In-Home Firearm Access and Intimate Partner Violence Among College Students in Florida

(Student Name)\(^1\), Matthew Lee Smith\(^2\), PhD, MPH, CHES, Mindy A. Menn\(^3\), PhD, CHES , Kelly L. Wilson\(^4\), PhD, MCHES, & Don Chaney\(^5\), PhD

The University of Georgia\(^1\), The University of Georgia and Texas A&M Health Science Center\(^2\), Texas Women’s University\(^3\), Texas A&M University\(^4\), & The University of Florida\(^5\)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) & Firearms

- The CDC recognizes four types of intimate partner violence (IPV):
  1. Physical
  2. Sexual
  3. Threats of physical or sexual
  4. Psychological

- 74 million people in the United States experienced IPV in 2010
- 35.6% of women and 28.5% men in the U.S. have experienced some form of IPV
- The CDC estimates that IPV costs $6 billion annually
- Initial onset of IPV typically occurs in adolescents or early adulthood

The most extreme form of IPV is intimate partner homicide (IPH)
- 16 out of every 1000 women have been threatened with a gun
- 57 out of every 1000 women have had an intimate partner use a gun against them
- The presence of a firearm during an IPV incident makes death 12 times more likely

In 2013, the President issued 23 executive orders for federal agencies to examine firearm-related violence

Study Purposes

1. Identify characteristics of college-aged students who:
   - Reported in-home access to a firearm(s)
   - Reported sexual abuse (attempted and/or forced)
   - Reported physical abuse (attempted and/or actual)

2. Identify the relationship between firearm access and reported sexual and physical abuse

Data

- Data were collected from college students enrolled in a Florida university
- Cross-sectional design using an internet-delivered questionnaire
- Data collected over 5 academic semesters
- Analyses of 670 participants with complete data
- Data Analyses:
  - Chi-squared tests
  - One-way ANOVA

Measures

Dependent Variables

- In-Home Firearm Access (No, Yes, Don’t Know)
- Sexual Abuse (Attempted, Actual, Neither, Both)
- Physical Abuse (Attempted, Actual, Neither, Both)

Personal Characteristics

- Age; Sex; Race; Ethnicity; Sexual Orientation; Relationship Status; Insurance Source; Place of Residence; GPA

Affiliations

- Greek Affiliation; Military Affiliation

Health Indicators

- Binge Drinking (past 2 weeks); General Health Status

Major Findings

- Larger proportions of participants who reported attempted physical abuse, actual physical abuse, or both also reported in-home firearm access
- Large relationship between forced sex and physical abuse (and ‘both’ for each category)
- Not knowing if there was a firearm in the home was associated with ‘both’ for sexual and physical abuse
- No significant relationship between in-home firearm access and sexual abuse

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Characteristics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On average, 20.6 (3.0) years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72% female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22% Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71% White; 13% African American; 10% Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96% heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% not dating; 32% relationship; 14% dating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4% parents’ insurance; 14% no insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57% apartment; 20% house; 18% on-campus dorm</td>
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<tr>
<td>27% fraternity/sorority; 9% pledging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97% never in military</td>
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<tr>
<td>On average, 3.4 (0.4) GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On average, 2.2 (1.9) times binge drink in the past 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In-Home Firearm Access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Abuse</th>
<th>Sexual Abuse</th>
<th>Threats of Physical Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15% Yes</td>
<td>2% Attempted</td>
<td>18% Attempted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% Don’t Know</td>
<td>6% Abused</td>
<td>3% Forced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% Both</td>
<td>5% Both</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Analyses:

- Chi-squared tests
- One-way ANOVA

Conclusions & Implications

The findings of this study support previously known relationships between:
- In home firearm access and physical abuse
- Physical abuse and sexual abuse

In-home firearm access was not associated with sexual abuse

This may indicate variations in aggression origin and manifestation

Men were under-represented, which is a limitation because they more predominantly own firearms. This may be a contributing factor to why married and partnered participants had in-home firearm access.

Opportunities for education and intervention that stand out from this study are with females, the Greek system, and lower socioeconomic status.

In-home firearm access was not associated with sexual abuse

Larger proportions of participants who reported attempted sexual abuse, or both also reported in-home firearm access

Larger proportions of participants who reported attempted physical abuse, actual physical abuse, or both also reported in-home firearm access

Larger proportions of participants who reported both also reported that they were:
- Older
- Female
- White and African American
- In a committed/steady relationship and married
- In Greek System or pledging

Sexual Abuse

Larger proportions of participants who reported attempted also reported that they were:
- Female
- White and Native American
- Single/dating
- In Greek system

Larger proportions of participants who reported forced also reported that they were:
- Female
- White and Other
- In a committed/steady relationship and married
- In Greek system

Larger proportions of participants who reported both also reported that they were:
- Older
- Female
- White and African American
- In a committed/steady relationship and married
- In Greek System or pledging

Physical Abuse

Larger proportions of participants who reported attempted abuse also reported that they were:
- Not insured

Larger proportions of participants who reported actual abuse also reported that they were:
- In a committed/steady relationship and married
- No insurance
- In Greek system

Larger proportions of participants who reported both also reported that they were:
- Older
- Single/dating, in a committed/steady relationship, married, and other
- Not insured
- Pledging Greek system

Characteristics

Firearm Access

- Relative to those who did not have in-home access to a firearm

- Larger portions of participants who reported access also reported that they were:
  - Older
  - White
  - African Americans and Pacific Islanders = “don’t know”
  - Married or in a committed/steady relationship
  - Lived in a house
  - On-campus dorm = “don’t know”
  - Physical abuse (attempted, actual, both)

Firearm Access

- Relative to those who did not have in-home access to a firearm

- Larger portions of participants who reported access also reported that they were:
  - Older
  - White
  - African Americans and Pacific Islanders = “don’t know”
  - Married or in a committed/steady relationship
  - Lived in a house
  - On-campus dorm = “don’t know”
  - Physical abuse (attempted, actual, both)