

Gun Safety

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/gunsafety.html>

One-third of all families in America that have children also have guns, and more than 40 percent of them don't keep their guns locked up. Children younger than eight can't tell the difference between a real gun and a toy, and 3-year-olds are strong enough to pull the trigger on a real gun. Children and teens commit more than half of all unintentional shootings.

Here are some things you can do to keep yourself and your family safe.

- Teach children that they shouldn't touch guns and that if they see a gun, to leave it alone and tell an adult.
- If your children play at another home, talk to the parents about gun safety.
- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Always store guns unloaded.
- Lock guns in a rack or safe, and hide the keys or combination.
- Store ammunition away from guns and keep it locked.
- Don't keep guns in your home if someone in your family has a mental illness, severe depression, or potential for violence.

U.S. Naval Safety Center

Start Here

- Gun Safety [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/gun_safety.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Overviews

- Household Safety: Preventing Injuries from Firearms [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/safety_firearms.html] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/padres/safety_firearms_esp.html]

Latest News

- Boys with Guns At High Risk of Assault [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_138489.html] (07/08/2013, HealthDay)
- Many Suicidal Kids Have Access to Guns at Home [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_136552.html] (05/06/2013, HealthDay)

Specific Conditions

- Lessons in Shooter Safety [<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/wise/pages/shooter.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Raising kids, not murderers. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23634516?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: A piece of my mind. The NRA let me down. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23532239?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Violence prevented: the anatomy of a near miss. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23513704?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Gun Safety – see more articles [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=>

((firearms[majr]+AND+safety[majr])+OR+(wounds,gunshot/pc+NOT+(military+medicine[mh]+OR+emergency+service,hospital[mh])))AND+humans[mh]+AND+english[la]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+5+Years%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus]

Organizations

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<http://www.cdc.gov/>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]
- Injury Free Coalition for Kids [<http://www.injuryfree.org/>]
- Safe Kids Worldwide [<http://www.safekids.org/>]

Statistics

- Disarming Facts about Firearm Injuries [<http://www.emergencycareforyou.org/YourHealth/InjuryPrevention/Default.aspx?id=26082>] (American College of Emergency Physicians)

Children

- Gun Safety [http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/er/gun_safety.html] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/kid/en_espanol/seguridad/gun_safety_esp.html]
- Parent's Firearm Safety Checklist [<http://www.injuryfree.org/resources/FirearmInjuryPreventionChecklist.pdf>] (Injury Free Coalition for Kids) - PDF
- Reduce the Risk of Gun Injury [<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/pages/Reduce-the-Risk-of-Gun-Injury.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Teenagers

- Someone at School Has a Weapon. What Should I Do? [http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/bullying/weapon_school.html] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/seguridad/weapon_school_esp.html]
- Teen Suicide and Guns [<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/emotional-problems/pages/Teen-Suicide-and-Guns.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Child Safety [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childsafety.html>]
- Safety [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/safety.html>]
- Teen Violence [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/teenviolence.html>]
- Safety Issues [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/safetyissues.html>]

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