



Keep Kids Safe: Secure Your Firearm

Louisiana provides tax credit towards purchase of gun safe storage devices

HB 247 creates a state income tax credit for the purchase of secure storage devices that are used to lock up firearms and keep them from being accessed by unauthorized users. The tax credit is the lesser of the value of the storage devices or \$500. Residents should insure they keep receipts for safe storage purchases to take advantage of this tax credit. The state can only offer \$500,000 total a year for the credit on a first-come, first-served basis.

Be SMART

Secure all guns in your homes and vehicles;

Model responsible behavior around guns;

Ask about unsecured guns in other homes;

Recognize the role of guns in suicide;

Tell your peers to Be SMART.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the US.¹

In the US, nearly 2,100 children under the age of 18 are killed with guns every year—an average of 6 children every day.² Additionally, more than 700 children die by firearm suicide each year and more than 100 are unintentionally shot and killed.³

Guns in the Home

We know that approximately **4.6 million children in the US live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun.**⁴ Nearly 85 percent of child gun suicides and unintentional shooting deaths, respectively, as well as more than 40 percent of child gun homicides occur in or around a home.⁵ What's more, we know that in incidents of gunfire on school grounds, the majority of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun(s) they used from their home or the homes of relatives or friends.⁶

13 million households with children contain at least one gun.⁷ One study found that the majority of children in gun-owning households knew where the gun was stored.⁸

The Role of Guns in Suicide

Most people who attempt suicide do not die—unless they use a gun.⁹ In fact, 90 percent of suicide attempts with a gun result in death—a much higher fatality rate than any other means of self-harm.¹⁰ This contributes to the fact that **42 percent of child suicides involve a gun.**¹¹

A national survey of high school students showed that 22 percent had seriously considered attempting suicide in the last year.¹² One study showed that 41 percent of adolescents in gun-owning households report having “easy access” to the guns in their home.¹³

Research shows that secure firearm storage is associated with a decreased risk of child firearm suicide.¹⁴

The best kind of gun storage is the type (or types) that you will use consistently and that will allow you to secure all firearms in your home and vehicles. Some most commonly used secure storage practices include using a cable lock, lockbox, or firearm safe. For an added layer of safety, store all guns unloaded, and consider storing ammunition separately.

Learn more at BeSMARTforKids.org/Louisiana



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. Data from 2021. Children aged 1 to 17. Age 0 to 1 excluded because leading causes of death for newborns and infants are specific to the age group.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using four years of most recent available data: 2018 to 2021. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using four years of most recent available data: 2018 to 2021. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17.
4. Matthew Miller and Deborah Azrael, "Firearm Storage in US Households with Children: Findings from the 2021 National Firearm Survey," *JAMA Network Open* 5, no. 2 (2022): e2148823, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.48823>. Study defined children as under the age of 18.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), 2020. Ages 0-17. Homicide includes shootings by police.
6. National Threat Assessment Center, "Protecting America's Schools: A US Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence," US Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2U7vnwa>.
7. Deborah Azrael et al., "Firearm Storage in Gun-Ownning Households with Children: Results of a 2015 National Survey," *Journal of Urban Health* 95, no. 3 (2018): 295–304. Study defined children as under the age of 18.
8. Frances Baxley and Matthew Miller, "Parental Misperceptions About Children and Firearms," *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 160, no. 5 (2006): 542–47.
9. Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "Firearm Suicide in the United States," December 28, 2021, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearm-suicide-in-the-united-states/>.
10. Andrew Conner, Deborah Azrael, and Matthew Miller, "Suicide Case-Fatality Rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014: A Nationwide Population-Based Study," *Annals of Internal Medicine* 171, no. 2 (2019): 885–95.
11. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using four years of most recent available data: 2018 to 2021. Analysis includes children aged 0 to 17.
12. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Data Summary & Trends Report, 2011–2021," 2023, <https://bit.ly/3TG6ncd>.
13. Joseph A. Simonetti et al., "Psychiatric Comorbidity, Suicidality, and In-Home Firearm Access Among a Nationally Representative Sample of Adolescents," *JAMA Psychiatry* 72, no. 2 (2015):152–59.
14. David C. Grossman et al., "Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Injuries," *JAMA* 293, no. 6 (2005): 707–14.

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