



IACP

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS:

Firearms in the Home

MISSION:

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative, with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice (BJA), works to improve law enforcement's capacity to interdict firearms trafficking and disrupt gang activity. This is one in a series of Fact Sheets designed to provide law enforcement officers and executives with an overview on topics related to firearms.¹

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FAST FACTS: DID YOU KNOW

- According to the Pew Research Center, 37 percent of adults reported having a firearm in their household.²
- Forty-eight percent of firearm owners indicate that the primary reason they own a firearm is for protection, while approximately 32 percent say the firearm is for hunting purposes.³
- According to a 2008 article in the New England Journal of Medicine, when a firearm is stored in a home, the possibility of homicide increases by up to 170 percent and suicide increases by up to 460 percent.⁴
- Four out of 10 firearm homicides take place in the home.⁵
- Eight out of 10 firearm suicides take place in the home.⁶
- Nine out of 10 unintentional shooting fatalities take place in the home.⁷
- About one-third of all Americans with children under the age of 18 have a firearm in their household; of these, 34 percent have children younger than 12.⁸
- There are 1,700,000 children who live with unlocked, loaded guns in the home.⁹
- Sixty-eight percent of school shooters acquired their guns from their own home or that of a relative.¹⁰

Promising Practice

Project ChildSafe is a nationwide educational program that promotes the safe storage of firearms in the home by providing responsible gun owners with the tools and information they need to securely store their guns away from unauthorized persons, including children, at-risk individuals, and criminals.¹¹

For additional information go to: www.theiacp.org/PSNInitiative



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



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END NOTES

¹ For additional information related to the PSN Initiative, to include additional Fact Sheets, please visit www.theiacp.org/PSNInitiative

² Bruce Drake, Pew Research Center, "5 facts about the NRA and guns in America," April 24, 2014, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/24/5-facts-about-the-nra-and-guns-in-america>

³ Pew Research Center, *Why Own a Gun? Protection Is Now Top Reason Perspectives of Gun Owners, Non-Owners* (March 12, 2013), 1, <http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/03-12-13%20Gun%20Ownership%20Release.pdf> (accessed June 23, 2016).

⁴ Garen J. Wintemute, "Guns, Fear, the Constitution, and the Public's Health," Perspective, *The New England Journal of Medicine* 358 (April 2008): 1421–1424 <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp0800859#t=article> (accessed September 13, 2016).

⁵ Statistic based on data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) for 2011. Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, *The Truth About Kids & Guns*, 16, <http://www.bradycampaign.org/sites/default/files/Children-and-Guns-Report.pdf> (accessed June 23, 2016).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Rich Morin, "The Demographics and Politics of Gun-Ownning Households," Fact Tank, July 15, 2014, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/15/the-demographics-and-politics-of-gun-owning-households> (accessed June 23, 2016).

⁹ Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, *The Truth About Kids & Guns*, citing Okoro, C. A., Nelson, D. E., Mercy, J. A., Balluz, L. S., Crosby, A. E., & Mokdad, A. H. (2005). Prevalence of Household Firearms and Firearm-Storage Practices in the 50 States and the District of Columbia: Findings From the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002. *Pediatrics*, 116(3), 370-376.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Project ChildSafe, "About Project ChildSafe," <http://www.projectchildsafe.org/sites/default/files/Fact%20Sheet.pdf> (accessed June 23, 2016).