

Comparing rate, lethality and injuries of mass shootings in which an assault weapon or high-capacity magazines where used in oecd countries who ban or permit military-style firearms.

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: Oral Presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Firearm injury prevention, specifically comparing OECD countries that permit or ban assault rifles and high capacity magazines. Target Audience: Public health and health care practitioners, researchers, and students in the state and local public h

ABSTRACT:

Statement of the Problem: After the Port Arthur, Australia massacre in 1996, in which 35 people were shot to death and 23 were injured, the people of Australia tightened the country's gun laws. As a result, Australians have not suffered a mass shooting in 20 years. America, however, suffers mass shootings approximately once a month. Other OECD countries have also banned these weapons and bullets after a high-profile mass shooting. The high mortality rate in American mass shootings is directly related to the easy availability of semi-automatic firearms like the AR 15, often called assault weapons (AW) and the widespread availability of high-capacity magazines (HCM) that can hold more than 10 bullets each. Injuries from AWs are more severe because of high muzzle velocities. Approach to solving problem: Banning the sale and possession of assault weapons and HCM would reduce the number of people killed and injured in mass shootings and reduce the severity of the injuries. Background: Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation has worked to educate the public about gun violence since 1994. Coincidentally, that was the year Congress enacted the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban which was allowed to expire in 2004. Purpose: To demonstrate the high mortality rate of assault weapons and HCM, and to illustrate the gunshot survival rates between OECD countries with and without AWs and HCMs. Methods: Analysis of existing peer-reviewed data comparing (defined) mass shooting rates and injuries from AWs. Implications: The US has an estimated 20 million AWs in private ownership. The rate of ownership is likely to increase and the rate of mass shootings is likely to remain high. Without laws to prohibit ownership and use of AWs and HCMs, the American public will continue to suffer from death and severe injury from AWs and HCMs which are often used in mass shootings.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Define and describe an assault weapon (AW) and high-capacity magazine (HCM).
- Define mass shooting.
- Compare AW and HCM ownership between Australia and the US and other OECD countries and the US.
- Compare mass shootings and related mortality and morbidity in Australia, OECD and US.
- Compare gun laws in Australia, OECD and US.

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