**Title:** Gunshot Wound Facial Trauma and its Impact on Patients and the Community.

**Background**

Roughly 85,000 gunshot wounds (GSW) are reported in the United States. About 20,000 of these are to the head and neck regions. These injuries are associated with high mortality and morbidity rates and has become a public health crisis. The purpose of this study was to describe head and neck GSW data from ChristianaCare’s data.

**Methods**

Using ICD-10 codes to identify head and neck patients (*N* = 32) from Christiana Care between 2018-2023, patient sociodemographic data (sex, race, ethnicity, insurance status, and residential history) and clinical data (anatomic location, survival, length of stay) were abstracted. Descriptive statistics were conducted using Microsoft Excel to describe the patient population.

**Results**

Results displayed that 81% of patients were male and that most patients were identified as Black (75%). Wilmington marked the highest place of occurrence 11 (35%) and there were 9 (28%) patients who presented from other states. The head and neck marked the highest anatomical site of injury, 12 (37.5%) and 10 (31.2%) respectively. Head and neck incidence was highest in 2020 (9) and 2021 (7). Most patients had Medicaid (59.40%) as their primary insurance and most patients were discharged from the hospital in less than 4 days (38%).

**Discussion**

Findings show that Wilmington is the hotspot for these head and neck GSW. GSW come with a high mortality rate (25%), especially for patients who suffered self-inflicted wounds. GSW to the head and neck preliminarily seems to impact males, specifically, Black males, more than other groups. There is notable trend of increased head and neck GSWs during 2020 and 2021, at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is like previous research. Future studies should explore the cost of care (per patient) and long-term healthcare impacts for patients who experience these injuries.