

TEST YOUR SAFETY I.Q.

Q Where do most unintentional shootings occur?

A Nearly all childhood unintentional shooting deaths occur in or around the home.¹

Q How many Americans have firearms in their homes?

A An estimated 39% of all homes in the United States have some type of firearm, and 1 in 4 homes has a handgun.²

ThinkFirst about...

DEATH AND INJURY STATISTICS

- In the year 2000, an estimated 1,800 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional firearm-related injuries.³
- The FBI's *Crime in the United States* estimated that 66% of the 15,517 murders in the year 2000 were committed with firearms.⁴

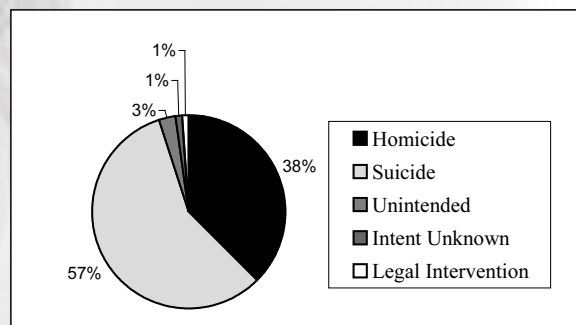
WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO INCUR THIS TYPE OF INJURY?

- A woman is far more likely to be killed by her husband, an intimate acquaintance, or a family member than by a stranger or an unidentified intruder.⁵
- In the year 1999, 88 children ages 14 and under died from unintentional firearm-related injuries.⁶
- Boys are far more likely to be injured and die from firearm-related incidents than girls. Nearly 80% of victims are male.⁷
- Homicide is the second leading cause of death among 15 to 24 year olds overall. In this age group, it is the leading cause of death for African Americans.⁸
- Suicide is now the 4th leading cause of death in women ages 15 to 24, 58% of these deaths are firearm-related.⁹

HEALTH COSTS

- The total annual cost of unintentional firearm-related deaths and injuries among children ages 14 and under is more than \$518 million.¹⁰
- Hospital treatment for a firearm-related injury averages between \$7,000 and more than \$15,000 per case.¹¹

1999 Firearms Deaths: All Races, Both Sexes



Age	Homicide	Suicide	Unintended	Intent Unknown	Legal Intervention	All
<1	8	-	-	-	-	8
1-4	50	-	12	3	-	65
5-14	224	103	76	12	1	416
15-24	4,038	2,315	251	127	64	6,795
25-34	3,048	2,621	143	51	112	5,975
35-44	1,868	3,097	136	57	76	5,234
45-54	893	2,677	92	28	32	3,722
55-64	373	1,860	48	14	11	2,306
65-74	193	1,791	33	15	2	2,034
75-84	95	1,606	23	13	1	1,738
>85	23	524	10	4	-	561
Unknown	15	5	-	-	-	20
Total	10,828	16,599	824	324	299	28,874

National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 49, No. 8, September 2001

ThinkFirst about...

PREVENTION TIPS

Talking with Young Children:

- Explain to children that guns are dangerous and that children should never touch guns or remain in a friend's home where a gun is accessible.
- Tell a child that gun violence in the media is not real – in real life, children are injured and killed by guns.

Talking with Teens:

- Look for signs that point to suicide including:
 - A past attempt
 - Family history of suicide
 - Drug abuse
 - Depression
 - Past abuse or a trauma
- Talk with your teenager about his/her thoughts and feelings; depressed teens commit suicide with guns more often than by any other method.
- Talk with your teen about ways to solve arguments and fights without guns or violence.

If you own a gun:

- Remember, young children are curious by nature and eagerly explore their environments.
- Even the best-behaved teenagers don't always follow the rules. Pre-teens and teens are often attracted to guns and sometimes see them as symbols of power.

Police recommend the following safety steps if you have a gun:

- Always keep your gun unloaded and locked up. Lock and store bullets in a separate location.
- The best way to reduce gun risks is to remove the gun from your home.

STILL NOT CONVINCED?

Fifty percent of unintentional shootings occur in the home and 40% occur in a friend or family member's household.¹² Gun owners can decrease the associated risks by adequately locking the unloaded gun and ammunition in separate locations. Remember, children as young as three have the ability to shoot a gun, but lack the knowledge of its consequences. Firearm injuries are easily preventable. Don't spend your life mourning the loss of a loved one over an incident that could have been prevented. Take the proper gun safety precautions to protect your family and friends.

ThinkFirst

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SOURCES:

^{1, 7, 12} www.safekids.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=317&folder_id=172

^{2, 3, 6, 10, 11} www.safekids.org/tier3_cd.cfm?folder_id=540&content_item_id=1131⁴ <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/guns.htm>

^{5, 9} www.vpc.org/fact_sht/womenfs.htm

⁸ <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/youth/youth.htm>