APPENDIX 2: BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Mayors Against Illegal Guns conducted a bibliometric analysis of peer-reviewed research literature to measure trends in the volume of publications about firearms and violence.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns analyzed the contents of the SciVerse SCOPUS database, the world’s largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed research literature. At the time of the analysis it contained 47 million citations from more than 18,500 peer-reviewed journals dating back as far as 1923.

To identify relevant articles with a high degree of sensitivity, a search was constructed for articles written in English and published between 1961 and 2011 that contained in their title, abstract, or keywords at least one term related to firearms and one term related to ramifications on crime, violence, or safety.

Two researchers then independently coded the citations captured by the search based on their content. Articles that did not capture some aspect of the relationship between firearms and violence, crime, or safety in the United States were excluded. In cases where they researchers coded an article discordantly, the citation was re-coded by a third researcher.

The original search captured 4,279 citations. 1,375 (32%) were published in journals from which 10 or more citations had been captured by the search. 2,588 (60%) came from journals from which 3 or more citations had been captured by the search.

After manual coding, 1,539 citations were found to meet the inclusion criteria.

**Firearm-related search terms:**
- gun
- firearm
- shotgun
- handgun

**Crime, violence, and safety-related search terms:**
- violence
- murder
- homicide
- assault
- crime
- criminal
- felon
- death
- suicide
- lethal
- risk
- safe
- defense
- shooting
- ownership