



Be SMART is a program developed by Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund to bring together parents and all adults concerned about kids, guns, and safety.

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Susan Brekelmans, Columbus Lead  
Detective Darren Briley, Bexley Police Department

**[BeSMARTforkids.org](https://BeSMARTforkids.org)**

# Welcome!





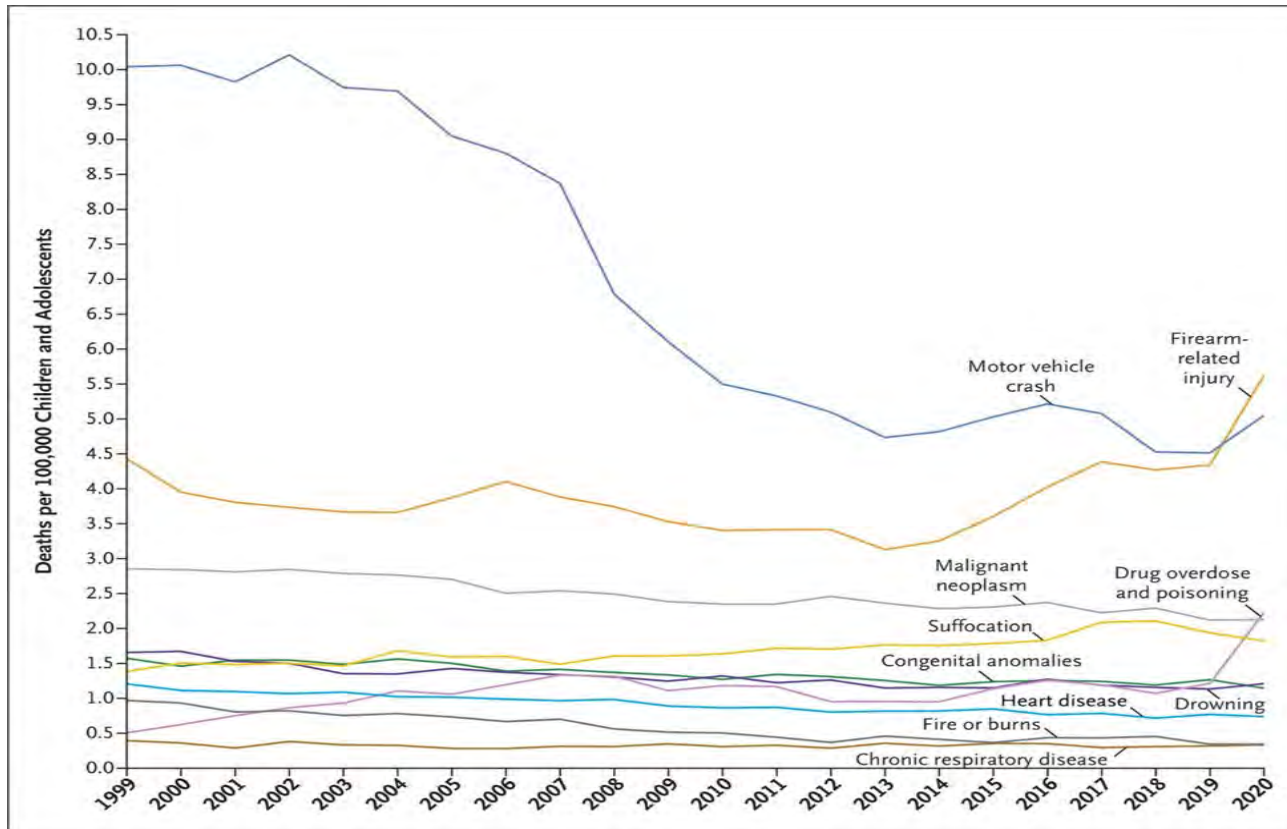
**Be SMART is a program to  
bring together all adults  
concerned about kids,  
guns, and safety.**



- ① We all want kids to grow up happy and healthy.
- ② We each have the right to make responsible decisions about how to protect our homes, families, and communities—including whether or not to have a gun in our home.
- ③ If we can prevent even one child gun death or injury, it's our responsibility to do so.



**Firearms are the LEADING  
CAUSE of death for  
CHILDREN in the US.**



# #NotAnAccident Index

In 2021 there were at least **392 unintentional shootings by children**, resulting in **163 deaths** and **248 injuries** nationally.

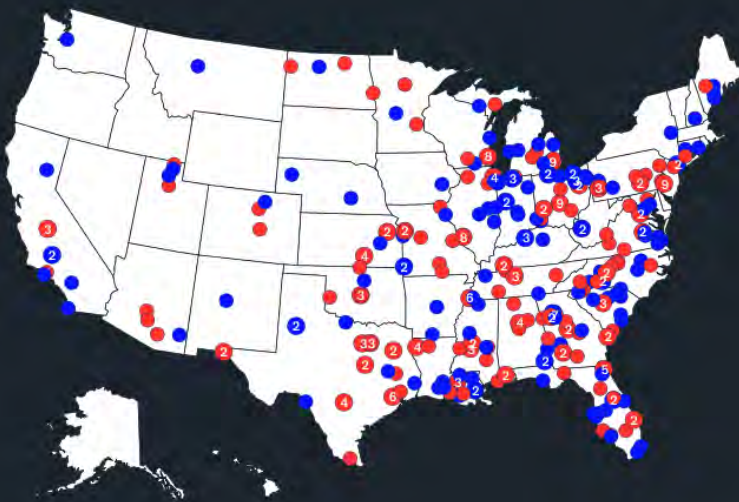
2021

United States (392)

CLICK TO FILTER

[Clear filters](#)

● Death ● Injury



Data is up to date as of: April 5, 2022



**In incidents of gunfire on school grounds, up to 76% of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun(s) they used from their home or the home of relatives or friends.**



# An American Problem

## Local 4 News Detroit

**Sheriff: Oxford High School shooter used 9 mm pistol recently purchased by father**

*Teen accused of shooting, killing 3 students\*,  
injuring 8 other people*

*\*updated 4 dead, 7 injured*

## 6 Action News Philadelphia

**Officials: 3-year-old shot after being left alone in car with gun in Caln Township**

## Newsweek

**Loaded Gun Brought to Elementary School by 7-Year-Old Days After Uvalde:**

*An investigation is underway at a Columbia, South Carolina, elementary school after a loaded handgun was found in the backpack of a 7-year-old student.*

## ABC, Inc., KTRK-TV Houston

**Two teenage boys are in the hospital after being shot in what investigators believe to be a murder-suicide attempt in the Spring area.**

# An Ohio Problem

## Columbus

### **CCS security team looking for solutions after 8<sup>th</sup> gun found in school since September:**

This week, a 16-year-old brought a loaded gun to school at Marion-Franklin High School in southeast Columbus

WSYS: published February 3, 2023

## New Philadelphia

### **Gun and ammo found in Tuscarawas Co. middle schooler's bookbag: Police**

A student was taken into custody after investigators say a firearm was found inside their bookbag Thursday afternoon.

FOX 8: published Feb 2, 2023

## Cleveland

### **2 teenagers injured after shooting inside Garfield Heights McDonalds:**

Two McDonald's employees were injured after accidentally being shot by a co-worker in December.

WOIO: published January 11, 2023

## Meigs County

### **3-year-old shot in Meigs County dies: Meigs County Sheriff Keith Wood tells us that the boy got a hold of a handgun and accidentally shot himself.**

WOWK: published April 8, 2022

# Local Statistics

- Ohio
  - 1,602 – number of people who die by guns in an average year in Ohio (Everytown)
- Cincinnati
  - 78 – gun homicides in 2022 (WCPO, 5/5/23)
- Cleveland
  - 168 - homicides in 2022 (Cleveland.com, 1/24/23)
- Columbus
  - 140 – homicides in 2022 (Columbus Dispatch, 1/1/23)
- Bexley
  - 3 former Bexley students charged with murder between 2020-2022 (Bexley Police Department)

# BE SMART



## Secure

All guns in your  
home and vehicle



## Model

Responsible  
behavior



## Ask

Unsecured guns  
in other homes



## Recognize

The role of guns  
in suicide



## Tell

Your peers to  
Be SMART



# Secure guns in homes and vehicles

- 13 million households with children contain at least one gun
- One study found that the majority of children in gun-owning households knew where the gun was stored
- Store guns locked up and inaccessible to kids
- Hiding a gun is not “securing” a gun

# Columbus police 'absolutely alarmed' about trend of stolen guns from cars

<b>Property #5</b>		
3799 - Ammunition - Other Caliber		
<b>Manufacturer</b>		<b>Model</b>
		N/A
<b>Description</b>		
Armsco		
<b>Property #6</b>		
3713 - Handgun - Semi Automatic		
<b>Manufacturer</b>		<b>Model</b>
Ruger		N/A
<b>Description</b>		
Ruger		

A search of Columbus police reports found nearly every day this month a gun was stolen from a car many of them, unlocked.

Author: 10tv.com

Published: 6:28 PM EDT April 19, 2022

Updated: 6:28 PM EDT April 19, 2022



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### Full-Size Gun Safe

Storage of multiple guns in one place.  
Biometric lock more secure than key  
or passcode.

**\$200-\$2,000**

Prevents access by children  
Prevents access by unauthorized users  
Prevents theft (if secured to a structure in home)  
Enables fast access



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### Lock Box/Locker

Smaller and lighter than safe.  
Biometric lock more secure than key  
or passcode.

**\$25-\$350**

Prevents access by children  
Prevents access by unauthorized users  
Provides secure vehicle storage  
Enables fast access



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### Console/Vehicle Gun Safe

For storage in a vehicle. Biometric lock  
more secure than key or passcode.

**\$50-\$350**

Prevents access by children  
Prevents access by unauthorized users  
Prevents theft (if secured to a structure in car)  
Provides secure vehicle storage  
Enables fast access



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### Gun Case

For home or in-transit storage of one firearm. Uses external lock

**\$10-\$150**

Prevents access by children  
Prevents access by unauthorized users  
Enables fast access



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### Trigger Lock

Locks trigger of single weapon. Never use with loaded gun. May be dismantled with minimal tools and skills, so not as effective with older children and teens.

**\$10-\$75**

Prevents use by small children  
Enables fast access



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### Cable Lock

Cable runs through action of single weapon to prevent firing. Ammunition must be removed for lock use. May be dismantled with minimal tools and skills, so not as effective with older children and teens.

**\$0 - \$50**

Prevents use by small children  
Enables fast access  
\*Often provided free with firearm purchase.





# Model Responsible Behavior

- It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns
- Make it a part of the normal safety conversation you have with your children
- Keep the language simple; for example: "If you see a gun, don't touch it. Tell an adult right away."



# Ask About Unsecured Guns in Other Homes

- Make it a part of your general safety conversation you have when sending your child to any home
- Try email or text
- 4.6 million U.S. children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun

# Be SMART Campaign

## EXAMPLE

He isn't allergic to anything.

One other safety question.  
Do you guys have guns in  
the home? I know kids are  
curious & just want to make  
sure if you do have any that  
they are securely stored.

Screen time is ok? Just in case  
they want to play and we have  
time. If not then that's ok too.  
No guns.

Great! Yes. Video games are ok.



# Recognize the Role of Guns in Suicide

- Most people who attempt suicide do not die—unless they use a gun
- 90% of suicide attempts with a gun result in death—a much higher fatality rate than any other means of self harm
- This contributes to the fact that 41 percent of child suicides involve a gun

# **Guns + impulsive teenagers = tragedy**

**USA Today. Dad gets 5 years probation for gun son used in  
suicide, 2014**

**A survey of High School students found that 20% had seriously considered attempting suicide within the last year.**

**And one study showed that 41% of adolescents in gun-owning households report having “easy-access” to the guns in their home.**



## 2. Suicide

**During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?**

Table 55: Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row during the past year

Response	n	Percent
No	13656	68.23
Yes	6360	31.77
Total	20016	100.00

Note that there are 2618 response(s) with missing values of Felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row during the past year.

**During the past 12 months, did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide?**

Table 56: Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past year

Response	n	Percent
No	16683	84.22
Yes	3127	15.78
Total	19810	100.00

Note that there are 2824 response(s) with missing values of Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past year.

# Signs to look for...

- Prolonged sadness and depression
- Changes in mood or behavior
- Hopelessness
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Withdrawing/Isolation
- Aggression or agitation
- Increased alcohol or drug use
- Talking about killing themselves
- Giving away belongings



# Resources Contact Info

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## National Suicide Prevention Line

1 (800) 273-8255  
(24 hours/day)

## 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

can be reached by calling or texting  
988, or chatting on  
<http://988lifeline.org>



## Trevor Project

*The LGBTQIA+ Youth Suicide  
Prevention Line*

## Trevor Lifeline

1 (866) 488-7386

Text “Home” to 741-741

From anywhere in the United States,  
anytime, about any type of crisis



# Tell Everyone You Know to Be SMART

- Your voice, and all voices are critical. How will you commit to Be SMART today?
- Consider at least THREE people that you want to share the Be SMART message with right now
- Share Be SMART within your community
- Text SMART to 64433 to learn more



BE

SMART

KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.  
SECURE YOUR GUNS.

GUNSAFETY4BEXAR.COM



SHERIFF JAVIER  
SALAZAR  
Bexar County Sheriff's Office

University  
Health System



# Contact Info

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## **Ohio Be SMART Lead**

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## **Columbus Be SMART Lead**

Susan Brekelmans

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## **Bexley Police Department**

Detective Darren Briley

[Dbriley@Bexley.org](mailto:Dbriley@Bexley.org)

**Secure gun storage  
can save lives.**

**TEXT SMART  
TO 644-33**

**to learn how  
you can help.**



[BeSMARTforKids.org](http://BeSMARTforKids.org)

## Speaker's Endnotes

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. Data from 2019. Children and teenagers aged 1 to 17, Black defined as non-Hispanic, number of deaths by known intent (homicide, suicide, unintentional deaths). Age 0 to 1 calculated separately by the CDC because leading causes of death for newborns and infants are specific to the age group.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2015 to 2019. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17, homicide includes legal intervention.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2015 to 2019. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17, homicide includes legal intervention.
4. Azrael D, Cohen J, Salhi C, Miller M. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national survey. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2018; 95(3): 295-304. Study defined children as under the age of 18.
5. Fowler KA, Dahlberg LL, Haileyesus T, Gutierrez C, Bacon S. Childhood Firearm Injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2017; 140(1).
6. Guohua L, et al. Factors Associated with the Intent of Firearm-Related Injuries in Pediatric Trauma Patients. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Med*. 1996; 1160, 1162.
7. Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2005; 293(6): 707-714.
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9. Stolzenberg L, D'Alessia SJ. Gun availability and violent crime: New evidence from National Incident-Based Reporting System. *Social Forces*. 2000; 78(4): 1461-1482.
10. Everytown analyzed data obtained by *The Trace* from 1,054 law enforcement agencies in 36 states and Washington, DC. For the yearly comparison, Everytown narrowed the analysis of local data obtained by *The Trace* to 39 cities in 16 states based on the availability of data for all years between 2006 and 2015. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2UmQHUX>.
11. Baxley F, Miller M. Parental misperceptions about children and firearms. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. 2006; 160(5): 542-547.
12. Hardy, MS. Teaching firearm safety to children: Failure of a program. *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*. 2002; 23, 71-76.
13. Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional injuries. *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2005; 293(6): 707-714.

# Thank You!