



# A Review of Literature on 'Gun Safety' Education Programmes



**SEESAC**

South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse  
for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons



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## **A Review of Literature on 'Gun Safety' Education Programmes, SEESAC, March 2007**

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## Acronyms

AACAP	American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
AAP	American Academy of Pediatrics
CPS	Canadian Paediatric Society
NRA	National Rifle Association (USA)
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCSP	Stability Pact for South East Europe
SEESAC	South East and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund



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## Review of Literature on 'Gun Safety' Education Programmes

Many parents do not realize that children acquire the physical capacity to reach and discharge a firearm long before they acquire the cognitive ability to understand the potential consequences of these actions. As a result, children can shoot themselves, their friends, or their siblings without intending to cause harm.

American Academy of Pediatrics

### 1 Introduction

The USA is the only country where there are programmes related to gun safety for pre-school children (four to five) and for primary and secondary children. There is no evidence of the effectiveness of these programmes; this is hardly surprising, as they are not based on a solid foundation of knowledge about child development. Unfortunately there is also little evidence from the USA that attempts to educate parents are very successful. This seems to be due to the strength of the belief that guns protect individuals and families, and misperceptions about the ability of children to engage in safe behaviours.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has made a clear and strong statement that the only way to protect children and adolescents from guns is to remove them from households.

This Literature Review includes articles on 'gun safety' programmes, research on parents' attitudes and behaviours, and research on other safety practices such as safe storage.

### 2 Research on 'Gun Safety' Education Programmes

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Behaviour-Oriented Approaches to Reducing Youth Gun Violence</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>The Future of Children, Children, Youth and Gun Violence, 2002, Vol. 12, No. 2</i></b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Marjorie S. Hardy</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "Advocacy groups on both sides of the gun issue frequently point to changing personal behaviour – of both parents and children – as a key element in reducing gun violence among youth. Efforts to bring about these changes range from community-based campaigns, to laws and programmes that encourage parents to store their guns safely, to educational initiatives that focus on keeping young children away from guns and encouraging youth to resolve disputes without violence. Unfortunately, these behaviour-oriented programmes have not shown great success in reducing youth gun violence. This article reviews the research surrounding Behavioural approaches to gun violence prevention and highlights obstacles that hamper the effectiveness of these programmes".</li> <li>■ Supportive communities can play a key role in protecting youth from violence in general, but the few community-based violence programmes that focus on youth have not been shown to decrease youth access to, or use of, guns.</li> <li>■ By and large, behavioural programmes and legal interventions aimed at parents have not been proven to reduce youth gun violence. This may be due in part to parental misperceptions about children's risk of injury and ability to protect themselves.</li> <li>■ Children and youth are particularly difficult targets for behavioural change programmes. Cognitive immaturity among younger children and perceptions of invulnerability among adolescents may be part of the reason. Most programmes that seek to persuade youth to stay away from guns have not been proven effective.</li> <li>■ The author concludes that, although behavioural programmes could be improved, overall they hold only limited promise for reducing youth gun violence.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.futureofchildren.org/information2826/information_show.htm?doc_id=154475">www.futureofchildren.org/information2826/information_show.htm?doc_id=154475</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Youth and Firearms in Canada</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>Adolescent Health Committee, Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS), <i>Paediatrics &amp; Child Health</i>, 2005, Vol. 10, No. 8, 473-477</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Educating children about gun safety has been proposed as a desirable method for reducing firearm injury rates in children. School-based programmes have been developed for elementary school-age children to learn strategies for remaining safe if a firearm is encountered in their home or environment. However, studies evaluating children's firearm safety education have cast doubt on its effectiveness.</li> <li>■ Himle et al compared children who participated in a popular firearm safety programme, Eddie the Eagle (developed by the National Rifle Association), with children who participated in another firearm safety programme developed by the authors. They also had a control group of children who had no firearm safety education. Children who had participated in the Eddie the Eagle programme were superior to the control group in verbalizing the correct safety message; however, in a role-playing situation and in a simulated 'real-life' situation, children who had taken the Eddie the Eagle programme were no better than children in the control group in practicing the desired gun safety behaviour (eg. Don't touch! Run and tell an adult!).</li> <li>■ The children who participated in the authors' programme did better than the children in the control group in verbalizing the safety message and in role-playing, but, again, they were not significantly better than the control group in the simulated real-life setting.</li> <li>■ Hardy et al performed a randomised, controlled study comparing four to seven-year-old children who participated in a week-long firearm safety programme with a control group who had had no educational programme. After the programme, pairs of the children were covertly observed playing in a setting in which there was a semi-automatic pistol. Fifty-three percent of the pairs played with the gun, and there was no difference between the control and intervention groups.</li> <li>■ <b>Injury prevention educational programmes may have unintended effects. It is possible that firearm safety education for children may increase their comfort level around guns, particularly in programmes that include gun-handling techniques. Parents may be inclined to reduce their supervision or use of safe storage practices if their children learn gun safety at school.</b></li> <li>■ <b>At present, no children's firearm safety programmes have been shown to be effective in simulated real-life situations. Further research is required to find an effective way to change children's behaviour around firearms. Widespread use of these programmes is unwise until an effective programme is developed. (Emphasis added.)</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="http://www.cps.ca/english/statements/AM/AH05-02.htm#safetyeducation">http://www.cps.ca/english/statements/AM/AH05-02.htm#safetyeducation</a>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>05 April 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Alliance Against Childhood Violence - An Update</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 1999, Vol. 5, 3-4</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Arthur F. Kohrman and Katherine Kaufer Christoffel</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<p>Reviewed facts about violence to Chicago's children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In 1995 258 children were the victims of homicide, and gunshots were the leading cause of death; and</li> <li>■ 45 percent of children in one Chicago public school had seen someone killed and 66 percent had seen a shooting.</li> </ul> <p>Despite its prevalence, we know and teach less about violence and its prevention and management than we do about the many less common (and even uncommon) diseases of infancy and childhood. Consequently, the chairs of the six paediatric departments in Chicago – who often find themselves in competition – undertook an unprecedented collaborative initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Based on their shared recognition that the academic paediatric community has both an obligation and the opportunity to work to prevent childhood violence, they formed the Alliance Against Childhood Violence, with the goal of combining their efforts and resources to protect Chicago's children from violence and its consequences. They pledged to work to mobilize their departments, medical schools and universities to begin to learn how best to reduce the toll of violence on children and families, to educate the next generation of physicians and medical personnel (many of whom are trained in the six institutions) about violence and its causes, and to pursue collaborative research, with each other and with others.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=10323560&amp;dopt=Abstract">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=10323560&amp;dopt=Abstract</a>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>09 May 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Seeding Violence in the Minds of Children</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 2002, Vol. 72, No. 1, 3-4, Editorial</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Carlos E. Sluzki</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<p>"One bomb, two landmines, three rifles, four soldiers, five." "How many landmines will we have if we had two landmines and add two more?" "Four." "And if somebody steps on one of them, how many remain?" "Three." "Very well, m'boy!"</p> <p>For the past 20 years, Afghan children have been studying the rudiments of the three Rs (reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic) in textbooks lavishly illustrated with bombs, landmines, guns, and soldiers and filled with the ABC of jihad and other militant Islamic teachings in their text (43 of the 100 pages are said to contain violent images or passages) . . . courtesy of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as contract developer and distributor of the piece.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Smuggled by the hundreds of thousands into Afghanistan by U.S. agencies during the tail end of the Cold War with the intent to instil in children fanaticism and familiarity with war-related issues and so to prepare future fighters against Soviet occupation, the Afghan elementary schools relied chiefly on those books.</li> <li>■ The operation was, indeed, a success.</li> <li>■ In fact, the United Nations Children's Fund, whose mission is "to assure the survival, development and protection of children," was distributing these very books for several years.</li> <li>■ That agency still has 500,000 copies of these books, which it is now planning to destroy, while new gentler, kinder versions of the text – with the same strong militant Islamic rhetoric but with sanitized images (pomegranates and oranges instead of bullets and landmines) – are being distributed to begin to cover the educational needs of the estimated 4.5 million school-aged children in Afghanistan.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=14964589&amp;dopt=Abstract">www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=14964589&amp;dopt=Abstract</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>08 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>An Evaluation of Two Procedures for Training Skills to Prevent Gun Play in Children</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>Pediatrics, 2004, Vol. 113, 70-77</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Michael B. Himle, Raymond G. Miltenberger, Brian J. Gatheridge and Christopher A. Flessner</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "Unintentional firearm injuries threaten the safety of children in the United States. Despite the occurrence of these injuries, few studies have evaluated the effectiveness of child-based programmes designed to teach children gun-safety skills.</li> <li>■ This study compared two programmes that were designed to reduce gunplay in preschool children. 31 four to five-year-olds participated in the study.</li> <li>■ Two programmes were assessed: the NRA Eddie Eagle GunSafe programme and Behavioural skills training programme.</li> <li>■ Both programmes were effective for teaching children to reproduce verbally the gun-safety message.</li> <li>■ The Behavioural skills training programme but not the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Programme was effective for teaching children to perform gun-safety skills during a supervised role play, but the skills were not used when the children were assessed via real-life (in situ) assessments.</li> <li>■ Conclusion: Existing programmes are insufficient for teaching gun-safety skills to children. Programmes that use active learning strategies (modelling, rehearsal and feedback) are more effective for teaching gun-safety skills as assessed by supervised role plays but still failed to teach the children to use the skills outside the context of the training session.</li> <li>■ More research is needed to determine the most effective way to promote the use of the skills outside the training session."</li> <li>■ Comment: The USA is the only country in the world that attempts to teach 'gun safety' to very young children.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/113/1/70">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/113/1/70</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Community Norms on Toy Guns</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, 2003, Vol. 111, 75-79</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Tina L. Cheng, Ruth A. Brenner, Joseph L. Wright, Hari Cheryl Sachs, Patricia Moyer and Malla Rao</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Toy gun play has been associated with aggressive behaviour, and it has been suggested that child health professionals counsel families on limiting exposure.</li> <li>■ Effective violence prevention counselling requires an understanding of norms regarding parental attitudes, practices and influencing factors.</li> <li>■ Both theories of reasoned action and planned behaviour emphasize that subjective norms and attitudes affect people's perceptions and intended behaviour.</li> <li>■ Few normative data exist on this issue from a cross-section of families.</li> <li>■ By establishing behavioural norms and understanding the spectrum of parental attitudes, community sensitive and community-specific interventions for violence prevention can be developed. The objective of this study was to assess community norms on the topic of toy gun play from the perspective of parents.</li> <li>■ Results: A total of 1004 eligible participants were recruited for the study; 922 surveys were completed (participation rate 92 percent). The 830 (90 percent) respondents who were parents and had complete child data were the focus of additional analysis. Regarding toy guns, 67 percent of parents believed that it was never "OK for a child to play with toy guns", and 66 percent stated that they never let their children play with toy guns. Parents who thought that it was okay for children to play with toy guns and allowed them to play with toy guns were more likely to be male parents, have male children and be white.</li> <li>■ Conclusions: There is variability in norms regarding toy gun play among parents, with most discouraging toy gun play. Norms varied based on gender of the child, gender of the parent and race. Understanding norms is a first step in designing effective community-sensitive interventions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/111/1/75">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/111/1/75</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Evaluation of the THINK FIRST For KIDS injury prevention curriculum for primary students</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 2002, Vol. 8, 257-258</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>A. Greene, P. Barnett, J. Crossen, G. Sexton, P. Ruzicka and E. Neuwelt</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "The THINK FIRST Programme was founded in 1986 by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in response to the high incidence of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and subsequent disabilities among persons ten to 24 years of age.</li> <li>■ Currently, there are THINK FIRST chapters in more than 40 US states and in Canada, Chile, Australia and Mexico, providing injury prevention education to more than one million elementary, middle and high school students each year.</li> <li>■ One of THINK FIRST's programmes, THINK FIRST for KIDS, is organized into six safe behaviour units taught over a six-week period. The safe behaviour units are integrated into teachers' regular maths, science, reading, spelling, and health curricula. The six units cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General structure and function of the brain and spinal cord;</li> <li>▪ Motor vehicle and pedestrian safety;</li> <li>▪ Bicycle safety;</li> <li>▪ Conflict resolution and weapons' safety;</li> <li>▪ Water safety;</li> <li>▪ Playground, recreation and sports safety.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ The study found increased awareness and short-term knowledge among children who experienced the programme. The study was not intended to measure long-term knowledge, beliefs or observed behaviour".</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/8/3/257">http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/8/3/257</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>15 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Seeing Is Believing: What Do Boys Do When They Find a Real Gun?</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, June 2001, Vol. 107, 1247-1250</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Geoffrey A. Jackman, Mirna M. Farah, Arthur L. Kellermann and Harold K. Simon</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Many 'gun safety' education programmes are based on the assumption that children do not know that guns are dangerous and simply need to be given this information and urged not to touch them. This study looked at boys' actual behaviour with guns and compared the findings with parental perceptions.</li> <li>■ Objectives: To determine how boys behave when they find a handgun in a presumably safe environment and to compare parental expectations of their child's interest in real guns with this observed behaviour.</li> <li>■ Methods: A convenience sample of eight to 12-year-old boys was recruited from families that completed a survey on firearm ownership, storage practices and parental perceptions. Parents were asked to rate their child's interest in real guns on a scale from one to five: one to two low interest; three moderate interest and four to five high interest. Parents of an eligible child were asked to bring to the exercise one of their son's playmates and/or a sibling in the same age range. After informed parental consent was obtained, each pair or trio of boys was placed in a room with a one-way mirror and observed for up to 15 minutes. Two water pistols and an actual .380 calibre handgun were concealed in separate drawers. The handgun contained a radio transmitter that activated a light whenever the trigger was depressed with sufficient force to discharge the firearm. After the exercise, each boy was asked whether he thought that the pistol was real or a toy. Before leaving, each child was counselled about safe behaviour around guns.</li> <li>■ Results: Twenty-nine groups of boys (n=64) took part in the study. The mean age of participants was 9.8 years. Twenty-one of the groups (72 percent) discovered the handgun (n=48 boys); 16 groups (76 percent) handled it (n=30 boys). One or more members in ten of the groups (48 percent) pulled the trigger (n=16 boys). Approximately half of the 48 boys who found the gun thought that it was a toy or were unsure whether it was real. Parental estimates of their child's interest in guns did not predict actual behaviour on finding the handgun. Boys who were believed to have a low interest in real guns were as likely to handle the handgun or pull the trigger as boys who were perceived to have a moderate or high interest in guns.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/107/6/1247">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/107/6/1247</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>06 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Firearm Injury Prevention: Failure of Gun-Safety Education</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, June 2004, Vol. 113, 1847-1848</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>M. Denise Dowd, Robert Sege, Gary A. Smith, Joseph L. Wright and Raymond G. Miltenberger</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The first line of protection of children from the risks of guns must be the safest, that is, the physical separation of the gun from the child. Eliminating or reducing the hazard in the environment has been applied successfully to a variety of childhood injury types, including pool drowning, childhood poisoning and tap water burns.</li> <li>■ Education programmes that give parents a sense of complacency without altering the child's behaviour might do more harm than good.</li> <li>■ Even more concerning is the possibility that a programme directed solely at childhood behaviour could provide a greater sense of comfort for adults who want a gun in the home that is readily accessible. Pitting gun accessibility against child safety introduces a gamble with odds that clearly are not in a child's favour.</li> <li>■ It would be helpful if child-based training skills served as another layer in firearm injury prevention, but as clinicians, we need to advise families that no such effect has ever been demonstrated.</li> <li>■ Current information, including this study, supports the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy that counsels separation of the gun from the child by removal or safe storage. Those actions rest squarely on the shoulders of adults.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/113/6/1847">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/113/6/1847</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Expanding the precautionary principle</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 2003, Vol. 9, 1-2</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>I. B. Pless</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Although this important article does not refer explicitly to guns in homes and proposals for 'gun safety' education, its discussion of the need to expand the precautionary principle in the field of injury prevention is very relevant.</li> <li>■ The precautionary principle has been popular in environmental public health for ten years: when there is suspected harm and the scientific evidence is inconclusive, the prescribed course is precautionary action.</li> <li>■ In the case of guns in homes, this would suggest that the fact that there are some incidents involving injuries to children is sufficient to implement programmes to remove guns from homes where children and young people are present; to require manufacturers to install gunlocks and to require gun users to use them.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/9/1/1">http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/9/1/1</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>26 April 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Guns and Children</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>American Academy of Pediatrics</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Center to Prevent Handgun Violence</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Although the AAP does not endorse 'gun safety' education programmes in schools, they do recommend that parents educate their children about safe behaviour around guns, as one measure following the more important one of removing guns from homes.</li> <li>■ As the primary educators of children, parents play a major role in preventing gun violence. Parents may start to reduce children's risks by taking these four steps:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The single most important step is to keep guns away from children. The safest thing for your family is not to keep a gun in the home. But, if you keep a gun at home, unload it and lock it away. Separate the ammunition. A gun in the home significantly increases risks for suicide, domestic homicide and accidents;</li> <li>2. Make sure that your children know the dangers of guns and not to touch or handle guns. Too often we assume that children will know what to do if they see a gun at someone's home or elsewhere in the community. Yet, many children and teens do not realize that handling a gun just once could lead to tragedy. When children come across an unsupervised gun, or another child with a gun, they should not touch the gun and should immediately get help from a parent or trusted adult;</li> <li>3. Talk to your children about guns and violence. Explain to them that we all have strong emotions like anger and fear, but that these feelings can be expressed without striking out at others or using weapons. Demonstrate healthy ways to express anger and disagreement. Support your children when they have used positive means of resolving conflict, like:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Talking about feelings, rather than acting them out;</li> <li>▪ Making choices to avoid fights;</li> <li>▪ Getting help from trusted adults;</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Talk to your children about the differences between media violence and violence in real life. Watch television and movies with your children and help them to understand that what they see is not real. Explain that in reality guns can kill or cause long-term disabilities.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.aap.org/advocacy/childhealthmonth/Guns.htm">http://www.aap.org/advocacy/childhealthmonth/Guns.htm</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Guns in young hands: a survey of urban teenagers' attitudes and behaviours related to handgun violence</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<i>The Journal of Trauma</i> , November 1996, Vol. 41, No. 5, 794-798
<b>Author (s):</b>	J.M. Bergstein, D. Hemenway, B. Kennedy, S. Quaday and R. Ander
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This US study found that handgun availability and use are high among urban youth; gun carrying is mostly related to safety concerns and easy access. Gun injury prevention programmes must address youth safety concerns along with handgun availability.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=8913206&amp;dopt=Abstract">www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=8913206&amp;dopt=Abstract</a>
<b>Accessed:</b>	08 March 2006

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Teaching firearm safety to children: failure of a program</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<i>Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics</i> , April 2002, Vol. 23, No. 2, 71-76
<b>Author (s):</b>	M.S. Hardy
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This study investigated the effectiveness of a skills-based firearm safety programme on reducing children's play with firearms.</li> <li>■ In a randomised control study, 34 children aged four to seven years participated in a week-long firearm safety programme; the control group was composed of 36 children.</li> <li>■ After the programme, pairs of children were observed playing in a structured setting in which they had access to a semi-automatic pistol.</li> <li>■ A total of 53 percent of the pairs played with the gun, and there was no difference in gun-play behaviour between those children who did and did not receive the intervention.</li> <li>■ Interview data revealed significant discrepancies in parent and child reports of parental gun ownership and inaccurate parental predictions of their children's interest in guns.</li> <li>■ <b>The results of the current study cast doubt on the potential effectiveness of skills-based gun safety programmes for children. (Emphasis added.)</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=11943968&amp;dopt=Abstract">www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=11943968&amp;dopt=Abstract</a>
<b>Accessed:</b>	08 March 2006

<b>Title:</b>	<b>A firearm safety program for children: they just can't say no</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<i>Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics</i> , August 1996, Vol. 17, No. 4, 216-221
<b>Author (s):</b>	M.S. Hardy, F.D. Armstrong, B.L. Martin and K.N. Strawn
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The purpose of this study was to compare children's play and aggressive behaviour with firearms before and after an information-based intervention.</li> <li>■ The subjects were 24 pairs of pre-school children who had access to a range of toys, including real and toy guns. Half the children were given an information-based intervention (told not to play with guns). A week later the children's play was assessed again.</li> <li>■ The results showed no change in the children's behaviour, and also that access to a parent's firearms was correlated with gunplay, and that both were correlated with aggressive behaviour.</li> <li>■ Clearly giving information to young children is not sufficient to change their behaviour.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=pubmed&amp;dopt=Abstract&amp;list_uids=8856516">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=pubmed&amp;dopt=Abstract&amp;list_uids=8856516</a>
<b>Accessed:</b>	08 March 2006



<b>Title:</b>	<b>What's Up With Guns? Youth feedback</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>What's Up With Guns Organisation</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<i>The Programme:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ “Developed for middle school and high school assemblies, ‘What’s Up With Guns’ is a weapons education programme that tells a compelling story about a teen who uses his parents’ gun to kill a student at school. The wide-reaching effects of his actions, as well as how those involved could have prevented the tragedy, are covered in great detail.</li> <li>■ ‘What’s Up With Guns’ provides youth with steps to take if someone they know has a gun or is trying to obtain one. It also illustrates the chain reaction of tragic events that occur after a shooting, exploring the effects from the perspective of those involved, the student body and the entire community”.</li> </ul>	
<i>Feedback:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ “A 23 percent increase in the number of students who would tell an adult at school if they knew another student had a weapon and was threatening violence.</li> <li>■ A 25 percent increase in students reporting that “most of the time” they would try to solve a problem without using violence.</li> <li>■ Of the students who (prior to seeing WUWG) replied that they would “not try at all” to resolve a conflict without using violence, 25 percent changed their reply after watching the programme.</li> <li>■ Of the students who (prior to seeing WUWG) replied that they did not know that “they had choices” other than violence when resolving a conflict, 25 percent changed their reply, indicating that they were aware they had choices, after watching the programme.</li> <li>■ Of the students who (prior to seeing WUWG) replied that they did not know “who to report to when someone is bothering or threatening me”, 13 percent changed their reply, indicating that they do know “who to report to when someone is bothering or threatening me”, after watching the programme.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.whatsupwithguns.com/programme.html">http://www.whatsupwithguns.com/programme.html</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>15 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Children and Fear of War and Terrorism: Tips for Parents and Teachers</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>National Association of School Psychologists, USA, 2001</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Based on the US context post September 11, but highlights the need to consider the whole context when talking with children and young people about violence, guns and war.</li> <li>■ Isolated school interventions about complex issues can rouse childrens’ emotions and result in their belief that the world is a very dangerous place.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.nasponline.org/NEAT/children_war_general.html">www.nasponline.org/NEAT/children_war_general.html</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>06 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Creating Safe and Responsive Schools: Systems Change Issues in School Violence Prevention</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>National Association of School Psychologists, USA, 2002</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A comprehensive response to the problem of school shootings and security issues following September 11; the Safe and Responsive Schools Plan eschews the simplistic ‘gun safety’ education approach and is evidence-based.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.nasponline.org/resources/prevention/resources.aspx">www.nasponline.org/resources/prevention/resources.aspx</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>15 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>A Pediatric, Practice-Based, Randomised Trial of Drinking and Smoking Prevention and Bicycle Helmet, Gun, and Seatbelt Safety Promotion</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, March 2002, Vol. 109, No. 3, 490-497</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Marguerite M. Stevens, Ardis L. Olson, Cecelia A. Gaffney, Tor D. Tosteson, Leila A. Mott and Pamela Starr</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Objective: To prevent early adolescent health risk behaviours and to maintain or improve safety behaviours, the effects of two interventions delivered through paediatric primary care practices were compared. The interventions, based on an office systems' approach, sought to prevent early drinking and smoking or to influence bicycle helmet use, gun storage and seatbelt safety for children who were followed from fifth/sixth grades through eighth/ninth grades.</li> <li>■ Design: Settings and Participants: Twelve paediatric practices in New England were paired according to practice size and assigned randomly within pairs to deliver the multi-component interventions, which built on paediatric primary care clinicians performing as counsellors and role models during health supervision visits and other office encounters.</li> <li>■ Intervention: One intervention arm focused on alcohol and tobacco use. The other intervention arm focused on gun safety, bicycle helmet and seatbelt use. Office systems provided infrastructure that supported the clinician's role. Clinician messages encouraged family communication and rule setting about the issues of the middle school years. The intervention was initiated during a health supervision visit and continued for 36 months. Both child and parent received quarterly newsletters to reinforce the clinician messages.</li> <li>■ Results: The paediatric practices recruited 85 percent (n=3525) of the practices' fifth/sixth grade children and their responding parents. 36 months follow-up data on 2183 child-parent pairs was obtained. Parents, children and paediatric clinicians found the intervention useful.</li> <li>■ Despite this, comparisons between the two study arms show no significant intervention effects in the prevention of alcohol and tobacco use or gun storage or seatbelt safety. There was a negative effect in the alcohol arm. Only bicycle helmet use showed a positive outcome.</li> <li>■ Prevention is a widely advocated paediatric primary care activity. Anticipatory counselling is urged for the important risk factors of adolescence. Early adolescence is an appropriate time to address alcohol and tobacco issues and bicycle helmet, seatbelt and gun safety issues. The middle school years are a period of developmental transition in our society. Preteens have become more independent and are less closely supervised; they have access to alcohol, tobacco and guns and may assert independence by not using seatbelts and bicycle helmets.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/109/3/490">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/109/3/490</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Children and Guns, Policy Statement of the AACAP</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ When a firearm is stored in the home, the risk of homicide increases threefold and of suicide fivefold.</li> <li>■ Guns are 43 times more likely to be used to kill a family member or family friend than to kill a stranger.</li> <li>■ Children and adolescents have easy access to guns: over seven percent of high school students reported that they had carried a gun in the last month.</li> <li>■ Gun violence is a product of many issues in our society including the erosion of the infrastructure necessary to support healthy child development. Some of these supports include adequate funding for comprehensive healthcare, including coverage for mental illness and substance abuse, safe and appropriate housing and effective education for all children.</li> <li>■ <b>The most effective measure to prevent firearm-related deaths and injuries to children and adolescents is the elimination of guns from homes and communities. This is particularly critical for homes or families in which the threat of personal violence exists. (Emphasis added.)</b></li> <li>■ <b>The AACAP also supports all efforts to educate children and the general public about the danger of guns and the increased risk of accidental injury and death associated with gun ownership. (Emphasis added.)</b></li> <li>■ Additionally, the AACAP encourages the strict enforcement of existing laws pertaining to the purchase, ownership and storage of firearms, as well as measures such as trigger locks, extended waiting periods, mandatory background checks, restrictions on the purchase and private ownership of handguns and other initiatives designed to protect children and reduce the incidence of gun related violence.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.aacap.org/page.wv?section=Policy+Statements&amp;name=Children+and+Guns">http://www.aacap.org/page.wv?section=Policy+Statements&amp;name=Children+and+Guns</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>11 April 2006</b>



### 3 Research on Parents and Safety

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Parental Misconceptions about Children and Firearms</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine</i>, 2006, Vol. 160, 542-547</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Frances Baxley and Matthew Miller</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This study attempted to assess the accuracy of parental predictions about their children's self-reported behaviour around household guns.</li> <li>■ The children were aged five to 14.</li> <li>■ The study found that 39 percent of parents who reported that their children did not know the storage location of household guns and 22 percent of parents who reported that their children had never handled a household gun were contradicted by their children's reports.</li> <li>■ These results were unrelated to whether parents locked their firearms away or had ever discussed firearm safety with their children.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/160/5/542">http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/160/5/542</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>28 August 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>The Association of Handgun Ownership and Storage Practices with Safety Consciousness</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine</i>, 2002, Vol. 156, 763-768</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kara S. McGee, Renee M. Johnson and W. Clayton Bordley</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ As with other injury prevention practices, education about safe firearm storage is recommended to prevent injuries to children.</li> <li>■ The study assessed whether parents who are safety conscious in other respects also practise firearm safety.</li> <li>■ The majority of parents were safety conscious in regard to keeping poisonous substances out of children's reach (92 percent), always keeping children restrained in cars (90 percent) and so on. Parents received an average safety score of four on a scale of one to five.</li> <li>■ 56 percent said there was a handgun in the house, 27 percent had an unlocked gun, 20 percent loaded and seven percent unlocked and loaded.</li> <li>■ Conclusion: General safe behaviour in the home and with children may not be associated with safe firearm storage.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/156/8/763.pdf">http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/156/8/763.pdf</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Firearms in the Home: Parental Perceptions</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, 1999, Vol. 104, 1059-1063</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Mirna M. Farah, Harold K. Simon and Arthur L. Kellermann</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Background: Each year, thousands of children are injured or killed from unintentional gunshot wounds. Discovering a gun while playing in the home places children at risk of being injured by the firearm.</li> <li>■ Objective: To determine parental firearm storage practices and parental perceptions of the behaviour of their children around guns.</li> <li>■ Methods: Cross-sectional survey of parents of children from four to 12 years of age. A sample of 424 parents, bringing their children to one of five paediatric ambulatory care centres, were asked to complete a 20-point self administered questionnaire at the time of their visit.</li> <li>■ Results: A total of 400 parents (94 percent) completed the questionnaire; 113 parents (28 percent) reported keeping a firearm (most often a handgun) in the home. Firearm owners were predominantly male, 30 years of age or older, white and married. Of the gun owners, 52 percent stored their firearms loaded or unlocked and 13 percent kept one or more guns loaded and unlocked. Three fourths of gun-owning parents believed that their four to 12-year-old child could tell the difference between a toy gun and a real gun and 23 percent believed that their child could be trusted with a loaded gun. Although the majority of gun-owning parents (53 percent) endorsed safe storage as the best firearm injury prevention strategy, 61 percent of parents who do not own firearms endorse not owning guns as the best way to prevent paediatric firearm injuries.</li> <li>■ Conclusion: A majority of gun-owning parents store their firearms loaded or unlocked, substantially underestimating the risk of injury to their children. Many firearm-owning parents trust their child with a loaded gun and believe that their young child can tell the difference between a toy gun and a real gun.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/104/5/1059">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/104/5/1059</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>17 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Parent's behaviours, knowledge, and beliefs related to unintentional firearm injuries among children and youth in the southwest</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Journal of Pediatric Health Care</i>, May-June 1998, Vol. 12, No. 3, 139-46</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>K. Knight-Bohnhoff and M.B. Harris</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "The purpose of this research study was to describe parents' behaviours, knowledge and beliefs related to unintentional firearm injuries among children and youth.</li> <li>■ Men and parents who had grown up with a gun in the house were more likely to be gun owners. 48 percent of parents kept at least one gun in the home. 26 percent of gun owners reported that the gun was loaded at all times and 18 percent reported that a gun was kept within reach of a child. The most common reason given by parents for having a gun was for protection (61 percent).</li> <li>■ Results suggest that firearms in the home continue to pose a significant risk to children. Anticipatory guidance from NPs and paediatricians is needed to protect children from unintentional firearm injuries".</li> <li>■ Comment: It seems unlikely that adults will change their behaviour unless the issue of security/protection is addressed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=9652282&amp;dopt=Abstract">www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=9652282&amp;dopt=Abstract</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Are Household Firearms Stored Safely? It Depends on Whom You Ask</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, September 2000, Vol. 106, No. 3, e31</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Deborah Azrael, Matthew Miller and David Hemenway</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The study looked at gun storage practices in gun-owning households with children.</li> <li>■ 21 percent of gun owners stored the gun loaded and nine percent loaded and unlocked.</li> <li>■ “We find that among gun-owning households with children, non-gun owners report significantly lower rates of guns stored loaded and unlocked than do gun owners. These findings are consistent with recent studies that have found that married men are far more likely to report household gun ownership than are married women, and that gun users are far more likely to report that a gun is stored loaded or loaded and unlocked than are never users.</li> <li>■ Our findings suggest that non-gun owners, the vast majority of whom are women (87 percent), may be unaware that guns in their homes are stored in a manner that experts agree is unsafe. Our findings reinforce the importance of many pediatricians’ current efforts to offer anticipatory guidance about firearms to gun-owning families and, in addition, suggest that this guidance can be adapted depending on whether the physician is speaking with a gun-owning or non-gun-owning parent.</li> <li>■ In particular, because gun owners (mostly fathers) are less likely to bring children to the paediatrician’s office than are non-owners (mostly mothers), physicians should take advantage of any opportunities that they have to address gun-related issues with parents who personally own guns. More commonly, physicians can encourage non-gun owners to participate more fully in household decision-making about gun storage by letting them know not only about recommended storage practices, but also that many non-owners may not know how guns are actually stored in their own homes”.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/106/3/e31">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/106/3/e31</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>

## 4 Other Safety Measures

### 4.1 Safety Regulations

<b>Title:</b>	<b>A funny thing happened on the way to the meeting: on guns and triggers</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 1998, Vol. 4, 77</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Polly Bjur</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Comments on the accidental shooting of two doctors on their way to an American Public Health Association annual meeting in 1997.</li> <li>■ “A man with a registered .32 caliber handgun was leaning over to pick something up from the floor when a weapon fell out of his pocket, dropped on the floor and fired two bullets. Cause: a defective trigger mechanism.</li> <li>■ When a child chokes on a small ball, or loses an eye from a toy rocket, the regulatory machinery of government is immediately engaged. No such scenario was set in motion by this shooting in Indianapolis.</li> <li>■ Although the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms regulates the sale and interstate commerce in handguns, it has virtually no authority to set standards for the design or safety of domestic handguns. And firearms are among the few products specifically excluded from the jurisdiction of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.</li> <li>■ The deadly combination of accessible handguns and children is underscored by a recent study which found that 25 percent of three to four year olds and 70 percent of five to six year olds have the finger strength and coordination to fire most of the commonly available handguns in the US”.</li> <li>■ The report recommends the mandatory use of child safety locks on guns.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/4/1/77-a">http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/4/1/77-a</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>09 May 2006</b>

## 4.2 Safe Storage

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Evaluation of a Community-Based Handgun Safe-Storage Campaign</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, 2005, Vol. 115, No. 6, 654-661</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Elanor A. Sidman, David C. Grossman, Thomas D. Koepsell, Luann D'Ambrosio, John Britt, Evan S. Simpson, Frederick P. Rivara and Abraham B. Bergman</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<p>The most recent study on the effects of safe storage campaigns in the USA reports the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ More people in the USA support safe storage practices than attempts to reduce the number of guns in homes;</li> <li>■ The well-established finding that there are higher rates of gun-related homicide and suicide in households with guns also seems to be related to access to guns which are not stored and are loaded;</li> <li>■ Suicides of young people and unintentional injury (accidents) during unsupervised play are more likely in homes of family and friends with unsafely stored and loaded weapons;</li> <li>■ More than one in three US households own guns, and in half of the households with handguns there are also children; these households are more likely to store guns safely;</li> <li>■ However, six to 14 percent of these households keep a gun unlocked <b>and</b> unloaded, and from one to two thirds keep a gun <b>either loaded or unlocked</b> (emphasis added);</li> <li>■ The US experience shows that formal gun safety training and safety counseling by health professionals have generally failed to change the behaviour of owning guns or storing them safely;</li> <li>■ Community events to change attitudes and behaviours are resource intensive, and may only reach those ready to make changes;</li> <li>■ This study focused on a broad-based public education campaign promoting safe gun storage in one state, involving raising awareness and providing economic incentives. The campaign used the slogan: "Buy a Box for Your Gun, not Your Kid";</li> <li>■ There were also a range of education materials for adults on the characteristics of children (curiosity) and the ineffectiveness of child gun safety programmes;</li> <li>■ The campaign was implemented from 1997 to 2001;</li> <li>■ The results of an evaluation showed that there was no statistically significant increase in safe storage practices.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/115/6/e654">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/115/6/e654</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>31 August 2006</b>

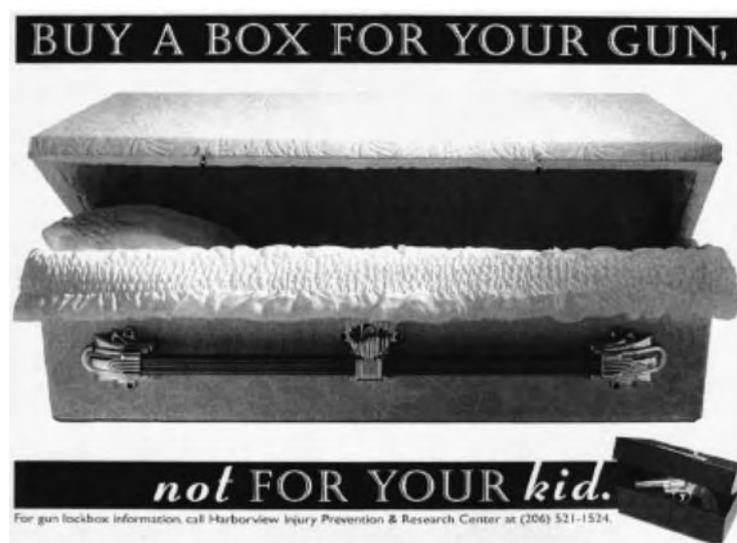


Figure 1: Example of a US campaign for safe storage practices <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/115/6/e654>, accessed 31 August 2006.



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Rural population survey of Behavioural and demographic risk factors for loaded firearms</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 2001, Vol. 7, 112-116</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>D.L. Nordstrom, C. Zwerling, A.M. Stromquist, L.F. Burmeister and J.A. Merchant</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "Objectives: In the United States, firearm deaths are almost as frequent as motor vehicle deaths. Unintentional firearm and suicide death rates are raised in rural areas. This study examines firearm prevalence and storage practices in three different types of rural households.</li> <li>■ Methods: Adults from a stratified random sample of 983 households in a rural Iowa county were interviewed.</li> <li>■ Results: Nearly 67 percent of respondents reported firearms in their households. Nearly seven percent of households had a loaded, unlocked gun.</li> <li>■ Prevalence of firearms at home was higher while prevalence of loaded, unlocked guns was lower than reported in other surveys.</li> <li>■ Prevalence of loaded, unlocked guns in farm households (10.5 percent) was about twice the level in town households (5.5 percent).</li> <li>■ Having taken a gun safety course was associated with more than double the prevalence of a loaded, unlocked gun (13.5 percent as compared to 5.1 percent).</li> <li>■ Households with someone with a lifetime prevalence of alcohol abuse or dependence were about twice as likely as other households (13 percent as compared to 6.6 percent) to report having loaded, unlocked firearms".</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/7/2/112">http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/7/2/112</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>09 May 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Unsupervised firearm handling by California adolescents</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 2004, Vol. 10, 163-168</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>M. Miller and D. Hemenway</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Adolescents in the US have greater access to guns because there are so many guns in homes and because so many are stored unsafely. Both factors contribute to the higher rate of gun injuries and deaths among US youth.</li> <li>■ This study adds new information about firearm related experiences of adolescents by providing verbatim descriptions of the most recent episode of unsupervised firearm handling.</li> <li>■ One third of California adolescents report that they have handled a firearm; five percent report that they have done so without adult knowledge or supervision.</li> <li>■ Half of all unsupervised handling involved shooting, only 11 percent occurred in the respondent's home, and most occurred with friends.</li> <li>■ Male gender, living in a rural area, smoking, drinking, being the victim of a gun related threat and having a gun in the home were each associated with unsupervised firearm handling.</li> <li>■ Unsupervised firearm handling by adolescents was more common among adolescents who reported that their parents knew little or nothing about their whereabouts in the afternoon.</li> <li>■ Parents should know that making their own home firearm safe is not sufficient protection against their child's potentially injurious firearm related behaviours.</li> <li>■ Note: This study does not report on whether these young people had experienced 'gun safety' education in schools.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/10/3/163">http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/10/3/163</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>09 May 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>"Love Our Kids, Lock Your Guns"</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine</i>, June 2001, Vol. 155, No. 6, 659-664</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Tamara Coyne-Beasley, Victor J. Shoenback and Renee M. Johnson</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reports on a community-based firearm safety counselling and gun lock distribution programme in the USA.</li> <li>■ The majority of participants were white, male, had children and owned a gun for protection.</li> <li>■ After the programme the number storing their guns in a locked compartment increased from 48 to 77 percent, while the number using gun locks went from zero to 72 percent. The number storing guns unlocked and loaded decreased. Those with children were more likely to store guns unlocked and loaded before the study, but significantly decreased both behaviours afterwards.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/155/6/659">http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/155/6/659</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>, 2005, Vol. 293, No. 6, 707-714</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>David C. Grossman et al</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "The four practices of keeping a gun locked, unloaded, storing ammunition locked and in a separate location are each associated with a protective effect and suggest a feasible strategy to reduce unintentional and self-inflicted firearm injuries in homes with children and teenagers where guns are stored".</li> <li>■ All of these practices reduce access to guns by youth.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/293/6/707?etoc">http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/293/6/707?etoc</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Self-inflicted and Unintentional Firearm Injuries Among Children and Adolescents: The Source of the Firearms</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine</i>, 1999, Vol. 153, No. 8, 875-878</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>David C. Grossman, Ronald T. Reay and Stephanie A. Baker</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This study looked at the source and ownership of guns used by children to shoot themselves and others, a poorly researched question.</li> <li>■ Results of 114 cases showed that more than 75 percent of the guns used in suicide attempts and unintentional injuries were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative or a friend.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/153/8/875">http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/153/8/875</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Gun Storage – Who's the Right Target?</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, 2001, Vol. 108, No. 3, 823, Letters to the Editor</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Tamara Coyne-Beasley and Renee M. Johnson</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In response to Azreel et al's article on differential reporting on firearm storage patterns (in households with multiple adults, one adult has more knowledge and control over the number, type and storage patterns of guns in the home) the authors make a number of important points:</li> <li>■ It is rare for adult males to be exposed to gun safe storage promotion campaigns, especially those conducted by physicians;</li> <li>■ This is of concern because physicians tend to use fear appeals (i.e. the image of a child having a serious gun-related unintentional injury, or a teen committing suicide) to persuade individuals to comply with gun storage recommendations;</li> <li>■ A basic tenet of health communication is that fear appeals are most effective when individuals are able to manage the fear through compliance with recommendations;</li> <li>■ Women who are not in control of the firearms in their household environments may not be or feel able to reduce the threat of a serious injury to a child through compliance with safe storage recommendations. Thus, it is important to develop safe storage promotion strategies in addition to anticipatory guidance by paediatricians;</li> <li>■ For safe storage promotion efforts to be successful in the future, three things are needed:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The first, and most important, is a promotion campaign that reaches gun-owning adults. Mass media, workplaces and communities are possible channels/settings for such a campaign;</li> <li>▪ A second need in safe storage promotion is for physicians to talk to women about the degree to which they feel they can discuss firearm issues with their partners, and then tailor counselling strategies accordingly. For those women who feel powerless to change the firearm storage practices in their home, physicians may want to consider determining if it is possible to talk with the gun owner in the context of a clinical visit where other injury prevention behaviours are discussed;</li> <li>▪ Finally, research describing how couples negotiate (or do not negotiate) gun storage practices is necessary to make promotion campaigns more effective, especially if we continue to reach only one adult in the household.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/108/3/823/b">http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/108/3/823/b</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>07 March 2006</b>

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Children and Guns in a Well Child Cohort</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Preventive Medicine</i>, March 2001, Vol. 32, No. 3, 201-206</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Marguerite M. Stevens, Cecelia A. Gaffney, Tor D. Tosteson, Leila A. Mott, Ardis Olson, M. Bridget Ahrens and Elke K. Konings</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This study provides data about adolescents' access to guns in the home: 17 percent had access to unlocked guns and 22 percent had fired guns.</li> <li>■ In this preadolescent cohort, firing guns was associated with being male, having guns in the home, having friends who use guns and initiation of alcohol use.</li> <li>■ Comment: It is naïve to believe that delivering 'gun safety' programmes to such youth would have any significant effect; a comprehensive approach is required, beginning with either removing guns from homes or ensuring safe storage.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=11277675&amp;dopt=Abstract">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&amp;db=PubMed&amp;list_uids=11277675&amp;dopt=Abstract</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>



### 4.3 Gun Exchange Programmes

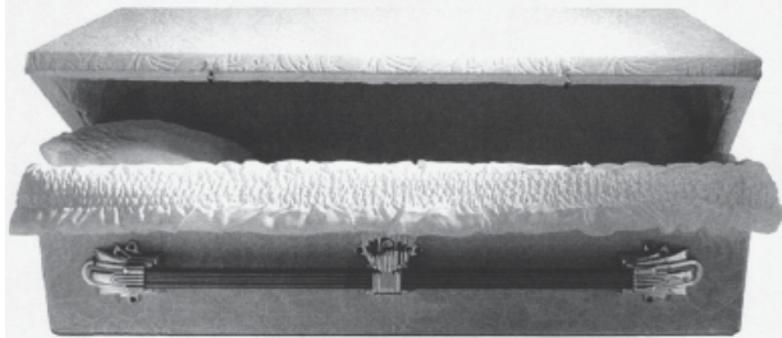
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Characteristics of a gun exchange programme and an assessment of potential benefits</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Injury Prevention</i>, 1998, Vol. 4, 206-210</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>Michael P. Romero, Garen J. Wintemute and Jon S. Vernick</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The study describes a gun exchange programme and assesses potential benefits for participants and host communities.</li> <li>■ Results: Most (62 percent) respondents were men; 40 percent were more than 55 years old; none was less than 25. Concern that children might find and use the gun was the most frequently cited reason for participating (46 percent of respondents).</li> <li>■ The number of guns exchanged in such programmes is usually small.</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/4/3/206">http://ip.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/4/3/206</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>09 May 2006</b>

### 4.4 Comprehensive Approach to Child Protection

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b><i>Pediatrics</i>, 2000, Vol. 105, No. 4, 888-895</b>
<b>Author (s):</b>	<b>American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention</b>
<b>Summary of Content:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "This AAP statement of 2000 reaffirms the 1992 position of the Academy that the absence of guns from children's homes and communities is the most reliable and effective measure to prevent firearm-related injuries in children and adolescents.</li> <li>■ A number of specific measures are supported to reduce the destructive affects of guns in the lives of children and adolescents, including regulation of the manufacture, sale, purchase, ownership, and use of firearms; a ban on handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons and expanded regulations of handguns for civilian use.</li> <li>■ They cite data that most homicides occur on impulse during interpersonal conflicts, and firearms are involved in the majority of cases involving fatalities.</li> <li>■ Recognized risk factors for violence involving children and adolescents include exposure to family violence, history of antisocial behaviour, depression, suicidal ideation, drug/alcohol use, poor school performance, bullying and withdrawal, demonstrating isolation from peer groups.</li> <li>■ <b>For developmental reasons, educational interventions are unlikely to be effective for many children and adolescents.</b> (Emphasis added.)</li> <li>■ The AAP supports the use of such measures as trigger locks, lock boxes, personalized safety mechanisms and trigger pressures that are too high for young children.</li> <li>■ In addition, until existing guns are no longer present in the environments of children, educational efforts should continually inform parents of the hazards of guns and safety measures".</li> </ul>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/105/4/888">http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/105/4/888</a></b>
<b>Accessed:</b>	<b>14 March 2006</b>



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