
Defining and Mitigating Harmful Reporting on Community Firearm Violence

Jessica H. Beard, MD, MPH, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery, Temple University

Interim Trauma Program Medical Director

Stoneleigh Foundation Fellow

PCGVR, Director of Research

January 15, 2025



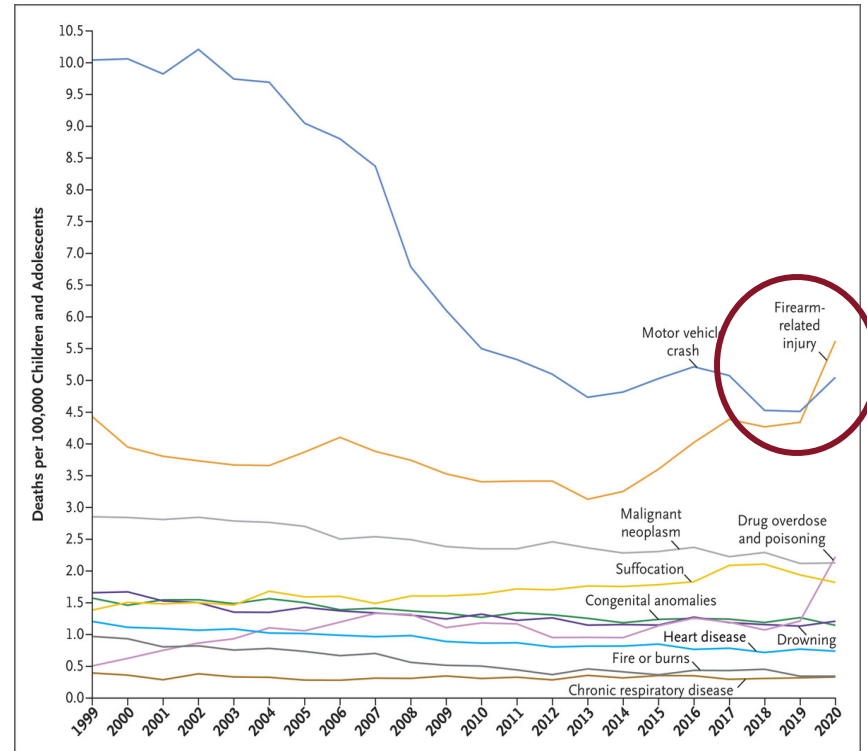
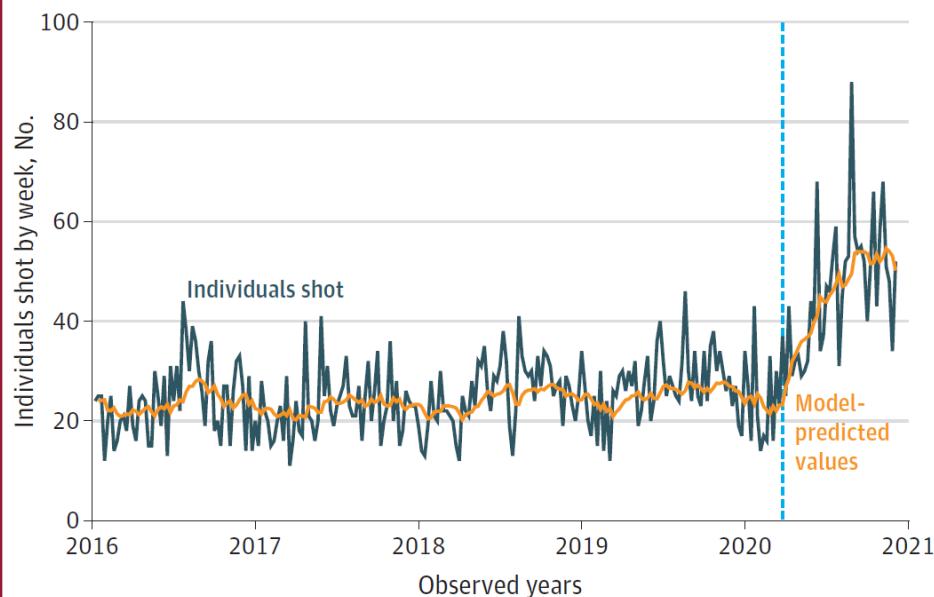
TEMPLE HEALTH

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Definitions and context

Gun violence = community firearm violence (CFV)

Figure. Individuals Shot by Firearms per Week in Philadelphia, 2016 to 2020



What is public health?

- Addresses **systemic inequities** that impact health
- Employs a **population-based approach** that focuses on societies as a whole rather than individuals
- Looks **upstream** at root causes of health issues and attempts to **prevent** them
- Takes a **holistic approach** to health in its most effective interventions

Gun violence public health solutions



- Federal, state, and local policies
- Built environment improvements
- Hospital and community-based programs
- Social services

Current media narratives

- Episodic (80%)
- Crime frame
 - Primary or only narrators police (51%)
 - Police imagery (79%)
- Similar across platforms
- Rooted in racist news practices



Firearm-injured people's perspectives

- 26 recent gunshot wound survivors
- Qualitative interviews
- Thematic analysis



Feeling dehumanized

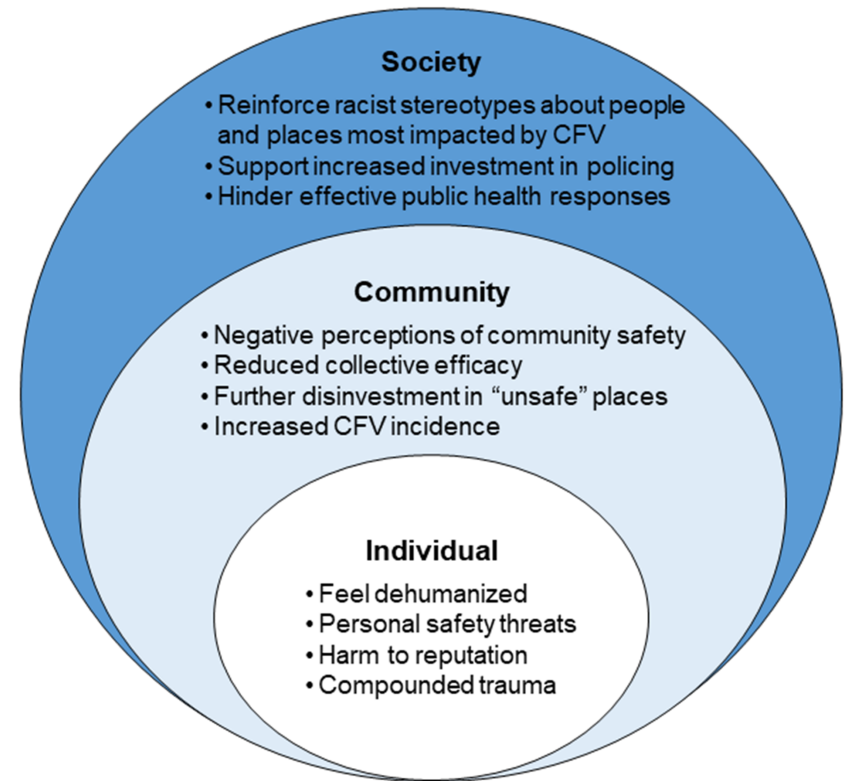
“They didn’t even go into detail. It was just ‘a female victim shot in her leg and she survived.’ That was it. [I was] just a gunshot victim and it’s like taken lightly, and then they just start talking about sports [...] They didn’t ask me any questions. There was no calls made to me or talk to me personally. They didn’t tell the story from my perspective. It was like she was shot and that’s it. I would prefer if they asked me specific feelings about me, if they actually interviewed me instead of just writing it like I’m a nobody.”

Negative impact on public safety

“I would talk to a journalist for a change, not to exploit me. I would basically let them know your [reporting] is not balanced. You report the gun violence but why not do a follow-up report [...] for the victims, the survivors, the families that had to bury these people, the whole process? Just don't do a guy got shot over there, a guy got shot over here. You're making people more fearful. You're more fearful, you're going to arm yourself more.”

Defining harmful reporting

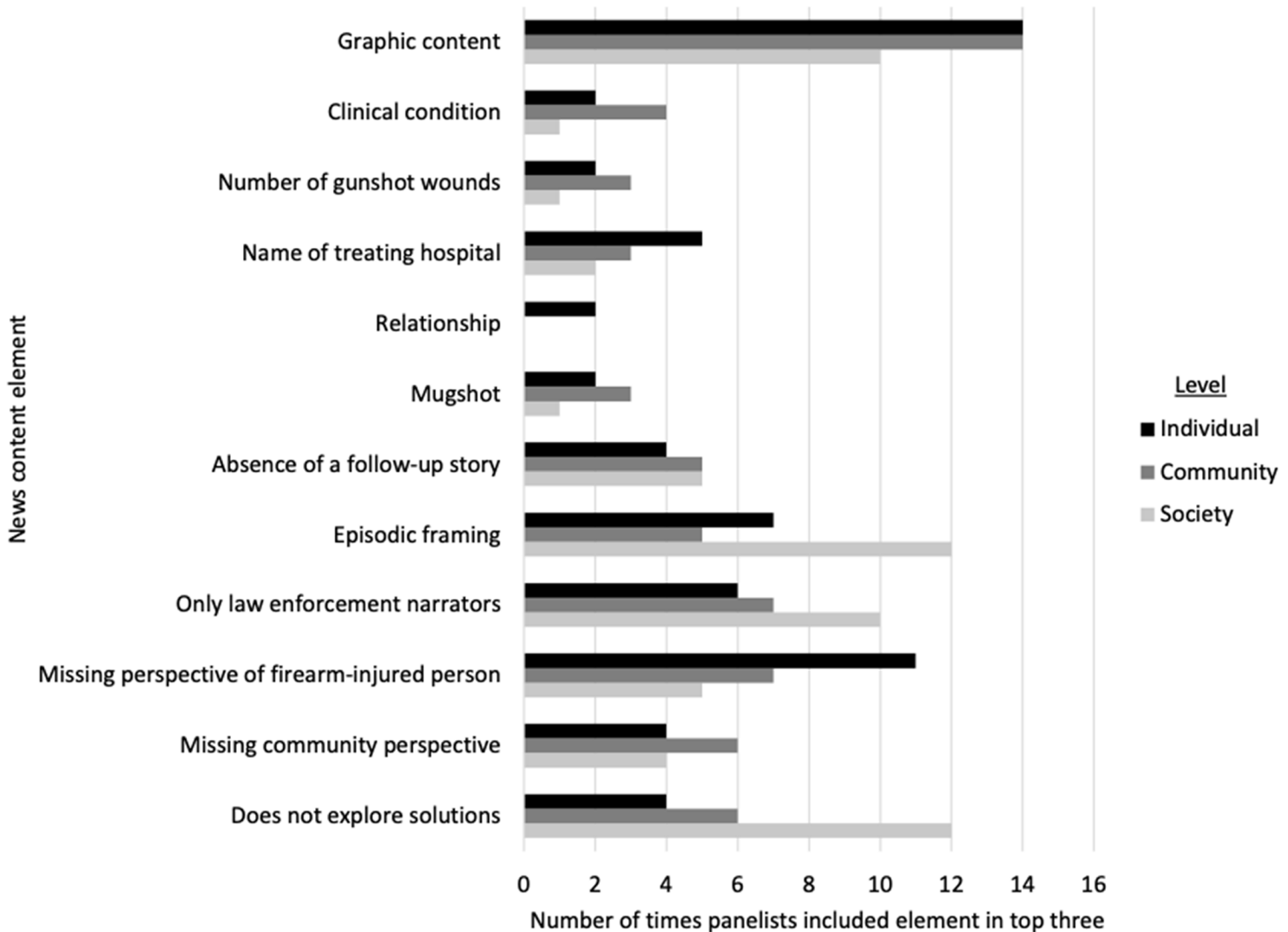
- Delphi panel of 21 experts
 - Lived experience of CFV (29%)
 - Journalism practice (57%)
 - Scholars (29%)
- Social-ecological model informed theorized levels of harm



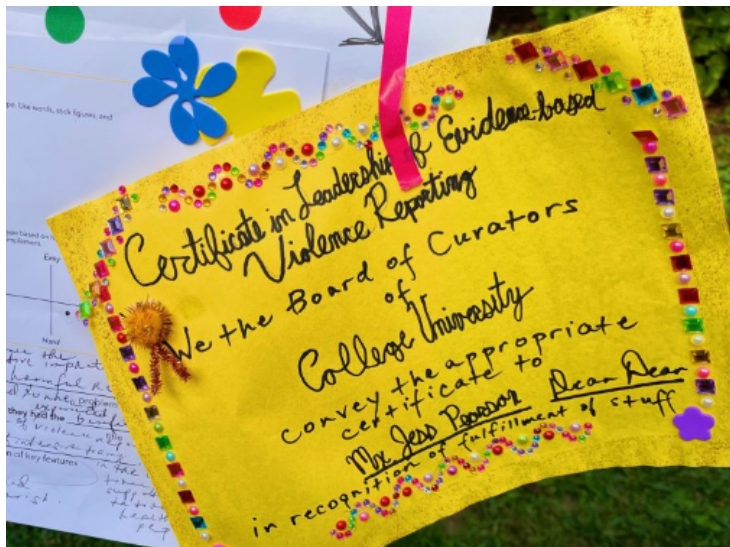
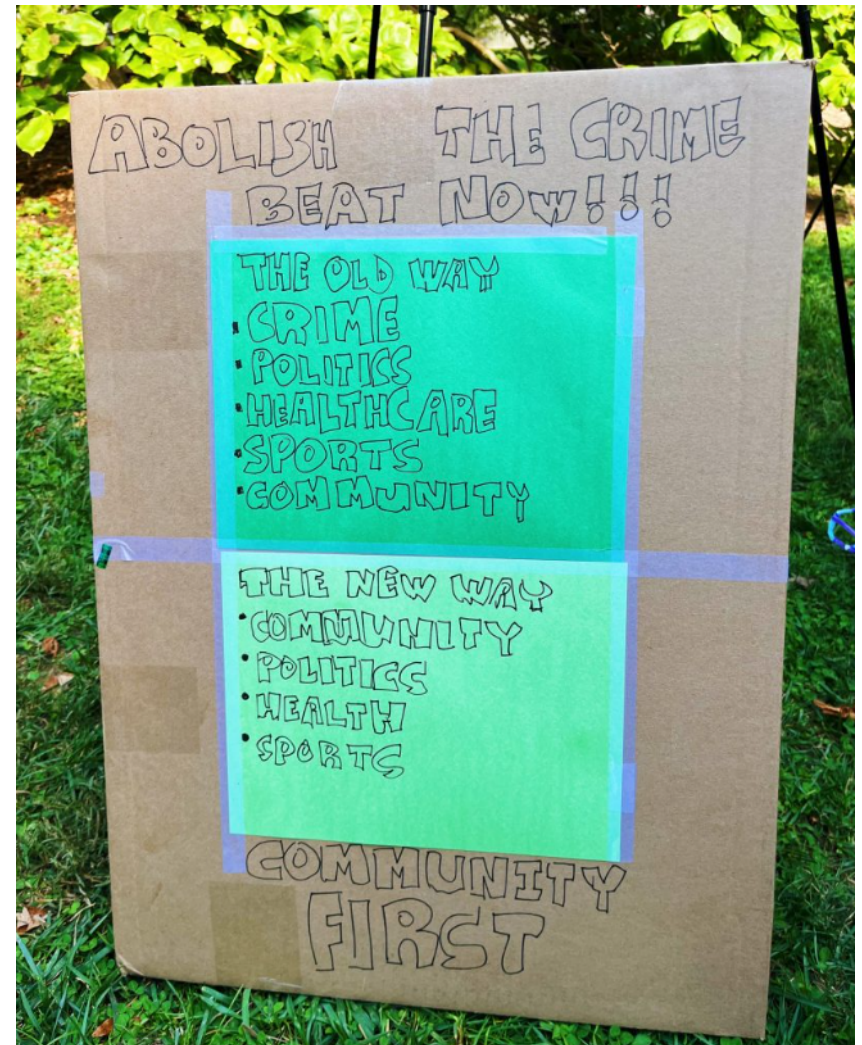
Harmful news content elements

Potentially Harmful News Content Element	Description
Graphic content	News coverage includes graphic or explicit news content about firearm violence, such as a video of shooting or a detailed description of the crime scene.
Clinical condition	News coverage of a shooting includes information on the clinical condition of a firearm-injured person (e.g. “critical” or “stable”).
Number of gunshot wounds	News coverage of a shooting includes information on the number of gunshot wounds of a firearm-injured person.
Name of treating hospital	News coverage of a shooting includes the name of the treating hospital of a firearm-injured person.
Relationship between firearm-injured person and perpetrator	News coverage of a shooting includes information on the relationship between the firearm-injured person and the alleged perpetrator of the shooting.
Mugshot	News coverage of a shooting includes a mugshot of the alleged perpetrator
Absence of a follow-up story	There is no follow-up story (e.g. an update on how a community has fared after a shooting or an interview with a survivor about their recovery) after the initial “breaking news” coverage.
Episodic framing	News coverage of firearm violence that focuses only on a specific shooting event and does not include context, root causes, or solutions to firearm violence.
Only law enforcement narrators	News coverage of firearm violence that only or predominantly presents the perspectives of law enforcement representatives (e.g. police).
Missing perspective of firearm-injured person	News coverage of a shooting that does not include the perspectives of the firearm-injured person and/or their loved ones.
Missing community perspective	News coverage of firearm violence that does not include the perspectives of people from the impacted community.
Does not explore solutions	News coverage of firearm violence that does not explore potential solutions.

Harmfulness ratings



PCGVR collaborative workshop



PCGVR Tool-kit

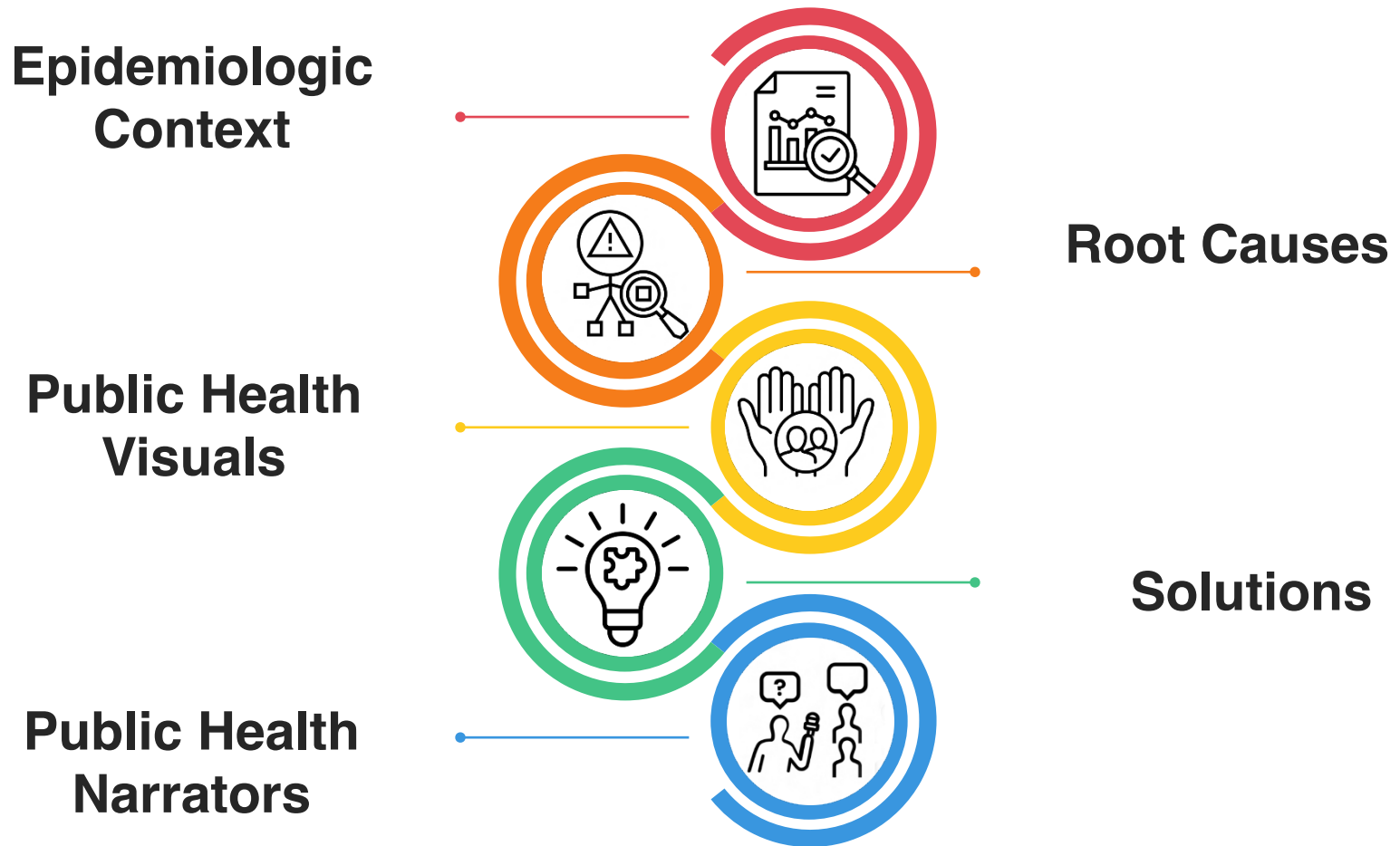


Gun violence prevention reporting

- Trauma-informed
- Empathetic
- Solutions
- Public health frame



Elements of a public health frame



Contact information



pcgvr.org

[@jessicabeard](https://twitter.com/jessicabeard) 

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