**Working Title:** “Youth Opinions on Active Shooter Drills”

**Background:** Over the past two decades, mass shootings in school settings have dramatically increased. The goal of this study is to determine how youths feel about active shooter drills as a response to such violence, and whether they feel that such drills are a sufficient response.

**Gaps in the Literature:**

* Literature on solutions seems to be seriously lacking in the area of active shooter drills. The background section of this study will likely have to rely on less traditional academic sources (news media, grey and white literature, etc.)
* Current literature surrounding young people’s attitudes on gun violence and gun control is centered on college students and is rarely national or comprehensive, instead focusing on a particular gun control measure or featuring a study on one large college campus in a particular region of the country. This study has the potential to paint a national picture of the attitudes of even younger individuals affected by gun violence.
* Political polling of young people (especially those who are not yet eligible to vote) is a growing issue. This study has the potential to gauge young people’s expectations of their lawmakers on the issue of gun violence and gun control.
* Literature on the diversity of gun violence is lacking. Many studies that look at youth opinions on urban gun violence (as opposed to mass shootings in schools) are nearly two decades old. This study has the potential to examine this disparity.

**Research Question and Draft Questions:**

Research Question: How do youth feel about active shooter drills: mentally, as a solution, and in practice?

\*\*\*Note: the use of the term "active shooter drill" is not universal at schools across the country, so an "or lockdown" phrase has been added.\*\*\*

1) How often do you have active shooter drills or lockdowns at your school?

2) What happens during an active shooter drill or lockdown? Do you receive any training before they happen?

3) How do active shooter drills or lockdowns make you feel?

4) Are active shooter drills or lockdowns an appropriate response to the rise in mass shootings and gun violence? If not, what is?

5) Where are you most worried about gun violence occurring? School, your neighborhood, or somewhere else (please specify)?

**Methods Ideas:** Utilize the text messaging service ‘MyVoice’ to poll young people in the United States on a set of carefully designed questions related to gun violence, active shooter drills, and gun control legislation, based upon the current status of literature.

**Key Outcome:** Determine youth opinions on gun violence, active shooter drills, and gun control legislation.

**Specific Stakeholders:** List names and positions. Youth collaborators?

**Implications for policy:** The results of this study have the potential to inform policymakers and educational administrators of the opinions of young people, an often forgotten demographic, on gun violence and gun control measures. This will help such stakeholders shape policy and programs with these views in mind, because those who are most affected by the policy should be the ones who decide what the policy looks like.