GOODS FOR GUNS- A MODEL
GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM

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WORCESTER

ACTING COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CITY OF
WORCESTER

MAY 2013
GOODS FOR GUNS (G4G)

No disclosures
HOW DID I (WE) GET HERE?
HOW DID I (WE) GET HERE?

KEITH REEMSTMA
AND DAN RATHER

JOHN C. WOOD II
Killed 11/2/1981

JIM AND SARAH BRADY
“If disease were killing our children at the rate unintentional injuries are, the public would be outraged and demand that the killer be stopped.”

C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD,
Founding Chairman,
National SafeKids Campaign,
Surgeon General 1982-1989
ELIMINATE THE VECTOR!

Walter Reed, MD—
“Builder of the Panama Canal”
Gun Buybacks

• Gun buybacks have existed for over 30 years

• They are often criticized for
  – Failing to attract criminals
  – Failing to decrease crime or violence
  – Failing to collect the types of guns used in criminal acts
  – Being unable to make a dent in the huge # of American guns
GOODS FOR GUNS

FERNANDO MATEO, FOUNDER OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS, NYC GOODS FOR GUNS PROGRAM, 1993

MATTHEW MASIELLO, MD, MPH, CO-FOUNDER OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY GOODS FOR GUNS PROGRAM, 1994
GOODS FOR GUNS PROGRAM IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA.
COLLECTS OVER 11,000 WEAPONS SINCE 1994,
LEAVING PITTSBURGH AS ONE OF
THE SAFEST CITIES IN THE RUSTBELT/MIDWEST OF THE USA
Background

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• Sponsored an annual gun buyback program for greater Central Massachusetts region for 11 consecutive years (2002-2012)

• Goals of this program
  – 1) Remove unwanted improperly stored guns from homes
  – 2) Educate the community about the increased risk of gun-related injuries in the home and the importance of safe gun storage
  – 3) Identify individuals possessing improperly stored guns at home and provide them with safety information and alternatives
Background
IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• Event is held at the Worcester Police and DPH headquarters
• Two Saturdays in December
• Advertisements done via
  – Local newspaper
  – Radio
  – Television
  – SOCIAL MEDIA
Background

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• Yearly funding
  – IFC-W/ UMASS MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM- $5K
  – Corporate- approximately $5-10K
  – Smaller donations
    • Department of Surgery
    • Department of Pediatrics
    • Department of Emergency Medicine
    • Individuals

• All participants receive immunity and anonymity
Setup

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• Participants enter the COLLECTION station
  – Concealed and carry laws suspended by DA to allow for transport of weapons with impunity
  – Police officers inspect and take the guns
  – Proceed to the lobby and receive a voucher for each gun
    • Rifle = $25
    • Pistol or Revolver = $50
    • Automatic or Semiautomatic = $75
  – Invited to complete an anonymous survey
  – Those with remaining guns receive counseling about gun storage and free gun locks
Surveys
IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

- 17 question survey

- Over 2002-2009
  - 534 total survey participants
  - 68% learned about the program from the newspaper
  - 85% survey participation rate

| Predominant Demographics | Race                        | Gender
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White 508/534 (95%)</td>
<td>Male 390/534 (73%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>African American, Asian, American Indian</td>
<td>Female (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>&gt;55 256/534 (48%)</td>
<td>45-54 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35-55 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25-34 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-24 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Some college 155/534 (29%)</td>
<td>Grade 12 or GED 28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree 21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Degree 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Some High School 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grade School 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$75,000 or more 150/534 (28%)</td>
<td>$50,000-$75,000 21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$35,000-$50,000 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000-$35,000 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20,000-$25,000 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,000-$20,000 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,000-$15,000 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less than $10,000 2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• 2/3 returned their gun for safety reasons
  – Most commonly citing children in the home
  – Others were afraid of the gun or had a previous bad experience with a gun
  – 20% of participants knew someone injured or killed by a firearm

• 10% reported wanting gift certificates
Results

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• 54% admitted to having additional firearms at home

• Of those with additional firearms
  – 12% kept the gun loaded
  – 7% kept the gun unlocked

• 36% of homes had children under 14 living there or visiting at least weekly
Results

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• Individuals identified with remaining firearms received
  – Focused discussion about the importance of gun safety
  – Gun safety educational materials
  – Gun locks for any unlocked guns at home (OVER 1000 DISTRIBUTED)
### Goods for Guns 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Long Guns</th>
<th>Pistols, Revolvers</th>
<th>Auto Semi-auto</th>
<th>Total Guns</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>$$/Gun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>$12,625</td>
<td>$50.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>$13,555</td>
<td>$55.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>$16,345</td>
<td>$53.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>$11,300</td>
<td>$54.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>$15,200</td>
<td>$56.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>$11,125</td>
<td>$51.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>$ 6,950</td>
<td>$54.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>$12,150</td>
<td>$50.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>$ 9,825</td>
<td>$50.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>$ 5,075</td>
<td>$44.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>$ 7,975</td>
<td>$56.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>2,311.00</td>
<td>$122,125</td>
<td>$52.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

Firearm Fatalities, 1994-2008

Nonfatal Firearm Injuries, 1994-2009
### Incidence of Penetrating Trauma by MA City per 1,000 population

**January - October 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient's City of Residence</th>
<th>Population Estimate</th>
<th>Jan - Oct 2012*</th>
<th>Incidence/1,000 pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>617,594</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
<td>93,810</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall River</td>
<td>88,857</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>76,377</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>106,519</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>90,329</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Bedford</td>
<td>95,072</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>153,060</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>181,045</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census 2010

WHY IS WORCESTER SO "SAFE"?

1) WPD Chief uses his discretionary powers to carefully grant gun licenses (hence, lawsuit pending)
2) WPD allots same resources to any gun brandishing incident as they do to a firearm homicide
3) G4G
Future Projects

IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

• An art project is in development using the metal from the guns collected
Guns for Art History
GOODS FOR GUNS

• How to G4G Video
• Short version for promoting interest
• Long Version to teach counterparts in various cities- law enforcement, DA, DPH, corporate sponsors the who, what when, where and why of the program
Future Projects
IFC Worcester GOODS FOR GUNS

NATIONWIDE- Discussed with IFC partners in Atlanta, Charleston, Hartford, New Haven, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Chicago, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Rochester
Met with Officials at the DOJ in Washington, D.C. as well as with U.S. Congressmen Jim McGovern (Central Ma.) and Carolyn McCarthy (LI, NY)
Sent proposals for funding to several national retailers and foundations (i.e. BLOOMBERG, JOYCE)

GO NATIONAL ??????
GOODS FOR GUNS GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM - CONCLUSIONS

GUN BUYBACKS ARE REPRODUCIBLE COMMUNITY-BASED, COALITION-DRIVEN EFFORTS TO:

• 1) EDUCATE ABOUT GUN SAFETY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GUN OWNERSHIP WITHOUT CHALLENGING 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS
• 2) RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT FIREARM INJURIES
• 3) REDUCE THE # OF CIRCULATING FIREARMS
• 4) CREATE LASTING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEDICAL FACILITIES, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT/JUDICIAL COMMUNITY AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

“I WISH YOU COULD HAVE COLLECTED JUST ONE MORE GUN”

Marcy and LaNyiag Johnson
• Look at the stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without so much a crack showing in it. Yet at the 101st blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before.

• -Jacob Riis, NYC Crusader Journalist
FOR MORE INFO-
www.injuryfree.org
see Worcester site
AND
www.worcesterma.gov