

## FACT SHEET: VIOLENCE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### **OVERALL**

- ❖ In 2007, there were 883 homicides reported in Los Angeles County. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*
- ❖ Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the homicides in Los Angeles County were committed with a firearm. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*

### **HATE CRIMES**

- ❖ Forty percent (40%) of reported hate crimes in California were in LA County (n=564), 51% (n=286) of these were committed in the City. *California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center, 2007.*
- ❖ Fifty-three percent (53%) of overall hate crimes committed in 2006 were violent (n=271). 176 were assault and battery offenses and 95 were assaults committed with a deadly weapon. *LA County Commission on Human Relations, 2007.*

### **CHILD ABUSE**

- ❖ In 2008, there were 148,925 child abuse and neglect referrals to DCFS in LA County. *Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, 2008.*
- ❖ On average there were about 34,857 active DCFS cases in LA County per month in 2008. *Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, 2008.*

### **FIREARM VIOLENCE**

- ❖ Thirty-nine percent (39%) of LA County residents who lost their lives to gun violence in 2007 were 24 years old or younger. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2007 firearms were used in 88%, or 357, of the homicides involving young people in Los Angeles County. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*
- ❖ Thirty-five percent (35%) of suicides among youth ages 5 to 24 were committed with a firearm. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2006, firearm injuries were the leading cause of hospitalization for males 15-19 years old and the 2nd leading cause for males 20-24 years old in LA County. More than half (54%) of all patients hospitalized for a firearm injury were between the ages of 15 and 24 years. *Sternfeld I. and Culross P.L., LA County Public Health Dept. IVPP, 2008.*
- ❖ In 2007, approximately 5% of students in Los Angeles reported carrying a gun on at least 1 day in the last 30 days. Over 8% of male students carried a gun on at least 1 day in the last 30 days. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.*

## YOUTH VIOLENCE

- ❖ In 2006, hospitalization rates due to assaults and suicide attempts were highest among 15-24 year olds. *Sternfeld I. and Culross P.L., LA County Public Health Dept. IVPP, 2008.*
- ❖ In Los Angeles County, there were 408 deaths due to homicide among young people less than 24 years of age in 2007. This accounts for 46.2% of total deaths due to homicide in LA County for that year. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2007, 69 youths less than 24 years old lost their lives to suicide. Twenty four of the suicides (35%) were committed with a firearm. *California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, 2007.*
- ❖ More than 8% of students in Los Angeles (2007) attempted suicide at least once in the past 12 months. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.*
- ❖ Approximately 14% of students in Los Angeles (2007) reported carrying a weapon in the last 30 days. More than 23% of male students and 5% of female students reported carrying a weapon in the last 30 days. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2007, more than 10% of students in Los Angeles reported that they were threatened or injured with a weapon (knife, gun or club) *on school property* at least once in the past year. More than 15% of male students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon (knife, gun or club) on school property at least once in the past year. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.*
- ❖ More than 11% of students in Los Angeles (2007) said that they did not go to school at least one day in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to and from school. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.*
- ❖ In 2007, 6.6% of students in Los Angeles were hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend within the past 12 months. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.*

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