



**VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION OF GREATER LOS ANGELES**  
*A Project of Community Partners®*

**FACT SHEET: FIREARMS AND FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENCE**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

- ❖ Firearms in Los Angeles County kill approximately three people everyday. *IVPP/PHIS Death Data, California Department of Health Services, 2004.*
- ❖ In Los Angeles County, more people less than 35 years of age were killed by firearms (764) than die from HIV and motor vehicle accidents combined (398) in 2004. *IVPP/PHIS Death Data, California Department of Health Services, 2004.*
- ❖ 14% of LA County residents who died in gun violence in 2004 were 18 years old or younger. *Office of Health Information and Research, California Center for Health Statistics, 2004.*
- ❖ The mortality rate from firearms in LA County during each year between 1994 and 2003 was higher than in California or the United States. *LA County mortality data from Death Statistical Master File, California Dept of Health Services, 2005; Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2005.*
- ❖ In 2004, 268 out of 691 suicides (38.8%) were committed with a firearm in LA County. *IVPP/PHIS Death Data, California Department of Health Services, 2004.*
- ❖ In 2004, LA County trauma centers treated 2,504 victims of firearm injuries. The total charges for treating these patients was more than \$149 million, with an average charge of \$59,712 per visit. *Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency, Trauma and Emergency Medicine Information System*
- ❖ In LA County, the highest numbers of gun deaths in 2004 by race were among Latinos (514), followed by African Americans (338) and Caucasians (228) <sup>1</sup>. In 2002, the firearm death rate for African-Americans was over twice that of whites<sup>2</sup>. *Center for Health Statistics Death Records, California Department of Health Services, 2004;*<sup>1</sup> *Fact Sheets, Brady Campaign, 2002.*<sup>2</sup>

**CALIFORNIA**

- ❖ 74% of homicides in 2004 (1,807 out of 2,444) were committed with a firearm in California. *IVPP/PHIS Death Data, California Department of Health Services, 2004.*
- ❖ 41% of suicides in 2004 (1,363 out of 3,343) were committed with a firearm in California. *IVPP/PHIS Death Data, California Department of Health Services, 2004.*
- ❖ Among persons aged 15-19 years, firearm related suicides (n=1,133) accounted for 53% of overall suicides (n=2,140) from 1991-2004 in California. *IVPP/PHIS Death Data, California Department of Health Services, 2004.*
- ❖ Data by race and ethnicity show that African Americans/Blacks had significantly higher age-adjusted firearms-related death rates than any other racial or ethnic population: 26.7 per 100,000 in 2004. The next highest reliable death rates were found for Whites (7.6 per 100,000 in 2004), and Hispanics/Latinos (7.6 per 100,000 in 2004). These rates are significantly higher than the Healthy People 2010 national target of 3.6 per 100,000 population. Death rates for Asians (3.3 per 100,000 in 2004) and for the Multiracial population (3.6 per 100,000 in 2004) were at or below the HP2010 target. Firearms-related death rates for American Indians/Alaska Natives (except for 2002) and for Pacific Islanders were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported. *"Healthy California 2010," California Department of Health Services, 2005.*

**UNITED STATES**

- ❖ In 24% of violent crimes in the US, a weapon was present. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, 2005.*

(OVER)

- ❖ Homicides are most often committed with guns, especially handguns. In 2005, 55% of homicides were committed with handguns, 16% with other guns, 14% with knives, 5% with blunt objects, and 11% with other weapons. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, 2005.*
- ❖ In the Criminal Victimization Report 2005, the FBI reported 16,140 murders. Firearms were used in 70% of the murders. *National Crime Victimization Survey, US Dept of Justice, 2005.*
- ❖ In 2001, firearms were used in 54% of youth suicides. *National Vital Statistics Report, 2003.*
- ❖ Offenders used a firearm in 26% of all robberies, compared with 3% of all rapes, and 7% of all assault victimizations in 2005 in the US. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, 2005*
- ❖ Every 3 hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm. *"Moments in America for Children," Children's Defense Fund, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2005, an average of 6.5% of high school students said they carried a gun in the last 30 days in the US. *National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, CDC, 2005.*
- ❖ American children are more at risk from firearms than the children of any other industrialized nation. In one year, firearms killed no children in Japan, 19 in Great Britain, 57 in Germany, 109 in France, 153 in Canada, and 5,285 in the United States. *Vital Statistics System, CDC National Center for Health Statistics, 1997.*
- ❖ In 2001, firearms were used to murder 6 people in New Zealand, 56 in Japan, 96 in Great Britain, 168 in Canada, and 331 in Germany.<sup>1</sup> In comparison, firearms were used to murder 11,348 in the United States.<sup>2</sup> *"The Eighth United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems," United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2001-2002.<sup>1</sup> Injury Mortality Reports, CDC, WISQARS, 2007.<sup>2</sup>*

For a full citation list or more information, please contact:

Billie Weiss, MPH  
 Violence Prevention Coalition  
 10960 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #1550  
 Los Angeles, CA 90024  
 Phone 310-794-2725  
 Email: bpweiss@ucla.edu