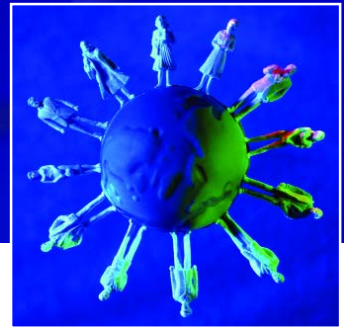




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GUN SAFETY FACTS

In 2003, there were 30,242 gun-related deaths in the United States¹ and 11,829 of these were homicides.² In comparison, in 2001, firearms were used in 6 homicides in New Zealand, 56 in Japan, 96 in Great Britain, 168 in Canada and 331 in Germany.³

In 2003, the highest firearm injury (all intent) death rate in the U.S. across all age-gender-race groups occurred among males aged 85 and older (37.79/100,000), followed by males aged 20-24 (37.09/100,000).¹

In 2003, 2,849 children and teens were killed by gunfire. That is, one child every three hours, eight children everyday, and more than 50 children every week.¹

For every firearm fatality in the U.S. in 2003, there were an estimated two non-fatal firearm injuries.¹

About 35% of U.S. homes have at least one firearm.⁴

Approximately one-third of families with children (11 million homes) keep at least one gun in the home.⁵

More than 33% of firearms kept in homes are not stored safely.⁶

Nearly all childhood unintentional shooting deaths occur in or around the home. 50% occur in the home and forty percent occur in the home of a friend.⁵

Recent studies in a large metropolitan area reported child access as a contributing cause of 14% of all unintentional shootings and that half of boys ages 8 to 12 who found a real handgun were unsure whether or not it was a toy.⁵

Safe storage laws have reduced unintentional firearm-related deaths among children age 14 years and under by an average of 23%.⁵

In 2003, Americans for Gun Safety reported that of the 22 national gun laws that exist, 20 of them are not actively enforced. Furthermore, only 2% of federal gun crimes were actually prosecuted.⁷

The National School Boards Association estimates that more than 135,000 guns are brought into U.S. schools each day.⁸

Firearm and Suicide

Firearm-related suicide accounted for 57% (17,108) of all firearm-related deaths in 2002 (30,242).^{1,9}

In 2002, suicide by firearms was the most common method for both men and women, accounting for 54% of all suicides.¹⁰

The presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide fivefold.¹¹

In 2003, of all age-gender-race groups, white men over the age of 85 had the highest fatality rate by firearm-related suicide (39.95/100,000).¹ Among black males, those aged 20-24 had the highest fatality rate by firearm-related suicide (11.89/100,000).¹

The use of a firearm in a suicide attempt results in death 92% of the time.¹²

Firearm and Homicide

Firearm-related homicide accounted for 39% (11,829) of all firearm-related deaths in 2002 (30,242).¹

In 2002, of all age-gender-race groups, black males aged 20-24 had the highest death rate by homicide (105.53/100,000).¹

In 2003, firearms killed more 15 to 20 year-olds (3,336) than drunk driving crashes (2,283).^{1,13}

Parental Attitude

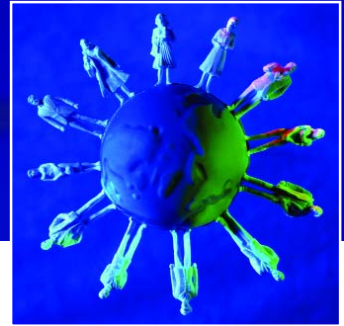
Research demonstrates that 14% of parents who do not own a gun, 23% of parents who own a gun, and 35% of parents who own a gun and do not store it safely trust their children with a loaded gun.¹⁴

Unrealistic perceptions of children's abilities and behavior are common factors. Parents frequently misperceive a child's ability to gain access to and fire a gun, to distinguish between real and toy guns, to make good judgments about handling a gun, and to consistently follow gun safety rules. They think: "My kids know better!"¹⁵

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GUN SAFETY PREVENTION TIPS

Safety Tips^{16,17}

- Always store a gun unloaded. Keep bullets in a separate place from the gun.
- Lock up firearms and bullets, and hide the keys or combination.
- Always treat a gun as if it were loaded.
- Teach children not to touch any gun, to move/stay away from the location of the gun, and to tell an adult immediately whenever they see a gun.
- Before your child goes to a friend's home for a play date, ask other parents if there is a gun in their home. If so, how and where is it stored?
- Do not keep firearms in the home if someone has a history of depression or threatens suicide.

Safety Essentials for Responsible Gun Owners¹⁷

- Record the serial number of your gun.
- Practice safe gun storage (see tips listed below).
- Take a gun safety course and learn how to use and care for your gun.
- Know your gun's standard safety features and use them!
- Do not allow children or teens to handle or use a gun without parental or professional supervision.
- Always handle your gun as if it were loaded.
- Load your gun only when you are ready to fire it.
- Clean and inspect the gun regularly and carefully. Check your gun twice before you clean it to be sure it is unloaded.

When cleaning your gun, never leave the area. It should be in your view at all times.

Dispose of ammunition properly. Contact your local police for assistance in disposing of ammunition - DO NOT throw it in the trash.

Safe Gun Storage¹⁷

It is your responsibility to keep your gun out of the hands of those who, deliberately or accidentally, may misuse it.

Lock your gun. Guns should be stored unloaded, uncocked and securely locked out of sight or reach to minimize the risk that they will be used by unauthorized persons such as children, teens, burglars, or the mentally ill or emotionally disturbed.

Remember that when the magazine is removed from a semi-automatic handgun, there still may be a bullet in the chamber. Check the chamber to be sure it is empty.

Keep the keys to the lock(s) that secure your gun(s) on your key chain and with you at all times. Keep keys out of reach of children and teens.

Store ammunition locked up separately from your gun and away from moisture and heat.

Do not store your gun or ammunition with valuables that are likely to be stolen.

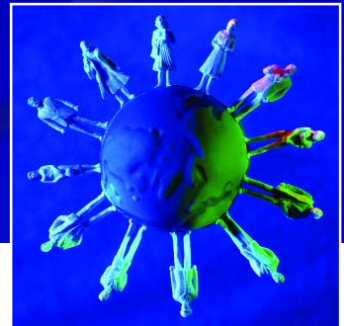
Do not store your gun under a bed, mattress or in an unlocked bedroom drawer

Emergency nurses have an obligation to educate other health professionals and the public on healthy and safe lifestyles. In emergency departments, much of the traumas that are seen are preventable. It is often impossible to repair the broken bodies and shattered lives that result from trauma. A general goal of the ENA Injury Prevention Institute /EN CARE is to reduce preventable injuries and deaths by raising awareness, providing education, and promoting healthy lifestyles.



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GUN SAFETY

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