

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CHILD & TEEN GUN DEATHS

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The Data

- *2,000 children are shot and killed each year.*
- Since 2020, **gun violence** has been the **leading cause of death** among **children** overall.
- Since 2006, **gun violence** has been the **leading cause of death** for **Black children**.
- People **under the age of 18** are at **higher risk** of **firearm suicide** than older Americans.
- **3 million children** are directly exposed to gun violence each year, resulting in death, injury, and lasting trauma.



The Causes

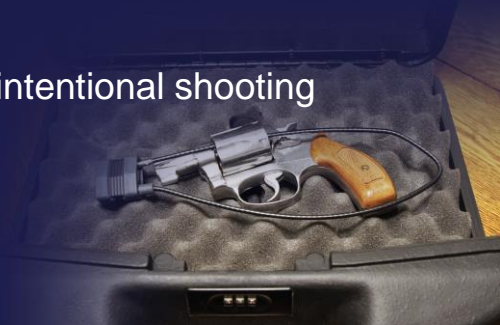
Homicide

- Community violence in neighborhood parks and streets
- Armed domestic violence at home
- Mass shootings in schools and other locations

Black children are 13 TIMES more likely to be killed in a gun homicide than white children.

Suicide and unintentional shootings

- Unsupervised gun access is a major factor driving youth suicide and unintentional shooting rates
- Household guns are used in more than 80% of youth suicides





LAWS AIMED AT PROTECTING KIDS FROM GUN VIOLENCE



MINIMUM AGE LAWS

Federal law

- **Purchasing**
 - FFLs cannot sell handguns to people under 21, no long guns to under 18
 - Private sellers cannot sell handguns to people under 18, no minimum age for long guns
- **Possessing**
 - Long gun: no minimum age
 - Handgun: 18 years old

California law

- **Purchasing**
 - No firearm sales to anyone under 21 (some exceptions)
 - No ammunition sales to anyone under 18
- **Possessing**
 - No possession of any firearm under 18 without adult supervision or consent
 - No marketing of guns to minors under the age of 18
 - Allows civil suits against people who violate



MINIMUM AGE LAWS

Effectiveness

One study found that state minimum age laws that raise the age to 21 were associated with a **9% decline** in rates of firearm suicides among **18-20-year-olds**.

In another study (controlling for other factors), unintentional firearms deaths and firearm suicides among youth (ages 0-19) **also fell after the federal minimum age law was enacted**.

CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION / SAFE STORAGE LAWS

Federal law

- Handguns must be sold with locking devices, but they don't have to be used.



CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION / SAFE STORAGE LAWS

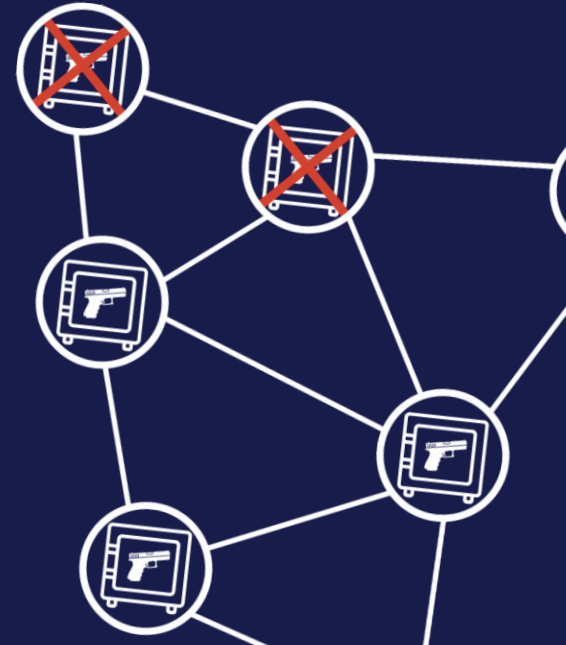
California law

- It's a crime for an adult to negligently store or leave a firearm on premises within the person's custody or control in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child under 18 is likely to gain access to the firearm
 - Gun doesn't have to be loaded
 - Minor doesn't even have to know it's there
- Parents and guardians are also civilly liable if a minor accesses a firearm in violation of the child access prevention (CAP) law and discharges it
- Exceptions to liability:
 - The firearm was kept in a locked container or in a location that a reasonable person would believe to be secure;
 - The firearm was locked with a locking device that rendered the firearm inoperable
- New law in CA: School districts must send notice of CAP law to parents

CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION / SAFE STORAGE LAWS

Local laws

- Neither OC or Irvine have a safe storage ordinance, but dozens of other CA communities have passed local laws that go above and beyond state law



CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION / SAFE STORAGE LAWS: Effectiveness



Numerous studies over the past

20 YEARS

have found that child access prevention laws can reduce suicide, unintentional gun deaths, and injuries by

UP TO 54%



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS

Federal law

- Prohibits people convicted of DV misdemeanors (including dating partners) and people subject to final DVROs (not including dating partners)


Local laws

- Localities must focus on relinquishment and disarming prohibited people
- Local law enforcement agencies are required to develop protocol on how to disarm people subject to DVROs and GVROs

State law

- Misdemeanors
 - CA law goes much further—anyone convicted of a violent misdemeanor, such as assault, battery, or stalking, regardless of the victim's relationship to the offender, is prohibited for 10 yrs
 - People convicted of certain DV specific crimes face a lifetime prohibition
- Restraining Orders
 - Lots of different firearm-prohibiting types of ROs in CA (DV, GVRO, Workplace Violence, School Violence, Stalking, Elder Abuse). None require domestic relationship except DV.
 - Emergency, temporary, final

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS: Effectiveness



States like California that cover dating partners in domestic violence laws experience a

16%
REDUCTION

in intimate partner gun homicides.

Similarly, when states require proof that someone has given up their gun, there is also a



16%
REDUCTION

in intimate partner gun homicides.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

Violence that disproportionately impacts Black men and communities in urban centers

- For this group, **hospital-based intervention** and the [HAVI network](#)
 - A Baltimore-based hospital violence intervention program (HVIP) trial found that only 5% of those in the HVIP group were rehospitalized, versus 36% in the control group.
 - Evaluation of the San Francisco Wraparound Project – patients who received HVIP services were 4 times less likely to be violently reinjured compared to similar patients without access to services.



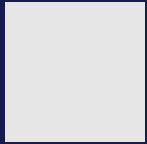
The Wraparound Project



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

- Also, **street outreach and intervention**, using credible messengers to identify and mediate conflicts in their community
 - Chicago CRED's reduced the likelihood of injury or death among program participants by nearly 50%. Participants were also 48% less likely to be arrested for a violent crime 18 months after starting the program.
- **Case management and transformational mentoring programs** provide individuals impacted by community violence with social service supports tailored to their needs.
 - Operation Peacemaker Fellowship (OPF) in Richmond — fellows receive person-specific mentorship, CBT, internship opportunities, and stipends up to \$1,000 per month for achieving program goals, saw 55% fewer homicides and 43% fewer assaults.

WHAT THESE PROGRAMS NEED:



**Sustained, dedicated funding –
federal, state, and local funding available**



Excellent coordination