Local solutions to gun violence. The experience of Cali, Colombia

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Historical perspective of homicide rates in Colombia 1938-2014

Tasa x 100K habs.

Political violence

Political and Drug traffic violence


Año

Colombia

27.8
Age-adjusted Mortality Rate due to Homicides by Sex and type of Weapon, 2010

Source: IHME, 2012
Cali applied a multifactorial approach to violence prevention and control

Theoretical model for addressing urban violence
Risk factors associated with violence prevention and control

- Availability of firearms
- Alcohol consumption
- Cultural norms
- Organized crime
Availability of firearms

Type of Weapon in Homicides
Cali, 1993

- Firearms: 79%
- Sharp Objects: 17%
- Other: 4%
Alcohol Consumption and Homicide

Blood and alcohol level of homicide victims
Medellin, 1980 – 1989

57%
43%

50mg o >
<50mg %
Evidence-based policies

- Restriction of **alcohol** sales in public places
  - Weekdays 2 AM
  - Weekends 3 AM

- Restriction of **firearms carrying permits**, on evidence-based high-risk weekends
Alcohol Consumption and Homicide

Restriction of alcohol sales in bars as a policy for controlling homicide
Cali, 2005 – 2008

- First tested in London, UK
- Replicated as a natural experiment in Cali

Evaluation of 3 decrees closing bars between:

**Restrictive**: 02:00am -10:00am
**Moderate**: 03:00am -10:00am
**Lax**: 04:00am -10:00am

Significant reductions in firearm-related mortality
Alcohol and firearms restriction in Cali 1994

Without interventions

With interventions

Percent Reduction in Homicide

- Firearms 14% less
- Alcohol + guns 35% less
Rates of Homicide per 100,000 population due to firearms, Cali. 1983-2018

Source: Cali Observatory of Security.
CULTURAL REGULATION OF FIREARM USE

“Firearms rest in peace” campaign Bogotá. 1995

- Pedagogical educational campaign to reduce firearm use and homicides
  - Churches
  - Educational Institutions
  - Pedagogical strategies for sensitizing population in educational settings
Firearm buy-out program in Bogotá 2003

488 firearms,
10,264 ammunition
8 Hand grenades

Not formally evaluated