



Together we can address the public health crisis of firearm accidents, self-harm and violence¹

Learn more about the importance of safe storage.

Why the need for safe storage?

To Keep Our Children Safe

Children may not understand the difference between “pretend” shooting in video games real firearms, or may think it is a toy.

Since 2020, firearm-related injury has been the leading cause of death for U.S. children and teens ages 1-19.²

To Prevent Suicide

Teens who may be at risk for depression and isolation and have easy access to firearms have increased chances to cause self-harm.

Rate of firearm-related suicide increased 20% with the highest increases from younger people.³

To Prevent Theft

Firearms are often stolen from locked vehicles. Locking in a car is NOT secure which makes it easier for criminals to access and use in crimes.

In 2022, there were nearly 1,500 gun thefts from car incidents in Ohio.⁴

Safety Tips!

A loaded gun should always be under supervision.

If not, it should be unloaded and securely stored.

Prevent a loaded firearm from being left lying around the house where a child could find and pick up.

Together we are all responsible for the safety of our communities and loved ones.

Even if one accident or death is prevented through awareness, it is worth it.

DID YOU KNOW?



56% of unintentional **firearm deaths** among children and adolescents happened **in their own home**.



74% of firearms used were **stored loaded**.



76% of firearms used were **stored unlocked** and commonly found on a bed, under a pillow, under a mattress, or inside/on top of a nightstand.⁵

This Community Safety Alert is courtesy of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Ohio.

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