

The Archdiocesan Gun Violence Prevention Task Force thanks you for helping to provide gun safety information and gun locks to families who need to secure firearms in their homes.

Here is some information about why safely storing firearms is so important.

FACTS

- Every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else ----and nearly 600 children die by suicide by gun.
- The two age groups most likely to unintentionally shoot themselves or others are high schoolers between the ages of 14 and 17, followed by preschoolers age five and younger.
- Children as young as three may be strong enough to pull the trigger on a handgun.
- Nearly 4.5 million children live in homes with loaded, unlocked guns.
- Having a gun in the home has been found to be associated with a greater risk for firearm suicide, with an increased risk in homes where guns are kept loaded or unlocked.
- Most people who attempt suicide do not die – unless they use a gun -- 90% of suicide attempts with a gun result in death.
- Research shows that having access to a firearm triples one's risk of death by suicide. This elevated risk applies not only to the gun owner but to everyone in the household.
- School shootings are linked to unsecured firearms: roughly three-quarters of school shooters under the age of 18 got the gun from their home or the home of a close relative.

SAFE GUN STORAGE

The risks of guns falling into the “wrong” hands -- of curious toddlers or volatile teens or anyone who is thinking of self-harm -- can be minimized, if not eliminated, by safe storage of guns.

This means:

- Storing a gun unloaded and locked
- Storing ammunition separately
- Keeping the cable lock key in a separate place from the gun

Storing guns unloaded and locked with the key in a separate place can stop young children from accidentally shooting themselves or someone else. And a locked and unloaded gun will stop or, at least slow-down, an upset teen or any person contemplating suicide – giving them time to rethink their situation and not “pull the trigger.”

Instructions on using the gun lock are packaged with the lock. You can see a demonstration here: [Gun Lock Demonstration](#)