



Prevent Think Life Safety

For additional information, call 503-805-8482

Firearm Safety With Children

Almost one-fourth of 3,754 parents with young children -- surveyed at 96 pediatric practices in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Canada -- keep a gun at home. Yet in 70 percent of those homes with guns, parents said they hadn't taken adequate precautions to safely store the weapons, researchers report.

Guns are often involved in every parent's nightmare. A Rand study done six years ago found that 34 percent of children in the United States (representing more than 22 million children in 11 million homes) live in homes with at least one firearm.

But safe storage -- defined as guns being unloaded, locked in a cabinet or with a gun lock, with ammunition stored separately -- apparently isn't a widespread practice, the new research suggests.

Parents raised in gun-owning families were less likely to store firearms safely, according to the new study, published in the June issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

And families who owned both handguns and long guns also were less likely to keep their guns locked up at home.

Parents who owned just long guns -- such as rifles or shotguns -- and had children between 2 and 5 years old were more likely to follow safe storage recommendations than were the parents of 6- to 11-year-olds, the survey found.

"Too many kids in this country die from such highly preventable means," added Dr. Denise Dowd, chief of injury prevention at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. "We also know that storing guns safely works to prevent death and injury from kids playing with guns as well as self-inflicted injury among teens."

HealthDay

Copyright (c) 2007 [ScoutNews, LLC](#). All rights reserved.