Child Access to Guns

- **Gun violence is one of the top three causes of death in American youth.**¹
  - **Child Gun-Related Deaths:** 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.²
    - In 2010, gun-related injuries caused 6570 deaths among youth 1 to 24 years old: 18 deaths a day.³
  - **Children, Guns, and Suicide:** Suicide is a leading cause of death for kids ages 15-19; guns are the most common method used.⁴
    - Firearm availability plays a large role in increasing risk.⁵ The odds are particularly high if the gun stored at home is kept loaded and/or unlocked.⁶
    - Of all methods used for attempting suicide, firearms are the most lethal, with an approximate 90% mortality rate.⁷

- **How do children gain access to firearms?**
  - **Guns in the Home:** Children obtain guns most often from within their own homes.⁸
    - 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.⁹

- **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.¹⁰
    - Nearly 2 million of these children live in homes where guns are kept loaded and/or unlocked.¹¹

² Ibid
⁴ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. See above.
- 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.\textsuperscript{12}
- In homes with adolescents ages 13-17, firearms were left unlocked 41\% of the time.\textsuperscript{13}
  - Keeping unlocked weapons at home increases the risk of accidental gun injuries: In one study, more than half of unintentional firearm deaths occurred while children played with a loaded gun.\textsuperscript{14}
    - In nearly half of cases, the shootings occurred in the home of the victim.\textsuperscript{15}
    - More than 90\% of the time, there was no adult present.\textsuperscript{16}

• 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\%.\textsuperscript{17}
    - 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.\textsuperscript{18}

• Marketing of Firearms to Children:
  - Guns Designed for Children: The gun industry promotes the sale of child sized guns for kids.\textsuperscript{19}
    - 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.\textsuperscript{20}
      - 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.

\textsuperscript{12} WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System). Atlanta, see above
\textsuperscript{13} Ibid
\textsuperscript{15} Ibid
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid
\textsuperscript{19} http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/27/us/selling-a-new-generation-on-guns.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0
\textsuperscript{20} Ibid
Legislation to Prevent Child Gun Deaths in the Home:
  o 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.
    ▪ New State Laws Needed: 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.”