

## **Violence is a Public Health Issue**

Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH<sup>1</sup> and Omar Khan, MD, MHS, FAACP<sup>2</sup>

1. Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Medicine
2. President, Delaware Public Health Association.

For this edition of the Delaware Journal of Public Health we focus on Violence and Public Health, and we are pleased to welcome State of Delaware Attorney General, The Honorable Matthew Denn as our guest editor. To give you a sense of what any state Attorney General faces, figure 1 shows several infographics that describe the scope of the challenge. Please note, these are national statistics - not Delaware-specific ones.

Figure 1. Everyday Violence in America



The information on gun violence comes from the Brady Campaign, <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>

Violence is a key social determinant of health, and claims too many Delawareans each year. There is also a groundswell of support for unique, community-based approaches for us all to play a part in addressing this set of issues. Most recently, the Delaware ACCEL program hosted a community engagement conference which focused on this area; more information can be found here: <https://de-ctr.org/node/1579>.

Attorney General Denn brings together a host of important perspectives on this challenging area. We thank him for his leadership in the state, and for advancing the public’s health and safety.

We also want to take this opportunity to convey some exciting news regarding programs of the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association. First, we are delighted to announce the hire of Kate Smith, MD, MPH. Dr. Smith is taking the Delaware Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (DMOST) and Goals of Care Delaware initiatives to the next level. This critical position is funded, in part, by grants from the Highmark Foundation, and the Christiana Care Value Institute Harrington Trust.

Second, we are honored to be working on a new initiative with Claudine Jurkovitz, MD, MPH, which is funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Dr. Jurkovitz is the project lead for the Engaging Stakeholders for a Patient-Centered Research Agenda for Chronic Kidney Disease in Delaware. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) affects more than 20 million people over the age of 20 in the United States. The highest rates of CKD are seen in individuals over 60 years of age. Diabetes and hypertension are the most frequent causes of CKD in the U.S. CKD and end stage renal disease (ESRD) are very costly to treat, in fact nearly 25% of the Medicare budget is used to treat people with CKD and ESRD. In 2013, there were 2,287 patients in chronic renal replacement therapy in Delaware.

We invite you to attend the first of two conferences which are part of a two-year project to engage stakeholders of all types as we address the impact and burden of CKD and ESRD in Delaware. Patients and their supporters, providers, payers, researchers, and policy makers are all encouraged to attend this event. Visit [www.delamed.org/CKD](http://www.delamed.org/CKD) for more information.

---

Copyright (c) 2016 Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.