

PREVENT  
HANDGUN  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
KIDS





## Letter of Introduction

**T**hank you for calling 800 222 MANY. Like so many Californians, you and I are deeply concerned about the terrible toll that gun violence takes on young people. The #1 killer of kids in California isn't car crashes or diseases or drugs. It's handguns. Gun violence in California has reached staggering epidemic proportions. It is a public health epidemic created by the tremendous number of handguns in circulation.

The California Wellness Foundation believes that the best way to curb this epidemic is to prevent violence before it happens. Too much attention is given to what happens after violence occurs. This Citizen Involvement Kit gives you facts and information about what you can do to help *prevent* handgun violence.

### **Here's how you can make a difference.**

- **Let others know what you learn from the enclosed facts about the awful consequences of handgun violence on California kids.**
- **Call a statewide or local organization and find out what you can do in your community.**
- **Send the enclosed postcards to elected officials or election year candidates to ask them what they are doing to stop violence against kids before it happens.**

When Californians like you become involved, California will become a safer place for children. Thank you again.

*Send the enclosed postcards to elected officials or candidates to ask what they are doing to stop violence against kids before it happens.*



# What Is The California Wellness Foundation?

The California Wellness Foundation is an independent, private foundation created to improve the health and well-being of the people of California. It was funded in February 1992 by a substantial endowment from Health Net, California's second largest health maintenance organization.

Through proactive development, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion and disease prevention programs, the Foundation is taking a leadership role in developing the important strategies and public policies necessary to enable individuals and communities to adopt safe and healthy lifestyles.

The Foundation's mission is to:

- improve the quality and accessibility of health promotion and disease prevention programs and services for a culturally diverse cross-section of California's children, youth and families;
- encourage the integration of health promotion and disease prevention activities into the delivery of health and human services;
- increase the availability of work-related health promotion opportunities for California workers and their families; and
- facilitate the development of public policies that support health promotion and disease prevention.

## The Violence Prevention Initiative

Recognizing that violence has become a public health problem of severe magnitude and that youth are disproportionately affected, the Foundation has made youth violence prevention in California the focus of its first initiative. More than \$35 million has been allocated to the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) over an initial five-year period to develop and evaluate a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to reducing youth violence.

As part of the VPI, The California Wellness Foundation has sponsored a public education campaign to alert Californians about the harm and injuries that handgun violence is inflicting on our children and youth. The objective of the campaign is to alter the view of many Californians that violence is inevitable. This is accomplished by moving the issue of violence to the public health agenda. In re-focusing the issue, the Foundation intends to stimulate and support innovative programs patterned after public health strategies and methods that have succeeded in reducing death from disease and unintentional injury, including preventative strategies, such as reducing access to handguns.

# A Handgun is Produced Every 20 Seconds in America<sup>1</sup>...And They Are Put to Use on Our Kids.

- ◆ More kids are killed by handguns in California than by car crashes, diseases or drugs.<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ 10 kids are killed everyday by handguns.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ In 1992, 37% of all firearm-related deaths were young people aged 10-25.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ The average cost for one hospitalized gunshot wound patient is \$33,000.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Pacific Center for Violence Prevention Analysis, May 1994, based on U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Ready Reference, 1992.

<sup>2</sup> Pacific Center for Violence Prevention Analysis, May 1994, based on California Department of Health Services, Death Records, 1993.

<sup>3</sup> Pacific Center for Violence Prevention Analysis, May 1994, based on data from Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, WONDER System, Compressed Mortality, 1991.

<sup>4</sup> California Department of Health Services, Death Records. 1992.

<sup>5</sup> Rice DP, MacKenzie EJ, and Associates. Cost of injury in the United States: A Report to Congress. San Francisco, CA: Institute for the Aging, University of California and Injury Prevention Center, The Johns Hopkins University, 1989.



# It's perfectly legal. It's perfectly lethal. Gun stores in neighborhoods like yours.

- ◆ There are 18 times more gun dealers than McDonald's in California.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ A gun in the home is 43 times more likely to be used to kill a family member or friend or to commit suicide than for self defense.<sup>7</sup>
- ◆ There are fewer federal safety regulations for guns than for teddy bears.<sup>8</sup>
- ◆ Carrying a concealed handgun is a misdemeanor. However, the carrying of less lethal weapons, such as knives or brass knuckles, is punishable as a felony.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> BATF for FFL Dealers as of December 31, 1994 and McDonald's Regional Corporate Headquarters for stores as of October 1994.

<sup>7</sup> Kellerman, AL and Reay, DT. Protection or Peril? An analysis of firearms-related deaths in the home. *New England Journal of Medicine* (1986) 314: 1657-60.

<sup>8</sup> Petersen, Julie and Sabar, Ariel. The Right to Bears & Arms, *Mother Jones*, January/February 1994, pp. 40-1.

<sup>9</sup> California Penal Code § 12025 and 12020.



# Organizational Resources

The following is a list of organizations and individuals who may be able to provide you with additional information on what you can do in your local community to prevent handgun violence against kids. This is only a sampling of the many organizations that are working in various ways to curb this epidemic.

## Statewide Organizations

---

The Campaign to Prevent Handgun Violence	
Against Kids	(415) 331.3337
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention	(415) 285.1793
Legal Community Against Violence	(415) 433.3550
California Police Chiefs Association	(916) 923.2375
Handgun Control, Inc.	(415) 433.3535
California Child, Youth & Family Coalition	(916) 739.6912

## Organizations in the Greater Los Angeles Area Working to Prevent Handgun Violence

---

Coalition for a Non-Violent City	(818) 796.9813
Los Angeles Commission on Assaults	
Against Women	(213) 462.1281
Orange County Citizens for the	
Prevention of Gun Violence	(714) 474.6810
Physicians for Social Responsibility	(310) 458.2694
Teens on Target	(310) 401.8166
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater	
Los Angeles	(213) 240.7785
Women Against Gun Violence	(310) 204.2348

## Local Community Organizations Funded by The California Wellness Foundation to Prevent Youth Violence

### Los Angeles Area

---

Community Wellness Partnership	(909) 469.2299
Pomona Council of Youth	(909) 469.2295
Community Youth Gang Services	(213) 266.4264
Inland Agency/People Reaching Out for	
Peace on the Eastside (of Riverside)	(909) 686.8946
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission	(213) 881.0030
Southern California Youth & Family Center	(310) 671.1222

### San Diego Area

EYE Counseling & Crisis Services	(619) 747.6281
International Mutual Assistance Association	(619) 584.4018

### Northern California

Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos	(408) 457.8208
Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation	
PLAY Project	(415) 671.1013
Mendocino County Youth Project	(707) 463.4915
Neighborhood House of North Richmond	(510) 235.9780
Real Alternatives Program	(415) 282.9984
West Oakland Violence Prevention Project	(510) 465.1800 ext. 326

### Sacramento & Central California

Asian Resources	(916) 424.8960
Boys & Girls Club of Stockton	(209) 466.5237
La Familia Counseling Center	(916) 452.3601

ASK OUR  
LEADERS WHAT  
THEY'RE DOING TO  
KEEP OUR KIDS  
SAFE...



# Get the Word Out

**Y**our elected officials need to know that people like you are alarmed about handgun violence against California kids. Use the attached postcards to ask, "What are you doing to reduce handgun violence against California kids?" Write a short note using the facts in this kit, tell about your own experiences and/or state your views about the need to reduce access to handguns in California.

Be sure to print your name and address clearly so that the recipient will know where to respond – and that you are a voter watching what they are doing and saying!

The following is a list of elected officials for the state of California. To find the names of your Mayor, City Councilmember, Assemblymember, State Senator, and Congressmember, please consult the blue government pages in your local phone book. This is an election year. To ask candidates in your area, "What are you doing to reduce handgun violence against California kids?" call your County Registrar of Voters for their names and addresses.

## State Elected Officials

Governor Pete Wilson  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento CA 95814

Attorney General Dan Lungren  
1515 K Street, #1600  
Sacramento CA 94244

Senator Bill Lockyer  
State Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Capitol  
Sacramento CA 95814

Assemblyman Curt Pringle  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento CA 95814

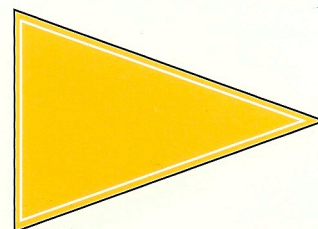
*Find the name of your Assemblymember  
or State Senator and write to them at:*  
State Capitol  
Sacramento CA 95814

## Federal Elected Officials

Senator Barbara Boxer  
US Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Suite 112  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
US Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Suite 331  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Find out the name of your Congressmember  
and write to him/her at:*  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515





Dear California Leader:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREVENT HANDGUN  
VIOLENCE AGAINST CALIFORNIA KIDS?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear California Leader:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREVENT HANDGUN  
VIOLENCE AGAINST CALIFORNIA KIDS?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Thank you for my Citizen Involvement Kit.  
I sent postcards to:

Please keep me on your mailing list: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear California Leader:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREVENT HANDGUN  
VIOLENCE AGAINST CALIFORNIA KIDS?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GMS



PREVENT HANDGUN VIOLENCE AGAINST KIDS

454 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 177 • San Rafael, CA 94903-3618 • (415) 331-3337

A public education campaign funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation.

