Gun violence – including homicides and violent injuries from shootings, suicides, and accidental shootings involving children – victimizes more than 45,000 individuals and their families each year. Emergency physicians, surgeons, pediatricians, psychologists, and other clinicians agree: gun violence is a public health crisis.

In the FY22 Omnibus, Republicans and Democrats continued to appropriate $12.5 million each for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to study the causes of gun violence and evidence-based, “politically unbiased” methods of injury and mortality prevention, including crime prevention. The first studies funded include:

- Firearm Practices and Suicide Risk in U.S. Army Soldiers & Veterans
  - Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine

- ShootSafe: Teaching Kids Hunting, Shooting, and Firearms Safety
  - University of Alabama

- Preventing Violent Firearm Use Among Urban Youth Seeking Emergency Department Care
  - University of Michigan

Even with this funding, CDC and NIH receive many more proposals than they can fund. Increasing investment in gun violence research funding could support multi-year studies on:

- Preventing gun suicides amongst veterans
- Stopping gun violence in urban areas
- Safe storage of firearms

Nearly 300 medical, public health, and research organizations have called on Congress to match the FY 2023 budget request by appropriating $35 million to the CDC and $25 million to NIH for gun violence prevention research. Expanded resources would allow for further study of this critical public health issue.

For additional information, contact Zach Laris with the American Academy of Pediatrics at zlaris@aap.org.