



Gun Safety Discussion Highlights

Presented by

HHS Board Safety Committee



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Three-pronged approach

Accidental Gun Shots

- Impacting children
- Gun storage and supervision

Homicides

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Community violence
- Mass shooting

Suicide

- Who is impacted
- Prevention campaign
- Mental health system



What is already happening?

- Child Protective Services is educating and holding parents accountable through home visiting.
- Gun locks are available through police stations.
- Suicide prevention campaign last fall.
- Some pediatrician's offices are including gun safety conversations in their screenings.
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is considering recommendations based on a recent review.



ASK, INSTRUCT, EDUCATE METHOD

» Ask patients about the presence of guns in the home:

Q1: “Is there a gun in the home?”

» Counsel parents who keep guns to store them unloaded in a locked case, with the ammunition locked separately.

Q2: “And if so, is it stored locked, unloaded, and out of reach of children?”

» Share best practices for safe storage of guns in the home: Counsel that while the safest home for children is one without a gun, safe storage practices can significantly reduce the risk of gun injury or death.

» Instruct parents to ask if there is a gun in the house before sending their kids to play at a friends’ home.

» Educate families that suicide attempts with a gun are very likely to be fatal, and that the presence of a gun in the home is associated with increased risk of suicide.



Upstream

We must work on Community Impact strategies by considering laws, policies and community conditions. We must also acknowledge the clear inequities and lack of access to mental health and social supports that exist for many in our community.



Resources Identified

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/community-led-public-safety-strategies/>

<https://citygrip.org/>

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=YvR20CC6ORU%3D&portalid=0#:~:text=Witnesses%20to%20gun%20violence%20injuries,devastating%20effects%20of%20gun%20violence.>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/04/01/opinion/we-fail-view-gun-violence-through-racial-equity-lens/>

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