



AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR FIREARM INJURY
REDUCTION IN MEDICINE

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Public Health on Target: Bridging the Gap Between Healthcare and the Firearm Industry

Washington, D.C., February 16, 2022 – Because effective public health initiatives require the meaningful engagement of the population it intends to serve, AFFIRM at the Aspen Institute (AAI) attended the 2022 [SHOT Show](#) in Las Vegas last month to meet with firearm industry leaders, experts, manufacturers, retailers, and trainers to discuss health-based approaches to firearm injury prevention. The SHOT Show is the nation's largest professional event for the sport-shooting, hunting, and outdoor industry, and is hosted by [The National Shooting Sports Foundation](#) (NSSF), the national trade association for the firearms industry.

The medical, nursing, and public health organizations that have long collaborated with AAI share a common interest with the firearm community in reducing firearm misuse, which leads to injuries and deaths; however, the bridge between these two communities has been broken for more than twenty years. It is only through trust and meaningful collaboration between frontline sectors that we, as a society, can make progress toward treating our longstanding, growing problem of violence, gun misuse, and related harms. Therefore, AAI eschews firearm regulatory policy and focuses exclusively on health interests, with programs that maintain a network of trusting relationships within the medical, public health, law enforcement, and firearm industries.

AAI mends the bridge between essential stakeholders and creates a platform where all may convene and achieve consensus on health strategies to optimize safety and reduce the risk of firearm-related harm. Everyone everywhere has a role to play. AAI Program Director and co-founder Dr. Chris Barsotti spoke with psychologist and contributing journalist for [NRAWomen.com](#), Samantha Mann, MA, about this issue.

Read more here:

www.nrawomen.com/content/bridging-the-gap-between-healthcare-and-gun-ownership/

About AFFIRM at The Aspen Institute (AAI):

AFFIRM at the Aspen Institute (AAI) creates practical, scalable, and immediate health-based solutions to reduce all forms of firearm-related injuries in the United States. By focusing exclusively on health and safety while recognizing the importance of firearm ownership, we have the unique ability to unify and convene diverse stakeholders around the universal goals of reducing health risks, promoting resilience, and preventing firearm misuse at every opportunity.



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Each one of us can be part of the solution, starting now. For more information, visit www.affirmresearch.org.