



Reducing Youth Gun Violence:

A Summary of Programs and Initiatives



OJJDP

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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Shay Bilchik, Administrator

INTRODUCTION

Youth gun violence in our country has become an epidemic. From the Civil War to the present 567,000 Americans have died in combat; but since 1920 alone, firearms have killed over one million American civilians [Pacific Center, 1994]. Among teenagers 15 to 19 years old, the problem of gun violence is particularly alarming: One of every four deaths of a teenager is attributable to a firearm injury. What are the causes of this epidemic of violence? And how can we solve it?

To guide U.S. Attorneys in their violence prevention efforts, and to assist states and jurisdictions in responding to this epidemic, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in the Office of Justice Programs, at the Department of Justice, has developed this document. *Reducing Youth Gun Violence* provides a synthesis of the most current available programs which seek to reduce youth gun violence. The programs represent a wide array of strategies from school-based prevention programs to gun market interception. To ground these programs and provide a context for their successful implementation, relevant research, evaluation, and legislation is also provided.

The report is divided into two parts: An Executive Summary and A Directory of Programs, Organizations and Research aimed at reducing youth gun violence.

1. The Executive Summary:

- Summarizes current federal, and state legislation to reduce youth gun violence and references extensive documentation by the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) in this area.
- Summarizes the state-of-the art research from the field of public health, criminology, and sociology on the incidence, the context, and solutions to youth gun violence. It refers to ongoing research by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention which will expand our knowledge in this area.
- Suggests Federal and Local partnerships in implementing youth gun laws and programs.
- Describes the state-of-the art in youth gun violence prevention and intervention programs.

Summarizes the current status of existing programs and makes recommendations based on these findings.

2. The Directory consists of the following parts:

- *A Youth Gun Violence Program Directory* - an alphabetically-organized list of currently operating programs, contact information, program descriptions, and program evaluations, where available. This list allows the reader to assess the state-of-the-art in reducing youth gun violence; to examine in more detail programs being implemented in specific states or local communities of interest; and to contact individuals in order to share information, provide support or resources, or develop programs.
- *A National Organization Directory* - a list of organizations working on getting guns out of the hands of young people, including a contact person, phone number, and description of current activities. This information supplies names of individuals who can provide advice, resources, or additional contacts for the individual reader interested in establishing or expanding local youth gun violence reduction programs.
- *A Bibliography of Research, Evaluation, and Publications on Youth and Guns* - provides abstracts of research on guns and youth. This resource summarizes the research which can provide the basis for expanding policy, public information campaigns, or initiatives in the area of youth gun violence.

The information in this document on youth and gun laws, research, and prevention and intervention programs was gathered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This report synthesizes work from a wide range of sources representing law enforcement, public health, academia, and youth service providers.

Contributions came from the National Institute of Justice; United States Attorneys; Partnerships Against Violence: Promising Programs (PAVNET); Center to Prevent Handgun Violence; Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Developmental Research and Program, Inc.; Educational Development Center, Inc.; International Association of Chiefs of Police; Joyce Foundation; National Association of State Boards of Education; National Criminal Justice Association; National Governors Association; National School Boards Association; National School Safety Center; Pacific Center for Violence Prevention; Violence Policy Center; and others.

Reducing Youth Gun Violence incorporates written documentation (status reports, research, newsletters, and other written materials) from each of the listed organizations and, through follow-up telephone calls to the directors and/or staff, other experts, researchers, practitioners, and program directors, adds the latest knowledge from the field. As such, it attempts to present the most current and complete information available in the United States on reducing youth gun violence, and suggests a variety of

strategies to reducing youth gun violence. It is the first phase of a broader OJJDP project to collect and disseminate promising youth gun violence reduction programs.

This first volume, *Reducing Youth Gun Violence*, presents a broad survey of programs. Some of the programs have just been initiated, many have not been evaluated, and some are narrow in scope. Yet they clearly suggest a direction for states and jurisdictions in addressing the youth gun violence they confront. The format of this document allows the reader to identify programs best-suited to the needs of the target area.

The second volume in this series will present a more in-depth review of evaluated or promising programs and will develop model programs to reduce youth gun violence. It will be based on feedback from U.S. Attorneys and others on Volume 1; and on an International Association of Chiefs of Police survey of state youth program coordinators and actual site visits to selected programs. Findings in Volume 2 will complement the model youth handgun law being developed by the National Criminal Justice Association.

I want to thank the staff of OJJDP, the Offices and Bureaus of the Office of Justice Programs, the United States Attorneys and the significant number of staff from various other Department of Justice components who contributed to the development of this document. A special commendation goes to Sarah Ingersoll, Special Assistant, OJJDP, as the primary author of Reducing Youth Gun Violence: A Summary of Programs and Initiatives.

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I.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nation's juvenile justice system stands at a crossroads. We are faced with a disturbing increase in violent crimes committed by juveniles and an alarming rise in abuse, neglect, and gun violence perpetuated against American youth. In light of this emerging crisis, we can no longer afford a narrow focus by separate disciplines to attack the problem. To effectively address the rising levels of juvenile crime, especially youth gun violence, participants from all community sectors, public and private, across specializations, must plan collaboratively and comprehensively if we are to reduce violence and build healthier and safer communities. Collectively, we must launch a two-pronged assault on juvenile delinquency and youth gun violence, and their causes. Both prevention and early intervention programs and a strong focus on law enforcement and a comprehensive system of graduated sanctions are crucial to this battle.

There are a number of approaches that have been taken, can be supported, or should be initiated to address the increased access to, and dangerous use of, guns by young people. Interventions can be categorized into seven basic types: 1) legislation; 2) research; 3) technological and environmental changes; 4) Federal law enforcement; 5) individual prevention programs; 6) intervention programs; and 7) comprehensive initiatives.

Youth Gun Legislation

Legal measures strive to limit access to firearms - the number and the type of people eligible to own or possess firearms, as well as the types of firearms that can be manufactured, owned, and carried. Gun violence reduction legislation addresses both firearm availability and societal norms, in order to reduce crime and violence.

Recent federal legislation makes a strong statement that guns in the hands of young people will not be tolerated and represents a critical step towards making our schools and neighborhoods safer:

- In August 1994, the *Youth Handgun Safety Act* (Title XI, Subtitle B) (YHSA) was passed as part of the Omnibus Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. It prohibits the possession of a handgun or ammunition by, or the private transfer of a handgun or ammunition to, a juvenile. The law includes a number of exceptions, such as farming, hunting, and other specified uses.
- The *Gun-Free Schools Act*, which took effect on March 31, 1994, amends the current Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 USC 2701 et seq.) (ESEA). It states that, as a condition of receiving any assistance under the ESEA, a local educational agency (LEA) must have in effect a policy requiring the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who brings a firearm to school, except that the LEA's chief administering officer may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

- A second *Gun-Free Schools Act*, enacted in October 1994, requires that local educational agencies implement a policy "requiring referral to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm or weapon to a school served by such agency."

While this legislation comes from the federal government, it is state and local law enforcement officials who can most effectively deal with juvenile gun violations. The role of the federal government is to support state and local efforts in doing so. Indeed, in approximately half of the states, statutes already exist which are at least as stringent as the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

The National Criminal Justice Association, under a grant from OJJDP and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has produced a "Compilation of State Firearm Codes that Affect Juveniles." It contains most state firearm code provisions that might be applied to juveniles relating to the ownership, purchase, receipt, handling, carrying, and holding of firearms. It indicates that all 50 states and the District of Columbia have prohibitions or restrictions on firearms generally or handguns in particular that specifically affect or extend to juveniles. It also indicates the percentage of states that have codes affecting juveniles relevant to each of the following areas: possession of a firearm (75%); possession of particular types of firearms (90%); parental consent (at least 50%); safety training (10%); special prohibitions relating to adjudicated delinquents (more than 20%), persons addicted to alcohol or drugs (more than 33%), or committed to mental institutions (35%); firearms in schools (more than 67%); waivers to criminal court (18%); and detention (2%). It also describes juvenile firearm-related provisions enacted by state legislatures in 1994.

Even though reducing youth gun violence is a federal priority, the battleground is on the state and local level. The Federal role must be to encourage and assist that battle by providing support based upon sound information gathered nationally on effective approaches to intervention, rehabilitation, and prevention. The nuts and bolts of these activities, however, still remain with state and local jurisdictions.

Youth Gun Research

The extensive data, and the research that has been conducted by criminologists, public health researchers, and sociologists, should guide any youth gun violence prevention or intervention activity. The research on gun deaths affecting both adult and child populations is extensive. The literature which focuses exclusively on guns and youth overlaps with the other broader body of gun literature, but is even more extensive in the areas of incidence and prevalence of gun deaths.

The Incidence and Prevalence of Youth Gun Violence

The majority of studies on youth and guns focuses on homicide, suicide, or accidental death by firearms. Briefly stated, this research shows increasing numbers of homicides and deaths by firearms, especially among the population of young African American males.

Suicides - 1,899 youth ages 15-19 committed suicide in 1991, a rate of 11 per 100,000 youth in this age group. Between 1979 and 1991, the rate of suicide among youth ages 15-19 increased

31%. Firearms were used in 6 out of 10 suicides among 15-19 year olds in 1989 [Allen-Hagen, Sickmund, and Snyder, 1994]. The presence of firearms in the home is associated with the increased risk of adolescent suicides [Brent, Perper, and Allman, 1987].

Murder Rates - Homicide rates by youth 18 and under have more than doubled between 1985 and 1992 while there has been no growth in homicide rates by adults 24 and older. Following a period of relative stability from 1970 through 1985, there was a major increase starting just after 1985 in the murder rate by young people (ages 15-22). It is estimated that for this age group there were 18,600 murders during the seven years from 1986 to 1992; totalling 12.1% of the annual average of 22,000 murders in those years. In one year alone (1991) this age group generated an excess of 5,330 murders, or 21.6% of the total 24,703 reported in the 1991 Uniform Crime Report. For 16-year-olds, for example, whose murder rate prior to 1985 was consistently about half that of all other age groups, their increase from 1985 to 1992 was 138%. Even the 13 to 14-year-olds, whose rate is still low enough for them not to be a significant contributor to total murders, about doubled their murder rates between 1985 and 1992 [Blumstein, 1994].

Homicides with Guns - The number of homicides juveniles commit with guns has more than doubled between 1985 and 1992 while there has been no change in non-gun homicides. From 1976 through 1985, a very steady average of 59% of the homicides committed by juveniles involved a gun, and the other 41 percent involved some other form of weapon. Beginning in 1985, and especially in 1988, there was a steady growth in the use of guns by juveniles, with no corresponding upward trend (indeed, a continuation of a slight downward trend) in non-gun homicides [Blumstein, 1994].

Homicide Victims - For victims over age 30, the fraction killed by guns has declined a small but statistically significant amount from 1976 through 1991. But for victims in the 15 to 19 age range that rate has gone from an average of 63% from 1976 through 1984 to a level of 85% in 1992. For the younger victims, the rate has grown even higher, from 49% to 72 percent killed by guns. More than 70% of the teenage homicide victims were shot to death. [Blumstein, 1994]. Firearm homicide rates were highest for black males and lowest for white females in all five urbanization strata for 1979 through 1989 [Fingerhut, 1992]. Teenage boys in all racial and ethnic groups are more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from all natural causes combined [Jones & Krisberg, 1994].

This document, however, does not emphasize the body of literature on incidence and prevalence of child and youth gun death and murder rates, but rather highlights the much smaller body of literature on the context, analysis, and solutions proposed to this epidemic. This research relies less on police reports and, instead, builds upon opinion polls, self-reported surveys, epidemiological analysis, and criminological research.

The Context and Analysis of Youth Gun Violence and Preventive Solutions and Interventions

Research on the *contexts* which lead to youth involvement with guns, *analysis* of the reasons for youth involvement with guns, and *preventive solutions* and *interventions* to this problem are much more sparse

than the literature on the incidence of gun violence. It is in these four areas, however, that we find the most useful information for policies and methods for reducing youth gun violence.

CONTEXT

Research on the context of youth gun violence provides information beyond the numbers of deaths. It indicates the circumstances and broader significance surrounding the incidence of youth gun violence including young people's access to and use of guns; the role of drugs and drug dealing in youth gun violence; the importance of gun dealers and certain types of guns in the youth gun violence equation; the level of youth gun deaths associated with domestic arguments, suicide, and accidents rather than criminal behavior; and the effect of youth's social maladjustment or lack of training in proper gun handling on youth gun violence. In other words, the context of youth gun violence explains some of the interrelated causal factors critical to developing an intelligent approach to this crisis.

Access - The availability of guns makes youth violence more lethal [American Psychological Association, 1993; Elliott, 1994; Jones & Krisberg, 1994; McDowall, 1991]. Longitudinal research on juvenile violent behavior by the director of the Carnegie-supported *Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence*, shows that about the same proportion of youth are committing serious violent offenses today as in 1980 and their frequency of offending is the same. What has changed over the decade and is resulting in the quadrupling of youth homicides is the *lethality* of the violent acts. The fact that the adolescent homicide rate has more than doubled since 1988 is grim testimony of this increased lethality. This dramatic increase in the lethality of adolescent violence is explained almost entirely by the increased use of handguns in these violent exchanges. [Elliott, 1994].

- In one study documenting self-reported handgun access and ownership in Seattle, 34% of the students reported easy access to handguns (47% of males and 22% of the females); and 6.4% owning a handgun [Callahan & Rivera, 1992].
- In 1993, a national study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that 21% of New York City public high school students reported carrying a weapon, such as a gun, knife or club within a 30 day period, with 7% carrying a handgun.
- In the Rochester Youth Development Study, 10% of the 9th and 10th grade boys in Rochester public schools owned a firearm and 7.5% reported carrying them regularly [Lizotte, et al, 1994]
- A 1993 national opinion poll of children in grades 6-12 showed that 59% of the 2,508 children surveyed said they could "get a handgun if they wanted"; 35% maintained that it would take less than an hour to acquire a firearm; and 15% had carried a handgun in the last month [Louis Harris, 1993].

- A 1993 study among 7th grade males in an inner-city high school found that 48% had carried knives and 23% had carried guns. 45% of the 8th grade males carried a knife and 40% carried a gun regularly [Webster et al., 1993]

Use and Lethality - Although guns are more available, youth also now show an increasing tendency to use guns to settle disputes. When youth who are already predisposed to violence have easy access to guns, they may be more likely to become violent. [APA, 1993]. Low prices [Pacific Center, 1994] and technological innovations in firearm and ammunition manufacturing [Jones & Krisberg, 1994] further increases the lethality of youth gun violence. Despite advances in the medical field, advances in the invention of rapid-fire assault weapons and bullets designed to explode within the human target are always one step ahead, making gun death a more likely outcome of shootings .

Drugs and Firearms - Goldstein [in Blumstein, 1994] indicates three ways drugs and crime are connected. 1) *pharmacological/psychological* consequences, where the drug itself causes criminal or violent activity; 2) *economic/compulsive* crimes, which are crimes committed by drug users to support their habit; and 3) *systemic crime*, which includes the crimes committed as part of the regular means of doing business in the drug industry. With respect to the pharmacological effect of drugs, it is estimated that drugs, and most commonly alcohol, are present in a significant number of firearm related deaths [Pacific Center, 1994]. However, given the relative decline in the past few years of illegal drug use among young people, particularly African American youth, the extent of economic and compulsive crimes related to sustaining drug habits within this population is likely to be less significant. With respect to systemic drug crime, on the other hand, it is clear that firearms are more prevalent around illicit drugs [APA, 1993] and that this is particularly the case for young people. A longitudinal study of 1,500 Pittsburgh male youth shows that the frequency of carrying a concealed weapon increased in the year concurrent with the initiation of drug selling. Among drug sellers, the rates for gun use steadily increased while the rates for other weapons decreased. This was even more significant among drug sellers who sold hard drugs (heroin, cocaine, and LSD) [Van Kammen & Loeber, 1994].

Crack Cocaine and 1985 - Based on drug arrest rates and other data, Blumstein [1994] hypothesizes that the increase in the recruitment of juveniles, primarily nonwhites, into the drug markets began with the introduction of crack cocaine to the inner cities. In addition to the dramatic addictiveness of this drug, there are a number of reasons why youth, especially nonwhite youth, may have been brought into the crack drug market. According to police, the recent "drug war" has been focused on non-whites much more than whites because black drug sellers tend to operate in the street, whereas white sellers are much more likely to operate indoors. This makes black drug dealers more vulnerable to arrest and more inclined to recruit young people, who are less vulnerable to the punishments imposed by the adult criminal justice system. In addition, young people will work more cheaply than adults, tend to be more daring and willing to take risks, and may see no other comparably satisfactory route to economic sustenance. All these factors are undoubtedly enhanced by young people's pessimism as they weigh their opportunities in the legitimate economy, and the increasing demands for skills in order to gain effective entry. This makes them particularly amenable to recruitment and the lure of drug dealers. It also makes them more likely, as with all participants in the illicit drug industry, to carry guns for self-protection. These hypotheses are consistent with aggregate national data which show that the introduction of crack

cocaine and youth gun homicides flourished in tandem with one another at different times in different cities, early in New York City and Los Angeles, and later in Washington, D.C. [Blumstein, 1994].

Criminal Behavior, Arguments, Suicide, Accidents and Gun Deaths - Though often portrayed as resulting from criminal activity, the bulk of firearm deaths that occur as a result of arguments exceeds the number of firearm deaths associated with robberies, fights and rapes combined. [Pacific Center, 1994]. One study in King County, Washington found that guns kept at home were involved in the death of a household member 18 times more often than in the death of a stranger. These deaths included suicides, homicides, and unintentional fatal shootings [Kellerman, 1993].

Obtaining Guns From Gun Dealers - Duker's report on gun dealers [1994] poses questions and provides answers regarding state, county, and city licensed gun dealers. Contents include: 1) Where do adolescents who carry and use guns get them?; 2) How many gun dealers are in my city, county, or state?; 3) Detailed information on getting the names and addresses of gun dealers and stores in my city, county or state; and 4) Laws and regulations for gun dealers and preemptions. This report also provides state-by-state data on the geographical distribution, concentration and regulation of gun dealers.

Maladjusted Youth - Handguns are more likely to be owned by socially maladjusted youth, dropouts, drug dealers, and those individuals with a prior record of violent behavior, than by their more socially adjusted peers, even in those sections of the country in which firearms and hunting are fairly common. [APA, 1993; Elliott, 1994; Huizinga, 1994; Lizotte, 1994]. In a study by Webster et al [1993], gun carrying among 7th and 8th graders at an inner city school was associated with having previously been arrested, knowing more victims of violence, starting fights, and being willing to justify shooting someone. *Illegal* guns are especially more likely to be owned by delinquents or drug users. For example, 74% of the illegal gun owners commit street crimes, 24% commit gun crimes, and 41% use drugs. [Huizinga, 1994]

Types of Guns - In one study of serious juvenile offenders and students from high risk areas in four states, the firearms of choice were high-quality, powerful revolvers, closely followed by automatic and semi-automatic handguns, and then shotguns [Sheley & Wright, 1993]

Gun Socialization - According to one researcher, gun ownership by adults and the introduction of their children into gun culture appears to reduce problems associated with teenage violence [Blackman, 1994]. Huizinga's [1994] and Lizotte et al.'s [1994] research also shows that for legal gun owners, sport gun use socialization appears to take place in the family. For illegal gun owners, protective gun use socialization comes from peer influences "on the street."

ANALYSIS

Based on the information provided by examining the context of youth gun violence, the following are some hypotheses and explanations posited by the research literature for the increase in youth gun violence:

A Cycle of Fear - To the taxonomy of drug/crime connections described earlier, Blumstein adds a fourth way drugs and gun violence are related. He calls this the *community disorganization* effect of the drug industry and its operations on the larger community. The community disorganization effect includes the influence of the widespread prevalence of guns among drug sellers as a stimulus to others in the community to arm themselves similarly, perhaps for self-defense, perhaps to settle their own disputes that have nothing to do with drugs, or perhaps just to gain respect." [p.14]. Blumstein posits a "diffusion" hypothesis to explain the increase in firearm homicides among youth. He suggests that as juveniles became involved in the drug trade, they acquired guns to protect themselves. In turn, other young people obtained guns to protect themselves from these drug-involved, gun-carrying juveniles. Thus, disputes that would have been fist fights turned into shootings. Delbert Elliott's research on the increased lethality of youth violence [1994]; Fagan's forthcoming research on the "ecology of danger;" and the Louis Harris poll [1993], which shows that 35 % of children ages 6-12 fear their lives will be cut short by gun violence, support Blumstein's hypothesis.

Lack of Opportunity - Blumstein [1994] and Pacific Center [1994] further add that high levels of poverty, high rates of single-parent households, educational failures, and a widespread sense of economic hopelessness exacerbate the diffusion phenomenon and increase the usage of guns by young people.

Culture of Machismo and Violence - Fagan [forthcoming] suggests that, in addition to the environment of fear in which young people live, there are also cultural dynamics based on the illicit gun trade that has popularized guns and made "backing down" from arguments and "losing face" difficult for young people. Elliott's [1994] and Anderson's [1994] work also suggests that an element of showing off and ensuring respect and acquiescence from others is a method of self-defense that contributes to the youth gun violence we are witnessing. In addition to the drug trade, crimogenic neighborhoods and media violence are also factors contributing to the use of guns by young people. [Pacific Center, 1994]

Shapiro et al's research [1993] pinpoints grades 5 and 6 as a particularly "gun-prone" time and suggests that youth, responding aggressively to shame, finding guns exciting, feeling comfortable with aggression, and believing that guns bring power and safety, are most likely to engage in gun violence.

Lack of Faith in Law Enforcement - Elliott [1994] suggests that youth violence may be a response to the perception that public authorities cannot protect youth or maintain order in their neighborhoods.

Youth Perspective - The major increase in murders by the very young raises concerns because of the general perception of a "greater recklessness" associated with teenagers than with older adults. Guns in the hands of young people can engender fear because of the sense that young people are less likely to exercise the necessary restraint in handling dangerous weapons, especially when the weapons are rapid-fire assault weapons [Blumstein 1994]. Young people often have an underdeveloped sense of the value of life, their own as well as others. They may have an inability to understand how one seemingly isolated act can in turn impact an entire community. This developmental issue, when combined with access to guns and the other factors described above, may also contribute to youth gun violence. [Pacific Center, 1994].

PREVENTIVE SOLUTIONS

A fuller understanding of the context and an analysis of the problem of youth gun violence lends itself to an understanding of some ways to begin addressing the problem. There are a number of types of activities in which we can engage to reduce the incidence of youth gun violence. They include the following:

Preventive Services - More effective prevention through the identification of children at risk and referral to appropriate services are important first steps to reducing youth gun violence. [AAP, 1992; Blumstein, 1994]. These services should include teaching parenting skills and teaching children how to manage their anger nonviolently [Henkoff, 1992]. Violence-prone attitudes seem to increase between 5th and 6th grades and then stabilize. Prevention programs that identify, address, and change attitudes, motives, and beliefs that are conducive to violent behavior should be aimed at such ages [Shapiro et al, 1993]. Programs for at-risk youth should focus on changing individual behavior and decision-making processes [Fagan, forthcoming]. These programs should also address alternative ways to express cultural pride and strength [May, 1994].

Working With Witnesses to Violence - It is also very important to offer psychological health services to young perpetrators, victims and witnesses of violence [APA, 1993; Collison, et al., 1987]. A survey of 582 Cook County Department of Corrections detainees found that 51% had previously entered hospitals for violence-related injuries; and 26% survived prior gunshot wounds. Those with prior firearm injuries shared other common factors which included witnessing a shooting at an early age and easy access to a semiautomatic weapon. [May, 1995]

Public Education - Long-term public and family education programs and gun safety curricula in school are another suggested approach. [AAP, 1992; CDCP, 1991; Christoffel, 1991; Fingerhut, 1991; Sugarman & Rand, 1994; Treanor & Bijlefeld, 1989]. Involving youth [Treanor & Bijlefeld, 1989] and developing community consensus on the use and possession of weapons is essential to an effective public education process. [Fingerhut et al, 1992].

Reducing Fear - Because the fear of assault is often claimed as the reason for carrying a firearm, programs should be implemented which address the risk of victimization, improve school climate, create safe havens, and foster a safe community environment [Butterfield & Turner, 1989; CDCP, 1991; Fagan, forthcoming; Kennedy, 1994; Sheley & Wright, 1993]. As Sheley & Wright put it, "the fundamental policy problem involves convincing youths that they can survive in their neighborhoods without being armed." [1993]. This means reducing both perceived environmental dangers and reducing actual opportunities for weapon-associated violence [Fingerhut, 1991].

Making Guns Safer - Safer gun design, regulation, product liability, increased sales tax, firearm registration and licensure, background checks, and ammunition modification are ways to regulate the dangers of guns. [AAP, 1989; Christoffel, 1991; Sugarman & Rand, 1994]

Reducing Availability and Stricter Regulation - Nationwide, domestic manufacturing and foreign importation of handguns reached an all time high in 1992 [Pacific Center, 1994]. Stricter legislation and

assault and handgun gun bans are approaches almost unanimously suggested by the research as ways to limit the accessibility of guns to youth [AAP, 1989; APA, 1993; Christoffel, 1991; Fingerhut, 1991; Henkoff, 1992; Kennedy, 1994; Lawyers Committee, 1994; Pacific Center, 1994; Smith & Lautman, 1990]. The National Rifle Association favors regulations relating to the access and misuses of firearms by minors, particularly at the state level, as long as these regulations do not impinge on adults' rights [Blackman, 1994].

Brewer et al.'s review of preliminary evaluations of the effectiveness of local gun laws and policies [1994] showed that mandatory sentencing laws for felonies involving firearms indicate some promise in preventing gun-related violent crime. Restrictive handgun laws also have some indication of effectiveness [Elliott, 1994; Lofton et al., 1991]. Other types of laws have not been evaluated adequately to permit classification as either effective or ineffective.

Enforcing Laws - Brewer et al.'s review [1994] suggests that enforcement of laws may be the key to their preventive potential. The Lawyers Committee on Violence, a consortia of legal advocates, also espouse such a strategy [1994].

Drug Treatment and Prevention - Additional investments in drug treatment and a reduction of youth involvement with alcohol and drugs are also effective strategies. [American Psychological Association, 1993; Blumstein, 1994]. Reducing the illicit drug trade would reduce drug-related violence as well as drug-induced violence. In addition, as Van Kammen & Loeber's [1994] research shows, a reduction in juveniles selling drugs is likely to reduce the carrying of concealed weapons, particularly guns.

Improving Opportunities - Changes in the family, community, and society should complement any intervention focused on individual perpetrators. The culture of violence and structural lack of opportunity in inner cities, in particular, should be addressed [Ruttenberg, 1994; Sheley & Wright, 1992].

INTERVENTIONS

While preventive approaches seek to minimize the development of the factors associated with youth gun violence, interventions work with young people already engaged in high-risk activities.

Getting Guns Out of the Hands of Kids - To reduce the environment of fear and to achieve the greatest reduction in the number of weapon-carrying youth, the research suggests that efforts be directed at frequent weapon carriers. [Blumstein, 1994; CDCP, 1991]. Naturally, young people's civil liberties should be respected [Northrop & Hamrick, 1990], but gun reduction strategies and fear reduction strategies should reinforce one another. Kennedy [1994] suggests a "market disruption" approach such as that utilized in fighting street drug markets. By using community allies to report new dealing sites, making buyers feel vulnerable by publicizing reverse sting operations in which police pose as dealers and arrest buyers, and interfering with business by loitering around dealer sites, police have been successful in reducing drug trafficking in communities. Community support is critical for the effectiveness of such an operation. A recent National Institute of Justice sponsored evaluation of the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department's "Weed and Seed" program found that the program's success in getting guns off the

street in one neighborhood reduced gun crimes there by almost 50% during a six-month period and, significantly, the decline in the target area did not appear to cause a displacement of crime to adjoining neighborhoods.

Reducing the Supply of Guns - The Lawyers Committee on Violence, on the other hand, proposes that legal burdens associated with gun-violence fall not only on the shooter of the gun, but also on the owner, the seller or supplier, the manufacturer, and the shooter's parents if the shooter is a minor.

Reporting and Detection - The National School Safety Center found that one of the most effective intervention tactics was to encourage students to report weapon-carrying classmates to teachers or administrators [Butterfield & Turner, 1989]. They also suggest the use of metal detectors, unannounced sweeps and searches of lockers [Butterfield & Turner, 1989; Lawyers Committee, 1994].

Utilizing a Broad Coalition of Advocates and Experts - In almost every piece of literature addressing youth gun violence, the authors agree that the activities suggested above should be accomplished by a broad coalition of concerned individuals and organizations [Advocacy Institute, 1994; AAP, 1989; APA, 1993; Becker, Olsen, and Vick, 1993; May, 1995; Price et al., 1991; Smith & Lautman, 1990; Sugarman & Rand, 1994; Treanor & Bijlefeld, 1989]. Crime control professionals; public health and health professionals; victim's families; educators; law makers; criminologists; gun control groups; community-based organizations; community members; the armed services; Federal Communications Commission; and the U.S. Civil Rights Commission can all participate in advocating for the freedom of our youth from gun violence. An effective strategy is one that includes young people and disinvested people and provides legitimate activities and opportunities for them [Blumstein, 1994].

Further Research

The experts in the field of youth gun violence have posited that further research in the following areas would assist in firmly grounding future youth firearms policy and practice:

- The magnitude, characteristics and cost of morbidity and disability caused by firearms and other weapons [Northrop & Hamrick, 1990; Sugarman & Rand, 1994; Zimring, 1993].
- The number, type, and distribution of firearms and other weapons in the United States. [Northrop & Hamrick, 1990].
- The reasons why young people carry guns. [APA, 1993].
- What part the truly violent gangs play in the increase in urban violence. It is unclear if the growth in urban violence is due to gangs, law-violating youth groups, or non-gang youths. [Howell, 1994]
- Epidemiological studies on the precursors and correlates of firearm deaths and injuries or non-fatal assaults (which occur 100 times more than homicides among

children [AAP, 1992; Northrop & Hamrick, 1990; Pacific Center, 1994].

- The effectiveness of gun control policies [Elliott, 1994; Northrop & Hamrick, 1990; Zimring, 1993].

The National Institute for Justice (NIJ) is currently taking steps to address some of these gaps in the research. Ongoing and recently-funded studies in NIJ's Office of Criminal Justice Research include the following:

- A national survey of private firearms ownership and use.
- A study on firearms prevalence in and around urban, suburban, and rural high schools.
- A study which will apply the principles of problem-oriented policing to the interruption of illicit youth gun markets in Boston and Washington, D.C., combining prevention strategies with policing strategies used against illegal drug markets.
- A research project evaluating the effectiveness of a comprehensive strategy to reduce juvenile gun violence in the Atlanta metropolitan region (in conjunction with OJJDP and the Centers for Disease Control).
- A study on youth violence, guns, and links to illicit drug markets.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is funding both ongoing and new research that addresses different aspects of the gun problem including the following:

- An examination of the inter-relationship of guns, violence, drugs and gangs in the Office's Program of Research on Causes and Correlates of Delinquency (in Rochester, Pittsburgh, and Denver).
- A set of studies (in Los Angeles, Milwaukee, the District of Columbia, and South Carolina) of youth violence trends and characteristics. These studies focus specifically on homicides and the use of firearms in them.
- Research on gang involvement of juveniles, including information on gang members who are homicide perpetrators. A national assessment of the scope and seriousness of gang violence will also be conducted.

Technological and Environmental Interventions

While technological changes are not the subject of this document, it is important to note that they are an important approach to reducing youth gun violence, and also in reducing the extensive use of guns against their owners. Firearm design requirements are both a technological and a legal intervention. Firearm standards that have been proposed include designing guns to be less concealable; producing guns with trigger safeties, fingerprint identification, and loading indicators; and regulating the appearance of toy guns as well as actual handguns made of plastic. Design of ammunition is also being explored, since bullet shape, consistency, and composition determine the severity of a gunshot injury.

The Department of Justice is supporting research and demonstrations in the area of technological and environmental interventions. For example, the Bureau of Justice Assistance has awarded a grant to the Chicago Police Department to work with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to increase the solution rate of firearm-related violent crime through *Ceasefire*. *Ceasefire* is an automated projectile comparison system that stores the images of unique rifling marks found on bullet surfaces. The system, which will allow firearms technicians to work more efficiently, will soon have the capacity to compare cartridge casings as well.

The NIJ and the FBI are also involved in the effort to examine technological solutions to youth gun violence. Through an interagency agreement, the two organizations are conducting a study of the penetration effects on human targets of fired handgun bullets of various calibers and types. The analysis covers different geographical patterns of shootings and also identifies significant correlations between projectile characteristics and resulting trauma.

The Role of Federal Law Enforcement

While it is yet to be determined what the impact of federal law enforcement will be with respect to prosecuting juvenile handgun violations under the Youth Handgun Safety Act, it is likely to supplement rather than supersede state and local law enforcement efforts. Instead, the Federal government and the Department of Justice, in particular, will intensify efforts to support state and local law enforcement activities. In addition to the supportive role, federal prosecutors and law enforcement will be primary in filling voids where they exist in law enforcement strategies or when there are inadequate state laws to address the broader impact of youth violence generally. Through technical assistance, identifying resources, interstate gun tracing, national data collection and surveillance, facilitating the sharing of information, and highlighting law enforcement and prevention strategies to address youth gun violence, and demonstration grants, the federal government can assist states and local jurisdictions as they implement gun safety legislation. All citizens have a stake in protecting America's communities and providing safe places for businesses to grow and youth to develop into healthy, productive citizens. The following are a few examples of cooperative efforts spearheaded by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) or Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS):

- BJA is funding the development of a Computerized Information System for the Pittsburgh Police Department Gun Task Force which will connect multiple Federal and local law enforcement agencies via a LAN network and remote communications lines to gather and exchange firearms and related information, including applications for firearms purchases, carriage, dealership licenses, police reports on stolen, confiscated, and pawned firearms within the Pittsburgh region.
- With the Centers for Disease Control, BJS is analyzing data relating to intentional injury -- including firearm injury -- through a National Electronic Injury Surveillance System fielded by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. This data collection effort will produce detailed information about the types of injuries that are treated in hospital emergency rooms, providing the first national data about nonfatal firearm injury.
- BJA is funding a model Firearms Licensee Compliance demonstration project in New York City. The project is a joint effort by NYPD and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) designed to enhance the ability of the NYPD Pistol License Division to conduct thorough background investigations on Federal Firearms License applicants.
- BJA is also funding a number of demonstration projects in Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Indiana and collectively in Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond which work with State Police, Local Police, and/or the ATF to identify, target, investigate and prosecute individuals and dismantle illicit organizations engaged in the unlawful use, sale, or acquisition of firearms.
- BJA is supporting the North Carolina Violent Career Criminal Task Force which operates throughout the state and involves the ATF and the three U.S. Attorneys within the state. The project is designed to target, arrest, and convict active violent predatory criminals throughout the state and to develop a model procedure designed to disrupt the flow of firearms to violent offenders.
- BJA will fund a national-based law enforcement organization in concert with ATF, to provide training and administrative support to the 14-State "Interstate Firearms Trafficking Compact." The purposes of the project are to inform state and local law enforcement officers about existing Federal and state firearms-related statutes and to publicize the goals of the "Compact" to Federal, state and local criminal justice officials, public officials, and the general public.

In a 1994 report to the Attorney General and the President of the United States, the U.S. Attorneys outlined ways they could support state and local efforts to get guns out of the hands of young people. Their plans involved six strategies:

- 1) Prosecution and enforcement of the ban on juvenile handgun possession:

- a) Disruption of the markets that provide guns to youth.
- b) Taking guns out of the hands of kids through coordination with state and local prosecutors.

- 2) Working with state and local officials to enhance the enforcement of their laws.
- 3) Encouraging and providing financial support for state and local efforts to trace the sources of guns taken from juveniles.
- 4) Launching targeted enforcement efforts aimed at places where young people should feel safe -- e.g., at home, at school, and in recreation centers.
- 5) Actively participating in prevention efforts aimed at juveniles in our communities through mentoring programs, adopting a school, and neighborhood watch.
- 6) Working to promote increased personal responsibility and safety through public outreach on the consequences of juvenile handgun possession.

These approaches endorsed by U.S. Attorneys and supported by the Department of Justice are critical components to any comprehensive youth gun violence reduction strategy.

Individual Prevention and Intervention Programs

Previous sections of this document have referred to the incidence of youth gun violence, its context, an analysis of the causes, and a range of solutions, from technological interventions to federal law enforcement approaches. This next section addresses individual programs which seek to incorporate those lessons. It broadly summarizes the various strategies that have been implemented by different organizations across the country in their efforts to reduce youth gun violence. Detailed descriptions of each of the referenced programs can be found in the Youth Gun Violence Program Directory (Part II of this document).

Although youth can easily obtain firearms, and see them used frequently in films and on television as a method for solving problems, few violence prevention programs for youth focus specifically on preventing violence with guns [APA, 1993]. The programs which do exist can be divided into nine basic categories. Categories 1-4 are generally prevention programs and categories 5-9 are generally intervention programs:

- 1) Curricula;
- 2) Trauma Prevention;
- 3) Gun Buy-Back Programs;

- 4) Public Education Campaigns;
- 5) Community Law Enforcement Programs;
- 6) Gun Market Disruption and Interception;
- 7) Diversion and Treatment Programs;
- 8) Gun Courts; and
- 9) Alternative Schools.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention found fifty-two (52) programs listed in the *Program Directory* that fall in to one of these nine categories; and forty (40) institutes and organizations listed in the *National Organization Directory* which support these types of programs or have been instrumental in their development. The following 10 sections briefly summarize the critical programmatic information provided in these directories.

Prevention Programs

1. Curricula

The majority of youth gun violence reduction programs are curricula carried out in schools, community-based organizations, and physicians' offices. They emphasize the prevention of weapon misuse, the risks involved with the possession of a firearm, and the need for conflict resolution and anger management skills. Educational programs often use videotapes to support their presentation of the tragic results of gun violence and may also include firearm safety instructions, public information campaigns, counseling programs, or crisis intervention hotlines.

Law Enforcement-Based Curricula - Police and sheriff departments have been instrumental in supporting these curricula. As part of drug-education, public safety, and violence prevention efforts, police officers and sheriffs across the nation have worked collaboratively with schools to present critical information on gun violence to young people and, simultaneously, to develop more effective and personable relations with young people. Examples of gun violence reduction curricula used by law enforcement include: the **Gun Safety Awareness Program** in Dade County, Florida; **Guns, Teens, and Consequences** in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and the **Handgun Violence Reduction Program** in Towson, Maryland.

In Dade County a **Youth Crime Watch** program, mandated for all schools, was created in 1984 to extend the neighborhood watch concept to schools. The **Gun Safety Awareness Program**, a district-wide effort, began in November 1988. In addition to the comprehensive curriculum, the school board declares a week in November as "Gun Safety Awareness Week." The Gun Safety Awareness Program targets K-12 students and their parents, examining causes of handgun violence in the community and educating youth and parents on how to prevent gun related violence, encouraging anonymous reporting of guns, and teaching the consequences of being arrested.

The curriculum is supplemented by area Youth Crime Watches, school resource officers, and police officers. Training workshops for parents on handgun safety awareness have been conducted in each school by Parent Education Department Staff. Metal detectors are used unannounced at selected schools, and students caught with guns are referred to juvenile or adult court and recommended for expulsion to an alternative school. Awareness levels among youth and parents about the need to prevent handgun violence have increased in Dade County as a result of the program.

School-Based Curricula - The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence has developed a school-based curriculum which has been used extensively across the country and has been evaluated with positive results. The Straight Talk About Risks (STAR) program is a comprehensive school-based program designed to reduce gun injuries and deaths with prevention activities for children and their families. Through STAR, students also learn how to make better, safer decisions and resolve conflicts without violence through role-playing, goal setting, and the development of leadership skills.

The NRA's program "Eddie the Eagle;" The Firearm Injury Prevention Curriculum in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Kids + Guns: A Deadly Equation; Solutions Without Guns in Cleveland, Ohio; and Weapons Are Removed Now (WARN) in Reseda, California are other examples of gun safety curricula.

Physician-Based Curricula - A number of curricula are used by physicians to instruct parents about the dangers of guns in the home. Steps to Prevent Firearm Injury (STOP) is a collaborative effort between the American Association of Pediatricians and the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. It has led to The Childhood Firearm Injury Prevention Project which is the first national educational program designed for pediatricians to use when counseling parents on the risks of keeping a gun in the home and the dangers guns pose in the community. The program consists of (1) a monograph on firearm injury and death; (2) a bibliography of resources related to gun violence in America; (3) an audiotape that models dialogue between pediatricians and parents; (4) an eight-page brochure for parents that describes the dangers guns present and ways to minimize them; and (5) a poster for display in waiting rooms.

Other similar physician-based curricula include the Boston Violence Prevention Project "Protocol Package for Health Care Providers"; the Educational Development Center's Firearm Injuries; and Camden, New Jersey's Injury Prevention and Control Unit.

2. Trauma Prevention

A second category of programming involves peer education by young people who have been injured by gun violence. These programs usually emanate from a public health project or hospital.

Youth Alive in San Francisco sends young counselors into Highland Hospital to try to persuade teenage gunshot victims to avoid further violence by not retaliating. Counselors emphasize that all revenge is going to do is destroy another life and put friends (who are doing the retaliating) at risk of being locked up. This program also involves young gunshot victims in sharing their experiences with kids involved in gang behavior.

The Shock Mentor program is another trauma prevention program. This program was recently developed

by Prince Georges County, Maryland Hospital Center and Concerned Black Men, Inc., a mentoring group of African American professionals. The program brings Prince Georges' high school students into the shock trauma and emergency rooms to watch doctors patch together the victims and perpetrators of violence. This program is part of a larger county school-wide conflict-resolution program, peer mediation training program, black male achievement program, and county-wide forum on violence prevention.

The visits continue throughout the school year and each time students go through the trauma center, they are accompanied by a member of Concerned Black Men. Their role is to provide support to the young people and to show them that there is an alternative to becoming a statistic in a trauma unit.

Other examples of trauma prevention programs include the **Hospital-based Youth Violence Prevention Program** in Camden, New Jersey; **People Opening the World's Eye to Reality (POWER)** in New York City; and **Southeastern Michigan Spinal Cord Injury System** in Detroit, Michigan.

3. Gun Buy-back Programs

There have been many gun buy-back programs started across the country. These programs have been precipitated by various events and have met with varying success. This document does not present all of the gun buy-back programs and only mentions those which are being conducted in tandem with a wider gun violence prevention effort. The **Prevention Partnership** in Brooklyn, New York, for example, provides incentives for people to turn in guns for food vouchers, but also involves the Center for Substance Abuse and Prevention Community Partnership, and two police precincts.

Weapon Watch is another example of a more comprehensive gun turn-in program. Organized by the mental health center of the Memphis School District, the Memphis Police Department, and Crime Stoppers, a group that financially rewards citizens for calling in tips about crimes, Weapon Watch was implemented to get children involved in ridding their schools of weapons. Instead of buying metal detectors, Memphis officials decided to get students involved in weeding out the weapons. A hot line was established for students to call anonymously with information pertaining to a class mate who brings a weapon to school. Students who call in are given a secret code number. Once the call is received, police are dispatched to the school, and officers conduct an investigation. Students are rewarded if the information leads to the confiscation of weapons and the arrest of the classmate who brings a weapon on campus.

Citizens for Safety in Boston, Massachusetts has pulled together a community-based coalition to reduce violence in Boston. CFS's membership includes 50 neighborhood and youth organizations as well as over 500 citizens from across the city. In 1993 CFS organized a gun buy-back program which removed 1,302 guns from circulation. Ongoing activities include expanding the buy-back program; conducting "Guns Kill" workshops for teenagers; and sponsoring an annual 24 hour Soccer Marathon for Peace, and the Peace League, a summer educational and recreation program for gang members.

4. Public Education Campaigns

There are a number of public education campaigns currently being conducted on either a national, state-wide, or local scale. These campaigns tend to be directed at young people or women and address the dangers of guns and the unacceptability of using guns to solve problems.

The **Children's Defense Fund Cease Fire** campaign involves 10 steps to stop the war against children in America including removing guns from our homes, creating opportunities, providing safe havens, being informed about media violence and real violence, and resolving conflicts peaceably. The campaign also features television public service announcements and the "Wall of Names," a print presentation of more than 600 children killed from 39 states by gunfire in 1993-1994.

The **Center to Prevent Handgun Violence** recently collaborated with Disney Educational Productions to produce a gun violence prevention video, "Under the Gun," which challenges the glamorization of guns and the notion that guns make us safer. Disney plans to market the video to schools, recreation centers, police departments, juvenile justice facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other educational organizations.

The **Mobile Bay Area Partnership for Youth**, a community based organization, in coordination with the police and sheriff's departments created the **Kid With a Gun/Call 911 Campaign** to encourage citizens to call 911 upon seeing an armed youth. A three-month long media campaign in 1992 focused local attention on youth violence and gun safety and raised parents' awareness about these issues. Since then, whenever the gun problem recurs, the police ask the media to repeat the campaign's public service announcements.

Other public education programs include the **Hands Without Guns** campaign and **Words Not Weapons** in Boston, Massachusetts, and **Fresno's Youth Violence Prevention Network** in California. The Youth Violence Prevention Network campaign is unique because it directly involves young people in delivering an anti-gun violence message, and is especially geared toward the Spanish-speaking population which constitutes the majority of the at-risk residents in the neighborhood. Previously known as Radio Bilingue, it is the result of a collaboration by Chicano Youth Center, House of Hope, Save Our Sons and Daughters, and End Barrio Warfare. Fresno Youth Violence Prevention Network aims to strengthen the coalition programs that serve at-risk youths with the goal of empowering young people and communities of color to work together to reduce violence in their neighborhoods. Violence prevention activities include developing gun-free zone programs in city parks and neighborhoods, school emergency response and mediation teams led by directors of organizations that serve high-risk youths, youth conferences, and youth leadership programs. A key participant in the coalition is the Radio Bilingue, a Hispanic-controlled, noncommercial radio station serving the San Joaquin Valley. Radio Bilingue broadcasts anti-violence and anti-drug public service announcements and sponsors Paz, a unique violence prevention radio program targeted toward at-risk youths, educating them about the causes of violence and the impact of gun violence. The program features local speakers, including police officers, school officials, and community citizens.

By far the most extensive public education campaign against youth gun violence is the **California Wellness Campaign to Prevent Handgun Violence Against Kids**, a \$2 million state-wide public education effort which has conducted extensive research, surveys, polling, focus groups, and analysis of target audiences; produced multiple 30-second television PSA's that run on prime time in both English and Spanish; communicated critical information on youth gun violence through its "First Aid" portfolio to more than 8,000 elected officials, key media leaders, and public agencies; received more than 75,000 calls and 11,000 supporters through its 1-800-222-MANY hotline and information service; organized a women's coalition against gun violence; and developed a video teleconference town hall meeting throughout the state to unveil its policies on handguns and firearms.

This project is linked to a broader \$30 million, five-year state-wide initiative to reduce youth violence in California. The project includes the **Pacific Center for Violence Prevention**, the policy branch of the initiative; a leadership program; a community action program which has funded ten sites to form broad-based coalitions of major local public and private entities in developing pilot projects to reduce youth violence; and a research program.

Intervention Programs

Intervention programs are different from prevention programs in that they target a more at-risk or delinquency-involved population, tend to be more intensive, are implemented after-the-fact, and more actively engage law enforcement and the juvenile justice system. Programs that intervene with young people who use guns or have been caught with guns are, unfortunately, very rare. This is an area in dire need of further development. While there exist a number of informal interventions that sheriffs, police officers, probation officers, and others have developed to work with the population directly involved in handgun violence, the majority of these efforts have yet to be formalized into systematic protocol, and certainly have not yet been tested. Given the new federal legislation, however, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services are particularly interested in developing and supporting innovative and effective ways to intervene with young people who have been caught with guns or are at very high risk of being involved in gun violence.

One of the most widely used gun violence intervention approaches that has received some evaluation, and has demonstrated mixed results, is the use of metal scanners to detect firearms. According to the National School Safety Center, 70% of the Nation's 50 largest districts have installed scanners in the schools. New York City Metal Detector Program is one of the best known of these programs. Because the use of scanners, book bag bans and locker searches is now so common, these approaches are not covered here.

5. Community Law Enforcement Programs

The **Illinois State Police School Security Facilitator Program** identifies a jurisdiction where concerns about, and levels of, school violence are in evidence. Representatives from all community programs (private, government, not-for-profit) that play a role in addressing youth crime/violence problems are invited to attend an intensive 5 day team building/education program at ISP's training academy. A typical "team" will include:

- Law enforcement personnel (youth officers, others)
- School administrators/teachers
- Local state's attorney/public defender
- Prevention and treatment staff (local programs)
- Other court officials
- Other concerned community members

Community teams may range in size from 5 to 15. Each member is expected to live at the academy (in trooper dorms) with his/her team members throughout the training program. The courses are divided between youth violence issue education and violence reduction strategies. Part of the curriculum in this training effort deals directly with the interdiction of guns coming into schools. Trainers highlight identification of situations where violence may escalate to use of a weapon, investigative techniques to acquire secondary/tertiary source information on any weapons that might be in the school, and actual strategies for weapon removal and cooperation with law enforcement authorities. Additional programs such as locker searches, canine searches, and metal detectors are also discussed. School administrators are cautioned about direct intervention with an armed student. Teams are "returned" to their communities to educate others on youth violence issues and to implement selected strategies for violence reduction. No short or long term evaluation of this program has been implemented. Anecdotal information from prior participants would indicate some degree of usefulness/success.

The University of Virginia's (UVA) Youth Violence Project focuses on reducing youth violence through a team approach. Staff bring together a multi-disciplinary team of experts on youth aggression and violence (education, psychology, law enforcement, planning, crime prevention) who present 4 to 45 hour instruction courses in selected Virginia cities. Prior participating cities include: Falls Church, Newport News, Roanoke, Richmond and Virginia Beach.

Program participants (primarily school and law enforcement officials from target jurisdictions) are exposed to a variety of issues (risk factors for violence, multi-cultural dynamics, etc.) and are asked to implement a series of actions in their schools including building security assessments and peer mediation. Many of the instructors in this program are local police officers. Part of their curriculum also deals with weapon detection and interdiction. School collaboration/cooperation is stressed, since school officials are not trained in defensive weapon removal/disarming tactics. In 1994, the project will expand its reach through a televised version "School Safety and Youth Aggression" to be down-linked to 24 sites across the Commonwealth.

No short or long term evaluation of this program has been implemented. Anecdotal information from prior participants would indicate some degree of usefulness/success. UVA staff would be supportive of any credible outside evaluation effort.

6. Gun Market Disruption and Interception

Police searches for weapons provide another important means of stemming youth gun violence. If civil rights are respected and communities are supportive, these approaches can be very effective in communicating strong societal opposition to youth gun violence.

Washington, D.C.'s Gun recovery Unit is a specially trained squad of officers assigned to a part of the city with an unusually high rate of firearms crimes. Patrolling the area, the squad identifies and frisks individuals who raise a reasonable suspicion of being armed. The vast majority of frisked individuals are under 22 years of age, and about 40 percent of them are minors. This program is an obvious partner for another program in Washington, D.C. called the Youth Trauma Team.

A group of two psychologists, four social workers, 16 community recreation workers, and 45 trained police officers formed the Youth Trauma Team which patrols the city at all hours helping children cope with the violence they so often witness. The work of the Team is helped by the Howard University Violence Prevention Project which offers an after-school middle school program, a pre-school program, and a summer camp which provides social support, tutoring, esteem-building, and cultural enrichment for children who have been exposed to serious violence, including gun violence. The program gives children an opportunity to receive the services they need to reduce the probability of their repeating the cycle of violence.

Another example of gun interception can be found in Chicago where a 1992 Chicago Ordinance empowers police officers to impound any car transporting an illegal firearm. Once impounded, the vehicle can be reclaimed only through a \$500 nonrefundable bond or, if the owner claims the seizure was improper, in a hearing before an administrative officer. Since October 1992, nearly 2,000 cars have been impounded, most from youth under age 25.

Sixty to sixty-seven percent of the firearms seized by federal authorities in Chicago and the suburbs have come from underage firearm owners, according to the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Chicago office. The ATF is tracking firearm usage by people in Chicago and a comprehensive report will be available in 1995. Preliminary figures show over 9,000 underage gun owners. The weapon of choice for most young people on the streets is the 9 mm semi-automatic pistol, which usually holds 15 to 19 bullets.

The Kansas City Weed and Seed program is a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney, and the Kansas City Police Department. They have pulled together a working group consisting of law enforcement, human service agencies, and community organizations including the Regional Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Small Business Administration; the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance; and the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime.

The program has been conducted by focusing police efforts in high-crime neighborhoods on routinely stopping traffic violators, on youth violating curfews and on other infractions of the law. During these routine stops, police look for any infractions that give them the legal authority to search a car or pedestrian for illegal guns. Special gun-intercept teams have been used and have been determined to be 10 times more cost-effective than regular police patrols. In an 80-block neighborhood with a homicide rate 20 times the national average, the program reduced crime by at least 50% during a six-month period through a gun-intercept experiment. In addition, as noted earlier, these efforts did not displace crime to other locales; gun crimes did not increase significantly in any of the surrounding seven patrol beats. Despite the fact that previous police campaigns have drawn protests of discrimination, the gun intercept program in Kansas City has not drawn protests. Police have involved community and religious leaders

in initial planning, and neighborhoods have made requests for greater police activity.

7. Diversion and Treatment Programs

Diversion and treatment programs provide some of the most interesting examples of techniques to use with youngsters who have been involved in gun violence. In Pima County, Arizona, the **Juvenile Diversion Program** has set up a firearms prevention course for youngsters who are not hardcore delinquents but who have been referred to juvenile court for firing or carrying a gun, as well as young people at risk for becoming involved with guns. At least one parent is required to attend the monthly sessions. During the course, the assistant prosecutor informs the juveniles and their parents about gun laws. Parents are given instruction on safe gun storage. By agreeing to take the course, the youngsters do not have their case adjudicated and are not placed on probation; however, they do acquire a juvenile record.

Project LIFE (Lasting Intense Firearms Education), operated by Indiana Juvenile Court, is a diversion program for juveniles arrested on gun charges. As in the Pima County program, parental participation is required. The program is designed to help youth and their parents learn about the effects of gun violence and accidents through an experiential exercise. Children and their parents prepare a paper on the effect of guns. A discussion based on these papers opens the education session. After the discussion, a videotape of an actual accidental shooting is shown. Participants engage in another discussion on the impact they would have felt had the delinquents been the victims of gun violence or accidents rather than the violators of gun laws. They imagine and discuss, for example getting a call from the morgue rather than from the jail. The majority of the families do not return to juvenile court on gun charges.

Cermak Health Services of Cook County works with Cook County jail inmates, the majority of whom have been involved in gun violence, through a culturally sensitive informal curriculum directly addressing the risk factors for future involvement in gun violence. While this population does not technically represent a juvenile population, it does tend to be a young population. This program is being considered for broader use by a juvenile population.

The **Barron Assessment and Counseling Center** is a project of the Boston public school system. If a student is found to have or to have had a weapon on school property, he or she is charged under the disciplinary code and given a hearing with the community superintendent. If the charges are substantiated, the parents are notified and the student is referred to the center. At the center, students (elementary through high school) receive academic, psychological and social assessments, as well as crisis intervention counseling. The students continue to receive assignments from school. The program has an aftercare component to continue services to the youth after release from the center. Staff prepare individualized service delivery plans for each client. Special workshops to teach these youths alternatives to violence are provided by Northeastern University School of Law, Office of Emergency Medical Services and Vietnam Veterans Against Violence. This program is coordinated with the juvenile court, probation officers and the Departments of Youth Services, Social Services and Mental Health. The **Rebound/Lookout Mountain Camp Falcon Juvenile Facility** in Denver, Colorado offers an additional treatment-type program through a boot camp experience.

8. Gun Courts

A special type of court called a **Gun Court** has recently been established in Providence, Rhode Island to focus on gun crimes. All gun crimes are referred to a single judge who processes cases on a fast track. New rules have cut the life span of gun crime cases in half and, of the 18 cases heard to date, the Judge has sent 15 defendants to jail. Many defendants, instead of taking their cases to trial, are now pleading guilty in exchange for a reduction to two years of the state's mandatory 10-year jail sentence.

The Gun Court model has received support both from gun control advocates and the NRA. Legislators in Texas and Court Administrators in Louisiana and Illinois are proposing Gun Courts of their own, based on the Providence model. Dade County is also looking at the model; however, capacity to handle the caseloads in Dade County has been a point of concern. These programs, while they expedite the handling of cases also have the potential to address special treatment issues related to gun violence.

9. Alternative Schools

Zero Tolerance school programs make a strong statement about keeping guns off school grounds, but they often do not provide for alternative placement or education of the kid who may be caught with a gun. More effective are programs which attend to youth through swift and strict sanctions, treatment, and the development of viable academic and employment opportunities.

At the **Hazelwood Center High School – Student Intervention Program**, students who are suspended for assaults, weapons, or drugs are referred to a four-week alternative program at a location away from their home school. Students engage in four hours of individualized course work and participate in group counseling sessions daily. Students also attend weekly individual counseling sessions. Counseling focuses on issues such as conflict mediation, habits and addictions, and communication. Parents are mandated to participate in three counseling session focused on family history, parenting skills, and school-related family issues. After completion of the four-week program, students are evaluated by school administrators to determine if the rest of the 90-day suspension can be completed through in-school probation.

The **Second Chance School** in Topeka, Kansas is a similar program. It is a half-day instructional program for voluntary students who have been expelled for possession of weapons or assaulting a staff member. Students engage in studies of math, social sciences and language skills, participate in some recreational activities and are required to participate in community service. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, students attend the program for one semester or one year. Upon successful completion of the program, grades are sent to the home schools and students are readmitted. To date, 90% of the students enrolled have successfully completed the program. The program has been operating for three years and has a maximum capacity of eight students in the morning class and eight in the afternoon class. The Second Chance School has developed partnerships between the juvenile courts, the public schools, the police department and the recreational department.

Comprehensive Initiatives

The programs that are identified in the *Program Directory* are listed alphabetically, and all programs, even those without any evaluation, have been listed so that the reader obtains a sense of the types of approaches possible. Research outcomes are indicated for those programs that have been evaluated. This enables the reader to choose the type of programming best-suited for the needs of their community or state. It is the belief of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, however, that any individual program alone will not suffice to solve the problem of youth gun violence. For example, ridding a public school of weapons cannot be effectively addressed simply through a metal detector or gun safety-awareness program exclusive of other directly related issues:

"Time and again students say the primary reason they bring weapons to school is for self-protection traveling to and from school. Violence is a problem at schools, but principally it is a community problem. Many schools are surrounded by a 360 degree perimeter of community crime. Consequently, the strategies developed in response to school safety needs must go beyond the schools. The presence of weapons at schools cannot be separated from other community safety concerns. Each concern must be addressed in developing a comprehensive response." [National School Safety Center, 1993].

A comprehensive approach should be based on what we know from the research about the increased access to and use of guns by juveniles since 1985; young people's fondness for particular types of guns; the impact of cultural influences, particularly media violence and notions of manliness, on young people's behavior; the impact of drugs and the illicit drug market on youth gun violence; the effect of prior deviant behavior, gun socialization, and attitudes towards law enforcement on youth gun violence; the age when boys are most prone to the lure of guns; and the detrimental effect of the cycle of fear and lack of viable opportunities in many communities on youth gun violence. A comprehensive approach which incorporates this research base, includes a combination of individual approaches, involves a number of various youth-serving agencies or organizations, and has community involvement (including youth participation) is likely to be the most successful. An effective weapons reduction strategy will be multidisciplinary, comprehensive, politically sensitive and practically relevant. An effective gun violence prevention program will be age-appropriate, target the age groups most inclined toward gun violence, and truly involve parents and the community (including business, media, recreation, etc). Curricula approaches are effective at getting a message to young people, but they are limited unless they involve the development of consistent standards across the areas of children's lives (family, media, recreation, community) and unless they are coupled with actual experiences of positive alternatives. Only community-wide efforts that combine all of the activities described above will address the cycle of fear and will provide the first steps toward building an environment of safety for all.

The NIJ is supporting such comprehensive activities through its interagency project to reduce youth gun violence. In Atlanta, the Center for Injury Control at Emory University is working together with the community, with state and local governments, and with Project Pulling America's Cities Together (PACT) to analyze the magnitude, extent, and characteristics of youth firearms violence and to develop a broad-based strategy addressing the problem. The planned intervention will apply a three-part strategy: (1) reducing demand for firearms through a comprehensive community education program; (2) reducing

supply by promoting safe storage of firearms and by law enforcement efforts to interdict the illegal gun market; and (3) prompting aggressive rehabilitation seeking to decrease recidivism among juvenile gun offenders.

The St. Louis Police Department has developed a similar comprehensive approach to reduce violence within two at-risk populations: (1) African-American males between 15 and 29 years old in the City of St. Louis; and (2) younger males at risk for direct and indirect violence, and also adolescent and young adult females at risk for family violence, sexual assault, and co-victimization.

The project will do this through two strategies: (1) Behavioral change objectives - reducing morbidity and fatalities caused by gun-related assaults, reducing the carrying of weapons, and reducing risk from assault; and (2) System improvement objectives - expanding and refining local surveillance of violence, expanding screening and treatment for violence within medical facilities, and establishing Assault Crisis Teams (ACT) as change agents for youth violence reduction in St. Louis. ACTs will operate in an emergency medical treatment center serving high risk populations, in a juvenile detention facility, in an adult medium security institution, and in one or two neighborhoods with high levels of violence. The functions of the teams are to monitor levels and patterns of violence within these locations, to establish mentoring and education programs for high-risk youth in nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, and to mediate selected disputes with a high potential for violent outcomes.

Other comprehensive initiatives also exist in many cities or states. These initiatives tend to involve more grassroots participation and youth; and offer intervention services through public health services rather than through law enforcement. Some were inspired by legislative changes and social service system reform (e.g., Virginia), while others emanated from university centers (e.g., The Harvard School of Public Health).

Below are a sample of such city- or state-wide youth gun violence reduction initiatives and the programmatic components involved in the initiative. They are presented in a check-list format, organized by the types of strategies described above: legislative, research, intervention, prevention, hospital-based prevention, and public education." Community involvement" and "collaborative governance" have been added to the list, because they are essential to ensuring the success and long-term sustainability of any initiative. The check-list format is designed to assist readers in considering the strategy components that they could implement or coordinate in their own local jurisdictions. Detailed descriptions of the individual programs can be found in the *Program Directory*.

Boston, Massachusetts

Legislation: NA.

Research: Harvard Project on Guns, Violence and Public Health.

Intervention: Boston Gun Reduction Program; and Barron Assessment and Counseling Center.

Prevention: Violence Prevention Curriculum and Conflict Resolution.

Hospital-Based Prevention: Identification and Prevention of Youth Violence: A Protocol Package for Health Care Providers; and Firearm Injuries.

Public Education Campaign: Hands Without Guns; and Words Not Weapons.

Community Involvement: Citizens for Safety.

Collaborative Governance and Service Delivery: Boston Violence Prevention Project.

California

Legislation:

- A minor may not possess a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.
- It is unlawful to possess a firearm in a school zone without the written permission of school authorities.

Research: Pacific Policy Center.

Intervention: NA.

Prevention: WARN curriculum.

Hospital-Based Prevention: Teens on Target; Youth Alive.

Public Education Campaign: Campaign to Prevent Handgun Violence Against Kids; and The Fresno Youth Violence Prevention Network.

Community Involvement: Fresno Youth Violence Prevention Network.

Collaborative Governance and Service Delivery: The Oakland Corridor; California Wellness Violence Prevention Grants; Policy, Action, Collaboration, and Training (PACT); Violent Injury Prevention Program; and Contra Costa Continuum of Care.

Chicago, Illinois

Legislation: The handgun ammunition law makes it illegal to sell, offer for sale, barter, or give away the kinds of ammunition most commonly used in gang warfare.

Research: NA.

Intervention: The Chicago Ordinance; State Police Security Facilitator Program; and Cermack Health Services of Cook County.

Prevention: ULICH Center.

Hospital-Based Prevention: STOP.

Public Education Campaign: Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

Community Involvement: Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

Collaborative Governance and Service Delivery: Recently a Chicago Partnership for the Prevention of Violence has been formed.

New Jersey

Legislation: Proposed NJ legislation includes the following bills:

- a2557 - increases penalties for unlawful possession of firearms in schools;
- a1082 - mandates waivers to adult court for any cases involving juveniles age 14 or older who commit serious offenses with a firearm;
- s732 - strengthens current laws regarding access to loaded firearms by minors;
- P.L. 1990, Chapter 31, a model assault firearms law, bans the sale and severely restricts possession of assault weapons.

Research: NA.

Intervention: NA.

Prevention: Camden County Prosecutor's Office

Hospital-Based Prevention: Injury Prevention and Control Unit and Hospital-Based Youth Violence Prevention Program

Public Education Campaign: Injury Prevention and Control Unit.

Community Involvement: NA.

Collaborative Governance and Service Delivery: State Attorney General's Law Enforcement and Educational Task Force; and School Based Youth Service Program -- Students Against Violence and Victimization of Youth.

Virginia

Legislation:

- One Handgun a Month law.
- Juvenile Possession of Handguns prohibits the possession of handguns by juveniles except within their homes, while engaged in lawful hunting or supervised target shooting, or when serving in the military.
- The Firearms Dealers: Record Keeping/Penalty Enhancement bill requires gun dealers to submit to state police the type and number of firearms sold to each client, allowing state police to track gunrunners. The bill also increases the time police are required to keep this record from 30 days to 12 months. Gun dealers who illegally sell, rent, or transfer firearms would be charged with a felony instead of a misdemeanor if they violate this law.

Research: The Dept of Criminal Justice Services' Criminal Justice Research Center, in collaboration with the Virginia Commonwealth University Survey Research Laboratory, conducted a statewide survey of 815 residents which found that 83% agreed that there should be a limit on the number of handgun purchases per month; and 63% thought strict gun control laws would reduce violent crime.

Intervention: University of Virginia Youth Violence Project; Juvenile Criminal History Records - Virginia is one of the first states to have a computerized system operated by the state police, the Central Criminal Records Exchanger (CCRE), that informs gun dealers, if a prospective buyer has a criminal record.

Prevention: NA.

Hospital-Based Prevention: NA.

Community Involvement: Enough is Enough, Inc.

Collaborative Governance and Service Delivery: In June of 1992, the Governor's multidisciplinary Commission on Violent Crime was convened to study the problem and propose solutions; The Comprehensive Services Act also provides for better coordinated delivery of social services to at-risk youth and their families.

In the majority of the comprehensive initiatives just listed, there are often multiple efforts underway in the same city which have not been coordinated. Next steps, on the level of federal support, and state and city involvement, should be to facilitate the coordination of these programs. In particular, most of the comprehensive initiatives could benefit from direct inclusion of public housing efforts. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's federal program, Operation Safe Home, is an obvious link. One program in New York City, the Keep Our Kids Alive program, targets public housing youth who carry and use guns. The program trains housing youth officers to identify kids who fit a gun carrier profile to

work as mediators; and trains resident youngsters to implement an anti-gun violence education program for other young residents. This program would provide a good complement to school-based strategies and a public education campaign.

Initiatives also need to attend to building opportunities and linking job training, neighborhood restoration and economic development to youth gun violence reduction programs. While such areas of concentration may seem unconnected to youth handgun violence, as the research has pointed out, involving young people in practical experiences which develop their ability to contribute to society, improves their ability to recognize the sanctity of life and the errors of getting involved in delinquent behavior.

Conclusion

This document has summarized the research relevant to understanding the current epidemic of youth gun violence confronting our nation. It has also provided a range of approaches currently being implemented across this country which indicate ways for others to begin addressing the epidemic. Based on preliminary efforts in the area, it is clear that comprehensive youth gun violence reduction initiatives need to ensure that they provide a continuum of care and sanctions to consistently attend to the safety of children and families throughout their lives. Because city or state-wide initiatives have developed out of a variety of concerned sectors and isolated projects which came together, there are sometimes gaps in the delivery of services or development of sanctions which reduce the effectiveness of the overall initiative.

As with all comprehensive efforts, a combination of the strategies laid out in this document will be most likely to lead to success: from legislative mandates to further research; from intervention to prevention programs; from hospital-based prevention programs to grassroots and youth-based collaborative efforts; each one of us holds the key to effectively contributing to a comprehensive youth gun violence reduction initiative which will make our homes, streets, and neighborhoods safe.

II.

YOUTH GUN VIOLENCE PROGRAM DIRECTORY

II. YOUTH GUN VIOLENCE PROGRAM DIRECTORY

The following are summaries of programs which seek to reduce youth gun violence. The programs noted with an asterix are part of a city-wide violence reduction strategy. In some cases the noted programs are coordinated with one another, in other cases they simply exist in the same city or state and need to be coordinated.

Assault Crisis Teams

Preventing Youth Violence Through Monitoring, Mentoring and Mediating

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

1200 Clark Street

St. Louis, MO 63103

tel: 314/444-5620

fax: 314/444-5958

Colonel Clarence Harmon, Chief of Police

The National Institute for Justice has recently funded the St. Louis Police Department to reduce violence within two at-risk populations: (1) African-American males between 15 and 29 years old in the City of St. Louis; and (2) Younger males at risk for direct and indirect violence, and adolescent and young adult females at risk for family violence, sexual assault, and co-victimization.

The project will do this through two strategies: (1) Behavioral change objectives - reducing morbidity and fatalities caused by gun-related assaults, reducing the carrying of weapons, and reducing risk from assault; and (2) System improvement objectives - expanding and refining local surveillance of violence, expanding screening and treatment for violence within medical facilities, and establishing Assault Crisis Teams (ACT) as change agents for youth violence reduction in St. Louis. ACTs will operate in an emergency medical treatment center serving high risk populations, in a juvenile detention facility, in an adult medium security institution, and in one or two neighborhoods with high levels of violence. The functions of the teams are to monitor levels and patterns of violence within these locations, establish mentoring programs for high risk youth in nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, and mediate selected disputes with a high potential for violent outcomes.

***Boston Gun Reduction Project**

Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government

Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management

79 John F. Kennedy Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

tel: 617/495-5188

fax: 617/496-9053

Susan Michaelson, Assistant Director

In Boston, the Police Department has teamed up with the Kennedy School of Government to implement a gun market disruption and youth gun violence prevention project, based on David Kennedy's research.

***Barron Assessment and Counseling Center**

Boston Public Schools
25 Walk Hill Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
tel: 617/635-8123
fax: 617/635-8117
Frank Barron, Founder

The Barron Assessment and Counseling Center is a project of the Boston public school system. It was begun by Frank Barron in response to a dramatic increase in the number of students carrying guns and other weapons to school. If a student is found to have or to have had a weapon on school property, he or she is charged under the disciplinary code and given a hearing with the community superintendent. If the charges are substantiated, the parents are notified and the student is referred to the center.

At the center, students (elementary through high school) receive academic, psychological and social assessments, as well as crisis intervention counseling. The students continue to receive assignments from school. The program has an aftercare component to continue services to the youth after release from the center. Staff prepare individualized service delivery plans for each client. Special workshops to teach these youths alternatives to violence are provided by Northeastern University School of Law, Office of Emergency Medical Services and Vietnam Veterans Against Violence. This program is coordinated with the juvenile court, probation officers and the Departments of Youth Services, Social Services and Mental Health. While outside evaluation has not yet been completed, internal evaluation indicates a recidivism rate of 5% from 1987 to 1993. This recidivism rate was determined when the center served first-time offenders only. Second-time offenders are now also being served.

***Boston Violence Prevention Project**

1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
tel: 617/534-5196
fax: 617/534-5358
Franklin Tucker, Director
Raphael DeGruttola, Asst. Director

Begun in 1986, the Violence Prevention Project is a multi-institutional, community-based initiative designed to reduce the incidence of interpersonal violence among adolescents, along with the associated social and medical hazards. The major intervention used to conduct this project is a violence prevention curriculum designed for adolescents that focuses on conflict resolution.

They have, in collaboration with EDC, developed "Identification and Prevention of Youth Violence: A Protocol Package for Health Care Providers." Published in 1992, the protocol guides providers in addressing and responding to young patients at high risk for violent behavior. It is currently used in several Boston neighborhood health care centers.

Campaign to Prevent Handgun Violence
California Wellness Foundation
454 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 177
San Rafael, CA 94903-3618
tel: 415/331-3337
fax: 818/593-6614
Gary Yates, Director

By far the most extensive public education campaign against youth gun violence is the California Wellness Campaign to Prevent Handgun Violence Against Kids. This campaign is a \$2 million state-wide public education campaign which has conducted extensive research, surveys, polling, focus groups, and analysis of target audiences; produced multiple 30-second television PSA's that run on prime time in both english and spanish; communicated critical information on youth gun violence through its "First Aid" portfolio to more than 8,000 elected officials, key media leaders, and public agencies; received more than 75,000 calls and 11,000 supporters through its 1-800-222-MANY hotline and information service; organized a women's coalition against gun violence; and developed a video teleconference town hall meeting throughout the state to unveil its policies on handguns and firearms.

This project is linked to a broader \$30 million, five year state-wide initiative to reduce youth violence in California. The project includes the Pacific Center for Violence Prevention, the policy branch of the initiative; a leadership program; a community action program which has funded ten sites to form broad-based coalitions of major local public and private entities in developing pilot projects to reduce youth violence; and a research program.

***Cermak Health Services of Cook County**
2800 South California Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
tel: 312/890-7488
fax: 312/890-7792
Dr. John P. May, Director

According to a 1993 survey of 582 inmates at Cook County Jail, one in every four men has been shot at least once in his life. Involvement in the criminal justice system may be the single best predictor of the probability that a person becomes injured through violence. Presently, nearly 20 million people move in and out of jails in the United States each year. Many have past violence-related injuries and are at high-risk for future violent injuries or death. Jail health care services have opportunities and obligations to intervene in both health risk situations and medical problems which might otherwise impact the community. Development of multi-disciplinary strategies to reduce risks of violence would be appropriate. These include treating the emotional trauma of a witnessed or experienced violent event, removing gang tatoos, providing hope for a future, reducing criminal recidivism through carefully evaluated reintegration programs, and reducing the accessibility of firearms.

***Chicago Ordinance**
Department of Revenue
City Hall, Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
tel: 312/744-2604
fax: 312/744-0471
John Holden

A 1992 Chicago ordinance empowers police officers to impound any car transporting an illegal firearm. Once impounded, the vehicle can be reclaimed only through a \$500 nonrefundable bond or, if the owner claims the seizure was improper, in a hearing before an administrative officer. Since October 1992, nearly 2,000 cars have been impounded, most from youth under 25.

***Citizens for Safety (CFS)**
100 Massachusetts Avenue, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02115
tel: 617-542-7712
Diedre Butler-Henderson, Director

CFS is a community-based coalition working to reduce violence in Boston. CFS's membership includes 50 neighborhood and youth organizations as well as over 500 citizens from across the city. In 1993 CFS organized a gun buy-back program which removed 1,302 guns from circulation. Ongoing activities include expanding the buy-back program; conducting "Guns Kill" workshops for teenagers; and sponsoring an annual 24 hour Soccer Marathon for Peace and the Peace League, a summer educational and recreation program for gang members.

Eddie the Eagle
Elementary Gun Safety Education Program
National Rifle Association of America
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
tel: 202/651-2560

The Eddie the Eagle program, for elementary grades K-5, is designed to make children aware that guns are not toys and to teach proper safety steps to follow if they see a gun. The message is: "Stop, Don't Touch; Leave the Area, and Tell an Adult."

The gun safety program materials may be covered in either a single class period or in two or more class periods. The materials and activities are geared for two age levels. Each child receives a copy of the parent's guide to take home to reinforce the gun safety message at home.

Enough is Enough, Inc.
P.O. Box 138
Ashton, MD 20861

tel: 301/236-9236
fax: 301/236-9236
Julie A. Elseroad, Founder

Enough is Enough was founded in 1991 in order to work with the community to combat violence in our society. It currently functions with eight volunteers, and a five member board of directors. As a suburban Maryland gun violence prevention education program, Enough is Enough has sponsored four successful gun turn-ins (which removed more than 600 guns from the streets) and has implemented a White Ribbon Campaign. The organization emphasizes the dangers of owning a gun.

Firearm Injuries
Educational Development Center, Inc.
55 Chapel Street
Newton, MA 02158-1060
tel: 617/969-7100 x 2331
fax: 617/244-3436
Christine Bennett

A program developed by EDC is one of the Educating Professionals in Injury Control (EPIC) resources. It describes the public health approach to firearm injury prevention, the magnitude and cost of the problem, the epidemiology of intentional and unintentional firearm injury and death, the ballistics of firearm injury, and strategies for prevention.

Firearm Injury Prevention Curriculum
New Mexico Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) Project
University of Mexico School of Medicine
Emergency Medical Dept.
2211 Lomas N.E.,
Ambulatory Care Center 4 West
Albuquerque, NM 87131
tel: 505/272-5062
fax: 505/272-6503
Lenora Olsen, Program manager

Firearm Injury Prevention is a recently published K-8 curriculum developed by EMS-C Firearm Injury Prevention Taskforce as one of their several injury prevention activities as part of a three-year grant from MCHB. (Other activities include development of posters, PSA's, and tags on guns for sale warning parents about the risk of unsecured loaded guns). The curriculum began as a pilot program in the Albuquerque Public Schools during 1992-93 academic year. The 110-page curriculum covers a discussion about the importance of involving youth in the project's formative stage; stories based on actual firearm fatalities that occurred in New Mexico resulting in the death of a child; lesson plans around problem solving, peer refusal skills, and strong self-esteem; creative exercises emphasizing hands-on application of interdisciplinary lessons; and a 32-page student supplement that includes the drawings, stories, and comments of youth who participated in the pilot project.

***Fresno Youth Violence Prevention Network**

Radio Bilingue, Inc.

1111 Fulton Mall, Suite 700

Fresno, CA 93721

tel: 209/498-6965

fax: 209/498-6968

Nora Benavides, Project Director

Fresno Youth Violence Prevention Network, previously known as Radio Bilingue, is the result of a collaboration by Chicano Youth Center, House of Hope, Save Our Sons and Daughters, and End Barrio Warfare. Fresno Youth Violence Prevention Network aims to strengthen the coalition programs that serve at-risk youths with the goal of empowering young people and communities of color to work together to reduce violence in their neighborhoods. Violence prevention activities include developing gun-free zone programs in city parks and neighborhoods, school emergency response and mediation teams led by directors of organizations that serve high-risk youths, youth conferences, and youth leadership programs.

A key participant in the coalition is the Radio Bilingue, a Hispanic-controlled, noncommercial radio station serving the San Joaquin Valley. Radio Bilingue broadcasts anti-violence and anti-drug public service announcements and sponsors Paz, a unique violence prevention radio program targeted toward at-risk youths, educating them about the causes of violence and the impact of gun violence. The program features local speakers, including police officers, school officials, and community citizens.

Gun Court

250 Benefit Street

Providence, RI 02903

tel: 401/277-3250

Judge John Bourcier

Gun Court is a special court recently established in Providence, RI to take aim at gun crimes. All gun crimes are referred to a single judge who processes cases on a fast track. New rules have cut the life span of gun crime cases in half and of the 18 cases heard to date, Judge Bourcier has sent 15 defendants to jail. Many defendants are now pleading guilty in exchange for two years of a 10-year mandatory sentence instead of taking their cases to trial.

The Gun Court model has received support from both gun control advocates and the NRA. Legislators in Texas and Court Administrators in Louisiana and Illinois are proposing Gun Courts of their own based on the Providence model. Dade County is also looking at the model, however, capacity to handle the case loads in Dade County has been a point of concern.

Gun Recovery Unit

1624 V. Street, NW

Washington, DC 20009

tel: 202/673-6818

fax: 202/673-2154

Lieutenant Richard Hobson

Washington, D.C.'s Gun recovery Unit is a specially trained squad of officers assigned to a part of the city with an unusually high rate of firearms crimes. Patrolling the area, the squad identifies and frisks individuals who raise a reasonable suspicion of being armed. The vast majority of frisked individuals are under 22 years of age, and about 40 percent of them are minors.

Gun Safety Awareness Program

Safety and Driver Education

Dade County Public Schools

6100 N.W. 2nd Avenue

Miami, FL 33127

tel: 305/757-0514

fax: 305/757-7626

Stephanie Harrington, Division of School Police

In Dade County, Florida a Youth Crime Watch program, mandated for all schools, was created in 1984 to extend the neighborhood watch concept to schools. The Gun Safety Awareness Program, a district-wide effort, began in November 1988. In addition to the comprehensive curriculum, the school board declares a week in November as "Gun Safety Awareness Week." The Gun Safety Awareness Program targets K-12 students and their parents, examining causes of handgun violence in the community and educating youth and parents on how to prevent gun related violence, encourages anonymous reporting of guns, and teaches the consequences of being arrested.

The curriculum is supplemented by area Youth Crime Watches, school resource officers, and police officers. Training workshops for parents on handgun safety awareness have been conducted in each school by Parent Education Department Staff. Metal detectors are used unannounced at selected schools, and students caught with guns are referred to juvenile or adult court and recommended for expulsion to an alternative school. Awareness levels among youth and parents about the need to prevent handgun violence have increased in Dade County as a result of the program.

Guns, Teens, and Consequences

Tulsa Public Schools

3027 South New Haven, PO Box 470208

Tulsa, OK 74147-0208

tel: 918/745-6800

fax: 918/745-6597

Dr. Lyle Young

To keep all schools in the district free from weapons, the school district mailed a summary of relevant state laws to each family. One of the city's police officers, who is also a D.A.R.E. officer, produced a video, "Guns, Teens, and Consequences." To date, it has been shown to more than 6,000 middle and high school students.

Handgun Violence Reduction Program (HVRP)

Baltimore County Police Department

700 East Joppa Road
Towson, MD 21286-5501
tel: 410/887-5203
fax: 410/887-5337
Sergeant Karen Sciascia

The Handgun Violence Reduction Program is a project of the Baltimore County Police Dept. It is a combination public information campaign and handgun safety program. The public information campaign consists of a hotline, PSA's, and presentations in the community that provide information on safe storage of guns, the legal issues and liabilities of gun ownership, and the limitations of guns as personal protection.

The police department also collaborated with the public school system to design gun safety curricula for the third, seventh, and ninth grades. The purpose of the school-based curriculum is to teach children about the dangers of handgun misuse. Uniformed police officers make presentations in schools about gun safety and violence prevention. These curricula seek to deglamorize handguns and to provide information on how kids should respond when they come in contact, or are threatened, with a gun.

A three-year evaluation indicated that the program improved students' attitudes, knowledge, and behavior (based on how students reported they would respond to scenarios involving guns) both immediately after the program and three months later.

Hands Without Guns

Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence
110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Box 72
Washington, DC 20002
tel: 202/544-7227
fax: 202/544-7213
Josh Horowitz, Executive Director

Hands Without Guns is a collaborative project utilizing six organizations - The Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence, The National Institute for Violence Prevention, The Harvard Injury Control Center, Citizens for Safety, New England Medical Center and 2 PM - who have joined together to launch a new public health campaign in Boston designed to reduce gun violence. The effort will develop a model public education campaign with the following key elements:

- a unique partnership between health care providers, community advocates and leaders, public health experts, victims, and a CDC funded research center;
- a clearly defined public health focus and the use of innovative multimedia techniques to communicate the message;
- grass-roots community organization focused on empowering youth, families and neighborhoods to reduce handgun violence;
- a national visibility through the networking leadership of the Educational Fund;
- evaluation by the multi-disciplinary research center based at the Harvard School of

Public Health;

- a program capable of replication in cities throughout the United States.

Hazelwood Center High School -- Student Intervention Program

15955 New Halls Ferry

Forissant, MO 63031

tel: 314/839-9500

fax: 314/839-9524

Nancy Snow/Mike Adam, Counselors

Students who are suspended for assaults, weapons, or drugs are referred to a four-week alternative program at a location away from their home school. Students engage in four hours of individualized course work and participate in group counseling sessions daily. Students also attend weekly individual counseling sessions. Counseling focuses on issues such as conflict mediation, habits and addictions, and communication. Parents are mandated to participate in three counseling sessions focused on family history, parenting skills, and school-related family issues. After completion of the four-week program, students are evaluated by school administrators to determine if the rest of the 90-day suspension can be completed through in-school probation.

***Hospital-Based Youth Violence Prevention Program**

Camden County Prosecutor's Office

25 North Fifth Street

Camden, New Jersey 08102

tel: 609/225-8400

fax: 609/963-0083

Edward Borden, Jr.

The program is based at Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center (Trauma Center), and targets children who have been charged, or convicted of crimes, and referred to the Intensive In-House Supervised Detention Program. The objectives of the program are to present a realistic portrayal of the trauma resuscitation process; to discuss the emotional, social and physical impact of violent crime injury; and to discuss alternative solutions to avoid and/or minimize violent behavior. Program activities include: tours of the resuscitation area, audio visual aides and graphic depictions of the physical effects of violence, close-up pictures of bullet and stab wounds, tours of the hospital morgue and trauma intensive care unit. In the intensive care unit, patients' conditions, life support equipment, pain and prognoses are discussed.

***Injury Prevention and Control Unit**

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

New Jersey Dept of Health (NJDOH)

50 East State Street, CN-364

Trenton, NJ 08625-0364

tel: 609/984-6137

fax: 609/292-3580

Liz Congdon, Program Manager

The program supports youth violence prevention programs focusing on three of the state's urban areas with the highest rates of gunshot wound deaths (Camden, Newark, and Paterson). NJDOH, an active participant on the Medical Society of New Jersey's Subcommittee on Violence (represents 9,500 New Jersey physicians) has identified preventing violence and helping victims of violence as major public health priorities. The subcommittee has developed and distributed model medical policies for use by physicians in identifying and properly handling or referring cases of violence. Other activities have included involving the youth in developing videos on guns, national lobbying for restrictive gun legislation, and educating medical community on gunshot injuries and prevention.

NJDOH is also involved in interagency efforts. It is represented on the Violence and Vandalism Task Force, a Dept of Education working group that is developing recommendations to reduce school violence and vandalism.

***Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence**

202 S. State Street, Suite 1100

Chicago, IL 60604

tel: 312/341-0939

Dan Kotowski, Project Coordinator

Mark Karlin

The Council has helped law enforcement officials ban "Cop Killer" bullets in Illinois; raised public awareness about the proliferation of handguns in the streets; monitored judicial action regarding firearm offenders; formed ONTARGET, a 200 member coalition of law enforcement and elected officials, health care professionals, community groups and professional organizations to reduce gun violence in Illinois. The Council established a membership base of 5,000.

They are currently fighting for a text on firearms and ammunition to pay for trauma care; seeking to hold manufacturers legally responsible for death and injuries caused by "Saturday Night Specials" and assault weapons; urging stricter regulation of the 10,000 Federally licensed gun dealers in Illinois; and public education campaigns.

***Illinois State Police School Security Facilitator Program**

Illinois State Police

Training Academy

Springfield, Illinois

tel: 217/786-6902

fax: 217/786-7208

Linda Lange

The ISP identifies a jurisdiction where concerns about, and levels of, school violence are in evidence. Representatives from all community programs (private, government, not-for-profit) that play a role in youth crime/violence problems are invited to attend an intensive 5 day team building/education program

at ISP's training academy. A typical "team" will include:

- Law enforcement personnel (youth officers, others)
- School administrators/teachers
- Local state's attorney/public defender
- Prevention and treatment staff (local programs)
- Other court officials
- Other concerned community members

Community teams range in size from 5 to 15. Each member lives at the academy (in trooper dorms) with his/her team members throughout the training program. The courses are divided between 1) youth violence issue education and 2) violence reduction strategies. Part of the curriculum in this training effort deals directly with the interdiction of guns coming into schools. Trainers highlight identification of situations where violence may escalate to use of a weapon, investigative techniques to acquire secondary /tertiary source information on any weapons that might be in the school, and actual strategies for weapon removal and cooperation with law enforcement authorities. Additional programs such as locker searches, canine searches, metal detectors are also discussed. School administrators are cautioned about direct intervention with an armed student. Teams are "returned" to their communities to educate others on youth violence issues and implement selected strategies for violence reduction. No short or long term evaluation of this program has been implemented. Anecdotal information from prior participants would indicate some degree of success.

Juvenile Diversion Program

County Attorney's Office

2225 East Ajo Way,

Tucson, AZ 85713

tel: 602/740-5089

fax: 602/770-9212

Clint Stinson, Assistant County Attorney

In Pima County, Arizona, the Juvenile Diversion Program has set up a firearms prevention course for youngsters who are not hard core delinquents but who have been referred to juvenile court for firing or carrying a gun as well as young people at risk for becoming involved with guns. At least one parent is required to attend the monthly sessions. During the course, the assistant prosecutor informs the juveniles and their parents about gun laws. Parents are given instruction on safe gun storage. By agreeing to take the course, the youngsters do not have their case adjudicated and are not placed on probation; however, they do acquire a juvenile record.

Kansas City Weed and Seed Program

1201 Walnut Street, Suite 2300

Kansas City, MO 64106

tel: 816/426-3122

fax: 816/426-4176

Steven Hill, US Attorney

The Kansas City Weed and Seed program is a joint effort between the U.S. Dept of Justice, the U.S. Attorney, and the Kansas City Police Department. They have pulled together a working group consisting of law enforcement, human service agencies, and community organizations including the Regional Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Small Business Administration; the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance; and the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime.

The program has been conducted by focusing police efforts in high-crime neighborhoods to routinely stop traffic violators, youth violating curfews and other infractions of the law. During these routine stops, police look for any infractions that give them the legal authority to search a car or pedestrian for illegal guns. Special gun-intercept teams have been used and determined to be 10 times more cost-effective than regular police patrols. In an 80-block neighborhood with a homicide rate 20 times the national average, the program reduced crime by at least 50% during a six-month period through a gun-intercept experiment. Despite the fact that previous police campaigns have drawn protests of discrimination, the gun intercept programs in Kansas City and Indianapolis have not drawn protests. Police involved community and religious leaders in initially planning and neighborhoods have made requests for greater police activity.

Keep Our Kids Alive
Housing Authority Police
216 East 99th Street
New York, NY 10029
tel: 212/410-8505
fax: 212/996-0137
Sergeant Ricardo Aguirre

The Keep Our Kids Alive program targets public housing youth who carry and use guns. The program trains housing youth officers to identify kids who fit a gun carrier profile to work as mediators; and trains resident youngsters to implement an anti-gun violence education program for other young residents.

***KIDS + GUNS: A Deadly Equation**
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
tel: 202/289-7319
fax: 202/371-9615

Dade County Public Schools, the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, and Youth Crime Watch of Dade have jointly developed the nation's first program for students in pre-K-12. KIDS + GUNS is designed to teach students about the dangers of playing with or carrying guns. Classroom and general assembly activities for all grades and a video for grades 7-12 provide students with help in recognizing unsafe situations, suggestions on how to react when encountering guns, how to resist peer pressure to play with or carry guns, and how to distinguish between real-life and TV violence. Moreover, the curriculum explains to the children what can happen, physically and legally, when guns are not taken seriously. A parent education component is included in the program. Group presentations, a brochure and a video for parents are provided as basic safety information to help them keep guns out of children's hands.

Kid With a Gun/Call 911 Campaign

Mobile Partnership for Youth

305A Glenwood Street

Mobile, AL 36606

tel: 205/473-3673

fax: 205/479-8831

Ninki Vickers, Director

The Mobile Bay Area Partnership for Youth, a community based organization, in coordination with the police and sheriff's departments created the Kid With a Gun/Call 911 Campaign to encourage citizens to call 911 upon seeing an armed youth. A three-month long media campaign in 1992 focused local attention on youth violence and gun safety and raised parents' awareness about these issues. Since then, whenever the gun problem recurs, the police ask the media to repeat the campaign's public service announcements.

MAD DADS (Men Against Destruction--Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder)

221 North 24th Street

Omaha, NE 68110

tel: 402/451-3366

fax: 402/451-3500

Edward Staton, President

The Omaha MAD DADS is a member of the nationwide coalition of community fathers who offer violence prevention through community service. Using community policing strategies, MAD DADS cooperates with law enforcement agencies by providing weekend street patrols within troubled areas; reporting and videotaping crime, drug sales, and other destructive activities to authorities; painting over gang graffiti; and challenging drug dealers and gang members to leave the area. Community activities offered for youths include chaperoning community events and providing counseling services. MAD DADS also makes quarterly visits to local jails and prisons to counsel and encourage youths and adults to join the program.

The Omaha, Nebraska, MAD DADS also has conducted successful gun buy-back programs with the police department, and sponsored gun safety classes with local law enforcement officials and the Omaha office of the FBI. MAD DADS sponsors an annual citywide Drug Treatment Awareness Week with the Omaha Community Partnership and a citywide youth Anti-Violence Task Force with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Pizza Hut Restaurants of Omaha. MAD DADS operates in communities in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska; Houston, Texas; Denver, Colorado; 23 cities in Florida; Greenville, Mississippi; 3 in New York City; Baltimore, Maryland; Columbus, Ohio; and Council Bluffs, Iowa. The gun buy-back program has resulted in the collection of more than 2,500 guns at a cost of \$70,000 since 1991.

New York City Metal Detector Program

New York City Public Schools

Director of School Safety

600 East Sixth Street

New York, NY 10009
tel: 212/979-3300
fax: 212/979-3283
Mrs. Zachary Tumin, Director

In 1988, in the context of a broader violence prevention program in the schools which included curricula, peer mediation, and crisis intervention teams, the New York City school system instituted a metal detector program. The 16 schools chosen to participate were ones where the highest numbers of weapons were being found. School security staff began using hand-held metal detectors to conduct unannounced lobby searches of students at the start of the day. The program required a mobile staff of 120 and cost \$300,000 per year per school. According to the school system personnel, aside from removing more than 2,000 weapons (the most commonly confiscated item was a razor-blade box cutter) weapon-related incidents of all types decreased in 13 of 15 schools; attendance improved; and anecdotal outcomes included many students' expressions of an increased sense of security.

Since that time, the number of NYC schools with metal detectors has risen to 41 (out of 125). But weapon-related incidents continue. In one, which also uses X-ray machines to screen book bags and backpacks, magnetic identity cards, security guards, and magnetic door lock, a stabbing occurred. When environmental interventions such as these are used they are often viewed as infringements on personal freedoms and criticized because they are touted as an immediate solution to a problem that cannot be solved without addressing the underlying social and psychological causes of aggressive behavior.

***PACT (Policy, Action, Collaboration, and Training)**

Violence Prevention Project
Contra Costa County Health Services Department
75 Santa Barbara Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
tel: 510/646-6511
Larry Cohen, Project Director

The program represents a collaboration among the Contra Costa County Health Services Department Prevention Program, West Contra Costa County organizations, and the California Department of Health Services. A coalition of 10 local agencies guide implementation of activities to identify causes of violence, to study strategies for reducing violence, and to advocate for solutions. The cornerstone of PACT is violence prevention leadership training for African-American, Laotian, and Latino youths. The training and follow-up activities help the youths focus on issues of violence in their own strategies for violence prevention.

Youth outreach is supported and enhanced by neighborhood partnerships involving business, schools, government, neighborhood residents, and community organizations. PACT's multicultural collaboration promotes awareness and respect for West Contra Costa County's diversity through activities such as community forums, parent councils, and cultural festivals.

PACT staff have also compiled a set of resources for a public health policy response to gun violence in

local communities for use by policy makers, media representatives, and other health department personnel working to prevent gun injuries and deaths. Most recently, the project developed an action plan for preventing violence in Contra Costa County. The plan was placed on the November 1994 ballot by the County Board of Supervisors. The plan is supported by a "Framework for Action" that enumerates many of the specific activities local communities and governmental bodies can undertake to reduce and prevent violence.

The project has an evaluation component to assess the degree of involvement by community organizations, the relationship between county government and community organizations, and changes in youths' attitudes about violence.

People Opening the World's Eye to Reality (POWER)

Goldwater Memorial Hospital

Roosevelt Island

New York, NY 10044

tel: 212/318-4361

fax: 212/318-4370

Samuel Lehrfeld, Program Director

POWER members are patients at Goldwater Memorial hospital who are disabled and sometimes dependent on respirators. All were seriously injured as a result of drugs and/or street violence. They range in age from 19-44. Confined to wheelchairs, they pay visits twice a week to high schools, correctional facilities, probation agencies, and community centers to tell their stories to youths of similar ages and circumstances. Because some members were incarcerated due to their involvement with drugs and substance abuse, they are in a unique position to warn their peers about the hazards of drugs. Their fundamental message to the youths of New York is simple: "Put down the guns and drugs and pick up the books, because drugs, guns, and violence have only three results: jail, paralysis, or death!"

The Prevention Partnership

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Grant

139 Menahan Street

Brooklyn, New York 11221

tel: 718/919-3900

fax: 718/574-5100

Anthony Brown, Acting Project Director

This program aims to provide incentives for people to turn in guns. This program involves the Fighting Back community partnership, a local high school, and two police precincts (83d & 104th). Guns are exchanged for food vouchers.

Project LIFE

(Lasting Intense Firearms Education)

Training and Alternative Programs

Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division

2451 N. Keystone Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46218
tel: 317/924-7440
fax: 317/924-7508
Stacia Lozer, Director of Hiring, Training and Alternative Programs

Project LIFE is operated by the Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana Juvenile Court. It is a diversion program for juveniles arrested on gun charges. As in the Pima County program, parental participation is required. The program is designed to help youth and their parents learn about the effects of gun violence and accidents through an experiential exercise. Children and their parents prepare a paper on the effect of guns. A discussion based on these papers opens the education session. After the discussion, a videotape of an actual accidental shooting is shown. Participants engage in another discussion on the impact they would have felt had the delinquents been the victims of gun violence or accidents rather than the violators of gun laws. They imagine and discuss, for example getting a call from the morgue rather than from the jail. The majority of the families do not return to juvenile court on gun charges.

Rebound/Lookout Mountain Camp Falcon Juvenile Facility
Rebound Corporation
1700 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80290
tel: 303/861-9717
fax: 303/861-0111
Bob Hietala, Program Director

Camp Falcon was created during a special 1993 session of the Colorado legislature in response to public concern over an increase in violent juvenile crime. This highly structured and regimented boot camp will provide a sentencing alternative for first-time and other juvenile offenders, in lieu of a 45-day detention, probation, or commitment to the Division of Youth Services. Camp Falcon is located on the grounds of Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center's secure campus. The program consists of a 60-day, regimented military boot camp that includes academic education, life-skills building, and drug and alcohol abuse education. Youth are supervised by highly trained staff 24 hours a day; the program structures every minute of a youth's time from 5 a.m. when he wakes up to 9 p.m. when the lights are turned off. Youth sentenced to Camp Falcon must be adjudicated, delinquent males sentenced by the court to regimented juvenile training; be 12 to 18 years old; be psychologically capable of handling a confrontational, disciplinary milieu; and be physically capable of participating in an intensive training regimen.

The program is designed for first-time offenders, probation violators, and youth sentenced under the new handgun legislation. In general, the youth have committed property crimes but may have some assaultive behavior. The judge hearing the case makes the initial sentencing decision based in part on the pre-sentencing report of the juvenile's probation officer. Post-sentencing, mental and physical assessment, and time spent in detention may reduce the standard 60-day length of stay. An aftercare program is provided upon a youth's completion of the Camp Falcon program.

Second Chance School
Topeka Schools USD 501
423 South East Norwood
Topeka, KS 66607
tel: 913/233-0313
fax: 913/575-6161
Rome Mitchell, Director

The Second Chance School is a half-day instructional program for voluntary students who have been expelled for possession of weapons or assaulting a staff member. Students engage in studies of math, social sciences and language skills, participate in some recreational activities and are required to participate in community service. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, students attend the program for one semester or one year. Upon successful completion of the program, grades are sent to the home schools and students are readmitted. To date, 90% of the students enrolled have successfully completed the program. The program has been operating for three years and has a maximum capacity of eight students in the morning class and eight in the afternoon class. The Second Chance School has developed partnerships between the juvenile courts, the public schools, the police department and the recreational department.

Shock Mentor Program
Prince George's Hospital Center
3001 Hospital Drive
Cheverly, MD 20785
tel: 301/618-2100
fax: 301/618-3966
Allan E. Atzrott, President

The Shock Mentor program was recently developed by Prince George's Hospital Center and Concerned Black Men, Inc., a District-based mentoring group of African American professionals. The program brings Prince George's high school students into the shock trauma and emergency rooms to watch doctors patch together the victims and perpetrators of violence. This program is part of a larger county school-wide conflict-resolution program, peer mediation training program, black male achievement program, and county-wide forums on violence prevention.

The visits continue throughout the school year and each time students go through the trauma center, they are accompanied by a member of Concerned Black Men. Their role is to provide support to the young people as well as show them that there is an alternative to becoming a statistic in a trauma unit.

Solutions Without Guns
Gun Safety Institute
320 Leader Building
Cleveland, OH 44114
tel: 216/623-1111
fax: 216/687-0115

Dr. Joseph D. Claugh, Founder and President

Conducted an attitude survey of students with the support of the W.T. Grant Foundation in Cleveland Public Schools and determined four major factors contributing to gun-proneness. A substantial increase in gun-proneness occurs between fifth and sixth grade. "Solutions Without Guns" is geared towards kids in that age group. So far teachers and students have both been enthusiastic.

The Solutions Without Guns program is a multi-media education curriculum designed to address four gun-proneness factors which were identified in their study as being the main cause of handgun violence among youth: 1) guns and the people who use them are exciting; 2) guns provide both safety and power; 3) aggression is a response to shame or disrespect; 4) children are comfortable with aggression. The program is based on the view that students, teachers and parents must understand what these factors are and that children must learn to choose positive alternative behaviors when faced with situations that have the potential to result in gun violence.

The program's goals are geared toward prevention, not interdiction, providing students with skills to identify the four gun-proneness factors in themselves and others; identify and choose alternative positive behaviors; resist negative peer pressure in regard to the four factors; and practices appropriate pro-social behavior themselves and encourage the same in others. The curriculum is Language Arts-based but is meant to be integrated into other daily classroom lessons, through academically oriented activities and exercises.

Southeastern Michigan Spinal Cord Injury System
Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan
261 Mack Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
tel: 313/745-9740
fax: 313/993-0812
Marcel Diskers, Director

The Southeastern Michigan Spinal Cord Injury System provides a video and discussion guide to high schools about gunshot victims and injuries. "Wasted Dreams" (distributed by Film Ideas, Inc. at 800/475-3456) is a peer-to-peer video on the effects of violence on seven young men. This group of teenagers, and one young man who can breathe only with the help of a respirator, all describe how they were shot, and, in hindsight, how they could have avoided becoming victims. Produced by the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

***State Attorney General's Law Enforcement and Educational Task Force**
Division of Criminal Justice
25 Market Street, CN085
Trenton, NJ 08625-0085
tel: 609/292-4925
fax: 609/292-3508
Deborah Poritz, State Attorney General

The State Attorney General's Law Enforcement and Educational Task Force is an interagency effort to lower the incidence of school violence. The task force recently signed agreements (1993) with all school superintendents regarding guns in school grounds. This memorandum of agreement between the departments of education and law enforcement officials includes provisions for dealing with weapons on school property and establishes reciprocal rights and responsibilities for teachers, parents, and law officials.

***Steps to Prevent Firearm Injury (STOP)**

American Academy of Pediatrics
141 Northwest Point Boulevard, P.O. Box 927
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009
tel: 800/433-9016
fax: 708/228-5097
Michelle Esquivel, Director

A collaborative effort with the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence has led to The Childhood Firearm Injury Prevention Project which is the first national educational program designed for pediatricians to use when counseling parents on the risks of keeping a gun in the home and the dangers guns pose in the community.

The program consists of (1) a monograph on firearm injury and death; (2) a bibliography of resources related to gun violence in America; (3) an audiotape that models dialogue between pediatricians and parents; (4) an eight-page brochure for parents that describes the dangers guns present and ways to minimize them; and (5) a poster for display in waiting rooms.

The package, which has been disseminated to more than 700 AAP members is currently being evaluated. Preliminary findings show an increase in pediatrician's willingness to talk about the issue after receiving the materials.

Straight Talk About Risks (STAR)

Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
1225 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
tel: 202/289-7315
fax: 202/962-4601
Nancy Gannon, Director of Education

Straight Talk About Risks (STAR) is a curriculum for four grade clusters: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. STAR is a comprehensive school-based program designed by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence to reduce gun injuries and deaths with prevention activities for children and their families. Through STAR, students also learn how to make better, safer decisions and resolve conflicts without violence through role-playing, how to resist peer pressure to play with or carry guns, how to distinguish between real life and TV violence, goal setting, and the development of leadership skills.

The program includes the curricula in English, Spanish, training, technical assistance, and safety information for parents. The curricula provides a flexible format: the activities may be taught alone, through a health or social skills class, or can be taught over several weeks. Many of the activities are suitable for use across the curriculum in English, mathematics, science, or visual and performing arts classes. A recent evaluation found that the program was most effective for students in grade 3-5 in terms of improvement in knowledge, attitudes and behavior.

***Teens on Target & Youth Alive**

Summit Medical Center
South Pavilion, 4th Floor
350 Hawthorne Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
tel: 510/444-6191
fax: 510/444-6195
Deane Calhoun, Director

Youth Alive, a statewide nonprofit agency based in Oakland, provides expert testimony, presentations, and interagency communication to policy makers and the media about the incidence, cost, and impact of youth gun violence. Teens on Target (TNT) is a grass-roots organization in Oakland California, established in 1988 after two junior high school students were shot in school. TNT was founded on the assumption that young people can address the problem of gun violence better than adults. Each year an Oakland teacher and a San Francisco Trauma Foundation staff member educate a group of high school students on gun violence. The students develop their leadership and public speaking skills, then become violence prevention policy advocates, peer educators, and mentors for middle and elementary school students.

Youth Alive also runs a program called "Caught in the Crossfire." The program sends young counselors into Highland Hospital to try to persuade teenage gunshot victims to avoid further violence by not retaliating. Counselors emphasize that all revenge is going to do is destroy another life and put friends (who are doing the retaliating) at risk of being locked up. Several high school students, belonging to a group called Teens on Target, were trained by Youth Alive to be advocates against violence and to be volunteer counselors for the hospital program.

***UHLICH Children's Home**

3737 N. Mozart Street
Chicago, IL 60618-3689
tel: 312/588-0180
fax: 312/281-4237
Thomas VandenBerk, President

Mr. VandenBerk has developed a fact sheet on How Child Welfare Agencies and Child Advocates Can Help End the Epidemic of Death, Disability and Suffering due to Handguns. Suggestions include providing conferences, informational sessions, and programs to educate parents and parents about the risks of weapons in the home.

***University of Virginia Youth Violence Project**

University of Virginia
Hampton Roads Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia
tel: 804/552-1890
fax: 804/552-1898
Dyanne Bostain, Director

UVA's project focuses on reducing youth violence through a team approach. Staff bring together a multi-disciplinary team of experts on youth aggression and violence (education, psychology, law enforcement, planning, crime prevention) who present 4 to 45 hour instruction courses in selected Virginia cities. Prior participating cities include: Falls Church, Newport News, Roanoke, Richmond and Virginia Beach.

Program participants (primarily school and law enforcement officials from target jurisdictions) are exposed to a variety of issues (risk factors for violence, multi-cultural dynamics, etc.) and asked to implement a series of actions in their schools including building security assessments and peer mediation. Many of the instructors in this program are local police officers. Part of their curriculum also deals with weapon identification and interdiction. School collaboration/cooperation is stressed, since school officials are not trained in defensive weapon removal/disarming tactics. In 1994, the project will expand its reach through a televised version "School Safety and Youth Aggression" to be downlinked to 24 sites across the Commonwealth.

No short or long term evaluation of this program has been implemented. Anecdotal information from prior participants would indicate some degree of usefulness/success. UVA staff would be supportive of any credible outside evaluation effort.

***Violent Injury Prevention Program (VIPP)**

Monterey County Health Department
Injury Prevention Section
1000 South Main Street, #306
Salinas, CA 93901
tel: 408/755-8486
fax: 408/758-4770
Diana Jacobson, Chief

VIPP, directed by a Violent Injury Prevention Coalition and a steering committee, seeks to prevent and reduce acts of violence in Salinas through community unification and education by disseminating resources and information. The steering committee, composed of representatives from diverse sectors of the community (e.g., education, religious, criminal justice, health, and government), identified and prioritized violence issues in the Salinas community and then developed recommendations for the Violent Injury Prevention Coalition to implement. The identified issues ranged from alcohol and other drug abuse to a perceived need to take a firmer approach to violence. Recommendations to address these concerns included the creation of a community information hotline and the development of anti-violence public

service announcements (PSA's), weapon safety materials, and a discount trigger lock coupon program. The program sponsored a "Stop the Violence Day that featured a variety of events, including a peace rally. In April 1992, as part of "Violence Prevention Month," nearly 1,900 people pledged to stop violence. The program also aired violence prevention PSA's on local television stations.

In addition, the program distributes an information sheet for parents to fill out whenever their children visit friends. On this sheet, parents can document where their children are, whether there are any guns in the house and, if so, whether the gun are locked up. All information distributed by the program is printed in English and Spanish. Evidence of success is indicated by the institutionalization of this private-sector partnership in the community.

***WARN (Weapons Are Removed Now)**

Reseda High School
18230 Kittridge Street
Reseda, CA 91335
tel: 818/342-6186
fax: 818/776-0452
Mr. Shaffer, Director

WARN is an anti-weapons program designed to keep weapons off school campuses. The WARN objectives demonstrate that violence is an improper method for settling disputes; that weapons on campus are life threatening; and that informing on those who bring weapons on campus is the morally correct thing to do.

The program operates by training high school students to visit their neighborhood elementary and middle schools and speak to students concerning the danger of weapons on campus. The high school students may go alone or in groups. The method of presentation is left to a student's discretion with adult guidance. The administration of the high school will assist the students by confirming contacts with local feeder schools and by providing transportation if needed.

Weapon Watch

Mental Health Center
Memphis City School District, Room 102
2597 Avery Avenue
Memphis TN 38112
tel: 901/325-5810
fax: 901/325-7634
Dr. Gerry Nichol, Director

Weapon Watch was implemented to get children involved in ridding their schools of weapons. The school district joined forces with the Memphis Police Dept and Crime Stoppers, a group that financially rewards citizens for calling in tips about crimes. Instead of buying metal detectors, Memphis officials decided to get students involved in weeding out the weapons.

A hot line was established for students to call anonymously with information pertaining to a class mate who brings a weapon to school. Students who call in are given a secret code number. Once the call is received, police are dispatched to the school, and officers conduct an investigation. Students are rewarded if the information leads to the confiscation of weapons and the arrest of the classmate who brings a weapon on campus.

***Words Not Weapons**

Office of Violence Prevention
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
150 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111
tel: 617/727-2700
fax: 617/727-1246
Salena Respass, Director

The Words Not Weapons campaign is currently coordinated by the Office of Violence Prevention and co-sponsored by the state department of education, the Massachusetts Committee on Criminal Justice, and the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs.

Enrollment in the program is open to schools in cities and towns in all areas of the state. The governor (Weld) has pledged to make personal visits to each participating school to meet students and staff. Plans include training for teachers and other school personnel and creating linkages among parents, the media and community agencies. Although the initial efforts will focus on schools, the long-range goal is for community-wide expansion that includes many segments of society - law enforcement, criminal and juvenile justice, business, religious institutions, health care and social service organizations.

Youth, Firearms and Violence in Atlanta:

A Problem -Solving Approach

Emory University School of Public Health
1599 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
tel: 404/727-5481
fax: 404/727-8744
Dr. Arthur Kellerman

In Atlanta, Dr. Arthur Kellerman of Emory University is working together with the community, state and local governments, and Project Pulling America's Cities Together (PACT) to analyze the magnitude, extent, and characteristics of youth firearms violence and develop a broad-based strategy to address the problem. The planned intervention will apply a three-part strategy: (1) reducing demand of firearms through a comprehensive community education program; (2) reducing supply by promoting safe storage of firearms and by law enforcement efforts to interdict the illegal gun market; and (3) aggressive rehabilitation seeking to decrease recidivism among juvenile gun offenders.

Youth Trauma Team

Howard University Violence Prevention Project

525 Bryant Street, NW

Washington, DC 20059

tel: 202/797-0723

Hope Hill, Director

A group of two psychologists, four social workers, 16 community recreation workers, and 45 trained police officers formed the Youth Trauma Team which patrols the city at all hours helping children cope with the violence they so often witness. The work of the Team is helped by the Howard University Violence Prevention Project which offers an after-school middle school program, a pre-school program, and a summer camp which provides social support, tutoring, esteem-building, and cultural enrichment for children who have been exposed to serious violence, including gun violence. The program gives children an opportunity to receive the services they need so they do not perpetuate the cycle of violence.

Zero Tolerance Program

San Diego City Schools

4100 Normal Street

San Diego, CA 92103-2682

tel: 619/293-8418

fax: 619/293-8067

Dr. Frank Till, Director

The Zero Tolerance Program applies to middle, junior and senior high school students. All students who possess a firearm, knife, explosive or any other dangerous object in school shall be immediately suspended and recommended for expulsion. The student is given the option to attend a district Zero Tolerance Program for a minimum of one semester. If the student elects to attend the program, the expulsion is suspended.

The Program is established so that students are able to continue with their studies, receive counseling and more individual attention, work at their own pace and complete as many courses as possible.

All objects used in a threatening manner are considered to be a weapon even if typical use is not as a weapon. Trespassing on school grounds by students who are not enrolled and who have not been cleared by the school office shall be a recorded, suspendable offense, and a third offense shall require attendance at a Zero Tolerance Program. In every case where students violate applicable Education Code and Penal Codes, they will be charged and arrested and taken to a juvenile detention facility or county jail.

III.

A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

III. A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Advocacy Institute

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-3118
tel: 202/659-8475
fax: 202/659-8484
Michael Pertschuk, Co-Director

The Advocacy Institute is working to build an infrastructure for the movement against gun violence, including a computer network (Safety Net) to link advocates fighting gun violence. Its objective is to facilitate unified voices and alliances that can challenge and surpass the influence of the NRA and its allies in the arena of public policy and values. AI plans to develop and provide a gun violence training program for community-based advocates; provide technical assistance to researchers in monitoring and timely disseminating of gun policy and policy-related research.

American Academy of Pediatrics

141 N. West Point Boulevard
P.O. Box 927
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0227
tel: 800/433-9016
Dr. Joe M. Sanders, Jr., Director

In 1985, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a policy statement encouraging its members to support gun control. In 1992, the recommendations extended beyond legislative and regulatory measures and included: (1) removing handguns from the environment in which children live and play; (2) reducing the destructive power of ammunition; and (3) reducing the romanticization of gun use in the popular media.

The membership recommended that gun manufacturers and retailers develop and sell gun safety devices. For the long term, AAP advocated that legislative bans be placed on various firearms and the public be made aware of the prevalence of childhood gun injuries.

American Bar Association

750 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
tel: 312/988-5109
fax: 312/988-5100
George E. Bushnell, Jr., President-Elect

The ABA and its membership of over 370,000 lawyers nationwide is engaged in a range of activities aimed at the reduction of gun violence in our nation. The ABA Legal Solutions to Gun Violence assists cities, counties and states in drafting and enacting ordinances and laws to regulate firearms, including

legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of all assault weapons. Additionally, the ABA is working with a broad coalition of law-enforcement, medical and public-health, victim advocacy and community and locally-based organizations in public education efforts related to the Second Amendment to the Constitution, risks and costs of gun violence, and the impact of gun violence on children and youth. The ABA supports the efforts of the recently formed private bar groups in San Francisco (Legal Community Against Violence) and New York (Lawyers' Committee Against Violence), for the primary purpose of pursuing damage suits on behalf of victims of gun violence.

American Psychological Association
Commission on Violence and Youth
750 First Street
Washington, DC 20002-4242
tel: 202/336-5500
fax: 202/336-6063
Jackie Gentry, Director

An American Psychological Association commission was created in 1991 to review current and past research on youth violence. In August, 1993, the Commission released a report entitled "Violence and Youth: Psychology's Response." Next steps involve a conference in January on the subject.

Annie E. Casey Foundation
701 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
tel: 410/547-6600
fax: 410/547-6624
Bart Lubow, Senior Associate

The Annie Casey Foundation is considering the following issues which can contribute to developments to protect children and youth from handgun violence.

- How to build a movement to end the political and cultural traditions that sustain unregulated handgun manufacture and distribution;
- How to avoid (and/or undo) regressive juvenile and adult justice system laws and policies that punishes kids mindlessly while consuming vast amounts of scarce tax dollars for practices with no relation to improved community safety;
- What to do, in terms of research and information system development, to ensure that policies developed to prevent or reduce handgun violence are data-driven;
- How to focus more attention in the gun violence arena on the particularities of the issue for disadvantaged children and communities. How to bring community perspective and experience into these efforts;

- What is the state of the art in policies and programs to reduce violence, especially handgun violence;
- How can system reform initiatives incorporate both a message in support of new policies and effective strategies to reduce handgun violence?

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Division of Violence Prevention

4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K60

Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

tel: 404/488-4362

fax: 404/488-4349

Jim Mercy, Director

The CDC is currently tracking baseline data and delineating strategies to address each of the "Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives" which include three objectives (out of 18) which concern firearm accessibility.

Through the extra-mural research grants, CDC is funding the State-based Firearm Injury Surveillance Projects. The purpose of the state-based firearm injury surveillance projects is to fund seven (7) states to begin to develop a system to provide more complete epidemiologic descriptions of firearm injuries. This information can, in turn, be used to identify intervention points and to design, implement, and evaluate prevention activities. Missouri, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Washington, Wisconsin, and Colorado are collecting data from emergency rooms, police, newspaper accounts, child fatality offices, etc. These projects will help determine the most useful sources of data and the most efficient methods for combining information from those sources. The final goal is a system that will monitor the number, severity, cost, causes, and other epidemiologic characteristics of firearm injuries both locally and nationally.

Cooperative agreements have been undertaken to evaluate specific interventions that may reduce injuries and deaths related to interpersonal violence among adolescents and young adults. The interventions have theoretical and empirical foundations. Thirteen projects have been funded.

Community Demonstration Projects, which are five-year cooperative agreements are funded. These projects are meant to give information about the effectiveness of the interaction of multiple community forces in a coordinated violence prevention program that contains multiple interventions. The projects are designed so that CDC may assist communities to design and implement multifaceted community youth violence prevention programs.

Center for Injury Control

Emory University School of Public Health

1462 Clifton Road, NE

Atlanta, GA 30322

tel: 404-727-9977

fax: 404/727-8744

Dr. Arthur L. Kellerman, Director

Kellerman's research focuses on guns in the home. In studies of gun deaths in Washington state, British Columbia, Tennessee and Ohio, his research has shown that guns kept at home are used far more often to commit suicide or to kill a family member than to fend off a potentially fatal criminal attack. His prevention strategy is based on public education much like that of early anti-smoking campaigns.

Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

1225 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

tel: 202/289-7315

fax: 202/408-1851

Kris Robinson: 202-289-5784

Nancy Gannon, Director of Education Program, (HELP): 202-289-5769

The Center To Prevent Handgun Violence is a national, nonprofit organization formed to help America understand the realities of handgun violence and the dangers posed by loaded, easily available handguns. The Center educates the public about ways to reduce gun violence through partnerships with experts in medicine and public health, law, education, law enforcement, community groups, the media, and the entertainment industry. Its activities include legal action (e.g., amicus briefs on behalf of victims), primary prevention, education, and efforts to affect the way that entertainment media portray gun violence. The Center has developed programs for use in school and in law enforcement and health settings.

CPHV has been involved as amicus curiae in *U.S. v. Lopez*; a United States Supreme court case regarding the constitutionality of the federal Gun Free School Zones Act which was enacted in 1990. The challenge to the Act is being brought by a 12th grade student who was caught carrying a concealed .38 caliber handgun and five bullets at a San Antonio high school. He told police he was planning to deliver the gun to another student who was going to use it in a "gang war." He argues that because possession of guns is a local matter, Congress lacks power under the Constitution to enact a law banning their possession in school zones.

Joined by six national educational and seven national law enforcement organizations, the Center argues that the possession of guns near schools, by fueling gun violence, has a substantial effect on interstate commerce. In addition to imposing enormous direct costs on society, gun violence in schools threatens the educational process with far-reaching consequences for the national economy. The result of the case may be that youth may have to be regulated on state-by-state basis.

The Center recently collaborated with Disney Educational Productions to produce a gun violence prevention video, "Under the Gun" which challenges the glamorization of guns and the notion that guns make us safer. Disney plans to market the video to schools, recreation centers, police departments, juvenile justice facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other educational organizations.

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

University of Colorado, Boulder

Campus Box 442

Boulder, CO 80309-0442

tel: 303/492-1032

fax: 303/443-3297

Laura Greiner, Project Coordinator

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence was founded in 1992 with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to provide informed assistance to professional groups committed to understanding and preventing violence, particularly adolescent violence.

CSPV has a three-fold mission. First, an Information House serves to collect research literature on the causes and prevention of violence and provides direct information services to the public by offering topical bibliographic searches. Second, CSPV offers technical assistance for the evaluation and development of violence prevention programs. Third, CSPV maintains a basic research component through data analysis and other projects on the causes of violence and the effectiveness of intervention and prevention programs.

Children & Family Justice Center

Northwestern University Legal Clinic

357 East Chicago Avenue

Chicago, IL 60611

tel: 312/503-0135

fax: 312/503-8977

Bernadine Dohrn, Director

The Children & Family Justice Center hosted the meeting "Framing the Message on Youth and Guns: A Dialogue on Juvenile Justice" held at the Children's Defense Fund.

Children's Defense Fund

Cease Fire: A Gun Violence Prevention Campaign

25 E Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

tel: 202/628-8787

fax: 202/662-3540

Hattie Ruttenberg

The Children's Defense Fund is a research and advocacy organization interested in all issues pertaining to children. Attorneys working for CDF write publications on reducing firearms. CDF collects data on who is getting killed. CDF is addressing the problem of gun violence through multiple approaches:

1) Legislation.

2) Community Mobilization - The Children's Sabbath; Child Watch violence module; and Safe Start Component (leadership training in 3-10 cities).

3) Data Collection - on gun fatalities among children.

4) Public Education - The first phase was for an adult audience; the next one is for a teenage audience.

The Cease Fire campaign involves 10 steps to stop the war against children in America including removing guns from our homes, creating opportunities, safe havens, being informed about violence, and media violence, and resolving conflicts peaceably. The campaign also features television public service announcements and the "Wall of Names," a print presentation of more than 600 children killed from 39 states by gun fire in 1993-1994.

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

100 Maryland Avenue, NE

Washington, DC 20002

tel: 202/544-7190

fax: 202/544-7213

Michael Beard, President, Founder and Director

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) is one of the nation's oldest anti-gun lobbies. A coalition of citizens groups and religious, professional, labor, medical and educational associations, CSGV also has 120,000 individual members nationwide. The goal of the Coalition, which was founded in 1974, is to eliminate most handguns and assault weapons in the United States through bans on importation, manufacture, sale, transfer, ownership, possession, and use by the general public. This would be accomplished by limiting the availability of gun dealers' licenses; increasing gun dealers license fees; user licensing; increasing the handgun ammunition taxes to offset health care costs; strict liability for gun manufacturers and dealers; and enacting a national one handgun a month law. Exceptions for police, military, security officers, and gun clubs would be made.

In an effort to accomplish their goals, CSGV engages in a vigorous program of lobbying the US Congress; counteracting the NRA; maintaining an active legal program; initiating or assisting litigation cases against manufacturers and dealers; conducting public education and awareness campaigns; and coordinating a network of grass-roots activists across the country. The Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence is the educational arm of the CSGV.

Communications Consortium

1333 H Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

tel: 202/682-1270

fax: 202/682-2154

The Communications Consortium is developing a public policy and education campaign "Women's Voices on Gun Violence: Building New Alliances for Public Safety." According to this project, there are

numerous precedents for redefining an issue in terms of how it affects women and families and woman's role in making the decisions that affect everyday lives (cigarette smoking; abortion and reproductive rights; etc). They have reviewed past polling and media trends to probe public perceptions on women and guns; identified at least 14 regional areas in the United States which have a combination of elements that characterize them as potential media markets for building new alliances among women for public safety; and made an assessment of campaigns that led to mobilization around social issues.

Educational Development Center, Inc.

Children's Safety Network (CSN)

Adolescent Violence Prevention Resource Center

or National Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center

55 Chapel Street

Newton, MA 02158-1060

tel: 617/969-7100 x2359

fax: 617/244-3436

Beth Jacklin, Director

The goal of the resource center is to improve the science and practice of youth violence prevention. To accomplish this goal, the center is providing state MCH agencies with information, resources, materials, and technical assistance that will encourage the development of new adolescent violence prevention programs and the improvement of current efforts.

Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence

110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Box 72

Washington, DC 20002

tel: 202/544-7227

fax: 202/544-7213

Josh Horowitz, Executive Director

A project of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV), the Educational Fund to Handgun Violence was founded in 1978. To meet the goal of ending violence caused by the use of firearms, the Fund activities consist of research and scholarship; public education; and a firearms litigation clearinghouse. Their primary project is "Hands Without Guns", a collaborative public education campaign.

Entertainment Resources Department

Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

10951 West Pico Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90064

tel: 310/475-6714

fax: 310/475-3147

Nancy Gannon

Entertainment Resources Department is branch of Handgun Control Incorporated, which has a legal action project, and curriculum in the schools (straight talk about risks) (STAR), and entertainment

resources. They work with entertainment industry to help them portray gun violence in a more realistic fashion. They consult on scripts to ensure accuracy of information.

Gun Safety Institute
The Leader Building
East 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio
tel: 216/574-9180
fax: 216/687-0115
Dr. Joseph D. Clough, Founder and President

The Gun Safety Institute commissioned research from the Child Guidance Center of Greater Cleveland to measure attitudes towards guns and violence among urban youth. In a survey of 461 fifth-, seventh- and ninth-grade students in the Cleveland Public School System, the data yielded the following four factors which address the question of why many youth are attracted to guns: they are perceived as fun; that safety is achieved through power; young people have more confidence in aggression than in negotiation; and many students believe that shame can be undone through aggression.

George Gund Foundation
1845 Guildhall Building
45 Prospect Avenue West
Cleveland, OH 44115
tel: 216/241-3114
fax: 216/241-6560
David Bergholz, Executive Director

The George Gund Foundation has been involved in funding some youth gun violence reduction programs, including the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, for the Legal Action Project and second amendment media campaign; and Youth Alive, for a study on the use of local zoning and business codes to regulate fire arms dealers.

Handgun Control Incorporated
1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
tel: 202/898-0792
fax: 202/371-9615
Richard Aborn, Director

The lobbying branch of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, Handgun Control, Inc. has proposed comprehensive legislation to regulate every level of the gun industry. The lobbying branch of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. Handgun Control, Inc. has proposed comprehensive legislation to regulate very level of the gun industry. The proposed bills would:

- Require a license to buy a handgun; mandate fingerprint checks and safety training for

license applicants; include mandatory seven-day cooling off period; and require the registration of handgun transfers.

- Prohibit gun possession by those convicted of violent misdemeanors, including spouse or child abuse, and require a special license for possession of a gun arsenal (20 guns or 1,000 rounds of ammunition).
- Require gun dealers to pay an annual license fee of \$1,000; prohibit the sale of more than one handgun a month to any individual; mandate a federal license for ammunition dealers; require background checks for gun store employees; ban firearm sales at gun shows; and create "a private cause of action" for gun law violations.
- Ban semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday Night Special handguns, and nonsporting ammunition; regulate gun safety; and increase the surtax on handguns and handgun ammunition.

Handgun Epidemic Lowering Plan (HELP) Network of Concerned Professionals

c/o The Children's Memorial Medical Center

2300 Children's Plaza, #88

Chicago, IL 60614

tel: 312/880-3826

fax: 312/880-6615

Amy Friedman, Director

HELP is a new organization of health professionals (first meeting was held on 10/17/93 at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago) with the mission of reducing the handgun violence epidemic by addressing it as a public health problem. The HELP agenda calls for legislation to regulate handguns and handgun ammunition, increased public health surveillance of firearms deaths and injuries and the sale of weapons. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, attending physician at CMH is head. The network publishes a quarterly newsletter; holds an annual national conference; a clearinghouse on information gathered from member organizations; and a steering committee to guide network activities. Steering Committee members include the National Association of Children's Hospitals, AAP, Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, Dartmouth Medical Center, Violence Policy Center, and NYC and LA City Departments of Health.

Harvard Project on Guns, Violence, and Public Health

Harvard Injury Control Center

Harvard University School of Public Health

718 Huntington Avenue

Boston, MA 02115

tel: 617/432-0814

fax: 617/432-0068

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Director

Founded in 1987 with funding from CDC, the Harvard Injury Control Center is a multidisciplinary

research center which represents public health, medicine, epidemiology, program evaluation, violence prevention, criminology, economics, psychology, behavioral sciences, and statistics. The Center's goal to "promote injury control through public policy," is accomplished through applied research projects, training activities, and communications with professionals and the public.

Injury Prevention Center

Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

615 N. Wolfe St.

Baltimore, MD 21287

tel: 410/955-3555

fax: 410/614-2797

Mr. Stephen P. Teret, Director

The Center started working on the issue of guns in the early 1980's. Wants to redirect public attention from the user of the gun to the maker of the gun by requiring manufacturers to make safer or fewer guns; holding gun makers or sellers legally liable for harm their products do; educating the public about gun hazards; and controlling gun advertising. The focus of the research is on manufacturers.

Injury and Violence Prevention Program

Los Angeles City Dept of Health

313 N. Figueroa, Room 127

Los Angeles, CA 90012

tel: 213/241-7785

fax: 213/250-3909

Billie Weiss, Director

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

515 North Washington Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

tel: 703/836-6767

fax: 703/836-4543

John Firman, Director

The International Association of Chiefs of Police has been developing a research effort in the area of school violence, particularly guns in schools. The project entitled, "Reducing School Violence" is a joint effort of the University of Virginia and the IACP.

The IACP, through retired chief John Granfield (Alexandria Police Department) offers a course covering all aspects of weapon incidents in schools, including disarming suspects, weapon identification, and how to most effectively use police resources when such incidents occur. This course has been presented at a number of area schools and has been very well received.

Joyce Foundation

135 South LaSalle Street

Chicago, IL 60603-4886
tel: 312/782-2464
fax: 312/782-4160
Deborah Leff, President

- Developing a major gun policy center through board.
- Harvard University School of Public Health for 2 Louis Harris polls (\$93,500) and establishment of the Harvard Project on Guns, Violence, and Public Health to make guns a public health issue;
- Advocacy Institute, to research and publish "Toward a Gun-Safe Society: Movement Building Strategies;"
- HELP Network;
- Children's Express Foundation for hearing on violence in the lives of children;
- Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence;
- Cook County Hospital to produce and distribute anti-violence posters on the buses and subways;
- Communications Consortium, to develop a public policy campaign against gun violence directed toward women;
- Hyde Park Bank Foundation, to publish a book of essays, poems, and pictures created by Chicago elementary school students on their views of violence;
- Children's Defense Fund to launch its Gun Violence Prevention Campaign;
- Childhood Firearm Injury Prevention Project;
- John Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, for analysis of firearm advertisements and to plan Safety Net, a data network on guns;
- Violence Policy Center;
- Medical College of Wisconsin to establish in Milwaukee County an integrated firearm injury reporting system that could serve as a national model;
- Educational Broadcasting Corporation, Public Affairs Television for a television services on children and violence.

Legal Community Against Violence

A Fund of the San Francisco Foundation

101 California Street, Suite 1075

San Francisco, CA 94111

tel: 415/433-2062

fax: 415/433-3357

The Bay Area legal community, with support from government and business leaders and The San Francisco Foundation, has created Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV). The Organization is dedicated to ending the sale to the public of military-style assault weapons and ammunition and large-capacity magazines, and regulating the availability of other firearms and bullets to help protect our society from gun violence.

LCAV's goal is to mobilize the legal community and other concerned citizens to work for gun violence prevention through legislative, legal and education efforts. They support and draft gun control legislation; serve as a resource to elected officials; provide assistance and financial support on litigation against negligent gun dealers and manufacturers; and educate the public on gun control issues, including the true meaning of the Second Amendment. They have provided funding to survivors of the 101 California massacre to enable them to testify in Congress on behalf of the Brady Bill, and on the recent successful legislation to ban assault weapons.

Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse

3000 Chestnut Avenue, Suite 203

Baltimore, MD

tel: 410/889-1477

fax: 410/889-1480

Vinny De Marco

In 1988, Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse (MAHA) spearheaded one of the nation's most effective gun control campaigns to ban Saturday Night Special handguns in Maryland. In 1993, MAHA kicked off its campaign to enact comprehensive gun-control legislation and to educate the public about the hazards of handguns. The key element here was creation of a statewide grassroots coalition known as Standing Together Against the Gun Epidemic (STAGE). MAHA has brought together over 150 religious, community, law-enforcement and medical provider groups into the STAGE Coalition. In 1994, MAHA, with the STAGE coalition, convinced the General Assembly to pass an assault-pistols ban. This victory helped inspire the subsequent victory in Congress of the assault-weapons ban.

National Association of Child Advocates

1625 K Street, NW

Suite 510

Washington, DC 10006

tel: 202/828-6950

fax: 202/828-6956

Eve Brooks, President

NACA performs advocacy efforts on legislation pertaining to children and provides technical assistance to state and community-based child advocacy organizations working to fight ineffective punitive approaches to juveniles and to promote more effective approaches, particularly prevention, as well as alternatives to incarceration. Goals include lifting all children out of poverty and ending childhood hunger and homelessness. NACA funds a Juvenile Justice Project which is a major focal point of nationwide information dissemination on federal and state juvenile justice and youth crime prevention policy; and co-sponsored a meeting called "Framing the Message on Youth and Guns: A Dialogue on Juvenile Justice" with the Children and Family Justice Center.

National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health

2000 N. 15th Street

Suite 701

Arlington, VA 22201-2617

tel: 703/524-7802

fax: 703/821-2098

Rochelle Mayer, Director

Funds the Children's Safety Network and houses "Biblio Alert! Focus on Firearms," a clearinghouse (703/821-8955 x254) with an extensive bibliography of journal articles, reports, books, and other resources.

National Association of Children's Hospitals (NACHRI)

401 Wythe Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

tel: 703/684-1355 x265

fax: 703/684-1589

Stacy Collins, MSW, Assistant Director, Child Health Analysis

At its 1993 annual meeting in Atlanta, the NACHRI Board of Trustees issued an Association position statement calling for actions to reduce children's access to firearms and the morbidity and mortality resulting from firearm use. In adopting the position statement NACHRI joins the American Academy of Pediatrics and other child health advocates in approaching the issue of gun violence from a public health perspective.

NACHRI advocates:

- Data Collection and trend monitoring on firearm injury and death in children's hospitals.
- Education strategies involving parents, school curricula and community coalitions.
- Prevention strategies through identification of children most at risk for firearm violence and subsequent intervention services.
- Public policy strategies with support for incremental measures such as the Brady Bill and a long-term goal of eventual elimination of private use of handguns and other highly injurious firearms.

National Association of State Boards of Education

1012 Cameron Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

tel: 703/684-4000

fax: 703/836-2313

Jane Ascroft, Research Assistant

NASBE is a membership group made up of state boards of education. The group has developed policy recommendations for in and out of schools and included harassment and bullying. One of recommendations, before legislation, was that the State boards of education must protect the right of students and staff to feel safe and secure in a classroom as the right of children and youth to receive a public education. To do so, state boards must assure that a continuum of sanctions is available for children and youth who have been disruptive or delinquent. Expulsion without alternatives is not a solution to youth violence. Efforts must be made to keep disruptive or delinquent students, to the maximum extent possible, in their neighborhood school. At a minimum, alternative programs with strong academic and counseling components should be provided.

National Institute of Justice

US Department of Justice

633 Indiana Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20531

tel: 202/514-4787

fax: 202/307-6394

Jeremy Travis, Director

Some of the NIJ programs include:

- **Private Ownership of Firearms.** NIJ is sponsoring a national telephone survey of 3,000 households regarding private firearms ownership and use. The survey includes such issues as how, where, when, and why household members acquired handguns; the types of weapons owned; how weapons are stored, used, and disposed of; why non-owners do not own guns; previous victimization and arrest histories; and demographic characteristics. A final report is due March 31, 1995. Interim reports will be requested.
- **A Survey of High School Youth and Weapons.** This NIJ project includes a national survey of urban, suburban, and rural high school students about carrying and access to weapons in and around schools, as well as in communities. Violence incidents and victimizations, as well as gang and drug-related behavior, will also be measured. In addition, school administrators will be surveyed about their responses to guns and violence in their schools. This is a 2-year project with a begin date of January 1, 1995.
- **Juveniles, Illicit Markets, and Fear.** This NIJ project is testing the applicability of preventing juvenile gun violence through problem solving policing focused on disrupting the illicit market in firearms. The project will assist the Boston Police Department in

analyzing its juvenile gun problem and designing an intervention. Efforts will be made to disrupt the local black market in firearms and to reduce fear that may drive juveniles to acquire and carry firearms. The study will conduct a process and impact evaluation. The project will also produce information on juvenile gun acquisition and use. This is a 2-year project with a begin date of November 1, 1994.

- **Demonstration on Youth, Firearms, and Violence.** NIJ is sponsoring a demonstration and evaluation program on youth, firearms, and violence, which is being conducted in St. Louis. Its purpose is to reduce: morbidity and mortality of gun-related assaults, the frequency of carrying guns, and the frequency of assaults. The project involves the creation of Assault Crisis Teams that will work in an emergency medical treatment center serving high-risk juvenile populations. The Assault Crisis Teams consist of medical, social service, educational, and criminal justice personnel. This is a 2-year project with a begin date of October 1, 1994.

- **Youth Violence, Guns, and Links to Illicit Drug Markets.** This NIJ project will study the recent growth in juvenile homicide rates by examining, by race and age, data on homicide rates, drug arrest rates, arrest rates for weapons offenses, fractions of homicides involving guns, and other variables that might explain the growth in juvenile homicide. Findings will test the theoretical link between participation in drug markets and gun ownership, and the diffusion of guns into the community. This will be an 18-month project which is in the process of being awarded.

- **Survey of Police Departments.** A telephone survey of major police departments is being conducted by NIJ to request information on any programs and strategies their departments are implementing targeting youth and firearms. Status reports and findings are being requested. Delivery date is unknown.

National School Boards Association (NSBA)

1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
tel: 703/838-6722
fax: 703/683-7590
Lynne Glassman

Performed a survey and produced a booklet "Violence in the Schools: How America's School Boards are Safeguarding Your Children." The book catalogs programs by various topics, such as "Alternative Program of Schools;" "Gun-Free School Zones;" "Suspension;" Establishing Safe Havens" on violence in the schools.

National School Safety Center

4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290
Westlake, CA 91362
tel: 805/373-9977

fax: 805/373-9277

Ron Stevens, Executive Director

Sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, this organization focuses on school crime prevention throughout the country. Special emphasis on efforts to rid schools of crime, violence and drugs, and on programs to improve student discipline, attendance, achievement and school climate. Provides technical assistance and training programs; training films; and publishes a news journal.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

U.S. Department of Justice

633 Indiana Avenue, NW.

Washington, DC 20531

tel: 202/307-5911

fax: 202/514-6382

Shay Bilchik, Administrator

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, (OJJDP) is responsible for all issues pertaining to youth, justice and delinquency prevention at the national level. Initiatives undertaken by OJJDP share a common purpose--to have a positive and practical impact on the serious problems affecting youth today. This goal underlies our efforts to prevent delinquency; improve the effectiveness of juvenile and family courts, detention, corrections, and aftercare; provide alternatives to youth at risk of delinquency; reduce the number of school dropouts; prevent child abduction, abuse and exploitation, and provide appropriate sanctions for serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.

Some of the initiatives pertaining to guns include:

- Survey of juvenile handgun legislation and development of a model law. As mandated by the Youth Handgun Safety Act, OJJDP is funding a project to gather and analyze selected provisions of States' firearms codes. The project will develop a body of general information about key provisions of States' firearms codes (including local ordinances and relevant court decisions) that can be used by the Congress in reviewing existing and proposed legislation designed to reduce juvenile handgun violence; by Federal agencies in implementing congressionally mandated firearms provisions; and by the States in formulating firearms laws and policies to address their respective unique objectives and circumstances.
- School Violence Reduction Project. On September 26, 1994, OJJDP issued a purchase order to the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the purpose of identifying and documenting school violence reduction programs currently in place throughout the United States. Programs that emphasize reducing the number of weapons on school property will be of particular research emphasis. Three types of programs will be explored during this project: school-based programs, law enforcement-based programs; and community-based programs. An interim report is due in late November, 1994, and the full report is due December 23, 1994.

● **Gun Acquisition and Possession.** OJJDP and NIJ jointly funded a study on juvenile possession of firearms drawn from voluntary questionnaires completed by male students in inner-city high schools and male juvenile offenders incarcerated in juvenile correctional facilities. Issues studied were: the number and types of firearms owned, and where, how and why they were obtained. The findings indicate that the problem is not simply getting guns out of the hands of juveniles, but more one of reducing motivations for youth to arm themselves in the first place. Convincing juveniles not to own, carry, and use guns will therefore require convincing them that they can survive in their neighborhoods without being armed. An *NIJ Research in Brief* was published in December, 1993, summarizing the research findings.

● **Interagency Demonstration on Youth, Firearms, and Violence.** This project, awarded to Emory University located in Atlanta, Georgia, is being conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and OJJDP. The study will employ a problem solving approach to reduce gun violence by youth in metropolitan Atlanta by working with the community and State and local governments to analyze the magnitude, extent, and characteristics of the problem. This information will then be used to implement a broad-based approach to combat youth firearms violence. After the program is implemented, the study will obtain repeat measures to evaluate its impact. These findings will be used to refine the program. The intervention will employ three complementary tactics to break the link between youth and guns: 1) *demand reduction*, through a comprehensive community education program; 2) *supply reduction*, by promoting safe storage of firearms, and by law enforcement efforts to interdict the illegal gun market; and 3) *aggressive rehabilitation*, to decrease recidivism among juvenile gun offenders.

● **Juvenile Violence Studies.** The 1992 Amendments to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act require four violence studies to be conducted for the purposes of improving the juvenile justice system and provide valuable information regarding community violence patterns, with a particular focus on homicides and firearms. The mandated objectives of the studies are to: 1) identify characteristics and patterns of behavior of juveniles who are at risk of becoming violent or victims of homicide; 2) identify factors particularly indigenous to each area that contribute to violence; 3) determine the accessibility and use of firearms; 4) determine the conditions that cause any increase in juvenile violence; 5) identify existing and new diversion, prevention, and control programs to ameliorate such conditions; 6) improve current systems to prevent and control juvenile violence; and 7) develop a plan to assist State and local governments to establish viable ways to reduce homicides committed by or against juveniles.

● **Innovative Firearms Program.** This program will assist state or local jurisdictions to develop and implement new or enhanced projects designed to prevent the possession and use of firearms by juveniles and to control illicit firearm trafficking. Law enforcement, prosecutorial agencies, schools, community groups, and juvenile justice system representatives may participate in the program. The grantees, in cooperation with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), OJJDP, and

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms will also work with U.S. Attorneys to develop and implement State and local projects related to the new Youth Handgun Safety Act. This Act prohibits the possession of a handgun or ammunition by, or the private transfer of a handgun or ammunition, to a juvenile.

Pacific Center for Violence Prevention

San Francisco General Hospital

Building 1

San Francisco, CA 94110

tel: 415/821-8209 x3

fax: 415/282-2563

Andrew McGuire, Executive Director

The Pacific Center for Violence Prevention is the policy branch of the California Wellness Foundation's \$30 million, five-year state-wide Violence Prevention Initiative. The Pacific Center links several leading organizations, each with a history of working for social change by blending science, community action and politics into sound public health policy. The Center's goals include 1) shifting society's definition of youth violence from a law enforcement model only, to include a public health model that addresses societal and environmental influences contributing to youth violence; 2) advocating for public policies that reduce the consumption of alcohol and other drugs which contribute to youth violence; 3) advocate for public policies that reduce firearm injury and death among youth. To this end, the Center hopes that by November 1996, a proposition to eliminate preemption in California will be on the ballot. If it passes, city and local governments will have an opportunity to pass laws controlling handgun sales and ownership.

People United - No Children's Handguns! (PUNCH!)

7900 West 23rd Avenue

Lakewood, CO 80215

tel: 303/233-2369

Felix L. Sparks, President

PUNCH! is a Colorado contact for the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. Felix Sparks is a former Juvenile court justice, former district attorney, justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, and member of the governor's cabinet.

Violence Policy Center

1300 N Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

tel: 202/822-8200 x3

fax: 202/783-7054

Josh Sugarman, Executive Director

The Violence Policy Center is a national non-profit educational foundation that conducts research on firearms violence in America and works to develop violence-reduction policies and proposals. Past studies

released by the Center include "Deadly Odds: An Analysis of Handgun Justifiable homicides Committed by Women in 1992; "More Gun Dealers Than Gas Stations: A Study of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in America; " "Firearms Industry Resource Guide"; and "Cease Fire: A Comprehensive Strategy to Reduce Firearms Violence"

IV.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND PUBLICATIONS ON YOUTH AND GUNS

IV. A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON YOUTH AND GUNS

Advocacy Institute (1994). Toward a Gun-Safe Society: Movement Building Strategies, Washington, D.C.

This report was developed as the result of two meetings attended by health professionals, children's advocates, and others. The major points include: 1) a gun-safety movement should be developed; 2) the issues of a gun-safety movement should be reframed from crime control to the public health goal of prevention of firearm injury and safety from violence; and, 3) concerned gun owners should be separated from individuals who profit from gun traffic. Other issues include: 1) develop and disseminate science-based policy and policy-related research; 2) develop a media advocacy campaign; 3) build new alliances; 4) develop a movement infrastructure; and, 5) develop a legislative strategy to define and mobilize the gun-safety movement.

Allen-Hagen, B., Sickmund, M., and Snyder, H.N. (1994). Juveniles and Violence: Juvenile Offending and Victimization. Fact Sheet #19. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

This fact sheet documented the increasing use of firearms in adolescent suicides. In 1991, 1,899 youth ages 15-19 committed suicide, a rate of 11 per 100,000 youth in this age group. Between 1979 and 1991, the rate of suicide among youth ages 15-19 increased 31%. Firearms were used in 6 out of 10 suicides among 15-19 year olds in 1989.

American Academy of Pediatrics. (1989). Report of a Forum on Firearms and Children. Sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, August 30 to September 1, 1989. Elk Grove Village, IL.

This forum adopted the long term goal of "getting guns out of the environments of children." Due to the way guns are used in the United States, this would require bans on handguns, assault rifles, and deadly airguns. The short term goal is to develop safer guns. A suggestion was made to develop coalitions of groups including public health, victim's families, gun control groups, police and others.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Adolescence (1992). Firearms and Adolescents. Pediatrics, 89(4), 784-787.

Identifies major issues concerning adolescent firearm use. The authors encouraged a multifaceted approach to adolescent firearm use which included more restrictive legislative and regulatory measures, a health care focus on creating gun-safe homes, identification of children at risk and referral to appropriate services, the development of community-based coalitions to address the broader needs of public education, a curriculum in schools which provided violence prevention lessons and an increase in research on the precursors and correlates of firearm injuries and deaths among children and adolescents.

Firearm morbidity and mortality, which stems largely from homicide and suicide, are a major adolescent health problem as well as a social problem. The scope of the problem involves all of American society. Pediatricians and other adolescent health care providers can make a critical contribution to specific intervention and prevention strategies.

Firearms play a major role in childhood morbidity and mortality in the United States, particularly among adolescents. Reducing injuries and deaths from firearms is a critical priority for the health of adolescents. Eighty percent of firearm deaths (birth to 19 years of age) occur in children aged 10 to 19 years. Firearms are involved in 70% of teen homicides and 63% of teen suicides. Firearms are the second leading cause of death among all teenagers ages 15 to 19. Risk factors for firearm death seem related to age as rates of firearm violence peak in late adolescence (15 to 24 years) and decrease in young adulthood (25 to 34 years). Special characteristics of adolescent development must be considered in designing effective countermeasures to prevent injury and death.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention. (1992). Firearm Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population. Pediatrics 89(4): 788-790.

Proposes prevention strategies in the areas of firearm design, regulation, product liability actions, public and parent education, and legislative measures.

American Psychological Association, Commission on Violence and Youth, Violence and Youth: Psychology's Response.

The Commission recommended many specific action steps to be taken by APA members and concerned others, including parents, health care providers, educators, state and local agencies, the armed services, the Federal Communications Commission, and the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

The Research and Public Policy Recommendations were:

- Offer psychological health services to young perpetrators, victims and witnesses of violence;
- Use education programs to reduce prejudice and hostility that lead to hate crimes and violence against social groups;
- Involve community members in designing programs and scientific approaches to prevent violence;
- Limit access to firearms by children and youth and teach them how to prevent firearm violence; and
- Reduce involvement with alcohol and drugs.

Beginning in 1985, and particularly in 1988, there was a steady growth in the use of guns by juveniles. There was no corresponding upward trend in the non-gun homicides.

The Commission also concluded that:

- The availability of guns makes youth violence more lethal.
- Little research has been done to determine why young people carry guns. Handguns are more likely to be owned by socially deviant youth than by their more socially adjusted peers, even in those sections of the country in which firearms for recreation and hunting are fairly common.
- When youth who are already predisposed to violence have easy access to guns, they may be more likely to become violent.
- Although youth can easily obtain firearms, and see them used frequently in films and on television as a method of solving problems, few violence prevention programs for youth focus specifically on preventing violence with guns.
- Firearms are more prevalent around illicit drugs.
- the general public is becoming more concerned about young people committing homicide with guns because they perceive that young people are less likely to exercise the necessary restraint in handling dangerous weapons, and particularly when they are rapid-fire assault weapons.

Anderson, Elijah (1994) *The Code of The Streets: How the Inner-City Environment Fosters A Need for Self-Respect and Self-Image Based on Violence*. The Atlantic Monthly, May.

Becker, T.M., Olson, L., & Vick, J. (1993). *Children and Firearms: A Gunshot Injury Prevention Program In New Mexico*. American Journal of Public Health, 83 (2), 282-283.

Health professionals should become involved in gun safety counseling, education programs, and legislative efforts geared toward reducing the number of loaded firearms in the home. Cooperative efforts should also be organized on the state or regional level.

Blackman, Paul H. (1994). Children and Guns: The NRA's Perception of the Problem and Its Policy Implications. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology: Miami, Florida, November 9-12, 1994.

This paper summarizes the NRA's perception of the issues concerning children and guns. NRA favors (particularly at the state level) regulations governing access and misuse of firearms by minors as long as these regulations do not impinge on adult rights. This paper posits that there is no relationship between ordinary gun ownership and the recent increases in gun-related violence involving children and teenagers. It further states that gun ownership by adults and the introduction of their children into the gun culture would appear to reduce problems associated with teenage violence and describes some programs which introduce youth to the shooting sports, among other strategies.

Blumstein, A. (1994). Youth Violence, Guns, and the Illicit-Drug Industry. Carnegie Mellon University: Pittsburgh, PA.

This age-specific analysis shows the increasing incidence of firearm homicides among young persons. The author develops a "diffusion" hypothesis to explain the increase. He reasons that as juveniles became involved in the drug trade, they acquire firearms because of the dangerousness of the enterprise. In turn, other youngsters get firearms for their own protection. Then, many of the disputes that might have been fist fights turn into shootings due to the presence of the guns. This may also be exacerbated by the problems of high levels of poverty, high rates of single-parent households, educational failures, and a widespread sense of economic hopelessness.

One solution to this problem would be to confiscate the guns from juveniles carrying them on the street. Greater investment in drug treatment, more effective prevention, or through other means of providing drugs to certified addicts would diminish the demand and volume of drugs. We also need to consider the dilemma of the large number of people who see no hope for themselves in legitimate activities of society.

Boston Commission Survey of Weapons-Carrying: The Boston Commission on Safe Public Schools. (1983, November). Making Our Schools Safe for Learning.

Brent, D. A., Perper, J. A., & Allman, C. (1987). Alcohol, Firearms, and Suicide Among Youth: Temporal Trends in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. 1960-1983. Journal of the American Medical Association, 275, 3369-3372.

Demonstrates that the presence of firearms in the home is associated with the increased risk of adolescent suicides. Concludes that physicians should recommend that firearms be removed from the homes of at-risk adolescents.

Brewer, D., Hawkins, J.D., Catalano, R.F., Neckerman, H.J. (1994). Review of Prevention Programs: Community Laws and Policies Related to Weapons. Prevention Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offending: A Review of Evaluations of Selected Strategies in Childhood, Adolescence and the Community. Developmental Research and Programs, Inc. Seattle, Washington

Various laws, regulations, and policies have been enacted with the goal of reducing firearm violence, including: restrictions on the sale, purchase, and transfer of guns; regulations on the place and manner of carrying firearms; mandatory sentencing laws for felonies involving firearms; firearm training and mandatory firearm ownership; and, metal detectors in schools. The risk factors of firearm availability and norms tolerant of crime and the protective factor of healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior are addressed.

The aim of restrictions on the sale, purchase, and transfer of guns is to reduce the number of available guns which could be used by potential offenders. Several cities have enacted restrictive regulations on the sale, purchase, and transfer of handguns within city limits. Washington, D.C., and Morton Grove, Illinois are two examples.

An evaluation of the District of Columbia law suggested that the law reduced firearm

homicides over an eleven year period. The comparison of Seattle and Vancouver also suggested that laws restricting the sale and purchase of handguns prevented violent gun-related crime. Illinois did not show any reliable evidence of significant preventive effects on reported burglaries or gun-related crime, perhaps due to weak enforcement.

Regulations on the place and manner of carrying firearms have been enacted by state and local governments in efforts to reduce the number of persons who carry and use firearms in public. Three laws regulating the place and manner of carrying firearms have been evaluated. Overall, the evidence for the effectiveness of these laws is slight and mixed. The evaluations probably do not reflect the preventive potential of laws regulating place and manner of carrying firearms because important enforcement may have been lacking for two of the three laws.

Mandatory sentencing laws for felonies involving firearms have been enacted at both the Federal and state levels. These laws impose stronger sentences for offenders who use or carry a firearm during the commission of a felony. There is data that suggest that mandatory sentencing laws for crimes involving firearms prevented firearm homicides. These laws may prevent other types of violent crime involving firearms; however, the available evaluations do not yet allow this conclusion.

Two firearm training programs and one mandatory gun ownership law were evaluated. The training programs were designed to deter crime by increasing the number of citizens who know how to use guns properly. The second law required all homes to own a gun. None of the evaluations of firearm training programs or the mandatory gun ownership law demonstrated any significant intervention effects on crime or violence.

Metal detectors usually necessitate security personnel or school staff searching some or all students for metal weapons with metal detectors. Metal detector programs may have a site-specific impact on weapon availability, which may decrease the lethality of interpersonal conflicts at such sites.

Bureau of Justice Statistics. (1992) A National Report: Drugs, Crime, and the Justice System. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Assailants in drug-related homicides in New York City in 1984 were likely to have known their victims and to use handguns to kill them.

Butterfield, G. E., & Arnette, J. L. (Editors). (1993). Weapons in Schools. NSSC Resource Paper. Sponsored by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Department of Justice) Malibu, CA: National School Safety Center.

The National School Safety Center paper describes the nature and extent of the problems associated with weapons in schools and discusses strategies for dealing with these problems.

Effective strategies to deter and prevent weapons in school include: training educators in weapon identification and detection, providing adequate supervision both in and outside of the classroom, teaching pro-social skills within the curriculum to promote a positive campus climate, and fostering interpersonal success in conflict resolution. Peer assistance programs have contributed to the reduction of assaults and cases of campus intimidation. Removing serious offenders from regular schools and providing them with a more secure educational placement is also effective. Keeping weapons off campus makes a safer and more productive environment for all children.

Other strategies for keeping weapons out of schools were discussed. One of the most effective intervention tactics was to encourage students to report weapon-carrying classmates to teachers or administrators. Other intervention strategies included the use of metal detectors and unannounced sweeps and searches of lockers. Expulsion, alternative placements and enhanced security are other alternatives. The paper also discussed several strategies to prevent weapons from entering schools in the first place. The author discussed several techniques which aimed to foster positive school climates.

School districts should coordinate a local school security committee or task force comprised of school officials, law enforcers, other youth-service providers, parents and students to plan and regularly update school safety and security measures. School site administrators must acquire "crime resistance savvy" and take greater responsibility in working with the school board and district to implement site security programs. Other strategies are discussed.

School officials are concerned with all weapons. Knives guns, and explosive devices present the greatest threat to school safety. Of these three, firearms pose the greatest risk to students and school staff.

Callahan, C. M., & Rivera, F. P. (1992). Urban High School Youth and Handguns: A School-Based Survey. Journal of the American Medical Association, 267 (22), 3038-3042.

This study documents self-reported handgun access and ownership among high school students in Seattle, Washington. The authors' research objective was to determine the prevalence of handgun ownership among urban high school youth and to investigate associations with socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and deviance. Thirty-four percent of the students reported easy access to handguns (47% of males, 22% of females) and 6.4% reported owning a handgun (11.4% of males, 1.55% of females).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (1991). Weapon Carrying Among High School Students: United States, 1990. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 40 (40), 681-684.

This study provides the incidence and prevalence of self-reported weapon-carrying among high school students (grades 9-12) in the United States during 1990. Nearly 20% of the students had carried a weapon at least once during the 30 day period (males: 31.5%.

females: 8.1%). To achieve the greatest reduction in the number of weapon-carrying youth, the authors suggested that efforts be directed at frequent weapon carriers, peers and families. Also, because the fear of assault was often claimed as the reason for carrying a firearm, the author argued that programs should be implemented which address the actual or perceived risk of victimization.

The 1990 Youth Risk Behavior Survey baseline data indicate that 71 weapon-carrying episodes occurred per 100 students during the 30 days preceding the survey. To achieve the year 2000 Objective, the incidence rate must be reduced to 57 episodes per month.

Centers for Disease Control (1993). Violence-Related Attitudes and Behaviors of High School Students - New York City, 1992. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Vol. 42, No. 40.

During the 1991-92 school year, 36.1% of all 9th to 12th grade New York City public school students surveyed reported being threatened with physical harm. Twenty-one percent of students reported carrying a weapon such as a gun, knife or club 1 or more days during the 30 days preceding the survey with 7% carrying a handgun.

Cheatwood, D., & Block, K. (1990). Black Homicides in Baltimore, 1974-1986: Age, Gender and Weapon Use Change. Criminal Justice Review, 15, 192-207.

Collison, B. B., Bowden, S., Patterson, M., Snyder, J. et al. (1987). After the Shooting Stops. Special Issue: Counseling and Violence. Journal of Counseling and Development, 65 (7), 389-390.

This article examines the consequences upon parents, students and teachers of a fatal shooting spree within a small community school.

Christoffel, K. K. (1991). Toward Reducing Pediatric Injuries From Firearms: Charting Legislative and Regulatory Course. Pediatrics, 88 (2), 294-305.

Pediatricians in the United States are focusing increasing attention to the problem of injuries from firearms in children and adolescents. They are motivated by their increasing alarm at the degree to which the epidemic of injuries from firearms is intruding into the child and adolescent populations and by a sense that now is the time to undertake initiatives to reduce the frequency of injuries and deaths caused by firearms. Pediatricians have important roles in this process, including that of educators of parents, expert consultants in engineering efforts, and advocates for children in the political process.

Some of the approaches to reduce pediatric injuries from firearms include: enforce existing laws, develop regulation under existing laws, hold owners liable for child use, require gun safety education in schools, increase sales taxes, require firearm registration and licensure, perform background checks, modify ammunition, modify engineering design of guns, ban assault weapons ban, ban handguns where there are children, ban handguns in general, regulate long gun ownership and use, regulate toy gun construction,

ban plastic handguns (and other toy like guns), develop legislation to reduce deadliness of non-powder firearms, and pass omnibus child firearm safety legislation.

Cook, Philip (1990). The Effect of Gun Availability on Violent Crime Patterns. Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, May 1981; and in Federal Regulation of Firearms (A Report prepared by Congressional Research Service for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee) USGPO, May 1982; and in Weiner, N.A., Zahn, M.A., and Sagi, R.J. eds., (1990) Violence: Patterns, Causes, Public Policy, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Devore, Cynthia DiLaura, 1994. Kids and Guns. Abdo & Daughters.

Dougherty, D., Eden, J. Kemp, K. B., Metcalf, K., Rowe, K., G., Strobel, P., and Solarz, A. (1992). Adolescents' Health: A Journal of School Health, 62 (5): 167-1674.

Reports findings from assessment by the U. S. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment. Includes recommendations regarding adolescents' access to firearms in order to improve their social environments.

Duker, L. (1994). With assistance from Bhatiia, E., Doherty, D., Gill, L., and Taylor, C. Gun Dealers, USA (14).

This report poses questions and provides answers regarding state, county, and city licensed gun dealers. Contents include: 1) Where do adolescents who carry and use guns get them? 2) How many gun dealers are in my city, county or state? 3) Can I get the names, address and phone numbers of gun dealers in my city, county or state? 4) How many gun stores are in my city, county, or state? 5) How many guns do licensed gun dealers in my state, city or county sell and what types? 6) Does my state have any laws or regulations regarding gun dealers? 7) What are preemption laws? If my state has one, how will it affect public policy approaches to restricting children's and adolescents' access to firearm in my area? 8) Is my state government currently considering any additional legislative or regulatory restrictions on gun dealers? and 9) Is my local government currently considering any regulations regarding gun dealers? This report also provides state-by-state data on the geographical distribution, concentration and regulation of gun dealers.

Edelman, M. W. (1994). Testimony before the House Subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice, House Judiciary Committee. Hearing on the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform Act. (H.R. 3315).

The author requests that the Committee include prevention in the final crime bill, including funding for programs that offer youth safe and positive alternatives to the streets and develop restrictions on the private accessibility of non-sporting firearms. She discusses the incidence rate of gun murders and notes that one American child is killed with a gun every two hours, the equivalent of a class room of children every two days. She notes that there are five non-fatal gunshot injuries for every fatal one. Further, hundreds of

thousands of children are neither killed nor physically hurt but are still harmed by the pervasive violence around them.

Elliott, Delbert S. (1994). Youth Violence: An Overview. Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado: Boulder, Colorado.

The problem with youth violence in the 1990's is its lethality which is caused by the increased use of handguns. Not much is known about why today's youth are carrying guns. It could be to show off, insure respect and acquiescence from others or for self defense. It may be a response to the perception that the public authorities cannot protect youth or maintain order in their neighborhoods. Dropouts, drug dealers, and those individuals with a prior record of violent behavior are more likely to own a gun than are other adolescents. The vast majority of guns used in crimes are obtained by theft or some other illegal way. There is little good research on the effectiveness of gun control policies. There is some evidence that restrictive handgun laws and mandatory sentences for firearm offenses work.

Fagan, Jeffrey. (forthcoming, 1995) What Do We Know About Gun Use Among Adolescents? Boulder, CO: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.

Based on the gang literature, homicide data, and his own research on youth violence, Fagan uses a nuclear deterrent strategy to describe the "ecology of danger" that pervades the lives of many young people who carry guns. The continuous sense of danger affects how young people think about events and effects of their decision-making and behavior. Cultural dynamics, influenced by the gun trade, have also popularized guns and made backing down from arguments and losing face difficult for kids. As a solution to these two dynamics, Fagan proposes interventions focused on individual behavior change and on building an ecology of safety.

Fingerhut, L. A., Ingram, D. D., & Feldman, J. J. (1992). Homicide Among Black Teenage Males in Metropolitan Counties: Comparison of Death Rates in Two Periods, 1983 Through 1985 and 1987 Through 1989. Journal of the American Association, 267 (22), 3054-3058. Also in Fingerhut, L.A., Ingram, D.D. and Feldman, J.J. Forum on Youth Violence in Minority Communities: Setting the Agenda for Prevention. (1991). Report of the working group on weapons and minority youth violence. Public Health Reports 106(3): 254-258.

Suggests priority areas for intervention at the community level, including developing community consensus on the use of and possession of weapons; modifying the environment to reduce opportunities for weapon-associated violence; requiring firearm safety course; banning the manufacture, sale, and importation of certain types of weapons; educating the community about the product liability litigation against gun manufacturer; and improving enforcement of laws against illegal gun trafficking. Also recommends priority areas for evaluation research.

Fingerhut, L.A., Ingram, D.D. and Feldman (J.J. (1992). Firearm and Nonfirearm Homicide Among Persons 15 through 19 Years of Age. Journal of the American Medical Association, 267 (22), 3048-3053.

The 1989 firearm homicide rate in metropolitan counties was nearly five times the rate in non-metropolitan counties. Firearm homicide rates were highest in core metropolitan counties, (27.7/100,000) compared to non-metropolitan counties (2.9/100,000). Firearm homicide rates were highest for black males and lowest for white females in all five urbanization strata for 1979 through 1989.

Fingerhut, L.A., Kleinman, J.C., Godfrey, E., and Rosenberg, H. (1991). Firearm Mortality Among Children, Youth, and Young Adults 1-34 Years of Age, Trends and Current Status: United States 1979-88. Monthly Vital Statistics Report, 39. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Emphasizes racial and gender differences in homicide and suicide associated with firearms among males ages 15-34.

Heide, K. M. (1993). Weapons Used by Juveniles and Adults to Kill Parents. Behavioral Science and the Law, 11 (4), 397-406.

Henkoff, R. (1992). Kids Are Killing, Dying, Bleeding. Fortune, 126 (3). 62-69.

This article reports a non-experimental exploration of youth homicide, abuse and suicide. The author suggested that there are several things which can be done to reduce violence including: programs to help parents with parenting skills, programs that teach children how to manage anger nonviolently, and policies which increase gun control.

Howell, J.C. (1994). Recent Gang Research: Program and Policy Implications. Crime and Delinquency, Vol. 40 No. 4. Sage Publications: Newbury Park, CA.

The violent youth gang problem is growing. Gang members are committing more violent offenses, resulting in more serious injuries. Gang members are using more lethal weapons. It is unclear if the growth in urban violence is due to gangs, law-violating youth groups, or nongang youths. Further research is needed to determine what part the truly violent gangs play in the increase in urban violence.

Huizinga, David, et al. (1994). Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Washington, D.C.

There is a strong relationship between owning illegal guns and delinquency and drug use. Seventy-four percent of the illegal gun owners commit street crimes, 24 percent commit gun crimes, and 41 percent use drugs. Boys who own legal guns have much lower rates of delinquency and drug use and are even slightly less delinquent than non-owners of guns.

For legal gun owners, socialization appears to take place in the family. For illegal gun owners, it seems to take place "on the street."

Interdepartmental Working Group (1994). Violence: A Report to the President and Domestic Policy Council. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Washington, D.C.

The United States has never tried a comprehensive approach to preventing firearm injuries. Federal laws regulating firearms are piecemeal, under-enforced, and do not treat firearms as the dangerous consumer products they are. Rational public policy, well-executed science, and effective enforcement can help end this epidemic of gun violence.

Jones, M. A. & Krisberg, B. (1994). Images and Reality: Juvenile Crime, Youth Violence and Public Policy. San Francisco, CA: National Council in on Crime and Delinquency.

The most important factor concerning youth violence in general and juvenile homicide specifically over the last ten years is the availability of firearms. Teenage boys in all racial and ethnic groups are more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from all natural causes combined. Both the availability and increasing lethality of firearms contributes to this violence.

Kellerman, Arthur. (1993). Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home. New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 329, No. 15.

This study found that in King County, Washington, guns kept at home were involved in the death of a household member 185 times more often than in the death of a stranger. These deaths included suicides, homicides, and unintentional fatal shootings.

Kennedy, David M. (1994). Can We Keep Guns Away From Kids? Working Paper #94-05-12, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University: Cambridge, MA.

Market disruption approaches successfully utilized in fighting street drug markets may be useful in closing down illegal gun markets, particularly youth gun markets. These approaches were designed to interfere with street trafficking to the point that the drug trade was no longer able to survive. Police in Tampa, Florida disrupted a street crack operation. The disruption made it hard for buyers to find sellers as the police used heavy enforcement to keep the dealers moving around. The policy used community allies to report new dealing sites, made buyers feel vulnerable by publicizing reverse stings in which police posed as dealers and arrested buyers and police interfered with business by loitering around dealing sites. There is a trial in Boston currently underway to test the strategy regarding gun violence.

Some of the youth carry guns for self-protection. These youth might be more amenable to putting away the guns if they felt safer. Less ready availability might change the deadliness of the incidents. Gun strategies and fear-reduction strategies would reinforce

each other. A comprehensive strategy is needed to solve the gun, youth, and fear problem, including changes in the environment.

Kleck, G. (1991). Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America. New York, NY: Aldine de Gruyter.

Koop, C.E. and Lundberg, G.D. (1992) Violence in America: A Public Health Emergency. Journal of the American Medical Association. 267:3075-6.

Discusses the need for a public health/medical approach to the problem of violence. Compares the responsibilities associated with owning and using a firearm and those associated with owning and using a motor vehicle. Closes with recommendations for action.

Lacerva, V. (1990). Let Peace Begin With Us: The Problem of Violence in New Mexico. Santa Fe, NM: New Mexico, Department of Health.

Included in this report on violence in New Mexico are issues such as homicide, assault, suicide, drugs, violence and firearms.

Lawyers Committee on Violence. (1994). Gun Violence in New York City: Problems and Solutions. New York, NY: Lawyer's Committee on Violence, Inc.

To reduce the number of guns already in circulation, several alternatives were proposed. The authors argued that penalties for carrying firearms should include fines and jail time without probation. It was also suggested that landlords be required to prohibit firearms on the premises for any period of time, no matter how brief. The authors advocated increase enforcement of existing laws in all public places and suggested that metal detectors be installed in more areas to help accomplish this. Despite their popularity, the authors denounced the so called "Goods for Guns" program that offer incentives to people who trade in guns (e.g. money, sports tickets) because they create the impression that illegal gun ownership is acceptable. The authors proposed that legal burdens associated with gun-violence fall not only on the shooter of the gun, but also on the owner of the gun, the seller or supplier of the gun, the manufacturer of the gun, and the shooter's parents (if the shooter is a minor). The authors detailed accounts of court cases to support the legality of their different proposals.

Lee, R. K. & Sacks, J. J. (1990). Latchkey Children and Guns at Home. Journal of the American Medical Association, 264, 2210.

Lizotte, A.J., Tesoriero, J.M., Thornberry, T.P., Krohn, M.D., (1994). Patterns of Adolescent Firearms Ownership and Use. Justice Quarterly, Vol. 11 No. 1.

In the Rochester Youth Development Study, 10% of the 9th and 10th grade boys in Rochester public schools owned a firearm and 7.5 percent reported carrying them

regularly. Factors leading to sport gun ownership are different from those leading to protection gun ownership. Socialization into sport gun use originates from the family. Socialization into protective gun use comes from peer influences outside the home. Youth who used guns for protection have significantly higher levels of delinquent behavior than youth who own guns for sport.

Lofton, C, McDowall, D., Wierseman, B., Cottey, T. J. (1991) Effects of Restrictive Licensing of Handguns on Homicide and Suicide in the District of Columbia. New England Journal of Medicine 325(23):1615-1620.

This evaluation of District of Columbia Law banning the purchase, sale, transfer, of possession of handguns by civilians suggests that, on average, 47 deaths have been prevented each year since implementation of the law.

Louis Harris and Association, Inc. (1993). Prepared for the Harvard School of Public Health Under a Grant from the Joyce Foundation: A Survey of Experiences, Perceptions and Apprehensions About Guns Among Young People in America. New York, NY: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. and LH Research, Inc.

Presents the results of two national opinion polls of adults' and children's attitudes toward and experiences with guns. The polls underscored the deep fears and concerns that millions of Americans have about gun violence and their desire to do something about the epidemic. The first poll revealed that 78% of adults believe that concerns over physical safety change the lives of today's children and 77% believe that the prevalence of guns endangers the lives of young people. The second poll showed that 59% of the 2,508 children surveyed in grades 6-12 said that they "could get a handgun if they wanted;" 35% fear their lives will be cut short by gun violence; and 15% had carried a handgun in the last month.

May, John P. (1995) Prior Nonfatal Firearm Injuries In Detainees of a Large Urban Jail. Presentation to Seventh National Conference on Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, Nashville, TN. For subsequent publication in the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved; Vol 6, No. 3.

Detainees of large urban jails have many health risks including injuries related to violence and firearms. A survey of 582 randomly selected detainees entering the Cook County Department of Corrections during the summer of 1994 found that 51% had previously entered hospitals for violence-related injuries, and 26% survived prior gun shot wounds. Patterns of firearm injuries were different from patterns of violence affecting the general population. Factors common to those with prior firearm injuries included witnessing a shooting at an early age, tatoos, previous sexually transmitted diseases, easy access to a semiautomatic weapon, and prior incarceration. Development of multi-disciplinary strategies to reduce risks of violence would be appropriate.

McCarney, W. G. (1988). Crack Cocaine, Guns and Youth: An Extremely Lethal Mixture. Lay Panel

Magazine, 20 6-8.

McDowall, D. (1991). Firearm Availability and Homicide Rates In Detroit, 1951-1986. Social Forces, 69 (4) 1085-1101.

This study examined the relationship and influence between firearm availability and homicide rates in Detroit, Michigan. The question of whether firearm availability may increase the use of guns in crimes was also a focus.

In this study, gun density influenced homicides. The estimates indicated that changes in firearm availability altered the risk of homicide, but increases in gun density could not completely account for Detroit's high murder rate. Regression analysis was done using the Detroit homicide rate.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (1994). Where We Stand: An Action Plan for Dealing with Violent Juvenile Crime. Reno, Nevada: Midby-Byron National Center for Judicial Education.

The National Council believes that the following actions should be implemented by state and local governments with financial, technical assistance and research efforts from the state and federal levels. They include: assuring that juvenile courts can hold violent juvenile offenders fully accountable for their crimes; providing adequate resources to the juvenile courts to conduct thorough assessments of juveniles; and, developing individualized dispositions for the juveniles. Others include renewing the commitment to rehabilitation of violent juvenile offenders consistent with public safety, and providing legislation with rational guidelines for the protection of public safety and individual rights under which state and local juvenile judges can transfer violent juveniles offenders to adult criminal courts.

Northrop, D., & Hamrick, K. (1990). Background paper prepared for the Forum on Youth Violence in Minority Communities: Setting the Agenda for Prevention. Atlanta, Georgia, December 10-12, 1990 Weapons and Minority Youth Violence. Newton, MA: Education Department Center.

This paper reviewed existing and potential strategies for reducing the misuse of weapons by American youth. The authors cited three issues that needed to be addressed if effective interventions were to be implemented in the area of weapons misuse by minority youth. The first issue was the inadequacy of research information on which to base firearms policy and practice. The authors recommended research priorities which included studies of the magnitude, characteristics, and cost of the morbidity and disability caused by firearms and other weapons, investigations as to the number, type, and distribution of firearms and other weapons in the U.S., epidemiological studies of risks of injuries associated with firearms possession, and evaluation of regulations and other interventions that had been attempted in the area of firearm injury prevention. Second, there was a need for more discussion of how local communities could play a role in the prevention of

firearm injuries in minority youth. Third, there were ethical and philosophical issues that needed to be resolved with respect to certain school-based interventions, such as the use of metal detectors, locker searches, and canine searches of properties were seen by some to conflict with students' civil liberties. The authors conclude that interventions which targeted the weapons themselves were more likely to produce immediate effects than socioeconomic factors. They believed, however, that long-term solutions must also address such factors as poverty and economic disparity.

Pacific Center for Violence Prevention. (1994). Preventing Youth Violence: Reducing Access to Firearms (Policy paper funded by The California Wellness Foundation). San Francisco, CA: Pacific Center for Violence Prevention.

The increasing rate of violent youth crime in the last ten years is parallel to a period of decreased allocation of resources for youth. Some experts see increased violence to be associated with this resource allocation for young people. The public health model states that decreasing handgun availability is the most effective means of decreasing firearm related injury and death. All assault weapons should be permanently banned. Communities should address local firearm issues, restrictions on ammunition availability, shifting the cost of firearm injury to manufacturers and placing firearms under a regulatory agency. There is a need to know more about non-fatal assaults which are estimated to occur 100 times more often than homicides. More money is spent on newspaper advertisements about gun control than on research about firearms and violence. The growth in the manufacturing of firearms can be attributed to protectionist legislation, lax or non-existent regulation, and minimal industry oversight.

Low prices, new designs and ready availability contribute to youth's possession of firearms. Two psycho-social factors which contribute to violence are the youth's incompetence (an inability to understand the nature of one's acts), and desensitization to the quality of one's acts through watching media.

Price, J. H. Desmond, S. M., & Smith, D. (1991). A Preliminary Investigation of Inner City Adolescents' Perceptions of Guns. Journal of School Health, 61 (6), 255-259.

The authors suggested that schools and health educators become more aware and involved in the prevention of gun violence.

Roth, Jeffrey A. (1994) Firearms and Violence. The National Institute of Justice Research in Brief. U.S. Department of Justice: Washington, D.C.

Most murders involve firearms and young minority men are at especially high risk of being murdered with a gun. Innovations in laws, law enforcement, public education, and technology all show promise of reducing gun murders by selectively making firearms less available to persons likely to use them in violence, less accessible in situations where violence is likely to occur, or less lethal. Evaluations are needed to test the effectiveness

of these innovations.

Ruttenberg, H. (1994) The Limited Promise of Public Health Methodologies to Prevent Youth Violence, The Yale Law Journal, Vol. 103:1885.

This article notes that although the public health approach successfully changed middle class smoking behavior, it did not seem to change lower class's smoking behavior. Thus, the public health approach may not change the violent behavior of lower class, either.

Although the public health approach may reduce the lethality of violence, there is a question as to whether this approach will reduce the incidence of violence. Rather, to prevent youth violence, we need a national will to improve the circumstances of children, youth, and young adults. This involves making fundamental changes in society.

Schetky, D. H. (1985). Children and Handguns: A Public Health Concern: American Journal of Diseases of Children.

Shapiro, J. P., & Burkey, B. M. (1993). Final Report on a Project Performed for the Gun Safety Institute by Child Guidance Center of Greater Cleveland Development of the Gun-Proneness Questionnaire: A Measure of Attitudes Toward Guns and Violence Among Urban Youth. Cleveland, OH: The Gun Safety Institute.

The authors developed and tested a gun proneness questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to be used to assess attitudes on gun possession so that a curriculum can be developed that effectively targets these attitudes.

Shapiro, J.P., Dorman, R.L., Burkey, B.M., Welker, C.J. (undated). Attitudes Toward Guns and Violence in Third- through Twelfth-grade Youth. The Guidance Center: Cleveland, Ohio.

To decrease attraction towards guns and violence in young people, interventions should have an empirical basis if they are to address the psychosocial factors that do in fact determine violence-related attitudes in youth.

Handguns and hunting rifles appear not to have the same meanings associated with them for young people. Rifles seem to be mostly associated with hunting and this is only weakly associated with the disposition toward inter-human violence. Handguns, however, seem to be clearly associated with a willingness to hurt people. Prevention programs probably do not need to make a priority of discouraging youth's interest in rifles or hunting. Violence prone attitudes seem to increase between 5th and 6th grades and then stabilize. Prevention programs should be aimed at such ages.

Interventions need to directly address the psychosocial factors that determine whether youth are violence-prone or non-violent. Interventions need to identify, address, and change the attitudes, motives, and beliefs that are conducive to violent behavior. Youth

responding aggressively to shame, finding guns exciting, feeling comfortable with aggression, and believing that guns bring power and safety are most likely to engage in gun violence. Interventions that change these attitudes may reduce violent behavior and increase the safety of young people.

Sheley, J. F., & Wright, J. D. (1993). Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples (NCJ 145326). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. Also in Sheley, J. F., & Wright, J. D. (1992). Gun-related Violence In and Around Inner-City Schools. American Journal of Diseases of Children. 146 (6), 677-68.

This study focused on serious juvenile offenders and students from schools in high-risk areas and thus is not generalizable to the general population. The main reason given for owning or carrying a gun was self-protection. Eighty-three percent of inmates and students surveyed possessed guns. Fifty-five percent of inmates carried guns all or most of the time in the year or two before being incarcerated; 12 percent of students did so and another 23 percent carried guns now and then. The firearms of choice were high-quality, powerful revolvers, closely followed by automatic and semiautomatic handguns and then shotguns. Most of the youth surveyed thought it would be easy to acquire a gun. Most of the students said they would borrow a gun whereas most of the inmates said they would get one "off the streets." Drug use was moderately related to gun activity. The fundamental policy problem involves convincing youths that they can survive in their neighborhoods without being armed. The authors recommend that change must not be directed toward the individual, but toward the family, community, and society. The authors emphasize the structural factors that have cultivated a culture of violence as the important factors that must be dealt with, particularly in the social structure of inner cities.

Sloan, J. H., Kellerman, A.L., et al. (1988). Handgun Regulations, Crime, Assaults, and Homicide: A Tale of Two Cities. New England Journal of Medicine 319:1256.

The cities of Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia were studied over a seven year period to understand the relationship between firearm regulations and community rates of homicide. These two cities are similar demographically and are close to each other. The study suggests that a modest restriction of citizens' access to firearms is associated with lower rates of homicide. Decreased availability of handguns did not result in a direct shift to homicide by other means.

Smith, D. (1990). Caught in the Crossfire: A Report On Gun Violence in Our Nations Schools. Washington, DC: Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

Smith, D., & Lautman, B. (1990). A Generation under the Gun: A Statistical Analysis of Youth Firearm Murder in America. Washington, DC: Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

The authors' analysis of expository data provides the basis for recommendations for reducing the availability of guns, especially in the home. They also recommend

cooperation between parents, educators, lawmakers and law enforcement officials to educate about dangers, reduce the availability, and punish offenders quickly and severely.

Stephens, R. D. (1992). Congressional Testimony: Weapons in Schools. National School Safety Center.

The author stated that there was a need to make administrators aware of the significant increase in weapons that exists in schools.

Sugarman, Josh and Rand, Kirstan (1994) Cease Fire. Rolling Stone, Issue 677, 30-42.

A regulatory approach is suggested which requires that individuals dedicated to reducing firearms violence reassess their understanding of the issue and reorient the way it has been presented to the general public. Some of the steps include: 1) establish a long-term public education media campaign to change the public's perception of gun violence; 2) support new and ongoing research into firearms violence, causes and effects, and its economic costs; and, 3) recruit individuals and organizations not traditionally involved in the debate.

Treanor, W. W., & Bijlefeld, M. (1989). Kid & Guns: A Child Safety Scandal. Washington, DC: American Youth Work Center & Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence.

This booklet examines some of the issues surrounding the problem of firearm and child safety, including statistics about the nature and prevalence of the problem, and discussion of prevention issues.

The authors presented a number of suggestions to deal with the issue of children and guns: 1) family discussion of gun ownership, including reason for the presence of a gun in the house, removal of guns from homes with children, locking up unloaded guns out of the reach of children, and practicing emergency plans on what to do if an intruder enters the house; 2) involvement of students in this issue by organizing groups against firearms, having firearm awareness programs and organizing speakers to come to classes; 3) school encouragement of such students' organizations, including development of curricula for firearms education and violence prevention designed specifically for children and adolescents; 4) development of violence intervention programs by juvenile judges, social workers, police officers and others who work with at-risk youth; 5) direction of attention to the Surgeon General's 1981 report, calling for handgun regulation and safety campaigns, as well as to the American Academy of Pediatrics call for handgun control; 6) strict regulation of BB guns by the Consumer Product Safety Commission; 7) Provision of authority by Congress to either the Consumer Product Safety Commission or the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to regulate safety aspects of firearms; 8) study of the issue of children and guns by state health departments, and the recommendations of policies regarding education and safety; and 9) the integration of gun safety education into programs run by the national and local student organizations, developed independently of the National Rifle Association. The authors concluded with the hope that the next biannual report will discuss positive initiatives that have been taken in the fight to prevent childhood

death and injury due to firearm violence.

Tret, S. P., Winemute, G. J. and Beilienson, P. L. (1992). The Firearm Fatality Reporting System: A Proposal. Journal of the American Medical Association. 267(22): 3073-3074.

Webster, D. W., Gainer, P. S., & Champion, H. R. (1993). Weapon Carrying Among Inner-City Junior High School Students: Defensive Behavior vs. Aggressive Delinquency. American Journal of Public Health, 83 (11) 1604-1608.

This study estimates associations between beliefs and experiences hypothesized to be related to weapon carrying among youths. Among seventh grade males, forty-eight percent had carried knives, and twenty-three percent had carried guns. Forty-five of eighth grade males carried a knife, and forty-percent carried a gun. Key risk factors for knife carrying were being threatened with a knife, getting into fights, and disbelief that having a weapon increases the carrier's risk of injury. Gun carrying was associated with having been arrested, knowing more victims of violence, starting fights, and being willing to justify shooting someone.

Van Kammen, W., and Loeber, R., (1994) Delinquency, Drug Use and the Onset of Adolescent Drug Dealing. University of Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh, PA

Van Kammen and Loeber analyzed data from the Pittsburgh Youth Study (OJJDP's Causes and Correlates Study) which involves a longitudinal survey of 1st, 4th, and 7th grade boys who were randomly selected from the public schools in Pittsburgh. Follow-up interviews were conducted on 1,500 subjects, their teachers, and parents. This particular analysis involves data from six years of follow-up interviews on a sample of boys who were in the 7th grade at the beginning of the study.

The researchers found that the frequency of carrying a concealed weapon increased in the year concurrent with the initiation of drug selling. Among drug sellers, the rates for gun use steadily increased while the rates for other weapons decreased. This was even more significant among drug sellers who sold hard drugs (heroin, cocaine, and LSD). Almost 80% of those who sold hard drugs at age 18.8 were carrying a gun. Finally, of all the young men age 19 who carried a weapon, 64% were also involved in selling drugs. The authors concluded that a reduction in the number of juveniles selling drugs is likely to reduce the carrying of concealed weapons, particularly guns.

Zimring, F. E. (1985). Violence and Firearms Policy. In Curtis, L.A. (Editor), American Violence and Public Policy: An Update of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, (pp. 133-152). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

This paper describes what is known about guns and gun violence, particularly since the Violence Commission's report of 1968. Policy implications are also discussed.

Using the last thirty years as a guide, the author argued that the future will bring a national handgun strategy composed of three parts: 1) federal restrictions on handgun transfers that amount to permissive licensing and registration; 2) wide variation in state and municipal handgun possession and transfer regulation; and 3) increasing federal law enforcement assistance to states and cities attempting to enforce more restrictive laws than the federal minimum.

The most important element of future handgun policy is the social notion of appropriate crime countermeasures. Gun proponents will continue to have strength if the handgun continues to be viewed as necessary household defense. The author reviews the actions and beliefs of key opinion leadership groups. Women are most likely to be brought into the argument as those who need protection but are least likely to own a gun. If women's ownership of self-defense handguns increases dramatically, opinion for drastic reduction of handguns could not happen. Blacks are found to play a minimal role in the argument over guns; in the future this role would be pro-or anti-gun control. Older Americans are thought to be a great potential lobbying force in the gun debate, though consensus was not to be found. The large number of females among this population could contribute to anti-gun climate. Among the young, anti-gun sentiments must trickle down to working class and lower class youths before the young can provide a force in the potential arena.

Zimring, F. E., (1993). Research on Firearms. Health Affairs. Winter 1993. The People to People Health Foundation: Bethesda, MD

Research needed to formulate sound public policy is lacking in the area of firearm violence and control. This lack of research is due to the volatile nature of the topic and the political risks of endorsing gun control by the policy makers. Some of the research questions that need to be answered include: how much firearm use contributes to the death rate from violence; how successful particular gun control interventions can be; and to what extent the benefits of gun control are worth their cost to society. He suggests that public health professionals, in collaboration with social scientists and criminologists, can make a significant contribution to the research on firearm control.



Office for Victims of Crime

OVC Fact Sheet

Advocating for the Fair

Treatment of Crime Victims

Trainers Bureau

The Office for Victims of Crime's (OVC's) Trainers Bureau improves services to crime victims by providing training and technical assistance to victim assistance programs and other agencies that deal with crime victims. This initiative is designed to assist Federal, State, and local agencies in addressing administrative and programmatic issues.

Goals

OVC has established the following goals for the Trainers Bureau:

- To stimulate the development of professional expertise in the field of victim services by identifying outstanding experts and model programs, policies, and practices.
- To make the expertise available to agencies through effective, high-quality training and short-term technical assistance.
- To cost-effectively deliver the assistance by targeting it to meet specific, priority needs.

Services Provided

OVC has identified and recruited consultants, including:

Skilled trainers to conduct workshops at conferences, seminars, and other training events.

Professionals capable of providing effective onsite technical assistance to address significant operational problems and needs.

Topics Covered

The Trainers Bureau offers expertise on a wide range of general and specific victim-related topics. Some examples of general topics include:

- Trauma of Victimization.
- Crisis Response Team Training.

Advocacy for Victims in the Criminal Justice System.

- Legal Rights of Victims.
- Crime Victim Compensation Programs.
- Program Standards for Victim Services.
- Stress Management for Care Givers.

Additional subjects are categorized under the following topic areas:

- Criminal Justice System.
- Domestic Violence.
- Sexual Assault/Abuse.
- Allied Professionals Dealing With Crime Victims.
- Distinct/Underserved Victim Populations (e.g., Elderly Abuse Victims, Bias Crime Victims, Workplace Violence, Victims of Juvenile Offenders, Campus Crimes, Native American Crime Victims, and others).

Application Information

To apply for Trainers Bureau training and technical assistance services:

- Explain the problem to be addressed and why it cannot be addressed with existing resources.
- Suggest a plan or specific action to address the problem.
- Give information about the number and current job responsibilities of the individuals to be trained or provided with technical assistance.
- Estimate the number of hours or days of assistance needed and anticipated timeframe for receiving assistance.
- Describe the expected outcome of the assistance and any end product sought (e.g., written report, verbal report, written assessment, or other).
- Indicate the knowledge and/or skills required by the individual(s) who will provide the assistance.

Provide name, title, address, and telephone number of the agency contact.

Show agency commitment by including the signature of the agency's executive officer.

Selection Criteria

The Trainers Bureau will consider the following criteria for selection of services:

Clarity of the request, including the description of the problem.

Potential impact of the assistance.

■ Commitment of resources from other sources to support the training and technical assistance request.

■ Need for Federal support to provide the assistance.

Special consideration will be given to requests where the assistance would have statewide or regional impact, or build inter-agency or multidisciplinary capacity to deliver services.

For additional information, contact the Trainers Bureau, Office for Victims of Crime, Special Projects Division, Suite 1352, 633 Indiana Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20531, 202-307-5950.