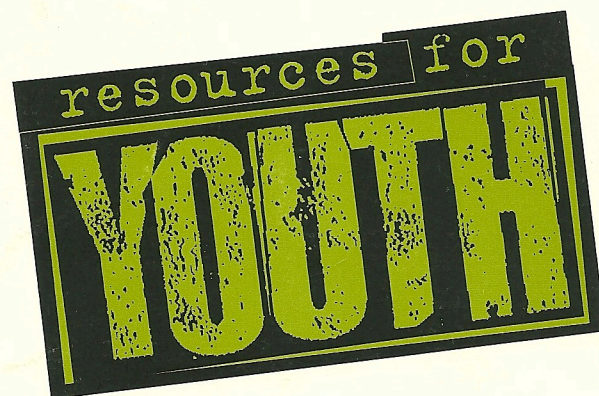


Citizen Involvement Kit



an **honest**
dialogue
about strategies
to prevent
youth
violence

Letter of Introduction

Like so many Californians, you and I are deeply concerned about the terrible toll that violence and crime takes on young people. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are five times more likely to be crime victims than people over 35. Violence among youth in California has reached staggering proportions, and has become a public health epidemic. While ensuring public safety is a priority, we believe much more can be done to prevent youth violence and crime before it happens.

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 youth violence and crime.

Here's how you can make a difference.

- Let others know what you learn from the enclosed facts about the awful consequences of violence and crime against California youth.
- Call a statewide or local organization and find out what you can do in your community to help prevent this epidemic.
- Send the enclosed postcards to elected officials 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 healthier and safer place for our children. Thank you.

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. 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 the focus of its first initiative. More than \$35 million has been allocated over an initial five-year period to the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) for the development and evaluation of a comprehensive approach to reducing youth violence.

One objective of the Foundation's VPI is to alter the view of many Californians that violence is inevitable. It is not. By placing the issue on the public health agenda, The California Wellness Foundation hopes to stimulate understanding and support for policies and programs that will prevent youth violence. To that end, The California Wellness Foundation provided a grant to Martin & Glantz to create *Resources for Youth*, a public education campaign on violence prevention. The aim of the campaign is to facilitate understanding and consideration of policies that will increase resources for programs that help to reduce the level of violence and crime among the state's young people.

Unfortunately, discussion of solutions to the epidemic of youth violence is often difficult because this issue has become both polarized and politicized. One thing we can all agree on however, is the need for an honest dialogue. *Resources for Youth* provides Californians with facts, perspectives, voices and strategies on preventing youth violence and crime so that together we can become resources for our youth.

To engage in a productive and honest start with facts.

Here are some of
the facts about
juvenile crime
and violence in
California.

- Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are crime victims five times more often than people over the age of 35.¹
- Every 17 hours another child in California is a murder victim. Homicide is the leading cause of death for youth in California.²
- In 1995, there were 85,052 juvenile felony arrests in California.³ Twenty-six (26%) of all juvenile felony arrests are for violent offenses.⁴
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of all juvenile offenders are handled by county probation departments, including placements in county-run juvenile facilities.⁵ In 1989, over 66,000 youth were on probation and being supervised by counties.⁶ California counties house over 6,000 minors in juvenile halls and 4,000 minors in ranch and camp facilities each day.⁷
- Three percent (3%) of juvenile offenders are committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA).⁸ CYA currently incarcerates 9,808 young men and women. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of these youth have been convicted of violent offenses.⁹

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 'Juvenile Victimization: 1987-1992,' Fact Sheet #17, June 1994, by analyst Joseph Moone.

² California Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Statistics, *Crime and Delinquency in California*, Table 3c, 'Juvenile Felony Arrests,' p.11. 542 juveniles (17 or younger) were murdered in California in 1994, or one every 17 hours.

³ Legislative Analyst's Office. 1995 juvenile felony arrests in California.

⁴ Hill, Elizabeth G. *Juvenile Crime: Outlook for California*. Sacramento: Legislative Analyst's Office, May 1995, p. 12. Violent offenses are defined as homicide, rape, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 46.

⁶ Legislative Analyst's Office. This figure has not been available since 1989, when the program requiring the California Department of Justice to segregate data on juvenile crime was defunded due to budget cuts. In 1995, AB 488, a bill carried by Assemblyman Joe Baca, was signed into law and reinstated juvenile data collection by expressly requiring the Department to keep statistics on juvenile crime.

⁷ Hill, Elizabeth G. *Juvenile Crime: Outlook for California*. Sacramento: Legislative Analyst's Office, May 1995, p. 51. These numbers reflect the number of county facility beds. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, county facilities are overcrowded.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 46.

⁹ Legislative Analyst's Office. As of September 18, 1996.

¹⁰ Legislative Analyst's Office, \$6.7 billion total on law enforcement. In 1989, the California Department of Justice estimated that 16% of all arrests are juveniles.

¹¹ Legislative Analyst's Office, \$1.1 billion total on prosecution and public defense. Use of estimated juvenile arrests at 16% of total.

¹² Legislative Analyst's Office, \$1.4 billion total on all court and court related costs. In 1989, it was estimated that juveniles accounted for 38% of court costs.

discussion of the issues, we need to

**California taxpayers
spend \$2.2 billion
annually for state and
local responses to
juvenile crime and
violence.**

**The State of
California invested
\$116 million in youth
violence prevention
and intervention
for Fiscal Year
1996-1997.**

- State and local law enforcement agencies spend an estimated **\$1.1 billion** a year to respond to juvenile crime and violence.¹⁰
- Total prosecution and public defense costs for juvenile offenders are estimated at **\$176 million** annually.¹¹
- The California court system spends an estimated **\$532 million** each year to process juvenile cases.¹²
- The California Youth Authority budget for 1996-1997 is **\$361.4 million**.¹³
- Annual County probation costs for youth offenders are estimated at **\$145 million**.¹⁴
- California Department of Education received **\$26 million** for seven violence prevention and intervention programs.¹⁵
- Board of Corrections will distribute **\$50 million** in community challenge grants under the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant program¹⁶ and **\$3.5 million** for Repeat Offender Prevention Program,¹⁷ targeting first-time juvenile and recidivist offenders for intensive probation.
- California Mentor Initiative/Governor's Office will spend **\$9.1 million** for the California Mentor Initiative,¹⁸ administered by three separate departments.¹⁹
- Office of Criminal Justice Planning will distribute **\$12.3 million** in grants for local youth violence prevention efforts²⁰ and **\$2.25 million** in pass-through (non-competitively awarded) grants for anti-gang and gang prevention pilot projects.²¹
- California Youth Authority will spend **\$2.9 million** for Gang Violence Reduction.²²
- Department of Social Services will spend **\$10 million** for the Juvenile Crime Initiative for 12 family resource centers to provide programs and services targeting at-risk youth and families.²³

For more information, visit the Pacific Center for Violence Prevention world wide web site at www.pcvp.org

¹³ California State Budget, 1996-1997.

¹⁴ Legislative Analyst's Office, \$810 million (1993-1994) total on all probation expenditures. In 1989, 18% of the probation caseload was for juvenile offenders.

¹⁵ California Department of Education budget for fiscal year 1996-97: Targeted Truancy Prevention Program, School Violence Reduction Program, Gang Risk Intervention Program, Conflict Resolution & Youth Mediation Program, School Violence Reduction Program, Safe Schools Grants & Training, and School Community Violence Prevention.

¹⁶ Data on SB 1760 - Juvenile Justice Accountability and Challenge Grant Act - provided by State Senator Bill Lockyer's office. This act provides \$50 million over three years in competitively awarded grants to counties for multi-agency juvenile justice coordinating councils to develop and implement strategies for preventing and responding to juvenile crime.

¹⁷ Board of Corrections, State of California. Programs in Humboldt, Fresno, San Mateo, San Diego, Solano, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties.

¹⁸ California Mentor Initiative, Sacramento.

¹⁹ California Department of Finance. The three departments are: Governor's Office of Child Development and Education, Department of Community Services and Development, and California Youth Authority.

²⁰ Budget for Office of Criminal Justice Planning, fiscal year 1996-97. This money represents competitively awarded grants for prevention programs affecting youth: Gang Violence Suppression, Special Projects - Public Safety, Suppression of Drug Abuse in Schools, Community Crime Resistance, Homeless Youth Program, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Training, Serious Habitual Offenders, and Youth Emergency Telephone Referral.

²¹ Budget Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Planning. Pilot projects in Alameda, Orange and Solano Counties and the City of Long Beach.

²² Office of Prevention and Victim Services, California Youth Authority.

²³ California Department of Social Services.

Citizen Resource List

The following is a list of organizations who may be able to provide you with additional information on what you can do in your community to prevent violence and crime against California's youth. This is only a sampling of the many organizations that are working on various strategies to prevent youth violence and crime.

Organizations

Resources for Youth	(415) 331.5991
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention	(415) 285.1793
California Child, Youth & Family Coalition	(916) 739.6912
Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice	(415) 621.5661
Commonweal	(415) 388.6666
Omega Boys Club	(800) SOLDIER
	(800) 765.3437

Local Community Organizations

Los Angeles Area

Community Wellness Partnership	(909) 469.2299
Inland Agency/People Reaching Out for Peace on the Eastside (of Riverside)	(909) 686.8946
Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women	(213) 462.1281
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission	(213) 881.0030
Southern California Youth & Family Center	(310) 671.1222
Teens on Target	(310) 401.8166
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles	(213) 240.7785

San Diego Area

EYE Empowerment Corps	(619) 480.6130
International Mutual Assistance Association	(619) 584.4018

Northern California

Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos	(408) 457.8208
Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation Providing Leadership Alternatives for Youth (PLAY) Project	(415) 671.1010
Mendocino County Youth Project	(707) 463.4915
The Mentoring Center	(510) 891.0427
Neighborhood House of North Richmond/ Community In Peace	(510) 235.9780
Real Alternatives Program	(415) 282.9984
Teens on Target	(510) 444.6191 ext. 300
West Oakland Violence Prevention Project	(510) 485.1800 ext. 326
Youth Alive!	(510) 444.6191 ext. 300
Youth Radio	(510) 841.5123

Sacramento & Central California

Asian Resources	(916) 424.8960
Boys & Girls Club of Stockton	(209) 466.5237
Chicano Youth Center	(209) 497.8552
La Familia Counseling Center	(916) 452.3601
Rites of Passage (located in Nevada)	(702) 782.7191
SacraMentor Program	(916) 875.5010

Get the Word Out

Your elected officials need to know that people like you are alarmed about youth violence and crime. Use the attached postcards to ask them, **“What are you doing to help youth steer clear of crime and violence to build a healthy future?”** Write a short note using the facts in this kit, tell about your own experiences and/or state your views about the need to invest in effective programs to prevent youth violence and crime in California.

Be sure to print your name and address clearly so that the recipient will know where to respond — and will see that voters like you are watching what they are doing and saying!

The following is a list of statewide and legislative leaders for the state of California.

To find the names of your Mayor, City Councilmember, Assemblymember, State Senator, and Congressman, please consult the blue government pages in your local phone book.

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, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Cruz Bustamante
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Find the name of your Assemblymember and/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 Congressman and write to him/her at:

US House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear California Leader:

What are you doing to help youth steer clear of crime and violence to build a healthy future?

Your Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Dear California Leader:

What are you doing to help youth steer clear of crime and violence to build a healthy future?

Your Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Dear California Leader:

What are you doing to help youth steer clear of crime and violence to build a healthy future?

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

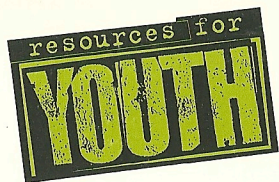
Your Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:



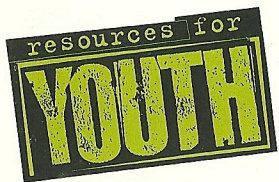
Place
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To: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

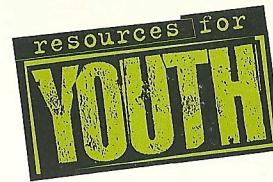
An honest dialogue about strategies to prevent youth violence.
Funded by a grant to Martin & Glantz from The California Wellness Foundation.



Place
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Resources for Youth
454 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 178
San Rafael CA 94903-9745

An honest dialogue about strategies to prevent youth violence.
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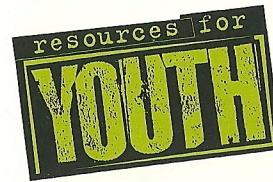
Place
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To: _____

Address: _____

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