

## Gun Violence and the Public Health and Medical Community

### 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2006, guns were used in 372 suicides in Illinois.<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>

### 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.

<sup>1-3</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, 1999-2006 and Nonfatal Injury Reports*.

<sup>4-5</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.