In 2023, VPRP researchers led 21 papers and co-authored 9 more with research partners across the country. In addition to studying the role of firearms in violence and the social structures that create and perpetuate environments for violence, we are enhancing our understanding of contemporary political violence risks, firearm suicide, school and mass shootings, firearm injury prevention approaches, and more.

Entering 2024, we are excited to continue exploring novel research questions, sharing new findings, and advancing violence prevention efforts across California and the nation. Read on for our 2023 research highlights.

Impact by the Numbers

9 conferences at which we presented.

30 papers published.

25,000+ views of our 30 publications.

1,133 citations of our work.

VPRP-led Publications in 2023


Our research snapshots and fact sheets share findings and implications of our research. Click the author name to see it in full and find the publication link in the footer.

Across two studies, Pear et al. found that community-level firearm and alcohol availability are associated with specific individual-level firearm injury risks. Schleimer et al. suggests that healthcare system encounters may help identify firearm owners at high risk of suicide.


**Wintemute et al.** found that small but concerning proportions of Americans are personally willing to engage in violence for political aims.

**Lund et al.** found the start of the pandemic coincided with unexpected changes in suicide, a surge in firearm purchasing, and new firearm ownership demographics.


**Wintemute GJ, Velasquez B, Li Y, Tomsich EA, Reeping PM, Robinson S.** Racist and pro-violence beliefs, approval of extreme right-wing political organizations and movements, and support for political violence in the United States [PREPRINT]. SocArXiv. DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/c9vtr.

**Tomsich et al.** examines trends in domestic violence and firearm domestic violence during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in five US cities.

**Kagawa et al.** examines the effects of comprehensive background check policies on firearm fatalities in four states.

**Community Partners**

Our partnerships are essential for turning research into action. Locally and nationwide, our collaborations advance our shared missions to prevent violence and strengthen communities.
Co-authored Publications


Co-authoring Partners

We learn from and work with many colleagues across the field. In 2023, we published papers with partners from the following institutions.

The UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program (VPRP) is a multi-disciplinary program of research and policy development focused on the causes, consequences, and prevention of violence. We place a particular focus on firearm violence, and our approach to research and prevention is focused on areas that face the highest burden from violence.

Our mission is to develop and disseminate the research evidence on which informed policy and practice are based. By cultivating this knowledge, VPRP is driving change and empowering communities to help actualize a safer future.