



# Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention Gun Safety Platform

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MCHA Monthly Community Meeting  
October 19, 2023





# Vision for a Violence Free LA County

OVP **strengthens collaboration, capacity and partnerships** to prevent multiple forms of violence and promote healing across communities in LA County.

Established by the Board of Supervisors in **February 2019 in the Department of Public Health.**

**Governance Structure:** County Leadership Committee & Community Partnership Council guide the work of the office and implementation of the strategic plan.

# OVP Early Implementation Priorities



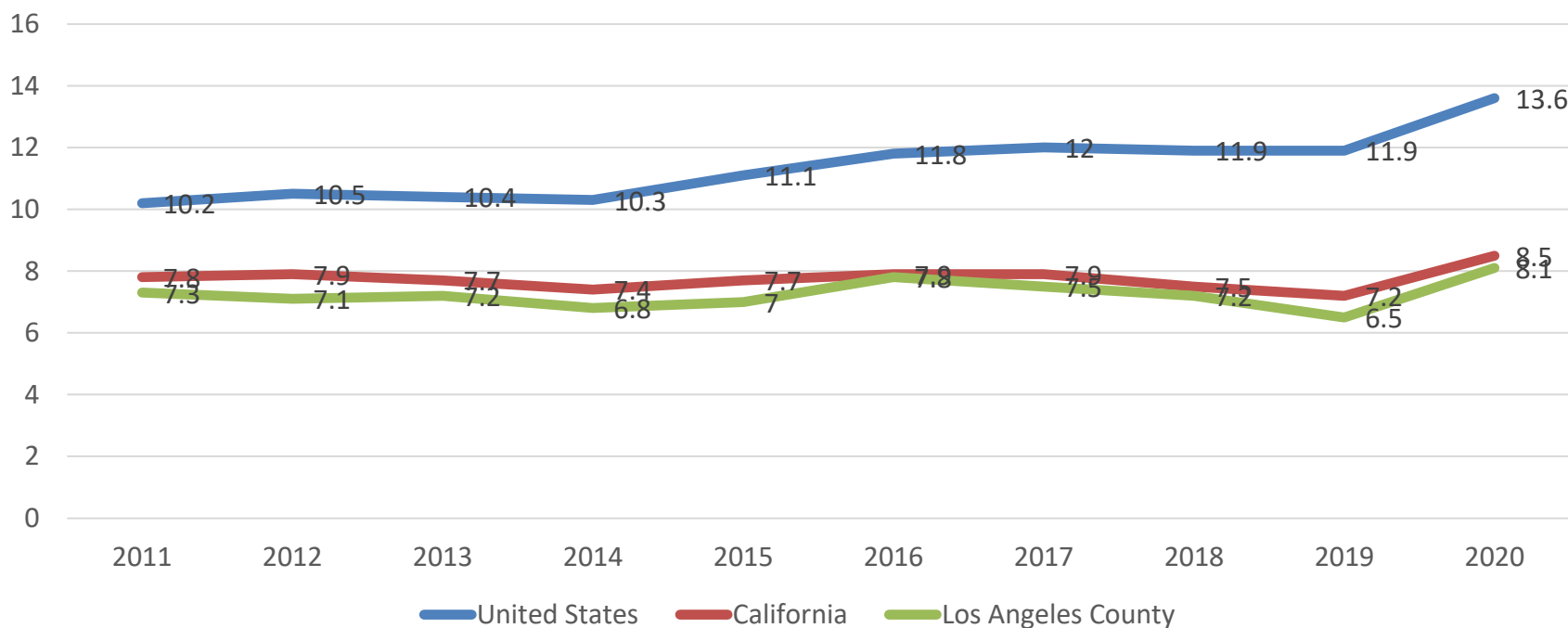


# Gun Violence Prevention Platform (GVPP)

1. Advocate for **robust gun safety legislation** locally and nationally, including the federal ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
2. **Promote social connections, healing, and a culture of peace** through safe spaces and programs that address harm, trauma, and the impact of violence. Support opportunities that foster community togetherness, inclusion, and a sense of belonging while embracing diversity.
3. In partnership with the courts, community and faith-based organizations, and law enforcement, **improve awareness and access to legal restraining orders**. Ensure services, systems and messaging are accessible, culturally relevant and cause no harm.
4. **Increase access to comprehensive, culturally relevant physical and mental health supports and services for all students, K-12**. Enhance school safety by implementing pilot initiatives in at least 3 school districts.



# Overall Firearm Mortality Rates for the United States, California, and Los Angeles County, 2011-2020



Data from CDC, NCHS. National Vital Statistics System, Data on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program.

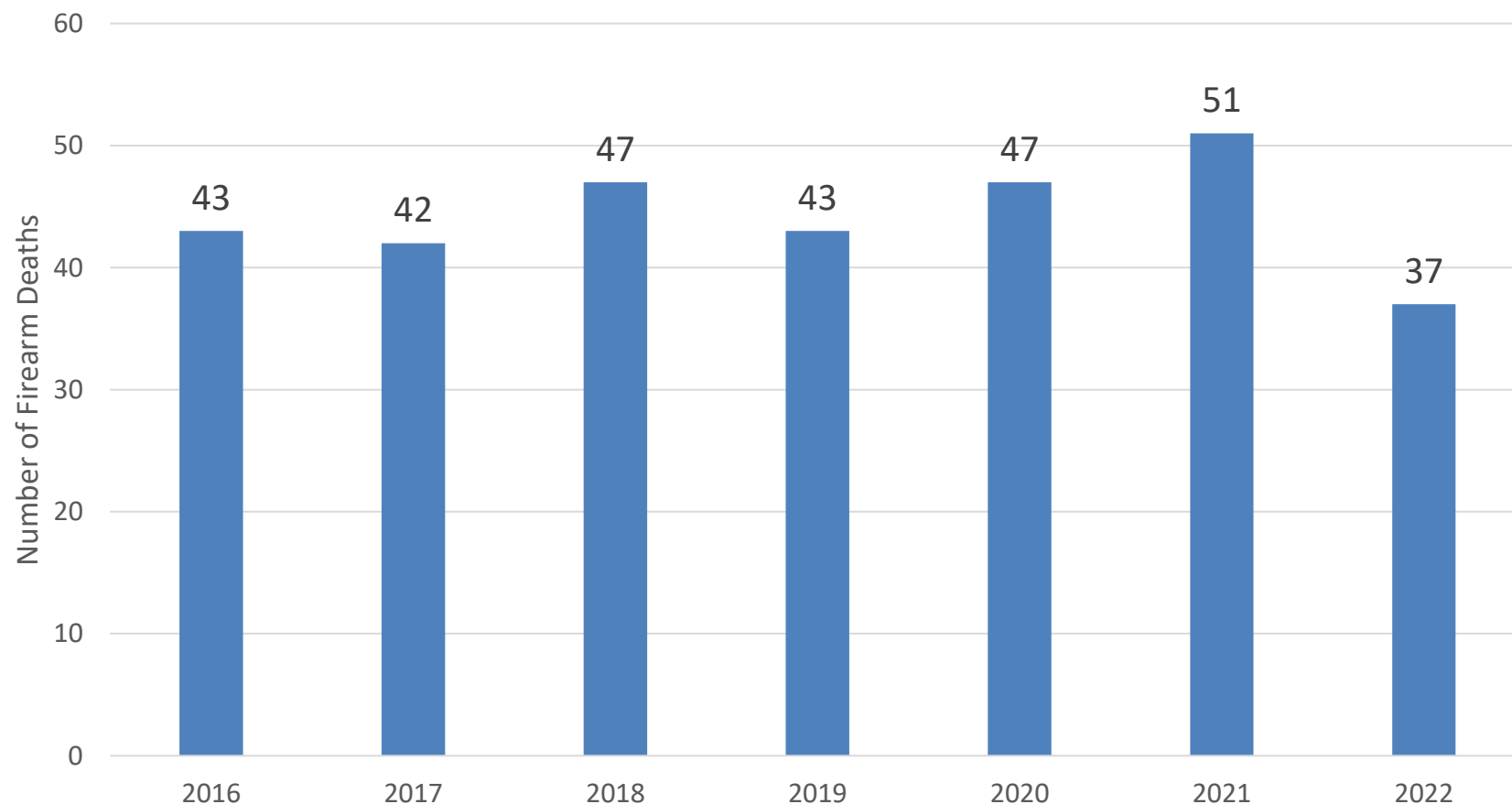
# Firearm Violence in LA County

- Firearm death rates in LAC increased by 43% from 2019 (6.7 per 100,000) to 2021 (9.6 per 100,000).
  - Increase is almost entirely due to firearm homicides.
- Over half of firearm deaths in LAC are homicides, while nationally over half are suicides.
- Firearm safety policies save lives.
  - Firearm death rates for children are 4 times higher in the states with weakest gun laws (ID, GA, MT, AR, MS) than the states with strongest laws (CA, NY, NJ, CT, MA).

# National Data: Firearms and Children

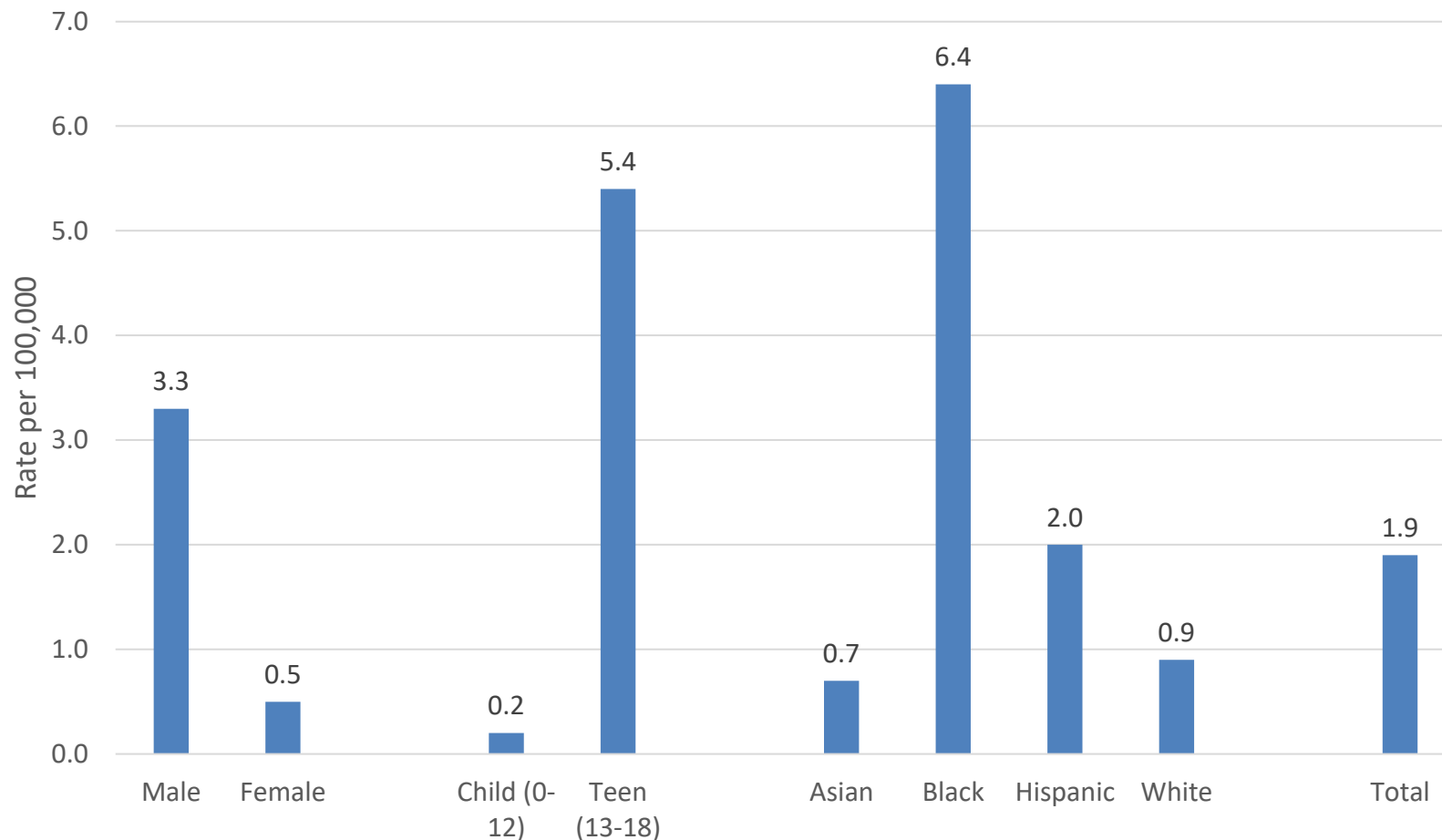
- In 2020, firearm-related injuries became the leading cause of death among children and youth 1-19 nationally.
- From 2019 to 2020, firearm-related deaths among children and youth increased by 29.5%. By 2021, the increase was nearly 50%.
  - Increase from 1,732 deaths in 2019 to 2,590 in 2021
- Deaths are the tip of the iceberg: in 2020 there were more than 11,000 emergency room visits for gunshot injuries among children and youth under 18.

# Child (0-18 Years) Firearm Deaths in LA County, 2016-2022\*



\*20-22 data provisional

# Child Firearm Death Rates by Demographic Groups, 2016-2022\*



\*2020-2022 data provisional

# Costs of Firearm Deaths and Injuries, Los Angeles County, 2020

## Types of Costs

- Direct
  - Medical
  - Emergency transport
  - Police response
  - Legal
  - Incarceration
- Indirect
  - Loss of work
  - Employer costs
  - Loss of quality of life
- Medical costs alone from firearm deaths in Los Angeles: **\$6.2 million**
  - 837 deaths
- Medical charges for non-fatal firearm hospitalizations in Los Angeles: **\$193 million**
  - 1,120 hospitalizations

# Gun Safety Measures

- The Pew Research Center reports that:
  - 64% of US gun owners fail to keep their guns in a locked place
  - 56% of US gun owners keep their guns loaded
  - About 40% of all US gun owners report having a gun in the house that is both loaded and easily accessible
  - About 30% of gun owners with children under 18 report having a gun in the house that is both loaded and easily accessible
  - 26% of gun owners with children report advising visitors with children that there are guns in the house; 74% do not provide that information to visitors with children

# Mission

To decrease gun violence deaths, life altering injuries and their social-emotional impacts among residents in Los Angeles County.

## Objectives *(by December 2023)*

1. Train 1,000 youth peer leaders on Teen Mental Health.
2. Train 1,000 health care providers to do gun safety screening during primary care visits. Distribute 20,000 safe gun storage handbooks and gun safety locks to families countywide.
3. Train 100 criminal justice personnel to implement gun violence restraining orders. Reach 5,000 completed viewings of a training video on gun violence restraining orders for consumers. Train 100 community-based personnel, staff at legal aid entities, DV providers and others about Right Tool for Each Situation.
4. Conduct 10 trauma healing events per SPA for community residents.
5. Mobilize 500 college students at a Teach In @ CDU to gather 100,000 LA County resident signatures calling for a national assault weapon ban.

# Rise. Reclaim. Restore: A Teen Mental Health Summit



- **Rise** up as youth leaders seeking change in our communities.
- **Reclaim** the narrative about youth mental health as we are educated about how to care for ourselves.
- **Restore** our community and ourselves in light of challenges faced since 2020.

# Why Health Care Providers?

- Increased level of trust/confidence in their HCP.
- Studies show most patients believe that conversations with their doctor/provider about firearm safety are appropriate (including gun owners!)
- Opportunity to make it about public health/individual safety and not about gun “control”
- Opportunity to prevent unintentional injuries and life-saving mental health intervention (reduce lethality of suicidal acts).





# Partnering with the Health Care Community

## Outreach to Health Care Professionals & Organizations

- Organized Medicine – AAP, AAFP, APA, LACMA
- Academic – Keck (USC), Geffen (UCLA)
- Healthcare Entities – CHLA, Community Clinics, LA Care, Healthnet
- County Departments – DPH, DHS
- California Firearm Violence Research Center (UCD) – Amy Barnhorst, MD

## Providing Training Opportunities

- Online self-paced one-hour training (1 CME)
- Train-the-trainer four-hour live webinar October 25 (4 CME)
- Locally trained can then do additional in person events
- In person 3-4-hour local event on November 18

## Distributing Gun Safety Booklets and Locks to Families

# What is a GVRO?

- Also known as Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) or Red Flag laws.
- Allow for a court order to remove guns and ammunition from a person shown to be a risk to themselves or others.
- State laws vary on who can petition for a court order.



- 21 states have passed an ERPO law.
- California passed GVRO law in 2014, the law went into effect in 2016.

# Piloting the GVPP Framework through Regional Coalitions

- Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions (RVPC) are a key strategy of OVP. Launched in November 2021, RVPCs bring together a **diverse, multi-sector group of community stakeholders and residents to form place-based violence prevention coalitions** in each SPA.
- In January 2023, the RVPCs **adopted the GVPP as a central framework**:
  - All Learning Collaboratives are focused on gun violence
  - Community Action Plans must include strategies that address gun violence



# Piloting the GVPP Framework through Regional Coalitions

| 1. Our coalition is committing to the following action item(s)...(Select up to two) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                            | Conduct at least eight healing-centered workshops in partnership with local arts organizations to support overall improved mental and emotional health of community members.                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                            | Coordinate at least eight mental health-related training sessions for youth, parents, school personnel, faith-based leaders, law enforcement, or other community groups                                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                            | Host and promote at least eight community dialogues/discussions with youth ages 12-24. Dialogues should provide some education about gun violence, discuss current prevention strategies, and provide awareness of opportunities for civic engagement to prevent gun violence.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                            | Develop and host a series of at least eight classes/workshops to build connections between community, youth, and/or other under resourced populations. Classes <b>must</b> include tools, resources, and other opportunities for participants to continue to connect beyond the series of events. |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                            | Host at least eight firearms safety educational events for residents, including education about practices and screening tools tailored for specific groups.                                                                                                                                       |

# Gun Violence Prevention Teach In @ CDU

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TEACH-IN:**

# LOS ANGELES STUDENTS IN ACTION



 **Monday, October 23, 2023**  
8:30AM – 4:00PM

 **Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science**  
1731 E 120th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90059

Join with students, healthcare practitioners, County departments, and community partners to take action to prevent gun violence.

**Free Food • Music • Local Vendors • Resource Fair and More!**



**SCAN THE QR TO SIGN UP OR VISIT:**

<https://LASStudentsInAction.eventbrite.com>

This timely teach-in, organized with student leaders, unites us against gun violence in Los Angeles County through collective conversations aimed at action.

With an inspiring lineup of speakers, organizers, activists, and practitioners, attendees will join the conversation and build skills related to community organizing, advocacy, restorative justice and peacebuilding, and health equity approaches to addressing gun violence.

**We will discuss:**

- How does gun violence affect our communities?
- What can we each do as individuals to end the devastating impact of guns in our community?
- What kind of system-level changes need to happen in our communities to reduce violence?

For more information, please contact:  
**Cassie Bishop**  
[cassiebishop@cdrewu.edu](mailto:cassiebishop@cdrewu.edu)



# Gun Violence Prevention Teach In @ CDU

- A co-hosted event with DPH, OVP and CDU on the CDU campus on Monday, October 23, 2023, from 9AM – 3PM.
- Aim to engage 250-500 students and healthcare providers in gun violence mobilization and prevention efforts, elevating gun violence as one of the most pressing issues of our time.
- The teach-in will focus on what students, universities and healthcare providers can contribute to addressing the problem of gun violence and secure commitments to support actionable prevention strategies.
- The teach-in is meant to be practical, participatory, and oriented toward action.





# GVPP Materials & Resources

# Firearm Safety and Restraining Orders



Join us for an informative training where we will discuss firearm safety and learn about restraining orders as a tool for gun violence prevention.

Gun violence in Los Angeles is multifaceted and impacts people in different ways. To address an issue this complex, everyone has a role to play to help prevent gun violence. This training will focus on an array of tools and resources that we have at our disposal to prevent gun violence and fair, culturally sensitive, and effective approaches to reducing gun violence. Participants will:

1. Understand gun violence as a public health crisis; the problem & opportunities for prevention in California
2. Describe the spectrum of gun violence and the range

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**THURSDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 2023**  
**9 AM - 5 PM**

**THE ALHAMBRA**  
**AUDITORIUM**

1000 E. Sunset Ave.



# TEEN MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Hosted by Los Angeles County  
Office of Violence Prevention

Through engaging workshops and interactive activities, this summit will equip teens with the tools to navigate their mental well-being.



## DATE & TIME

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**  
10:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.



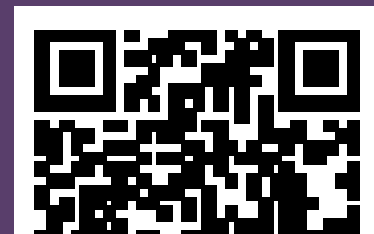
## LOCATION

**MAGIC JOHNSON PARK**  
905 E. EL SEGUNDO BLVD,  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90059

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH WILL BE  
PROVIDED!**

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**SIGN UP HERE  
FOR MORE INFO!**



# INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT



## Contact QR Card

If someone has more questions about GVPP, you can direct them to the GVPP website



## Mythbuster

Learn about the myths vs facts about Gun Violence



## Call to Action Flyer

Offers a series of actionable steps you can take now

## CURRENT COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

- Buttons
- Stickers
- Posters
- Pledge Cards
- Tshirts
- Platform
- Booklet

# Join this effort --keep LA's children safe!

- Join us in raising awareness about gun violence – host an event, distribute flyers and materials, post on social media, write letters.
- Help us to engage others including healthcare systems and providers, academic institutions and others to train and screen for gun safety.
- Talk to family and friends about gun safe storage and/or gun violence restraining orders (GVROs).
- Pledge to take one action to prevent gun violence.



# Thoughts, Ideas, Questions



## Contact Information

**Andrea Welsing, Director**  
**(626) 293.2998 (office)**  
**[awelsing@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:awelsing@ph.lacounty.gov)**

**Kelly Fischer, Deputy Director**  
**(323) 236-6858 (cell)**  
**[kfischer@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:kfischer@ph.lacounty.gov)**

**WEBSITE: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/>**