

# Lock, Stock, and Barrel: developing clinical skills that promote firearm injury prevention

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A mindful moment before we begin

# Objectives

1. Use population health lens for firearm injury prevention: i.e. why are we doing this
2. Identify patients to screen for firearm injury risk
3. Review principles of safe storage and safe staging
4. Envision how to incorporate screening and counseling into clinical practice



# Objectives

1. Have fun
2. Learn something useful
3. End on time





Shared knowledge is essential to **clear communication**

# Understanding the prevalence of firearm ownership and risk for injury: Conceptualizing Scope

- **How many firearms are there in America?**
  - 390 Million<sup>1</sup> ; 40% of the global pop owns 40% of the firearms<sup>1</sup>
- **What percent of US homes have a firearm?**
  - 42% of US homes have a firearm<sup>2</sup> ; 47% of homes in WI
- **How many kids live in a home with an unsecured /loaded firearm?**
  - >4 million children live in a home with an unsecured firearm<sup>3</sup>

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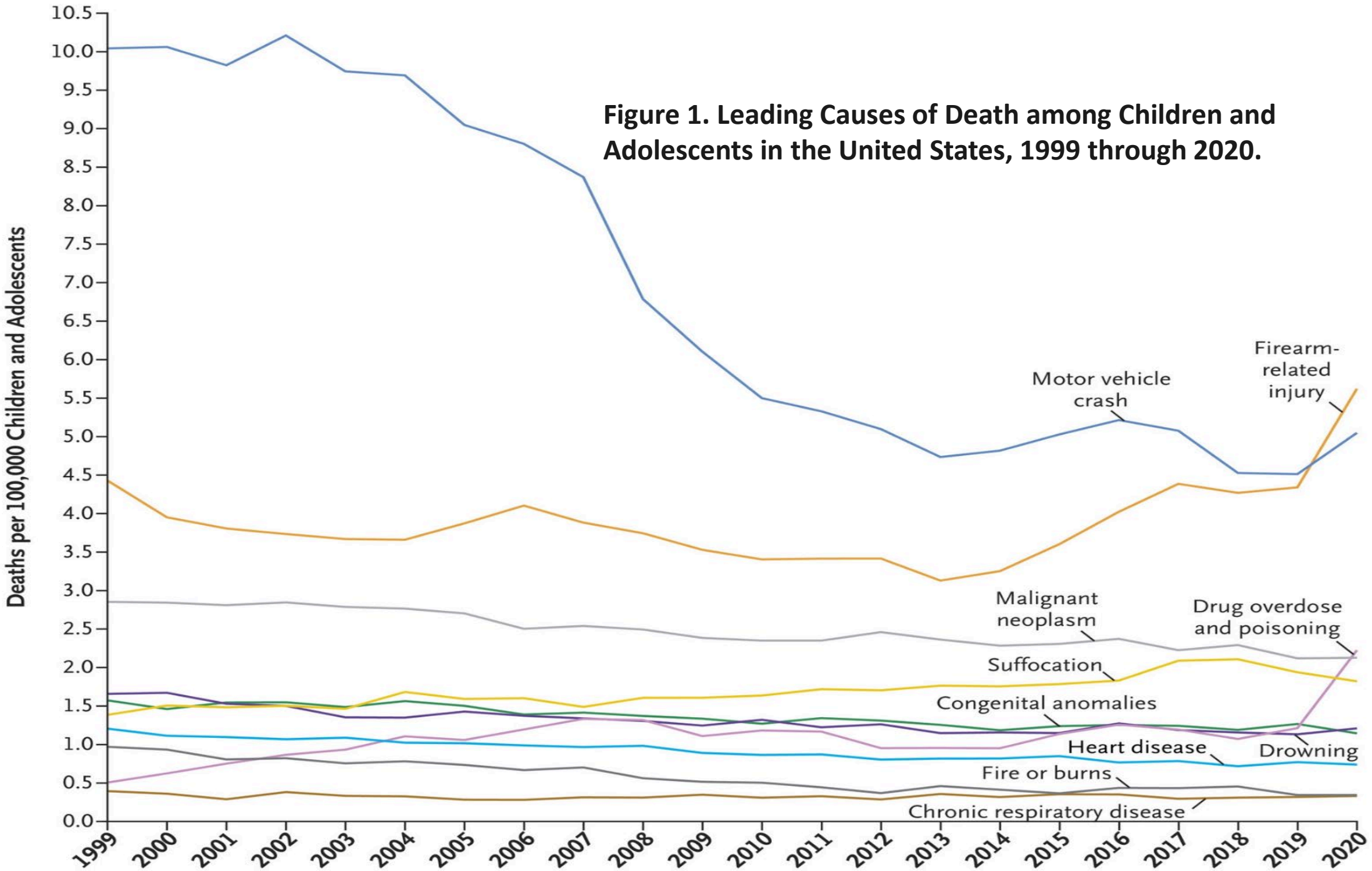
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# Understanding the prevalence of firearm ownership and risk for injury:

## Conceptualizing Scope

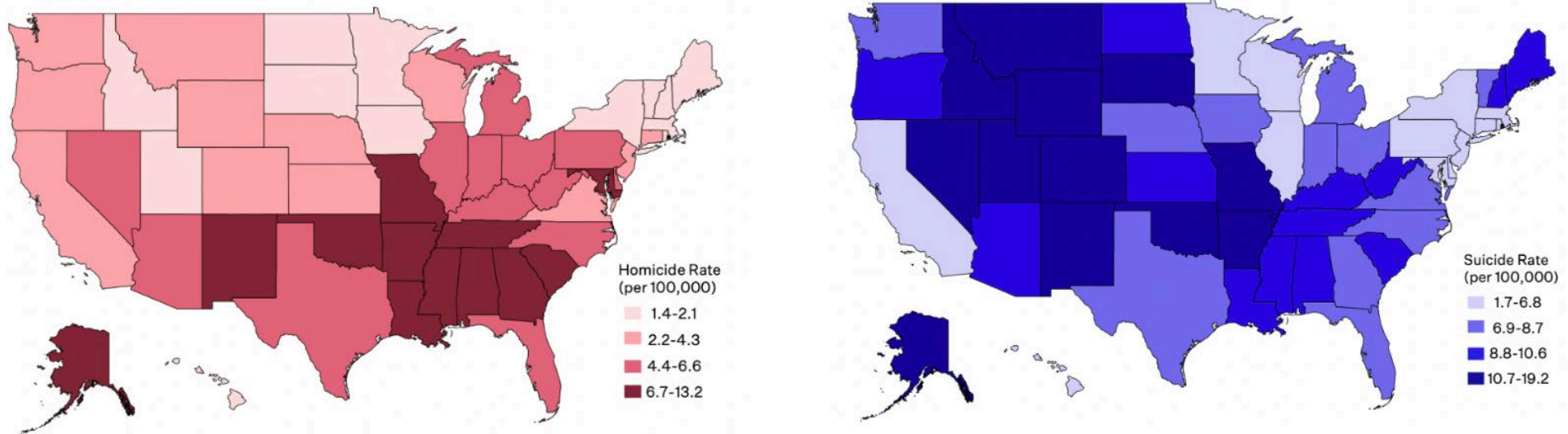
- How many people die annually due to firearms?
  - ~40,000 Americans die each year from firearms<sup>4</sup>
  - Firearms are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1-19<sup>5</sup>
- What is the main type of death from firearms (e.g. mass shooting, etc?)
  - Suicide 54%
  - Homicide 43%
  - Mass Casualty 0.1%

**Figure 1. Leading Causes of Death among Children and Adolescents in the United States, 1999 through 2020.**



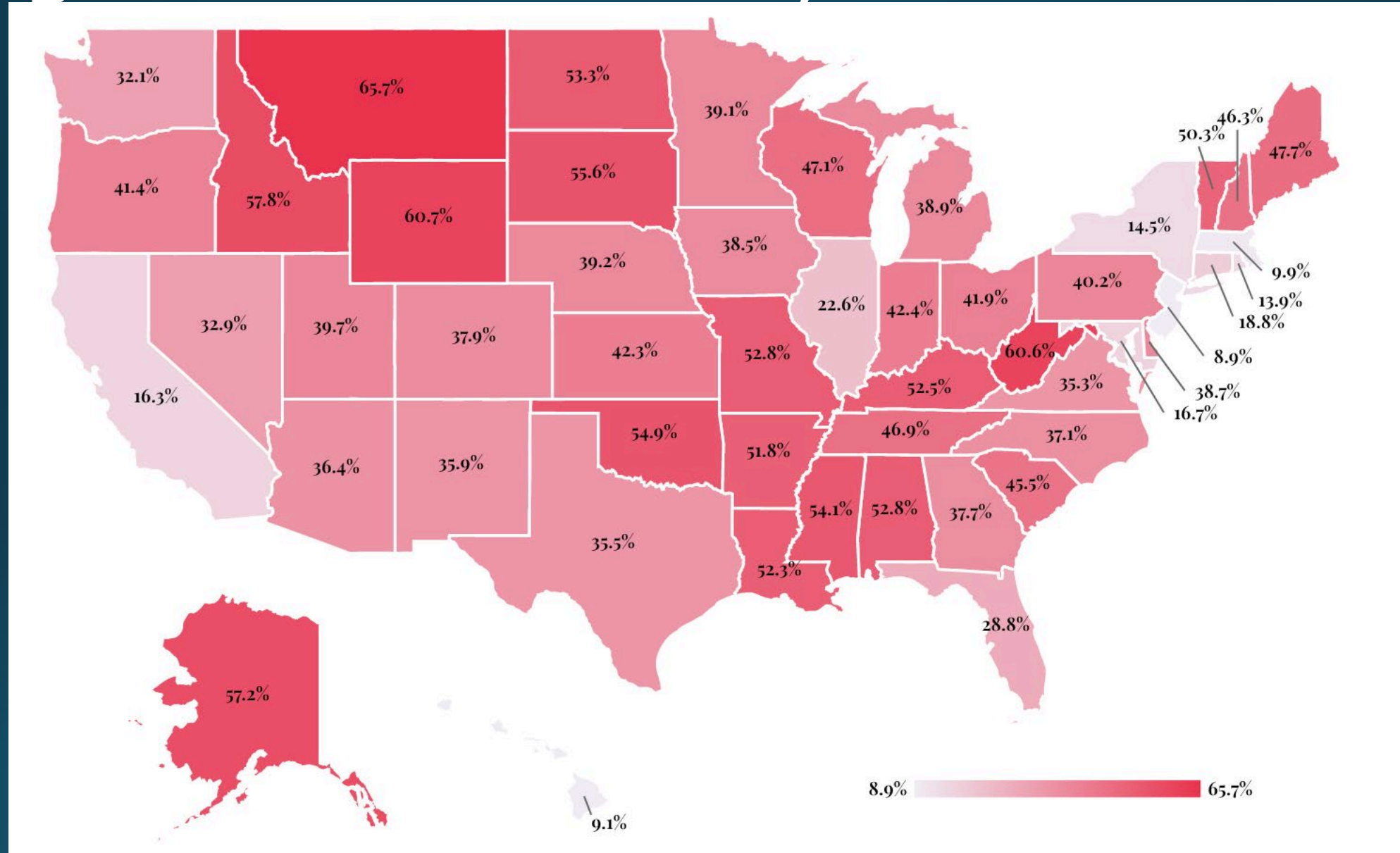
# Firearm Deaths by State in the US, 2019

Age-Adjusted Firearm Homicide & Suicide Rates by State, 2019



Data from CDC WISQARS. Homicide rates for ME, NH, ND, RI, SD, VT, and WY may be unstable. Homicides include deaths by legal intervention.

# Registered Firearm by State in the US



<https://wisevoter.com/state-rankings/gun-ownership-by-state/>

With great **power**  
comes great **responsibility**



With great rights  
come great responsibility



## Importance of FSS screening

- over half of all U.S. gun owners **do not** practice safe firearm storage (55% of gun owners w/ children in home do not safely store **all** firearms)
- 82% of adolescent firearm suicides involve a **family member's gun**
- 80% of school shooters <18 access firearm from **own home or from a relative or friend**

# Addressing the Public Health Issue

Research suggests that **physician counseling** paired with **provision of a safety device**

→ safer firearm storage practices in the home

## Can we quantify the impact of safe storage?

If **20%** of homes not currently safely storing all firearms practice safe storage of all firearms within the home...

→ **323** fewer pediatric firearm injuries annually

→ prevent **135** pediatric deaths annually



# Are we even allowed to ask about firearms?

- Privacy of Firearm Owners act struck down
- Violated 1st Amendment rights of physicians
- Our language matters



## Avoid a political conversation

Avoid discussion on rights  
→ focus on responsibility

If you  
don't ask,  
you don't  
get it...

**Mahatma  
Gandhi**

## **Who should we screen?**

- homes with children or adolescents
- those with mental health conditions creating increased risk for suicide
- individuals experiencing interpersonal violence
- military veterans
- individuals with history of firearm injury

## **Consider screening everyone**

universal screening → increase competency



**Bright Futures™**

prevention and health promotion for infants,  
children, adolescents, and their families™

You are already doing  
universal screening  
for all well child visits!

**Bright Futures Pre visit Questionnaire:**

Are there any guns kept in or around your home or where your child spends time?

Are there any guns kept in or around your home or where your child spends time?!?!



# Developing tools for discussing firearms



# Developing tools for discussing firearms

## Invite discussion about your patient's firearms

- " Many of my patient's families own firearms for personal protection...I wanted to check in to see if your family has any firearms."
- "In our state we have a strong hunting culture and many of the families I care for own firearms. I wanted to check in..."

# Developing tools for discussing firearms

## Learn more about your patient's firearms

- Tell me more about the firearms you own.
- What do you use your firearms for?
- What kind of firearms do you own?
- How often do you use your firearms?

**What's the plan to keep your firearms safe?**

**What's the plan to prevent unintended access?**

# Developing tools for discussing firearms

## Counseling on injury prevention

- Ask about risk for self harm → consider **temporary firearm transfer**
- Educate patients on what to do **if they encounter an unsecured firearm**
- Ask about firearms in homes where children play
  - make this a **pre play date question**

Children in home with firearm are 3x more likely to die from suicide



# Core principles of safe firearm storage:

Locked

Unloaded

Stored separate from ammunition

Ammunition locked/secured

Ensure inaccessible to children or other high risk individuals

**ALL FIREARMS**

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<https://www.gabrielegalimberti.com/the-ameriguns/>

# Options for firearm safe storage

## A RANGE OF OPTIONS



### CABLE LOCK

Price Range: \$10–\$50

A cable lock can be used on most firearms, allows for quick access in an emergency and offers security from theft. The cable runs through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from being accidentally fired, requiring either a key or combination to unlock it.

- 💰 AFFORDABLE
- ✅ ACCESSIBLE
- 🔒 THEFT  
DETERRENT



### GUN CASE

Price Range: \$10–\$150

For those looking to conceal, protect or legally transport a registered firearm, a gun case is an affordable solution available in a variety of materials including plastic, fabric or metal. Be sure to lock it with an external device for added security.

- 💰 AFFORDABLE
- 👜 PORTABLE
- ⚠️ PROTECTS  
FROM DAMAGE



### LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$25–\$350

With integrated locks, storage boxes provide reliable protection for firearms, and allow gun owners to legally transport them outside of their home.

- 👜 PORTABLE
- ✅ ACCESSIBLE
- ⚠️ PROTECTS  
FROM DAMAGE



### ELECTRONIC LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$50–\$350

Electronic lock boxes are an effective way to store or legally transport firearms, and they also prevent theft since only the person with the code can access the contents. Some electronic lock boxes are specially designed for quick access to stored firearms.

- 👜 PORTABLE
- 🔒 THEFT  
DETERRENT
- ⚠️ PROTECTS  
FROM DAMAGE



### FULL SIZE AND BIOMETRIC GUN SAFES

Price Range: \$200–\$2,500

A gun safe protects its contents from the elements and allows owners to safely store multiple firearms in one place. Gun safes of all sizes are now available with biometric options to ensure only certain people have access.

- 🔒 THEFT  
DETERRENT
- ⚠️ PROTECTS  
FROM DAMAGE

# Consider making locking devices available at your clinic

## Cable Locks



## Trigger Lock



# What about firearms for **personal protection**?



## Safe Staging

Firearm unloaded  
(chamber clear)

Loaded magazine removed  
also locked in case/safe

# Community partnership is paramount

The logo for UW Health Kids, featuring the text "UW Health Kids" in red and blue on a black background.

**UW Health Kids**

UW Health Kids  
Pediatric Injury Prevention Program

The logo for Safe Communities, featuring a stylized yellow 'S' icon and the text "safe communities" in yellow on a grey background.

**safe  
communities**

Safe Communities of Madison- Dane County  
<https://safercommunity.net/>

The logo for MaxCreek Outdoors, featuring the text "MAXCREEK" in orange and white, and "OUTDOORS" in white on a black background.

**MAXCREEK**  
OUTDOORS

MaxCreek Outdoors- Oregon, WI  
[www.maxcreekoutdoors.com](http://www.maxcreekoutdoors.com)



Shared knowledge  
is essential to  
clear communication

# LOCK, STOCK, AND BARREL

This program provides a nonjudgmental space to learn how to talk about firearms, safe handling and storage of firearms, and the role safe firearm storage plays in addressing gun-related injuries and death by suicide.



## Goal of training

Increase lethal means safety of firearms by normalizing the conversation, familiarity, and knowledge between providers and patients who are gun owners as part of a comprehensive approach to preventing suicide.



"Patients are experts in the means (firearms) the clinician is the expert in managing risk."

## Who is this for?

A collaboration of gun shops and healthcare professionals

## Participants will learn about:

### Guns and Ammo

Different types of and uses for firearms and ammunition

01

### Safe storage

Gun Locks, safes, holsters, and other security mechanisms

02

### Shooting

Proper ways to hold guns, stance and the appeal of shooting

03

### Firearm culture

Understanding firearms culture and the role firearms in the home and workplace

04

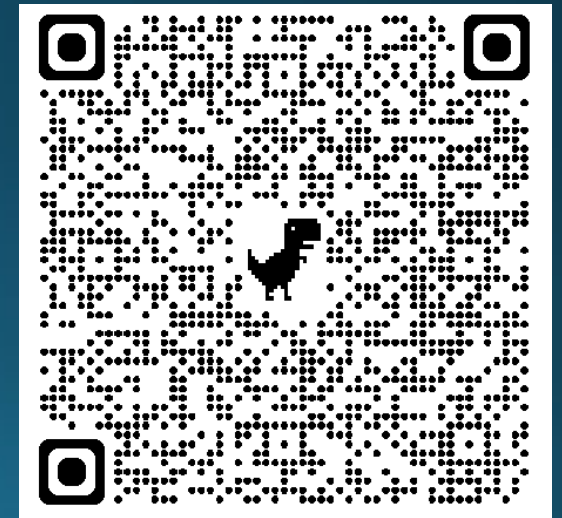
# Extreme Risk Scenarios:

What if the patient discloses plan with intent for self harm or harm to others

- ERPO: extreme risk protection order
- Voluntary transfer of firearm (gunshop project)
- Contacting law enforcement



# Gunshop project: voluntary transfer



# Practice Cases:

Set a respectful tone

remember your language matters

- **Case 1:** Well-child check for 9 year old; on the bright futures 2.0 screener the parent affirms that the family **has firearms in home.**
- **Case 2:** Well-child check for 15 year old; on the bright futures 2.0 screener the parent reports that the family **has no firearms in home.**

## Practice Cases:

Case 1: parent of small children, lives in home with partner who owns firearms

### Clinical Pearls

- Firearm in home ↑ risk for death/injury for children
- 4 million kids live in a home with loaded, unsecured firearm
- Firearms should be secured, not just hidden
- Simply telling children not to touch firearm is insufficient

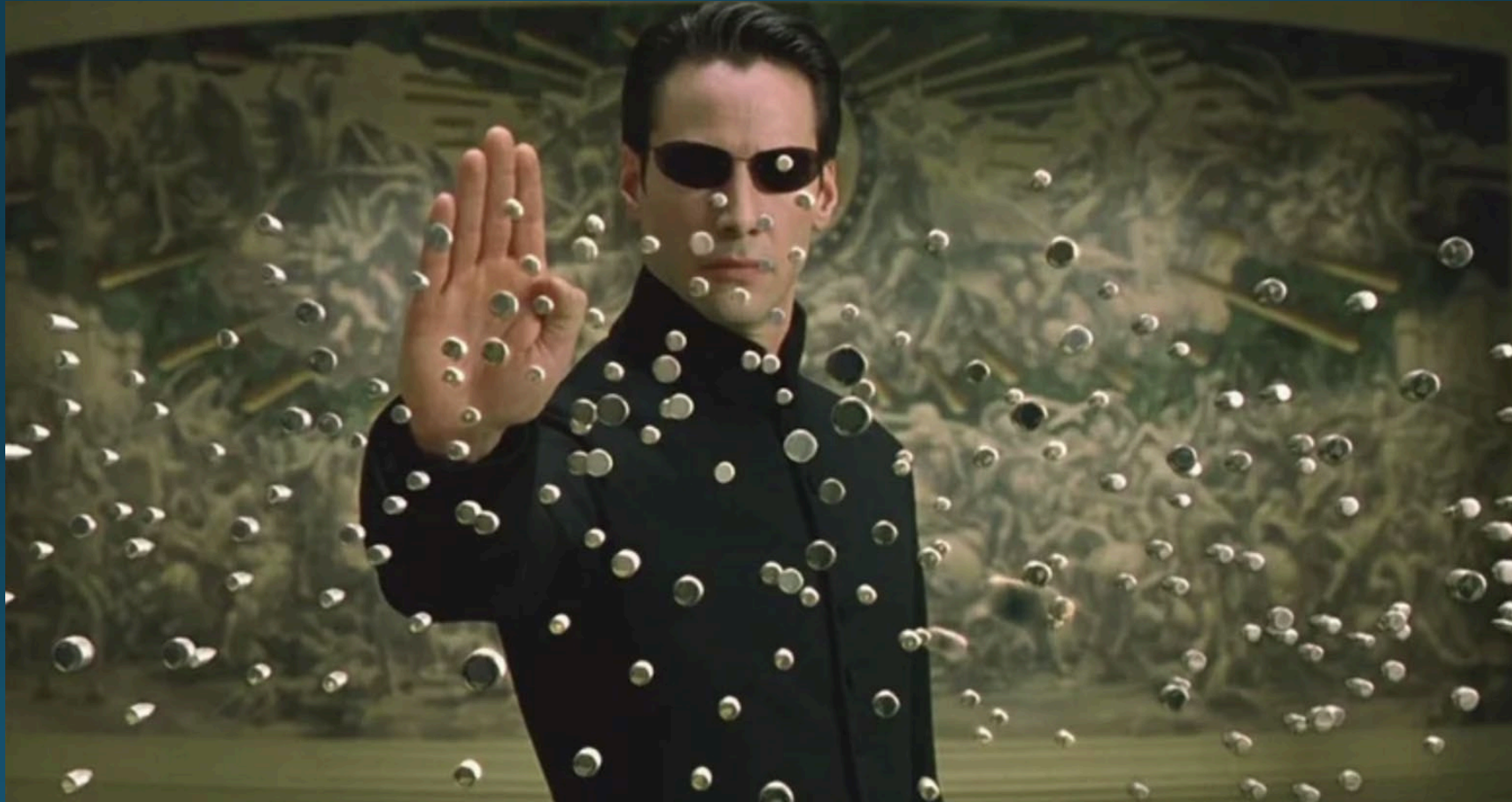
## Practice Cases:

Case 2: patient's parents are not gun owners, family includes 2 adolescents

### Clinical Pearls

- Negative screen on bright futures → chance for teaching
- Encourage parents to ask about firearms in homes visited by kids
- Don't forget to provide education for adolescent patient
- If you choose to document in chart, recognize ownership changes over time, don't assume what was true last year remains

One last mindful moment as we close



# Resources for further Study



Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Coursera  
"Reducing Gun Violence in America: Evidence for Change"



**The Bulletpoints Project** (<https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>)



Gun Violence Prevention Learning Collaborative



# Resources for further Study



INSTITUTE FOR FIREARM  
INJURY PREVENTION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



**M** INSTITUTE FOR FIREARM  
INJURY PREVENTION  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



**Stay Classy  
GPAM!!!**

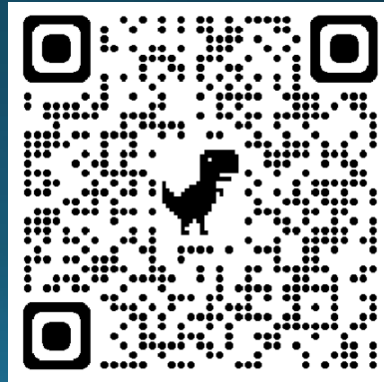


**Thank you**

Reach out with any ideas or questions as they arise

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Text: 608-513-2875





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