



Child Access to Guns

- **Gun violence is one of the top three causes of death in American youth.**ⁱ
 - **Child Gun-Related Deaths:**
 - According to the Children's Defense Fund, 2,694 children and teens died from guns in the United States in 2010.ⁱⁱ
 - 1,773 homicide gun deaths among children and teens
 - 749 suicide gundeaths
 - 134 accidental gun deaths
 - 38 deaths of undetermined intent.
 - 15,576 children and teens were injured by guns in 2010.ⁱⁱ
 - In 2010, gun-related injuries caused 6570 deaths among youth 1 to 24 years old: 18 deaths a day.
 - In a 2009 study of injury deaths of kids ages 15 to 19—from homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury—more than 1 in 4 were gun related;
 - For children younger than 20, nearly 1 in 5 deaths were gun related.ⁱⁱⁱ
 - **Children, Guns, and Suicide:** Suicide is a leading cause of death for kids ages 15-19; guns are the most common method used.^{iv}
 - Firearm availability plays a large role in increasing risk.^v The odds are particularly high if the gun stored at home is kept loaded and/or unlocked.^{vi}
 - More than half of youth who commit suicide with a gun obtained the gun from their home, usually a parent's gun.^{vii}^{viii}
 - Of all methods used for attempting suicide, firearms are the most lethal, with an approximate 90% mortality rate.^{ix}
- **How do children gain access to firearms?**
 - **Guns in the Home:** Children obtain guns most often from within their own homes.^x
 - In fact, of 37 school shootings in 26 states, the attacker got the gun from his or her own home or that of a relative more than 65% of the time.^{xi}
- **Presence of firearms in homes with children:**
 - **Homes with Loaded and Unlocked Guns:** One third of US households with children under the age of 18 contain firearms.^{xii}
 - Nearly 2 million of these children live in homes where guns are kept loaded and/or unlocked.^{xiii}
 - One fifth of gun owners with children under 18 store a gun loaded; more than one third store one unlocked; nearly 1 in 10 store a gun loaded and unlocked.^{xiv}

- In homes with adolescents ages 13-17, firearms were left unlocked 41% of the time.^{xv}
 - Research cited in a 2013 Children’s Defense Fund report^{xvi} found:
 - Over 40% of gun-owning households with children store their guns unlocked.^{xvii}
 - 22% of children with gun-owning parents handled guns in their homes without their parents’ knowledge.^{xviii}
 - A study by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center found that 39% of children interviewed knew the location of their parents’ guns and 22% said they had handled the guns despite their parents reporting otherwise.^{xix}
 - **Guns in the home increase risk of homicide:** A gun in the home makes the likelihood of homicide 3 times higher^{xx} and suicide 3-5 times higher.^{xxixii}
 - **Keeping unlocked weapons at home increases the risk of accidental gun injuries:** A gun in the home makes the likelihood of accidental death 4 times higher.^{xxiii}
 - In one study, more than half of unintentional firearm deaths occurred while children played with a loaded gun.^{xxiv}
 - In nearly half of cases, the shootings occurred in the home of the victim.^{xxv}
 - More than 90% of the time, there was no adult present.^{xxvi}
- **Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home:**
 - **Keep Guns Locked and Unloaded:** Keeping guns locked and unloaded, and storing guns separate from ammunition has protective effects of better than 70%.^{xxvii}
 - The American Pediatric Society recommends the use of trigger locks, lock boxes, personalized safety mechanisms, and trigger pressures that are too high for young children.^{xxviii}
- **Marketing of Firearms to Children:**
 - **Guns Designed for Children:** The gun industry promotes the sale of child sized guns for kids.^{xxix} Examples of such practices include:
 - Giving firearms, ammunition and cash to youth groups, such as Boy Scouts and 4-H clubs;
 - Marketing an affordable military-style rifle for “junior shooters” and sponsoring semiautomatic-handgun youth competitions.^{xxx}
 - The NRA 2013 Annual Meeting included a “Youth Day,” on-premises sale of weapons marketed for kids, and an official NRA youth magazine.
 - **Marketing guns to children has deadly consequences:**
 - Among recent examples, is the heart-breaking accidental shooting of a 2 year old girl by her 5 year old brother as he played with his child-sized rifle, a gun marketed with the slogan “My First Rifle,” and sold by major retailers.
- **Legislation to Prevent Child Gun Deaths in the Home:**
 - **Lack of Child Access Prevention Laws:** There are currently no child access prevention laws at the federal level or in New York State.

- **Child access prevention (CAP) laws:** impose criminal liability on adults who negligently leave firearms accessible to children or otherwise allow children access to firearms.
- **CAP laws save lives:** Research shows that CAP laws reduce accidental shootings of children by as much as 23 percent^{xxxii} and they reduce suicides of adolescents by 8 percent.^{xxxii}
- **New State Laws Needed:**
 - **New York Children Killed with Guns:** 1,192 children and teens in New York were killed with guns from 2000-2010.
 - In 2010 alone, 116 New York children and teens were killed with guns.ⁱⁱ
 - **Proposed Child Access Prevention Legislation:** NYAGV is working to enact new gun safety laws in New York State that require child access prevention (CAP) and safe storage of firearms.
 - NYAGV supports New York Assembly bill A-03941, the Children’s Weapon Accident Prevention Act, which “creates crimes of failure to store a weapon safely in the first and second degrees, aggravated failure to store a weapon, and criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the first and second degrees and directs the commissioner of education to develop a weapons safety program.”

ⁱNational Center for Injury Prevention and Control, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web-Based Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2009, for national, regional, and states (May, 2012). Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html.

ⁱⁱChildren’s Defense Fund, Protect Children, Not Guns 2013: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/protect-children-not-guns-2013.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid

^{iv} National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. See above.

^v Wiebe DJ. Homicide and suicide risks associated with firearms in the home: a national case-control study. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2003;41(6):771–782; . Miller M, et al, The association between changes in household firearm ownership and rates of suicide in the United States, 1981-2002. *Inj Prev.* 2006;12(3):178–182

^{vi} Brent DA, et al, Firearms and adolescentsuicide. A community case-control study. *Am J Dis Child.* 1993;147(10):1066–1071; Brent DA, et al, Suicide in adolescents with no apparent psychopathology. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry.* 1993;32(3):494–500

^{vii} Johnson, Renee M., Catherine Barber, Deborah Azrael, David E. Clark, and David Hemenway. 2010. “Who Are the Owners of Firearms Used in Adolescent Suicides?” *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior* 40(6):609-11.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3085447/>

^{viii} Grossman, David C., Donald T. Reay, and Stephanie A. Baker. 1999. “Self-inflicted and Unintentional Firearm Injuries Among Children and Adolescents: The Source of the Firearm.” *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 153(8):875-8.

<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=347593>

^{ix} Elnour AA, Harrison J. Lethality of suicide methods. *Inj Prev.* 2008;14(1):39–45

^x Johnson RM, et al, Are household firearms stored less safely in homes with adolescents? Analysis of a national random sample of parents, *Arc Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2006;160(8):788-792. doi:10:1001/archpedi.160.8.788

^{xi} US Secret Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury, An Interim Report on the Prevention of Targeted Violence in Schools 6 Oct. 2000.

^{xii} Johnson RM et al, Firearm ownership and storage practices, U.S. households, 1992-2002. A systematic review. *Am J Prev Med.* 2004 Aug;27(2):173-82.

^{xiii} Okoro, CA et al, Prevalence of household firearms and firearm storage practice in the 50 states and the District of Columbia: findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002 *Pediatrics* 2005;116e370-e376

^{xiv} WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System). Atlanta, see above

^{xv} Ibid

^{xvi} Children’s Defense Fund, *Protect Children, Not Guns 2013*: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/protect-children-not-guns-2013.pdf>

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http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/reprints/2005/RAND_RP890.pdf
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- ^{xxvi}Ibid
- ^{xxvii}Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries. *JAMA.* 2005;293(6):707-714
- ^{xxviii}American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: *Firearm-Related Injuries affecting the Pediatric Population.* AAP website
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/10/15/peds.2012-2481.full.pdf+html>
- ^{xxix}<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/27/us/selling-a-new-generation-on-guns.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>
- ^{xxx}Ibid
- ^{xxxi}Cummings, Peter, David C. Grossman, Frederick P. Rivara, and Thomas D. Koepsell. 1997. "State Gun Safe Storage Laws and Child Mortality Due to Guns." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 278(13):1084-6; and Hepburn, L., D. Azrael, M. Miller, and D. Hemenway. 2006. "The Effects of Child Access Prevention Laws on Unintentional Child Firearm Fatalities, 1979-2000." *The Journal of Trauma* 61(2):423-8.
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