

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Children are naturally curious and open to peer pressure. Consider these tips to keep your child safer:

TIP 1: Talk with your child about gun safety. "If you see a gun, don't touch it, and tell an adult right away."
TIP 2: Limit your child's exposure to gun violence in the media. The research linking violent TV and active shooter games to firearm violence is strong.
TIP 3: Always ask if there is a gun in another family's home and if so, how it is secured, before sending your child over to play or your teen to a party. If you have doubts, invite the children to play at your house.
TIP 4: If you own a gun, secure it: Unload it, lock it, lock ammunition in a separate lockbox or use a biometric safe. Most school shooters use firearms taken from a relative's home. Don't let that weapon be yours.
TIP 5: When handling or cleaning, never leave a gun unattended, not even for a moment.
TIP 6: Make sure that no one who is staying with you is keeping an unsecured firearm in your house.

PREVENT SUICIDES

Over 50% of firearm deaths in the U.S. are suicides. Suicide is often an impulsive act and 90% of suicide attempts with firearms result in death. Other methods have much lower fatality rates, such as 2% for drug poisoning. 90% of survivors do not make a second suicide attempt. They get the help they need to live.

TIP 7: Store firearms off-site if you think a friend or family member may be suicidal. You could save a life.

PREVENT UNINTENTIONAL SHOOTINGS

For each time a gun is used in self-defense, there are 7 gun assaults or murders, 11 suicide attempts, and 4 unintentional shootings in or around a home. A person carrying a gun is 4 times more likely to be shot in an assault than one who is not carrying. Access to a gun makes it 5 times more likely that an abuser will kill his female victim.

TIP 8: Consider pepper spray to defend yourself instead of a firearm. Pepper spray causes burning in the eyes and impaired vision, and can disrupt an attack and let you escape. Watch training videos and practice before use.

PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

TIP 9: Don't buy firearms for another person—ever. A safer community starts with you. Buying a firearm of any kind for a person who is prohibited from buying a weapon is a felony. Never buy firearms for your friend, boyfriend, husband, or anyone else.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Let your elected representatives know that you want gun safety laws—laws like background checks on all gun sales and transfers, as well as requiring that guns be sold with safe storage devices and smart safety technology. Elected officials count every call or email they receive.

TIP 10: Speak up and tell them where you stand. And vote in a gun-safety-informed way. See the website GunSenseVoter.org for a list of candidates who have pledged to support gun safety laws.

We can keep our families and communities safer from gun violence by taking simple precautions and calling for commonsense laws. Please share these tips with friends and loved ones. And you can find more resources at www.diocesemo.org/ministries/gun-violence-prevention

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
The Episcopal Church in Missouri