



## CHILDREN AND GUNS IN NEW YORK

**Gun violence is the second leading cause of death among American children and teens aged 0-19.** A child is killed or injured every thirty minutes.<sup>1</sup>

**Gun deaths.** In 2010, 2,694 kids (aged 0-19) were killed by guns in the US. 116 children died from gun violence in New York State.<sup>2</sup>

**Unintentional shootings.** Each year in New York State an average of 210 children aged 19 and under are treated in a hospital because of an unintentional firearm injury; 75 seriously enough to be hospitalized. Two children die each year because of an unintentional firearm incident.<sup>3</sup>

A New York Times review found accidental gun deaths of children are seriously under-reported.<sup>4</sup>

**Nonfatal gun injuries.** In 2011 in New York State there were 389 nonfatal firearm injuries among children and youth aged 0-18.<sup>5</sup>

Nearly 2 million American children live in homes where they have easy access to loaded or unlocked guns – in rural, suburban and urban neighborhoods. In New York, 38% of gun owners reported some form of unsafe storage.<sup>6</sup>

### HOW CAN WE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN?

**A New York State CAP Law:** New York has some of the strongest gun laws in the nation. But it has no Child Access Prevention (CAP), also called **Safe Storage**, law. New York requires locks with all gun sales, but only requires their use in households where individuals live who have been convicted of a crime, involuntarily committed, or subject to an order of protection.

We advocate a New York State law requiring that all guns be locked or stored safely unless they are under the **immediate possession or control** of their owner, i.e., on the person or within easy reach. A strong CAP law would impose criminal liability upon gun owners who leave guns accessible to children or other unauthorized persons.

**ASK:** Meanwhile, when your child visits his or her friends, you can ask: “Are there any guns in the home?” and, if so, “Are they locked?”

*Useful websites:* [www.nyagv.org](http://www.nyagv.org); [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) (see the report *Protect Children, Not Guns, 2013*); [www.cpyv.org/programs/ask/parents/what-is-the-ask-campaign](http://www.cpyv.org/programs/ask/parents/what-is-the-ask-campaign).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/protect-children-not-guns-2013.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury\\_prevention/children/fact\\_sheets/birth-19\\_years/firearm\\_injuries\\_birth-19\\_years.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/children/fact_sheets/birth-19_years/firearm_injuries_birth-19_years.htm)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/29/us/children-and-guns-the-hidden-toll.html>

<sup>5</sup> National Inpatient Sample 2011

<sup>6</sup> Firearm Ownership and Safe Storage in New York State, NY State Department of Health, 1996