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:

Publications


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