

CHILD SAFETY & GUNS

What you should know:

**8 CHILDREN
PER DAY**
are unintentionally
shot or killed by a gun (1)



That's an average of
2,920
per year

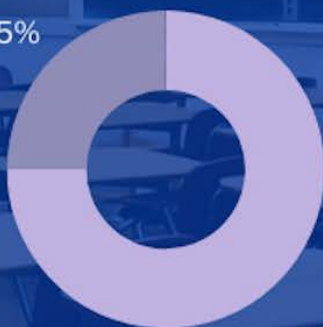
GUNS IN SCHOOLS

On average there are

1,550

incidents of students having
firearms at public schools each
school year.(2)

25%



75%

of guns used in school
shootings come from the
shooter's home or that of a
relative.(3)

75%

IN THE HOME: GUN ACCESS & SAFETY

75%

of 1st and 2nd graders know
where their parents keep their
firearms. (4)



1/3 admitted
handling the
weapons. (4)

4.6 Million

children live in a home with an
unlocked, loaded firearm. (6)

Households that locked both
firearms and ammunition had an

85%

lower risk of unintentional gun
deaths compared to those who
lock neither.(7)

1.1 million

students ages 12–18 reported
having access to a loaded gun
without adult permission. (5)

75%

of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented
with the addition of two devices: a child-proof safety lock
and a loading indicator. (8)



PARENT MISCONCEPTION VS. REALITY

PARENT MISCONCEPTION	REALITY
<i>"My child knows the difference between a real gun and a toy gun"</i>	In 16% of unintentional firearm deaths among children younger than 13 years of age, the gun was mistaken for a toy (9)
<i>"My child wouldn't touch a gun. They know better."</i>	Studies have found that most children will handle a gun if they find one, even if they have been taught not to. (10)

CHILD SUICIDE & GUNS



It is well documented that the risk of teen suicide – the third leading cause of death among 15 to 19-year-olds – increases when there is a gun in the home, even more so when the firearm is kept loaded. (11)



The rate of firearm suicide among children and teens has increased

61%

over the past decade. (12)

More than **80%** of child firearm suicides used a gun belonging to a family member. (13)

Child access prevention laws, and safe storage reduce the risk of adolescent suicide. One found that keeping a gun locked lowers the risk of both unintentional injury and suicide for children and teenagers by

73% (14)

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CHILDREN & EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

How we can ignite change in our communities:

BY THE NUMBERS: CHILDREN & EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

An estimated
3 Million Children
witness a shooting each year. (1)

A study of 7-year-olds in an urban neighborhood found that: (2)

75%
had heard
gunshots

61%
worried some or a lot
of the time that they
might get killed or die.

18%
had seen a
dead body

Race & Exposure: Children in communities of color are exposed to violence at an alarmingly high rate compared to white children.

In Chicago, Hispanic children had a 74% greater likelihood of being exposed to violence, and Black children had a 122% greater chance (3)



EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE: THE IMPACT ON KIDS

Children who have witnessed community gun violence or faced other potentially traumatic events have been found to:



Receive
Lower
Grades in
School (4)



Have More
School
Absences
(4)



Engage in
criminal
behavior as
adolescents
(5)



Abuse
drugs(6)



Suffer from
Impaired
Cognitive and
Social
Development,
Depression, and
PTSD (6)



Experience
Unintended
Pregnancy
(6)

WHY GUN LEGISLATION MATTERS



States with strong gun laws have lower rates of gun deaths. (7)



Of the 10 states with the strongest gun laws, 7 have the lowest rates of gun deaths. All seven have background checks for all gun purchases. (8)

BACKGROUND CHECKS...

Keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Reduce domestic violence homicides.



Since taking effect in 1994, Brady background checks have stopped more than

3 million gun sales to prohibited purchasers including felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous individuals. (8)

In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, **38%** fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners. (9)

CONCEAL CARRY & RIGHT TO CARRY (RTC) FACTS



RTC laws were associated with a **10% higher murder rate** 10 years following the adoption of RTC laws. (10)



"Right to carry" (RTC) states, or those that loosen restrictions on conceal carry permits saw **violent crime rates increase** each additional year RTC laws were in place. (10)

TAKE ACTION!

The American Academy of Pediatrics is urging lawmakers to advance policies to protect children, families & communities from gun violence by calling on lawmakers to:

- Enact universal background check legislation to ensure that those who are most likely to perpetrate gun violence cannot purchase guns.
- Enact comprehensive extreme risk protection orders legislation, which allows family members or law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a person deemed at risk of harming themselves or others.
- Fund gun violence prevention research at \$60 million, with \$35 million for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$25 million for the National Institutes of Health.

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