Survey Evidence on Gun Use in Crime

Janet Lauritsen
University of Missouri-St. Louis

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1) Trends in Gun Use
   - Rates of violence
   - Percentages and rates of violence involving guns
   - Homicide (the proportion of violence with a lethal outcome)

2) Gun Violence versus NonGun Violence
   - Victim characteristics (e.g., age, sex, race and ethnicity)
   - Incident characteristics (i.e., type of crime)
   - Reporting rates and reasons for not reporting to police
SURVEY DATA ON GUN USE IN CRIME

1973-2015

- Household-based, nationally-representative sample of persons ages 12 and above.
- Large sample size (about 275,000 interviews in 1973; 190,000 in 2015).
- High response rates (e.g., 97% in 1973; 86% in 2015).
- Ability to measure violence consistently over time.
Homicide Rates (per 100,000): US 1976-2014

- National average
- 12-17
- 18-24
Serious Violent Victimization Rates (per 100,000): US 1973-2015

- **National average**
- **12-17**
- **18-24**
Homicide (per 1,000,000), Gun Violence (per 10,000), and Serious Violent Victimization (per 1,000) for Males Ages 12-17: SHR and NCVS 1973-2015
Homicide (per 1,000,000), Gun Violence (per 10,000), and Serious Violent Victimization (per 1,000) for Females Ages 12-17: SHR and NCVS 1973-2015

Non-Lethal Gun Violence

Non-Lethal Serious Violence

Homicide
Average Number of Homicides per 100 Gun Victimizations:
US 1976-2014

Females 12-17

Males 12-17
Homicide (per 1,000,000), Gun Violence (per 10,000), and Serious Violent Victimization (per 1,000) for Males Ages 18-24: SHR and NCVS 1973-2015

Homicide

Non-Lethal Gun Violence

Non-Lethal Serious Violence
Homicide (per 1,000,000), Gun Violence (per 10,000), and Serious Violent Victimization (per 1,000) for Females Ages 18-24: SHR and NCVS 1973-2015

- Non-Lethal Gun Violence
- Homicide
- Non-Lethal Serious Violence

Males 18-24

Females 18-24
Average Number of Homicides per 100 Gun Victimization:
US 1976-2014

Males 18-24

Females 18-24
Percent of Incidents Involving Guns by Type of Violence

- Rape/sexual assault
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault

1993-1997
1998-2002
2003-2007
2008-2012
2013-2015
Nonfatal Gun Victimization Rates by Sex, Race and Ethnicity: 2010-2015

Average annual prevalence per 10,000

- Male
- Female

- White
- Black
- Latino
- Other
According to victims, most important reason why police were not notified:

16% fear of reprisal
12% private matter
9% could not identify offender
8% minor incident

8% police would not think it was important
5% police would not be effective
3% police would be biased

Less than 5 percentage points separate race and ethnic groups.

Reporting of gun violence increased in most recent period for all groups.
CONCLUSIONS

• Recent problems with gun violence do not appear to be due to large increases in the numbers of violent people, or large increases in use of guns.

• Instead, those persons who are engaging in violent crime are producing more lethal outcomes than in the past.
  – More powerful guns (caliber, automatic)
  – Increased willingness to fire the weapon (related to victim’s sex and race)

Willingness to notify the police for gun crime is fairly high and not declining over time.