The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has called gun violence, "a public health epidemic." Why does it make sense to frame this as a public health issue, rather than law enforcement? And what does that suggest about both causes and what policies might help?

One answer is that over a fifth of shootings are suicide attempts, and they cause over 60% of deaths. Nearly 30% of shootings are unintentional. Both these factors suggest that gun violence has a lot in common with behavioral health and with other kinds of accidents (such as in cars) that are traditional public health concerns. Another answer is that social pressures which encourage gun violence have many other effects on health, and so public health practice to create a healthier society, could also address gun violence. Ironically, a third is that conservatives who claim violence against others is a mental health issue are making one kind of public health claim.

Please join us as Dr. Timmons-Mitchell considers both research and policy.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/