



## Gun Violence and the Public Health and Medical Community

### Is gun violence in Illinois a serious problem?

- From 1999 to 2005 guns killed 8,018 Illinois residents.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, 1,019 people died from firearm-related injuries in Illinois, about three people every day.<sup>2</sup>
- Guns were used in 2,617 suicides in Illinois from 2000-2005.<sup>3</sup>
- For every person who's killed by gun violence, two more are injured and survive.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2005, 69,825 Americans were treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal gunshot wounds.<sup>5</sup>

### Why the medical community is concerned about gun violence...

- Gun violence represents a serious public health crisis in the U.S. and in Illinois.<sup>6</sup>
- Gunshot injuries in 1994 resulted in \$2.3 billion in lifetime medical costs in the U.S.<sup>7</sup>
- Gun violence is a major cause of hospitalization of young urban black males and represents a significant cost to publicly financed health care, with serious financial impact on the individual hospitals that care for these victims.<sup>8</sup>
- 70% of Illinois voters trust what doctors and other health care professionals have to say about proposed changes to Illinois gun laws.<sup>9</sup>

### 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.

<sup>1-4</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2005 and Nonfatal Injury Reports*.

<sup>5</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports*.

<sup>6</sup> Hemenway, David. *Private Guns, Public Health*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2004.

<sup>7</sup> Cook PJ, Lawrence, BA, Ludwig J, Miller TR. *The Medical Costs of Gunshot Injuries in the United States*, Journal of the American Medical Association 1999; 282: 447-454.

<sup>8</sup> Vassar MJ, Kizer KW. *Hospitalizations for Firearm-Related Injuries: A Population-Based Study of 9562 Patients*, Journal of the American Medical Association 1996 June 12; 275:1734-1739.

<sup>9</sup> Illinois Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, *2007 Survey on Gun Regulations*.