

## Guns Don't Make Kids Safer

### Protect children from unintentional shootings and firearm suicide

- Every day, eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun.<sup>i</sup>
- 4.6 million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded firearm.<sup>ii</sup>
- *A study found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition had an 85% lower risk of unintentional gun deaths compared to those who lock neither.*<sup>iii</sup>
- More than 75% of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders know where their parents keep their firearms and one-third admitted handling the weapons, contradicting their parents' reports.<sup>iv</sup>
- In 2015, approximately 1.1 million students ages 12-18 reported having access to a loaded gun without adult permission<sup>v</sup>.
- *The U.S. General Accounting Office estimated that 31% of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented with the addition of two devices: a child-proof safety lock and a loading indicator.*<sup>vi</sup>
- 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.<sup>vii</sup> The rate of firearm suicide among children and teens has increased 61% over the past decade.<sup>viii</sup>
- Over 80% of child firearm suicides used a gun belonging to a family member.<sup>ix</sup>
- *Studies show that child access prevention laws, and safe storage in general, 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%.*<sup>x</sup>
- On average, there are 1,550 incidents of students having firearms at public schools each school year.<sup>xi</sup> 75% of guns used in school shootings come from the shooter's home or that of a relative.<sup>xii</sup>

**In Connecticut, keeping firearms securely stored when there are children in the home is the law!**

Ask “Is there is a gun in your house” before sending your children (of any age) to a friend, caretaker or relative's home, or the home where they babysit. If there are guns present, ask where they are kept. They should be stored locked and unloaded, with ammunition locked and stored separately from the firearm. If you still don't feel comfortable, offer to have the child come to your home instead.

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- i [Key Gun Violence Statistics](#), Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
  - ii Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national [survey](#). Journal of Urban Health. 2018
  - iii [Study](#): The impact of minimum age and child access prevention laws on firearm-related youth suicides and unintentional deaths. The Social Science Journal. 2015
  - iv Gun Violence: [Facts and Statistics](#), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
  - v [Indicators](#) of School Crime and Safety, National Center for Education Statistics
  - vi Gun Violence: [Facts and Statistics](#), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
  - vii Policy [Statement](#): Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012
  - viii Fact [Sheet](#): Firearm Suicide in the U.S., Everytown for Gun Safety, Aug 30, 2018
  - ix [Study](#): Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides? Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior. 2010
  - x Policy [Statement](#): Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012
  - xi [Digest](#) of Education Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics
  - xii Most Guns Used in School Shootings Come From Home, Wall Street Journal, Apr 5, 2018