

Impact of Police and Legislative Initiatives on Urban Gunshot Wound Admissions

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Introduction

- ◆ Firearm injuries are a major cause of death and disability in the US
- ◆ In Fresno County there has been a decrease in firearm injuries
- ◆ We wished to determine any causative factors in this decrease

Statistical Methods

- ◆ Means were calculated for the subgroups and for the time intervals following interventions
- ◆ Between group comparisons were made using analysis of variance with a post hoc comparison test
- ◆ A p -value <0.5 was considered statistically significant

Results

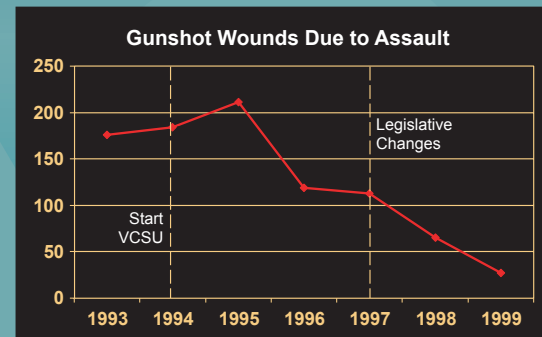
- ◆ 1,499 patients admitted with GSWs, the majority secondary to assaults
- ◆ Significant decrease in GSW admissions during study period
- ◆ Only statistically significant intervention was the state law "Use a Gun and You're Done" ($p < 0.005$)

Limitations

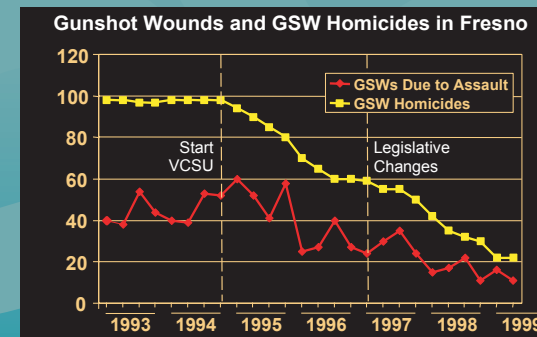
- ◆ Study design
- ◆ Short period between implementation of the two studied laws
- ◆ Using GSW admissions as measure of all violent crime

Objective

- ◆ To assess the effect of local police and state legislative initiatives intended to reduce violent crime on the number of gunshot wound admissions to an urban Level One



VCSU: Violent Crimes Suppression Unit



Conclusions

- ◆ There was a correlation between the decrease in GSW admissions to a major trauma center and the implementation of state laws designed to decrease violent crime
- ◆ These results suggest that focused legislation may help to reduce violent crime

Methods

- ◆ Retrospective, case control study including all GSW admissions from 7/1/90 to 7/30/99
- ◆ Grouped GSW admissions into four subgroups
- ◆ Looked at the effect of one local police initiative and two state laws on the rate of these GSW admissions

