



**INSTITUTE FOR FIREARM
INJURY PREVENTION**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Family Guide to Home Firearm Safety

There are a number of important safety considerations for parents, guardians, grandparents, or anyone who has children or teens visit their home in regards to firearms. Children and teens are at higher risk of suicide, unintentional injury or death, or homicide when firearms are present in the home. In particular, teens often struggle with depression or other mental health issues, which may also increase the risk of firearm injury. Learn the facts about firearm safety and measures you can take to keep your family safe.

**1 in 3 U.S. homes
with children under 18
has a firearm.¹**

45% of these homes
have an unlocked firearm.¹



**Over 19,000 children and
teens* are injured or killed
by firearms each year.³**

That equals 148 children
or youth a day.³

**In 2021, 53% of all youth
suicides involved a firearm.³**

**3 in 4 children age 5 to 14
know where firearms are
kept in their home.²**

**Unintentional shootings
account for 12% of all
firearm deaths in
children under 15.³**

Children as young as 3 years old
are strong enough to fire a handgun.⁴

**In 2 out of 3
cases when a
child or youth
used a family
member's
firearm to
commit suicide,
the firearm was
kept unlocked.⁵**



* Youth, children and teens are defined as ages 0-19 unless otherwise defined

What are safe storage options?



If there are guns in your home, make sure all guns are stored unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked separately.

Take Apart Firearm.



Lock Box.

Store ammunition separately. Only adults should have access.

(\$20-\$100+)



Cable Lock.

Do not install around the trigger.

May be available free from local police. Go to projectchildsafe.org/safety/get-a-safety-kit for more information.

(\$7-\$20)



Gun Safe.

Store ammunition separately.

(\$80+)



Trigger Lock.

Do not use on a loaded gun.

(\$6-\$35)



If you are in crisis, or know someone who is struggling or in a crisis:

Call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 to speak with a crisis counselor.



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Sources

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