

Preventing Violence in America: A Commitment from Health Professionals ENDORSEMENT

From the Commission for the Prevention of Youth Violence
December 2000*

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2000

We in the health professions pledge to make violence prevention one of our highest priorities. While we cannot do this alone, it is essential that those of us dedicated to the health of children, youth, and families now join with other in reducing violence in homes, communities, and schools. As scientists and humanitarians, we will incorporate into our clinical and advocacy efforts everything possible to contribute to the violence prevention movement. As part of this effort we resolve to:

- **Be involved in the community**

We will increase our participation in community-based coalitions and programs to prevent violence and seek to enhance the physical and mental health status of children and adolescents in the community.

- **Put violence prevention into practice**

We will implement violence screening and response protocols to identify children, youth, and adults at-risk for violence, including identification of abuse-related injuries, and provide them with appropriate intervention. We will also talk with young patients and their parents about the potential hazards of firearms, alcohol and other drugs, and exposure to violence at home and in the community.

- **Become educated about violence prevention and intervention**

As part of our professional development, we will seek education and training on the diagnosis, comprehensive treatment and prevention of problems associated with alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. We will learn to provide culturally competent and supportive guidance and education to family members at risk for or involved in violence. In addition, we will become informed about local resources and referral services for victims and witnesses of violence and family members at risk of harm.

- **Advocate for violence prevention**

We will work with local, state, and federal policy-makers to increase resources dedicated to a comprehensive and coordinated public health approach to violence prevention.

* The Commission for the Prevention of Youth Violence: American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; American Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Pediatricians; American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine; American Medical Association; American Medical Association Alliance; American Nurses Association; American Psychiatric Association; American Public Health Association; US Department of Health and Human Services.



The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society, founded in 1844, whose 40,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional illnesses and substance use disorders.

The American Psychiatric Association

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