



**TEXAS PRIMARY CARE  
CONSORTIUM**

# **Advancing Firearm Safety and Injury Prevention**

**March 6, 2024 | 1:30–2:30 p.m. CST**

# Today's Speakers



**Sue Bornstein, MD, MACP**  
Executive Director, Texas  
Medical Home Initiative;  
Co-Lead, Texas Primary Care  
Consortium



**Daniel D. Guzman, MD**  
Attending Physician & Program  
Director, Firearm Safety  
Awareness Program, Cook  
Children's Medical Center



**Emmy Betz, MD, MPH**  
Professor of Emergency  
Management & Founding  
Director of the Firearm Injury  
Prevention Initiative, University  
of Colorado School of Medicine



# Learning Objectives

- ◇ Understand the factors that contribute to firearm injuries in Texas
- ◇ Learn about real-world examples that demonstrate successful integration of firearm safety into clinical practice
- ◇ Discuss prevention and community-level strategies in firearm injury prevention



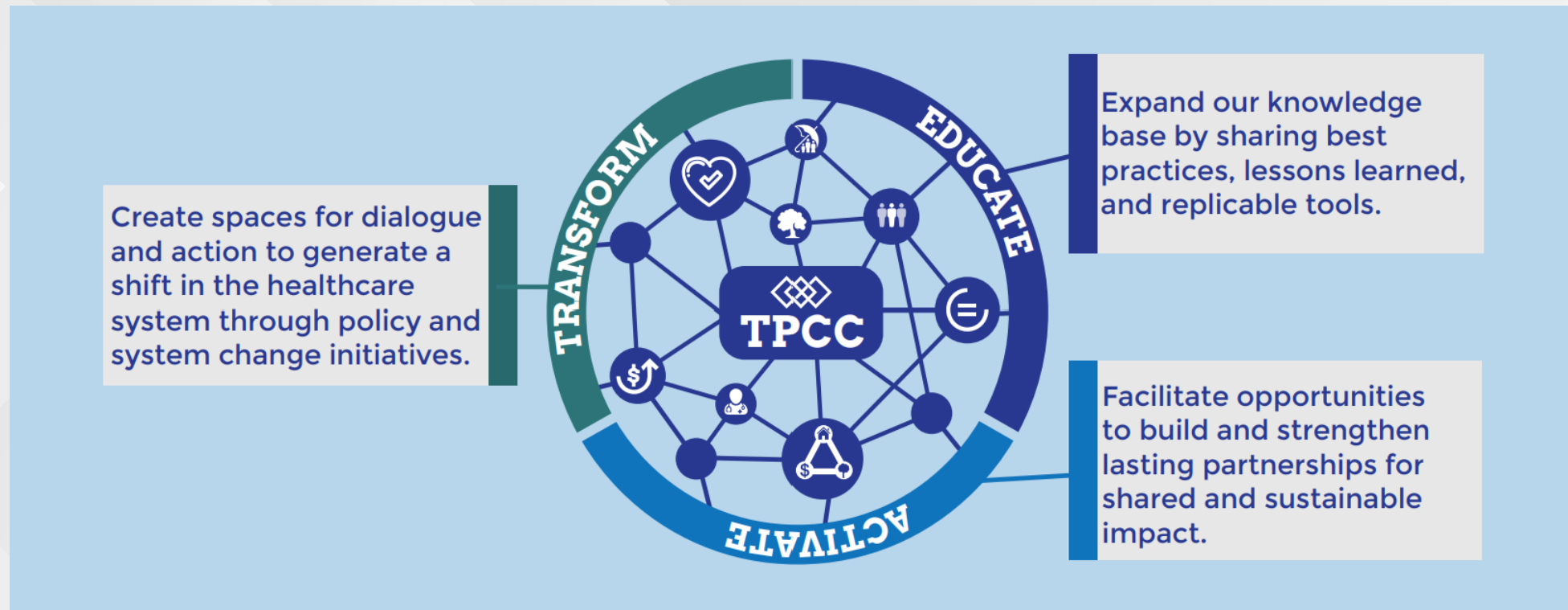


# TEXAS PRIMARY CARE CONSORTIUM

The Texas Primary Care Consortium is a statewide collaborative initiative with a mission to advance **equitable, comprehensive, and sustainable primary care for all Texans** co-led by Texas Medical Home Initiative and Texas Health Institute.



Through a combination of collective action and a network-based approach, Texas Primary Care Consortium leads with the following framework:



# Thank You to Our Partners!





# Thank You, TPCC Team!

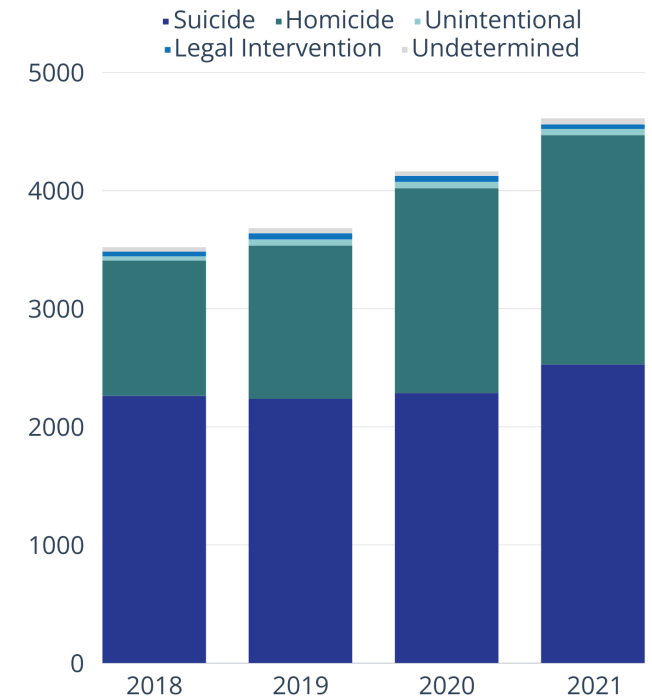
- ◇ Ankit Sanghavi, MPH, BDS, Executive Director, Texas Health Institute
- ◇ Sue S. Bornstein, MD, MACP, Executive Director, Texas Medical Home Initiative
- ◇ Nishi Singhal, MPH, Program Officer, Primary Care
- ◇ Stephanie Ondrias, Chief Convenings and Education Officer
- ◇ Kara Hill, MHA, Senior Director of Health Integration
- ◇ Katie Bradley, MPH, Convenings Production Manager
- ◇ Meghan Varghese, MSSW, Communications Manager
- ◇ Misty Tijerina, Visual Content Specialist

# Firearm Data in Texas

- ◇ In Texas, the rate of firearm deaths increased 46% from 2012 to 2021, compared to a 39% increase nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

## FIREARM RELATED DEATHS IN TEXAS

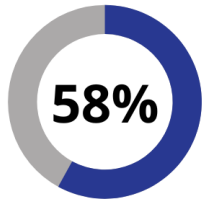
In Texas, there were 15,982 firearm deaths between 2018 and 2021.



Source: CDC Wonder Online Database <sup>2</sup>



# Firearm Data in Texas



**More than half of  
firearm deaths in Texas  
are due to suicide.**



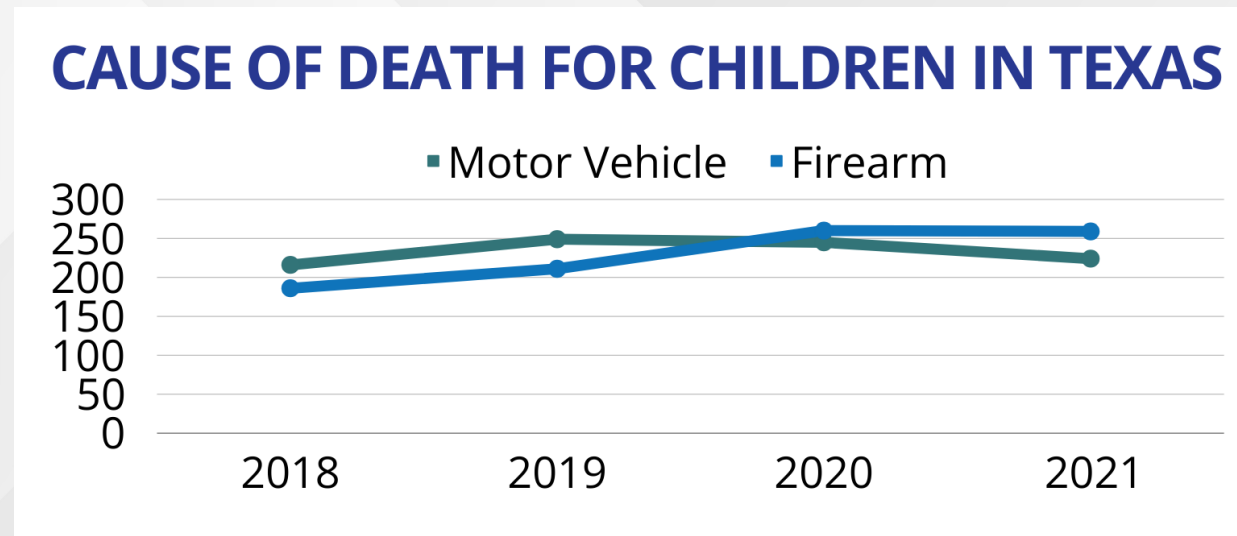
**Firearm homicide rates  
are increasing in Texas.**

- ◇ Between 2018 and 2021, there were 9,315 suicide firearm deaths in Texas.<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ The age group that experienced the largest increase in firearm suicide was ages 20-24.<sup>2</sup>

- ◇ Between 2018 and 2021, there were 6,120 homicide firearm deaths in Texas.<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ Between 2011 and 2020, there was a 15% increase in firearm perpetrated intimate partner homicides in the U.S. and an 82% increase in Texas.<sup>3</sup>

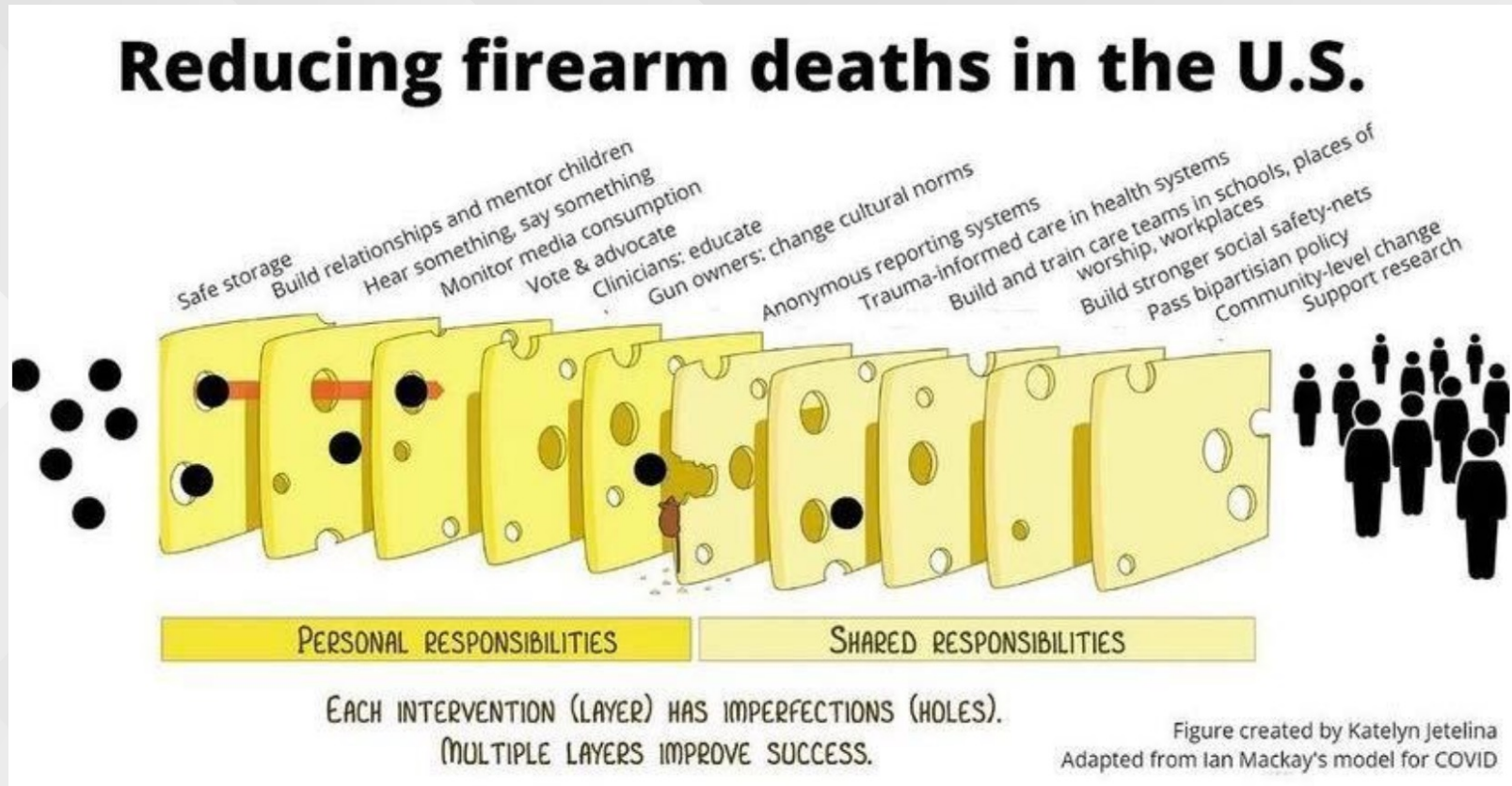
# Firearm Data in Texas

- ◇ Firearms are a leading cause of death among children and teens in Texas.<sup>2</sup>



Source: CDC Wonder Online Database <sup>2</sup>

# Framework of Solutions



The Swiss cheese model serves as an illustration that no single layer of intervention can be considered flawless. To effectively minimize the risk of failure, employing multiple layers of interventions is crucial.



# A Framework for Solutions

Build upon the clinician's role.  
(individual-level)

Build upon existing interventions  
and evidence at the individual and  
community level.  
(individual/community-level)

Normalize the conversation.  
(system-level)



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# A Framework for Advancing Firearm Safety and Injury Prevention Through Primary Care



Making Primary Care Primary

## A FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING FIREARM SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION THROUGH PRIMARY CARE

Injuries and deaths due to firearms, with the majority of them being suicides and homicides, have been increasing in Texas. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>1</sup>, firearm-related deaths are at an all-time high since the mid-1990s.

Firearms are now a leading cause of death among children and teens in Texas.<sup>2</sup> Prior to 2020, the leading cause of death among children ages 1-17 was motor vehicle accidents.<sup>2</sup> In 2020, more children died from firearm injuries (260) than by motor vehicle accidents (245).<sup>2</sup>

Texas has the 28th-highest societal cost of firearm-related deaths and injuries in the United States at \$1,769 per resident each year.<sup>3</sup> Firearm deaths and injuries cost Texas \$51.3 billion each year, of which \$1.1 billion is paid by taxpayers.<sup>3</sup>

Beyond Texas, firearm-related injuries and deaths are recognized as a public health crisis in the United States and reduction of firearm-related deaths is a Healthy People 2030 goal. To meet this goal in the United States and Texas, we must openly acknowledge the scope of the problem and promote strategies to equip health providers with appropriate guidance and resources.

Firearm injuries and deaths are preventable<sup>4</sup> and there are many steps we can take as individuals and organizations to reverse the current trends. The Texas Primary Care Consortium (TPCC) is the only multisectoral network focused on primary care in Texas with a mission of advancing equitable, comprehensive, and sustainable primary care for all Texans. TPCC engaged a group of community members and leaders with expertise in firearm injury to examine Texas-specific data on firearm injuries and deaths as well as to gain a better understanding of the existing programs and services that focus on prevention of firearm injuries. [Examine our Firearm Injuries in Texas Data Portrait](#). Successful strategies leverage the patient-provider relationship to build trust, normalize the conversation, and engage in shared-decision making that honors and respects the patient's perspectives on firearm ownership and safety.

TPCC—led by Ankit Sanghavi, MPH, BDS, Texas Health Institute, and Sue Bornstein, MD, MACP, Texas Medical Home Initiative—is thankful to our partners for their support of our efforts and members of our statewide firearm safety stakeholder group for their time and expertise in identifying our framework of solutions. Please contact TPCC if you would like to get involved in the efforts by emailing [nsinghal@texashealthinstitute.org](mailto:nsinghal@texashealthinstitute.org).

### FIREARM SAFETY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

**Dr. Louis Appel,**  
*Texas Pediatric Society*

**Dr. Emily Briggs,**  
*Texas Academy of Family Physicians*

**Michael Darrouzet,**  
*Texas Medical Association*

**Krista Del Gallo, Mikisha Hooper,  
Molly Voyles,**  
*Texas Council on Family Violence*

**Nicole Golden,**  
*Texas Gun Sense*

**Dr. Daniel Guzman,**  
*Cook Children's Medical Center*

**Dr. Tarek Naguib, Dr. Alejandro  
Moreno,**  
*Texas Chapter of American College  
of Physicians*

**Dr. Sandy McKay,**  
*UT Houston McGovern School  
of Medicine*

**Dr. Ronald Stewart,**  
*UT Health San Antonio*



# References

1. CDC WONDER Online Database, Gun Violence Trends, 2012–2021.
2. CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death, 2018-2021, <https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html>
3. Texas Council on Family Violence, Family Violence Fatalities in 2022, [https://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/TCFV-2022-HTV-Report\\_Final-Web.pdf](https://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/TCFV-2022-HTV-Report_Final-Web.pdf)



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# Discussion





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# Questions?

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**Thank you for joining us today!**

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