

## **Josie Caves Sivaraman, BSN, MSPH, PhD**

404-580-5725 • josie@sipinst.com • [LinkedIn](#) • Carrboro, North Carolina

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY** Epidemiologist, former nurse, and violence prevention researcher with expertise designing and leading evaluations of programs, policies, practices, and data systems to advance health equity and community safety. Experienced building partnerships across public health, healthcare, grassroots organizations, government agencies, and nontraditional sectors to support evidence generation, implementation improvement, and systems change. Passionate about translating research into practical, community-centered strategies that strengthen violence prevention infrastructure and inform equitable public health decision-making.

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **Founder and Director**

Southern Injury Prevention Institute, L.L.C. | May 2025 – present

- Founded SIPI to provide evaluation, strategic planning, technical assistance, and research support to violence prevention organizations, public agencies, and community coalitions working to reduce firearm violence, suicide, and related inequities.
- Develops mixed-methods evaluation plans, implementation assessments, strategic frameworks, and dissemination products tailored to community and practitioner audiences.
- Leads partnerships with local, state, and national organizations to strengthen violence prevention infrastructure, improve measurement and evaluation capacity, and support evidence-informed implementation.
- Partners with the North Carolina Office of Violence Prevention to provide evaluation support and technical assistance to violence prevention organizations through office hours, webinars, and consultation.
- Partnered with the North Carolina Public Health Association to support county health departments in integrating violence-related measures into Community Health Assessments and broader public health planning efforts.
- Co-PI for a Fund for a Safer Future-supported Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) initiative, supporting culturally grounded violence prevention and community healing strategies in Indigenous communities (2026, in partnership with Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center)
- Provides evaluation and implementation support to Project BUILD (Durham, NC), an initiative focused on strengthening violence prevention and community safety infrastructure through data-informed strategy development and cross-sector collaboration.
- Provides strategic planning to the Durham County Firearm Injury Prevention Program (FIPP) on initiatives related to firearm suicide prevention, secure firearm storage promotion, gun lock distribution, public health messaging, and evaluation planning.
- Partnered with The Network (Chicago, IL) on a series of white papers describing the impact of cash assistance programs on survivors of domestic violence, and on the rapidly changing hotel housing approach to supporting domestic violence survivors experiencing homelessness.

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### **Research Scientist**

Western Institute for Veteran Research | July 2025 – present

- Leads the analysis for a National Institute of Mental Health-funded research project that uses non-Veteran Health Administration (i.e. civilian) health information to identify former service members at risk of suicide. Duke University is prime on this award.

### **Public Health Analyst**

RTI International, Justice Practice Area | January 2023 – May 2025

- Recruited to direct the Center for Evidence-Based Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence
- Created a strategic plan to support the development, evaluation, implementation, and dissemination of effective gun violence policies, practices, programs, and data assets
- Led proposal and project teams composed of multi-disciplinary staff ranging in experience and seniority, often including external partners and collaborators
- Developed and implemented multi-year project and proposal budgets
- Drew from experiential knowledge of public health and safety data assets to advance and execute innovative research methodologies specific to nonfatal shootings (National Incident Based Reporting System, National Violent Death Reporting System, CDC Social Vulnerability Index, etc.)
- Disseminated gun violence research findings through project reports, manuscripts, blog posts, webinars, and videos
- Presented research findings in conference and public panels, and in consultations with local state government collaborators
- Built and maintained partnerships with academic institutions, health departments, law enforcement agencies, grassroots organizations, and government representatives, and worked to establish a gun violence research network to share strategies and opportunities
- Mentored junior RTI staff and external graduate students and provided guest lectures on gun violence prevention at the University of North Carolina.

### **Postdoctoral Associate**

Duke University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences | 2021 - 2022

- Designed, led, and implemented projects and proposals specific to policy and program evaluation including suicide prevention, firearm violence risk among juvenile justice-involved youth, and harm reduction programming (funding for this position was shared between the law school's Wilson Center for Science and Justice and medical school)
- Tasks included proposal development, study design, data linkage and assembly, longitudinal analyses, and manuscript development for topics at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice.
- Developed and maintained relationships with key gun violence research interest holders

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- Managed and mentored teams of undergraduate and graduate research students

## **Research Associate and Teaching Assistant**

University of North Carolina | 2017 - 2019

## **Research Assistant**

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services | 2016 - 2018

## **Clinical Trials Specialist**

University of North Carolina, Department of Heart and Vascular | 2014 - 2015

## **Clinical Trials Coordinator**

Duke University Medical Center | 2013 – 2014

## **Cardiovascular Clinical Nurse**

Rex Hospital | 2011 – 2013

## **LEADERSHIP**

- Co- Principal Investigator and Evaluation Lead, Fund for a Safer Future-supported GONA project (2026)
- Strategic Planning Consultant, Durham County Firearm Injury Prevention Program (2026)
- Evaluation Consultant, Durham County Project BUILD (2026)
- Co-Investigator and Analysis Lead, NIH-funded project: *Veteran Suicide Prevention Using Electronic Health Records* (2023 – present)
- Director, RTI Center for Evidence-Based Strategies to Reduce Firearm Violence (2023 - 2025)
- Co-Principal Investigator, NIJ-funded project: *Exploring How Survivor Perspectives and Priorities are Reflected in the Use and Implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders to Address Intimate Partner Violence* (2023 – 2025 cancelation)

## **PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- *Firearm Suicide Risk Among US Military Veterans*. University of North Carolina—Charlotte, Violence Prevention Center conference (presentation April 2026)
- *Firearm Research: History and Current Status*. University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health. (annual guest lecture 2019-2026)
- *Firearm suicide risk among U.S. military Veterans: comparing civilian-only and dual-system healthcare users*. National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms. (presentation November 2025)
- *Incorporating Violence into Community Health Assessments*. North Carolina Public Health Association. (webinar October 2025)

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- *Laying the Groundwork: Why Evaluation Matters and How to Plan for It.* Office of Violence Prevention. (webinar and evaluation office hours for violence prevention organizations October 2025)
- *Firearm Workshop.* North Carolina Public Health Leadership Conference. (panelist 2025)
- *RTI Firearm Initiative and Education-Related Research.* North Carolina Large School District Superintendent Consortium. (presentation 2024)
- North Carolina Opioid Research Agenda-Setting Symposium. (research discussion leader 2024)
- *RTI Policing Symposium panel: Multidisciplinary approaches to addressing gun violence.* RTI Community Safety and Policing Symposium. (panel moderator 2024)
- *Estimating nonfatal firearm violence for all U.S. counties.* National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms. (poster 2024)
- *Comparing firearm violence across two national data sources.* Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research. (presentation 2024)
- *An analysis of civilian and Veterans Health Administration care utilization for former service members at risk of self-harm: The VESPER study.* Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research. (poster 2024)
- *Violent Experiences, mental health, and patterns of firearm ownership/access in childhood and young adulthood.* National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms. (presentation 2024)
- *Juvenile delinquency, adult firearm access, and crime outcomes: New research evidence to balance risks and rights, with implications for policy and law.* Joyce Foundation seminar series. (presentation 2023)
- *State firearm laws, race, and law enforcement-related deaths in 16 states: 2010-2016.* Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research. (presentation 2018)
- *Characterizing opioid overdoses using emergency medical services data: A case definition algorithm enhanced by machine learning.* American Public Health Association. (poster 2018)
- *EMS opioid overdose case definition and initial findings.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance. (presentation 2018)
- *Impact of the number of state firearm safety laws on intimate partner homicide.* American Public Health Association. (poster 2017)
- *Validation of deaths caused by law enforcement using crowd-sourced data (pilot study).* North Carolina Public Health Association. (presentation 2017)
- *Primary data collection to inform teen pregnancy prevention campaigns in two North Carolina Counties.* North Carolina Public Health Association. (presentation 2016)

### EDUCATION

MSPH/PhD, Epidemiology, University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC, 2021

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BS, Nursing, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Nursing, Chapel Hill, NC, 2010  
BA, English, Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, 2007

### PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

Rental and Cash Assistance in Domestic Violence Prevention. The Network. (white paper 2025)

Hotel Housing and Domestic Violence. The Network. (white paper 2025)

Tong G, Sivaraman JC, Easter MM, Duke NN, Ranney ML, Swanson JW, Copeland WE. Do Children's Mental Health Symptoms Impact Their Access to Unlocked Guns at Home? *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2025 Apr 23:S0890-8567(25)00214-X. doi: 10.1016/j.jaac.2025.04.011. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40280542.

Wire SE, Sivaraman JC, Smiley-McDonald HM, Silver I, Lambdin BH, Kral AH. Public calls for service to the police: Trends before and during drug possession decriminalization in Oregon. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2025 May 14;142:104834. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2025.104834. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40373557.

Sivaraman, J.C., Krebs, C., Szczypka G., Smith, C. Uncovering ghost guns. (2025) [Insights blog series](#).

Gilbert AR, Sivaraman JC, Lerebours R, Easter MM, Siegel R. (2025) Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) in North Carolina: A longitudinal analysis of criminal-legal outcomes. *J Crim Justice*, 96, 102323.

Sivaraman, J. C., Tong, G., Easter, M., Swanson, J., & Copeland, W. (2023). Violent experiences and patterns of firearm ownership from childhood to young adulthood. *JAMA Network Open*, 6(10), e2336907–e2336907. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.36907>

Sivaraman, J. C., Thomas, N., Strom, K., & Banks, D. (2023). North Carolina can lead national fatal and non-fatal firearm injury data collection efforts. *North Carolina Medical Journal*, 84(4). <https://doi.org/10.18043/001c.81276>

Sivaraman, J.C., Banks, D., Strom, K., Thomas, N. (2023) Closing Data Gaps: Tracking Firearm Violence in North Carolina. [Insights blog](#).

Banks, D., Sivaraman, J.C. (2023) Reducing Firearm Violence—An expert interview with Duren Banks and Josie Caves Sivaraman. [Insights blog](#).

Gilbert, A. R, Siegel, R., Easter, M. M., Hofer, M., Sivaraman, J. C., Ariturk, D., Swanson, J. W., Swartz, M., Wygle, R., & Feng, G. North Carolina Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD): Considerations for optimizing eligibility and referral. *Law and Contemporary Problems*. 73-101 (2023)

Swanson, J. W., Tong, G., Easter, M. M., Sivaraman, J. C., Gifford, E. J., Gardner, B. O., Donnelly, E. A., Evans, K. E., Copeland, W. E., Swartz, M. S., & Bonnie, R. J. (2022). Gun violence among young adults with a juvenile crime record in North Carolina: Implications for firearm restrictions based on age and risk. *Preventive Medicine*, 165(Pt A):107279. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2022.107279. Epub 2022 Sep 30. PMID: 36191654.

Swanson, J. W., Sivaraman, J. J., & Easter, M. M. (2022). Evaluating extreme risk protection order laws: When is it premature to expect population-level effects? *JAMA Network Open*, 5(4):e224909-. PMID: 35380649.

Sivaraman, J. J., Ranapurwala, S. I., Proescholdbell, S., Naumann, R. B., Greene, S. B., & Marshall, S. W. (2022). Suicide typologies among Medicaid beneficiaries, North Carolina 2014-2017. *BMC Psychiatry*. PMID: 35144585.

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- Sivaraman, J. J., Greene, S. B., Naumann, R. B., Proescholdbell, S., Ranapurwala, S. I., & Marshall, S. W. (2021). Association between medical diagnoses and suicide in a Medicaid beneficiary population, North Carolina 2014-2017. *Epidemiology*. PMID: 34799475.
- Sivaraman, J. J., Proescholdbell, S. K., Ezzell, D., & Shanahan, M. E. (2021). Characterizing opioid overdoses using emergency medical services data: A case definition algorithm enhanced by machine learning. *Public health reports*, 136(1\_suppl), 62S–71S. PMID: 34726978.
- Sivaraman, J. J., Marshall, S. W., & Ranapurwala, S. I. (2020). State firearm laws, race and law enforcement–related deaths in 16 US states: 2010–2016. *Injury prevention*, 26(6), 569–572. PMID: 32938691.
- Sivaraman, J. J. C., & Naumann, R. B. (2020). Estimating the association between mental health disorders and suicide: a review of common sources of bias and challenges and opportunities for US-based research. *Current epidemiology reports*, 1–11. PMID: 33948425.
- Brinkley-Rubinstein, L., Sivaraman, J., Rosen, D. L., Cloud, D. H., Junker, G., Proescholdbell, S., Shanahan, M. E., & Ranapurwala, S. I. (2019). Association of restrictive housing during incarceration with mortality after release. *JAMA Network Open*, 2(10):e1912516. PMID: 31584680
- Sivaraman, J. J., Ranapurwala, S. I., Moracco, K. E., & Marshall, S. W. (2019). Association of State firearm legislation with female intimate partner homicide. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 56(1), 125–133. PMID: 30573141.
- Kienka, T., Varga, M. G., Caves, J., Smith, J. S., & Sivaraman, V. (2019). Epstein-Barr virus, but not human cytomegalovirus, is associated with a high-grade human papillomavirus–associated cervical lesions among women in North Carolina. *Journal of Medical Virology*, 91(3), 450–456. PMID: 30307626.

### AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Member, North Carolina Office of Violence Prevention Data Workgroup
- Member, North Carolina for Violence Intervention and Prevention (North Carolinians Against Gun Violence)
- Reviewer: PLOS-ONE, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Discover Public Health, Injury Epidemiology, Journal of Traumatic Stress

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (Dissertation Award: 2019)
- Nation Research Service Award (Dissertation Award: 2019)
- UNC Injury and Violence Prevention Fellow (2019)
- Raluca Iosif Intimate Partner Violence Research Award (2017)