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# FIREARM SAFETY RESOURCE GUIDE

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## Introduction

A firearm injury is a gunshot wound or penetrating injury from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile, such as a handgun, rifle, or shotgun. Injuries from air- and gas-powered guns, BB guns, and pellet guns are not considered firearm injuries as these weapons do not use a powder charge to fire a projectile. Deaths due to firearms account for more than one-quarter of all injury-related deaths among U.S. children ages 0–19. On average, annually over 4,600 U.S. children die from firearms.<sup>1</sup> Firearm injuries are classified as intentionally self-inflicted (suicide), assault (homicide), unintentional (accidental firing without intention), legal intervention (injuries inflicted by the police or other law enforcement agents acting in the line of duty), or undetermined intent.<sup>2</sup> See the sidebar for more information on each type of firearm injury.

Among U.S. children ages 0–19 years, firearm injury death rates increased from 3.1 per 100,000 in 2014 to 5.5 in 2023. In the three-year period between 2021 and 2023, among children 0–19 years, there were 9,131 firearm homicides, 3,917 firearm suicides, and 454 deaths due to unintentional shootings, accounting for approximately 98% of firearm-related deaths in this population. Firearm-related deaths are more common among 10–19-year-olds (9.8 per 100,000 in 2023) than among 0–9-year-olds (0.6 per 100,000 in 2023).<sup>3</sup>

Firearm injury poses an economic burden on society and affects infants, children, and adolescents, their families and communities. Children and youth who are exposed to gun violence experience lasting emotional scars, with some developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. Gun violence can also negatively impair childhood brain development.<sup>4</sup>

### **There are many types of firearm injuries, which can be fatal or nonfatal:**

**Assault** includes firearm homicide or nonfatal assault injury from a firearm.

**Self-Inflicted** includes firearm suicide or nonfatal self-harm injury.

**Unintentional** includes fatal or nonfatal firearm injuries that happen while cleaning or playing with a firearm or other incidents of an accidental firing without evidence of intentional harm.

**Legal Intervention** includes firearm injuries inflicted by the police or other law enforcement agents acting in the line of duty (e.g., firearm injuries that occur while ensuring safety, maintaining order, or arresting or attempting to arrest someone). The term legal intervention is a commonly used external cause of injury classification and does not indicate the legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

**Undetermined Intent** includes firearm injuries where there is not enough information to determine whether the injury was intentional.

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2025) [2021–2023] Available from URL: <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/>.

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, July 5). Firearm Injury and Death Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/about/index.html>

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2025) [2021–2023] Available from URL: <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/>.

4 Holloway K, Cahill G, Tieu T, Njoroge W. Reviewing the Literature on the Impact of Gun Violence on Early Childhood Development. *Curr Psychiatry Rep.* 2023;25(7):273–281. doi:10.1007/s11920-023-01428-6

Proven strategies to prevent firearm-related injuries to children and youth include ensuring the safe storage of firearms, focusing prevention efforts on the people and places most likely to be affected, and removing firearms from the home if your child is experiencing a mental health problem or life crisis.

The Children's Safety Network has produced this resource guide to provide useful firearm safety resources to help state, jurisdiction, and local health departments and their partners expand and enhance their prevention efforts. This resource guide is divided into five sections: Organizations, Prevention Resources, Legislation, Publications, and Data Sources. The resources included in this guide are not meant to be comprehensive, nor are the listings intended as endorsements.

## Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/gun-violence-prevention>

American Association of Suicidology

<https://suicidology.org/national-center-for-the-prevention-of-youth-suicide/>

American College of Surgeons

<https://www.facs.org/Quality-Programs/Trauma/Advocacy/IPC/firearm-injury>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

<https://afsp.org/firearms-and-suicide-prevention>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/about/index.html>

Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania

<https://violence.chop.edu/research-and-programs/gun-safety>

Cure Violence

<https://cvq.org/>

Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH)

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/>

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions>

National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

<https://theactionalliance.org/>



Suicide Prevention Resource Center

<https://www.sprc.org/>

University of Colorado

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/emergency-medicine/major-programs/firearm-injury-prevention-initiative>

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## Prevention Resources

Community Violence Prevention Resource for Action | CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/violence-prevention/php/resources-for-action/index.html>

Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) | Zero Suicide

<https://zerosuicide.edc.org/resources/key-resources/CALM>

Firearm Injury Prevention | Injury Free Coalition for Kids

[https://www.injuryfree.org/safetytpc\\_display.cfm?PermanentId=ADC74F45-E6D2-4BCA-8D270EDDD0370F76](https://www.injuryfree.org/safetytpc_display.cfm?PermanentId=ADC74F45-E6D2-4BCA-8D270EDDD0370F76)

Gun Safety and Your Health | American College of Surgeons

[https://www.facs.org/media/y52d5onw/gunsafety\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.facs.org/media/y52d5onw/gunsafety_brochure.pdf)

Gun Safety Campaign Toolkit | AAP

<https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/gun-safety/?srsltid=AfmBOop-4H1TAMqdCVssSFWrm6zxY5P0as1T6T3dLrSaRqrvzQyQHdhQ>

Lethal Means and Suicide Prevention: A Guide for Community and Industry Leaders | National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

[https://theactionalliance.org/sites/default/files/lethal\\_means\\_and\\_suicide\\_prevention-a\\_guide\\_for\\_community\\_and\\_industry\\_leaders\\_final\\_O.pdf](https://theactionalliance.org/sites/default/files/lethal_means_and_suicide_prevention-a_guide_for_community_and_industry_leaders_final_O.pdf)

Means Matter | HSPH

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/>

Project ChildSafe | National Shooting Sports Foundation

<https://projectchildsafe.org>

Suicide Prevention Resource for Action | CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/resources/prevention.html>

Violence Intervention Programs: A Primer for Developing a Comprehensive Program within Trauma Centers | American College of Surgeons

<https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/trauma/advocacy/ipc/firearm-injury/hvip-primer>

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline | SAMHSA

<https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/988>

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## Legislation

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act | Congress.gov

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2938>

National Firearms Act | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

<https://www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/national-firearms-act>

State Firearm Law Navigator | RAND

<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/law-navigator.html>

State Firearm Laws | FindLaw

<https://statelaws.findlaw.com/criminal-laws/gun-control.html>

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## Publications

A National Evaluation of the Impact of Child Access Prevention Laws on Rates of Youth Suicide and Other Youth Firearm Deaths | Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (2024)

Athey A, Nestadt PS, Rogers ML, Dunton Z, McCourt A, Wilcox HC

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39571727/>

A National Study of Firearm Exposure and Safety Training among Rural Youth | Injury Epidemiology (2024)

Koopman JL, Linden BM, Sinik MR, Wetjen KM., Hoogerwerf PJ, Liao J, Jennissen CA

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39238064/>

American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement: Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth: Injury Prevention and Harm Reduction | Pediatrics (2022)

Lee LK, Fleegler EW, Goyal MK, Doh KF, Laraque-Arena D, Hoffman BD

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/6/e2022060070/189686/Firearm-Related-Injuries-and-Deaths-in-Children>

Beyond Gun Laws—Innovative Interventions to Reduce Gun Violence in the United States | JAMA Psychiatry (2020)

Branas CC, Reeping PM, Rudolph KE

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2769625>

Child Access Prevention Firearm Laws and Firearm Fatalities among Children Aged 0 to 14 Years, 1991–2016 | JAMA Pediatrics (2020)

Azad HA, Monuteaux MC, Rees CA, Siegel M, Mannix R, Lee LK, Sheehan KM, Fleegler EW

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2761305>



Childhood Firearm Deaths During Intimate Partner Violence Incidents: 2004–2020 | Pediatrics (2024)

Seewald LA, Hartman HA, Stallworth P, Vargas EW, Ehrlich PF, Dykstra H, Foster CE, Sokol R, Wiebe D, Carter PM

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/154/Supplement%203/e2024067043Q/199732/Childhood-Firearm-Deaths-During-Intimate-Partner>

Clinical Approaches to the Prevention of Firearm-Related Injury | The New England Journal of Medicine (2024)

Carter PM, Cunningham RM

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMr2306867>

Contextual Factors Influencing Firearm Deaths Occurring Among Children | Pediatrics (2024)

Hartman HA, Seewald LA, Vargas EW, Portugal J, Ehrlich PF, Mintz S, Foster CE, Sokol R, Wiebe D, Carter PM

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/154/Supplement%203/e2024067043O/199728/Contextual-Factors-Influencing-Firearm-Deaths>

Firearm-Related Violence in the Pediatric Population | Pediatric Annals (2024)

Marsh KM, Scott-Wellington F

<https://journals.healio.com/doi/10.3928/19382359-20231114-02>

Gun Carrying Among Youths, by Demographic Characteristics, Associated Violence Experiences, and Risk Behaviors — United States, 2017–2019 | Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (2022)

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7130a1.htm>

Household Gun Ownership and Youth Suicide Rates at the State Level, 2005–2015 | American Journal of Preventive Medicine (2019)

Knopov A, Sherman RJ, Raifman JR, Larson E, Siegel MB

[https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(18\)32383-3/fulltext](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(18)32383-3/fulltext)

Initiation Age, Cumulative Prevalence, and Longitudinal Patterns of Handgun Carrying Among Rural Adolescents: A Multistate Study | Journal of Adolescent Health (2020)

Rowhani-Rahbar A, Oesterle S, Skinner ML

[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(19\)30921-8/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(19)30921-8/fulltext)

Pediatric Firearm Injury Mortality Epidemiology | Pediatrics (2022)

Andrews AL, Killings X, Oddo ER, Gastineau KAB, Hink AB

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/149/3/e2021052739/184887/Pediatric-Firearm-Injury-Mortality-Epidemiology>

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Pediatric Firearm Deaths Persist in 2022 and 2023 | Injury Epidemiology (2025)

Klein-Cloud R, Roberts B, Cornell E, Nofi C, Sathya C

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40621-025-00571-3>

Trends and Disparities in Firearm Deaths Among Children | Pediatrics (2023)

Roberts BK, Nofi CP, Cornell E, Kapoor S, Harrison L, Sathya C

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/152/3/e2023061296/193711/Trends-and-Disparities-in-Firearm-Deaths-Among>

Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths Among Children and Adolescents Aged 0–17 Years — National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003–2021 | Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (2023)

Wilson RF, Mintz S, Blair JM, Betz CJ, Collier A, Fowler KA

[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7250a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7250a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7250a1.htm?s_cid=mm7250a1_w)

Youth Firearm Injury: A Review for Pediatric Critical Care Clinicians | Critical Care Clinics (2023)

Kaufman EJ, Richmond TS, Hoskins K

[https://www.criticalcare.theclinics.com/article/S0749-0704\(22\)00089-6/fulltext](https://www.criticalcare.theclinics.com/article/S0749-0704(22)00089-6/fulltext)

Youth Firearm Mortality in the Americas From 2015 to 2022 | JAMA Network Open (2024)

Esposti MD, Pulcini CD, Flegler EW, Vargas EW, Vargas L, Yock-Corrales A, Hargarten S

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11447584/>

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## Data Sources

### CDC Data Sources

National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

[https://www.cdc.gov/nvdrs/about/?CDC\\_AAref\\_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nvdrs/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html)

National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/index.htm>

School-Associated Violent Death Study (SAVDS)

<https://www.cdc.gov/youth-violence/data-research/school-associatedviolentdeathstudy/index.html>

Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)

<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER)

<https://wonder.cdc.gov/>

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>



## Other Federal Data Sources

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) | Office of Justice Programs  
<https://www.bjs.gov/>

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
<https://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/index.html>

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) | U.S. Census Bureau  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ncvs.html>

National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) | Consumer Product Safety Commission  
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Research--Statistics/NEISS-Injury-Data>

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) | Federal Bureau of Investigation  
<https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/nibrs>

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## Non-Federal Data Sources

Gun Violence Archive (GVA)  
<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS) | National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention  
<https://www.ncfrp.org/data/nfr-crs/>



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[facebook.com/childrenssafetynetwork](https://facebook.com/childrenssafetynetwork)

**LinkedIn:**

[linkedin.com/company/childrens-safety-network](https://linkedin.com/company/childrens-safety-network)

**X/Twitter:**

[twitter.com/ChildrensSafety](https://twitter.com/ChildrensSafety)

**YouTube:**

[youtube.com/@ChildrensSafetyNetwork](https://youtube.com/@ChildrensSafetyNetwork)

**Newsletter:**

[go.edc.org/CSNNewsletter](https://go.edc.org/CSNNewsletter)



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