

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

A CALL TO ACTION

In the first four months of 2023, there were nearly

200 mass shootings in the United States.

(National Gun Violence Archive)

This is an average of

2 mass shootings per day.

During 2022,

663 Los Angeles residents died by homicide.

510 of these deaths involved a firearm.

Another

313 lives were lost to gun suicides.

California Department of Public Health, California Comprehensive Death File (Dynamic) for Los Angeles County, 2022(Provisional). Data extracted 3/7/2023. ICD codes used to identify firearm deaths: W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, Y35.0, U01.4

These figures make it clear: gun violence is a public health crisis. In 2022, there were over 800 deaths that involved a firearm in Los Angeles County. Gun violence in all its forms -- homicide, suicide, and gun violence that is linked to domestic violence -- is pervasive. While the impact of gun violence is felt across all demographic groups, the greatest toll is experienced by the Black community, reflecting the impact of over 400 years of systemic economic, social, and political racism.

Gun violence is devastating for individuals and families most directly affected.¹ Although these costs are not best measured in dollars, the gun violence costs that can be readily measured in dollars are immense. In California alone, gun violence costs approximately \$18 billion annually in medical care, criminal justice, and lost work time.²

Counter to common perceptions, **gun violence is predictable and preventable.** The Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), housed in the Department of Public Health, provides leadership to a network of county and community partners coming together to form a shared understanding of the factors that predict gun violence in our society and devise preventive strategies that make the most sense. With our partners, we form part of a broad, national movement of advocates who have mobilized to put an end to policies that have made the United States the most armed country - and one of the deadliest places - in the world. Now, in this era of mass shootings and gun violence across communities, we call on policymakers to support a gun safety agenda and ask you to take action around that agenda. Everyone deserves the right to live free from violence.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SAVE LIVES.

1. <https://www.cwla.org/the-impact-of-gun-violence-on-children-families-communities/>
2. <https://oag.ca.gov/ogvp/data#:~:text=More%20than%20half%20of%20those,just%20under%20%24500%20per%20Californian>

Scan here to access the 40-point Gun Violence Prevention Platform or visit: <https://bit.ly/PreventGunViolenceLA>



LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Los Angeles County, the Office of Violence Prevention's 40-point Gun Violence Prevention Platform offers evidence-based and innovative strategies to stop gun violence. The Platform prioritizes 4 strategies as critical steps towards making LA County safe and secure for all. Priorities include:

- Supporting robust common sense gun safety legislation as a way of defining social norms that prevent gun violence;
- Promoting social connection and healing through access to safe spaces and programs that address harm, trauma, and the impact of violence;
- Increasing awareness of Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and other legal tools to stop someone who poses a risk to themselves or others from possessing a gun;
- Increasing school safety including access to culturally and linguistically physical and mental health services for all students K-12.

TAKE ACTION: HELP US ACHIEVE THIS YEAR'S FOUR PREVENTION PRIORITIES.



Tell Washington to take action! Call your congressperson and tell them to support the reinstatement of the federal assault weapon ban. Find the phone number at <https://5calls.org> and tell your congressperson to support HR 698 and S25. Remind them that California's ban on assault weapons, along with universal background checks, has led to a significant decrease in gun violence in the state since the 1990s.



Educate yourself and tell others about Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and other legal tools to remove firearms from people who are at risk of harming themselves and others. View a GVRO training video at: <https://bit.ly/GVROs> to learn the warning signs and what to do when you see them.



Keep guns safely stored. If you own guns, keep them locked and safely stored in the home. Keep ammunition locked separately. Parents should ask the families of their children's friends if they have guns in and around their homes. According to Nationwide Children's Hospital, nearly 40% of all unintentional shooting deaths among children 11-14 years of age occur in the home of a friend.

To learn more about secure gun storage, visit Everytown for Gun Safety: <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/responsible-gun-storage/>



Vote for candidates that support gun safety. Register to vote and urge your friends and family to register! Voting is one of the most effective ways we can influence policy.



If you are a clinician, ask your patients about guns in the home and gun safety practices. If they have children, remind them of the dangers of unsafe gun storage for young children. Go to the BulletPoints Project - <https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/safe-firearm-storage-printables/> to find printable materials and online training to reduce the risk of firearm injury and death among patients. If you are not a clinician, ask your doctor to join with OVP, the Los Angeles County Medical Association, L.A. Care Health Plan, and other medical groups in support of gun control and firearm safety.



Join a community gun violence prevention coalition. Help bring your community together to reduce gun violence and build a safer, saner world for our children. Go to [LA County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention](#) to find out how you can join a local coalition or to access printable materials and tools for hosting an event.



Know the facts and become a community voice against gun violence. By dispelling the myths about violence and guns, we can mobilize the majority of LA County residents who, like most Americans, support policies that protect our children, families, and communities. Visit the LA County Office of Violence Prevention website <https://bit.ly/PreventGunViolenceLA> to learn more, obtain resources and tools, sign a pledge to stop gun violence, and get linked to local place-based efforts and organizations.

