

**PRESIDENT CLINTON HONORS OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETES
AND TAKES STEPS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AMONG
AMERICA'S YOUTH
November 29, 2000**

Today at the White House, the President will honor the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes for their achievements at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, and emphasize the importance of physical fitness for all Americans, particularly youth. In conjunction with today's program, the President is releasing a report from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education, which identifies ten strategies to promote better health among young people through increased participation in physical activity and sports. Today Secretaries Donna Shalala and Richard Riley will also convene a roundtable with various public and private partners, including the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), to discuss ways of implementing the strategies in the report.

Honoring U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Athletes. Today the President will welcome members of the 2000 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams to the White House to congratulate them for their success at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia and honor them for their commitment to their country and the pursuit of excellence in sports. Made up of the nation's most accomplished athletes, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Teams are both a source of great pride and an inspiration for all Americans. The U.S. Teams triumphantly represented the United States winning 97 Olympic and 109 Paralympic medals and upholding our nation's historic record of Olympic achievement. Placing first overall with 39 gold medals, 25 silver and 33 bronze, the U.S. Olympic Team, with the second largest delegation, exceeded international expectations, with major achievements in the areas of swimming, track and field, basketball, and Greco-Roman wrestling to name but a few disciplines. The U.S. Paralympic Team, the largest U.S. delegation to compete outside the United States, totaling 256 athletes, placed third in medal standings – finishing strong with 36 gold medals, 39 silver medals and 34 bronze medals.

Strategies to Promote Physical Activity Among Young People. Physical activity is important not just for elite athletes, but for the health of all Americans. Low physical activity represents one of the leading health risk factors facing the U.S. population, and key trends highlight the challenges facing the nation. The percentage of young people who are overweight has doubled since 1980. Yet the percentage of high school students enrolled in daily physical education classes has declined 30 percent between 1991 and 1999. Today the President is releasing a report by the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services to encourage young people to participate in physical activity. This report was submitted to the President in response to a directive he issued in June at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, CA, and brings together for the first time in one document a comprehensive agenda to promote physical activity and sports among young people through strategies such as, strengthening school physical education programs; enhancing community sports and recreation programs; and redesigning communities to facilitate walking and bicycling. The President will also encourage the

U.S. Olympians and Paralympians to help carry the message that physical activity is important to young people, families, and schools back home in their communities.

Secretaries' Roundtable and Next Steps in Promoting Physical Activity. In a meeting at the White House today, Secretaries Shalala and Riley will hear from interested public and private partners on ideas and plans for implementing the strategies recommended in the report. With the National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Conference taking place today and tomorrow, and the Surgeon General's Conference on Obesity next week, several steps are already underway to highlight the issues outlined in the report. However, the report's strategies involve not just federal action, but commitment and participation throughout the nation, including parents, teachers, coaches, schools, communities, and the private sector.

Today's meeting will mark the start of some key partnerships needed to carry out the recommended strategies. Building on past collaboration with HHS and Education, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers' Association will work with industry partners to launch a national promotion campaign to inspire youth to participate in physical activity and influence parents and school officials to make P.E. available in the schools. USOC will expand the focus of its Champions in Life program, which brings Olympic athletes into the schools, to advance the goals of the report and encourage schools to restore quality physical education to the curriculum. Also the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity will partner with HHS and Education to convene the participants in today's meeting, as well as other interested parties, in order to launch an ongoing public-private working group, to carry forward the work begun today.

REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE – ENCOURAGING TRENDS

- Between 1993 and 1998, there was a 43% decline in the rate of serious violent crime victimization of youth, aged 12 - 17.

Source: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well Being 2000. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office

- Between 1993 and 1998, there was a 48% decline in the rate of serious violent crime perpetration by youth, aged 12 - 17.

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- Since 1992, the number of non-fatal crimes in schools is down by more than 21 percent.

Source: 2000 Annual Report on School Safety. U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington DC

- Between 1993 and 1998, homicide rates for youth aged 15-24 decreased by 37% and by 43% for teenagers aged 15-19 for the same time period.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Violent deaths at school are extremely rare. Thirty-four violent deaths were reported in 1998-99, compared to the high of 49 deaths reported in 1995-96, a 30% decrease.

Source: Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2000. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Washington DC

- Between 1992 and 1997, the number of students who report carrying a weapon to school decreased by 25%.

Source: 2000 Annual Report on School Safety. U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington DC

- Youth suicide rates for youth aged 15-24 dropped 18% between 1993 and 1998.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCES FOR AMERICA

JANUARY 13, 2000

Today in his weekly radio address, President Clinton will announce two new steps the White House Council on Youth Violence is taking to help address the problem of youth violence. The President will launch the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, a central hub for all Federal information regarding youth violence prevention efforts. The President will also release the youth violence prevention resource *Helping Your Children Navigate the Teenage Years: A Guide for Parents* to help parents better communicate and understand the developmental stages of their adolescent children.

A CITIZEN'S INFORMATION HUB. Today, the President will launch the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC) developed by the White House Council on Youth Violence in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Federal agencies. The Resource Center consists of three components: a toll-free information line, a fax-on-demand system, and an Internet Website. The Center will provide a single point of access to Federal information about youth violence, including suicide, making youth violence information from all Federal agencies available in one place, and providing links to private sector resources. The Resource Center's website is www.safeyouth.org, and the toll-free number is 1-866-SAFEYOUTH (1-866-723-3968).

TOOLS FOR PARENTS. The President will release a resource for parents of teens, *Helping Your Children Navigate the Teenage Years: A Guide for Parents*. This guide helps parents understand normal adolescent development, identify problem behaviors, improve family communication, and locate outside assistance if additional help is necessary. The guidebook was funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) and will be disseminated on the NYVPRC website, as well as through mailings by the Council's participating Departments, and various professional associations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of School Nurses. It can be ordered through the NYVPRC website or SAMHSA's Knowledge Exchange Network at (800) 789-2647.

BUILDING ON THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE. From the beginning, President Clinton has believed that every sector of society has a role to play in the efforts to reduce and prevent youth violence, and the Clinton-Gore Administration has worked with both federal and private entities to approach the issues of youth violence. This comprehensive strategy has shown encouraging results. Between 1993 and 1998, the rate of serious violent crime victimization of youth, aged 12-17, ~~15~~ declined by 43 percent, while homicide rates for youth aged 15-24 decreased by 37 percent and by 43 percent for teenagers aged 15-19. Additionally, the youth suicide rate has dropped 18 percent between 1993 and 1998 for young people aged 15-24. President Clinton has made youth violence prevention a priority for this Administration and has implemented a broad range of programs and initiatives across the Federal departments.

- **White House Council on Youth Violence:** Following the tragedy in Littleton, CO, the President established the White House Council on Youth Violence in October 1999 to coordinate the anti-violence efforts of all federal agencies. ~~The President's Domestic Policy Adviser Bruce Reed chairs the Council, the Director is Sonia Chessen, and U.S. Assistant Surgeon General Susan Blumenthal, M.D. is the Council's Senior Public Health Advisor who directed the development of the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC).~~ The Council members ~~also~~ include Secretaries Donna E. Shalala (HHS), Richard Riley (DoEd), Larry Summers (Treasury), Andrew Cuomo (HUD), and Attorney General Janet Reno (DOJ).

- **Federal Youth Violence Prevention Initiatives:** The Federal agencies have partnered to establish innovative programs including the Safe Schools / Healthy Students initiative and the 21st Century Learning Centers, which have provided hundreds of communities with funding for activities that foster the safety and healthy development of our students. The Clinton-Gore Administration has also developed guide books, such as the Early Warning Guide, the Blue Prints Initiative and Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention to help communities better understand the precursors to violence and the solutions found to be most effective. The Administration has strengthened partnerships between law enforcement and schools through the COPS in schools program, as well as the critical need to restrict access to guns by strengthening the laws that keep guns out of schools and out of the hand of juveniles (Gun-Free Schools Act and Youth Handgun Safety Act).

- **Media and Youth Violence:** The Clinton-Gore Administration has also worked on minimizing the role violent media may play in youth violence and aggressive behavior. In 1996, the Administration signed the legislation that gave parents the V-chip, a new tool to help screen out television programs that are not fit for kids. More recently the President asked the FTC to conduct a study to determine whether the entertainment industry was marketing violent material to children. This report found that the entertainment industry was doing little to restrict children's access to violent media rated for adults. *The President and the First Lady called on the industry for an immediate ceasefire on marketing of violence to young people.*
- **Private Sector Partnerships:** Finally, the President believes that the private sector has a significant contribution to make in the effort to prevent youth violence. In 1999, the President launched the National Campaign Against Youth Violence to engage the private sector in innovative local solutions for preventing youth violence and supporting the healthy development of our Nation's young people.

- **Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence:** Next week, Surgeon General David Satcher will release the first Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence. Compiled in response to a Presidential directive, this report provides a comprehensive review of what we know about youth violence from a public health perspective and identifies science-based strategies that can be implemented by parents, schools, and communities to decrease the risk of youth violence.

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Report on the White House Strategy Session on



Improving Hispanic Student Achievement



Draft 1/11/01 10:00 p.m.
John Pollack

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON
REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE
THE WHITE HOUSE
January 12, 2001**

Good morning. As I enter the final week of my Presidency, I am extraordinarily grateful for all the progress we have made together these past eight years – building the strongest economy in a generation, renewing our ethic of responsibility, and strengthening the bonds of community and family all across America. Today I want to talk about our progress in reducing youth violence, and new steps we are taking to make our communities even safer.

Over the past few years, terrible tragedies at Columbine and other schools have forced us to take a hard look at youth violence, and an even harder look at what each of us can and must do to ensure such tragedies never happen again. Although there are no simple solutions, recent evidence suggests we are moving in the right direction.

In fact, according to the latest data, violent crime by young people has been cut nearly in half since 1993, and schoolyard deaths have dropped dramatically. These are both important declines that reflect the lowest national crime rate in over 25 years.

But we still have more to do. At my direction, the White House Council on Youth Violence has developed a new website and toll-free information line to help parents and educators get the facts they need to reduce youth violence. The website address is www.safeyouth.org, and the toll-free number is 1-866-SAFE YOUTH.

I am also pleased to release another important resource: a guide for parents on communicating better with teenagers. It incorporates the latest research and also the best ideas from the White House Conference on Teenagers, which Hillary and I sponsored last year. We will distribute this publication nationwide through the website and toll-free line, and with the assistance of school principals, school nurses and pediatricians.

Like all parents, Hillary and I know it's not always easy to talk with your kids about sensitive subjects. That's why this new guide is so valuable, because it teaches parents how to listen more carefully to their children and nurture relationships built on love, trust, discipline and respect.

Over the past eight years, America has made a lot of progress in renewing these enduring values, and in strengthening our sense of national community. A record number of young people now volunteer for community service. And together, we've built a country that is not only better off, but a better, safer place for all of us.

Together, we passed the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of over 600,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers. We put 130,000 new police officers on the streets. And we created the COPS in Schools program, helping local law enforcement hire police officers to work in schools – enhancing safety and giving students more positive role models.

We established after-school and summer school programs that are helping 1.3 million children a year stay out of trouble and succeed in the classroom. And we have launched a national program to foster local partnerships that make our schools safer, identify children at risk, and get them the help they need.

Working closely with the private sector and community groups, we also expanded the GEAR-UP initiative, to give young people mentors and encouragement to seek a college education. And a record number of young people are going on to college.

Now we need to build on this remarkable success. Here in Washington, Congress should act swiftly to close the gun-show loophole, and require background checks for all gun buyers. In the private sector, Hollywood should own up to its responsibilities, and quit marketing violence to America's young people. It's wrong and it ought to stop.

There is nothing more precious to a parent than a child. And nothing more important to our future than the safety of all our children. So let's do all we can to protect them from harm, and teach them to walk away from violence. In the end, all of us have a responsibility to help end youth violence. If we succeed in this mission, America will be a great and peaceful nation for generations to come.

Thanks for listening.

Chaired BR
Directed SC
Center SB
Name Sec's

next
week SG
will release report

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCES FOR AMERICA

JANUARY 13, 2000

In his weekly radio address today, President Clinton will announce two new youth violence prevention resources developed by the White House Council on Youth Violence. Following the tragedy in Littleton, CO, the President established The White House Council on Youth Violence in October 1999 to provide more effective and integrated policy and programmatic coordination across the Federal agencies on youth violence issues. The Council membership includes the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Justice, Labor, Treasury, and HUD. In addition to its coordination efforts, the Council was mandated to develop a citizen's information hub and tools for parents. Today the President will announce the launch of the **National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC)** and the release of *Helping Your Children Navigate the Teenage Years: A Guide for Parents*.

A Citizen's Information Hub: The President will announce the launch of the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, ^{developed by} The White House Council on Youth Violence ^{has worked in conjunction with} ~~has worked closely~~ with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ^{to develop the Resource Center.} The Center provides a single point of access to Federal information about youth violence, including suicide. The Resource Center consists of three components: a toll-free information line, a fax-on-demand system, and an Internet website, ^{and provides a} ~~The Center makes youth violence by making~~ information available from all federal agencies in one place ^{and also links to private sector resources.} The website can be found at www.safeyouth.org. ^{providing} The toll-free number is 1-866-SAFEYOUTH (1-866-723-3968). This new online resource was established with the leadership of U.S. Assistant Surgeon General Susan Blumenthal, M.D. who is Senior Public Health Advisor to the Council.

Tools for Parents: The President will release a resource for parents of teens, entitled *Helping Your Children Navigate the Teenage Years: A Guide for Parents*. This resource will help parents understand normal adolescent development, identify problem behaviors, improve family communication, and locate outside assistance if additional help is necessary. The guidebook is being disseminated on the website, as well as through mailings by the Council's participating Departments, and by various professional associations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Parent Teachers Association. It can be ordered through the NYVPRC website or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's (SAMHSA) Knowledge Exchange Network at (800) 789-2647.

Building on the Clinton Administration's Commitment to Preventing Youth Violence:

President Clinton has made youth violence prevention a priority for this Administration and has implemented a broad range of programs and initiatives across the Federal departments. The President has been gratified by several encouraging trends. Between 1993 and 1998, there was a 43% decline in the rate of serious violent crime victimization of youth, aged 12 – 17. Further, between 1993 and 1998, homicide rates for youth aged 15-24 decreased by 37% and by 43% for

teenagers aged 15-19 for the same time period. Additionally, youth suicide has dropped 18% between 1993 and 1998 for young people aged 15-24.

From the beginning, President Clinton has believed that effective youth violence prevention requires the efforts of every sector of society. In support of this belief, the Administration has funded programmatic initiatives such as the Safe/School Healthy Students and 21st Century Learning Centers that have provided hundreds of communities with funding for activities that foster the safety and healthy development of our students. The Administration has developed guide books, such as the Early Warning Guide, the Blue Prints Initiative and Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention to help communities better understand the precursors to violence and which solutions have been shown to be most effective. The Administration has acknowledged the importance of partnerships between law and enforcement and schools through the COPS in schools program, as well as the critical need to restrict access to guns by strengthening the laws that keep guns out of schools and out of the hand of juveniles (Gun-Free Schools Act and Youth Handgun Safety Act).

The President has also worked on minimizing the role violent media may play in youth violence and aggressive behavior. In 1996, the Administration signed the legislation that gave parents the V-chip, a new tool to help screen out television programs that are not fit for kids. More recently the President asked the FTC to conduct a study to determine whether the entertainment industry was marketing violent material to children. This report found that the entertainment industry was doing little to restrict children's access to violent media rated for adults.

Finally, the President believes that the private sector has a significant contribution to make in the effort to prevent youth violence. In 1999, the President launched the National Campaign Against Youth Violence to engage the private sector in innovative local solutions for preventing youth violence and supporting the healthy development of our Nation's young people.

TAKING ACTION AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE: CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"...we have asked every sector of our society to get involved in the search for solutions to youth violence, to hatred, to the absence of control, to environmental and cultural factors that need to be dealt with. We've asked people to help at home and school, in Hollywood and in the heartland, in our State capitals and in the Nation's Capital."

- President Clinton October 15, 1999

REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE – ENCOURAGING TRENDS

- Between 1993 and 1998, there was a 43% decline in the rate of serious violent crime victimization of youth, aged 12 - 17.
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- Since 1992, the number of non-fatal crimes in schools is down by more than 21 percent.
- Between 1993 and 1998, homicide rates for youth aged 15-24 decreased by 37% and by 43% for teenagers aged 15-19 in the same time period.
- Violent deaths at school are extremely rare. Thirty-four violent deaths were reported in 1998-99, compared to the high of 49 deaths reported in 1995-96, a 30% decrease.
- Between 1992 and 1997, the number of students who report carrying a weapon to school decreased by 25%.
- Youth suicide rates for youth aged 15-24 dropped 18% between 1993 and 1998.

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER

Supporting a Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched the *Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative* (SS/HS) in 1999. The SS/HS Initiative is an unprecedented national effort to provide students, schools and communities the benefit of enhanced comprehensive educational, mental health, social service, and law enforcement services. It is based on evidence that a comprehensive, integrated community-wide approach is an effective way to promote healthy childhood and youth

development and address the problems of school violence and alcohol and other drug abuse. The Initiative has provided \$147 million to 77 local education authorities that have established formal partnerships with local mental health and law enforcement agencies. The grants support coordinated and comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more – helping to promote healthy youth development and to prevent violence before it occurs.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. More than 400,000 copies of the guide have been distributed to every school in the country and to youth organizations throughout, and additional copies may be obtained through the websites of the Departments of Education and Justice. In April, 1999, the Departments of Education and Justice once again teamed to produce a follow-up publication: *Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide*, which emphasizes early intervention and prevention, and the importance of teamwork among educators, mental health professionals, parents, and students.

Helping to Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. In 1994, President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, making violence prevention a key part of this program. Safe and Drug-Free Schools currently provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97 percent of the nation's school districts.

Promoting Collaborations Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration has provided \$30 million to 275 policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. The grants help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems. In addition, the COPS in Schools initiative hires and trains school resource officers using the community policing strategies that have made neighborhoods safer all over America. Under the COPS in Schools initiative, the Clinton-Gore Administration has provided \$252 million for 1,060 communities to hire 2,250 police officers to work in schools, engaging students in problem solving and mediation, collaborating in safe school planning efforts, coaching sports and acting as mentors for kids.

Issuing the First Annual Reports on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for the first Annual Report on School Safety. Issued every year since, these reports describe the nature and scope of school violence and steps that communities can take to develop a comprehensive school safety plan. The reports highlight what schools, students, parents, police, businesses, and elected officials can do to create safe learning environments and describe schools and communities doing an exemplary job of creating and maintaining safe school

environments. The reports also list resources for information on school safety and crime prevention issues.

Hosting White House Conferences on School Safety. In October 1998, President and Mrs. Clinton hosted the first-ever conference on school safety to provide an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer. Students, parents, teachers, principals, law enforcement, ministers, and other experts from across the country participated in the Conference, and hundreds of communities and schools were linked by satellite. In May 1999, after the Littleton tragedy, President Clinton and the First Lady held another strategy meeting to discuss the problem of youth violence and develop a strategy for a national campaign to address this problem. The meeting included a broad cross section of Americans, including parents and children, teachers and religious leaders, law enforcement and government officials, gun manufacturers and sportsmen, and representatives of the entertainment industry.

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

Developing Guides for Best Practices to Prevent Youth Violence. Recognizing that youth violence prevention must start at the community level, the Clinton-Gore Administration has researched the most effective and successful approaches to prevention and published them in guides for community leaders, school officials, law enforcement, health professionals and others. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, with the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed the *Blueprints* Initiative which identifies ten successful youth violence prevention programs in such areas as mentoring, bullying, family therapy and foster care. OJJDP also released *Promising Strategies To Reduce Gun Violence* with practical information on a range of effective strategies for local officials. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action* provides step-by-step guidance for implementing proven youth violence prevention initiatives.

Coordinating the Federal Government's Response to Youth Violence: In October, 1999, President Clinton created the White House Council on Youth Violence to coordinate federal programs and research activities on youth violence. In addition, the Council has developed a National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center and published a brochure: *Helping Your Children Navigate their Teenage Years: A Guide for Parents*.

Encouraging Conflict Resolution. The Departments of Education and Justice have developed and distributed 40,000 conflict resolution guides to schools and community organizations, providing guidance on how to develop effective conflict resolution programs. In addition, the departments are training community officials and educators on these conflict resolution measures.

Initiating National Centers of Excellence for Youth Violence Prevention. The Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is

supporting ten Centers of Excellence to serve as national models for the prevention of youth violence. The Centers foster a multi-disciplinary approach that includes communities in collaborative efforts. This approach allows non-traditional partners (people and entities not normally included in research and information-sharing) to become involved in the research and intervention process to learn how to obtain information and apply it to resolve youth violence problems within their communities.

Creating Internet Web Sites to Provide Resources to Prevent Youth Violence. The Clinton-Gore Administration has created many informational web sites, including: <http://www.afterschool.gov/> , which contains a compendium of federal resources that support children and youth during out-of-school hours, and includes information about government guides, reports, and research, as well as information about successful community programs and available funding sources; <http://www.americateens.gov> , which contains information for teens on college opportunities and funding, community service, jobs, volunteering, and teen health issues, including substance abuse; <http://www.parentingresources.ncjrs.org/> that provides helpful information for families to meet the formidable challenges of raising a child today by addressing topics such as school violence, child development, home schooling, organized sports, child abuse, and the juvenile justice system; and

Engaging the Private Sector in Youth Violence Prevention: President Clinton launched the National Campaign Against Youth Violence, an independent national nonprofit organization to engage the private sector in addressing the problem of youth violence on a national scale. The Campaign has developed anti-violence activities including a major media campaign, concerts, town hall meetings, and in-school and after-school programs. The Campaign also highlights effective youth violence initiatives in cities across the country.

Youth Violence Prevention in Public Housing. The Clinton-Gore Administration has taken steps to reduce youth violence in public housing. Working together, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed the youth violence prevention program resource handbook that identifies current practices and model program characteristics for youth violence prevention programming in community settings. HUD also provides training and technical assistance to local communities through the Youth Violence Prevention in Public Housing Program.

ADDRESSING FACTORS THAT PUT YOUTH AT RISK FOR VIOLENCE

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide that outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Developing a Comprehensive Anti-Gang Strategy. President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to target gangs and violent youths by hiring new prosecutors and probation officers, expanding anti-gang task forces and by using racketeering statutes (i.e., RICO) for gang-related offenses. Recent studies indicate that as much as 50% to 70% of violent crime in certain areas may be perpetrated by gang members, so that targeting gangs may have a significant impact on reducing violent crime.

Developing a Comprehensive Anti-Drug Strategy Including a \$195 Million National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. The President appointed Barry McCaffrey, a four-star general, to lead the Clinton-Gore Administration's anti-drug strategy as the nation's Drug Czar. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in 1997. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign (which includes private sector matching contributions) is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the Internet -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to help reduce violence by promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, Florida, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Supporting Curfews at the Local Level. Community curfews are designed to help keep children out of harm's way and enhance community safety. Because of their success, President Clinton has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies. A 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors has shown that 276 of 347 cities surveyed -- or 80 percent -- had youth curfew laws, up from 70 percent in 1995.

PROMOTING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for 850,000 Students Each Year. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program provided enriching after-school and summer school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities in FY 2000. Extended learning time has not only been shown to increase achievement in reading and math, but to decrease youth violence and drug use. Funding for this program more than doubled from FY 1999 to FY 2000. The Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kids*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Establishing the GEAR-UP Mentoring Program for Middle School Children. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created and expanded GEAR-UP, a nationwide mentoring initiative, to help over 750,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college. In 2001, 1.2 million children will be served by this program.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Creating Peacemakers in Public Housing Communities Nationwide: The Peacemaker Corps is a youth violence prevention and tolerance education initiative developed and supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Local youth who have demonstrated leadership skills participate in a dynamic learning process which fosters the adoption of tolerance and understanding, mediation, and other youth violence prevention strategies. Upon completion of the Peacemaker Corps training, participants gain: the acquisition of conflict resolution skills; youth violence prevention strategies for youth leaders; and an introduction to cultural tolerance.

Launching the "Caring For Every Child" Mental Health Campaign. At least one in ten American children and adolescents may have behavioral, or mental health problems. The Administration will launch a five-year \$5 million dollar campaign in targeted communities to highlight the special mental health needs of children.

Helping Students Take a Stand Against Violence. In October 1998, the President kicked-off a partnership between the Federal government and MTV to engage youth in preventing violence. The MTV year-long media campaign --"Fight For Your Rights: Take A Stand Against Youth Violence" – is designed to give young adults a voice in the national debate on school and youth violence. In partnership with the Department of Justice and Education, and the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV created and is distributing a Youth Action Guide and CD-ROM that aim to engage youth in mentoring, conflict resolution, and other positive solutions to violence. The guide is available through a 1-800 number at the Justice Department and through MTV.

RESTRICTING YOUTH ACCESS TO GUNS

Launching the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Since then, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities. ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. In 1998 alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The

President's FY 2001 budget proposes to increase YCGII to 50 cities with more ATF agents and additional resources to help more cities to trace their firearms.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. Over the 1996-98 school years, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, nearly 10,000 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Issuing Directive on Child Safety Locks for Handguns. Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

Signing into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act. In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

LIMITING YOUTH EXPOSURE TO MEDIA VIOLENCE

Launching an Investigation Into Marketing of Violence to Children. In June of 1999, the President asked the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice to conduct a joint study of the marketing practices of entertainment industries to determine whether these industries are marketing to children violent (and other) material that is rated for adults. This report, released in September 2000, found that companies in motion picture, music recording and electronic game industries routinely target children under age 17 and that retailers make "little effort" to restrict access to violent material.

Giving Families A New Tool -- A Content-Based Television Ratings System. Striving to protect children from violence and adult content on television, the Vice President garnered a breakthrough agreement from the television industry to create a new content-based voluntary ratings system. The new system went into effect October 1, 1997, giving parents the information they need to determine if television shows are appropriate for viewing by their children and to

identify which programs they may want to block from their homes through screening technology (the V-chip). The voluntary rating system includes age- and content-based ratings.

Helping Parents Control What Comes Into Their Living Room with the V-Chip. Five years ago, President Clinton and Vice President Gore used the Vice President's Family Policy Conference in Nashville to call for V-chip legislation -- to give parents new tools to help them screen out television programs that are not fit for their kids. Under strong leadership from the White House, Congress enacted the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which included V-chip legislation. As of January of this year, all new television sets 13 inches or larger must now contain the V-chip.

Keeping Children Safe on the Internet with the Parents' Protection Page. In the wake of the Columbine Tragedy last year, the Vice President announced the parents' protection page, an important new commitment by the country's premier Internet companies to give parents the resources they need to protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. The parents' protection page, now known as GetNetWise.com, provides parents with the tools and knowledge to supervise and guide their children's online activities. In addition to giving parents access to more than 100 blocking, filtering and monitoring tools, this page includes information for parents, teachers and children on how to report crime or other troubling activity online. The parents' protection page also serves as a guide to identify the vast array of high quality educational materials online.

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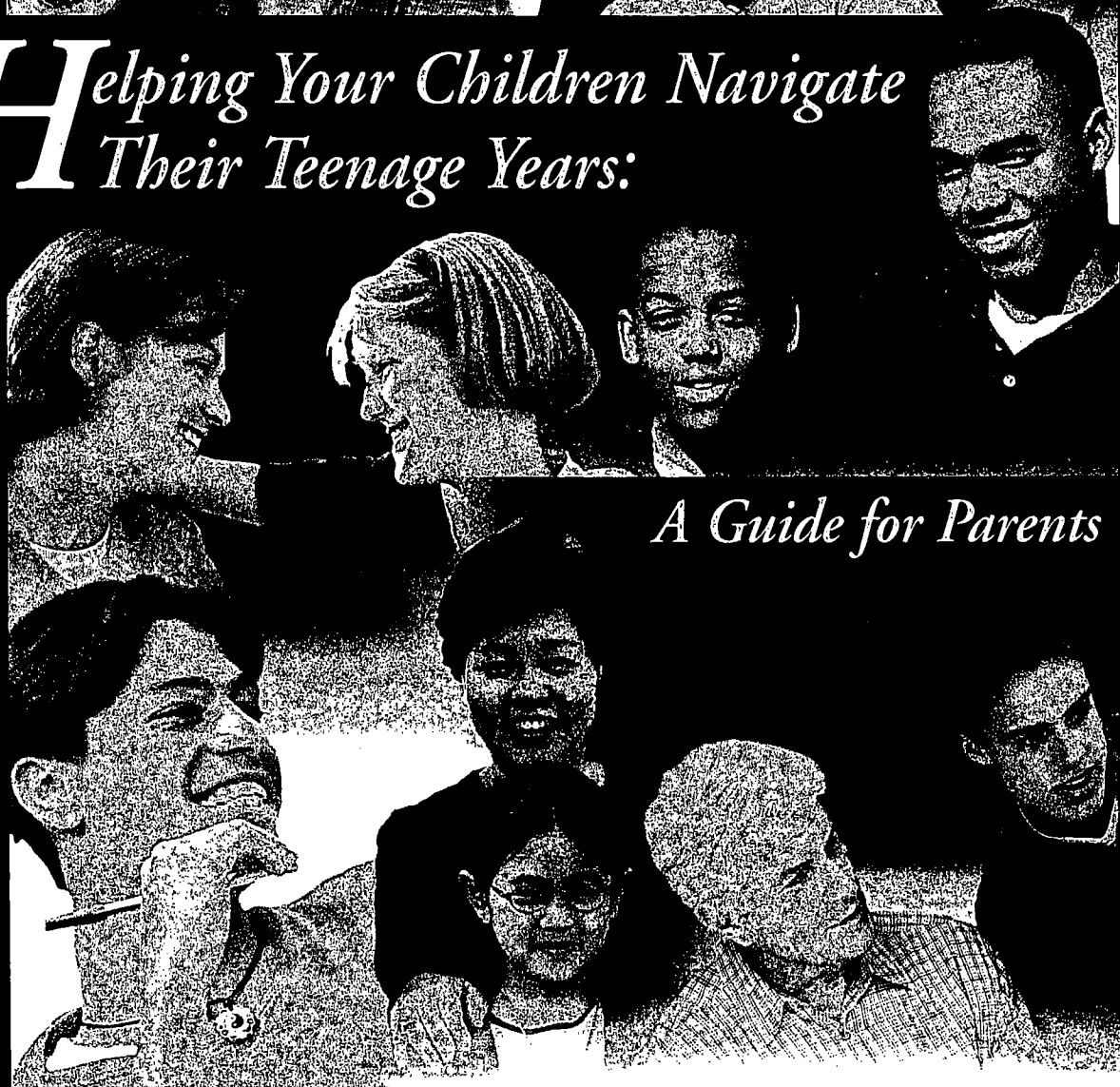
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Helping Your Children Navigate Their Teenage Years:



A Guide for Parents

White House Council on Youth Violence

The Council staff has fulfilled the mandate of the Executive Memorandum issued by the President on October 15, 1999. This work has included ongoing coordination of Federal youth violence policies and research, as well as serving as a liaison to non-governmental violence prevention efforts. This year, the Council's two primary deliverables are the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (in partnership with the CDC) and a guide for parents of teenagers.

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center: The Council has been working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in developing a National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center. The CDC is funding the development of the Resource Center with \$2.3 million. The Center will provide a single point of access for information about youth violence, including suicide. The Resource Center will consist of three components: a toll-free information line, a fax-on-demand system, and an Internet website. The Center will make youth violence information available from all federal agencies in one place and will also link to private resources. The Center is developing a strategic plan for the development and distribution of marketing materials for specific audiences and for providing technical assistance to communities on successful prevention strategies. Website design is almost complete and information is being put in place for the information line and fax system.

Parent Tools: The Council has developed a guidebook for parents of teens, entitled *Helping Your Children Navigate the Teenage Years: A Guide for Parents*. This resource will help parents understand normal adolescent development, identify problem behaviors, improve family communication, and locate outside assistance if additional help is necessary. The guidebook, will be released in January, 2001, and disseminated on the website, as well as through mailings by the Council's participating Departments, and by various professional associations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Parent Teachers Association.