

Position Statement on Homicide Prevention and Gun Control

Retained by the Board of Trustees, December 2017

Retained by the Assembly, November 2017

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 1993

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“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Position:

In view of the increasing violence in our society and the fact that homicide deaths are now a significant contributor to national death rates, and

In view of the particular relationships of firearms to homicide and personal injury with the resultant threat to life and security, adding to fears and stresses in a crowded urban society, and

In view of the need to reinforce individual and group sanctions against the use of violence as a social instrument, behavioral mode, or adaptational pattern, as psychiatrists have done with drug abuse, suicidal actions, and antisocial behavior,

The American Psychiatric Association recommends that strong controls be placed on the availability of all types of firearms to private citizens.