



## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AWARENESS

A public announcement of LA County's distribution of more than 60,000 free gun locks in 2024 and resource fair for community members to access gun safety locks and educational materials.

## EVENT INFORMATION

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**  
Rancho Los Amigos National  
Rehabilitation Center  
7601 Imperial Hwy  
Downey, CA 90242  
10am - 12pm

## THE ISSUE

In 2022, over 800 Los Angeles County residents lost their lives due to gun violence. Beginning in 2020, firearms became the leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 17 in the United States. The gun violence crisis in our communities is intertwined with the easy availability of firearms. The mandate of the Office of Violence Prevention and the Department of Public Health to reduce gun violence includes an emphasis on gun safety; especially storage, locks, and education.

## HOW IT IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY

Local populations – especially communities of color – live everyday with the fear of gun violence, including homicides, suicide and unintentional deaths and injuries. The crisis was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent study from the Trevor Project found that half of transgender and nonbinary young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, while the suicide rate for Black youth in California doubled between 2014 and 2020. We also know from data that suicide attempts using firearms are far more successful than any other method.

## WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS DOING

Public Health and the Office of Violence Prevention are embarking on an effort to distribute 60,000 free gun locks and gun safety materials across the County in collaboration with county and community partners including Health Services, LA County Libraries, L.A. Care, and the LA County Medical Association. Public Health has also launched an extensive effort to educate the public about Restraining Orders and other legal means to prevent people with access to firearms from harming themselves or others.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- In 2022, provisional data show that 313 Los Angeles County residents died by firearm suicide.
- In the U.S., an estimated 4.6 million kids live in homes with guns unlocked and loaded.
- Between 2015 and 2022, there were at least 2,802 unintentional shootings by children ages 17 and younger in the U.S. These resulted in 1,083 deaths and 1,815 nonfatal gun injuries, nearly all among other kids.

## RESOURCES & SUPPORT

### TELEPHONE:

- 626-293-2610

### WEB:

- [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp)

