



99-03

STATEMENT OF POLICY

FIREARM CONTROL

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) urges the enactment and aggressive enforcement of federal, state and local policies that reduce illegal purchase, possession, sale, or use of firearms; promote firearm licensing and registration; reduce the availability of firearms to children and adolescents; reduce the incidence of inappropriately stored firearms and promote child access regulations; and that contain strict penalties for illegal possession or use of firearms.

Justification

The use of firearms is an important cause of injury-related death and long-term disability, and has been addressed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in their publication, *Healthy People 2010, Chapter 15 Injury and Violence Prevention*.¹

In 2004 a total of 29,569 people living in the United States died from firearm injuries² and approximately 50% of all suicides are committed with a firearm.²

African-Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately affected by firearm injuries and death. These groups suffered 36% of all firearm deaths in 2004.²

Access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide (a woman murdered by a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or close relative) more than five times than in instances where there are no weapons.³

Gun locks and load indicators could prevent more than 30 percent of all unintentional firearm deaths.⁴

¹Healthy People 2010. Healthypeople.gov

²(WISQARS) [Online]. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (producer). Available from: URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars. [2004].

³Violence Policy Center. When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2001 Homicide Data: Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents. Washington, DC, 2003.

⁴National SAFE KIDS Campaign (NSKC). Unintentional Firearm Injury Fact Sheet. Washington (DC): NSKC, 2004.

Record of Action

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors

July 14, 1999

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