8 CHILDREN PER DAY are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun (1)

That's an average of 2,920 per year

On average there are 1,550 incidents of students having firearms at public schools each school year.(2)

75% of guns used in school shootings come from the shooter’s home or that of a relative.(3)

75% of 1st and 2nd graders know where their parents keep their firearms. (4)

4.6 Million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded firearm. (6)

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1/3 admitted handling the weapons. (4)

1.1 million students ages 12–18 reported having access to a loaded gun without adult permission. (5)

75% of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented with the addition of two devices: a child-proof safety lock and a loading indicator. (8)

75% of households that locked both firearms and ammunition had an 85% lower risk of unintentional gun deaths compared to those who lock neither.(7)

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IN THE HOME: GUN ACCESS & SAFETY

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PARENT MISCONCEPTION VS. REALITY

"My child knows the difference between a real gun and a toy gun" In 16% of unintentional firearm deaths among children younger than 13 years of age, the gun was mistaken for a toy (9)

"My child wouldn’t touch a gun. They know better." Studies have found that most children will handle a gun if they find one, even if they have been taught not to. (10)

CHILDSAFE & GUNS

What you should know:

CHILD SUICIDE & GUNS

It is well documented that the risk of teen suicide—the third leading cause of death among 15 to 19-year-olds—increases when there is a gun in the home, even more so when the firearm is kept loaded. (11)

The rate of firearm suicide among children and teens has increased 61% over the past decade. (12)

More than 80% of child firearm suicides used a gun belonging to a family member. (13)

Child access prevention laws, and safe storage reduce the risk of adolescent suicide. One found that keeping a gun locked lowers the risk of both unintentional injury and suicide for children and teenagers by 73%.(4)

REFERENCES

(1) Key Gun Violence Statistics, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.
(2) Digest of Education Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics.
(5) Indicators of School Crime and Safety, National Center for Education Statistics.
BY THE NUMBERS: CHILDREN & EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

An estimated 3 Million Children witness a shooting each year. (1)

A study of 7-year-olds in an urban neighborhood found that:
(2)
75% had heard gunshots
61% worried someone or a lot might get killed or die.
18% had seen a dead body

Race & Exposure: Children in communities of color are exposed to violence at an alarmingly high rate compared to white children.
In Chicago, Hispanic children had a 74% greater likelihood of being exposed to violence, and Black children had a 122% greater chance (3)

States with strong gun laws have lower rates of gun deaths. (7)

Engage in criminal behavior as adolescents (5)

Children who have witnessed community gun violence or faced other potentially traumatic events have been found to:
Abuse drugs(6)
Suffer from impaired cognitive and social development, Depression, and PTSD (6)
Experience unintended pregnancy (6)

18% had seen a dead body
61% worried some or a lot of the time that they might get killed or die.

EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE: THE IMPACT ON KIDS

Children who have witnessed community gun violence or faced other potentially traumatic events have been found to:

Receive Lower Grades in School (4)
Have More School Abscence (4)
Engage in criminal behavior as adolescents (5)
Abuse drugs(6)
Suffer from Impaired Cognitive and Social Development, Depression, and PTSD (6)
Experience Unintended Pregnancy (6)

WHY GUN LEGISLATION MATTERS

States with strong gun laws have lower rates of gun deaths. (7)

Of the 10 states with the strongest gun laws, 7 have the lowest rates of gun deaths. All seven have background checks for all gun purchases. (8)

BACKGROUND CHECKS...

Since taking effect in 1994, Brady background checks have stopped more than 3 million gun sales to prohibited purchasers including felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous individuals. (8)

RTC laws were associated with a 10% higher murder rate 10 years following the adoption of RTC laws. (10)

“Right to carry” (RTC) states, or those that loosen restrictions on conceal carry permits saw violent crime rates increase each additional year RTC laws were in place. (10)

CONCEAL CARRY & RIGHT TO CARRY (RTC) FACTS

RTC laws were associated with a 10% higher murder rate 10 years following the adoption of RTC laws. (10)

“Right to carry” (RTC) states, or those that loosen restrictions on conceal carry permits saw violent crime rates increase each additional year RTC laws were in place. (10)

TAKE ACTION!

• Enact universal background check legislation to ensure that those who are most likely to perpetrate gun violence cannot purchase guns.
• Enact comprehensive extreme risk protection orders legislation, which allows family members or law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a person deemed at risk of harming themselves or others.
• Fund gun violence prevention research at $60 million, with $35 million for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and $25 million for the National Institutes of Health.

REFERENCES
(7) Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. 2016 Gun Law Scorecard.
(8) Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Background Checks.
(9) Gun Laws and Violence Against Women: Myths against Real Facts. 2010.
(10) States with weak concealed carry permit requirements have higher rates of violent crime. States that loosened restrictions on concealed carry permits, so-called “right to carry” (RTC) states, saw violent crime rates increase each additional year RTC laws were in place. According to a recent academic study, after controlling for changes in incarceration rates and the number of parolees per capita, RTC states were associated with a 10% higher murder rate 10 years following the adoption of RTC laws. Concealed Carry of Firearms Facts vs. Fiction, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.