

Gun Violence and Law Enforcement

Is gun violence in Illinois a serious problem?

- In 2006, 1,036 people died from firearm-related injuries in Illinois, 625 of which were homicides.¹
- In 2006, 369 children and young people ages 0-25 in Illinois were killed by guns. From 1999 to 2006, 3,369 children and young people have been killed by guns in Illinois.²
- For every person who is killed by gun violence, two more are injured and survive.³

Why the law enforcement community is concerned about gun violence...

- From May 2007 to April 2009, CCW permit holders shot and killed seven law enforcement officers resulting in criminal charges or the suicide of the shooter. An additional three law enforcement officers were injured in these incidents.⁴
- One-fifth of the law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty between January 1998 and December 2001 were killed with assault weapons.⁵
- Roughly 20% of gun trafficking investigations involve transfers by unlicensed sellers who are not required to conduct a background check.⁶
- Between 1996 and 2000, 13 of the 120 highest crime dealers in the U.S. were from Illinois - the second highest concentration of any state in the U.S.⁷

Law enforcement officials across the Midwest support:

- Requiring that all gun sales take place through federally licensed firearms dealers (FFLs) with mandatory background checks.⁸
- Enacting an effective ban on military-style assault weapons, armor-piercing handgun ammunition, 50 caliber sniper rifles, and other weapons that enable criminals to outgun law enforcement.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, 1999-2005*.

³ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005 and Non-fatal Injury Reports*.

⁴ Violence Policy Center, *Law Enforcement and Private Citizens Killed by Concealed Handgun Permit Holders: An Analysis of News Reports, May 2007 to April 2009*, July 2009.

⁵ Press Release, Violence Policy Center, Majority Leader DeLay's Promise to Let Assault Weapons Ban Expire Will Keep Cop-Killer Guns on U.S. Streets (May 14, 2003).

⁶ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Department of the Treasury, *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearm Traffickers* xi (2000).

⁷ Americans for Gun Safety Foundation, *Selling Crime: High Crime Gun Stores Fuel Criminals* 1 (Jan. 2004).

⁸⁻⁹ The International Association of Police Chiefs of Police, 2007 Great Lakes Summit on Gun Violence, *Taking a Stand: Reducing Gun Violence in our Communities* (September 2007).