

Gun Violence and Youth

Is gun violence in Illinois a serious problem for youth?

- In 2006, 369 children and young people ages 0-25 in Illinois were killed by guns.¹
- From 1999 to 2006, 3,369 children and young people have been killed by guns in Illinois.²
- In the 2008-2009 school year, at least 36 Chicago Public School students were killed, most from gun violence.³
- In 2007, 4% of Illinois high school students (excluding Chicago students) reported having carried a gun at least once in the last 30 days. Of Chicago students surveyed in 2007, 5% reported having carried a gun at least once in the last 30 days.⁴
- In Illinois, from 1999-2006, 59 children and young people ages 0-25 in Illinois died from unintentional gunshot wounds.⁵
- From January to November 2009, 216 children and young people ages 0-25 were murdered in Chicago, the majority by guns.⁶

Why educators and children's advocates are concerned about gun violence...

- Thousands of students are expelled every year for bringing firearms to school.⁷
- 77% of children and youth who witness a school shooting and 35% of urban youth exposed to community violence are likely to develop PTSD.⁸
- Children who have experienced traumas such as witnessing gun violence, often have relationship problems with peers and family members, problems with acting out, and problems with school performance.⁹

What is the Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence?

Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (ICPGV), a project of Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV), is a research-based public education campaign to promote meaningful gun policy reform in Illinois. Working with a statewide advisory group representing law enforcement, the medical and public health communities, faith-based organizations, local and state policymakers, victims and advocacy groups, ICPGV informs the public and the media on the facts about gun violence and prevention policies.

How can I get involved with ICPGV?

- Call **773-209-1002** or email info@icpgv.org.
- Sign up for email alerts for updates on legislation and facts at www.icpgv.org.
- Contact your legislators and write letters to the editor of your local newspaper. Go to www.icpgv.org to learn how.

¹⁻² U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2006.

³ Schaper, David. "Youth killings reach crisis level in Chicago," All Things Considered, National Public Radio. May 27, 2009.

⁴ Children's Memorial Research Center, Child Health Data Lab, 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

⁵ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2006.

⁶ U.S. Department of Education, 2000.

⁷⁻⁸ The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, *PTSD in Children and Adolescents*, by Jessica Hamblen, Ph.D.