

2021 Annual Report



"The work we all collectively do as GVP advocates is hard, but we do it because it saves lives."

The past year has presented challenges unlike our country has seen in the recent past and the tumultuousness has taken its collective toll on all of us. It has been a year in which we learned the value of prioritizing what matters and using our energy and passion for the betterment of society, even when that felt impossible. We are working against a well-funded tidal wave of disinformation that is making the American public less safe, but I remain inspired and energized by the commitment and passion of the people engaged in gun violence prevention.

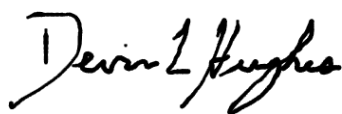
This year, GVPedia has built on our mission to make research and data accessible and understandable to advocates, policymakers, and the media so that public policy is based on truth. We continued our GVPedia Explains series and expanded it to include GVPedia Explores, which welcomes and elevates other voices in the movement. We released our Facts About Firearms Policy Initiative, a comprehensive database that provides access to information about the most common myths and talking points to counter them. And we have published articles in publications such as The Hill and the Orlando Sentinel about the deadly impact of misinformation.

In the coming year, our focus will be on helping the advocacy community counter disinformation and elevate factual information. The myths we seek to counter have been accepted as truth, but we believe that with time, an organized strategy, and a committed effort, the truth will prevail. The work we all collectively do as GVP advocates is hard, but we do it because it saves lives.

During these trying times, I remain grateful and humbled by the tireless efforts and dedication of the GVPedia team. Without the hard work of Caitlin Clarkson Pereira, Penny Okamoto, Alicia Curran, Nick Wilson, and our incredible board members Po Murray, Patricia Oliver, Beth Roth, Penelope Spurr, and Kristin Song, none of our accomplishments this year would have been possible.

And most of all, a heartfelt thank you to all our supporters. All of you have provided light in the darkest of years.

To a safer tomorrow,



Devin Hughes, Founder

GVPedia, Inc.

GVPedia: An Overview

When GVPedia was founded in 2017, it was envisioned as a comprehensive resource providing public access to a [Gun Study Database](#), the largest in existence, and to [GVP University](#), a repository of white papers and fact sheets about gun violence.

Since then, we've expanded our Gun Study Database from just over 700 academic studies to more than 1,700. GVP University has continued to expand, adding more factsheets, infographics, and original research. Both of these tools give advocates and policymakers access to data and research about segments of this epidemic that we know must be addressed to make our country a safer place. We've also published a number of op-eds, in outlets ranging from [the Oklahoman](#) to the [LA Times](#), [The Hill](#), the [Washington Post](#), and the [Orlando Sentinel](#).

In 2019, GVPedia hosted a conference in Denver that was attended by more than 100 advocates, survivors, lawmakers, and gun owners from across the country. From this meeting, [the Denver Accord](#), a comprehensive road map of evidence-based policies and programs to end gun violence, was born.

Behind the scenes, we've provided critical information to advocates and lawmakers nationwide. We all know that the best public policy evolves from fact and research, but too often, there is a disconnect between our policymakers and the academics producing the research. GVPedia strives to bridge this gap so that everyone can have accessible and reliable data about gun violence at their fingertips.

Initiatives

Below is a sampling of GVPedia's 2021 initiatives. We focused on these areas to bring attention to some of the most pressing issues in gun violence, and to expand our resources for advocates, educators, and elected officials.

[Facts About Firearms Policy Initiative](#)

In March, GVPedia published the [Facts About Firearm Policy Initiative](#), a database that exposes the truths behind the myths and misconceptions that warp the conversation around gun violence. The user-friendly collection of data, studies, and research provides advocates with the talking points and detailed understanding needed to change hearts and minds. The goal of this project is to debunk the most prevalent myths, provide access to resources that help spread awareness of the truth, and shed light on unethical behavior by the purveyors of these myths. It is vital that we change the narrative because these myths have appeared in sworn testimony and prominent publications that have swayed the minds of judges, lawmakers, and the general public.

“GVPedia Explains...”

GVPedia continued its multimedia *GVPedia Explains...* series that includes videos, webinars, and infographics to give advocates, policymakers and the media access to research and best practices in digestible formats. We work directly with advocates to understand the issues most prevalent to them so that we can tailor these sessions to be effective continuing education opportunities that they can apply to their work. Below are links to the sessions conducted in 2021:

[GVPedia Explains...Gun-Free Zones](#): This conversation provided counterarguments to the myth that shooters target gun-free zones.

[GVPedia Explains...Gun Laws](#): This conversation focused on common myths around gun laws, as well as how to communicate the effectiveness and importance of gun laws.

[GVPedia Explains...Data](#): This conversation focused on data, its importance in the gun violence prevention movement, and how individuals and organizations can use data in advocacy efforts.

“GVPedia Explores...”

To augment our offerings and elevate other voices in the GVP movement, we launched a new series to create a platform for other organizations and experts in the field to discuss pressing issues in gun violence with one another, and with viewers. GVPedia Explores opens up opportunities to delve into new topics, learn from other experts, and increase engagement and participation in the movement. Below are links to GVPedia Explores’ 2021 sessions.

[GVPedia Explores...Changing Minds](#): Our first discussion welcomed Evan DeFilippis, PhD Candidate in Organizational Behavior at Harvard University, to understand how to use effective strategies to change hearts and minds.

[GVPedia Explores...the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms](#): GVPedia welcomed Mark Jones, a former agent at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) to learn more about the bureau, how it functions, and how it fits into gun violence prevention.

[GVPedia Explores...Comprehensive Solutions to Gun Violence](#): GVPedia was joined by Dr. Cassandra Crifasi, Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health; James Timpson, Director for Community Partnership and Safety for Roca Maryland

and Roca Impact Institute; and Po Murray, Chair of Newtown Action Alliance and GVPedia Board Member, to discuss the need for a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence. The panel highlighted the importance of laws such as Permit-to-Purchase, in addition to the need for community led solutions.

[GVPedia Explores...the Supreme Court](#): Our final conversation of the year was with Adam Skaggs, Chief Council & Policy Director at the Giffords Law Center, about the potential consequences of the upcoming Supreme Court case related to concealed carry laws and previous court cases that led to this moment.

Denver Accord Fact Sheets

GVPedia completed publication of the [Denver Accord](#) fact sheets to give advocates quick access to the best policies, programs, and studies included in the Denver Accord. The fact sheets include easily digestible context to help advocates, policymakers, and the media understand the practical implementation of the research findings through best practices and policy examples.

[Parts 1 & 2: Licensing and Registration](#)

[Part 3: Extreme Risk Protection Orders](#)

[Part 4: Safe Storage of Firearms](#)

[Part 5: Reduce the Lethality of Firearms](#)

[Part 6: Strengthen and Enforce Existing Gun Laws](#)

[Part 7: Reduce the Presence of Firearms in Public Places](#)

[Part 8: Fund and Proliferate Community Based Solutions](#)

[Part 9: Police Reform](#)

Monthly Newsletter and Website

In an effort to provide advocates and educators with access to relevant and timely information and to ensure they have an understanding of GVPedia's offerings, we continue to publish our newsletter. The newsletter provides access to GVPedia's videos, facts sheets, and other content, as well as relevant studies and myths in the "Study of the Month" and "Myth of the Month" sections, furthering GVPedia's role in the movement as a myth buster.

We also nearly tripled our annual website traffic, with close to 77,000 unique visitors, accounting for almost 175,000 visits.

YouTube Channel

GVPedia continued posting myth-busting videos to the organization's YouTube channel. The videos published this year include the topics [Gun-Free Zones](#), [Why Gun Laws Work](#), and [Why Guns Don't Make Us Safer](#).

Expanding the Board

GVPedia expanded its representation of youth involved in the movement by adding student Penelope Spurr to the Board of Directors. Spurr attends Dartmouth College and lives in Portland, Oregon. In 2018, she co-founded the grassroots organization *Students for Change* and co-wrote Oregon Senate Bill 501, a comprehensive proposal for gun reform. The bill did not pass, but Spurr has continued to advocate for its policies through the educational videos she has produced for GVPedia and our partner organization Ceasefire Oregon. Spurr has also served as a student representative on Ceasefire Oregon's board, and on her local school board.

GVPedia In the News

GVPedia continues its work to expand understanding and awareness of the impact of research and data on policy by working with the media to serve as a resource and expert voice. Below are GVPedia's contributions to the news media in 2021.

[“Weakening gun laws will only mean more bloodshed”](#), Orlando Sentinel

“The academic literature is clear: weaker gun laws increase crime. Homicide data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that states with permitless carry laws have seen a 5.1% increase in gun homicide rates annually, compared with a 1.2% annual increase for states without such laws. Kansas, Mississippi, and Missouri saw large surges in gun homicides after passing permitless carry.”

[“I Don't Want To Die: Kids and Guns”](#), The Gays Against Guns Show

“There have been multiple studies showing that a firearm in the home not only increases the risk of homicide, suicide, or an unintentional shooting for the gun owner, but everybody in the family, as well. That's one of the reasons why for children between the ages of five and fourteen in the United States, they're seventeen times more likely to be murdered by firearms than children in other high income countries.”

[“A decades-long coordinated misinformation campaign is headed to the Supreme Court”](#), Medium

*“If the Supreme Court is led astray by disinformation as it was more than a decade ago in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, discretionary Permit-to-Purchase laws — which are the most effective gun violence reducing laws that states can pass — could be ruled unconstitutional. Such an outcome would be devastating for public safety, the consequences of which will be measured in lives lost for decades to come.”*

[“Opinion: Gun violence is a public health crisis”](#), Street Roots

“The issue, Hughes said, is that 60% of Americans believe that they are safer with guns. For them, firearms are the solution to prevent violence. However, in reality, it is quite the opposite. “It is a myth that firearms make people safer,” Hughes said.”

[“How misinformation overturned California's assault weapons ban”](#), The Hill

“Misinformation is deadly. That has become acutely obvious in Judge Roger Benitez's ruling last week that overturned California's 1989 assault weapons ban, in which he argues defensive gun

use with an assault weapon “surely happens a lot” and “seems to be more common” than mass shootings with such weapons — both of which are blatant falsehoods.”

[“6 Bold Ideas for Gun Reform That Could Actually Happen”](#), Politico

“When asked about policies to combat gun violence beyond an assault weapons ban and background checks, gun violence prevention advocates often refer to the Denver Accord, a plan that came out of a 2019 conference hosted by gun violence research aggregator GVPedia. The accord includes some of the policy initiatives outlined here, and many more that could be pursued at every level of government — from the White House to city councils. Po Kim Murray, chair of Newtown Action Alliance, told me she hopes the Biden administration will embrace the Denver Accord. Merely by doing so, Biden could signal state and local activists that this is the roadmap they should follow.”

[“Newtown Action Alliance, CT lawmakers react to Boulder supermarket shooting”](#), Fox 61

“We have implored multiple Presidents, hundreds of members of Congress, governors, and state representatives to strengthen state and federal gun laws to end all forms of gun violence in America. Passing a comprehensive set of gun control laws outlined in GVPedia’s Denver Accord will keep our families and communities safe. Many states are working to strengthen their gun laws, but many are working to loosen them. Therefore, federal action is essential.”

[“The Deadly Toll of Myths”](#), Medium

“Misinformation is deadly. In the span of a week, 18 people have lost their lives in two high profile mass shootings because Americans have been deceived into believing that guns make us safer.”

Supporters and Partners

GVPedia would like to extend thanks to the following individuals and organizations:

Dr. Cassandra Crifasi

Evan DeFilippis

Mark Jones

[LEAP Forward](#)

[Texas Gun Sense](#)

James Timpson

Adam Skaggs

Adam Studdard

Shannon Van Esley

Nick Wilson

Board Members

Devin Hughes, President

Po Murray

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Beth Joslin Roth

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