## STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF LOCKDOWN DRILLS

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Statement of Purpose

Lockdown or active shooters have become a regular part of youths’ school experience, but little research has been done on how these drills affect students both in terms of preparedness for incidents and effects on the wellbeing of students. We seek to examine correlates of lockdown drill perceptions among a sample of middle school youth.

Methods/Approach

As part of a school safety program evaluation, we asked a sample of 6th and 7th grade students a series of questions about lockdown drills in their school. We calculated descriptive statistics to examine the distribution of responses to each item. We plan to conduct further analyses to explore potential correlates of lockdown drill perceptions including victimization, aggressive behavior, rejection sensitivity, depressive symptoms, and demographics.

Results

Nearly 90% of participants agreed that lockdown drills are important to keep students safe. 45% believed that their peers took the drills seriously and 88% believed that teachers took the drills seriously. 37% of students reported that lockdown drills scared them. 80% of students felt confident that they knew where to go to stay safe in an active shooter emergency. 71% of students believed that lockdown drills made their school more safe.

Conclusions

Overall students had positive perceptions of lockdown drills and their preparedness for an active shooter incident. It is noteworthy that over a third of the sample felt scared by lockdown drills.

## THE HISTORY OF MASS SHOOTINGS

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Statement of Purpose

Though mass shootings do not account for the greatest number of gun deaths, these incidents garner a great deal of public attention; particularly in light of the disparate media coverage which varies according to victim, location and perpetrator characteristics. The perceived increase in mass shooting incidents may be due to the lack of a standardized definition among media, researchers and law enforcement and consequently, the general population.

Methods/Approach

We conducted a narrative review of the literature to understand the evolving definition of mass shooting, the history of the term and specific events that led to paradigm shifts. We coded content for characteristics and patterns of mass shooting events that made them newsworthy.

Results

The first documented mass shooting occurred in 1949. The phenomena did not exist before because there was no access to semi-automatic weaponry. The first notable modern mass shooting took place at Columbine High School, an event that remains the most reported mass shooting to date. Over the last 5 years, the use of the term mass shooting has outpaced the true increase in number of events though variation in measurement accounts for the lack of agreement on exactly how much. For example, in 2015, there were either 7, 63, 322, or 371 mass shootings.

Conclusions

There is an increased public perception of mass shootings because of a lack of understanding of their real prevalence or their determinants, trends, social costs, and policy implications.

## APPLICATION OF A RACIAL EQUITY FRAMEWORK FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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Statement of Purpose

Evidence-based gun violence prevention (GVP) policy reduces firearms-related injury and death by applying research to craft and implement effective policy. This effort to make communities safer must consider and seek to minimize potential unintended outcomes that might negatively impact historically marginalized groups. Making significant impacts in health equity outcomes requires multi-stakeholder engagement. Research forms the foundation of evidence-based interventions and should consider racial equity as it concerns subsequent applications of the work.

Methods/Approach

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (Ed Fund) is a GVP think tank and advocacy organization. We developed a racial equity framework that includes committing ourselves to identifying and addressing inequities across GVP policy and programs as well as evaluating our own organization. We work closely with researchers and encourage a racial equity framework across all areas of work in GVP policy.

Results

The Ed Fund: began applying our racial equity framework and process for policy-related work; engaged external