

been lacking for far too long. The time for action is now before we lose thousands more children to senseless gun violence.”

Here are some of the deadly facts detailed in the report about the toll gun violence is taking on America’s children:

- In 2003, 56 preschoolers were killed by firearms, compared to 52 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.
- More 10- to 19-year-olds die from gunshot wounds than from any other cause except motor vehicle accidents.
- Almost 90 percent of the children and teens killed by firearms in 2003 were boys.
- Boys ages 15 to 19 are nearly nine times as likely as girls of the same age to be killed by a firearm.
- In 2003, there were more than nine times as many gun suicides among White children and teens as among Black children and teens.
- The firearm death rate for Black males ages 15 to 19 is more than four times that of White males the same age.
- The seven states that recorded the most deaths among children and teens by firearms in 2003 were California, Texas, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina. The state with the fewest child gun deaths was Hawaii with one.
- The rate of firearm deaths among children under age 15 is far higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

“We have many more handguns and much weaker gun laws than any other country,” says Harvard Professor David Hemenway, who has worked to develop strategies to combat illegal firearms.

In the report, CDF called for the support of common sense gun safety measures; congressional passage of legislation that closes the gun show loophole to criminal background checks on those purchasing guns from unlicensed dealers; and renewal of the ban on assault weapons. Parents should remove guns from their homes; organize nonviolent conflict resolution support groups in their congregations and communities; and refuse to buy video games and other products for their children that glamorize or make violence socially acceptable or fun.

Community leaders should turn schools and places of worship into venues of quality summer and after-school programs for children as positive alternatives to the streets. They should also adopt proven programs, like Ceasefire Initiatives, that bring families, faith groups, social service providers and law enforcement together to halt the killing of teens by other teens. “It is imperative that we make our homes, our streets and our communities safe from firearms now for the sake of our children,” said Ms. Lawrence.

The release of the report comes just a week after a string of children were injured in shootings in New York City. A 6- and a 7-year-old were shot in Harlem two weeks ago. Then, on Wednesday of last week, a 7-year-old boy in the Bronx was shot while he was playing in his front yard.

For the full report, visit: www.cdfny.org/gunreport.pdf.

New Guidance Issued for Medicaid Citizenship Documentation Requirements

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the federal Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have both issued additional guidance on the implementation of the new citizenship documentation requirements for Medicaid that became effective July 1, 2006.

On June 29, 2006, the NYSDOH issued two-page guidance on the new rules emphasizing that this new requirement does not change - in any way - the existing immigrant eligibility requirements for Medicaid programs. It will, however, affect all Medicaid applicants and current beneficiaries.

As previously reported, New York already has a citizenship documentation requirement. What changes for applicants and current beneficiaries in New York is the *additional documentation requirement to prove identity*. The only applicants and beneficiaries exempt from this additional identity documentation are those who submit a passport or Certificate of Naturalization. The NYSDOH intends to issue more detailed guidance on acceptable secondary identity documentation in the near future.

Additionally, on July 6, 2006, CMS issued proposed rules on the new requirement that clarified earlier questions. Specifically, the requirement now exempts SSI and Medicare beneficiaries from documenting citizenship. It also allows for upfront data matches with state vital records which will hopefully alleviate the burden on many individuals who do not have their original birth certificates. Unfortunately, the proposed rules do not exempt foster care children from proving citizenship and does not allow applicants to receive health coverage as they try to obtain the necessary documentation. CDF-NY will continue to provide updates on the new requirement as it is made available.

SAVE THE DATE

Nassau County’s “No Wrong Door” Policy: One Year Later

When: Friday, July 21st, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Nassau Community College, One Education Drive, College Center Building, Garden City, NY 11530

What: Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi’s will be presenting a review of Nassau’s “No Wrong Door” Policy

R.S.V.P: By Monday, July 17th to (516) 571-3116