



knowledge changing life

Guns and Gun Violence

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Background

Gun violence has created a large impact on communities, families, and the majority youth. 15,549 people were killed by guns in the United States in 2017. This combined with recent tragedies such as the Las Vegas and Florida shootings has caused a shift of the scientific community towards analyzing the causality behind the prevalence of gun violence in this country.

Aims

The purpose of this study is to determine if there are any possible correlations between public opinions of gun violence and media and other environmental factors through administering a survey to two different high school populations in the Milwaukee area.

Methods

This was a prospective cohort study of students from Milwaukee Academy of Science and Kettle Moraine High School of Health Sciences ages 13-18.

- A survey was constructed assessing the participant's opinions of guns and gun violence as well as different influential factors, such as social media, music, gang violence, and neighborhood of the participant's environment.
- Questions were designed to have five answer choices: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither, Agree, or Strongly Agree
- Survey responses were converted to a five point scale and analyzed using Prism and Orange to determine the correlations and parameters of these correlations in this study.

Attitude of the households of Milwaukee Youths towards Guns and Gun Violence

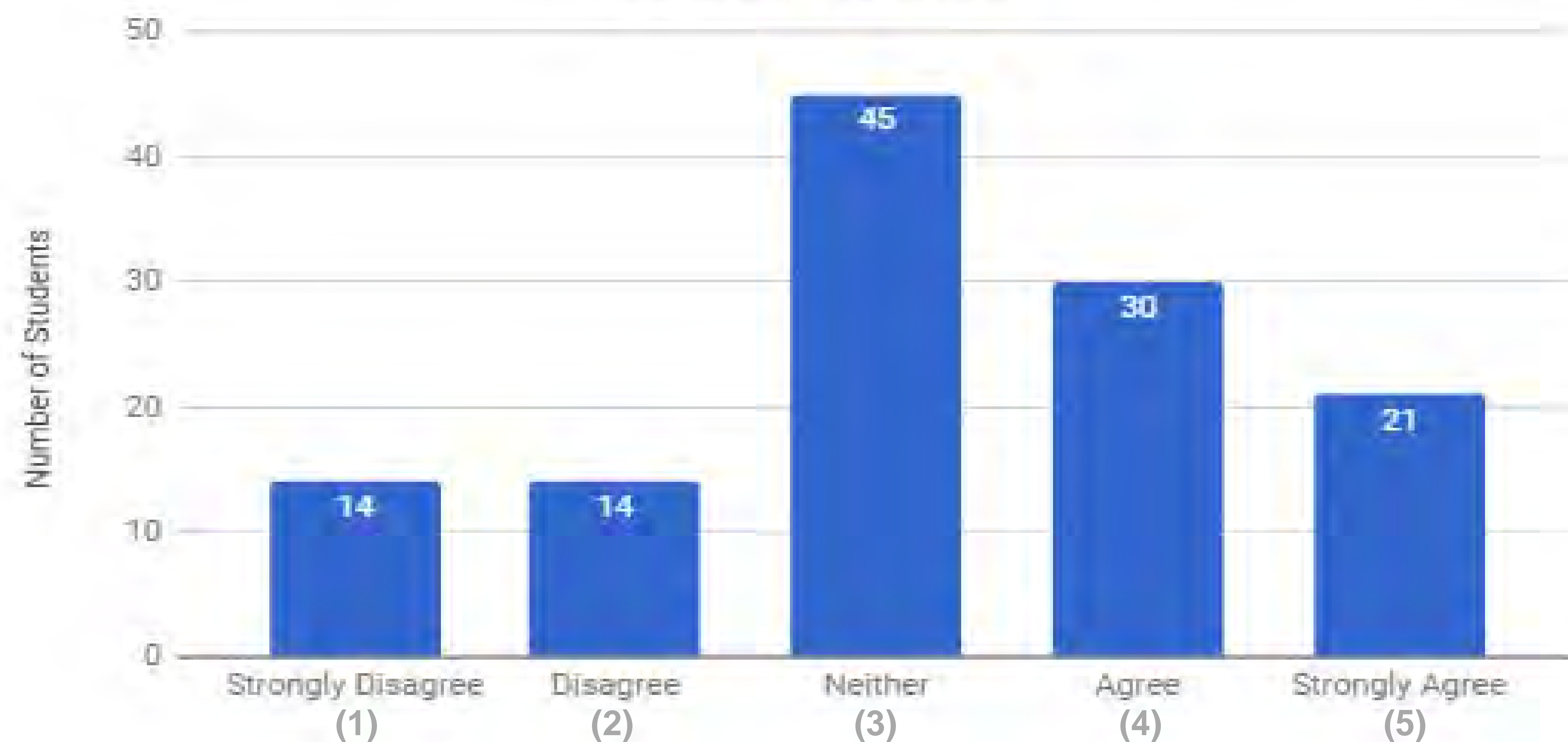


Figure 1: Graphical representation of the results from the 127 students surveyed. A large percentage of students agree or strongly agree that there is an accepting attitude of guns and gun violence in our culture, with a lesser number having no attitude.

Significant and Notable p-values (R² values)

	How much exposure/knowledge do you have of gangs in the Milwaukee area?	How often do you hear about gun violence in your neighborhood?	There are benefits from being in a gang?	What is the attitude of your household towards guns and gun violence?
How often do you hear about gun violence in the music you listen to?	4.56E-05, (0.5086)	9.34E-08, (0.4641)	x	x
How often do you hear about gun violence in your neighborhood?	1.48E-09, (0.6944)	x	8.31E-07, (0.4338)	x
Do you think being in a gang is bad?	5.32E-05, (-0.7406)	x	x	x
You're neighborhood is safe	x	x	1.06E-05 (-0.4679)	2.77E-06, (0.4083)

Table 1: Statistically significant factors that contribute to the participant's opinions of guns and gun violence and their corresponding correlation values in the parentheses

Results

One hundred twenty-seven students were enrolled in this study:

- 88 students from Milwaukee Academy of Science
- 39 students from Kettle Moraine High School of Health Sciences

The average response score for the participant's household attitude towards guns was 3.24/5, with 1 being Strongly Disagree and 5 being Strongly Agree (Fig 1).

- 14 Strongly Against
- 14 Against
- 45 Neither for or against
- 30 Agree
- 21 Strongly Agree

Overall, there were several statistically significant relationships found between the various influential factors that were analyzed and the opinions of the participants towards gun violence (Table 1).

Conclusions

- Overall, the safety of the participant's neighborhood influenced the participant's opinions on guns and gun violence the most.
- Knowledge and exposure to gangs as well as music contributed the most when it came to exposure of Milwaukee high school populations to guns and gun violence.
- Future steps for this study are to gather more data from other various student populations in the Milwaukee area as well as investigate some of the correlations from this study further, such as the negative correlation between the knowledge and exposure of gangs and whether that individual believes gangs are bad.