Be SMART:
A Gun Violence Prevention Program

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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
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"
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

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
- 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

Shooting At Kentucky High School Leaves 2 Dead, At Least 17 Injured\(^1\)

Louisa toddler dead after 4-year-old brother thought gun was a toy\(^2\)

A Hunger to Live: The Struggle to Interrupt the Cycle of Violence\(^3\)

Guns + impulsive teenagers = tragedy\(^4\)

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2. Miami Herald. 4-year-old thought gun was a toy, Now his little brother is dead, Virginia cops say. 2018.
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location/Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/10/22</td>
<td>Third grader brings loaded gun to Westwood Elementary School</td>
<td>Cincinnati, Ohio – WCPO Channel 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/22/22</td>
<td>14-year-old girl from Cleveland fights for her life after being accidentally shot in the face</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio - WOIO Channel 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/26/22</td>
<td>Child shoots 10-Year-Old in Head After Stumbling Upon Unsecured Gun</td>
<td>Akron, Ohio - Newsweek.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/14/22</td>
<td>Loaded pistol found in 14-year-old’s backpack at Columbus middle school</td>
<td>Columbus Ohio - WBNS Channel 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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.

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

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 access 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.
  - $50–$80
  - Prevents use by small children
  - Enables fast access

*Often provided free with firearm purchase.*

BeSMARTforKids.org
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.”
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

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.


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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22646</td>
<td>74.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7926</td>
<td>25.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30572</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>26388</td>
<td>86.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3984</td>
<td>13.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30372</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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. 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.


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/2CimQhJ3.


Thank you!

Questions?

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