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As a member of the Public Health Committee of the Maine Medical Association and as VP of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition, I would like to promote any effort to accumulate accurate data concerning gun shot wounds and deaths in Maine. While this state has a longstanding and largely safe tradition of hunting out in the woods and fields, gunshot wounds and deaths in homes and neighborhoods are not unknown in Maine. Accurate statistics would give us a clearer picture of the public health magnitude and seriousness of the situation.

As a surgeon who treated GSW in Maine, New Hampshire, Africa, and at a Navy Hospital, I can tell you that these wounds are not trivial and that surgical salvage is not always successful. Let's get a handle on the situation and let's stop believing that firearm trauma is not a problem in Maine.