Evidence-based firearm legislation

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The Use of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Response to Threats of Multiple Victim/Mass Shootings
Funding Statement

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ERPOs are court-issued civil orders that temporarily prohibit the purchase and possession of guns by those at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.
Methodology

• Public records requests in 5 states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, and Washington) and restricted data use agreement in Maryland
• Abstracted data using double-coders until IRR of 0.80 reached
  • Information absent from the casefile ≠ characteristic not present in life
• Multiple victim/Mass shooting threat: A threat to shoot 3 or more individuals (not including a suicide threat) or a threat to shoot up a location in which there are 3 or more individuals
• Descriptive analysis
10% of petitions filed in 6 states were for mass shooting threats (N=662)

Respondent characteristics

- Gender: 93% male, 7% female
- Race: 75% White, 22% Black
- Mean age: 35.6 years (SD: 17.0)
- Mean age K-12 threats: 19.8 years (SD: 11.1)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recently acquired a gun</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known to possess or have access to a gun</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reckless use or unlawful brandish of a firearm</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used violence against other</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal history</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously convicted</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mass shooting threat categories

- Maximum casualty: 50%
- Named target: 22%
- Implicit: 12%
- Conditional: 6%
- Contextual: 5%
- Response to first responders: 5%
Maximum casualty threats (n=330)

- K-12 school: 33%
- Business: 31%
- Healthcare facility: 5%
- Law enforcement: 6%
- Hate crime: 5%

Included suicide threat: 10%

Threat posted on social media: 6%
Named target threats (n=147)

- Intimate partner: 49%
- Named children: 34%
- Family: 46%
- Law enforcement: 12%
- Business: 8%

-Included suicide threat: 10%
- Shots fired: 4%
- Threat posted on social media: 1%
93% of requested 
ex parte ERPOs were 
granted

In 92% of cases, a full 
order was requested, 
84% of those were 
granted
Implications

• Distinct types of mass shooting threats found in ERPO petitions
• Petitions are filed against those too young to legally purchase a firearm
• ERPO petitions in response to mass shooting threats almost always meet the courts’ evidentiary standard for issuing an ERPO
• ERPO mass shooting threat cases may reveal useful information about the types of risky behaviors expressed by individuals who threaten a mass shooting and can inform policy and practice
Intimate partner homicide and firearm laws
Intimate partner homicide by weapon, 1976-2017

Female victimization

Male victimization

Source: Fridel & Fox, 2019
Longitudinal ecological-level studies of state-level DVRO firearm restriction laws have found that they are associated with reductions in both intimate partner homicide committed with firearms and total intimate partner homicide.

Sources: Vigdor & Mercy, 2003, 2006; Zeoli et al., 2018; Zeoli & Webster, 2010
Domestic violence firearm restriction laws vary from state to state

- Are certain protective order provisions associated with reductions in intimate partner homicide?
  - Coverage of dating partners
  - Coverage of ex parte orders
  - Relinquishment provision

Source: Zeoli et al., 2018
Associations of domestic violence-related firearm restrictions with intimate partner homicide

Laws associated with decrease in intimate partner homicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PPO firearm restriction...</th>
<th>Intimate partner homicide</th>
<th>Michigan has law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extends to dating partners</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available on ex parte PPOs</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has relinquishment provision</td>
<td>- 10-12%</td>
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Thank you!

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