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## ***Youth & Gun Violence: Strategies for Prevention***

*Annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture on  
Child and Youth Behavior and Development featuring*

**David Hemenway, PhD**  
Professor of Health Policy,  
Director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

**The Honorable David Cicilline**  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Providence, RI (May 4, 2016):** Harvard University professor David Hemenway and Congressman David Cicilline will discuss "Youth and Gun Violence: Strategies for Prevention," as part of the annual *Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture on Child and Youth Behavior Development*. The event will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Brown University's List Art Building, Room 120, 64 College St., Providence, RI.

Professor Hemenway was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control as one of the twenty "most influential injury and violence professionals over the past 20 years." He has written over 190 journal articles and five books including *While We Were Sleeping: Success Stories in Injury and Violence Prevention* (U California Press 2009). A former mayor of Providence, Congressman Cicilline has advocated for national policies that curb gun violence among youth in the United States.

Guns are the leading instrument of fatal violence to teens and are used in 88% of teen homicides and 41% of teen suicides in the U.S. In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, there were 136 emergency department visits for gunshot injuries, 53 hospitalizations, and 12 deaths of youth ages 15 to 19 attributed to firearms.

"Preventing gun violence among youth is a matter of both public health and public safety," said David Hemenway. "Children and youth can experience gun violence as victims of firearm assaults, self-inflicted firearm injuries, or accidental shootings – and it is a tragedy each and every time. I'm pleased to join Brown University and

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT to discuss strategies to prevent firearm-related violence in children and youth.”

“Last year, more than 3,000 American children were killed or injured in an incident of gun violence. We cannot tolerate this,” said Congressman David N. Cicilline (D-RI). “All of us have an obligation to do all that we can to reduce the dangers of gun violence for children in America. I’m looking forward to joining Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT to discuss this critical issue.”

“Whether directed at oneself through suicide or at others, growing rates of youth gun violence affect thousands of lives and are a national public health priority,” according to Brown Professor of Epidemiology, Dr. Stephen Buka. “This symposium brings a special mix of science and policy, as David Hemenway, an internationally known economist and researcher, reviews the latest evidence on the origins and prevention of youth gun violence, and Congressman Cicilline shares his perspective on implementing national policies and strategies to stem the tide of youth gun violence in the U.S.”

“Beyond the risk of immediate physical harm, exposure to violence can lead to lasting psychological and emotional damage for children and youth, even those who are not the direct victim of violence,” stated Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “The toxic stress that is associated with violence can disrupt a child’s healthy brain development and lead to mental health issues, cognitive difficulties, and attention difficulties. We are pleased to have David Hemenway and Congressman Cicilline share their perspective on how we can reduce the devastating effects of gun violence on youth.”

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*The annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is co-sponsored by Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.*

*Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children’s policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.*

*Through integrative scholarship and educational leadership, Brown University’s community of students, faculty and staff seeks to aid in the creation of peaceful, just and prosperous societies, to decipher disease, and to improve population health for children and adults in Rhode Island and across the world.*

*The Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lectures in Child Behavior and Development were established by the Lipsitt family in 2000 to celebrate many years of association with Brown University and to preserve an interest in child psychology at the University. Dr. Lewis P. Lipsitt joined Brown in 1957 as an instructor of psychology after receiving his doctorate in child psychology at the University of Iowa. A pioneer in the study of sensory and learning processes, Lipsitt established a laboratory at Women and Infants Hospital in 1958 to study infant behavior and development. He is the founding director of Brown’s Child Study Center. Dr. Lipsitt received the 1990 Nicholas Hobbs Award for science in the service of children from the American Psychological Association and the 1994 American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award for helping minorities and women in the pursuit of scientific careers. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a resident fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavior Sciences at Stanford in 1979-80.*