

# GUN

# SAFETY

## Tips from CHOP experts



### CHILDREN ARE SAFEST IN A HOME WITHOUT A GUN.

If you have a gun in your home, keep children safe by following this advice:

- Store all guns unloaded, locked and out of sight.
- Store all bullets separately and keep them locked and out of sight.

There are many options to store your gun safely. Keep keys and combination codes hidden and secure.



Cable lock



Gun safe

### TALK ABOUT GUN SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY.

- If your child sees a gun, tell them to not touch it, move away from the area and tell a grown-up immediately.
- Ask family members and friends about guns in their homes and how they keep their guns safe and out of reach before your child goes to visit.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Firearms are the leading cause of death for kids ages 1–19 in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- Playing with a gun is the most common cause of accidental gun deaths among children.<sup>2</sup>
- Three out of four kids ages 5–14 know where guns are kept in the home.<sup>3</sup>
- A 3-year-old is strong enough to pull the trigger of a handgun.<sup>4</sup>
- Most cases of childhood suicide involve a family member's unlocked gun.<sup>5</sup>
- Children may not know the difference between a toy gun and a real gun.

For more information on keeping kids safe around guns, please visit [chop.edu/gun-violence-facts](http://chop.edu/gun-violence-facts).

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Goldstick JE, Cunningham RM, Carter PM. Current Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States. *New England Journal of Medicine*. April 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Fowler KA, et al. Childhood Firearm Injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2017;140(1).

<sup>3</sup>bradycampaign.org/our-impact/campaigns/keep-kids-and-families-safe

<sup>4</sup>healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx

<sup>5</sup>Youth suicide: Findings from a pilot for the National Violent Death Reporting System. *Suicide Prevention Resource Center & Harvard Injury Control Center*. 2007.

Watch a video demonstrating how to use gun locks and lock boxes to secure various types of firearms.



Get tips on how to ask about firearms when children spend time in other people's homes.



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