



What the data tells us...

- 42% of adults in the United States, and 46% in rural areas, report a gun in their household.¹
- In rural communities, firearm-related hospitalization rates for children aged 5-14 years are largely due to unintentional injuries.²
- In rural communities, death from firearm injury is largely related to suicide in the adolescent and young adult population² and the most common cause of overall firearm mortality for all ages.³
- Between 2012-2014, nearly 4000 children between the ages of 0 and 17 died from gun injuries. 82% were boys.³
- Having a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide by 500%.⁵

Kids are curious...

In a landmark study conducted by emergency physicians from Emory University, 64 boys ages 8-12 were divided into groups and observed through a two-way mirror in a room where 3 guns were hidden - 2 brightly colored squirt guns and one .38 semi-automatic dismantled handgun with a sensor that indicated when the trigger depressed.

Prior to the time the boys entered the room, parents were surveyed as to whether their children had been educated about guns and whether they seemed interested in guns.

- 75% of the boys found the real hand gun. 50% who found the real hand gun were unsure if the real gun was real or fake. 50% who found the gun pulled the trigger.
- Parents' assessment of interest did not correlate with who pulled the trigger; prior gun safety instruction did not deter pulling of trigger.
- Only one boy prevented the others in his group from touching the real gun and left the room to get an adult and he was teased a great deal by his peers.⁶

Impact on youth suicide...

- In the United States, firearms are the most common method of suicide in youth.^{7,8}
- In Maine, youth suicide data from 2000-2012 reports over 50% of suicide attempts were the result of firearms.⁷ Of those firearm suicide attempts 80-85% were lethal.⁸
- In the United States, firearms are the most common method of suicide in youth.^{7,8}
- Heavy alcohol consumption and access to a firearm increases odds of suicide by 85 times.⁵
- Impulsivity, rather than mental health problems, most often linked to youth suicide with a firearm. (153 survivors of a suicide attempt were interviewed in a 2005 study in Houston)
 - 25% contemplated suicide for less than 5 minutes before making attempt.
 - 25% contemplated suicide for 5-19 minutes before making attempt.

- Only 13% contemplated suicide for **more than a day** before making their attempt.¹⁰
- Youth who attempt suicide are less likely to have disclosed intent to commit suicide, or made a previous intent also suggesting a highly impulsive act at a low point.⁹
- 9/10 of those who attempt suicide will not go on to complete suicide. Most will get treatment and go onto live full lives.¹⁰
- 75% of firearms used in a suicide or suicide attempt come from the residence of the victim or a friend or relative. (The vast majority from the victim's residence).¹¹
- Storing ammunition locked and in a separate place and keeping guns locked and unloaded has been shown to decrease the odds of suicide and unintentional injury among youth.¹²
- States with safe storage laws have seen close to a 10% drop in youth firearm suicide rates.¹³

School Shootings

- Approximately 2/3 of firearms used in school shootings were obtained from parents.¹⁴
- Between 2013-2015 there have been 154 reported school shootings.
- More common in suburban and rural areas.¹⁴

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