

Be SMART:

A Gun Violence Prevention Program

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BeSMARTforKids.org



Be SMART is a program developed by
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
to bring together parents and all adults concerned
about kids, guns and safety.

BeSMARTforKids.org



THE NUMBERS

More than
1,600

**children under the age of 18
are killed with guns in the US
every year—an average
of 5 children every day.¹**

1. CDC, Underlying Cause of Death. 2015-2019.

Firearms kill more children than car crashes, new report finds

- Apr 21, 2022 — "**Firearms kill more children than car crashes**, new report finds: Latest **CDC** data show that **guns** now kill **more children than** any other cause

■ <https://www.sciencedaily.com › releases › 2022/04>

THE NUMBERS

**In incidents of gunfire
on school grounds, up to**

80%

**of shooters under the age of 18
obtained the gun(s) they used
from their home or the homes
of relatives or friends.¹**

1. Everytown, AFT, & NEA, "Keeping Our Schools Safe: A Plan for Preventing Mass Shootings and Ending All Gun Violence in American Schools," 2020.

Ohio Statistics

- Ohio
 - 1,455 - number of people who die by guns in an average year in Ohio (Everytown)
- Cincinnati
 - 94 – gun homicides in 2021 (Fox 19, 4/20/22)
- Cleveland
 - 165 - homicides in 2021 (WOIO, 1/1/22)
- Columbus
 - 204 – gun homicides in 2021 – the city's deadliest year on record (NBC4, 2/8/22)
- Bexley
 - 3 Bexley students charged with murder between 2020-2022 (Bexley Police Department)
 - 1 Bexley student killed by a firearm



COMMON GROUND

- We all want kids to grow up happy and healthy.
- 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.
- If we can prevent even one child gun death, or injury, it's our responsibility to do so.

AN AMERICAN PROBLEM

NBC

*Shooting At
Kentucky High School
Leaves 2 Dead,
At Least 17 Injured¹*

MIAMI HERALD

*Louisa toddler
dead after 4-year-old brother
thought gun was a toy²*

JACKSON FREE PRESS

*A Hunger to Live:
The Struggle to
Interrupt the Cycle
of Violence³*

USA TODAY

*Guns + impulsive
teenagers = tragedy⁴*

1. NBC. Kentucky High School Shooting: Two dead after attack at Marshall County High School, 2018.

2. Miami Herald. 4-year-old thought gun was a toy. Now his little brother is dead, Virginia cops say. 2018.

3. Jackson Free Press. A hunger to Live: The struggle to interrupt the cycle of violence, 2016.

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

#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)

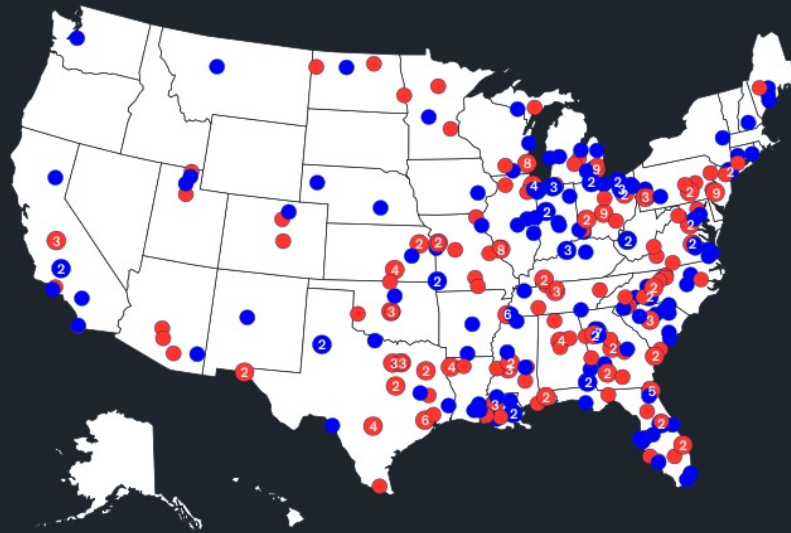


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● Death

● Injury



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

Local News Headlines

3/10/22 – Third grader brings loaded gun to Westwood Elementary School

(Cincinnati, Ohio – WCPO Channel 9)

3/22/22 – 14-year-old girl from Cleveland fights for her life after being accidentally shot in the face

(Cleveland, Ohio - WOIO Channel 19)

3/26/22 – Child shoots 10-Year-Old in Head After Stumbling Upon Unsecured Gun

(Akron, Ohio - Newsweek.com)

4/14/22 – Loaded pistol found in 14-year-old's backpack at Columbus middle school

(Columbus Ohio - WBNS Channel 10)

BE SMART

BE SMART

SECURE

**all guns in
your homes
and vehicles**

MODEL

**responsible
behavior**

ASK

**about
unsecured
guns in
other homes**

RECOGNIZE

**the role
of guns
in suicide**

TELL

**your peers
to Be SMART**



BE SMART

S

**Secure all guns in your
homes and vehicles**

- 13 million households with children contain at least one gun.¹
- One study found that the majority of children in gun-owning households knew where the gun was stored.²
- Store guns locked and unloaded, store ammunition separately.
- Hiding a gun is not "securing" a gun.

1. Azrael D, et al. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national survey. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2018.

2. Baxley F, et al. Parental misperceptions about children and firearms. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. 2006.

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

Property #5		
3799 - Ammunition - Other Caliber		
Manufacturer		
Description	Model	
Ammo	N/A	

Property #6		
3713 - Handgun - Semi Automatic		
Manufacturer		
Ruger		
Description	Model	
Ruger	N/A	

- Columbus, OH Division

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

Guide to Secure Gun Storage Devices

Secure gun storage can be a lifesaver. It can prevent theft and access by children, unauthorized users, and anyone who may pose a danger to themselves or others. The best device for you is the one that is most appropriate for the circumstances in your household.



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

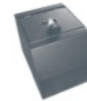


Lock Box/Locker

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



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



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



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



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.






BE SMART

M

**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 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."

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white button-down shirt and blue jeans, talking on a black smartphone. A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, is looking up at her. They are in a room with a blue cabinet and a white chair in the background.

BE SMART

A

**Ask about unsecured
guns in other homes**

- Make it part of your general safety conversation you have when sending your child to a new home.
- Try email or text.
- 4.6 million U.S. children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun.¹

1. Azrael D, et al. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national survey. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2018.

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.





BE SMART

R

**Recognize the role of
guns in suicide**

- Most people who attempt suicide do not die—unless they use a gun.¹
- 90% of suicide attempts with a gun result in death—a much higher fatality rate than any other means of self-harm.²
- This contributes to the fact that 40% of child suicides involve a gun.³

1. Everytown for Gun Safety, *Disrupting Access: Addressing Firearm Suicide in the U.S.* 2018.

2. Conner A, et al., "Suicide Case-Fatality Rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014: A Nationwide Population-Based Study," 2019.

3. CDC, *Underlying Cause of Death, 2015 to 2019.*

THE NUMBERS

**A survey of high school
students found that**

17%

**had seriously considered
attempting suicide
within the last year.¹**

**And one study
showed that**

41%

**of adolescents in gun-owning
households report having
“easy access” to the guns
in their home.²**

1. Kann L, et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States. 2017.

2. Simonetti JA, et al. Psychiatric comorbidity, suicidality, and in-home firearm access among a nationally representative sample of adolescents. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015.

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	22646	74.07
Yes	7926	25.93
Total	30572	100.00

Note that there are 4551 responses 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	26388	86.88
Yes	3984	13.12
Total	30372	100.00

Note that there are 4751 responses with missing values of Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past year.



RESOURCES

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

**call 1-800-273-8255
available 24
hours everyday.**

TREVOR PROJECT

**the LGBTQ youth
suicide prevention line.
Call TrevorLifeline
at 1-866-488-7386.**

TEXT HOME TO 741-741

**from anywhere in the
United States, anytime,
about any type of crisis.**



BE SMART

T

**Tell your peers
to Be SMART**

- Your voice and all voices are critical.
- Research shows that law enforcement, the military, and hunting or outdoor groups are particularly effective at communicating safe storage practices.¹
- Someone hears the Be SMART message every 21 minutes.

1. Crifasi CK, et al. Storage practices of US gun owners in 2016. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2018.

BE SMART

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**the role
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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.
8. Hemenway D, Azrael D, Miller M. Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of gun theft victims. *Journal of Injury Epidemiology*. 2017; 4(1): 11.
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!

Questions?

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