

CDPH Releases Report on Preventing Violence in California

Violence is a leading cause of injury, disability, and death in California, making it a critical public health issue. It impacts our health and well-being and that of our families, neighbors, coworkers, schools, and communities. In 2014, there were more than 6,000 violent deaths, over 27,000 hospitalizations, and 154,000 emergency department visits for violent injuries in California, with an estimated annual cost of over \$11 billion in medical costs and lost productivity. But deaths and injuries only represent the "tip of the iceberg" of harm. The lifelong and multigenerational effects of violence and associated trauma ultimately influence our communities and society as a whole.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is taking a leadership role through a **Violence Prevention Initiative** to elevate public health approaches to the prevention of violence, which has been historically viewed as primarily a criminal justice issue. CDPH has released a new report *Preventing Violence in California Volume 1: The Role of Public Health*, which is the first issue of a planned series intended to serve as a resource for local health jurisdictions and other interested stakeholders.

"Violence is a public health concern. Together with its state and local partners, the California Department of Public Health can play a leadership role in bringing people together to have a meaningful dialogue about violence and how it can be prevented."

**- Karen L. Smith, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and State Public Health Officer**

Public health has a long-standing mission to prevent negative health outcomes, promote healthy communities and resilient individuals, and protect the health of entire populations. CDPH recognizes that violence is preventable and takes a primary prevention approach, working far "upstream" to prevent violence from happening in the first place, with strategies such as promoting positive social norms, community mobilization, and strengthening parent-child relationships. Through the **Violence Prevention Initiative**, CDPH is committed to leveraging its expertise, resources, and partnerships to reduce violence in California.

To read the report, [Preventing Violence in California Volume 1: The Role of Public Health](#), please visit CDPH's Web site at:

cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/Pages/ViolencePreventionInitiative.aspx