

Gun Violence

Position Brief

SUMMARY

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) considers school shootings an urgent public health crisis. NASN advocates for a safe and nurturing school environment for all students to enhance student engagement and promote optimal learning. Children exposed to gun violence or who fear gun violence, in their schools and communities are affected both emotionally and physically (Finkelhor, et al, 2009; Fowler, et.al, 2016; Morris, 2009). The United States continues to experience multiple school shootings in which someone is physically wounded or killed (Ahmed & Walker, 2018). These tragedies are devastating to communities across the nation (Bieler, N.D).

RATIONALE

NASN opposes the purposeful arming of school teachers since, at this time, there is no research indicating that additional firearms in schools create a safer school environment. We call for Congress to consider more protective gun legislation. NASN supports the CDC engagement in gun violence research to direct the need for additional legislative action. We call for appropriations to fund:

- School based Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (school nurses, school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers) to provide preventive mental health services.
- Evidence based school safety initiatives in every school across America.

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References

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