

Firearm fatalities in children

Findings of the Child Death Review Commission
2008-2018



28 firearm fatalities occurred among Delaware children between the ages of 3 and 17 from 2008 to 2018.



occurred in the home



were preventable

Nationally, firearm-related deaths are the 3rd leading cause of death among children between the ages of 1 and 17 years, and the 2nd leading cause of injury-related death.¹

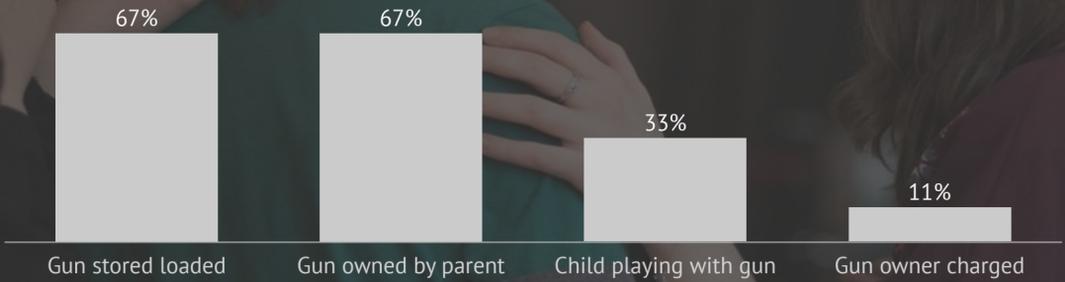
Nine of the 28 child deaths in Delaware were preventable, meaning that if the child or someone nearby did not have access to a loaded firearm, the death would not have occurred.



● Preventable: Accidental ● Preventable: Suicide ● Not preventable

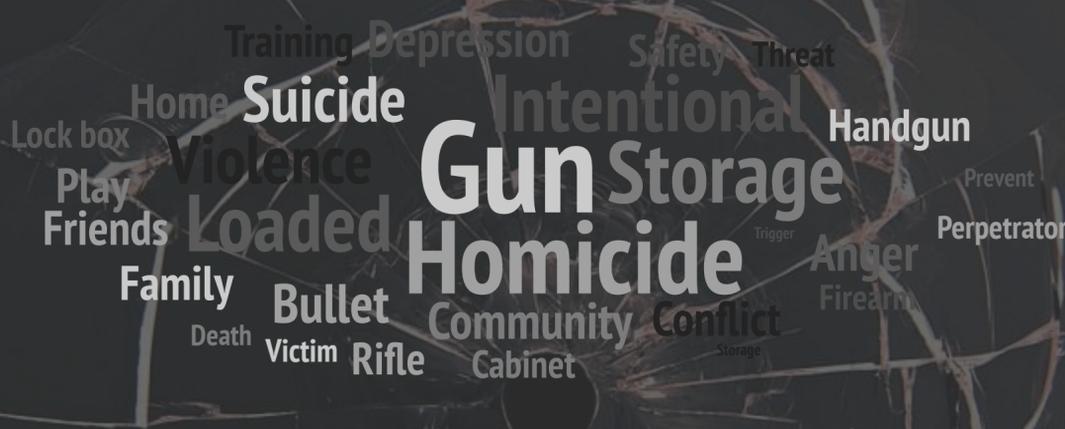
- The use of a firearm in a suicide attempt is fatal 75% of the time, much higher than other methods of self-harm.
- Teen suicides are often impulsive, with some studies indicating that many teens spend 10 minutes or less deciding on their action.
- A highly lethal means of injury, such as a firearm, at the time of crisis is a crucial factor in whether a suicide attempt will be fatal.¹

Out of the 9 preventable firearm-related deaths :



Based on statistics compiled by the CHOP Center for Injury Research and Prevention:

- About one in three handguns is stored loaded and unlocked.
- Over 75% of 1st and 2nd graders know where their parents keep their firearms, and 36% admitted handling the weapons, contrary to their parents' report.²



"The absence of guns from children's homes and communities is the most reliable and effective measure to prevent firearm-related injuries in children and adolescents. Adolescent suicide risk is strongly associated with firearm availability. Safe gun storage (guns unloaded and locked, ammunition locked separately) reduces children's risk of injury. Physician counseling of parents about firearm safety appears to be effective, but firearm safety education programs directed at children are ineffective." -- Pediatrics, November 2012, VOLUME 130 / ISSUE 5 American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement

¹ Fowler KA, Dahlberg LL, et. al. Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics* 2017; 140(1): e20163486.
²Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Gun violence: facts and statistics. Updated May 2018. Available at: <https://injury.research.chop.edu/violence-prevention-initiative/types-violence-involving-youth/gun-violence/gun-violence-facts-and#.XJaMOZhKjIV>.