

# Family-Centered Screening for Violence & Weapon Injury Risk

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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
MILLER SCHOOL  
of MEDICINE



Health

Aggression

Child Development

Prevention

Evidence

Relationships

Support

Risk

Screening



Culture

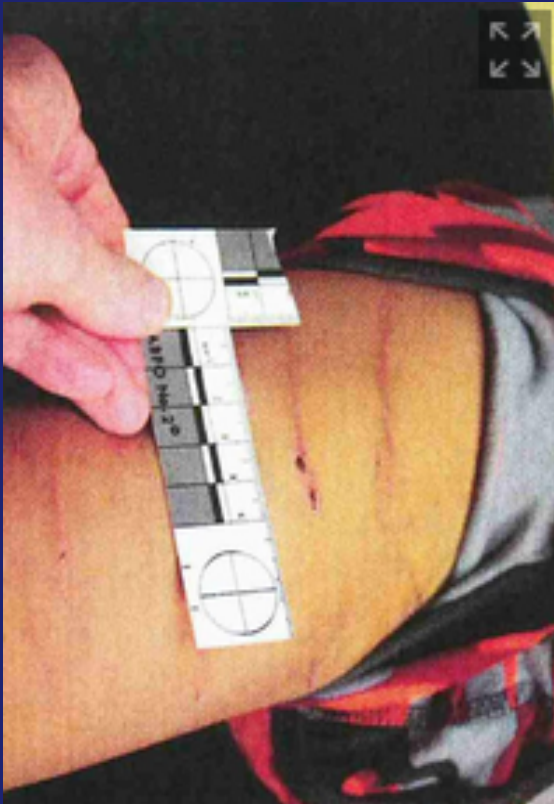
Multisystemic

Engage

Strength-based

Trust

Respect



HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

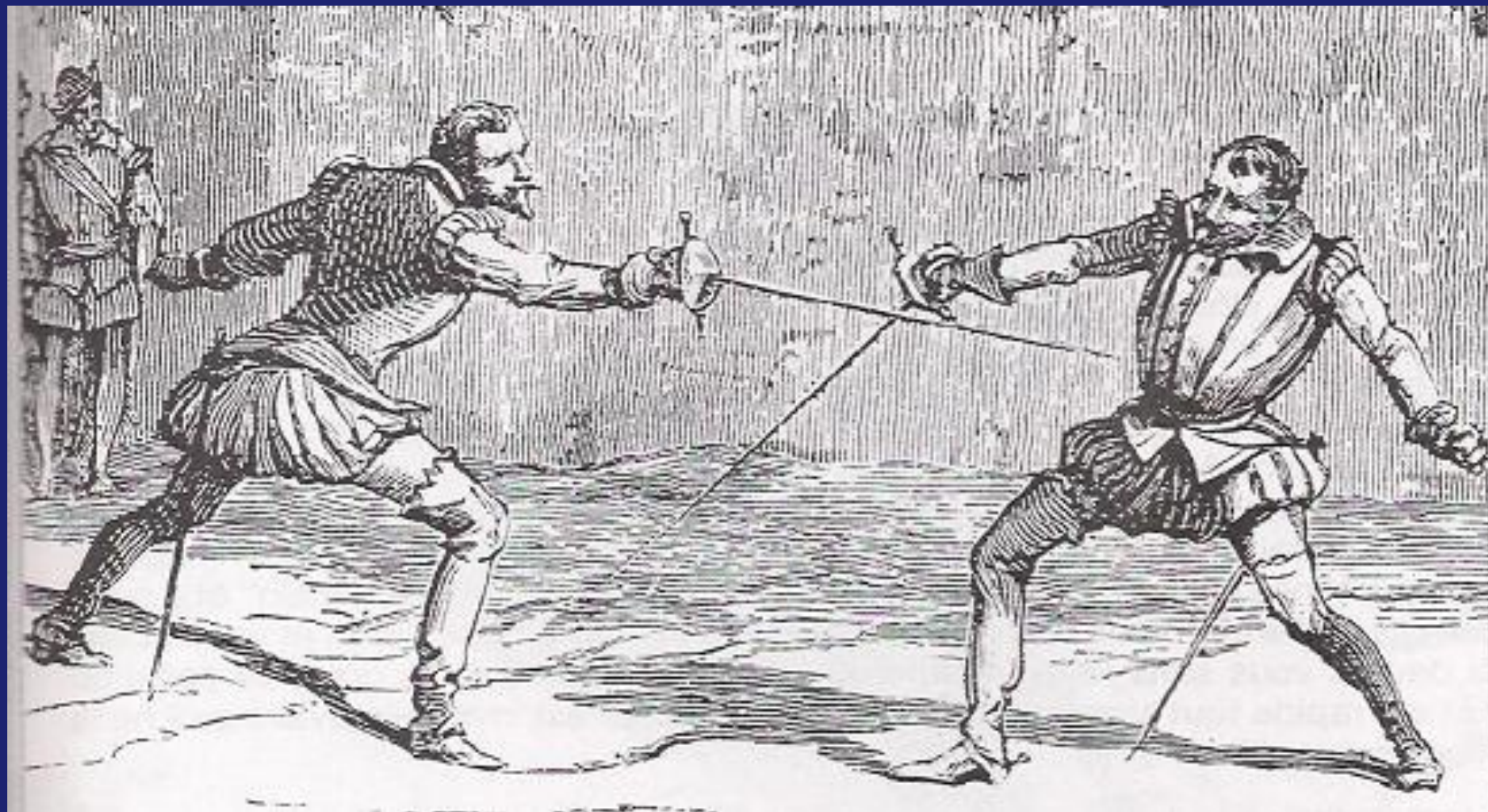


HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**According to the Houston Police Department, these are injuries Adrian Peterson allegedly inflicted on his 4-year-old son.**



Dueling as Conflict Resolution





## THE BATTERED-CHILD SYNDROME

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CINCINNATI, BRANDT F. STEELE, M.D., WILLIAM DROEGEMUELLER, M.D.,  
AND HENRY K. SILVER, M.D., DENVER

Professor and Chairman (Dr. Kempe) and Professor of Pediatrics (Dr. Silver), Department of Pediatrics; Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Dr. Steele), and Assistant Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology (Dr. Droegemueller), University of Colorado School of Medicine; and Director, Division of Roentgenology, Children's Hospital (Dr. Silverman).

**Abstract**—The battered-child syndrome, a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse, is a frequent cause of permanent injury or death. The syndrome should be considered in any child exhibiting evidence of fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, failure to thrive, soft tissue swellings or skin bruising, in any child who dies suddenly, or where the degree and type of injury is at variance with the history given regarding the occurrence of the trauma. Psychiatric factors are probably of prime importance in the pathogenesis of the disorder, but knowledge of these factors is limited. Physicians have a duty and responsibility to the child to require a full evaluation of the problem and to guarantee that no expected repetition of trauma will be permitted to occur.

THE BATTERED-CHILD SYNDROME is a term used by us to characterize a clinical condition in young children who have received serious physical abuse, generally from a parent or foster parent. The condition has also been described as "unrecognized trauma" by radiologists, orthopedists, pediatricians, and social service workers. It is a significant cause of childhood disability and death. Unfortunately, it is frequently not recognized or, if diagnosed, is inadequately handled by the physician because of hesitation to bring the case to the attention of the proper authorities.

# Family-Centered Care Principles

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1. Respecting each child and his or her family
2. Honoring racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity and its effect on the family's experience and perception of care
3. Recognizing and building on the strengths of each child and family, even in difficult and challenging situations
4. Supporting and facilitating choice for the child and family about approaches to care and support
5. Ensuring flexibility in organizational policies, procedures, and provider practices so services can be tailored to the needs, beliefs, and cultural values of each child and family
6. Sharing honest and unbiased information with families on an ongoing basis and in ways they find useful and affirming
7. Providing and/or ensuring formal and informal support (e.g., family-to-family support) for the child and parent(s) and/or guardian(s) during pregnancy, childbirth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood
8. Collaborating with families at all levels of health care, in the care of the individual child and in professional education, policy making, and program development
9. Empowering each child and family to discover their own strengths, build confidence, and make choices and decisions about their health



# Bell, Florida



**September 24, 2014**  
**Brownsville Middle School**  
**Miami**

4 students, aged 12-15, arrested for bringing/touching two loaded guns into school



No information on the source of guns or the type of guns until appearance in court. Research confirms that children usually get their guns from home. In this case, there may be a connection to community/gang violence/scratched serial #s.

# Counseling is Effective

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A multisite study found that keeping a gun locked and keeping a gun unloaded have protective effects of 73% and 70%, respectively, with regard to risk of both unintentional injury and suicide for children and teenagers. These findings were consistent for both handguns and long guns (rifles and shotguns).

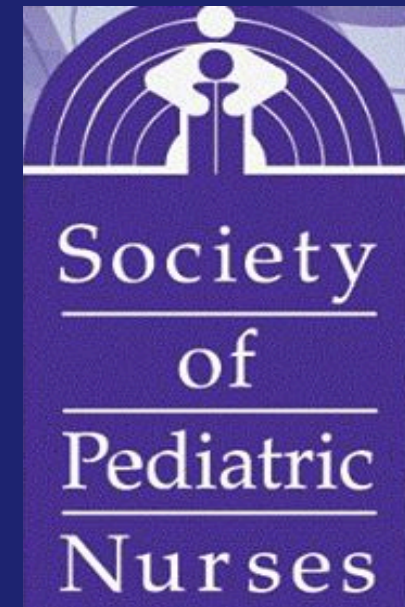
# Counseling is Effective

A multisite randomized controlled office-based practice setting of firearm access screening & brief motivational storage counseling promoting use of cable gun locks resulted in significant increased gun safety storage practices.

22% over baseline, sustained over 6 months.

124 intervention practices.

# Nationally Recognized Standard of Care



# Florida's FOPA

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The newest form of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

# Firearm Owner Privacy Act (FOPA)

## = Physician Gag Law = “Docs vs. Glocks”

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**Privacy of Firearm Owners:** Provides that licensed practitioner or facility may not record firearm ownership information in patient's medical record; provides exception; provides that unless information is relevant to patient's medical care or safety or safety of others, **inquiries regarding firearm ownership or possession should not be made**; provides exception for EMTs & paramedics; provides that patient may decline to provide information regarding ownership or possession of firearms; clarifies that physician's authority to choose patients is not altered; prohibits discrimination by licensed practitioners or facilities based solely on patient's firearm ownership or possession; prohibits harassment of patient regarding firearm ownership during examination; prohibits denial of insurance coverage, increased premiums, or other discrimination by insurance companies issuing policies on basis of insured's or applicant's ownership, possession, or storage of firearms or ammunition; clarifies that insurer is not prohibited from considering value of firearms or ammunition in setting personal property premiums; provides for disciplinary action. Violations of the provision constitute grounds for disciplinary action (BOM). Effective:6/2/11

Injunction stands.

# Health Screening > Focused Counseling

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- Blood Pressure
- Weight, Diet, & Exercise
- Injury (seat belts, pool)



# General Screenings

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- Allergies
- Pets
- Drugs, medications
- Travel

# Questioning About Violence

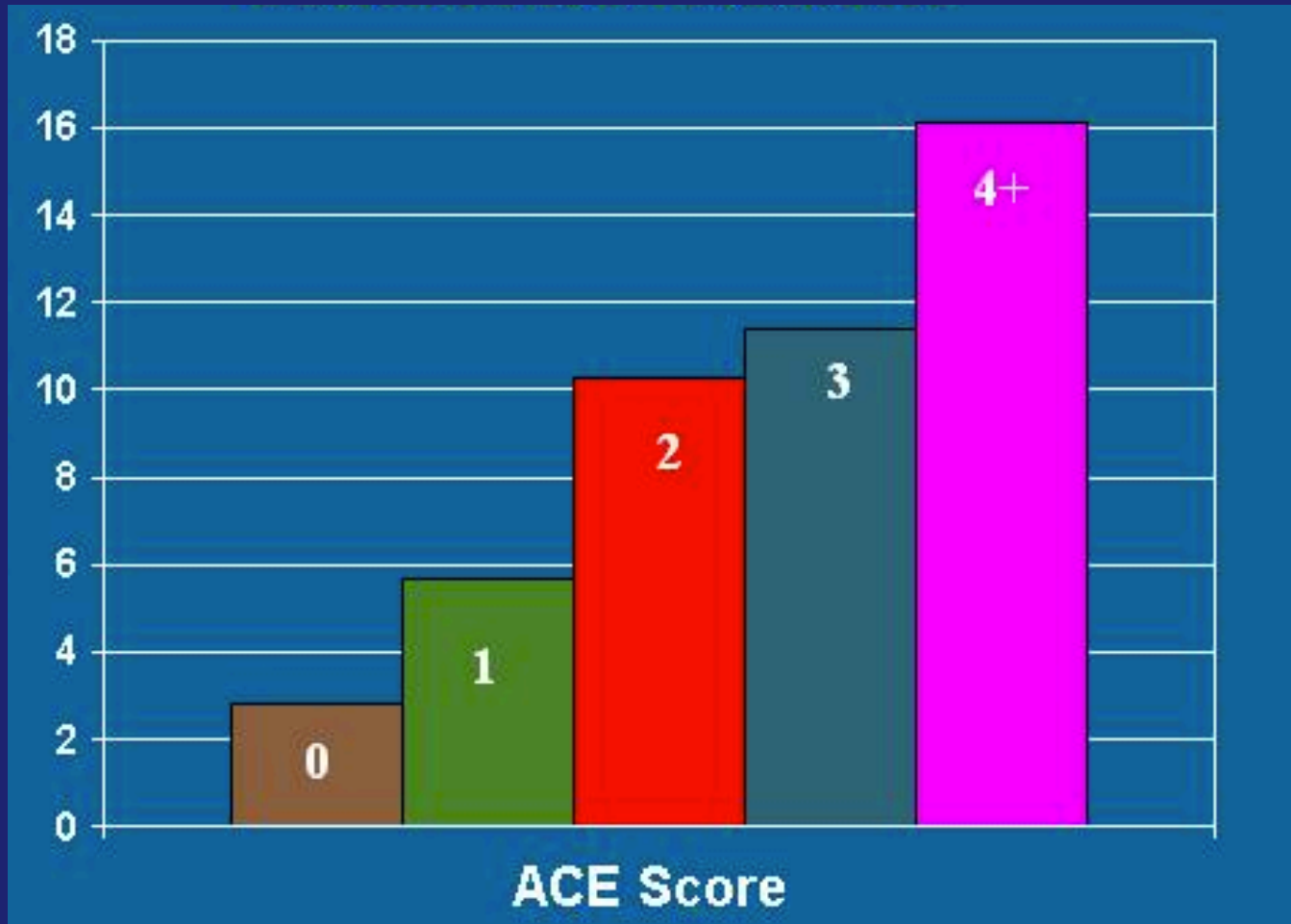
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- Format (paper, computer, person)
- “Screening” vs. “Counseling”
- Pediatric challenges
  - Development
  - Adolescence/Privacy
  - Punishment vs. Maltreatment
  - Types of Violence (parents, adolescents, siblings, school, IPV)
  - The targeted child

# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

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Increasing ACE – disease outcomes



# Specific Adverse Childhood Events

**Table 1.** Prevalence of childhood exposure to abuse and household dysfunction

Category of childhood exposure <sup>a</sup>	Prevalence (%)	Prevalence (%)
<b>Abuse by category</b>		
<b>Psychological</b>		<b>11.1</b>
<i>(Did a parent or other adult in the household . . .)</i>		
Often or very often swear at, insult, or put you down?	10.0	
Often or very often act in a way that made you afraid that you would be physically hurt?	4.8	
<b>Physical</b>		<b>10.8</b>
<i>(Did a parent or other adult in the household . . .)</i>		
Often or very often push, grab, shove, or slap you?	4.9	
Often or very often hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?	9.6	
<b>Sexual</b>		<b>22.0</b>
<i>(Did an adult or person at least 5 years older ever . . .)</i>		
Touch or fondle you in a sexual way?	19.3	
Have you touch their body in a sexual way?	8.7	
Attempt oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?	8.9	
Actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?	6.9	
<b>Household dysfunction by category</b>		
<b>Substance abuse</b>		<b>25.6</b>
Live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?	23.5	
Live with anyone who used street drugs?	4.9	
<b>Mental illness</b>		<b>18.8</b>
Was a household member depressed or mentally ill?	17.5	
Did a household member attempt suicide?	4.0	
<b>Mother treated violently</b>		<b>12.5</b>
<i>Was your mother (or stepmother)</i>		
Sometimes, often, or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?	11.9	
Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?	6.3	
Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes?	6.6	
Ever threatened with, or hurt by, a knife or gun?	3.0	
<b>Criminal behavior in household</b>		
Did a household member go to prison?	3.4	<b>3.4</b>
	<b>Any category reported</b>	<b>52.1%</b>

<sup>a</sup>An exposure to one or more items listed under the set of questions for each category.

# Cases .... What do you say? What do you do?

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Prenatal couple, one of the parents is law enforcement. Asking about firearm access, you learn that she is in the habit of bringing her service weapon home at night.

Teen mother of a 3-1/2 y/o, who is uncomfortable with her father's gun kept over the refrigerator, but it causes family strife when they discuss it

16 y/o new patient with asthma. He checked the box that he has a gun. On further questioning, he reveals that he leaves it in his backpack. He is part of a gang and wants to get out. A rival gang is threatening him. They think he stabbed one of their members. His mother agrees to leave town, but unaware of the gang activities, she is in no rush. She wants to first build up a nest egg. Her priority is his breathing. (So is yours!)



When you asked a family if there are any firearms at home, the father said nothing, the mother said no, but did a double-take when her son said yes.

# Firearm Injury: a Pediatric Problem

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- Of industrialized nations, U.S. ranks #1 in firearm-related deaths in children < 15 y/o
- 5,740 Children & teens killed by guns (2008-09)
  - 173 were preschoolers
- Disparity issue: Black youth 45% of FA deaths (15% pop.); Black males 15-19 y/o – *leading COD*
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in U.S. teens;  
> 1/2 are with firearms.

# Recently Reported Miami Child Firearm Access & Injury

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May 31, 2013

John Smith K-8 Center, Doral (Miami)



11 y/o boy brought a handgun into school. 5th grader, special needs student. Brought it from home. Teacher noticed it and alerted the principal.

**D'Angelo Marte, 12 y/o**  
**May 24, 2013**  
**Redlands Middle School, Homestead (Miami)**



Shot in the leg when another 6th grade student tossed down his book bag and the gun inside went off. The gun came from his home.

# Miami School Bus Shooting November 2012 Step Dad's Gun

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Lourdes Guzman,  
13 y/o

Her father shot himself a month later.



Jordyn Alexander Howe,  
15 y/o

Mother says she didn't know the gun was in the house. Initially charged as an adult – three counts. The gun owner was not charged.

# Recent South Florida Unintentional Child Shooting

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- March 2013, Miami: Rahquel Carr, 4 y/o shot by her 6 y/o sibling. Three children were in a car while the mother was steps away. The grandfather collapsed and was taken to a nearby hospital. The car and firearm belonged to the mother's boyfriend.

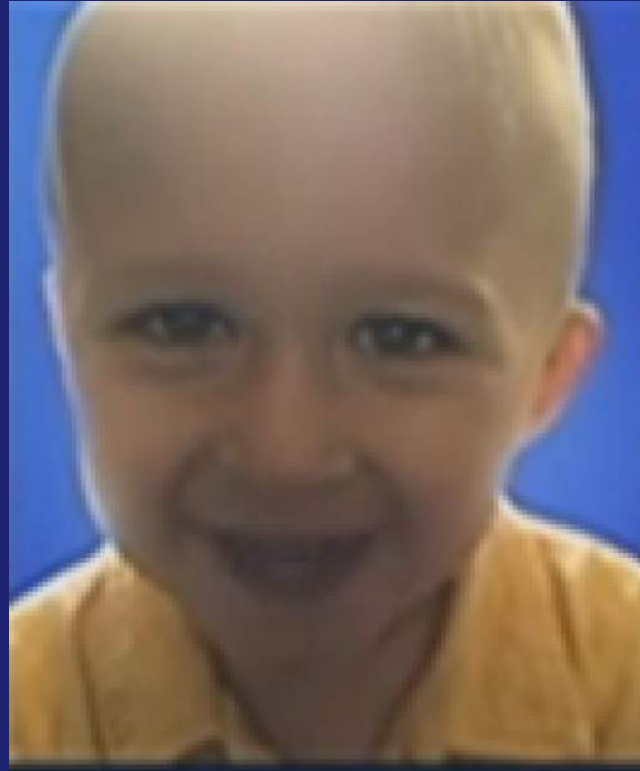
**May 3, 2013**

A 6 y/o Broward girl was shot by her 13 y/o brother during a game of hide and seek when they were left home alone.

Charges considered against the 13 y/o.

# Too young to teach

Owen Harris, 2 y/o  
February 2013



Owen was found his step dad's gun left loaded in mother's purse, while the parents were sleeping. Shot himself in the face.



Caroline Starks, 2 y/o in Kentucky, shot by her 5 y/o brother with his Crickett rifle. Coroner White said the child safety lock was in place and operational. "This was just a tragic accident." No charges were filed.



# “My First Rifle”

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Brandon Holt, 6 y/o, April 2013, NJ shot in head



4 y/o neighbor brought a .22 caliber rifle from his home outside and shot Brandon dead.

COURTESY:  
MOHAVE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



August 2014: 9 y/o with Uzi; Proper equipment for developmental age, size, strength, coordination?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	
1	Source		victim	shooter											gun	owner				charges					
2	1	2	fatal	age	sex	relation	age	sex	prior	city	state	location	circumstance	date	type	legal	who	prior	cop	??	who	age	sex		
4	SULLIVAN, D. (2014, August 20). BOY, 7, SHOT IN TRAGIC -		y	7	m	grandmot	63	f	n	Altamonte Springs	FL	home	feared intruder	8/19/14	22-caliber pistol		grandmother								
5	http://businessclarksville.com/news/child-fatally-injured -		y	4	m	self	4	m	n	Clarksville	TN	home		8/17/14	handgun			y							
6	http://www.wkcy.com/home/headlines/Friend-deadly-sh		y	18	m	friend	17	m		Louisville	KY	home	playing	8/16/14						y	shooter	17	m	murder	
7	Beaty, J. (2014, August 18). Boy dies after being shot with i-		y	12	m	friend	?	m		Tulsa	OK	friend's home	playing	8/15/14	high-powered pellet gun										
8	http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2014/08/15/criminal-charge-		n	3	m	self	3	m	n	Atlanta	GA	home	playing	8/14/14											
9	http://www.kens5.com/story/news/local/2014/08/14/loc-		y	12	m	cousin	14	m		San Antonio	TX	home	playing	8/14/14				n							
10	Renee Leiker, A. (2014, August 15). Boy shoots, grazes fin-		n	2	m	self	2	m	n	Newton	KS	home	playing	8/13/14	glock		grandfather								
11	http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/de90b324-		n	16	f	father	?	m		Winchester	VA	home	thought she wa	8/12/14				n						father is officer	
12	https://www.herald-citizen.com/newsx/item/2209-white-		y	7	m	self	7	m	n	White County	TN	home		8/12/14	pistol					n					
13	http://www.local12.com/news/features/top-stories/stori-		n	17	m	cousin	21	m		East Price Hill	OH	home	cleaning gun	8/11/14											
14	http://www.local12.com/news/features/top-stories/stori-		n	7	m	brother	10	m		Colerain Township	OH	home	playing	8/10/14											
15	http://www.alabamas13.com/story/26248856/teen-injuri-		n	14	m	friend	15	m		Tuscaloosa County	AL		playing	8/8/14											
16	http://www.wbtv.com/story/26234444/deputies-won-		n	9	m	self	9	m		Troutman	NC	home		8/6/14	.357 revolver		child's caregiver		y	owner	66	f	failure to storm		
17	http://kfor.com/2014/08/07/9-year-old-oklahoma-child-k-		y	9	f	self	9	f		Hobart	OK	home	handling gun	8/6/14			father								
18	DEMPSEY, C. (2014, August 7). TEEN FATALLY SHOT IN F-		y	16	m	neighbor	22	m		Killingly	CT	home	playing	8/5/14	rifle		shooter		y	shooter	22	m			
19	Harshbarger and Dana Sauchelli, R. (2014, August 7). Mis-		n	3	m	father	?	m		Long Island	NY	home	unloading gun	8/5/14	automatic weapon		father	y						father is officer	
20	http://www.examiner.com/article/boy-16-shoots-himself-		y	16	m	self	16	m		Macon-Bibb	GA	home	putting gun awa	8/5/14											
21	Rabin, Charles. "13-year-old shot to death in Florida City. V-		y	13	bm		15	m		Florida City	FL	rieway @ hom	playing	8/3/14											
22	http://woodtv.com/2014/08/05/manslaughter-charge-in-c-		y	17	m	friend	17	m		Wyoming	MI	car	handling gun in	8/3/14						y	shooter	17	m	involuntary mansl	
23	http://motorsportstalk.nbcsports.com/2014/08/05/18-yehttp://ar		y	18	m	friend	17	m		Palm Beach Garden	FL	home	playing, drinking	8/2/14	9mm pistol				y	y	shooter	18	m	manslaughter by	
24	"Noelle Aston Shawver, 5-year-old accidentally shot and ki-		y	5	f	friend	?	m		Chubbuck	ID	friend's house	playing	7/30/14			parent of shooter		n						
25	Malik, Alia. "Boy, 12, shot as group played with gun." San A. A. Marini		n	12	m	friend	15	m		San Antonio	TX	playing in stree	playing	7/23/14				y							
26	[Last Name], [First Name]. "Police: 11-year-old girl accide-		n	11	f	?				Loveland	OH	home	cleaning gun	7/16/14											
27	Trischitta, Linda. "3-year-old girl shot herself by accident, c-		n	3	f	self	3	f	n	Miramar	FL	home	playing	7/11/14	handgun		father			p					
28			y	11	m	friend	13	m		Sharon	WI	oods near hom	playing	7/9/14											
29	Millberg - Smillberg@starbeacon.Com, S. (2014, July 10). -		n	2	m		19	f		Monroe Township	OH		unloading gun	7/8/14	760 Pumpmaster BE		shooter								
30	O'Rourke, C. (2014, July 3). Slain teen's mom: Don't impris-		y	17	m	friend	18	m		Travis County	TX	home	unloading gun	6/22/14	handgun		stolen from police		y	shooter	18	m			
31	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA) 11 Jul. 2014, PITTSBURGH -		y	18	m	friend	21	m		Penn Hills	PA	riend's gfs hom	examining gun	6/18/14	.223-caliber rifle		friend		y	shooter	21	m			
32	(2014, June 18). Boy shot, killed while playing at friend's hi-		y	11	m	friend	?	m		Frazeysburg	OH	friend's home	playing	6/17/14	revolver										
33	(2014, June 10). 2 Brighton teens charged in classmate's Wood, B		y	17	m	classmat	16	m		Cottonwood Heights	UT	friend's home		6/6/14	revolver		stolen		y	shooter	16	m	negligent homicid		
34	(2014, June 6). Guilty pleas in fatal hit-and-run Couple imv-		n	12	m	?				Jacksonville	FL			6/5/14											
35	(2014, May 30). san bernardino - Boy on bike shot in eye w-		n	13	m		?			San Bernardino	CA	riding bicycle	accident?	5/29/14	bb gun										
36	Malik, Alia. "Boy, 12, shot as group played with gun." San A-		y	2	m	self	2	m		Boerne	TX	home	playing	5/24/14											
37	(2014, May 24). Boy shot, killed on father-son boat trip in N-		y	15	m	father	?	m		Carlton	GA	boat	loading the boat	5/22/14	rifle		father								
38	Malik, Alia. "Boy, 12, shot as group played with gun." San A. A. Marini		y	6	f	sister	8	f	n	San Antonio	TX	friend's home	holding it	5/18/14			mother's friend								
39	Desk TELEGRAPH & GAZETTE STAFF. L. (2014, May 23). St		y	18	m	friend	18	m		Worcester	MA	home	playing/unloadi	5/17/14	22-caliber handgun		friend		y	shooter	18	m			

# Firearms and Families: Dangers Not Limited to Child Access

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**September 22, 2014 – Miami**

A 3 y/o boy is recovering from a gunshot wound to the leg during a domestic dispute at his home in northwest Miami-Dade County. Miami television stations report an acquaintance of the woman jumped a fenced and forced his way into the home on Sunday. Authorities say a struggled ensued and the man took out a gun. At some point the gun fired and the child was hit in the leg. The man fled the scene.

The child was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he is recovering.

(AP)

Family weapons risk: IPV, suicide, mistakes/accidents, cleaning, hunting, drugs

# Intentional Self-Directed: Firearm Suicide

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- FA Suicide every 17 minutes.
- Handguns -- 70% of firearm related suicides.
- FA Suicide attempts are completed 70-90%. By contrast, only 10-15% of suicide attempts by any other means (i.e. hanging, carbon-monoxide poisoning, pills, or cutting) are fatal.
- The decision to attempt suicide may be made in a matter of hours, and can be averted or medically intervened, if the means is not lethal.
- Most attempters do NOT change their method.

# Suicide Risk and Gun Availability

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- The relative risk to commit suicide is 5X greater among people living in homes where guns are present compared to people living in homes without a gun.
- For households with members <24 years of age, y/o it is 10X greater.
- The rate of firearm suicide among a cohort of adults who purchased a handgun was 57 times higher in the first week after the purchase than the firearm suicide rate in the U.S. in general.



# Nonfatal Injuries: Morbidity and Disability

For every person who dies from a firearm injury, at least two others survive. However, these numbers vary widely based on intent, with self-inflicted injuries much more likely to be fatal. On average, there were more than 98,000 firearm injuries per year between 2003 and 2007.

## Firearm Injuries: U.S., 2003-2007

Total Number of <b>Fatal</b> Firearm Injuries - U.S. 2003-2007	
Interpersonal	63,018
Self-directed	84,894
Unintentional	3,423
Undetermined	1,184
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,519</b>

Total Number of <b>Nonfatal</b> Firearm Injuries - U.S. 2003-2007	
Interpersonal	242,466
Self-directed	17,602
Unintentional	81,260
<b>Total</b>	<b>341,328</b>

**Thank you!**