

- **Fund** educational programs from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 that ensure that students can function well in cultural, recreational, and social contexts.
- **Support** research initiatives that identify best practices in violence prevention. Give priority support to programs that integrate the best practices in violence prevention.
- **Ensure** that *all* people have access to comprehensive illness prevention and treatment health services regardless of financial status.
- **Form** partnerships with communities that include health care centers and health care clients to ensure that the physical, social, and emotional needs of everyone are being met in a culturally sensitive manner.
- **Fund** for early childhood stimulation to assist children in reaching developmental milestones.
- **Provide** wellness centers that include recreation *and* education.
- **Provide** health insurance coverage for both mental *and* physical health care services.

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Gun Violence Reduction

A civil society is based on citizens and lawful authorities working cooperatively to reduce the violence in our neighborhoods. The irresponsible use of guns, especially handguns, is to blame for a great percentage of the violence and killing that occur in our neighborhoods. In addition, guns are frequently involved in accidental injuries. The following actions will help to reduce the prevalence of gun related accidental injuries and violence:

Communities:

- **Ask** "Where did the gun come from?" after every shooting or crime.
- **Understand** exactly where guns are coming from and stop the supply of guns at the source.
- **Demand** that retail gun dealers be held accountable for illegal sales of firearms and failing to track or lock up their inventory.
- **Pass** child access prevention laws requiring individuals to properly lock up their firearms to prevent both child access and theft, the number one supplier of crime guns.
- **Hold** individual gun owners liable for improperly stored guns, those guns that are supposedly "lost" or "stolen", and otherwise illegally transferred guns.

Families:

There is NO SAFE WAY to tell for certain whether a gun is loaded or unloaded—especially for a child. Gun manufacturers do not provide loaded magazine indicators or child safety locks and until they do, children should not be anywhere close to handling guns.

- **Ask** if there is a gun in the home where your child goes to play. If the answer is, "Yes," ask how the gun is stored.
- **Decide** where you want your child to be playing based on the presence of firearms.
- **Talk** with your pediatrician about the various risks of guns in the home for all ages of children.
- **Discuss** the difference between real gun violence and the glorified violence in video games and movies with children and other household members. Be a good role model of gun safety and responsible behavior.
- **Provide** age-appropriate gun safety instruction to all members of the household, **if you plan to purchase a gun for the home**. Emphasize that guns should be pointed only in a safe direction, that the trigger should not be touched, and confirm that it is not loaded. Teach respect for the destructive potential of guns.
- **Secure** all firearms in the home to reduce the risk of accidents, theft, or unauthorized use. Keep guns and ammunition locked away in separate locations when not in use. Store guns unloaded and use a gunlock. Any defensive gun kept to protect a family must be stored unloaded and secured with a gun lock against unauthorized or unlawful use.

- **Do not allow** children or visitors to have unsupervised access to guns stored in the family home. Plan carefully to avoid a tragedy.
- **Support** community and legislative efforts to reduce the presence of guns and the levels of gun violence in our neighborhoods. Contact elected officials in person, write letters, send emails, sign petitions, and attend community events to voice one's opinions. Vote for candidates who support efforts to stop irresponsible gun ownership to make our neighborhoods safer from gun violence.
- **Insist** that law enforcement track down the source of guns used in crimes in order to stop the flow of crime guns and illegal guns wreaking havoc in our neighborhoods, especially in those neighborhoods disproportionately affected by gun violence. Once said gun tracking data is collected, it shall be made available for analysis by city, county, and state lawmakers, policymakers, and academics.
- **Be proactive**; choose *not* to have guns in the home.

Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice System:

- **Investigate** thoroughly all gun-related incidents including reports of people brandishing guns and complaints of shots fired. This action should be applied in a fair and uniform fashion throughout all neighborhoods.
- **Prosecute** all gun-related crimes and seek maximum sentencing when guns are used in the commission of illegal activities
- **Charge** persons who have their misplaced -- "lost" or "stolen" or otherwise -- guns from the Pittsburgh police a "recovery" fee that can be used to fund a gun buyback program.
- **Prosecute** persons who fail to report their guns lost or stolen as required by Pittsburgh's 2009 ordinance.
- **Track** the source of guns, including assault weapons, used in crimes and prosecute the criminals who illegally manufacture, distribute, and/or sell these weapons. Gunsmiths who illegally modify firearms should also be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- **Publicize** the source of guns that are used in crimes (how many are stolen from individual owners, who are retail dealers who sell illegally, etc.).
- **Enforce** the ordinance such as the one passed in Pittsburgh, PA requiring individual owners to report when their guns have been "lost" or "stolen."
- **Educate** the community to the fact that it is a felony for a person to buy a gun for someone else ("straw purchase").
- **Revoke** the licenses of retail gun dealers who violate state requirements for licensing.

Legislative Bodies:

- **Pass** laws to reduce the unchecked flow of handguns into our communities including reasonable limits on the number of guns that can be purchased within a specified timeframe, requirements for reporting lost or stolen guns, and laws regarding safe

storage of guns and ammunition. Pass state and national laws, and provide funds for enforcement efforts, which restrict access to high capacity, paramilitary weapons.

- **Strengthen** the system and enforce the laws used to identify persons who are not legally authorized to purchase guns. Ensure that individuals who have lost the right to possess guns are entered into the national computerized system. Ban all gun sales or transfers that do not involve a background check through the system.
- **Redirect** a portion of the existing tax collected on gun and ammunition sales toward gun safety education programs targeting urban populations. Use these monies to fund advertising campaigns addressing responsible gun ownership and gun security initiatives.

Pediatricians/Mental Health Providers:

- **Educate** families about the increased risks to family members (i.e., a gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicide, etc. -- than it is to be used against intruders).
- **Educate** families about the fact that firearms are not regulated by any consumer product safety agency (unlike cribs, strollers, teddy bears etc.). As a result, consumers are completely unaware of any potential defects that may cause potentially lethal malfunctions such as safety locks that fail.

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