Call for Papers


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Child Firearm Injury and Fatalities

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Due to decades of policy-level stop gaps in the United States, the current state of scientific evidence does not properly reflect the health burden of firearm violence among youth. Since 2016, firearm related fatalities in the United States have surpassed rates of motor vehicle fatalities among youth. Of the 7,800 firearm related deaths among youths in 2019, 58% were attributed to homicide, 38% to suicide, and 4% to unintentional intent. National events, like mass shootings, also continue to publicly remind communities of the short-term and long-term impact of firearm violence. But, after years of advocacy and multisector perseverance, evidence-based firearm research is finally gaining traction.

This special issue of the Journal for Applied Research on Children will focus on articles contributing to a full-spectrum prevention approach to firearm unintentional and intentional injuries across key sectors within a community. Evidence-based ideas and programs encompass the spectrum, like describing the burden of intentional and unintentional firearm injuries among youth, the short- and long-term health impact of witnessing firearm violence, universal measures for improved firearm safety (safe storage, firearm lock technology, etc.), the impact of the pandemic on firearm injury, and best practices for community settings (like healthcare settings) to better detect and address firearm violence. The purpose of this themed issue is to describe the current state of affairs and possible strategies for a comprehensive prevention model for firearm injuries among youth.

The Journal of Applied Research on Children is available online in an open-access format (jarc.childrenatrisk.org) and is indexed in CINAHL and SocINDEX, making it available to child advocates, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers across America. Since its launch, journal articles have been downloaded over 165,000 times worldwide. The submission and rigorous double-blind peer review process are completed entirely online. Authors are encouraged to take advantage of the journal's online format by including videos, interactive charts, or links to online resources. We encourage interested authors to submit an abstract or letter of interest to the managing editor at jarc@childrenatrisk.org by July 7, 2021. If the abstract is approved, full manuscripts will be due, September 21, 2021. To view past issues of the journal or to submit a manuscript, please visit jarc.childrenatrisk.org.