

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

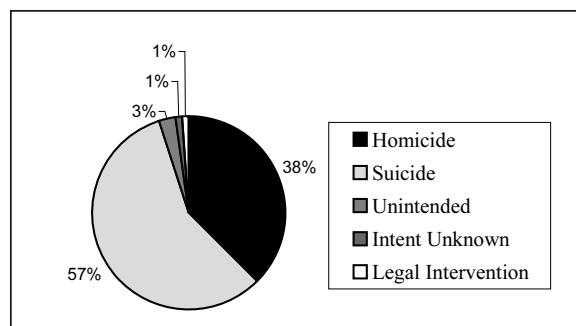
WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO INCUR THIS TYPE OF INJURY?

- 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

National Injury Prevention Foundation

29W120 Butterfield Road

Suite 105

Warrenville, Illinois 60555

Phone (630) 393-1400

Toll Free (800) THINK-56

Fax (630) 393-1402

thinkfirst@thinkfirst.org

www.thinkfirst.org

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>