Firearm-related deaths are on the rise in the United States, especially among youth, from accidental, to discharge, to school shootings, to suicide. The toll is greater than that of motor vehicle crashes. Yet, years ago, motor vehicles caused many more deaths. Public health-driven laws and regulations – speed limits, seat belt laws, airbags, crash tests, teen driving restrictions, drunk driving laws, and child car seats have caused the death toll to plunge. Though each of these measures was met with objections, driving laws, and child car seats have caused the death toll to plunge.

In the US, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.3 In the US, 85% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.3

It is important to keep in mind that this data is based upon the number of individuals who die or are wounded by guns and visit a hospital for care. We must acknowledge that the impact of gun violence extends far beyond those who are killed or physically injured. Individuals who witness acts of gun violence, are threatened with a gun, or know or care for someone wounded or killed must be accounted for when examining the overall effect on society.

Owning a gun is a personal decision, but secure firearm storage is a public health imperative. Note that a potentially lethal combination. Fortunately, a simple conversation that can help keep children out of harm’s way.

Proper firearm storage – just one evidence based prevention strategy. It is imperative that interventions that aim to make homes safer for children address this misconception.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has deemed pediatric firearm injury and death a critical public health issue. While various studies have demonstrated that firearm safety discussions during an in-office visit can be an effective prevention strategy, just as many studies report that physician and screening rates of firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents. But if there are guns in the home, AAP notes that more than a handful of organizations associated with firearm violence. Although broader validation is required, SaferEveshow potential to direct clinical intervention for the prevention of firearm injury and dangerous firearm practices.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) concludes that the absence of guns from the home is the most reliable and effective measure to prevent suicide, homicide, and unintentional firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents. But if there are guns in the home, AAP notes that more than a handful of organizations associated with firearm violence. Although broader validation is required, SaferEveshow potential to direct clinical intervention for the prevention of firearm injury and dangerous firearm practices.

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