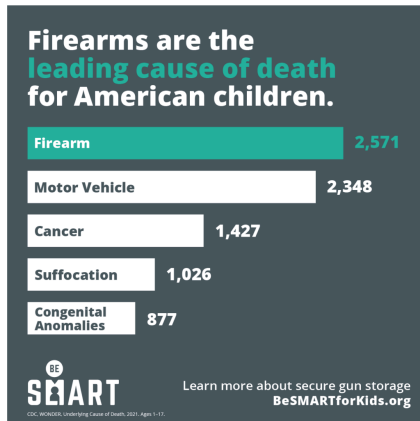


Every year in the United States, 350 children aged 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. More than 700 more die by suicide with a gun each year. We have the power to prevent tragedies like these from happening. Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund has developed the Be SMART framework to help parents and adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries.



Did You Know:

- 4.6 million children in America live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.
- Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children.

Safety is Always an Adult Responsibility

Kids will be kids, so it's always an adult's responsibility to keep children safe. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they've been told not to. If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. Be SMART adults protect kids by making sure all guns are stored securely, which means they are inaccessible to kids, and by making sure children are never in the presence of unsecured guns.

What is Be SMART?

[Be SMART for Kids](http://BeSMARTforKids.org) educates people on the importance of secure firearm storage and increases public awareness and voluntary adherence to its principles:

- **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles
- **Model** responsible behavior around guns
- **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes and vehicles
- **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide
- **Tell** your peers and neighbors to **Be SMART**



It is built around the belief that **it's always an adult responsibility to keep kids safe.**

Here in Idaho, 85% of gun deaths are by gun suicide, an average of 259 deaths per year. Idaho has the **4th-highest rate of gun suicides and gun suicide attempts in the US.**

(<https://everystat.org/#Idaho>)

Idaho Be SMART volunteers encourage gun-owners not only to store their own firearms securely (locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition), but we also share practical tips and information about how families can have the conversation with others to ensure that when their children visit other homes, they will be safe from accessible firearms. We have done this by tabling at local Farmers Markets, National Night Outs, Libraries, School Fairs and Students Conference Nights. We've also tabled at Pride Festivals throughout the state, Victor Farmers Market and Wear Orange Events. We are partnering with the Boise Police Department, Meridian Police Department, Madison County School District, our local American Foundation for Suicide Prevention chapter, and we have permission to contact individual schools in the Boise School District. When tabling we hand out an average of 20-30 gun locks for free. We believe we save lives through handing out gun locks and having productive conversations in our community.

Partnering with our local Medical Community is so important and would add to our amazing gun violence prevention work we both are already doing. Please see the [flier](#) for more details on how we can partner together.

[Medical Community Flyer](#)

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