



RMS

**Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship
in Gun Injury Prevention**

Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Table of Contents

About ARMS

- Message from the Director..... 1
- About ARMS..... 1
- Year at a Glance 2

Data Releases

- Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard 4
- Harms and Benefits Inventory (HBI) 4

Events

- On Target Seminar Series 5
- APPAM Fall Research Conference 7
- Moving Beyond Implications: Research into Policy Conference 7
- Joining Discussions at Yale School of Public Health..... 8
- Hartford HVIP Summit1 8
- Domestic Violence Prosecution Innovation Day 9
- Kings County BOLT and Technology Courtrooms 9
- Panel Discussion: From Loper Bright to Cargill..... 9
- Baker Institute: Preventing Firearm Injury Through Purpose and Policy 10

Public Testimony and Legislation

- Testimony in Support of HB 7042 and HB 7135 10

Looking Ahead 11

Message from the Director

At UConn ARMS, our mission remains rooted in advancing research, fostering collaboration, and promoting evidence-based solutions to reduce gun injury and its impacts. This past year, we deepened our commitment to building connections across disciplines, sectors, and communities, ensuring that our work continues to inform, support, and empower those driving positive outcomes.

This annual report is also bittersweet for me: it is my last. I am stepping into a new role at the Yale School of Public Health. However, I am confident that Jennifer Dineen, the Associate Director of ARMS, will provide ARMS with amazing leadership in the years to come. Given that I am not too far away, I hope to continue to partner with ARMS on a range of initiatives.

Under Dr. Dineen's leadership, I have no doubt that ARMS will remain dedicated to generating actionable research, strengthening partnerships, and supporting evidenced based policies to reduce gun injury in our state and nation.

Thank you to all who make this work possible.

Kerri Raissian, Ph.D.
Director, UConn ARMS

About ARMS

The University of Connecticut's Center for Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship in Gun Injury Prevention (UConn ARMS) is dedicated to advancing rigorous, interdisciplinary research that addresses the complex causes and consequences of gun violence in the United States.

Founded on the principles of collaboration, innovation, and equity, ARMS brings together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community stakeholders to generate evidence-based solutions that reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths. The Center emphasizes the development of novel methods and tools that support prevention strategies, inform policy, and translate research into real-world impact.

ARMS supports projects across multiple disciplines, including public policy, public health, criminology, medicine, and social science and is committed to building sustainable partnerships that reflect the needs and priorities of affected communities.

Through public programming, national convenings, and accessible data tools like the Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard, ARMS aims to foster safer, healthier communities while advancing the field of gun injury prevention.

Year at a Glance

UConn ARMS is committed to understanding and addressing the root causes of gun violence in the United States. Founded on the principles of innovation, collaboration, and equity, the Center works across disciplines to engage researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders. ARMS supports policy-relevant scholarship and develops tools that translate research into practice.

Major Highlights from 2024–2025

One of the year’s key accomplishments was the launch of the Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard, an interactive data tool that maps Connecticut’s violent deaths—defined as homicides and suicides—by geography and demographics. This dashboard uses vital statistics data to support informed interventions and promote transparency around patterns of violent death in the state.

The Harms and Benefits Inventory (HBI), a collaborative project with Johns Hopkins University, was publicly released this year. The HBI collects data on how Americans, including gun owners, perceive firearm policies, revealing complex attitudes that go beyond traditional polling. With findings from both 2022 and 2024, the HBI has shown increasing firearm ownership among women, young adults, and communities of color, alongside strong support for secure storage laws and open carry allowances.

The “On Target” Seminar Series, ARMS’s monthly virtual seminar, continued to showcase diverse, emerging scholarship in a variety of areas. Topics ranged from the psychological impacts of lockdown drills to evaluations of red flag laws, Cure Violence programs, and disparities in defensive gun use. The series brought together experts from various fields and remains open to anyone seeking to better understand the complex landscape of firearm-related harm.

At the APPAM Fall Research Conference, ARMS engaged in national dialogue around policymaking at all levels of government. The Center shared insights from its various initiatives, underscoring its leadership in evidence-based policy design.

ARMS showcased its work at the Moving Beyond Implications: Research into Policy Conference, co-hosted with InCHIP and the Scholars Strategy Network, reinforcing the value of data-driven policymaking.

UConn ARMS also joined a NIH- and CDC-funded discussion at the Yale School of Public Health, hosted by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Dr. Dineen represented ARMS in a conversation about bridging research and policy in gun violence prevention.

In Hartford, ARMS co-sponsored the HVIP (Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program) Summit, supporting Connecticut’s efforts to expand and strengthen violence intervention through hospital and community partnerships. The event featured key leaders including Fatima Dreier of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention and Dr. Joseph Richardson,

providing a forum for dialogue among the state's community violence intervention programs.

ARMS participated in the Domestic Violence Prosecution Innovation Day, co-hosted with scholars from Vanderbilt University, UC Irvine, and Brown University. Held in Nashville and funded by Arnold Ventures, this convening brought together over 60 prosecutors, researchers, and advocates to explore how firearm access intersects with intimate partner violence and how new research and prosecution strategies can be developed in response.

UConn ARMS was a proud co-host of the panel discussion "From Loper Bright to Cargill" at UConn Law's Earth Day Conference. The event examined how recent Supreme Court decisions, particularly the departure from Chevron deference, will impact regulatory authority and public health policy, highlighting the legal and administrative shifts affecting gun violence prevention.

The ARMS team also contributed to major statewide policy efforts. Associate Director Jennifer Dineen testified before the Connecticut General Assembly in support of legislation concerning firearm manufacturer liability and community safety improvements (HB 7042 and HB 7135). These policy engagements reflect the continued commitment to connecting research to action.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, UConn ARMS will continue expanding its data resources, including the HBI and Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard. The team will prioritize efforts to make these tools more accessible to communities, researchers, and decision-makers. In addition to hosting new events and research collaborations, ARMS will deepen its engagement across Connecticut and the U.S., supporting innovative and equitable strategies to prevent gun injury and promote community safety.

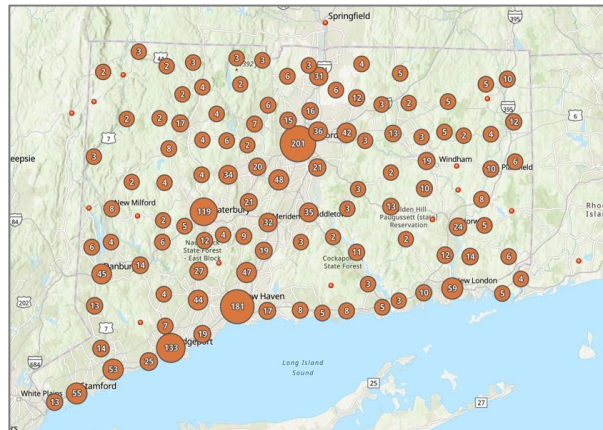
Through its work, UConn ARMS remains a vital contributor to InCHIP's mission of advancing public health through research, collaboration, and community impact.



Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard

We are excited to share The Connecticut Violent Mortality Dashboard: An interactive mapping dashboard that allows users to visualize Connecticut’s violent deaths geographically and by select demographic characteristics. Violent deaths are defined as deaths ruled either a homicide or a suicide. The motivation for this project is to more fully and dynamically display Connecticut’s violent deaths in hopes of encouraging and measuring interventions and solutions.

Data from this project come from the Connecticut State Office of Vital Records and were requested using the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s (DPH) Data Request Form for Non-Confidential Data. Data is currently available for 2020–2024. Additional information about Connecticut’s Violent Deaths can be found at The Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System website (CTVDRS).



This dashboard effort was led by Drs. Kerri Raissian and Jennifer Dineen (UConn ARMS). It was created by Dr. Peter Chen and Congcong Miao (UConn Department of Geography, Sustainability, Community, and Urban Studies). We thank them for their excellent partnership and technical skills.

Visit the Dashboard here: <https://arms.chip.uconn.edu/violent-mortality-dashboard>

Harms and Benefits Inventory (HBI): Data Release

The Harms and Benefits Inventory (HBI) is an innovative research tool developed by UConn ARMS in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University to capture Americans’ perceptions of various firearm policies. Unlike traditional polling that often reflects polarized positions, the HBI explores the perceived benefits and harms of firearm-related policies across diverse populations, especially gun owners.

The HBI recognizes that people may support the same policy for different reasons or oppose it due to concerns that aren’t always visible in binary survey results. For example, two individuals may support a secure storage law, one because they believe it prevents child access, and another because it could reduce liability in case of theft. Similarly, opposition to a policy may stem from misunderstandings about implementation or unintended consequences.

Data from the 2022 and 2024 waves of the HBI reveal rising gun ownership among women,

young adults, and Hispanic and Black Americans. Results also show strong support for secure storage laws, open carry allowances, and broad firearm access, often reflecting overlapping and nuanced beliefs rather than ideological divides.

In 2025, ARMS released the HBI data publicly, offering policymakers, advocates, and researchers a new lens through which to understand firearm attitudes in America. This tool exemplifies our commitment to grounding gun violence prevention in evidence, nuance, and respect for lived experiences.

To learn more, visit: <https://arms.chip.uconn.edu/resources-2>

On Target Seminar Series

Our monthly On Target webinar series highlights emerging scholarship in gun injury prevention. This interdisciplinary webinar is open to researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and anyone who wants to learn more about this critical work. Below are highlights from this year's speakers.



Jaclyn Schildkraut, PhD, Executive Director, Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium

Lockdown Drills: From Research to Practice. A look at the evidence about how to prepare students and staff without causing harm. Later in 2025, the Connecticut General Assembly's Education Committee held a public

hearing on [HB 7077](#), An Act Concerning Crisis Response Drills, which aimed to implement best practices for school-based crisis drills. Dr. Schildkraut's scholarship informed later discussions among lawmakers at the hearing for HB 7077.

April M. Zeoli, PhD, Associate Professor, Policy Core Director, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention

Extreme risk protection orders: The state of the science. Lessons from a systematic review of the research on extreme risk protection orders, also known as red flag laws.





Joseph Richardson, PhD, MPower Professor of African-American Studies, Medical Anthropology, and Epidemiology, University of Maryland

Doing the Work: CVI workers perceptions of the Cure Violence Interruption models. Exploring the alignment between CVI models, workers' capabilities, and the goal of transforming social norms around violence.

David Yamane, PhD, Professor of Sociology, Wake Forest University

Complicating risk and rationality in The Standard Model. How risk and rationality are understood in "The Standard Model of Explaining the Irrationality of Defensive Gun Ownership"



Greg Midgette, PhD, Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland

Measuring the impact of life-saving care immediacy on gun homicide.

Michael D. Anestis, PhD, Professor, Rutgers School of Public Health; Executive Director, New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center

Armed and Vulnerable: Clarifying the risk of gun violence exposure relative to the likelihood of defensive gun use.



Past recordings can be found [here](#). If you are interested in participating in an upcoming On Target session, please reach out to arms@uconn.edu for additional information.

APPAM Fall Research Conference

In November 2024, UConn ARMS participated in the 46th Annual APPAM Fall Research Conference, held in National Harbor, Maryland. The conference, themed *Policymaking at the Federal, State, and Local Levels*, provided a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on pressing policy issues.

Our team contributed to discussions on evidence-based policymaking, sharing insights from our recent research initiatives. Engaging with scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from across the country enriched our perspectives and reinforced our commitment to translating research into actionable policy solutions.

Moving Beyond Implications: Research into Policy Conference

On December 12, 2024, UConn ARMS participated in the second annual *Moving Beyond Implications: Research into Policy* conference, an event dedicated to bridging the gap between academic research and legislative action. Co-hosted by UConn's Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP), the Connecticut Chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network (CT SSN), and State Representatives Jaime Foster and Dominique Johnson, the event brought together nearly 200 participants including legislators, agency staff, and university researchers.

Associate Director Jennifer Necci Dineen presented findings from the Harms and Benefits Inventory (HBI), a survey conducted in partnership with Johns Hopkins University. The HBI explores how Americans perceive various firearm policies, shedding light on public opinion and informing policy strategies. Data collected in 2022 and 2024 revealed a notable rise in firearm ownership among young adults, women, and Hispanic and Black communities. The findings also showed broad support for secure storage requirements, open carry allowances, and universal ownership rights. The HBI data is now available for public use, and researchers can request the data for their research and scholarship.

Director, Kerri Raissian, also previewed the Connecticut Violent Death Mapping Portal, developed to offer detailed geographic and demographic insights into violent deaths across the state. This initiative aligns with ARMS' commitment to transparency and data accessibility in gun injury prevention research. The portal will be publicly launched in 2025 and will help policymakers and communities understand and address the root causes of violence.

This event underscored ARMS' ongoing efforts to translate cutting-edge research into actionable policy that reflects the realities of communities across Connecticut and beyond.

Read more in the [UConn Today](#) story.

Joining Discussions at Yale School of Public Health

On Thursday, January 30th, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-03) hosted a round-table discussion at the Yale School of Public Health, bringing together leaders from academia, government, community organizations, and public health to discuss groundbreaking research on gun violence prevention, funded by \$125 million from the NIH and CDC since 2020. The event focused on bridging the gap between research and policy to foster collaboration among criminologists, public health experts, community leaders, and legislators. Associate Director Jennifer Dineen participated on behalf of ARMS.

You can read more [here](#).

Hartford HVIP Summit

On February 5th & 6th, the City of Hartford hosted the Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) Summit, bringing together key stakeholders in community violence intervention efforts. UConn ARMS was a proud co-sponsor of the event.

Over the past three years, Hartford has invested in building the Hartford HVIP Strengthening Collaborative, a network of hospitals and community partners dedicated to improving the response to shootings and providing crucial support to impacted individuals and families. The Summit convened representatives from the 8 partner organizations in Hartford and the 18 funded community violence intervention (CVI) programs across the state. Attendees shared lessons learned, discussed best practices, and strategized for the future of HVIP and CVI programs in Connecticut.



Among the speakers included Fatima Dreier of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) and Joseph Richardson (hosted by UConn ARMS), MPower Professor of African-American Studies, Medical Anthropology, and Epidemiology at the University of Maryland. Their expertise helped set the stage for meaningful discussions on sustaining and expanding violence intervention efforts.

The Summit reinforced the importance of collaboration in addressing gun violence and laid the groundwork for continued progress in strengthening support systems for affected communities.

Domestic Violence Prosecution Innovation Day

UConn ARMS partnered with Alissa Heydari (Vanderbilt Project on Prosecution Policy), Emily Owens (UC Irvine), and Anna Aizer (Brown University) to host a successful Domestic Violence Prosecution Innovation Day on February 28, 2025, at Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee. There were 60 participants from all over the country including prosecutors, victim advocates, researchers, and technical assistance providers.



Photo courtesy of Terry Wyatt Photography.

Attendees explored innovative solutions, potential research collaborations, and the role of firearms in intimate partner violence. We expect many new partnerships in the field of domestic violence prosecution and prevention as a result of the convening. The event was funded by Arnold Ventures.

Kings County BOLT and Technology Courtrooms

Kerri Raissian recently toured the technology courtrooms of Kings County (Brooklyn, New York) and learned about the Bureau of Litigate and Technology (BOLT) program. Their use of digital evidence to clear and prosecute firearm and domestic violence-based crimes is at the innovation frontier.

We are excited to learn more! Thank you for the tour!



Panel Discussion: From Loper Bright to Cargill

As part of UConn Law School's 2025 Earth Day Conference, UConn ARMS and UConn Law co-hosted a multidisciplinary panel titled From Loper Bright to Cargill. The discussion examined the evolving role of federal agencies in the wake of the Supreme Court's departure from Chevron deference, focusing on the implications for addressing complex challenges such as the firearm injury epidemic and climate change.

Experts from the Brady Center and climate law advocates shared how these landmark decisions are reshaping their strategies, emphasizing the critical need for adaptable legal and policy approaches in an era of shifting regulatory authority.

The panel was co-moderated by Professor Joe MacDougald (UConn Law) and Jennifer Dineen (UConn ARMS) and underscored the importance of cross-sector dialogue in navigating the future of public health, environmental, and safety regulation.

Baker Institute: Preventing Firearm Injury Through Purpose and Policy

In June 2025, at the James Baker Policy Institute’s landmark event “Preventing Firearm Injury Through Purpose and Policy,” Dr. Jennifer Necci Dineen brought her expertise as an Associate Professor in Residence (and Associate Director of UConn’s ARMS Center for Gun Violence Prevention) to the forefront. During her presentations, she underscored the importance of evidence-based, community-driven interventions, sharing how recent advances in public health research have shaped new policy approaches aimed at reducing firearm-related injuries, and reviewed federal, firearm-relevant, policy changes that have happened over the first few months of the new administration.



Testimony in Support of HB 7042 and HB 7135

Jennifer Dineen recently testified in support of two bills before the Judiciary Committee ([HB 7042](#) and [HB 7137](#)). She’s quoted in the [Hartford Courant](#) as saying:

“History has shown that industry liability is an effective tool for improving health and safety outcomes for products that, through negligence, accident, or misuse, can cause harm. Even when manufacturers do not voluntarily enhance safety measures, evidence demonstrates that litigation can drive improvements.”



On Thursday, August 7, 2025, Kerri Raisian and Jennifer Dineen attended the signing of HB 7042. We were honored to be invited to this important event and remain committed to supporting the implementation of this new law.



If you’re a policymaker and have questions about the evidence surrounding a legislation, please reach out to us at arms@uconn.edu.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next year, UConn ARMS, with Dr. Dineen leading the way, is excited to build on the momentum of Academic Year 2024–2025. Our focus will remain on expanding access to actionable data, fostering cross-sector collaborations, and supporting innovative approaches to gun injury prevention.

In 2025, we look forward to building tools and promoting evidence that will provide policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders with critical insights to inform prevention strategies and promote safety.

We also plan to deepen our engagement with partners across Connecticut and beyond, hosting new events, supporting emerging research, and continuing to elevate diverse voices in the field. Together, we will keep working toward a safer, healthier future for all communities.