



Gun Violence and Youth

Is gun violence in Illinois a serious problem for youth?

- In 2005, 130 children and youth aged 0-19 in Illinois were killed by guns, 13% more deaths than 2004. From 1999 to 2005, 1,039 children and youth have been killed by guns in Illinois.¹
- From 2002 to 2006, 687 Chicago youth were killed by guns.²
- In 2007, 26 Chicago public school youth were killed by guns.³
- Handguns were used in 92% of the shootings where Chicago youth were killed in 2005.⁴
- In 2007, 34% of youth ages 12-19 knew someone who has been shot and 36% feared being shot some day.⁵

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

- Thousands of students are expelled every year for bringing firearms to school.⁶
- 77% of children and youth who witness a school shooting and 35% of urban youth exposed to community violence are likely to develop PTSD.⁷
- 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.⁸

What is the Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence?

The Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (ICPGV), a project of Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV), is a research-based public education campaign formed in 2007 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, victims, local and state policymakers and advocacy groups, ICPGV informs the public, policymakers and the media on the facts about gun violence and prevention policies. ICPGV volunteers make thousands of phone calls, generate letters to state legislators, and attend in-district meetings to urge policymakers to support commonsense gun violence prevention policies.

How can I get involved with ICPGV?

- Call **773-209-1002** or email **info@icpgv.org**.
- Join the **ICPGV Statewide Advisory Group**.
- 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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005*.

² Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, "Issue Brief: Chicago Youth and Violence." January 2008.

³ Chicago Public Schools Office of Communications.

⁴ Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, "Issue Brief: Chicago Youth and Violence." January 2008.

⁵ UCAN 8th Annual Teen Gun Survey, Fall 2007.

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.