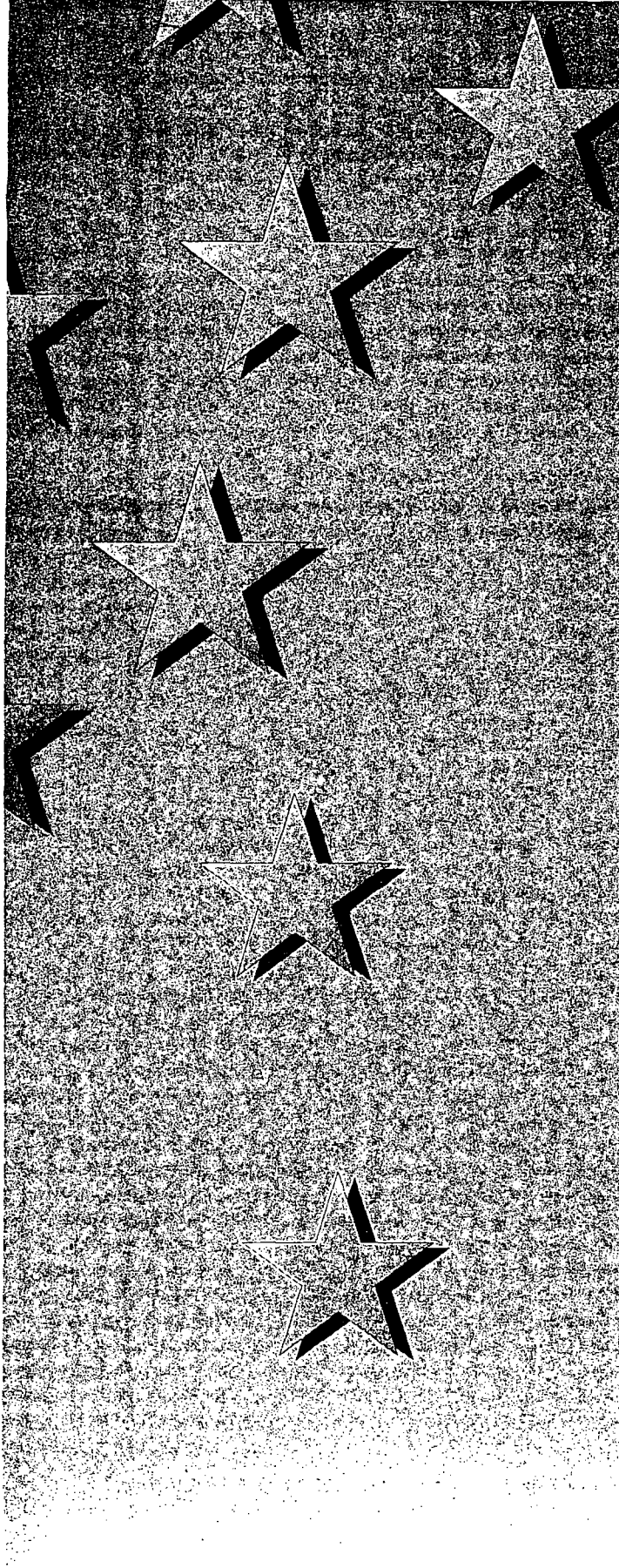




Straight Talk About Risks

A Pre-K-12 Curriculum
for Preventing Gun
Violence

—Center to Prevent Handgun Violence—
Education Division

1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 289-7319 • FAX (202) 408-1851
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CENTER TO PREVENT HANDGUN VIOLENCE

IN YOUR HOME . . .

- Be aware of the risks posed by keeping a gun at home. The family gun is 43 times more likely to kill you or someone you know than to kill in self-defense.
- If you keep a gun, **UNLOAD IT AND LOCK IT UP!** Make sure children do not have access to the keys. Ask police for advice on safe storage and gun locks.
- Speak with your friends and relatives to find out if they keep a gun at home. If they do, **URGE THEM TO UNLOAD IT AND LOCK IT UP!**
- Talk with children and teens about the risks of gun injury outside the home, in places where they may visit and play.
- Explain to children that guns are dangerous and that they should **NEVER** touch guns.

*The safest thing is not to
keep a gun in your home.*

IN YOUR COMMUNITY . . .

- Actively participate in neighborhood watch programs and other efforts to stop crime.
- Attend local meetings — city council, PTA, church — to ask community leaders to take an active role in combatting gun violence.
- Serve as a role model of nonviolence in your home, work place and community.
- Demonstrate healthy ways to resolve fear, anger and conflict without guns.
- Encourage friends, neighbors and relatives to get involved in reducing gun violence by becoming supporters of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

*Let's work together for
a safer America!*

For more information about the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, please call us today: (202) 289-7319.

CENTER TO PREVENT HANDGUN VIOLENCE

1225 EYE STREET, N.W.
ROOM 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005



Sarah and James Brady

Our Goal: Reduce Gun Injuries And Deaths In America

Youth Education

Reach educators, school-aged children, teens and parents with the "Straight Talk About Risks (STAR)" gun violence prevention program.

Public Health Outreach

Mobilize health professionals to reduce gun violence through the "Steps to Prevent (STOP) Firearm Injury" program, public service campaigns and media advocacy.

Legal Action Project

Establish far-reaching legal precedents to reduce gun violence; defend existing gun laws; educate the public about the Second Amendment.

Entertainment Resources

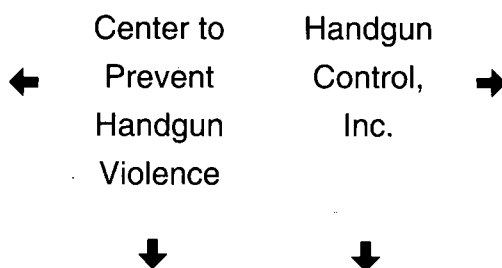
Raise awareness of the creative community and encourage them to address gun violence prevention in their work.

Research

Analyze and evaluate gun violence issues and the effectiveness of gun control laws.

Center to Prevent Handgun Violence: Founded in 1983 by Pete Shields. Chair: Sarah Brady

Handgun Control, Inc.: Founded in 1974. Chair: Sarah Brady



Media Relations

Advance the goals of both organizations by spreading our message to the public through the mass media.

Law Enforcement

Coordinate state and federal lobbying efforts by law enforcement; develop gun interdiction strategies; conduct public safety campaigns.

Federal Legislation

Enact a comprehensive federal gun control policy to reduce gun violence and protect existing national gun control laws.

State Legislation

Enact and protect state legislation to reduce gun violence and defend existing gun control laws.

Community Outreach

Build a national grassroots movement to support gun control; recruit and mobilize new local, state and national activists.

Voter Education Fund

Elect public officials who support responsible gun control laws.

National Headquarters

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Chicago

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FIREARM FACTS

Firearms are so pervasive in America that sometimes we forget the price we pay for all-too-easy access to guns. Consider some basic facts...

There are approximately 192 million privately owned firearms in the U.S. -- 65 million of which are handguns.¹

In 1996, 10,744 people were murdered with firearms in this country.²

In 1996, firearms were used in 2 out of 3 murders committed in the U.S. Handguns were used in 54% of all murders.³

In 1996, 8 out of 10 of those murdered with firearms were murdered with handguns.⁴

In 1996, there were only 176 justifiable handgun homicides by private citizens in the United States.⁵

Thinking of buying a gun to protect your home? You may want to remember that...

Guns kept in the home for self-protection are 43 times more likely to kill a family member or friend than to kill in self-defense.⁶

The presence of a gun in the home triples the risk of homicide in the home.⁷

The presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide fivefold.⁸

Guns are a blight upon our young people. For instance...

In 1994, firearms were the number two killer of men and women 10-24 years of age -- second only to motor vehicle crashes.⁹

In 1994, the firearm injury death rate among males 15-24 years of age was 32% higher than the motor vehicle traffic injury death rate.¹⁰

In 1994, firearm homicide was the leading cause of death for black males ages 15-34.¹¹

In 1995, 14 children, ages 19 and under, were killed with guns *every day* in this country.¹²

Surprised? You shouldn't be, because...

-continued-

In 1995 alone, 35,957 Americans were killed with firearms, in homicides, suicides, and accidents. In comparison, 33,651 Americans were killed in the Korean War and 58,148 Americans were killed in the Vietnam War.¹³

Licensed firearms dealers sell an estimated 7.5 million guns every year, of which 3.5 million are handguns.¹⁴

Of all accidental fatalities involving firearms, 71% involve handguns.¹⁵

Finally, you may want to consider one more statistic...

In 1996, handguns were used to murder 2 people in New Zealand, 15 in Japan, 30 in Great Britain, 106 in Canada, 213 in Germany and 9,390 in the United States.¹⁶

Last updated: 5/14/98

¹ Guns in America: Results of a comprehensive national survey on firearms ownership and use. Police Foundation. ©1996. p. 13.

² FBI Uniform Crime Report, 1996, table 2.13, p. 20.

³ FBI Uniform Crime Report, 1996, table 2.13, p. 20.

⁴ FBI Uniform Crime Report, 1996, calculated from table 2.13, p.20.

⁵ FBI Uniform Crime Report, 1996, table 2.17, p. 22.

⁶ Kellermann, AL, Reay DT. Protection or peril? An analysis of firearm-related deaths in the home. *N Engl J Med.* 1986;314:1557-1560.

⁷ Kellermann, AL, Rivara, FP, Rushforth NB, et al. Gun ownership as a risk factor for homicide in the home. *N Engl J Med.* 1993;329:1084-1091.

⁸ Kellermann, AL, Rivara FP, Somes G, et al. Suicide in the home in relation to gun ownership. *N Engl J Med.* 1992;327:467-472.

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Unpublished Data from the National Vital statistics System, 1996-1997.

¹⁰ Health United States 1996-97 and Injury Chartbook. Dpt. of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 1997. p. 32.

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Unpublished Data from the National Vital statistics System, 1996-1997.

¹² Calculated by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence using Unpublished Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, National Center for Health Statistics', National Vital Statistics System 1997.

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Unpublished Data from the National Vital statistics System, 1997. / Combat Area Casualty Figures, Center For Electronic Records, National Archives.

¹⁴ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Estimate, 1994

¹⁵ GAO Report, *Accidental Shootings: Many Deaths and Injuries Caused by Firearms Could be Prevented*, 1991; p. 23.

¹⁶ Embassies and foreign crime reporting agencies. / FBI Uniform Crime Report, 1996. The number for Germany represents total murders by firearms.

PARENTS

As the primary educators of children, parents have a major part in preventing gun violence. Parents may start to reduce children's risks by taking these four steps:

1. *The single most important step is to keep guns away from children.*

The safest thing for your family is not to keep a gun in the home. But, if you keep a gun at home, unload it and lock it away. Separate the ammunition.

A gun in the home significantly increases risks for suicide, domestic homicide and accidents.

2. *Make sure that your children know the dangers of guns and not to touch or handle guns.*

Too often we assume that children will know what to do if they see a gun at someone's home or elsewhere in the community. Yet, many children and teens do not realize that handling a gun just once could lead to tragedy.

When children come across an unsupervised gun, or another child with a gun, they should not touch the gun and should immediately get help from a parent or trusted adult.

3. *Talk to your children about guns and violence. Explain to them that we all have strong emotions like anger and fear, but that these feelings can be expressed without striking out at others or using weapons.*

Demonstrate healthy ways to express anger and disagreement. Support your children when they have used positive means of resolving conflict, like:

- ☆ Talking about feelings, rather than acting them out;
- ☆ Making choices to avoid fights;
- ☆ Getting help from trusted adults.

4. *Talk to your children about the differences between media violence and violence in real life.*

Watch television and movies with your children and help them to understand that what they see is not real. Explain that in reality guns can kill or cause long-term disabilities.

Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

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PADRES DE FAMILIA

Porque los padres son los que más se interesan en la seguridad de sus niños, son ellos que tienen la mayor responsabilidad de prevenir la violencia con armas de fuego. Los padres o los parientes responsables pueden disminuir los riesgos a los niños por medio de estos cuatro pasos:

1. *El primer paso, y el más importante, es no tener armas de fuego dentro del alcance de los niños.*

Lo más seguro es no tener pistola en casa. Pero, si tiene una, quítele las balas y guárdela bajo llave. Mantenga aparte las municiones.

Una pistola en casa aumenta considerablemente el riesgo del suicidio, del homicidio, y de los accidentes.

2. *Esté seguro que los niños sepan el peligro que representan que las pistolas y sepan no deben tocarlas ni experimentar con ellas.*

Con frecuencia, suponemos que los niños saben lo que deben hacer si ven una pistola en casa de alguien o en alguna otra parte en la comunidad. Sin embargo, hay muchos niños y adolescentes que no se dan cuenta de que tener una pistola en las manos, aún una sola vez, puede causar una tragedia.

Cuando los niños encuentran una pistola dejada al descuido encuentran con otro niño con pistola, ellos tienen que saber no tocarla y buscar la ayuda de un padre u otra persona mayor y responsable.

3. *Hable con sus niños acerca de las pistolas y la violencia. Explíqueles que es muy normal tener emociones muy fuertes tales como el enojo y el miedo. Pero que estas emociones se pueden expresar sin atacar a otros o sin usar armas.*

Enseñeles unos modos sanos para expresar el enojo y el desacuerdo. Alabe a sus niños cuando resuelven conflictos por medio de:

- ☆ Diálogo constructivo en vez de golpes o balas;
- ☆ La intervención de un adulto de su confianza.

4. *Hable con sus niños acerca de la diferencia entre la violencia que ven en la televisión y el cine y la que ocurre en la vida real.*

Vea la televisión y las películas con sus niños y ayúdeles a comprender que lo que ven no es verdadero. Explíqueles que en la vida real las pistolas matan o causan incapacidades permanentes.

***Center to Prevent Handgun Violence
(Centro para Prevenir la Violencia con Pistolas)***
1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 ~ (202) 289-7319
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Children & Guns: A Lethal Combination

Every day in America, 14 young people ages 19 and under are killed in gun homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings.¹ Many more are wounded. The scourge of gun violence frequently attacks the most helpless members of our society – our children. Consider these facts...

In 1995, 3,280 children and teenagers were murdered with guns, 1,450 committed suicide with guns, and 440 died in unintentional shootings. A total of 5,285 of our young people were killed by firearms.
National Center for Health Statistics, 1997²

In 1994, about 70 percent of the murder victims aged 15 to 17 years old were killed with a handgun.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996³

During 1994, almost *one-half* of all the murders of those under age 18 involved handguns. Ten years earlier, handguns were involved in *one-quarter* of such offenses.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996⁴

Two in 25 high school students, that is 7.9 percent, reported having carried a gun in the last 30 days.

Centers for Disease Control, 1995⁵

Gun violence plagues our youth...it is the epidemic of the 1990's...

Gunshot wounds are the *second leading cause of death* for all people aged 10-34.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1993⁶

Firearm homicide is the leading cause of death for black men aged 15-34.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1993⁷

According to a February 1997 report by the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of firearm deaths among children 0 to 14 years old is nearly twelve times higher in the US than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

Centers for Disease Control, 1997⁸

For every child killed by a gun, four are wounded.

Annest JL, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995⁹

From 1979 to 1989, the firearm homicide death rate for 15-19 year olds increased *61 percent* while the non-firearm homicide death rate decreased 29 percent.

US Department of Justice, 1995¹⁰

(more)

“The firearm injury epidemic, due largely to handgun injuries, is *ten times larger* than the polio epidemic of the first half of this century.”

Christoffel K, *Children's Environments*, 1995 ¹¹

Visit our Website at <http://www.cphv.org>

Updated 3/98

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *Unpublished data from the National Center for Health Statistics, 1997*

² *ibid.*

³ Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Centers for Disease Control, 1995

⁶ CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, *Firearms Injury Surveillance Study, June, 1992 through May, 1993*

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ Centers for Disease Control, 1997

⁹ Annest, JL, et.al. “National estimates of nonfatal firearm-related injuries: beyond the tip of the iceberg” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1995, 273:1749-1754

¹⁰ Department of Justice, 1995

¹¹ Christoffel, Katherine, “Handguns and the Environments of Children”, *Children's Environments*, 12(1), 1995, p. 42

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GUN VIOLENCE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

**Gun violence is a priority issue for African-Americans and other minorities.
Over 600,000 Americans are victimized in handgun crimes each year,
and our minority communities are the hardest hit:**

In 1992, firearm homicide was the number one cause of death for black men ages 15-34 and the second leading cause of death for all 15-24 year olds.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1994

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the firearms suicide rate amongst black youths aged 10-19 more than doubled over a 15 year period. Although blacks have had a historically lower rate of suicide than whites, the rate for blacks 15-19 has reached that of white youths aged 15-19.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998

A young black male is 11 times more likely to be murdered than a young white male.

National Centers for Health Statistics, 1993

The homicide rate among black men aged 15 to 24 rose by 66 percent from 1984 to 1987, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Ninety-five percent of this increase was due to firearm-related murders.

FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1994

For black males, aged 15 to 19, firearm homicides have increased 158 percent from 1985 to 1993.

FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1994

In 1993, 94 percent of the black murder victims were slain by black offenders.

FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1994

In 1993, black males, ages 15 to 24 accounted for nearly 60 percent of the victims of homicides involving firearms.

FBI Uniform Crime Reports, released 1994

Firearms has become the predominant method of suicide for blacks aged 10-19 years, accounting for over 66% of suicides.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998

A gun was used in 75 percent of the murders of blacks, aged 16 to 19, and in 65 percent of those aged 12 to 15.

US Department of Justice, 1991

In Florida, black males have an almost eight times greater chance of dying in a firearm-related homicide than white males. In addition, the firearm-related homicide death rate for black females is greater than white males and over four times greater than white females.

Florida Injury Prevention and Control Program. HRS Office of Health Promotion and Wellness, 1993

In Florida, white males have over twice as high a firearm-related suicide death rate as their black male counterparts and almost five times the rate of white females.

Florida Injury Prevention and Control Program. HRS Office of Health Promotion and Wellness, 1993

Updated 4/98

Protecting Our Children from Firearm Violence

Every day in America, 14 young people ages 19 and under are killed in gun homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings.¹ Many more are wounded. The scourge of gun violence frequently attacks the most helpless members of our society -- our children. Consider these facts...

In 1995, 3,280 children and teenagers were murdered with guns, 1,450 committed suicide with guns, and 440 died in unintentional shootings. A total of 5,285 of our young people were killed by firearms.²

In 1994, about 70 percent of the murder victims aged 15 to 17 years old were killed with a handgun.³

Gunshot wounds are the *second leading cause of death* for all people aged for all people aged 10-34.⁴

For every child killed by a gun, four are wounded.⁵

Two in 25 high school students, that is 7.9 percent, reported having carried a gun in the last 30 days.⁶

In a nationwide profile of juvenile gun possession and use, 70 percent of students who said they carried a gun, said they did so for protection.⁷

In a survey of students attending high schools in high crime areas, 35 percent reported carrying firearms regularly.⁸

14% of all adults and 16% of all parents report "a child who was found playing with a gun that was loaded. "Among blacks, 20% report such a happening, while a lower 13% of Latinos know such a case⁹

In 1995 guns were the method used in 67 percent of male teen suicides and 55 percent of female teen suicides.¹⁰

The presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide fivefold.¹¹

One out of three handguns is kept loaded and unlocked in the home.¹²

More than 1.2 million elementary-aged, latch-key children have access to guns in their homes.¹³

In 60% of fatal accidents involving a firearm, the weapon was located in or near the home.¹⁴

continued 

Guns kept in the home for self-protection are 43 times more likely to kill a family member or friend than to kill an intruder.¹⁵

There are 192 million privately owned firearms in the US -- 65 million of which are handguns.¹⁶

Updated 5/98

¹ Calculated by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence using Unpublished Data from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, National Center for Health Statistics', National Vital Statistics System.*

² Calculated by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence using Unpublished Data from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, National Center for Health Statistics', National Vital Statistics System.*

³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1996

⁴ Calculated by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence using Unpublished Data from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, National Center for Health Statistics', National Vital Statistics System.*

⁵ Annett JL, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1995

⁶ Center for Disease Control, 1995

⁷ McCarthy N, California Bar Journal, 1995

⁸ US Department of Justice, 1993

⁹ Harris, L., LH Research, Inc. A Survey of the American People on Guns a Children's Health Issue, 1993

¹⁰ Calculated by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence using Unpublished Data from the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, National Center for Health Statistics', National Vital Statistics System.*

¹¹ Kellermann, AL, Rivara FP, Somes G, et al. Suicide in the home in relation to gun ownership. *N Engl J Med.* 1992;327:467-472

¹² Guns in America: Results of a comprehensive national survey on firearms ownership and use. Police Foundation. ©1996. p. 13.

¹³ Lee, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1990

¹⁴ General Accounting Office Report on Accidental Shooting, 1991

¹⁵ Kellermann, AL, Reay DT. Protection or peril? An analysis of firearm-related deaths in the home. *N Engl J Med.* 1986;314:1557-1560.

¹⁶ Guns in America: Results of a comprehensive national survey on firearms ownership and use. Police Foundation. ©1996. p. 13.

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FIREARMS & YOUTH SUICIDE

At a national level, emergency room data verify that suicide attempts with firearms are almost always fatal - for every gun suicide, there is less than one nonfatal injury.

Annest FL, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1995

A youth aged 10-19 committed suicide with a gun every six hours in 1995 - 1,449 young people in one year.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1997

From 1980 to 1992, the suicide rate for 15-19 year-olds increased 28.3 percent and among 10-14 year-olds there was an increase of 120 percent. For black males, aged 15-19, the suicide rate increased 165.3 percent from 1980 to 1992.

Centers for Disease Control, 1995

In 1992, firearm-related deaths accounted for 64.9 percent of the suicides among individuals under the age of 25. Among 15-19 year-olds, firearm-related suicides accounted for 81 percent of the increase in the overall rate from 1980-1992.

Centers for Disease Control, 1995

The odds that potentially suicidal adolescents will kill themselves double when a gun is kept in the home.

Brent, *General Psychiatry*, 1988

The increased rate of completed suicides may be attributed to the use of more lethal means during attempts.

Centers for Disease Control, 1995

In Oregon from 1988-1993, 78.2 percent of suicide attempts with firearms were fatal. Only 0.4 percent of suicide attempts by drug overdose were fatal.

Centers for Disease Control, 1995

Guns are the method used in 65 percent of male teen suicides and 47 percent of female teen suicides.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1991

Between 1960 and 1980, the total number of females committing suicide with firearms more than doubled, while the total number of females committing suicide by all means other than firearms increased only 16 percent.

Zimring FE, *Health Affairs*, 1993

-continued-

Most teen suicides are impulsive, with little or no planning, and 70 percent occur in the victims' homes.

University of Minnesota Medical School, University of Minnesota Clinic and Hospital

In Florida, the firearm-related suicide death rate for white males is more than double the rate of their black male counterparts and almost five times the rate of white females.

Florida Injury Prevention and Control Program, HRS Office of Health Promotion and
Wellness, 1993

Updated 11/97

THE RISKS OF GUNS IN THE HOME

Over 35% of American households contains at least one firearm.

Police Foundation, 1996

One out of three handguns is kept loaded and unlocked in the home.

Police Foundation, 1996

Guns kept in the home for self-protection are 43 times more likely to kill someone you know than to kill in self-defense.

Kellermann A, New England Journal of Medicine, 1986

When someone is home, a gun is used for protection in fewer than two percent of home invasion crimes.

Kellermann A, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995

The risk of homicide in the home is three times greater in households with guns.

Kellermann A, New England Journal of Medicine, 1993

The risk of suicide is five times greater in households with guns.

Kellermann A, New England Journal of Medicine, 1992

In 1996, there were only 176 justifiable handgun homicides compared with a total of 9,390 handgun murders in the United States.

FBI Uniform Crime Reports, released October 1997

In 60% of fatal accidents involving a firearm, the weapon was located in or near the home.

General Accounting Office Report on Accidental Shootings, 1991

85 percent of adults who don't own guns feels less safe when others in the community acquire firearms.

Hemenway, Solnick and Azrael, Firearm Training and Storage, 1995

In 1995, 14 children, aged 19 and under, were killed with guns *every day* in this country.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1997

More than 1.2 million elementary-aged, latch-key children have access to guns in their homes.

Lee, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1990

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Updated 07/07/98

ECONOMIC COSTS OF GUN VIOLENCE

The estimated cost of firearm injuries in pain, suffering and lost quality of life was \$75 billion in 1992.

Textbook of Penetrating Injury, 1995¹

The estimated cost of direct health care expenditures for firearm-related injuries in the United States in 1995 was \$4 billion.

Kizer KW, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995²

Two hundred and fifty people hospitalized for firearm injuries at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento (January 1, 1984 - June 30, 1985) resulted in hospital costs of \$3,745,496 of which 80 percent was borne directly or indirectly by public funds. Three-fourths of the charges resulted from handgun injuries

Wintemute GJ, The Journal of Trauma, 1992³

Firearms injury costs upwards of \$4.0 billion annually, with \$19.0 billion in additional indirect costs, such as lost potential earnings. These costs are reflected in the premiums paid for private health insurance, and as taxes via Medicaid. These costs often go unreimbursed.

American College of Physicians, 1998⁴

The average total cost of a gun-related crime can be as high as \$268,000. Most of this cost is borne by the taxpayer.

The Washington Post, 1997⁵

The total lifetime cost of a gun-related crime, including medical care, rehabilitation of the injured and incarceration of the assailant can run as high as \$1,000,000. Again, most of this cost is borne by the taxpayer.

The Washington Post 1997⁶

Firearms are the second leading cause of fatal injuries in the United States, taking an estimated 35,957 lives in 1995 alone. If the firearm-injury death trend recorded from 1988-1991 continues, firearms will surpass cars as the number one cause of injury-related death in the U.S. by the year 2003.

National Center for Health Statistics, 1996⁷

It cost more than \$14,000 to treat each child wounded by gunfire - enough to pay for a full year at a private college.

National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, 1993⁸

Updated 02/1/98

¹Textbook of Penetrating Injury

²K.W. Kizer, Journal of the American Medical Association, 1995

³Wintemute, Garen J., "", The Journal of Trauma, 1992

⁴

⁵Lengel, Allan, "The Price of Urban Violence", The Washington Post, December 28, 1997, B1

⁶Ibid.

⁷ National Center for Health Statistics, *Unpublished data from the Vital Statistics System*

⁸ National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, 1993

1995 Firearms Deaths

ALL RACES, BOTH SEXES

<u>Age</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Un- intentional</u>	<u>Intent Unknown</u>	<u>ALL</u>
<1	8	0	0	0	8
1-4	74	0	20	3	97
5-9	70	1	32	4	107
10-14	311	183	129	18	641
15-19	2817	1266	259	90	4432
20-24	3306	1802	164	74	5346
25-34	4,532	3,395	222	76	8,225
35-44	2,623	3,278	164	55	6,120
45-54	1,147	2,504	92	33	3,776
55-64	519	1,810	55	15	2,399
65-74	275	2,085	52	11	2,423
75-84	106	1,676	34	8	1,824
85+	23	497	2	7	529
Age not stated	24	6	0	0	30
TOTAL	15,835	18,503	1,225	394	35,957

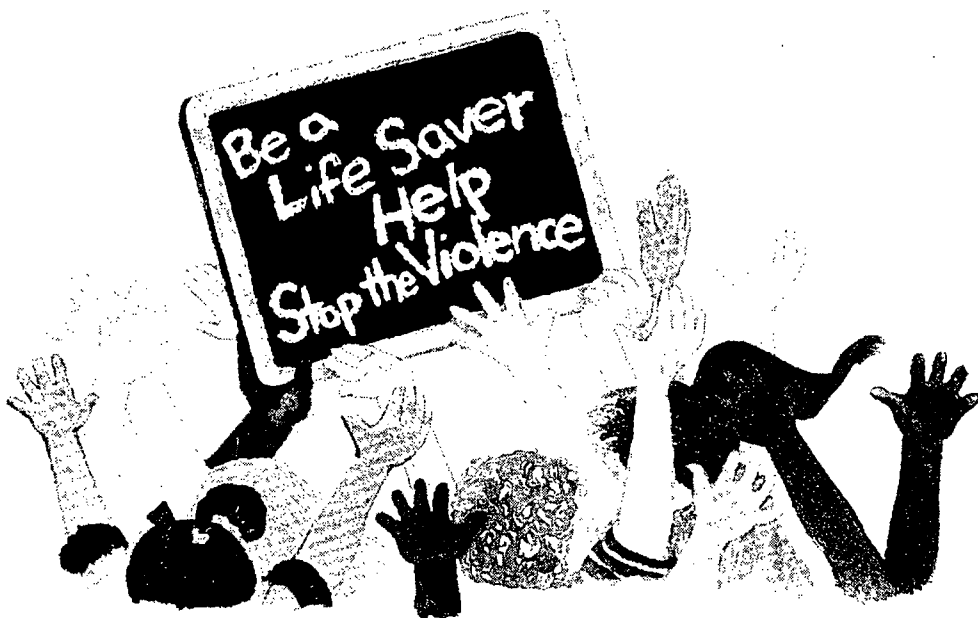
**National Center for Health Statistics, Unpublished data from the Vital Statistics System*

7/97

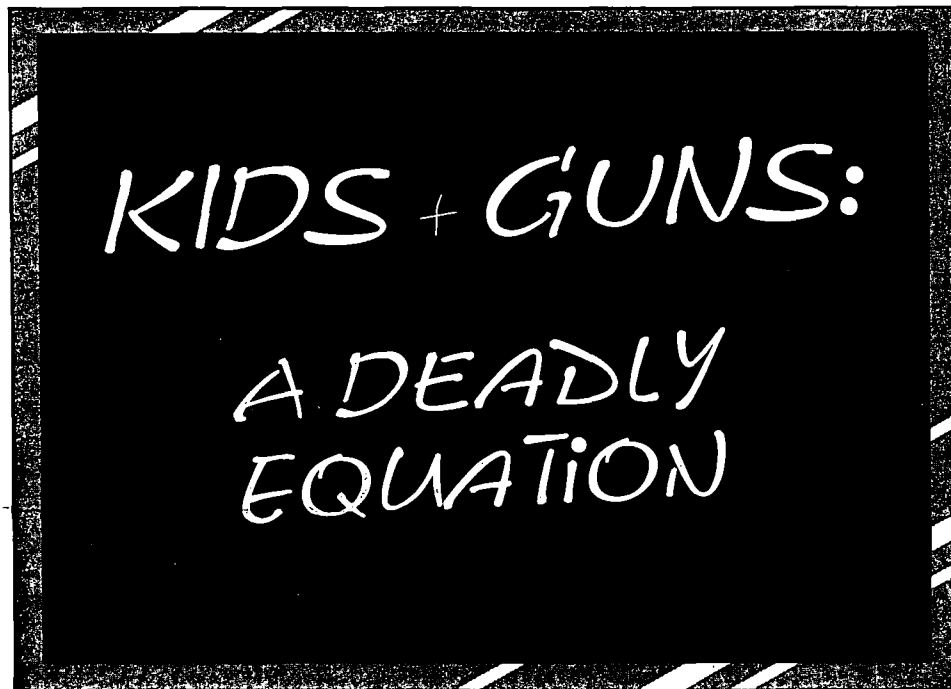
SAFETY PLEDGE

If I see a gun or anything that looks like a gun
I will not touch it,
I will go get an adult,
Because guns can hurt me
And I want to be safe.

*IT'S NOT COOL
TO FOOL WITH GUNS*



Thousands of kids are killed or badly hurt
by
guns every year



Now, they can't play sports...

can't drive...

can't dance...

can't even walk, talk or see.

These are the kids who lived!

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT RISKS (STAR)

A PRE-K - 12TH GRADE CURRICULUM FOR PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is STAR?

A: **STAR** is the nation's premier *gun* violence prevention program for school-aged youth and their families. **STAR** is a primary prevention program, premised on the belief that all U.S. children and teens are at risk of gun injury or death. **STAR** is designed to help youth develop victim prevention skills and to rehearse behaviors needed to manage problems, such as conflict and peer pressure, non-violently without guns.

STAR materials include:

- ▶ Skill-building activities for grades Pre-K - 12;
- ▶ Posters, hand-outs and other awareness materials designed to promote parent and community involvement;
- ▶ Age-appropriate bibliographies of literature and audio-visual resources;
- ▶ Video presentations;
- ▶ National guide of complementary violence prevention programs;
- ▶ Inservice training materials;
- ▶ Spanish translations.

Q: Who researched and developed STAR?

A: **STAR** is based on academic and focus group research conducted by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, as well as a joint pilot project with the public schools of Dade County, FL. With this foundational knowledge, Center staff worked closely with teachers, guidance counselors, students and parents to write the curriculum. A team of national experts in child development, injury prevention, curriculum design, crime prevention and law enforcement provided critical review prior to **STAR**'s publication in 1992.

Q: How many school systems are using the STAR curriculum?

A: **STAR** is being used by selected schools in over 90 municipalities nationwide, including the nation's largest school systems: New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Dade County (FL). **STAR** has also been effectively implemented as part of police-led crime prevention initiatives, and in conjunction with recreation and health education programs.

Q: Why will STAR help to reduce gun deaths and injuries?

A: **STAR** is based on state-of-the-art primary prevention strategies. Prevention education that goes beyond simply raising awareness can reduce risks, by helping youth to develop social problem-solving skills and life-saving behaviors for use outside of the classroom.

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Q: Has STAR been evaluated for its impact?

A: An independent research and curriculum development agency, Education Development Center, conducted an in-depth process evaluation of **STAR** in grades Pre-K - 12. The results were uniformly positive, and have positioned **STAR** for a long-term evaluation of its effects on student behavior.

STAR's professional training was shown to be highly effective in preparing educators to carry forward the program's gun violence prevention messages and strategies. Educators also gave the **STAR** materials high marks for being developmentally and culturally sensitive and, most importantly, for motivating students of all ages to participate.

Q: Aren't parents really the ones who need to learn about preventing gun violence?

A: Absolutely. Because parents play a major role in safeguarding their children from gun violence, **STAR** includes parent information. Parents need to ensure that guns are always kept away from children and teenagers. It is also important for parents to talk to their kids about the dangers of guns and the consequences of gun violence.

Q: Why is STAR necessary? Some communities don't have problems with guns and violence.

A: No school or community is immune to gun violence. Gun violence has spread across America to big cities and small towns. There is a firearm in nearly half of all homes in America, many of which are loaded and easily accessible. We now lose 16 children each day in gun homicides, gun suicides and unintentional shootings.

Q: How do teachers fit STAR into their already-busy teaching schedules?

A: **STAR** has a flexible format. **STAR** activities readily supplement health education and violence prevention programs. **STAR** is also suited for use with traditional subject area courses, e.g., language arts, science or math.

Q: How is the STAR program funded?

A: **STAR** is entirely funded through private and public grants. Center staff work closely with schools and youth agencies to determine program needs and costs for **STAR** training and curriculum delivery.

Q: Is there a political agenda presented in STAR?

A: The goal of **STAR** is simple -- *to reduce gun injury and death afflicting youth*. **STAR** does not promote a political or legislative agenda, nor does the program condemn well-supervised, controlled shooting sports or hunting.

Q: How do I get started?

A: Call the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence to request a review package of **STAR** materials. Then, develop a plan of action for your staff to receive training and to implement the **STAR** program. A full-day of staff training is recommended to get started and can be arranged through the Center's **STAR** program office.

The STAR Program

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STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT RISKS (STAR): A Pre-K Grade 12 Curriculum for Preventing Gun Violence

Evaluation Summary

Given that prevention of gun violence among children and teens is a complicated and challenging responsibility, especially in large urban public school districts the Center recruits independent research consultants to provide empirical, constructive criticism. Such critical examination is central to the Center's goal of bringing about meaningful attitudinal and behavioral change among STAR educators, as well as among children and families.

A thorough and valid evaluation of the STAR program includes:

- ★ Formative research (completed: Fall 1991);
- ★ Process research (completed: Winter 1994);

Formative research, during the first phase of the STAR evaluation involved:

- ★ Focus groups with students, parents and teachers in Dade County, FL;
- ★ Academic research on effective risk reduction strategies used for alcohol and tobacco education with school-aged youth;
- ★ Review and critique by a multi-disciplinary advisory team;
- ★ Field-testing of each STAR activity, prior to publication.

The Center's process research began in July 1992 when the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence retained the services of Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), a foremost research and program design organization specializing in violence prevention, for the purposes of a two-year research project. Edward De Vos, Ed.D. was EDC's principal investigator for the project.

EDC's evaluation reflects the overall strength of the STAR curriculum. Teachers and guidance counselor were involved in the research project, serving grades Pre-K through 3 in New York City Public Schools and grades 3-12 in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Sample respondents found the STAR curriculum:

- ★ Easy to use;
- ★ Culturally appropriate;
- ★ Beneficial in its bilingual format (English-Spanish);
- ★ Anger appropriate;
- ★ A helpful component of larger violence prevention and crisis intervention activities.

Throughout the grade levels, a clear majority of teachers interviewed found the STAR student activities to be relevant to students needs and concerns and to elicit strong student participation and understanding. Their rating of the curriculum material overall were quite positive.

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Eighty-nine percent of teachers in grades Pre-K -2 reported that STAR activities elicited the active participation of students; 83% stated their willingness to use the activities again in the future.

Eighty-five percent of teachers in grades 3-5 found that the STAR activities were “very strong” or “strong” in their relevance to students, and “very strong” or “strong” in eliciting student participation; 92% said they would use the STAR activities again.

For teachers in grades 6-8: 86% found that the STAR activities were “very strong” or “strong” in their relevance to students, and 76% found the activities to elicit “very strong” or “strong” students participation; 95% reported that they would use STAR activities again.

For teachers in grades 9-12: 69% found that the STAR activities were “very strong” or “strong” in their relevance to students, and “very strong” or “strong” in eliciting student participation; 100% said they would use the STAR activities again.

EDC also sought information about the STAR training process and the degree to which Center-led sessions prepared school staff to convey the prevention messages in STAR to their students.

Teachers reported a very high degree of satisfaction with training presentation styles, content and organization.

- ★ the Center’s presentation was engaging;
- ★ the correct amount of time was devoted to each section (facts, theory, lessons, implementation planning etc.);
- ★ the training presentations were clear and facilitated understanding of the curriculum.

The final area the EDC interim evaluation addresses is impact on students after limited exposure to STAR activities. As stated by Edward De Vos, his student assessments provide “a suggestive first look at STAR’s effects.”

The student “control group” included” included 314 LAUSD students from grades 3-12 and the “treatment group” included 298 students also from grades 3-12. The treatment group students represented 12 of the 150 LAUSD classrooms which were engaged in the Center’s 1992/93 STAR program.

Outcomes were measured in terms of changes in students’ knowledge, attitudes and behavior. These suggestive outcomes varied according to age and gender:

The convincing gains in knowledge, attitudes and behavior (new skills learned) occurred among boys and girls in grades 3-5.

Students of both genders in grades 6-8 also demonstrated gains, albeit more modest ones, in knowledge, attitudes and behavior. However, comparison students were shown to “outperform” STAR students in this age group.