



# #YesAllWomen

The Daily Beast

**#CAUTION** 05.27.14 8:35 PM ET



Emily Shire  


## #YesAllWomen Has Jumped the Shark

The #YesAllWomen hashtag has seen a remarkable, and valuable outpouring from women highlighting many forms of misogyny. But it's being capsized by trivial tweeters, and can we be sure misogyny was the root of Elliot Rodger's actions?

It's official. #YesAllWomen isn't just a hashtag; it's a social media movement—and an incredibly popular one at that. #YesAllWomen was created in response to University of California, Santa Barbara killer Elliot Rodger and his misogyny-filled manifesto and videos. Days after the shooting, #YesAllWomen has continued to trend on Twitter, inspiring women and men to share deeply poignant, vulnerable sentiments about sexual assault, domestic abuse, and modern-day manifestations of misogyny.

#YesAllWomen began as a small but beautiful silver lining to a horrific act of violence, but it has its dangers. Sasha Weiss of the *New Yorker* praised #YesAllWomen as the “vibrant revenge of women who have been gagged and silenced.” In many ways, this is true. #YesAllWomen has led to an outpouring of simultaneously enlightening and disturbing examples of common-day occurrences of female harassment in the workplace and world of dating. These, in turn, have inspired a number of men to tweet out their support and recognition of the dangers and double standards that misogyny has wrought.

However, #YesAllWomen also transformed a highly disturbed, socially isolated college student into a figure somehow worthy of legitimate discourse about the serious issues of misogyny. While it is inspiring to see positive conscious-

raising tweets about the female experience come out of a national tragedy, there is also something dangerous about taking a deranged 22-year-old at his words. We don't know what exactly drove Rodger to violence, and we can't conclude that misogyny over mental illness or social rejection was the root cause. This is by no means a defense of Rodger, but a reminder of the deeply grave, disturbing, and complex circumstances that gave rise to #YesAllWomen.

These problems are only exacerbated as the #YesAllWomen movement grows. More members of the Twittersverse are coopting the hashtag and attaching it to concerns that seem relatively trivial. The perilousness of ubiquity with a hashtag—or any buzzword, for that matter—is that people can too easily forget its origin. #YesAllWomen began as a way to somehow find empowerment and positivity after a brutal murder in which a gunman killed six people and then himself. You wouldn't think people needed to be reminded of those horrific details, but some of the tweets suggest otherwise.

For example, there are multiple tweets that are variations of “#YesAllWomen because I've never seen a hot husband with a fat wife on a sitcom.” The gender norms and unfair female body standards perpetuated on television are important to recognize and challenge. However, do they really belong in a discussion inspired by a mass murder? Or let's temporarily forget about something as extreme as the massacre that spawned #YesAllWomen. Lena Dunham used #YesAllWomen to share her experience of being physically threatened in high school by a boy she romantically rejected. Do sitcoms featuring attractive wives with shlubby guys warrant the same level of concern as a story of physical intimidation for being a woman? Grouping them both under #YesAllWomen indicates they do.

Another issue that has been tweeted out multiple times under #YesAllWomen are complaints about women being told to smile. Again, this is an annoyance and a reflection of a double standard against women. It is serious in its own way, but it is a rather large stretch to call it an example of misogyny.

The farther #YesAllWomen moves from the UCSB shootings, the greater the risk there is for people to appropriate it and make it about themselves rather than the original goals of making people aware of the serious threats one faces just for being a woman in 2014 America. A tweet like “#YesAllWomen Because even when your profile says you're a lesbian you still get hit on by men on online dating sites! What even means no?!” seems like a relatively petty self-serving rant compared to some of the far more serious tweets about assault, violence, or even the basic fear of being a woman walking alone at night.

It is troublesome to assume Rodger's murders were guided by misogyny, and it becomes even more troublesome when we try to cram so many things under the umbrella of what counts as misogyny. There are many legitimate issues related to feminism and the female experience in need of greater attention, but buying that attention by tying them to a tragic national murder is somewhat crass and deceitful.

The examples mentioned above aren't the majority of the tweets, but they also aren't even the most egregious misappropriations. In my searches so far that

honor would go to:



deannazandt • 18 months ago

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When we're captioning Instagram photos of our nails with #YesAllWomen, the movement has jumped the shark.

I pick on these "bad" examples because although #YesAllWomen is an

imperfect social media movement, it has the potential to translate the inspirational stories people have been brave enough to share into positive changes in the treatment of women.

But if #YesAllWomen wants to have a life outside of Twitter and actually inspire people to act, rather than merely tweet, then it shouldn't be slapped onto so many things. Otherwise, it runs the risk of losing its meaning.

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**MOOLAH** 12.07.15 7:30 PM ET



Dean Obeidallah

# Trump Only Loves Rich Muslims Who Give Him Money

They're mostly in the Gulf, and they have a ton of money, and they're sending some of it The Donald's way. But what else are they up to?

Donald Trump clearly has issues with Muslims. The latest example is his vow to ban all Muslim immigration to the United States, declaring he wants a "total

and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on." Before that Trump had called for depriving American Muslims of civil liberties simply because of their faith by way of warrantless surveillance of Muslim Americans, And he has even gone as far as to indict all Muslims by declaring recently that "worldwide the Muslims were absolutely going wild" cheering on 9/11.

But there's one type of Muslim Trump really loves: The ones that make him big bucks. You see, if a Muslim can show Trump the money, then all those concerns he has with Muslims go right out the window of his private jet as he jets off to the Gulf to cash in.

For example, Trump loves Hussain Sajwani, head of the Dubai luxury real estate company Damac Properties. Trump has called the Muslim Sajwani a "good friend" and a "great man," among other accolades. And in May 2014, The Donald even flew off to Dubai to spend time with his Muslim friend as they announced the massive real-estate project they were teaming up to create in that Gulf state.

And when I say massive project, I mean Trump-style "yuge!" This 42-million square foot development (the Pentagon is 6-million square feet) includes 104 villas and mansions that begin at more than \$1 million U.S. dollars and climb to over \$10 million a pop. The development also boasts the "Trump World Golf Club," which Trump has described as a course that "will be bigger and better and stronger" than any other in the region. Interestingly, Trump has used almost identical words to describe how the U.S. military will look if he's elected.



So how did Sajwani get Trump to forget that Muslims "worldwide" celebrated on 9/11? Simple, Sajwani paid Trump enough money to go from a scary Muslim to "great guy."

As Sajwani explained to the Dubai media, "We went to see him [Trump] and he



signed with us.” While Sajwani refused to reveal the exact dollar amount Trump was paid, it must be big given that the Trump-named golf course has been dubbed the “centerpiece” of the project, complete with a luxury spa, restaurants, stores, etc. And just a few months ago, “Trump Private Mansions” went on sale starting north of \$1 million dollars each and are being touted as “the most distinguished address in Dubai” with a view “overlooking the Trump International Championship” golf course.

While no one can find video of “thousands and thousands” of Muslims cheering on 9/11 in New Jersey as Trump claim happened, there’s plenty of video of Trump chilling with his Muslim BFF Sajwani. You can see the two laughing it up at the 2014 press conference in Dubai, riding in Trump’s special golf cart and posing for cameras as Trump gives a big thumbs up while praising Sajwani and Dubai.

Now while this may not trouble Trump, Sajwani was convicted in 2011 in an Egyptian court for getting an illegal sweetheart deal from an Egyptian government minister to buy government land he wanted to develop. Sajwani, who was tried in absentia, was sentenced to five years in prison, and the government minister who sold him the land was imprisoned for the crime of “squandering public funds.” Ultimately, however, the criminal conviction was “settled” in 2013 after a more receptive Egyptian government came to power.

But putting aside the criminal issue of Trump’s business partner, there are still questions about the working conditions for the migrant workers building these Trump homes. As most know, the working conditions for the migrant construction employees in Dubai can be horrific. Workers have been required to work 14-plus hour days in over 100 degree weather and live in barely habitable conditions.

**Will some Republicans and the media want more details about Trump’s Middle East deals and assurance that none of his business partners have made contributions directly, or indirectly, to terrorist groups?**

In fact, at the 2014 press conference in Dubai announcing this project, a reporter from VICE asked about this issue point blank: “Mr. Trump, the workers who build your villas make less than \$200 a month. Are you satisfied?” People in the room reportedly gasped at the question. Trump refused to answer, instead remaining stone-faced. The project’s publicist then told the reporter, “That’s not an appropriate question.”

But wealthy people in Dubai aren’t the only Muslims Trump adores. His company is presently looking at “multiple opportunities in Abu Dhabi, in Qatar, in Saudi Arabia.”

Trump teaming up with Saudi Arabia and Qatar is especially surprising given Trump’s purported concerns about Muslim terrorists. After all, 15 of the 19

hijackers who attacked America on 9/11 and killed nearly 3,000 Americans came from Saudi. Plus we all know about Saudi's policies of oppression of women, even banning them from driving.

And the government in Qatar has in the past publicly funded the terrorist group Hamas and even allowed Hamas leader Khaled Meshal to live in the small Gulf country. But when big money is in play, Trump seems to ignore these issues.

I wonder how Trump palling around with Muslims in Saudi Arabia and Qatar will play with the GOP base? Will some Republicans and the media want more details about Trump's Middle East deals and assurance that none of his business partners have made contributions directly, or indirectly, to terrorist groups? (Hamas is not even labeled a terrorist group in Dubai.) so his partners could have legally supported the group.) Will they at least want to know if any of Trump's Muslim business partners were cheering on 9/11? And does Trump's avowed ban on Muslims entering the United States also apply to his wealthy business partners?

Maybe they won't care. Trump is the consummate salesman so maybe they understand that Trump would say one thing to Muslims he's courting for their money and another to American voters he's courting for their votes. After all, telling potential buyers what they want to hear is just good business.

Regardless of their reaction, the lesson for Muslim Americans is simple. If we want Trump to like us, we simply need to make it worth his while financially. Anyone want to join in me in starting a "huge" Kickstarter campaign to raise the money we need to get Trump to call us "good friends"?



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HOLIDATA 12.03.15 12:00 AM ET

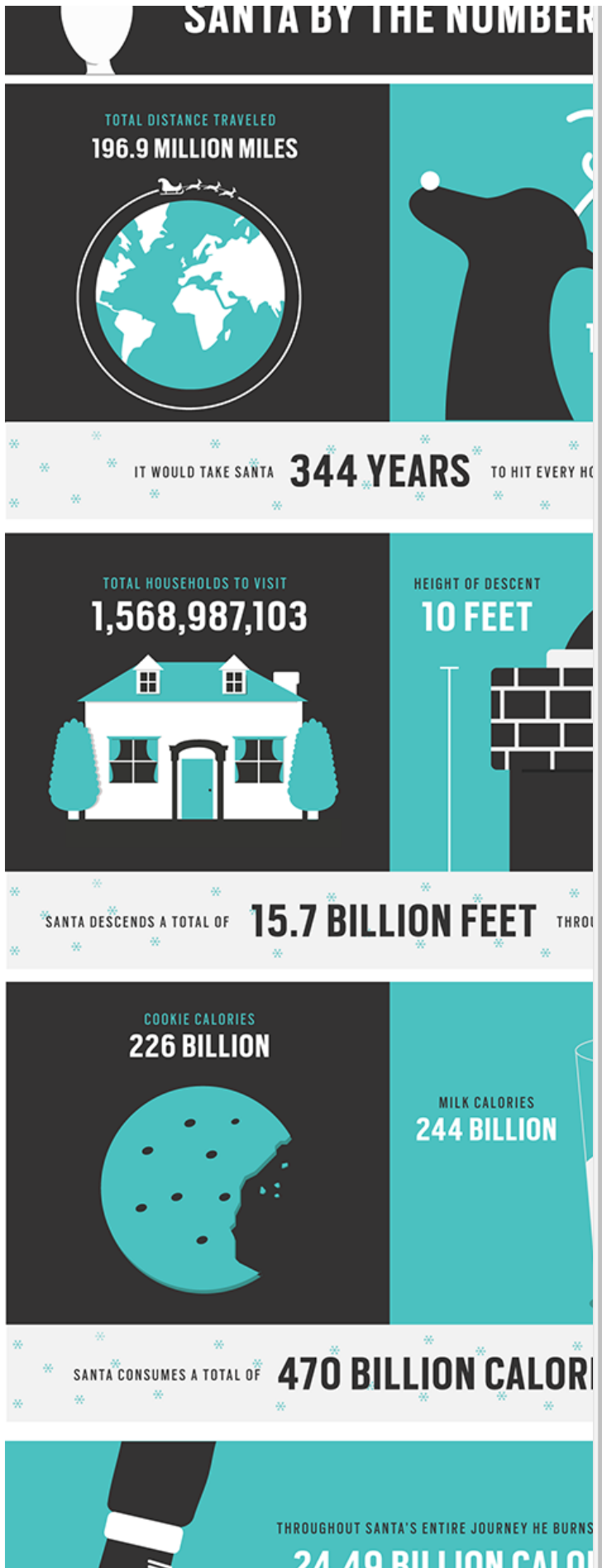
# A Day in the Life of Santa: The Man and The Myth

We looked at a day in the life of the magical Kris Kringle himself versus the not-so-magical but equally spirited mall Santa by the numbers.

presented by  fitbit.

There are a few enduring questions for skeptical Santa Claus truthers. For instance, how does he get around the world in 24 hours? Does he *actually* eat all those cookies and drink all that milk? And does he have a permit for those reindeers?







According to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), which has been tracking him for 60 years now, Santa has time to burn off the calories. After all, he doesn't *really* travel around the world in 24 hours.

"His trip seems to take 24 hours to us, but to Santa it might last days, weeks or even months," says a NORAD fact sheet, concluding that this must mean that, "Santa somehow functions within his own time-space continuum."

This might seem like NORAD just can't admit what they don't know (Santa physics!), but supposing this is true, it still leaves a number of questions. So, here's a bit of math:

Suppose that all 2 billion children in the roughly 1,568,987,103 households in the world somehow find redemption before the holiday season and get their names on the "Nice list" earning a spot on Santa's holiday itinerary. To reach all those houses, Santa would have to cover about 196.9 million miles, or the entire surface area of Earth.

Once Santa and his sleigh are in the air, the reindeer do the bulk of the work. Let's say most of the houses he visits are a story tall. That's a 15.7 billion-foot climb, but to stack the odds in his favor, we'll say he can go as fast as world speed climbing champion Danylo Boldyrev at a rate of 8.76 feet per second. Very fast, but Santa would still be clocking in a lot of overtime—4.9 million hours to be exact, or 560 years.

Santa  
theoretically  
consumes  
roughly 226  
billion  
calories in  
cookies  
alone.

Working against Santa's cross (continental) fit regimen are the sugary offerings of 2 billion grateful children, which we'll equate to roughly 226 billion calories. Factor in the milk—we'll use 2%—and that's another 244 billion calories, or 470 billion calories total.

How does this, err, heavy caloric intake balance out against the benefits of chimney-climbing? With that exercise, Santa would burn a whopping 4.46 billion calories—but still not enough to beat out the dangers of a few million freshly baked snickerdoodles. The only way Santa has a chance of being able to fit into his iconic red suit next year?

He'll need to ditch the sled and walk his route which would take 49 million hours and burn about 20.3 billion calories.

Those are the numbers for the myth—sorry, kids, the legend—but what about the man? Or, more accurately, the men? Every year, hundreds of people dress

up as Santa to bring a little bit of joy into children's lives. "Santa RG," as he's known in the mall Santa world, is one of them.

With  
backtracking and  
hiding from  
children with  
insomnia, Santa  
covers about  
196.9 million  
miles, or the  
entire surface  
area of the Earth.

RG is employed through the Noerr Programs, a company that specializes in dispatching Santas nationwide, and is currently based in that classic winter wonderland, Austin, TX. This will be his ninth year as a mall Santa, but his history as St. Nick began in 1981. "It was kind of an accident, I really kind of got drafted into it," RG says. "But I tell you, the first time some kid came running across the clubhouse and jumped in my lap and hugged my neck, I was hooked."

The holiday season can get pretty busy for a mall Santa, with the day starting around 8 or 9 AM and sometimes stretching until 10 PM. "I give a lot of consideration to my health," RG says. "I try to get adequate rest, eat a good breakfast, take vitamins and minerals and supplements, and I do some mental preparation usually when I first get up."

When it's particularly busy, RG says he loses count of how many children visit him every day, but thinks the numbers reach into the hundreds. He normally takes about four breaks per day to walk around, about 800 yards (or, roughly 960 steps) to and from the dressing area on average. He'll occasionally also walk around and interact with passersby at the edge of the set. All told, a whole day might involve anywhere from half a mile to a mile of walking (that's about 2,112 to 3,168 steps), averaging about 100 calories burned just during breaks. It's a far cry from the official Santa's workout, but RG works just as hard at providing care and attention to the children who visit him: "Except for the break time," RG says, "I'm there in the chair waiting, talking to children."

For RG, who has a background working in child welfare, the kids make it all worth it. He loves working with them and listening to their requests. And these days, it's *Star Wars* and Disney princesses. No surprise there: according to the NPD Group, the Disney movie *Frozen* had over 300 different types of toys and sold made \$513 million in 2014. There are 96 different types of *Star Wars* toys in the Hasbro Force Friday catalog alone, and most of those are action figures.

RG has noticed that recently, though, many children aren't only concerned with toys. Rather, they'll ask after the wellbeing of others. "They'll be asking more for happy Christmas for children that are less fortunate," RG says, "or what really gets me is they'll ask for their family to be safe and happy and together at Christmas."

Even though a mall Santa might not be putting in the same number of hours as the "real" Santa, his work is just as important. And, after the holidays are over,

he'll have almost as much work to do to get into shape for next year.



*Randy Holmes/ABC via Getty Images*



RESILIENCE 12.07.15 8:25 PM ET

Matt  
Wilstein

## Eagles of Death Metal Make Powerful Comeback at U2's Paris Concert

Less than a month after their Paris concert became the target of a terrorist massacre, Eagles of Death Metal made a triumphant return to the City of Light alongside U2.

When gunmen [stormed the Bataclan theatre](#) in Paris during an [Eagles of Death Metal](#) show last month, leaving 89 people killed and many more injured, the members of U2 were not far away, rehearsing for a two-night concert that was set to kick off the following evening in that city. Out of respect for the victims, U2 ended up postponing those shows and a planned broadcast on HBO. And when they returned to Paris this weekend, the event took on a whole new level of resonance.

Rumors began to fly over the next few days that Eagles of Death Metal would be performing alongside U2 at the AccorHotels Arena, but during the first of two shows on Sunday, the band's "special guest" was Patti Smith, who [joined the band for the final song of the night](#) for a performance of her protest anthem "People Have the Power."



*Irish band U2 performs on stage at the Bercy Accorhotels Arena in Paris on December 6, 2015. (Thomas Samson/AFP/Getty Images)*

It turned out U2 was saving the emotional fireworks for Monday night's show, which was broadcast on HBO just hours after it ended in Paris.

"These are our brothers, our fellow troubadours and they were robbed of their stage, so we'd like to offer them ours tonight," Bono said toward the end of the concert. Once again, U2 closed their multi-song encore with Smith's "People Have The Power," but this time Eagles of Death Metal performed side-



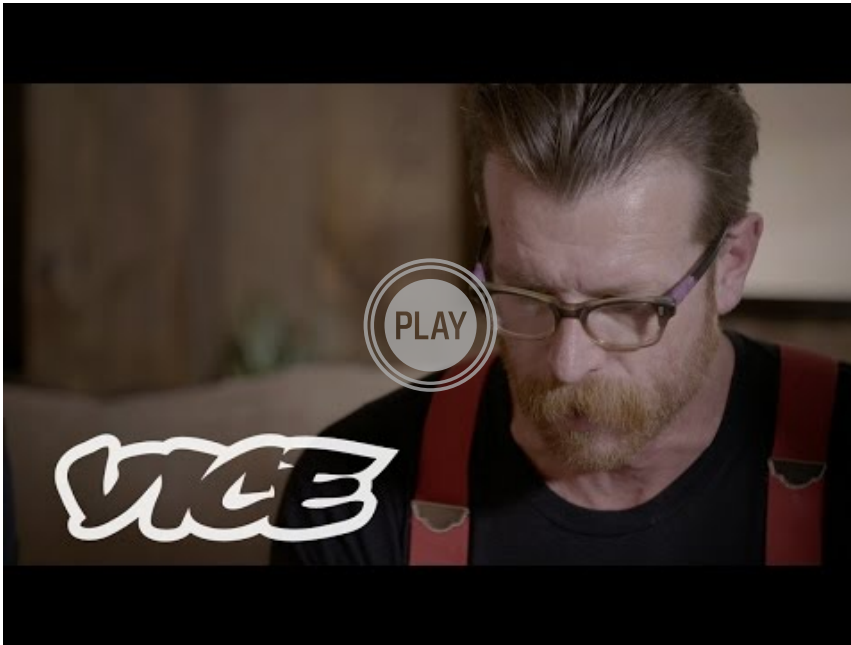
by-side with them. Then, Bono and crew stepped aside, literally giving over their stage to the band that was denied by terrorists a chance to finish their concert at the Bataclan.



The night ended with the most meaningful version of Eagles of Death Metal's "I Love You All the Time" that the band has likely ever performed, with more than 20,000 people cheering for their resilience.

Just days after the Paris attacks, Eagles of Death Metal frontman Jesse Hughes, who was onstage at the Bataclan, co-founder Josh Homme, who had chosen to skip the European tour, and other members of the band [sat down with Vice](#) to discuss what happened.

"People were playing dead, and they were so scared," Hughes said. "A great reason why so many were killed is because so many people wouldn't leave their friends, and so many people put themselves in front of people."



Following tonight's concert, Eagles of Death Metal posted a photo and personal message to U2 on the band's official social media channels.



**EaglesOfDeathMetal**  
@EODMofficial

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Our heartfelt thanks to @U2 & the wonderful people of Paris tonight: [facebook.com/eaglesofdeathm...](https://www.facebook.com/eaglesofdeathm...)

Photo: @Bruno\_Fraioli

5:53 PM - 7 Dec 2015

1,524      2,498

“We want to offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for everything our

brothers in U2 did for us in the aftermath of the November 13 attacks,” the band wrote on Facebook. “They reminded us that the bad guys never take a day off, and therefore we rock ‘n rollers cannot either...and we never will. We are incredibly grateful to U2 for providing us the opportunity to return to Paris so quickly, and to share in the healing power of rock ‘n roll with so many of the beautiful people – nos amis – of this great city.”

“Thank you to Bono, The Edge, Larry and Adam, thank you to their wonderful management, thank you to France, and thank you to everyone in the world who continues to prove that love, joy, and music will always overcome terror and evil,” they continued. “We look forward to fighting the good fight on many more fronts very soon, especially when we pick up our tour in 2016. See you again in February, Paris.”

Over the next three days, Eagles of Death Metal is scheduled to play concerts in Barcelona, Madrid and Lisbon.



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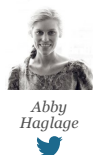


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Sergio Moraes/Reuters

**FOLLOW THE SSS** 12.04.15 2:06 AM ET



## Why No One Is Researching Gun Violence Prevention

It's not the threat of the NRA, says one of the tiny pool of aging researchers, but a lack of funds stymying study that could help reduce future massacres like San Bernardino.

There are fewer than 20 researchers in America studying the cause of firearm violence—which kills five times that many people every day.

It's a byproduct of a 1996 bill passed by Congress, the Dickey Amendment, which eliminated \$2.6 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's budget, the exact amount it was using to study gun ownership. When the money was later restored, a clause was added mandating that it not be used to "advocate for or against gun control."

Although the CDC's research until then had been independent and not meant to advocate for gun control, the results had been damning. Many believe it was a 1993 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that inspired the National Rifle Association to pressure Congress to pass the Dickey Amendment. The study found a "strong" association between guns in homes and an increased risk of homicide.

For 17 years, the command went virtually unchallenged. That looked poised to change in 2013 when, disturbed by the Sandy Hook massacre, President Obama issued more than 23 executive orders relating to gun use in the United States. One directed the CDC to "research the causes and prevention

of gun violence.”

The memorandum gave the CDC the authority to research gun violence but not the funds. In the two years since, the money needed to conduct research on guns is nowhere to be found.

Dr. Fred Rivara was one of the first researchers to study gun violence prevention in the mid-1980s and was a corresponding author on the 1993 *NEJM* study that prompted the Dickey Amendment.

After decades without government support or outside funding, he’s one of the few gun researchers left.

Rivara sounded discouraged when I reached him on the phone. For a man who foresaw the danger of guns six years before Columbine, it’s not hard to understand why. “It’s incredibly frustrating,” he said of the San Bernardino massacre. “I think what’s really frustrating is that there’s no end in sight. None of us believe that right now there’s going to be any reason why we won’t have more of these incidents, because nothing’s been done.”

The president has requested \$10 million from Congress for gun violence prevention research in 2016. It is the same amount he asked for in 2014 and 2013, of which he received \$0.

It’s not the threat of the NRA, says one of the tiny pool of aging researchers, but a lack of funds stymying study that could help reduce future massacres like San Bernardino.

The money is part of an initiative he created called the Now Is the Time, which aims to “equip Americans with needed information.”

Under the auspices of the initiative, Obama asked the Institute of Medicine and The Research Council to develop a research agenda to figure out which areas of study should be targeted—and whether they would make a difference. The committee concluded that “significant progress” could be made in reducing gun violence in as few as three to five years of research.

Alan Leshner, chairman of the study’s committee and CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said the agenda had the potential to enact positive change. “Although this research agenda is an initial, not all-encompassing set of questions, it could help better define the causes and prevention of firearm violence,” he said. “Similar approaches to public health problems have produced successes in lowering tobacco use, accidental poisoning, and motor vehicle fatalities.”

It’s the motor vehicle example that Rivara points to as a parallel to gun violence prevention research. “Motor vehicle crashes per mile driven have decreased dramatically over the last 50 years,” he said. He is correct. In the last 10 years

alone, driving fatalities have dropped by 25 percent. Now, in at least 17 states, you're more likely to get killed by a gun than a car.

The dramatic reduction, he said, is due to a combination of vigorous research and an agency that can enforce regulations. It's the first one, he said, that's missing in guns. "Researching your testing solutions is key," he said. "We haven't had the funds to test a lot of interventions."

Rivera disputed the suggestion that the NRA has scared researchers out of studying gun prevention. That idea is "incorrect," he said. It's the lack of money, not the threat of the NRA, that's left a tiny pool of people like him. Most of the 15 to 20 researchers who are still performing small studies on gun prevention—like Rivara—are in their 60s. That's something the group has been trying to change.

Recruiting young researchers for an issue there is no money to research has been difficult, and Rivara said he is running out of hope. He's tired of watching the same scene unfold, and he said he thinks the president seems to be, too. "You can hear it in Obama's voice, he's incredibly frustrated," he said. "He's tired of going to mass funerals, and he can't do more than he already has."

Adding an extra layer of frustration is the news that the Arkansas congressman behind the 1996 bill that blocked funding, Jay Dickey, has "regrets" about spearheading it. "I wish we had started the proper research and kept it going all this time," Dickey said recently. Rivara suggested the timing of the statement negates its power.

"It sort of reminds me of Robert McNamara saying he regretted the Vietnam War," he said. "It's too little, too late."



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