



Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
at Case Western Reserve University

PRCHN Research Seminar Series

Guns, School Shooters, and School Safety: What Do We Know? What Should We Do?

Presented by: Daniel J. Flannery, PhD, Director, Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, CWRU

Wednesday, February 12th, 2020, 12:00 - 1:15 pm



Daniel J. Flannery, PhD

Firearm violence is a significant public health problem. The increase in mass shootings in the United States has heightened public awareness and fear of rampage shootings. Schools are not immune to the problem, illustrated over the past decade by several multiple homicide victim shootings that have occurred in both K-12 and higher education settings. We will review the current status of mass shooting and in particular student risk of victimization from violence at school and prevalence of firearm violence at school. Fear of school shootings is exacerbated by both a contagion effect and by social media coverage of incidents.

We will review evidence for the relationship between mental health and school shootings including current trends and controversies related to what causes school shootings and what to do about it. Several common response strategies will be discussed including hardening the target, utilizing school resource officers, and recent recommendations to arm school teachers and staff. We will also summarize several strategies that schools have implemented that have been shown to be effective in addressing gun violence and school safety in the context of a public health approach to firearm violence prevention. In addition to a focus on school climate and interventions to improve social and emotional learning skills, this includes reviewing the basic elements of a threat assessment approach to prevent violence and characteristics of bystander intervention. We end with a discussion of current trends and controversies and common sense recommendations for best practice and policy.

Daniel Flannery, PhD, is the Dr. Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Professor and Director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University. He is also Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Case University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. From 1998 through 2010 he served as founding director of the Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State University. He is senior co-editor of the Cambridge Handbook of Violent Behavior and Aggression (2007 and 2018) and Youth Violence: Prevention, Intervention and Social Policy (1999). He is also author of Violence and Mental Health in Everyday Life (2006) and Wanted on Warrants: The Fugitive Safe Surrender Program (2013). His primary areas of research are in youth violence prevention, the link between violence and mental health, and community-based program evaluation.

The PRCHN Seminar Series is open to the public and takes place from 12:00 - 1:15 on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the BioEnterprise Building, 11000 Cedar Avenue, Room 03A-B

Parking is available and a light lunch is served. Contact Madeline Castele at: mcc92@case.edu for more information.



The Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhood's mission is to foster partnerships within Cleveland's urban neighborhoods for developing, testing, and implementing strategies to prevent and reduce the burden of chronic disease.