



Firearms Research and Violence Prevention

Support \$50 million for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research through the CDC as part of the FY 2020 Labor HHS appropriations package.

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) was a co-author of a 2015 article in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From 8 Health Professional Organizations and the American Bar Association*. In this article, ACS highlighted the rising number of firearm-related deaths each year, classified firearm-related violence as a public health crisis, and reiterated ACS' support for being part of the solution to reducing the number of firearm-related injuries and deaths.

The ACS Committee on Trauma (COT), formed in 1922 with the goal of improving care for injured patients, has since played a large role in nationwide injury prevention efforts. The COT has been active in promoting seatbelt and motorcycle helmet use, as well as hospital-based violence injury prevention.

In 2018, the COT released a set of 13 recommendations from its Firearm Strategy Team (FAST) Workgroup. These proposals include strategies and tactics to reduce firearm injury, death, and disability in the United States. These recommendations include support for a robust and accurate background check for all firearm purchases and transfers as well as increased intervention and prevention research.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were more than 38,000 U.S. firearm-related fatalities in 2016. ACS believes this number can be reduced through federally-funded firearms research. As with other injury prevention related efforts, public health research can play a role in reducing the number of firearm-related injuries and deaths. ACS believes that CDC research can provide necessary data to inform efforts to reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths.

Congressional Action

The ACS supports an appropriations request of \$50 million specifically for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research through the CDC as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies appropriations package.

Federally funded research from the perspective of public health has contributed to reductions in motor vehicle crashes, smoking, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. ACS believes a similar approach could reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths in our communities.ⁱ

ⁱ Current to April 2, 2019. Please contact ahp@facs.org for an updated version.