

2016 KAPS  
Conference

# THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY ABOUT GUNS IN SCHOOLS

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## Overview of Session

- Discussion-type format
- Information from Literature
- Discussion questions with participation from the audience

## Caution

- The content of this session can result in emotionally charged discussions. We ask that you attempt to regulate your emotions to allow for a professional debate of the issues.
- The content of this session can trigger feelings that cause a participant to revisit prior personal trauma. Such reaction is normal. If you feel the need to leave the session and/or explore your thoughts and feelings afterwards, we suggest you reach out to a friend. The presenters also will be available after the session.

# Firearms

- Handgun
  - Pistol
  - Revolver
- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Other
- Semiautomatic

## Common Active Shooter Firearms

### Shotgun



Generally weak penetration power (Shells will not penetrate drywall, although slugs may)

### Handgun



Moderate penetration power (Car door, drywall, hollow wood door)

Various Handgun Ammo

### Assault Rifle



Strong penetration power (Car door, plywood, other people)

### Sniper Rifle



Very strong penetration power

## Allowance and Regulations About Firearms in Schools

# State Laws Related to Firearms in K-12 Schools

- 49 states (including Washington DC) have a general prohibition on guns in K-12 schools
- New Hampshire does not have a law about guns in K-12 schools
- Hawaii allows the decision to be made at the school level



## Allowance and Regulations About Firearms in Schools

# Of the States that Prohibit Guns in K-12 Schools

- 39 states (plus Washington DC) do not allow people who are concealed carry permit holders to bring firearms to schools
- 8 states allow people with concealed carry permits to carry firearm in schools
- California & Kansas allow schools to decide if CCW is allowed or prohibited



## Allowance and Regulations About Firearms in Schools

# Kentucky

- Prohibition on carrying guns in K-12 schools
  - Without the consent of school authorities
  - School Resource Officers (SROs)
  - Others?



## Why it Matters

- Children under 12 make up 3% of homicide victims
- Guns are involved in approximately 17% of child homicides
- 75% of the firearm incidents in these cases are inflicted by a family member's firearm as opposed to a stranger's
- <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports>



## Pros of Guns in Schools

- School Resource Officers- already carrying
- Students bring them to school anyway
- More options for protection

## Cons of Guns in Schools

- Increase of drugs in schools
- Increased availability of firearms to children and youth
- Increased chance for deadly accidents
- When used as defense, only works if guns are loaded
- Easy access to loaded guns in environment with impulsive children and youth

# Children in Schools: Cognitive Development

- **Knowledge of guns**
  - What is taught vs. What they can understand
  - Risk Appraisal
- **Concrete Operations**
  - Transitive Inferences
  - Class Inclusion
- **Moral Development**
  - Conventional Morality
  - Social Order
    - “What if everyone did this?”

# Children in Schools: Inhibition

- Age
- The Forbidden Fruit
  - Peer pressure/Assertiveness
- Risk Appraisal- again
- Diagnoses
  - ADHD
  - ODD
  - CD
- De-sensitization
  - Videogames and TV shows
  - Injuries

## Trainings/Safety Measures

- Active Shooter Training
- Hunter Education Training
  - Recent change- must be 9 years old to complete
- Boy Scouts
- Eddie Eagle
- Restricted Access
  - Locks
  - Gun cabinets

# Crisis Exercises

- **ALICE**
  - Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate
- **ALERT**
  - Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training
- **NASP**
  - **Discussion Based Exercises**
    - Awareness: orientations/seminars, workshops
    - Tabletop drills
  - **Operation Based Exercises**
    - Emergency drills
    - Functional exercise drills
    - Full scale exercise

# Working Together

- **Efforts to improve the U.S. mental health system**
- **FixNICS Campaign:** Pressure on states to do a better job submitting data on individuals barred from owning a gun — including for mental health issues — to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
- **APA report:** approaches that "do more than just address guns and provide prevention programs, counseling services and threat assessment ... that's a very promising development."

# Working Together

- **Harvard Injury Control Research Center:** violence prevention efforts also must be accompanied by public education about guns and suicide
- **Gun Safety Education:**
  - Moms Demand Action on Gun Sense
  - Everytown.org campaign (Michael Bloomberg)
  - Project Child Safe program (NSSF)
  - Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program (NRA)
    - <http://www.eddieeagle.com/#/>



# References

## Citations

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- Nirvi, S. (2013). Safety plan for schools: No guns. *Education Weekly*, 32(21), 1.
- Sheley, J. F., & Wright, J. D. (1995). *In the Line of Fire: Youths, Guns & Violence in Urban America*, Hawthorne, New York: Aldine De Gruyter.

## Websites

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- <http://www.apa.org/pubs/info/reports/gun-violence-prevention.aspx>
- <http://kentuckystatepolice.org/ccdw/conceal.html>
- <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/conducting-crisis-exercises-and-drills>
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- <http://smartgunlaws.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/firearms-in-public-places/guns-in-schools/>
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Thanks!

Enjoy the rest of the conference!