**Title**: Pattern of firearm injuries in a tertiary care center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

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**ABSTRACT**

**OBJECTIVE**: Gunshot wounds (GSW) are becoming ubiquitous in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as insecurity worsens and organized crime groups proliferate; yet gunshot wounds remain uncharacterized. This study describes the burden and epidemiology of GSW in patients seen in the emergency department (ED) of the largest public tertiary care center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**METHODOLOGY**: Data was collected from ED logbooks at the Hôpital de l’Université d’Etat d'Haïti between November 2019 to and December 2020. A reference group was defined as patients visiting the ED for any cause other than a GSW. Wilcoxon rank sum test was used to compare the age of patients with GSW to the reference group.Odds ratios were calculated for select triage levels of patients with GSW compared to the reference group.Descriptive statistics were calculated for the arrival time, sex, injury patterns, and ED outcomes of GSW patients.

**RESULTS**: 342 patients with GSW were identified, representing 4% of all ED visits. Patients with GSW (median age 30) were younger than other ED patients (p = 0.0004).  GSW patients were triaged higher than the reference group (Red OR = 2.65, 95% CI 1.70 - 3.97; Orange OR = 2.05, 95% CI 1.63 - 2.57). GSW patients were predominantly male (80%), and were evenly distributed between day and night shifts (55% and 45%, respectively). Most patients were admitted to the general surgery (71%) and orthopedics (17%) services . When injury location was specified (n = 204), the most common locations were the limbs (55%) and head and neck (23%).

**CONCLUSION**:Our findings show that young males are disproportionately affected by GSW in Haiti. The occurrence of gunshots are not time-of-day specific and therefore warrant surgical capabilities at all times. Understanding the epidemiology of GSW injuries is important for the development of facility care delivery pathways and effective national prevention programs.