

## **GUN SAFETY**

1. A gun in the home is more likely to result in a death during a household quarrel, a suicide attempt, or an unintentional shooting, than it is to protect members of the household.
2. Guns are especially dangerous in homes where someone abuses alcohol or other drugs, or is depressed.
3. If a gun is kept in the home, it should be kept unloaded and securely locked, with ammunition stored and locked separately.
4. Children should be taught never to play with guns and to tell an adult immediately if they encounter a gun.
5. Parents should ask about guns in homes their children visit, and restrict visits to homes that are not safe.
6. Guns that are no longer wanted should be turned in to local police.
7. Children and adolescents should be taught to resolve conflicts without violence.
8. Parents should monitor children's exposure to television and other media. They should block access to messages that glorify gun use or show irresponsible gun use. If children are exposed to these messages, parents should take the opportunity to teach about guns and responsibility, also to point out the suffering that results from gun use, which is often overlooked on TV, in the movies and in video games.
9. Family members should remove firearms from the home when a member becomes depressed, develops a major mental illness, has a drug or alcohol problem, or is exhibiting memory problems.
10. Family members should remove guns from the home if there is an escalating pattern of family violence.
11. Patients should discuss gun safety and health-related issues with their doctors and other health care providers.
12. Lead poisoning has occurred from exposure to the high levels of lead found in indoor firing ranges.
13. If the decision is made to own guns, be sure to learn all about handling, storing, securing, cleaning, carrying, and firing of the weapon safely.

T:HPA Handouts/Gun Safety  
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