

JOURNAL CLUB: STUDENT GUIDE

Article: Pallin R, Siry B, Azrael D, et al. “Hey, let me hold your guns for a while”: A qualitative study of messaging for firearm suicide prevention. Behav Sci Law. 2019;37(3):259-269. [doi: 10.1002/bsl.2393](https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.2393)

Keywords: qualitative research; interviews; firearm owners; safe storage; lethal means safety; suicide; temporary transfer; health messaging

Summary: An analysis of qualitative interviews with firearm owners, and others affiliated with firearms, on framing and messaging for voluntarily reducing access to firearms for suicide prevention in situations of acute risk.

Discussion Questions

Introduction

1. What are the authors’ objectives?
 - Why is this research important?
2. What are evidence-based interventions for suicide prevention in the clinical setting?
3. What does previous research show about what both clinicians and the general population think about patient-clinician discussions about firearms and firearm injuries?

Methods

4. Who were the participants and how were they recruited? How might the recruitment approach affect the generalizability of the results?
 - See Table 1 for a complete breakdown of participant characteristics.
5. What type of study was this? What research method was used? What themes and topics were discussed?
6. How did the research team analyze the data from the interview transcripts and notes? Did they follow best practices?

Results

7. What were the main findings of the study? What were the two main themes? Did the sub-themes accurately reflect the corresponding themes? Give an example.
 - View Figure 1 for a summary of key recommendations.

Discussion

8. What avenues for future work in clinical practice and research were identified by the authors? What other research could help inform clinical approaches and decision making?
9. Did the findings identified accurately represent the perspectives and experiences shared by participants?

We would invite you to revisit the Results section of the manuscript with these COREQ checklist – reporting of results questions in mind.

- **Question 1:** *“Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings?”*
- **Question 2:** *“Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number.”*
- **Question 3:** *“Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?”*
 - To answer this question, we suggest revisiting each sub-section of the Results:
 - Read the participant quotations again, without reading the researchers’ interpretation. Ask yourself, “what does each participant quote express?”
 - Now read the researchers’ interpretation again. Are the participants’ perspectives well-represented in the researchers’ interpretation? Are there other perspectives in the quotes that could have been included in the themes or findings? Are there aspects of the researchers’ interpretation that weren’t present in any of the quotes or that may misrepresent the quotes?

10. What were the limitations of this study?

Conclusion

11. So now what? How do the results of this study inform your clinical practice?

Additional resources:

[Firearm Injury Prevention Counseling](#)

[Firearm Suicide](#)

[Temporary Firearm Transfers](#)

[Civil Protective Orders](#)

[Free Continuing Education Course](#)- Preventing Firearm Injury: What Clinicians Can Do

References:

Betz, M. E., Kautzman, M., Segal, D. L., et al. (2018). Frequency of lethal means assessment among emergency department patients with a positive suicide risk screen. *Psychiatry Research*. 260:30-35.

Betz, M.E., Azrael, D., Barber, C., et al. (2016). Public Opinion Regarding Whether Speaking With Patients About Firearms Is Appropriate: Results of a National Survey. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 165(8):543-550.

CDC. WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System). Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.

Conner, A., Azrael, D., Miller, M. (2019). Suicide Case-Fatality Rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014: A Nationwide Population-Based Study. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 171(12):885-895.

Grossman, D.C., Mang, K., Rivara, F.P. (1995). Firearm injury prevention counseling by pediatricians and family physicians. Practices and beliefs. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. 149(9):973-977.

Karp, A. (2018). Estimating Global Civilian-Held Firearms Numbers. Small Arms Survey. Available from: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/T-Briefing-Papers/SAS-BP-Civilian-Firearms-Numbers.pdf>.

Marino, E., Wolsko, C., Keys, S.G., et al. (2016). A culture gap in the United States: Implications for policy on limiting access to firearms for suicidal persons. *Journal of Public Health Policy*. 37 (Supplement 1):110-121.

Miller, M., Hemenway, D. (2008). Guns and Suicide in the United States. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 359(10):989-991.

Pallin, R., Charbonneau, A., Wintemute, G.J., et al. (2019). California Public Opinion On Health Professionals Talking With Patients About Firearms. *Health Affairs (Millwood)*. 38(10):1744-1751.

Pallin, R., Teasdale, S., Agnoli, A., et al. (2022). Talking about firearm injury prevention with patients: a survey of medical residents. *BMC Medical Education*. 22(1):14.

Schleimer, J.P., McCort, C.D., Shev, A.B. et al. (2021). Firearm purchasing and firearm violence during the coronavirus pandemic in the United States: a cross-sectional study. *Injury Epidemiology* 8:43.

Tong, A., Sainsbury, P., Craig, J. (2007). Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*. 19(6):349-357.

Wintemute, G.J., Betz, M.E., Ranney, M.L. (2016). Yes, You Can: Physicians, Patients, and Firearms. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 165(3):205-213.