

## Childhood Trauma and Injury

# Protecting Our Kids from Guns

We all want a safe and healthy environment for every kid. But our children are increasingly growing up in an environment of gun violence and fragile youth mental health. At Stanford, we are committed to creating a safer world in which every child can grow and thrive.

### A Brighter Future: Stanford Targets Trauma Reduction

Stanford Medicine Children's Health seeks to prevent childhood trauma. As the most comprehensive pediatric trauma center in Northern California, **we are also leading the way through trauma prevention research, education, and community outreach.**

Stephanie Chao, MD, the medical director of Stanford's pediatric trauma program and a pediatric surgeon, is spearheading the effort. Her research has shown that firearm deaths in children and teens are about twice as common in states with the most

lenient gun laws compared to states with the strictest regulations. However, she recognizes that legislation alone is not enough.

Dr. Chao wants to address this public health crisis by working with K-12 school district officials to explore co-creating age-appropriate curricula to instruct students about gun risks and safety. School programs can be a powerful catalyst for changing behavior across the country and across generations.

**"My ultimate goal is to put myself out of business as a pediatric trauma surgeon."**

—Stephanie Chao, MD

**#1** Guns are the top cause of death in youth, surpassing vehicle accidents for the first time in 2020

**6,152** U.S. kids and teens killed or injured in 2022 by guns



## Opportunity for Impact

Philanthropy can make a difference in kids having safe and healthy lives. Connect with us to:



### Drive research that creates smarter laws

Philanthropy can deepen and expand our research into state-level “child access prevention” laws that are most effective in boosting safe gun storage and owner responsibility.



### Change the generational mindset

Donors can help us create gun safety curricula for schools by bringing together school districts, community groups, mental health experts, physicians, parents, and others. We can help shape how future generations view guns and ultimately decrease America’s demand for gun ownership.



### Support our mission to reduce injury

Gifts will expand our trauma care capabilities. Endowed funding for a medical directorship in pediatric trauma and injury will allow Dr. Chao to launch a major holistic program. Gifts will support specific projects and enable us to increase our research and clinical staff who focus on pediatric trauma and injury.



### Make Stanford a recognized leader in injury prevention and research

Philanthropy would allow Stanford to become a leading site for pediatric injury prevention and research. It would bring together researchers and enable community outreach. Interventions would be driven by evidence-based research to create lasting change.

**Together, we can create fundamental change. Find out how you can create a path toward a safer future for kids.**



## OUR LEADER IN EXPANDING SAFETY FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES



In addition to gun safety, **Stephanie Chao, MD**, is leading the way in improving child abuse detection.

One in seven American kids experiences child abuse and neglect, but our system of detection is flawed. Dr. Chao’s research has shown that racial and ethnic minorities are over-represented among child abuse cases reported to child protective services and receive differing treatment while in the hospital. Over-identification may needlessly tear apart families. But missing cases can result in escalating injuries and even death.

To broaden the safety net for all kids, Dr. Chao seeks to make hospital screening for child abuse **universal** and **objective**. Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford created a system to screen injured kids through software that detects risk factors for abuse in a patient’s electronic medical record. Dr. Chao partnered with EPIC Systems, the nation’s largest provider of electronic medical records, to develop a screening tool that can be adopted by most U.S. hospitals.

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