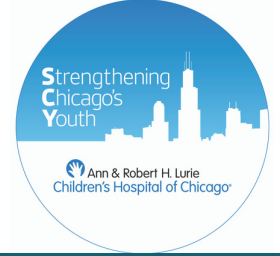


BASICS OF FIREARM SAFETY LAWS IN ILLINOIS



Guns are the leading cause of death among children ages 1-17 years old.¹

14X

Black or brown children and teens in Illinois are 14 times more likely than their white peers to die by firearms.²



1,310 Illinoisans die by gun violence every year.¹



60% of guns used in Chicago crimes are trafficked in from other states.³

Firearm Laws and Their Implications for Clinical Practice

NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS
Child Access Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits any person from leaving their firearm unlocked and accessible to a minor under the age of 14 Requires safe storage measures to restrict access to guns by minor children Includes criminal penalties when a child causes death or injury using an accessible and unlocked firearm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care providers can routinely ask about the presence of guns in the home and offer safe storage and gun safety resources to reduce the risk of intentional and unintentional injuries See <i>Resources for Parents & Caregivers</i>
Firearm Restraining Order Red Flag Law or Extreme Risk Order of Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows law enforcement or immediate family members who are concerned about a loved one hurting themselves or others to petition a court to remove the firearms from that individual for a limited amount of time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care providers can make patients/families aware of and provide information about firearm restraining orders, especially in cases where there are known risks for suicide or domestic/intimate partner violence See <i>Resources for Parents & Caregivers</i>

Key Requirements to Own a Firearm

GUN DEALERS MUST

- Be licensed and operate with state regulation
- Uphold the 72-hour waiting period between the time the buyer purchases a hand gun and gains physical possession of the firearm

GUN OWNERS MUST

- Obtain a 10-year firearm license (FOID card) issued by the Illinois State Police (applies to those without a concealed carry permit)
- Wait 72 hours between purchase of the handgun and gaining physical possession of the firearm
- Background check required on all gun purchases, including through private sales
- Maintain safe storage of firearms in homes with children under 14 years of age
- Report lost or stolen firearms

For a full review of Illinois gun laws by topic area, please see the Giffords Law Center fact sheet (<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/states/illinois/>)

WAYS HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS CAN ENGAGE PARENTS & CAREGIVERS IN CHILD FIREARM SAFETY

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises that a home without firearms is the safest way to prevent child firearm injuries and death.



Health care providers should routinely ask parents and caregivers about the presence of firearms in the home and how they are stored.

- Clinical visits provide an important opportunity for health care providers to encourage parents and caregivers about the crucial role they play in keeping their child safe from firearms.

Children of all ages can learn about gun safety by encouraging parents to make it a part of their general safety conversations and helping their child understand that they can always tell an adult if they see a gun in any setting, e.g. at a friend or family member's house.

- For older children, the conversation can be incorporated into other discussions about drugs, alcohol, and health and wellness.
- Children of all ages should frequently receive these messages about staying safe. For more information, please see the resource guide below.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has a [free, online course](https://shop.aap.org/safer-storing-firearms-prevents-harm/) - *Safer: Storing Firearms Prevents Harm* - which provides an overview of universal firearm injury prevention guidance for pediatric providers in clinic-settings (<https://shop.aap.org/safer-storing-firearms-prevents-harm/>)

- To learn more about means reduction, reducing access to lethal means, and providing lethal means counseling to identify risks and promote gun safety



22%

of parents had a firearm in the home



60%

of parents were worried that their child could get hurt with a gun when at a friend's home



20%

of parents had asked another parent whether there were guns in the home

Davis MM, Heffernan ME, Smith TL, Bendelow A, Bhatti PK, Menker C, Helmcamp L, Attridge M, Sheehan KM. Firearm safety in Chicago families, Voices of Child Health in Chicago Report. Vol 3, Number 6. July 2021. Available at luriechildrens.org/voices.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS



GENERAL FIREARM SAFETY



How to navigate conversations with your child

- Tips for talking to your child about firearm safety (<https://bit.ly/talkingtoyourkidsaboutguns>)
- Guns in the home - Firearm Safety for Families (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx>)
- Videos demonstrating modeling responsible behavior around firearms (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cT6bj5DEGk>)

How to navigate firearm conversations with adults

- Sample scripts for conversations to adults inquiring of firearms in the home and secure storage practices (<https://bit.ly/askingaboutsecuregunstorage>)
- ASK campaign provides additional guidance on asking family, friends, and members of your community about unlocked or loaded guns in the home to prevent family fire incidents (<https://www.bradyunited.org/program/end-family-fire/asking-saves-kids>)

Firearm Restraining Order

- If you are concerned for the safety of a loved one who has access to or owns a firearm and may be a danger to themselves or others, contact the Circuit Court of Cook County at 312-603-4357 (or your local courthouse) to learn more about obtaining a firearm restraining order (extreme risk order of protection, also called red flag laws)
- For more on the Firearm Restraining order, visit the [Cook County Sheriff's website](http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/firearm-restraining-order/) (<http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/firearm-restraining-order/>) or Illinois Department of Public Health (<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/gun-safety/firearm-restraining-orders.html>)

Domestic violence

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides 24/7, free and confidential tools and support to help survivors of domestic violence. Call 1-800-799-SAFE (<https://www.thehotline.org/>)
- Illinois Department of Human Services Domestic Helpline 877-TO END DV (<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30275>)

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS



GENERAL FIREARM SAFETY



High risk for suicide

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. Call 1-800-273-8255 (<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>)
- Facts and resources on identifying signs of concern related to child suicide with a firearm (<https://bit.ly/factsandresourceschildfirearmsuicide>)
- End Family Fire provides suicide prevention resources to reduce access to firearms when someone is in crisis. Delaying and reducing access to firearms can save a life for those in crisis (<https://endfamilyfire.org/#gunSuicides>)

SAFE STORAGE OPTIONS

Mechanisms for Use in the Home Fact Sheets & Information



There are a variety of gun locking and storage mechanisms that can be obtained for use in the home

- Be SMART for Kids (<https://besmartforkids.org/>) provides steps for secure firearm storage, including how to unload, lock, and separate a firearm from the ammunition. It also provides reviews the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of firearm locking devices (<https://bit.ly/securestoragefactsheet>)
- End Family Fire (<https://www.endfamilyfire.org/>): Step-by-step resource for gun safety in the home, including secure storage

**Locking devices can be purchased wherever guns and firearm accessories are sold.*

FIREARM DISPOSAL

If a gun owner decides they no longer want to own their firearm, there are different options to discard the firearm.

1

Contact your local law enforcement agency or visit their website to find out if they have a gun buy back/take back program. Also check their events calendar to see if they host gun buy back events.

- The Chicago Police Department (CPD) regularly hosts firearm buy back programs. Visit CPD's Community Events Calendar for upcoming event dates. (<https://home.chicagopolice.org/community-policing-group/community-event-calendars/>)
 - Note: Gun buy back events are typically a "no questions asked event," so guns can be turned in anonymously in exchange for monetary compensation.
 - Inquire with your local law enforcement agency about their gun take back program and the information they are required to collect from the surrenderer. Firearm buy back and take back programs may have different criteria and protocols.

2

The National Center for Unwanted Firearms safely disposes or repurposes unwanted firearms. Firearms may be donated or sold and the organization will send a shipping label and box to securely mail the firearm in. (<https://www.unwantedfirearms.org/>)

3

Contact a licensed gun dealer to learn about options to sell or discard your firearm.

**Lurie Children's has not independently confirmed the details of or assessed these entities. Individuals are urged to contact them directly for the most up to date and accurate information.*

WAYS TO ADVOCATE FOR STRONGER FIREARM SAFETY LAWS

Illinois can continue to strengthen its firearm response by enacting policies that limit illegal guns in our communities, strengthen existing child access prevention laws, promote gun violence prevention research, and fund programs that are proven to reduce violence in the state's most impacted communities.



STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN FIREARM LAWS

- Enhance Illinois' CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION LAWS to promote safe storage of firearms when children are present
- Require FIREARM REGISTRATION
- Require SAFE STORAGE for all types of firearms
- BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS and high-capacity magazines
- RESTRICT PURCHASE of multiple firearms
- GIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION to deny concealed carry permits
- Allow LOCAL REGULATION OF FIREARMS
- Promote and fund state-level GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESEARCH

RESOURCES TO LEARN ABOUT ADVOCATING FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- The Illinois General Assembly (<https://ilga.gov/>) website has a bill and keyword search function for pending legislation as well as information on committee hearings and how to contact your legislator (search by name under Senate (<https://ilga.gov/senate/>) and House (<https://ilga.gov/house/>) links). Find your elected officials at the Illinois State Board of Elections website (<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx>).
- Strengthening Chicago's Youth provides legislative updates on pending legislation, including information on how to support gun violence prevention legislation (<https://scy-chicago.org/policy-agenda/>).
- Doctors For America has resources and trainings for doctors to learn more about patient advocacy, including gun violence prevention advocacy at the federal and state level (<https://www.dr sforamerica.org/about-us/>)

CITATIONS

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- [2] Philip J. Cook et al., "Some Sources of Crime Guns in Chicago: Dirty Dealers, Straw Purchasers, and Traffickers," *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 104 (2015): 717–759.
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- [5] Michael D. Anestis and Joye C. Anestis, "Suicide Rates and State Laws Regulating Access and Exposure to Handguns," *American Journal of Public Health* 105, no. 10 (2015): 2049–2058.
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- [7] Davis MM, Heffernan ME, Smith TL, Bendelow A, Bhatti PK, Menker C, Helmcamp L, Attridge M, Sheehan KM. Firearm safety in Chicago families, *Voices of Child Health in Chicago Report*. Vol 3, Number 6. July 2021. Available at luriechildrens.org/voices.