This is the second in a series of mailings from The California Wellness Foundation with facts, strategies, and perspectives about youth violence prevention.
Facts

A productive discussion must be based on facts. Resources for Youth works with a number of organizations and agencies which provide Californians with data about preventing youth violence and crime. This mailing from Resources for Youth, the second in a series on the campaign, features some of this information in a fact sheet on:

State Investment in Prevention and Intervention Programs

Strategies

In California, too many people are working in isolation. We need to do a better job of sharing the creative ideas developed in communities across the state. To that end, Resources for Youth will provide policy briefs, program descriptions and other materials to community leaders and elected officials to aid them in making critical decisions on preventing youth violence. This mailing highlights descriptions of the following violence prevention strategies:

Teen Courts:
A Popular New Option for Early Intervention with Juvenile Offenders

Community Action Programs
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission
La Familia Counseling Center
West Oakland Violence Prevention Project

Perspectives

There are many perspectives on the issue of juvenile crime prevention. In addition to providing polling data on a regular basis, Resources for Youth will reprint editorial commentaries, expert opinions and community viewpoints for review and discussion. A perspective written by Greg Hodge of the Urban Strategies Council on the recent passage of Measure K in Oakland, California is included in this mailing.

Oakland Puts Investment in Kids First: A Look at What It Takes

Voices

Resources for Youth not only explores and promotes violence prevention programs but also provides a forum for people who create, implement and participate in those initiatives. It is critical to hear the voices of these people who see opportunities for change in communities committed to preventing youth violence. In this mailing, you will hear from:

Judge Alice Lytle and Lanell Herne of the SacraMentor Program
Millie Cleveland and Taurus Hamilton of West Oakland Violence Prevention Project
Jimmy Valenzeula, Elizabeth Hernandez and Adriana Jimenez of Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission
Adina Medina and Anita Barnes of La Familia Counseling Center
If you would like to share your views about the upcoming "Resources for Youth: An Honest Dialogue" videoconference, please return the enclosed reply card.

The campaign to increase resources for youth violence prevention began in November 1996 with a mailing of materials to 10,000 California opinion leaders. Since then, many of you have responded to the campaign with your perspective on the issue. In the next few months, the public portion of this campaign will be launched with television commercials, press briefings and speaking engagements. This intense level of activity will culminate in a statewide videoconference on April 9, 1997. Attendance at the videoconference will be by invitation only, and will be free of charge. Attendees will include California and national policy makers, community leaders and other stakeholders in the issue of preventing youth violence.

The videoconference titled, "Resources for Youth: An Honest Dialogue," will provide California policy makers as well as national, state and local community leaders with an opportunity to hear and to discuss solutions to an issue that has too often been polarized. A panel of experts from Los Angeles and Sacramento will be linked by satellite to nine sites throughout the state. At each site, community leaders will hear a presentation followed by a panel discussion of perspectives and strategies for preventing youth violence. After the televised portion, videoconference attendees at all sites will participate in a facilitated discussion on local-level strategies.

The statewide conference will be co-sponsored by the League of California Cities, California Police Chiefs Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, The League of Women Voters of California, and California State PTA.

April 9, 1997
Save the Date
The Resources for Youth campaign begins with the assumption that youth violence is a problem that affects all of us. While ensuring public safety is a priority, we believe much more can be done to prevent youth violence and crime. Discussion of solutions is often difficult because this issue has become both polarized and politicized. One thing we can all agree on is the need for an honest dialogue. The campaign will provide California policy makers and community leaders with facts, perspectives, voices and strategies to prevent youth violence and crime so that together we can become resources for our youth.