

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2022

## **ASP**PH Statement on Recent Mass Shootings

ASPPH is devastated by the recent mass shootings in Buffalo and now at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Our hearts break for the victims and families of those who were killed and injured, as well as those who had to endure this traumatic experience. Gun violence is a public health issue, and it is preventable. ASPPH is committed to doing more to end these unacceptable acts of violence.

As a public health community, we will continue to speak out against gun violence, and we will work strategically to prevent further tragedies. Here are some actions ASPPH will take:

1. Urge policymakers to take action to strengthen policies around background checks, banning certain types of weapons, and safer storage of firearms.
2. Continue to support additional federal research funding related to gun violence and mental health and enable our members to pursue grants in this area.
3. Collaborate with interprofessional groups to coordinate actions on this issue to enhance impact.
4. Provide an online platform for members to share their work on gun violence including curriculum, research, and community actions.
5. Convene an expert taskforce of our members to strengthen our work in this area.

ASPPH stands with the victims and their families. As the leading voice in academic public health, we are committed to preventing future senseless acts of violence, and we urge all of our members to join us in these efforts.

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*The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASP*PH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

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