

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.'

45% of these homes have an unlocked firearm.¹



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

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

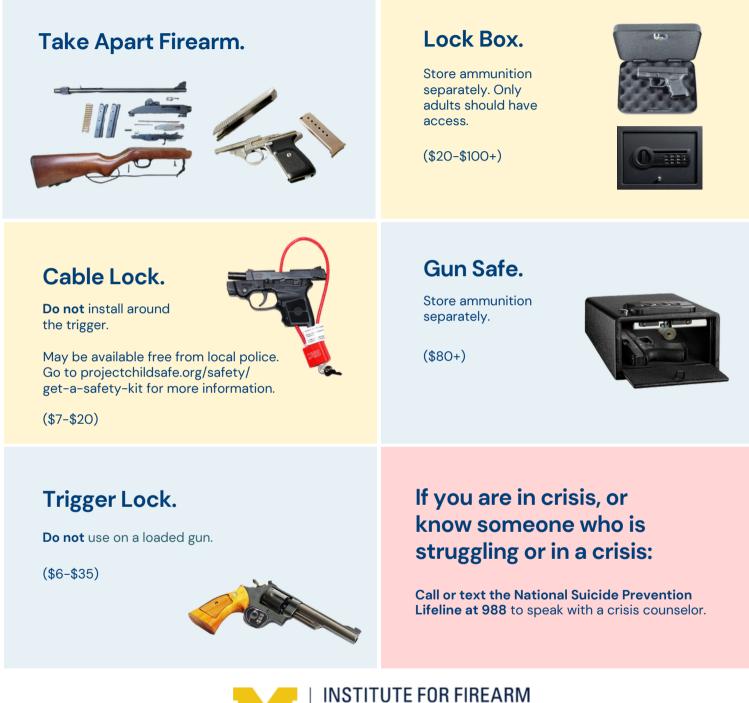
That equals 148 children or youth a day. ³

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

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

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.





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Sources

1. Schuster, M. A., Franke, T. M., Bastian, A. M., Sor, S., & Halfon, N. (2000). Firearm storage patterns in US homes with children. American Journal of Public Health, 90(4), 588-594. 2. Baxley, F., & Miller, M. (2006). Parental misperceptions about children and firearms. Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine, 160(5), 542-547. 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2021, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icdIO-expanded.html on May 11, 2023 9:43:20 AM 4. Naureckas, S. M., Galanter, C., Naureckas, E. T., Donovan, M., & Christoffel, K. K. (1995). Children's and women's ability to fire handguns. Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine, 149(12), 1318-1322. 5. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. (2022). Youth access to firearms: Source of firearms in youth suicides. Accessed June 2022 from https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/means-matter/youth-access/