

April 21, 2003

<b>DIRECTIVE:</b> JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 02-22
--

**TO:**                    ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE SENIOR STAFF  
                             ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
                             ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS  
                             ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS  
                             ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
                             ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS AND CTS CONTRACTORS

**FROM:**                RICHARD C. TRIGG  
                             National Director  
                             Office of Job Corps

**SUBJECT:**            Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention

1.     Purpose. To increase staff and student awareness of gun violence and prevention recommendations.
2.     Background. Gun violence is the second leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, after automobile accidents. Everyone is affected by gun violence—people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, men and women, and all age groups. This Notice provides information on Job Corps statistics; information on national statistics is provided in the attachment.

### **Gun Violence in Job Corps**

Job Corps' Significant Incident Report (SIR) data for PY 2000 and PY 2001 indicate relatively low numbers of homicides committed by students (2 in PY 2000 and 4 in PY 2001). Of the homicides committed by students, 1 involved the use of a gun.

Job Corps death data indicate that gun violence was involved in 3 of the 13 deaths in Job Corps during PY 2000—2 homicide deaths from gunshot wounds and 1 accidental shooting death. During PY 2001 gun violence was involved in 3 of the 20 deaths in Job Corps—2 homicide deaths from gunshot wounds and 1 accidental shooting death.

The following table compares Job Corps firearm-related deaths for PY 2000 and PY 2001 with national firearm-related deaths for calendar year 2000.

Youth Firearm-Related Death Data <sup>1</sup>						
Cause of Death	National CY 2000		Job Corps PY 2000		Job Corps PY 2001	
	Number of Deaths	Rate/10,000	Number of Deaths	Rate/10,000	Number of Deaths	Rate/10,000
Suicides by Firearm	2,267	.60	.00	.00	.00	.00
Homicides by Firearm	3,963	1.00	2.00	.03	2.00	.03
Accidental Shootings	202	.05	1.00	.01	1.00	.15
<b>Total Firearm Deaths</b>	6,432		3.00		3.00	

SIR data also indicate incidents involving students in possession of a gun. In PY 2000, there were 21 incidents where a student was found in possession of a gun. This number dropped sharply in PY 2001, to 9 incidents.

3. Recommendations. Job Corps gun violence figures, and the trend among the age group of our students, require center staff and students to be trained in recognizing the risk factors for youth violence, including gun violence, and identifying the warning signs of violent behavior. For an excellent resource to develop this part of the center's program, request *Warning Signs*, a pamphlet developed by the American Psychological Association (APA) and MTV (Music Television) to provide youth with information about identifying the warning signs of violent behavior and how to get help if they recognize these signs in themselves or their peers. This pamphlet can be downloaded or ordered from the APA's website at <http://helping.apa.org/warningsigns>.

In addition, training should be provided on intervention, including student training in negotiating and conflict avoidance skills. This training should contain interactive role-playing scenarios that emulate the situations where students will likely encounter violence. TEAP staff should discuss how drugs and alcohol can influence social interactions in ways that increase the likelihood of violence.

Prevention education materials on issues such as safe storage, behavior around firearms, and limiting access to firearms should be made available on center. Center staff should review Information Notice 02-13, dated November 13, 2002, which contains detailed information on reducing the risk of suicidal behavior in Job Corps.

The community should be part of the center's violence prevention program to make it easier to obtain resources and volunteers. Include government agencies, volunteer organizations, clubs, professional groups, and private organizations. Consider forming a center youth violence prevention board and invite community organizations to join.

For additional information and strategies to assist with designing a violence prevention program on center, please review the following resources:

<sup>1</sup> National data is from the CDC National Vital Statistics Report, Death: Final Data for 2000. The national data is for the period January 2000 through December 2000 for 15-24 year olds. CDC data for 2001 is not yet available. 2000 Census data was used to obtain the total 15-24 population for the year 2000.

- **National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center:** [www.safeyouth.org](http://www.safeyouth.org)

This site provides information on prevention and intervention programs, publications, research, and statistics on violence committed by and against children and teens.

- **Common Sense About Kids and Guns:** [www.kidsandguns.org](http://www.kidsandguns.org)

This site provides a clearinghouse of information to educate the public about the risk of unsupervised access to guns by children and teens.

- **National Center for Injury Prevention and Control:** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc>

This site provides numerous youth violence resources and publications.

- **Join Together Online:** <http://www.jointogether.org/gv/help/youth/resource/>

This site provides links to youth gun violence resources.

- **Physicians for Social Responsibility:** <http://www.psr.org/pocketgun2.pdf>

This site offers *Counseling Patients on Gun Violence Prevention: A Pocket Guide for Physicians and Nurses*, a publication designed to help medical professionals educate their patients about gun violence.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Direct any inquiries to Barbara Grove, RN, at (202) 693-3116, or email to [BGrove@doleta.gov](mailto:BGrove@doleta.gov).

Attachment