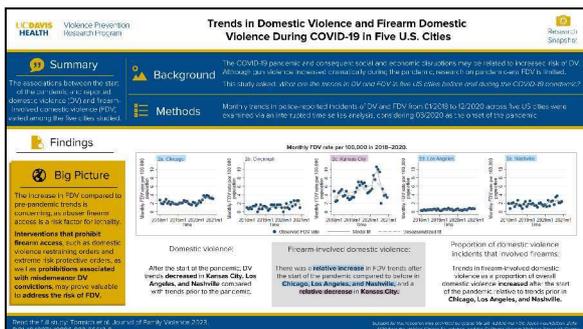


Tomsich EA, Schleimer JP, McCort CD, Wintemute GJ. Trends in domestic violence and firearm domestic violence during covid-19 in five US cities. Journal of Family Violence. DOI: [10.1007/s10896-023-00613-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-023-00613-8).

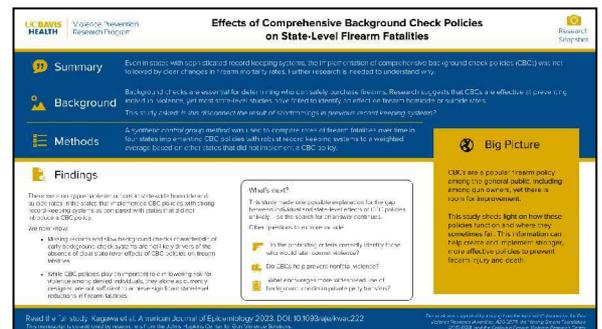
Wintemute GJ, Crawford A, Robinson S, Tomsich E, Reeping P, Schleimer J, Pear VA. Firearm ownership and support for political violence in the United States: findings from a nationally representative survey [PREPRINT]. SocArXiv. DOI: [10.31235/osf.io/h7kqv](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/h7kqv).

Wintemute GJ, Robinson SL, Crawford A, Tancredi D, Schleimer J, Tomsich E, Reeping P, Shev AB, Pear VA. Views of democracy and society and support for political violence in the USA: findings from a nationally representative survey. Injury Epidemiology. DOI: [10.1186/s40621-023-00456-3](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-023-00456-3).

Wintemute GJ, Velasquez B, Li Y, Tomsich EA, Reeping PM, Robinson S. Racist and pro-violence beliefs, approval of extreme right-wing political organizations and movements, and support for political violence in the United States [PREPRINT]. SocArXiv. DOI: [10.31235/osf.io/c9vtr](https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/c9vtr).



Tomsich et al. examines trends in domestic violence and firearm domestic violence during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in five US cities.



Kagawa et al. examines the effects of comprehensive background check policies on firearm fatalities in four states.

Community Partners

Our partnerships are essential for turning research into action. Locally and nationwide, our collaborations advance our shared missions to prevent violence and strengthen communities.

Co-authored Publications

Betz ME, Frattaroli S, Knoepke CE, Johnson R, Christy A, **Schleimer JP, Pear VA**, McCarthy M, Kapoor R, Norko MA, Rowhani-Rahbar A, Ma W, **Wintemute GJ**, Swanson JW, Zeoli AM. Extreme risk protection orders in older adults in six US states: a descriptive study. *Clinical Gerontologist*. DOI: [10.1080/07317115.2023.2254279](https://doi.org/10.1080/07317115.2023.2254279).

Kaplan Z, Caetano R, Vaeth P, Gruenewald P, Ponicki W, Annechino R, **Laqueur HS**. The association between the percentage of female law enforcement officers and rape report, clearance, and arrest rates: a spatiotemporal analysis of California. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. DOI: [10.1177/08862605231197134](https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605231197134).

Kleber K, **Kravitz-Wirtz N, Buggs S**, Adams C, Sardo A, Hoch J, Brown I. Emergency department visit patterns in the recently discharged, violently injured patient: retrospective cohort review. *The American Journal of Surgery*. DOI: [10.1016/j.amjsurg.2022.07.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjsurg.2022.07.005).

Lee H, **Kravitz-Wirtz N**, Rao S, Crowder K. Effects of prolonged exposure to air pollution and neighborhood disadvantage on self-rated health among adults in the United States: evidence from the panel study of income dynamics. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. DOI: [10.1289/EHP11268](https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP11268).

Marineau LA, Uzzi M, **Buggs S**, Ihenacho N, Campbell JC. Risk and protective factors for firearm assault injuries among Black men: a scoping review of research. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. DOI: [10.1177/15248380231217042](https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380231217042).

Matthay EC, **Kagawa RMC**. Invited Commentary: Concealed carrying of firearms, public policy, and opportunities for mitigating harm. *American Journal of Epidemiology*. DOI: [10.1093/aje/kwad053](https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwad053).

Semenza DC, Magee LA, Anestis MD, **Buggs SAL**. Identity, experience, and threat: assessing key correlates of firearm ownership and related behaviors in a representative sample of five US states. *Preventive Medicine Reports*. DOI: [10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102269](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102269).

Spring A, Ackert E, Roche S, Paris D, Crowder K, **Kravitz-Wirtz N**. Keeping kin close? Geographies of family networks by race and income. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. DOI: [10.1111/jomf.12911](https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12911).

Zeoli A, **Schleimer J**, Frattaroli S, **Pear VA, Wintemute GJ**. Characteristics, legal firearm purchasing, and arrest patterns among extreme risk protection order respondents in California [PREPRINT]. *OSF*. DOI: [10.17605/OSF.IO/359RP](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/359RP).

Co-authoring Partners

We learn from and work with many colleagues across the field. In 2023, we published papers with partners from the following institutions:



The UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program (VPRP) is a multi-disciplinary program of research and policy development focused on the causes, consequences, and prevention of violence. We place a particular focus on firearm violence, and our approach to research and prevention is focused on areas that face the highest burden from violence.

Our mission is to develop and disseminate the research evidence on which informed policy and practice are based. By cultivating this knowledge, VPRP is driving change and empowering communities to help actualize a safer future.