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Reducing Gun Violence in America

Webster, Daniel W., Vernick, Jon S., Bloomberg, Michael R.

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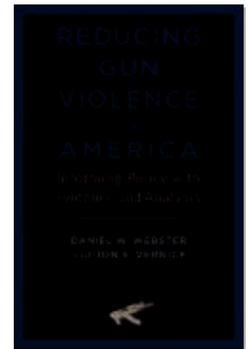
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Acknowledgments

This book—published in only ten days—would be nothing more than an ambitious wish without the extraordinary efforts of many people.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels, who, in the wake of the Newtown tragedy, urged us to seize the moment and bring the depth and rigor of empirical research to one of the most complex and fractious issues our country has ever faced. His leadership and vision epitomize the spirit of Johns Hopkins and our obligation to spread knowledge beyond the realm of academe and into the streets, where everyday citizens live the public health challenges we study.

We are grateful also to Dean Michael Klag of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, who has been an unflagging supporter of the Center for Gun Policy and Research for many years, even and especially when public attention for our research was in short supply. His enthusiastic support for the Summit and the book proved essential to making both a reality.

A few days before the December holidays, we contacted more than twenty of the world's top experts on gun policy, some scattered around the globe, and asked them to present their research and experience at a January summit

that would inform important policy decisions and to write chapters for a companion volume that would be published the same month. These colleagues and friends—many of whom have devoted their careers to the study of violence and gun policy—answered the call without hesitation, interrupting family time during the holidays to join us in this important work.

We appreciate the valuable guidance provided by Stephen Teret, the founding director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, in addition to his important chapter in the book. Thank you to Alicia Samuels, our Center’s communications director, for ensuring the outcomes of this Summit reached key audiences. We are also grateful to the work of the many Center faculty who contributed valuable chapters to the book. And we are in awe of Colleen Barry’s and Emma McGinty’s exceptional effort to design and carry out a survey of public opinion on gun policy of such exceptional depth and quality during the first two weeks of January 2013.

Our sincere thanks to New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, whose powerful opening remarks at the Johns Hopkins Summit on Reducing Gun Violence in America inspired courage and conviction. We are likewise grateful to Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, who cleared his calendar to speak at the Summit in the opening days of the legislative session.

Our colleagues at the Bloomberg School rose to the considerable challenge of organizing a high-profile event with short notice. We express our deepest gratitude to Josh Else, Jim Yager, Jane Schlegel, Felicity Turner, Susan Sperry, and Susan Murrow, who set aside the considerable demands of their daily work to make the Summit happen, along with their colleagues David Croft, Brian Simpson, Lauren Haney, Chip Hickey, Rachel Howard, Scott Klein, Ross McKenzie, Robert Ollinger, Tim Parsons, Maryalice Yakutchik, Mike Smith, Jackie Powder Frank, John Replogle, Yolanda Tillett, Alyssa Vetro, and Natalie Wood-Wright. And thank you to the countless other faculty, staff, and students for their support and interest in our work.

We received incredible support from our colleagues on the Homewood Campus, especially Lois Chiang, Glenn Bieler, Tom Lewis, Eileen Fader, Dennis O’Shea, and Jill Williams. They, along with their colleagues Beth Felder, Melisa Lindamood, Dave Alexander, Doug Behr, Lauren Custer, Lisa DeNike, Amy Lunday, Erin Oglesby, Tracey Reeves, Greg Rienzi, Hilary Roxe, Tricia Schellenbach, Gus Sentementes, Glenn Simmons, Phil Sneiderman, and others, demonstrated the spirit of “One Hopkins” by traveling between various campuses and offices to get the job done.

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Our deepest thanks go to our families, who sustain us and support this important work.

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