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Global Health Disaster Preparedness and Response
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The global trend that is most important to me is domestic terrorism, specifically mass shootings. This is the case because in my time as an emergency medical technician, I have responded to a mass shooting incident which gave me first hand experience with this kind of disaster. I have also been able to be a part of several hands-on training exercises from the civilian, EMT, and police sides of dealing with a mass shooting. These experiences have shown me just how devastating they can be, as well as how hard they are to prevent. While they are most likely never completely preventable, it is especially heartbreaking that these are completely man made disasters; and that while they cannot be stopped fully, there are things that could be done to significantly lessen them that are not being done.

Shootings have been on the rise in recent years, especially in the United States. Just last year the leading cause of death for minors was gun violence. Beyond the death and physical harm that may be done by the shooting, the psychological damage done to not only to the survivors, but to the general public, can be quite severe. The fear of random mass shootings can create a feeling of never being quite safe while out in public.

Legislation and enforcement power is what is needed to stop this scourge. Proper legislation that more aggressively bans assault weapons, body armor, and high capacity magazines would be the first step. Buy-back programs could also be held to reduce the amount of guns that are currently out among the populace. The likelihood however of these steps being taken is minimal. Due to the political climate in the country, steps to limit gun ownership have stalled in Congress. Large-scale buyback initiatives might be also hard to implement due to cost and the logistics of disposing of the guns.

Works Cited

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