

Firearm Laws: Waiting Periods for Firearm Acquisition

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

Waiting periods for firearm acquisition require a specified delay between application for and acquisition of a firearm. Waiting periods have been established by the federal government and by states to allow time to check the applicant's background or to provide a "cooling-off" period for people at risk of committing suicide or an impulsive act against others.

Task Force Finding (October 2001)*

The evidence, consisting of a small number of studies with limitations in their design and execution, is insufficient to determine the effectiveness of waiting periods in preventing diverse violent outcomes.

*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce violence through early childhood home visitation, therapeutic foster care, and firearms laws. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(2S1):6-10.

Publications

CDC. [First reports evaluating the effectiveness of strategies for preventing violence: firearms laws: findings from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a2.htm) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a2.htm]. *MMWR* 2003;52(RR-14):11-20.

Hahn RA, Bilukha O, Crosby A, et al. Firearms laws and the reduction of violence: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(2S1):40-71.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce violence through early childhood home visitation, therapeutic foster care, and firearms laws. *Am J Prev Med* 2005;28(2S1):6-10.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Violence. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:329-84 (Out of Print).

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