

CAGV Fact Sheet

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CT
Against
Gun
Violence

The Deadly Dangers of Lax Firearm Storage

Danger to Children

- 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.ⁱ The rate of firearm suicide among children and teens has increased 61% over the past decade.ⁱⁱ
- Over 80% of child firearm suicides used a gun belonging to a family member.ⁱⁱⁱ
- *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%.^{iv}*
- Every day, eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun.^v
- *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.^{vi}*
- 4.6 million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded firearm.^{vii}
- *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.^{viii}*
- More than 75% of 1st and 2nd graders know where their parents keep their firearms and one-third admitted handling the weapons, contradicting their parents' reports.^{ix}
- In 2015, approximately 1.1 million students ages 12-18 reported having access to a loaded gun without adult permission^x.
- On average, there are 1,550 incidents of students having firearms at public schools each school year.^{xi} 75% of guns used in school shootings come from the shooter's home or that of a relative.^{xii}

Danger of Stolen Firearms

- On average, a gun is stolen in the U.S. every two minutes^{xiii}. More than 238,000 guns were reported stolen in the U.S. in 2016^{xiv}, although because of underreporting, the total number of gun thefts is much higher, estimated at 380,000 each year^{xv}. It is estimated that in 2015 more than 2,600 firearms were stolen in Connecticut.^{xvi}
- Circumstantial evidence suggests that most gun thefts are from owners who leave them unsecured in unlocked homes or cars^{xvii}.
- Theft is a key source of guns to the illegal market that are later used in the commission of crimes. Studies show that a majority of guns recovered from crime scenes were stolen. One such study of guns recovered by Pittsburgh police found that 80% of the suspects used guns owned by someone else^{xviii}.

- i Policy [Statement](#): Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012
- ii Fact [Sheet](#): Firearm Suicide in the U.S., Everytown for Gun Safety, Aug 30, 2018
- iii [Study](#): Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides? Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior. 2010
- iv Policy [Statement](#): Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012
- v [Key Gun Violence Statistics](#), Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
- vi [Study](#): The impact of minimum age and child access prevention laws on firearm-related youth suicides and unintentional deaths. The Social Science Journal. 2015
- vii Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national [survey](#). Journal of Urban Health. 2018
- viii Gun Violence: [Facts and Statistics](#), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
- ix Gun Violence: [Facts and Statistics](#), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
- x [Indicators](#) of School Crime and Safety, National Center for Education Statistics
- 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
- xiii [Stolen Guns in America](#), Center for American Progress, Jul 25, 2017
- xiv [Missing Pieces](#), The Trace, Nov 20, 2017
- xv [Whose guns are stolen?](#) The epidemiology of Gun theft victims, Injury Epidemiology, Apr 10, 2017
- xvi [Stolen Guns in America](#), Center for American Progress, Jul 25, 2017
- xvii [Stolen Guns in America](#), Center for American Progress, Jul 25, 2017
- xviii [Study confirms what gun rights advocates have said for a long time about crime](#), Miami Herald, Jul 27, 2016