



American College of Surgeons Firearms Injury Prevention Initiatives and Advocacy

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT) is taking a leadership role to address the public health aspects of the firearm violence epidemic. Recently, the COT sponsored a survey of its membership and the ACS Board of Governors to gauge member attitudes about firearm ownership, freedom, responsibility, physician/patient freedom and policy, with the objective of using survey results to inform firearm injury prevention policy development. Overall, there was a 93% response rate among the COT and nearly 90% listed reducing firearm injuries as the high or highest policy priority.

- Areas of high consensus from surveyed members include:
 - Allocating federal research funds to agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct firearm injury related research.
 - Increasing funding for mental health services.
 - Supporting legislation that allows health care professionals the right to counsel their patients on safe storage and other types of injury prevention.
 - Violence prevention efforts play an important role in addressing firearm injuries and death.
- Collaborative initiatives to decrease firearm injury and death include:
 - Encouraging the development of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs.
 - Encouraging health care providers to counsel patients and families on safe storage and other evidence-based prevention initiatives to decrease firearm injuries.
 - Developing a research agenda to better understand the factors that contribute to firearm injury and death in order to develop additional evidence-based prevention programs.
- Advocacy priorities:
 - Supporting steps for Congress to appropriate federal funds to conduct research to better understand and to prevent firearm injuries and deaths.
 - Monitor and advocate for legislation that enables health care professionals to counsel their patients on injury prevention, including firearms and firearm safety.
 - Advocate for federal legislation which provides an increase in funding for mental health programs.

For questions or further information, please contact or visit - <https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/ipc>

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American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT)

The ACS COT was formed in 1922 and has put forth a continuous effort to improve care of injured patients in our society. Today COT trauma activities are administered through an 86-member Committee on Trauma (COT), overseeing a field force of more than 3,500 Fellows who are working to develop and implement meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas. The ACS COT strives to improve the care of injured patients before, during, and after hospitalization.