

American Association of Suicidology Condemns NRA Tweet

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-- Scientists and the broader gun
owning community should work
together to solve the problems of gun
violence in general and gun suicide in
particular. The gun lobby can best

serve its constituents by supporting this alliance, advocating for substantially increased funding
for gun violence prevention research, accurately reporting the robust and undeniable association
between firearm access and death by suicide, and promoting safe storage.



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Dr. Michael Anestis

Amidst news of the latest mass shooting, the National Rifle
Association [tweeted](#) that “self-important doctors” should
“stay in their lane” on the issue of reducing gun violence.
They further stated that doctors conducting gun violence
research appear to have consulted “NO ONE but
themselves.” The American Association of Suicidology
condemns this divisive and inaccurate statement.

“What American firearm owners need is for the NRA to
focus its energy on promoting the science of gun violence
prevention rather than pitting scientists and gun owners
against one another,” said Michael Anestis, PhD, Associate
Professor, School of Psychology, University of Southern

Mississippi and Co-chair of AAS’s Firearms and Suicide Committee.

Half of all American suicide deaths – approximately 23,000 each year – result from firearms and
nearly two out of every three gun deaths in America is a suicide. Doctors across professions –
medicine, psychology, psychiatry, public health, social work, and more – have devoted their
careers to understanding the causes of and solutions to this problem. Not only are some of
those doctors gun owners themselves, but their work reaches out directly to gun owners.
Implying otherwise does nothing but promote unfounded skepticism towards science, which
weakens perhaps our greatest tool in fighting the scourge of gun violence.

For more information on the association between firearms and suicide, [click here](#) to read the
American Association of Suicidology’s position statement.

Media inquiries can be directed to Michael Anestis, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of
Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi and Co-chair of AAS’s Firearms and Suicide
Committee (michael.anestis@usm.edu).

For the Media: Responsible reporting on suicide, including stories of hope and resilience, can
prevent more suicides. Please visit the [Reporting on Suicide guidelines](#) for more information.

About AAS: Founded in 1968 by Edwin S. Shneidman, PhD, AAS promotes suicide as a research
discipline, public awareness programs, public education and training for professionals and

volunteers. The membership of AAS includes mental health and public health professionals, researchers, suicide prevention and crisis intervention centers, school districts, crisis center volunteers, survivors of suicide loss, attempt survivors, and a variety of lay persons who have in interest in suicide prevention. You can learn more about AAS at www.suicidology.org and www.aas365.org.

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