



GUN SAFETY IN AN ARMED NORTH CAROLINA

The threat of gun violence is always on an American parent's list of worries these days. It's hard, however, to imagine what we can actually do to take charge and reduce the threat of gun violence in our lives when *even talking about guns* – with friends, neighbors, members of our community – is so hard. This discussion guide, with five suggested activities, makes it easy for you to gather some friends to get used to talking about gun safety in a safe and comfortable way, to help reduce the risk of gun violence and save lives.



MORE THAN 11,100 PEOPLE WERE KILLED WITH GUNS IN NORTH CAROLINA FROM 2001 TO 2010.

That's more than double the number of soldiers killed in combat during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every eight hours in North Carolina, someone is killed with a gun. In 2010 alone, there were 1,123 gun deaths in our state.[1]

MORE THAN 1 IN 5 HOMICIDES IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2011 WERE THE RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ACCORDING TO THE CDC.

More than half of those victims – 55.6 percent – killed with guns. From 2001 to 2010, 740 North Carolina women were murdered using firearms.[2]

IN 2011, THERE WERE 81 VIOLENT DEATHS TO NC CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 17, ACCORDING TO THE NC VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM.

Firearms were involved in half of all these violent deaths (51%), including 10 unintentional firearm deaths and 21 firearm-related deaths among 15-17 year olds.[3]

When there's a gun around in a domestic violence situation, the chance a woman will die increases by 500 percent.*

1 SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: PRACTICE TALKING ABOUT GUN SAFETY

Watch the ASK video, download the ASK toolkit and practice talking about gun safety. Role-play and ask, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" <http://askingsaveskids.org/>

Download the discussion kit, Guns and Kids. Role-play and talk to your children about guns. <http://www.protectmn.org/sites/protectmn.org/files/protectmnbrochure.pdf>

About 166,600 children & teens died from guns from 1963–2010 in the United States. 53% were white and 36% were black.**

STATE LEGISLATURE CLEARS THE WAY FOR MORE GUNS IN PUBLIC PLACES FREQUENTED BY FAMILIES

On October 1, 2013, a state law (HB 937)[4] weakening North Carolina's gun policies went into effect. This law allows concealed weapons permit holders to carry handguns in places where women and families eat, play and learn, including: parks, pools, athletic fields, ticketed concerts, parades, and restaurants and bars. The law furthermore permits guns to be stored in locked cars on public and private K-12 school grounds and on university campuses.[5] Cities and towns are prohibited from passing local ordinances restricting concealed weapons in any public facilities.

2 SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS

- ➔ Why do people want stronger gun laws? Why are people against stronger gun laws?
- ➔ How do mass shootings – like Newtown, Virginia Tech and Columbine – differ from other kinds of shootings?
- ➔ Newtown launched a national debate about stronger gun laws, but momentum seems to have stalled. Why do you think that's the case?
- ➔ Does owning a gun make a woman safer from domestic violence?
- ➔ What are some situations where children might be at risk from guns?
- ➔ How do you talk to your child about gun safety?
- ➔ How do you talk to the gun-owning parents of your child's friends about your safety concerns?
- ➔ How are gun violence and civil rights issues related?
- ➔ Open carry is legal in North Carolina. Have you ever seen anyone open carrying in a public place? How did that make you feel?
- ➔ Hunting is a popular hobby in North Carolina. How do you feel like this impacts conversations around gun safety?

**WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES ARE
11 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS
OF GUN VIOLENCE THAN WOMEN IN
OTHER HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES******

[1] & [2] Fact Sheet: North Carolina Domestic Violence and Guns, Center for American Progress, June 2014. [3] Child Violent Death in North Carolina, North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, North Carolina Public Health. [4] & [5] North Carolina General Assembly. An Act to Amend State Firearms Laws. Session Law 2013-369, House Bill 937, *H937-v-6*.

* "Guns Make Domestic Violence Deadlier," Hannah Groch-Begley, Media Matters, April 18, 2014. ** Protect Children, Not Guns 2013, Children's Defense Fund, pp. 6. *** Asking Saves Kids Campaign ****Women Under the Gun, Center for American Progress, June 2014, pp. 1.

3 SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: ADVOCATE FOR GUN SAFETY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Suggested materials: Pens and stationary

Write personal messages about how gun safety is a top priority for you and how you expect North Carolina's leaders to do everything possible to protect NC families and communities from gun violence. Deliver the messages and the downloadable NC gun safety stories to your council member, mayor or Congressional representative.

**1 OUT OF 3 AMERICAN HOMES
WITH KIDS HAVE GUNS.**

**NEARLY 1.7 MILLION CHILDREN
LIVE IN A HOME WITH AN
UNLOCKED, LOADED GUN*****

4 SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: WATCH & DISCUSS VIDEOS

**A Personal Story: Why Domestic Violence
Victims Don't Leave**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1yW5IsnSjo>

**Should Guns Be Taken From Domestic Abusers?
Rock Center with Brian Williams**

<http://www.nbcnews.com/video/rock-center/51769976#51769976>

**The Monster is Real (about children and gun
safety)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ez1syypeq2hl>

Protecting Children from Gun Violence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mzikawXXh0&list=FLPmXYSjrcn-rX2wMFkXdSDQ>

- What stood out for you from these videos?
- What surprised you?