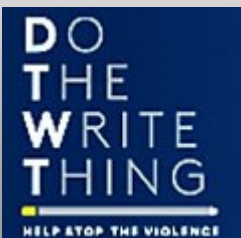




Students Pledge To Do the "Write" Thing To End Violence

"I don't remember everything that happened when I was 3, but I can recall one certain night. My mother was sprawled out in the middle of the floor and coated with blood, and my father had dozens of beer bottles. He was breaking the beer bottles and using the sharp parts of the broken glass to cut into her. He had a belt and was whacking her with it over and over. I will never forget that night. Every time I wake up, I see that memory in my head. It's a never-ending nightmare."



[Write Thing](#)



More than 60 percent of children surveyed were exposed to violence, crime, or abuse within the past year, either directly (as victims) or indirectly (as witnesses)—many in their own homes. Repeated exposure to trauma and violence can disrupt brain development and increase the risk of serious illness, psychological issues, and dangerous behavior later in life.

DEFENDING CHILDHOOD

PROTECT HEALTH THRIVE

California Auditor Blasts Oversight of Psychotropic Medications for Foster Youth

by [Jeremy Loudenback](#)
August 25, 2016

A report from California's state auditor found that children in the state's foster care system were prescribed psychotropic medications without proper oversight from the counties responsible for their care.

In response to a request from the California Joint Legislative Audit Committee about the use and oversight of these powerful medications, the office of the California State Auditor reviewed 80 case files for 80 foster children in Los Angeles, Madera, Riverside, and Sonoma Counties and analyzed existing statewide data.

Nearly 12 percent of California foster children were prescribed psychotropic medications during the fiscal year 2014-15, according to an analysis of state data by the state auditor's office. By comparison, studies suggest that around 4 to 10 percent of children who are not in the child-welfare system are prescribed those medications.

[Read More](#)



THE EMPOWER YOUTH PROGRAM

The exploitation of minors is an alarming reality in the United States, and it comes in many forms: Bullying has evolved into an issue with often severe consequences. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by age eighteen. And the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the U.S. is part of a thirty-two billion dollar criminal industry. Perpetrators of crimes of sexual exploitation view schools as a prime location to recruit new pimps and lure new victims.