



Safe Storage of Firearms

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Secure Storage of Firearms

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Moderated by: **Stacey Pecenka**

Safe Kids Cumberland Valley, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

A Brief Note...

I want to recognize that the topic we'll be talking about in today's session is difficult to share. It may be difficult to hear as well.

Please know that you can step away at any time if the information becomes overwhelming or for any reason.

BE
SMART

S

Secure

All guns in your home and vehicle

M

Model

Responsible behavior

A

Ask

Unsecured guns in other homes

R

Recognize

The role of guns in suicide

T

Tell

Your peers to Be SMART



Kelsey Gastineau
Pediatric Hospitalist in Nashville, TN
Moms Demand Action Volunteer
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①

We all want kids to grow up **happy and healthy**.

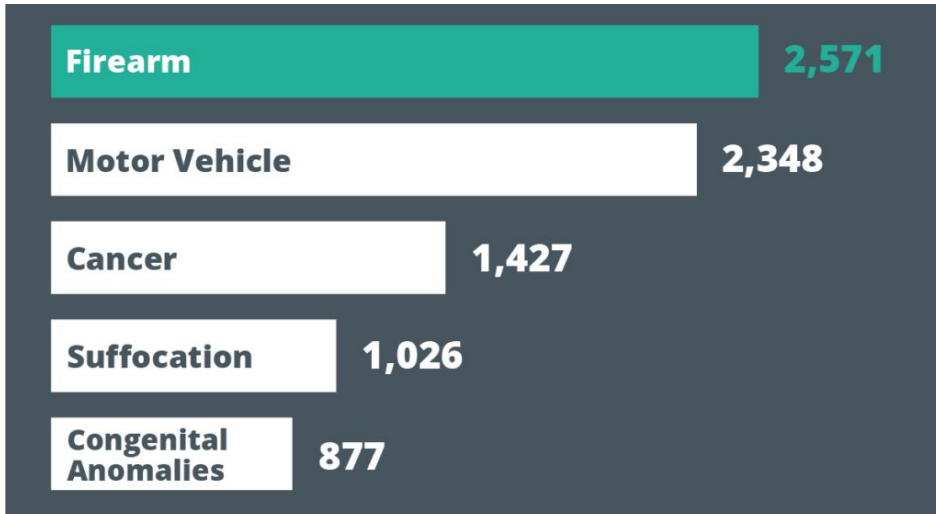
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We have the **right to make responsible decisions** about how to protect our homes, families, and communities — including whether or not to have a gun in our home.

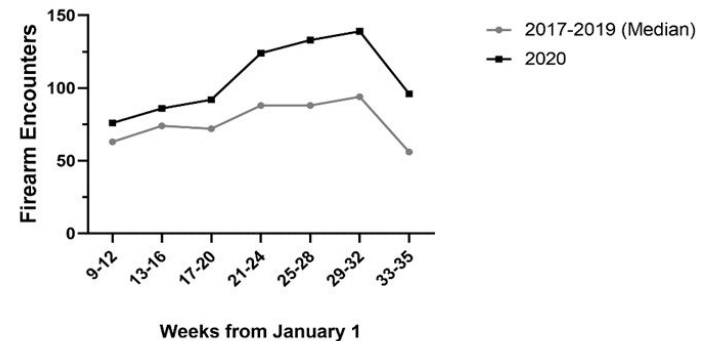
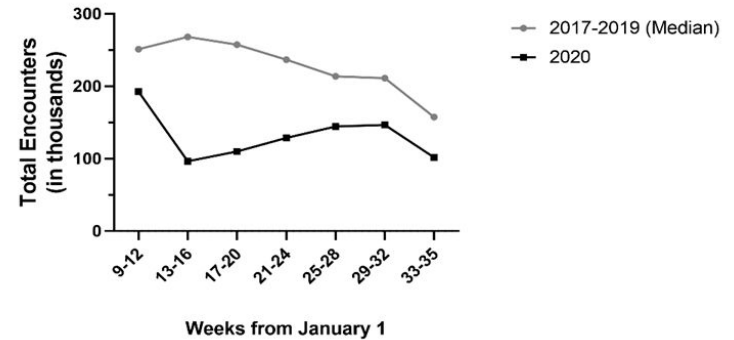
③

If we can prevent even one child gun death or injury, it's **our responsibility** to do so.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens.



Encounter Volumes 2017-2020



The Toll of Gun Violence on Children

- Each year, nearly 1,200 children (0–17) are killed by gun homicide. That’s 3 children a day.
 - Black children are particularly impacted: they are 14 times more likely than their white peers to die by gun homicide.
- Each year, more than 700 children (0–17) die by firearm suicide.
- Almost every day, a child under 18 somewhere in the US comes across a loaded gun and unintentionally shoots themselves or someone else, often a sibling or friend over for a playdate.
- Approximately 3 million children witness a shooting each year.
- Black and Latinx children in cities are exposed to violence at higher rates than white children.
- Schools and communities often lack resources to help children heal.



2-year-old boy dead after accidental shooting near Nellis Air Force Base



Michigan 2-year-old dies in accidental shooting after leaving 'unsecured firearm'



14-year-old Detroit boy accidentally shot during social media challenge



12-year-old accidentally shot after 'accidental snooting in Nashville, police say



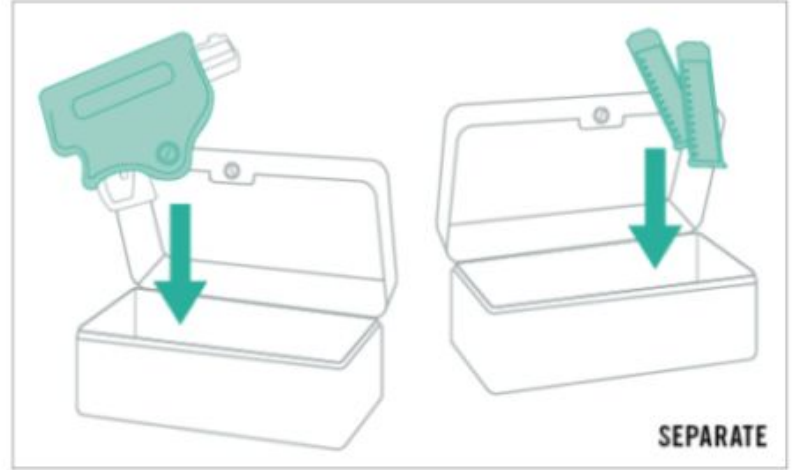
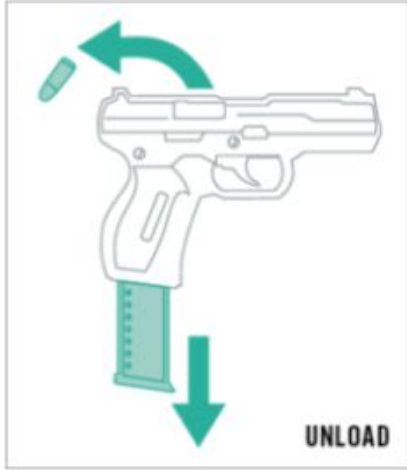
4-year-old accidentally shot by 4-year-old brother in Houston home



2-year-old accidentally shot, killed pregnant mom with family gun: Police

These tragedies are not accidents, because they are entirely preventable with secure firearm storage.

Assume children and teens can find guns. Store firearms unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition.



Love data? Visit...

[EveryStat.org](#)

- Interactive state, county, & national data on gun deaths, injuries, and costs by intent
- Downloadable state PDFs to distribute

[BeSmartForKids.org](#)

- Tips for talking about secure firearm storage
- Printable resources you can distribute
- Social graphics you can share

[EverytownResearch.org](#)

- Downloadable datasets:
 - **#NotAnAccident Index**
 - Gunfire on School Grounds
 - Mass Shootings
- Research reports on all aspects of gun violence
- Gun Law Rankings of state firearms policy



Nakida McDaniel

Associate Director of Community
Engagement at Everytown for Gun Safety
Threads, Facebook, Twitter: @everytown

School safety: Research and our data have revealed four critical lessons...

1) Those committing gun violence on school grounds are very often connected with the school.

*NYPD analyzed five decades of active school shooters and found that **3/4 were current or former students.***

2) Guns used by school shooters very often come from the shooter's home or that of other close family.

*Secret Service analyzed nearly 40 years of incidents and found **roughly 75% of guns came from the home of a parent or close relative.***

3) School attackers nearly always exhibit advance warning signs.

*Secret Service studied incidents from 2008–2017 and found **100% percent of perpetrators showed concerning behaviors.***

4) Gunfire on school grounds has a disproportionate impact on students of color.

Two in three incidents occurred in majority-minority schools.

School and community gun violence is preventable.

We don't have to keep living this way, and our children, educators, neighbors and community leaders most certainly don't have to keep dying this way.

The best way to stop gun violence from impacting the communities we love is by **stopping it from taking place in the first place.**

Where do you start?



Bro.

Junior just told me that he found your gun the other day.

Nah.

It's hidden.

Is it in the shoe box on the second shelf on your closet?

Next to the old console?

You gotta lock that up, man.

It's good to be sure
Secure firearm storage protects your family
besmartforkids.org

BE SMART



Hey, how's Jayden? He seems really down lately.

I'm worried about him...

He just comes home and shuts himself in his room.

He won't talk to me.

I'll talk to him.

Thanks so much. He always listens to you.

Hey, I spoke with Jayden. He mentioned your firearm.

Do you have it locked up?

It's good to be sure
Secure firearm storage protects your family
besmartforkids.org

BE SMART



OMG

A kid in Jerome's class got caught with a gun in his backpack.

Oh no. Is everyone OKAY?

Yes, thankfully everyone is safe. He's in a lot of trouble though.

The kid took it from his grandma's nightstand.

She kept it in her nightstand???

This is why everyone should lock up their guns.

It's good to be sure
Secure firearm storage protects your family
besmartforkids.org

BE SMART



Bro.

Junior me acaba de decir que encontró tu pistola el otro día.

Noooo.

Está escondida.

¿Está en una caja de zapatos en la segunda tablilla de tu closet?

¿Al lado de la consola vieja?

Tienes que guardar eso bajo llave, socio.

Es bueno estar seguro
Mantener las armas bajo llave protege a tu familia
besmartforkids.org

BE SMART

In School...

Foster a **safe and trusting school climate** for families so that they feel safe reaching out to staff and administrators

Create **crisis intervention programs**, a collaborative approach that involves everyone (administrators, teachers, counselor, partner organizations) to respond when a student may be in crisis with treatment, mental health supports, etc.



Build a **culture of secure gun storage.**

BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SCHOOL

HOME



CARPOOLS



LAW ENFORCEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH

**Community Engagement Efforts:
There's a role for everyone to play!**

Join us!

- Text the word SMART to 644-33
- www.everytown.org
- www.everytownresearch.org
- Twitter / Threads: @Everytown
- facebook.com/BeSMARTforKids.org



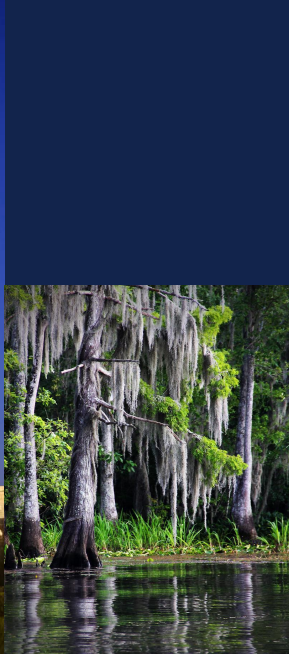
Be SMART Firearm Secure Storage Campaign in Louisiana

*Utilizing partnerships to prevent
child firearm-related deaths*

PREVCON, JULY 2023

Kristen Sanderson, MPH

Violence & Injury Prevention Manager
Bureau of Family Health, Office of Public Health
Louisiana Department of Health



Child Death Review

Comprehensive and
multidisciplinary review of
unexpected child deaths at the
state and local levels in order to
prevent future deaths

ESTABLISHED:

Louisiana in 1992

COORDINATED BY:

Louisiana Department of Health,
Office of Public Health,
Bureau of Family Health (BFH)

MANDATED FOR:

Unexpected deaths of children
under 15 years of age

The Importance of Child Death Review



Infant and Child Mortality Rates

Louisiana has higher rates of infant and child mortality than almost all of the states in the US



Actionable Recommendations

Complete and timely information on child fatalities is essential for creating actionable recommendations to prevent future fatalities



All Level Prevention Efforts

Complete information allows the committee to address prevention efforts at all levels i.e. provider, community, systems-level

Data to Action

Identifying opportunities for prevention



Local Level

Recommendations shared with the regional Community Action and Advisory Teams (CAATs) and local-level injury and violence prevention partners

State Level

State CDR Panel focuses on recommendations addressing state and system level prevention and policy

Work Groups

Topic-specific workgroups routinely formed to further identify opportunities for prevention

- *Pool Safely* Initiative to decrease child drownings
- *Give Your Baby Space* statewide campaign that teaches parents and caregivers the safest ways for babies to sleep

A young child with long brown hair, wearing a yellow shirt, is shown from the side, interacting with three toy fire safes. The safes are white with different colored doors: red, white, and blue. The child is using a key to unlock the red door. The safes are arranged in a row on a light-colored surface.

Secure Firearm Storage

Child Firearm Deaths

The state and local teams kept reviewing cases of children who accessed an unsecured firearm and either intentionally or unintentionally hurt themselves or others

Protecting Children

State CDR Panel wanted to help communicate to families the important of securely storing their firearms to protect children

A Statewide Problem

Lake Charles



14-year-old shot Saturday night was student at Moss Bluff Middle School

Bienville Parish



3-year-old dies after 'accidental discharge' of gun left within his reach

Shreveport



Caddo coroner identifies teenager killed Sunday in backseat of father's car

Baton Rouge



Father facing charges after 4-year-old accidentally shot himself, authorities say

The Problem: Child Fatality Data

In most cases of suicides and unintentional or undetermined firearm fatalities, children got access to an unsecured gun in their own home or a friend or relative's home

2019-2021

51 homicides

14 unintentional

13 suicides

All due to firearms

63% of child homicides involved firearms

50% of child suicides involved firearms

2021

39 firearm-related deaths for children 14 and under

56% increase from 2020

The Problem: Youth and Teen Data



2021

9.9% carried a gun at least one day in the last year

26.9% Louisiana high school students “seriously considered attempting suicide”

17.6% of Louisiana high school students reported they “actually attempted suicide” –higher than the U.S. average of 10.2%

154 firearm-related deaths for youth 18 years and younger

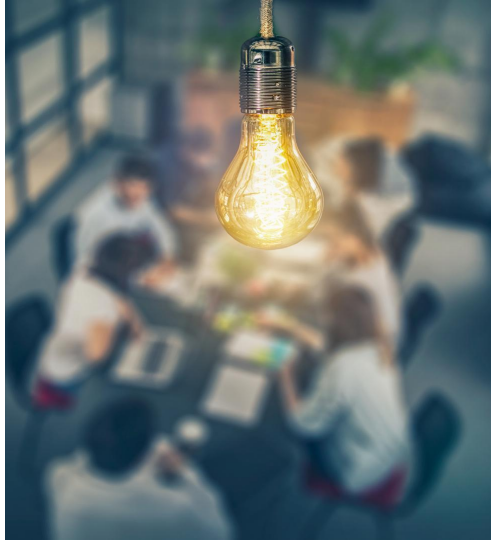
39% increase from 2020

Secure Storage

Workgroup

Formed in 2021

Regular meetings to
identify plausible,
realistic solutions



**LA Chief of Police
Association/local law
enforcement**

LA Department of Insurance

Attorney General's Office

Office of Behavioral Health

Department of Education

**Department of Children and
Families Services**

**Consumer Product Safety
Commission**

Woman's Hospital

BFH Injury Team

Campaign Development



Literature Review

Literature review on best practices for communicating about storage of firearms

Existing Programs

Researched existing national materials geared towards parents and gun owners that focused on secure storage
–BeSMART and Nat'l Shooting Sports Foundation -Project Child Safe

Audience Testing

Audience testing with Louisiana gun owners about what gun owners thought were important elements of these campaigns as well as “turn off” elements

Things to Consider

- Southern state
- Large percentage of gun owners
- Best messengers
- Funding



Be SMART Louisiana

- Agreed to create materials that are specific to Louisiana
- Materials design and web landing page were created by the Be SMART Communications Department with no cost to Louisiana
- Received initial funding from the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund to print materials.

BE SMART

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KEEP KIDS SAFE: SECURE YOUR FIREARMS

Spread the Word



BeSMARTforkids.org/louisiana



Louisiana Chapter
INCORPORATED BY LOUISIANA
American Academy of Pediatrics
ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CHILD LANGUAGE



FIREARM INJURIES ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR KIDS UNDER 18 IN LOUISIANA.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Every year in the U.S. nearly **350** children under 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else—sometimes fatally.
- From 2015-2020, **149** Louisiana kids and teens ages 10-17 died by suicide. **82** of these deaths involved a gun.
- In 2019, **17.7%** of Louisiana high school students “**seriously considered attempting suicide.**”
- The same year, **15.2%** of Louisiana high school students reported they “**actually attempted suicide**”—much higher than the U.S. average of **8.9%**.

FIREARM RESPONSIBILITY

As a Louisiana gun owner, you're responsible for securely storing your recreational firearms. If you have guns for personal protection, then safe handling is especially critical. Choose a storage option that fits your needs AND limits access for curious kids. Make sure to unload, lock and store your firearms carefully to prevent deadly accidents and keep your family safe. You can use a locked safe to keep firearms out of children's reach and to prevent theft.

Remember: Secure storage is important for the firearms in your home and vehicle. Securing guns helps avoid accidents, but it also prevents theft. Properly storing firearms keeps them out of the wrong hands and limits crime in your community.

Learn more at
BeSMARTforkids.org/louisiana

FIREARM RESPONSIBILITY

As a Louisiana gun owner, you're responsible for securely storing your firearms—including those for personal protection. Carefully unloading, locking, and storing firearms can prevent deadly incidents and keep your family safe.

Remember: Secure storage is important for the firearms in your home and vehicle. **About 380,000 firearms are stolen from private gun owners every year.** One quarter of these are taken from cars. Properly storing firearms keeps them out of the wrong hands and limits crime in your community.



TALK TO YOUR FAMILY ABOUT GUN SAFETY

Kids will be kids. Curious children won't always make smart decisions. If they find and use an unsecured gun without following the rules of firearm safety, then one bad decision could be fatal.

Remember that talking to kids about firearms is only a precaution. Choose a storage option that fits your needs and limits access for curious kids.

EASY OPTIONS FOR SECURE STORAGE

There are many ways to store and protect your firearms when not in use. Options start as low as \$10. Storage devices are available at most firearm retailers, and many new gun purchases include a cable lock.

Storage options include: cable locks; gun cases; lock boxes; electronic lockboxes; or gun safes.



Channels of Communication

Champion base of credible messengers and distribution partners



**Firearm Safety
Instructors**

**Gun
Range/ Shop
Employees**



Veterans

Law Enforcement



**Louisiana
Chapter of the
American
Academy of
Pediatrics**



**Hunting/
Outdoor
Organizations**

**Wildlife and
Fisheries**

Campaign Progress

Spring 2022



Phase 1:

Print Materials

Pamphlets

Post Cards

Posters



Distribution Efforts

What types of organizations are receiving materials?

- Health Departments
- Gun Retailers & Ranges
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Law Enforcement
- District Attorneys/Judges
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Child Welfare & Home Visitation
- Medical & Behavioral Healthcare
- Pediatrician Offices
- Transportation Services
- Community Education & Events
- Parish Government
- Emergency Services & Preparedness
- Childcare Providers
- Injury Prevention Partners
- Coroners' Offices

To date,

18,153 postcards

1,092 posters

7,198 pamphlets

have been distributed around Louisiana.

Regional Success: New Orleans

- **Partnership** between Children's Healthcare New Orleans and New Orleans Health Department
- Utilizing Louisiana's **Be SMART** Campaign
- Focus: child firearm deaths + general gun violence
 - Importance of **appropriate messengers**
- **Beyond printed** materials
 - Community Distribution Events + Education
 - Media Campaign
 - ER Screening
 - Evaluation
- Key to Success:
 - Multiple sources of **funding**
 - Healthcare **champion**



Children's Hospital
New Orleans
LCMC Health



BeSMARTforkids.org

Regional Success: New Orleans

January – June 2023:

- 11 Community-based events
277 gun safes distributed
- 3 CHNOLA give-away days
185 gun safes distributed

Community Distribution Events

- Gun Safe Distribution with focus on locations experiencing gun violence
- Gun Safe Distribution at CHNOLA campus

Media Campaign

- Website with gun safe request form, secure storage and gun safety
- Educational materials distributed to partners that interact with parents
- June media campaign (radio and TV ads)

Institutional Integration

- Gun safety questions added into ER screening
- Gun safety materials at pediatric clinics
- Gun safety education in Orleans Public Schools

Evaluation

- Data collection on campaign impact
- Follow-up surveys to people who receive gun safes

Next Steps

**Long-term
funding for
printed materials**

**Increase partner
engagement/
re-engagement**

**Larger scale
outreach +
Regional Efforts**

Evaluation

Contact Info:

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Violence & Injury Prevention Manager,
Bureau of Family Health

Campaign resources, images and printing
materials can be found at:

BeSMARTforKids.org/Louisiana



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