

MYTH

"My kid doesn't have a gun."

FACT:

- More than one-third of children aged 10 to 19 said they could get a gun in less than an hour.
- Your child may not have a gun; his friend might.



WEAPONS FREE SCHOOL ZONE

MYTH

"You need a gun to be safe." "You need a gun to be cool."

FACT:

- Having a gun increases the risk of gun injury to ALL children.
- Guns that are easily available to kids are frequently made poorly and go off easily.
- If there is a gun at school, students can report it anonymously.



Children's Hospital of Michigan Trauma Center

For more than 25 years, the Trauma Center at Children's Hospital of Michigan has provided a warm and caring environment for pediatric trauma care, prevention and education for trauma recovery.

At the Trauma Center, attention is focused on caring for injured infants and children. Comprehensive pediatric trauma care results in a shorter length of stay and a quicker return to the child's family and community.

- A verified Level 1 pediatric trauma center dedicated exclusively to the special needs of children with injuries.
- A professional health care team specifically experienced in pediatric care.
- A full range of services, from intensive care to rehabilitation.
- Inpatient treatment of more than 1,000 injured children each year.
- Outpatient treatment of over 12,000 injured children each year.
- Community outreach to over 25,000 children and families each year.
- Installs smoke alarms in over 500 homes per year.
- Fits over 3,000 helmets on children and their families each year.

The Children's Hospital of Michigan Trauma Center is concerned about the safety of all children. If we can be of assistance to you or your family please call us.

For more information contact TRIP at
(313) 745-0072

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DMC
Children's Hospital of Michigan
DETROIT MEDICAL CENTER / WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



Facts about Kids and Guns

Children's Hospital of Michigan
Trauma Related Injury Prevention



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313-745-0072

www.chmkids.org

MYTH

“Babies are safe from gun injuries.”

FACT: Infants are hurt or killed because they are in the area when a gun is fired.



MYTH

“Nonpowder firearms (BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, paintball guns) are toys.”

FACT:

- Between 1990 and 2000, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 39 deaths related to nonpowder guns, of which 32 were children younger than 15 years.
- Nonpowder firearms have caused many serious injuries to children’s eyes, hands and faces.

FACT: A child dies every 8 hours in a gun accident or suicide.

MYTH

“Teaching a child gun safety makes a child safe.”

FACT:

- Children can learn gun safety rules, but adult supervision is always necessary.
- If you must have a gun, keep it locked up, unloaded, and with a trigger lock on. Store the bullets in a separate locked location.
- You may want to remove the gun from your home for your child’s sake.

FACT: 50% of U.S. homes have guns.



MYTH

“Children can’t find the gun in its hiding place.”

FACT:

- Children, even toddlers, are nose-y and curious.
- Toddlers quickly learn how to climb and how to open things.

FACT: There is NEVER a safe gun.

MYTH

“Toddlers can’t pull the trigger on a gun.”

FACT:

- Many guns do not require a lot of strength to pull the trigger.
- Toddlers can also PUSH a trigger.

MYTH

“Only teens with mental illness think about suicide.”

FACT:

- The risk of suicide increases dramatically when kids and teens have access to firearms at home, and nearly 60% of all suicides in the U.S. are committed with a gun.
- Almost all teens admit to having suicidal thoughts at some time. The rate of adolescent suicide has quadrupled since 1950.

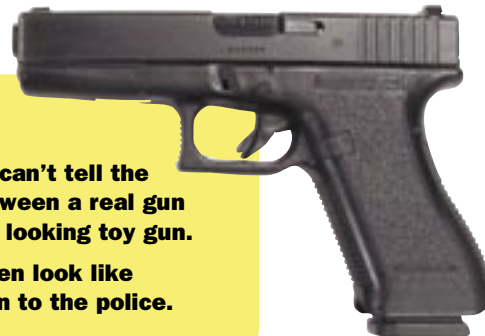


MYTH

“Kids can tell the difference between a toy gun and a realistic gun.”

FACT:

- Most adults can’t tell the difference between a real gun and a realistic looking toy gun.
- Toy guns often look like real guns, even to the police.



FACT: Nationally, 1.2 million elementary aged, latchkey children have access to guns.

MYTH

“TV life is just like real life.”

FACT:

- Guns are glamorized on TV and the movies.
- Children need to know death is permanent. You won’t be back for next week’s show . . .