

Increasing Gun Violence Prevention Conversations in the Primary Care Office

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Gun violence is the leading cause of death among patients aged 0-24 years old. The American Academy of Pediatrics has endorsed addressing this issue with a harm reduction approach including but not limited to promoting safe storage, advocating for strong regulatory laws, and providing access to community resources. One possible harm reduction strategy is discussing and addressing gun violence in the primary care setting. Primary care providers have a unique opportunity to discuss long term health and wellness categories, and part of this anticipatory guidance could be discussing gun violence. At Hennepin County Medical Center, we worked to increase gun violence conversations during well child checks by 20% by using simple paper reminders attached to clinic computers, and we also developed a SmartPhrase for primary care providers to use in the after visit summary. Our post-intervention data will include information on how often providers discuss gun violence as well as information on what variables influence their decision to discuss gun violence. These variables include age, identified gender, race, and past history of gun violence. We are hopeful our post-intervention data will inform future QI initiatives to increase gun violence conversations in the primary care setting.