

LIFE AFTER GUN VIOLENCE

Narratives of civilian gun violence survivorship in the US

09/11/2016

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Background: Currently, around 30,000 gun-related deaths and 80,000 gun-related injuries occur annually in the United States. Between 2001 and 2014, more than a million people (1,002,647) survived injuries resulting from firearms. Survivors of gun violence are sometimes associated with heroism in news headlines, while others may be shamed as criminals, but the more intimate survivorship issues of continuing disability and frequent medical care utilization are rarely ever brought to social light. Both media and the general public engage in mainstream rhetoric and divisive discussions; neither of which speak to the personal struggles that the victim must now endure. In addition, public discussions and policy decisions are frequently prompted by gun violence deaths. Yet with survivorship issues related to gun violence barely getting a mention in a communal forum, there is no way of telling if any of these policy decisions has truly made a positive difference in our country's struggle against gun violence for the individuals involved.

Project: Semi-structured interviews will be conducted to interview gun violence survivors and the family and friends of those affected. The interviews will be audio recorded and then transcribed. After transcription, the audio recording will be deleted. Each participant will sign a release form prior to the interview.

At the end of each interview, the participant will be requested to share an image or photograph that they personally believe is best representative of their life after gun violence. They will have up to 30 days after the interview for their submission. Along with the photo,

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each participant will share their written thoughts regarding the photo and any other additional information they would like to contribute.

All stories will be compiled into a collection and published as a book.

All the proceeds will be used to support gun violence survivors.

Institutional review board at Boston University approved the project [H-35616, 09/09/2016).