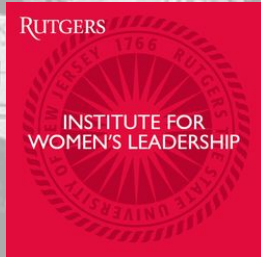


# Keep Gun Control on the Table: Stories of Women Affected by Gun Violence

A Social Action Project by Sarah Pomeranz  
May 7th, 2019





Institute for Women's Leadership

The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.

# Project Abstract

The goal of “Keep Gun Control on the Table” has been to collect female narratives pertaining to gun violence, explore women’s unique experiences and perspectives on gun safety and violence prevention, and raise awareness of actionable steps that can be taken to achieve common sense gun control. My primary objective of this project has been to engage women in order to shift the trajectory of the gun control issue, which has been moving further away from gun control, and bring it closer to gun safety initiatives. The outcome of these interviews will be the creation of a compilation of stories from women affected by gun violence, in the form of a testimonial book. The distribution of this book will contribute to the gun legislation conversation in an impactful way, amplify women’s voices and keep gun control on the table for years to come.

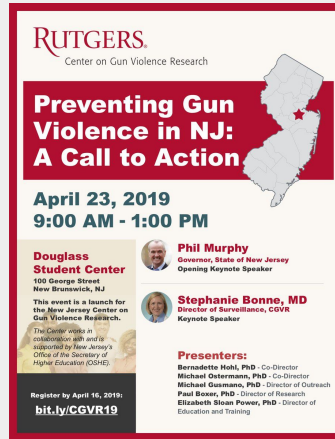
# Scope of Project

## Step 1: Research Approval



[Source: eIRB  
Rutgers University]

## Step 2: Acquire Interviewees and Build Partnerships



[Source: Rutgers Twitter]

## Step 3: Interview Women and Collect Narratives



[Source: Thrive Global]

# Partnerships





# Demographics of the Interviewees

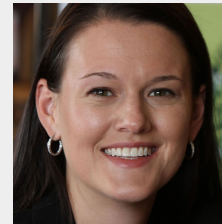
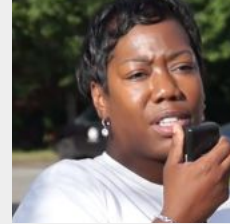
Interviews Completed: 6

Future Interviews Scheduled: 10+

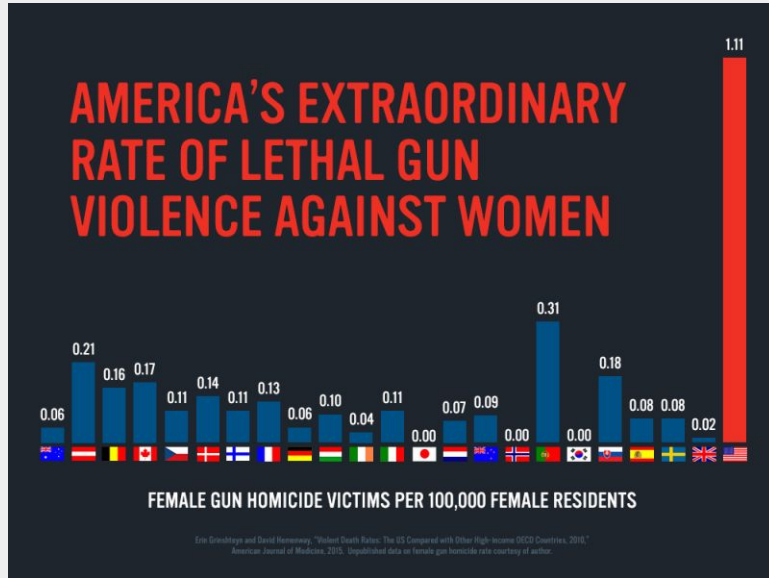
Home States of Interviewees: 8+

Organization Affiliation: Safe Horizon, Black Lives Matter, Rutgers Veteran Services, Everytown, University of Michigan, NJ Survivors Network, Brady Project

Racial Diversity, Age Diversity and Varying Relationships to Gun Violence Prevention



# Guns and Gender

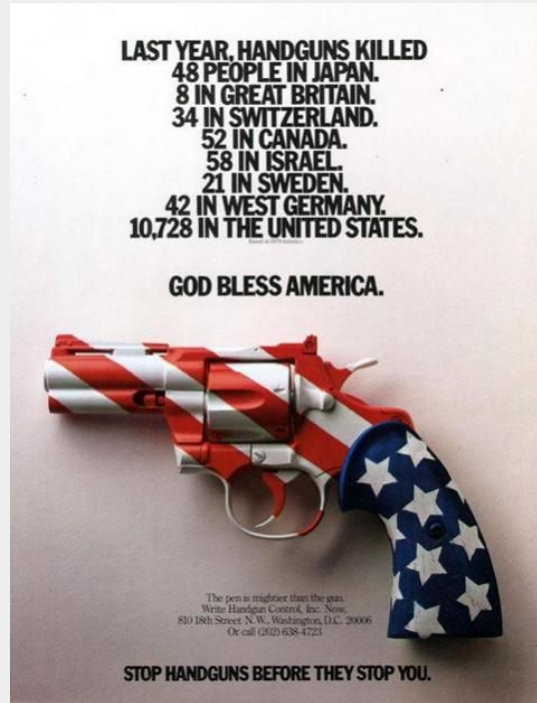


[Source: HAWC]

- To read any set of statistics about guns in the United States is to read about men (Carlson, 2018)
- For decades, women have been far more likely than men to favor gun control, but considerably less likely than men to do anything to further their preferences (Stucky, 2008).
- Women who see gun control as a child safety issue were more likely to participate in the Million Mom March and participate more fully than those who saw it as a crime control issue (Piepenbrock, 2014)

# Role of Culture

Guns and gun ownership are as core to American values as religious freedom for many people and there are no other developed countries on the planet with nearly as many guns as we have here in the United States. (Price, 2014)



[Source: Harper West]

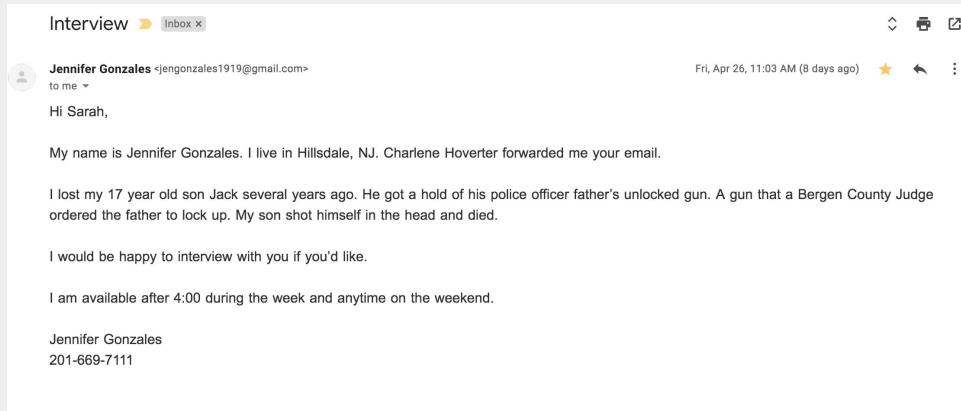
“I have an older brother who has a few guns and likes to hunt and his opinion is that he should be allowed to have any weapon that the military has because it's in our Constitution”

-Anne Treadaway



# Interpersonal Violence

About 4.5 million U.S. women have had an intimate partner threaten them with a gun and nearly 1 million have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner. (Sorenson, 2018)



**5x**

**ACCESS TO A GUN IN A DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SITUATION MAKES  
IT FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY  
THAT A WOMAN WILL BE KILLED.**

[Source: everytownresearch.org]

# Accounting for Intersectionality

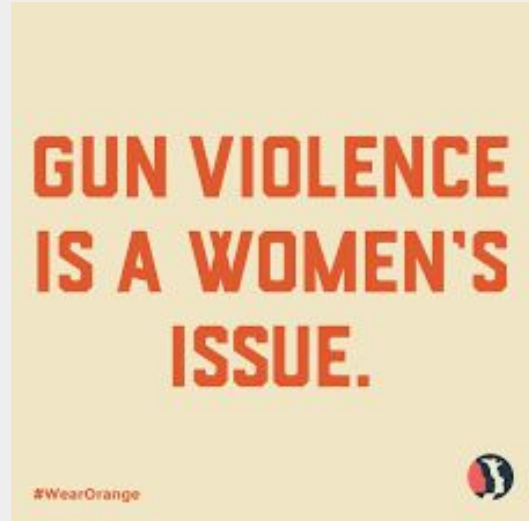
“With criminal justice being very racially biased...if you make guns illegal then you give police another reason to put black man in jail... the way that black women get affected by gun violence is profound. I mean it kills their sons, and it puts their partners in jail and leave them to be single parents.”- Dr. Stephanie Bonne



[Source: NPR.org]

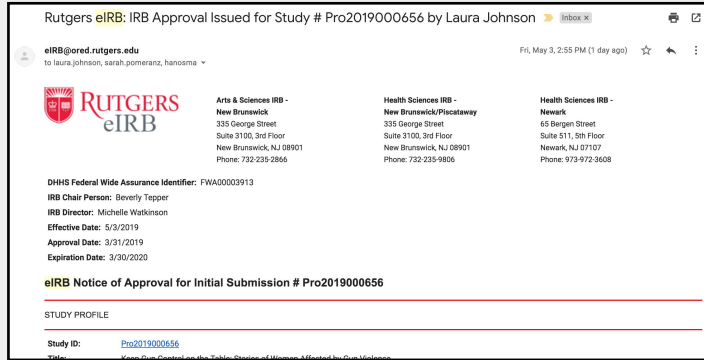
# Key Takeaways

- The importance of language (gun control, DV)
- Normalize guns in conversation
- Gun violence is a preventable public health issue
- Vote for pro-gun safety elected officials and speak with people from other parts of the country
- Research your state's gun laws
- Account for Intersectional Issues
- “Hurting People, Hurt People”
- Gun violence has a ripple effect



[Source: Women's March Twitter]

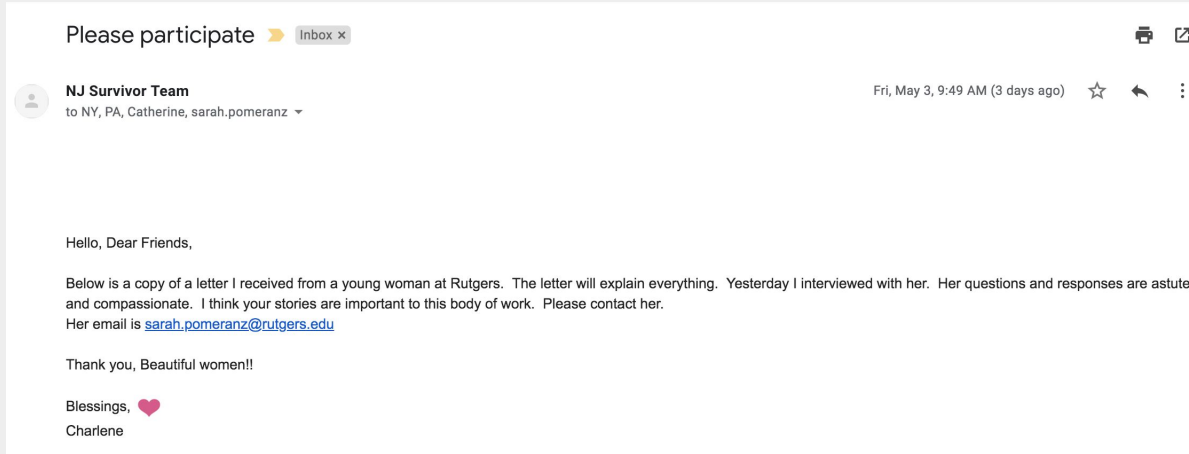
# Lessons Learned About Women's Leadership



- Resilience is key
- Self Awareness
  - Team Based Work
  - IRB Process
- Listen First, Hold Nuance
- Joining the Family that No One Wants to Join
  - My personal connection



# Current Impact and Next Phases of the Project



Summer 2019- Finish Interviewing Remaining Interviewees

Fall 2019- Compile, Edit, Print and Distribute Testimonial Book

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