

## Evaluation of California's Armed and Prohibited Persons System

PI: Garen Wintemute, M.D., M.P.H.

Firearm violence remains an important public safety and public health problem. Prohibiting individuals who are at high risk for committing violent crimes from purchasing firearms has been shown to be an effective violence prevention strategy. Until now, no comparable intervention has systematically addressed persons who, having legally purchased firearms in the past, become prohibited persons in the present—usually as the result of a criminal conviction.

The Armed and Prohibited Persons System (APPS) is a violence prevention initiative undertaken by the California Department of Justice (CalDOJ). APPS uses existing data to identify firearm owners among persons who have become prohibited from owning or possessing firearms under California or federal law. It then seeks to recover those firearms. After operating as a pilot program for several years, APPS is being implemented statewide over the next 3 years under a statutory mandate. This implementation has been funded by a special legislative appropriation (SB 140, signed by Governor Brown May 1, 2013).

The Violence Prevention Research Program (VPRP) proposes to conduct a controlled retrospective longitudinal evaluation and initiate a controlled prospective longitudinal evaluation of APPS, relying principally on data collected by CalDOJ in the course of APPS operations or on data in the public domain such as community characteristics published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The principal goal of the project is to determine whether there is an association between exposure to the APPS intervention and risk of committing firearm-related and violent crimes in the future. The retrospective evaluation will identify persons subject to the APPS intervention in the past and compare their risk of committing crimes following the intervention with that of similar populations of persons who were not subject to the APPS intervention. The primary outcome measure will be arrests for firearm-related and violent crimes.

The prospective evaluation will compare risk of committing crimes (primarily firearm-related and violent crimes) following the intervention among APPS-eligible individuals in communities where the APPS intervention has been implemented to that of APPS-eligible individuals in communities where the APPS intervention has not been implemented.

The retrospective evaluation will be completed during the current project period. The prospective evaluation will extend beyond the current project period.