



**SENATE BILL 858**  
**Firearm Safety -Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention**  
**(Jaelynn's Law)**  
**UNFAVORABLE**

The Maryland General Assembly has been reluctant to increase penalties for criminals who repeatedly commit violent crimes. Senate Bill 858 departs from that trend by increasing penalties for violations of Maryland's already strict laws on the storage of firearms while creating multiple standards which only serve to make the laws even more confusing to the average citizen.

The focus of Criminal Law §3-204 (3) appears to be handguns whether loaded or unloaded with a penalty provision of up to 5 years and a fine up to \$5,000 or both. A violation under this section is a lifetime prohibition on the possession and/or ownership of a firearm.

Criminal Law §4-104 is revised to expand the scope of the law to include all firearms whether loaded or not, as well as restricting access to ammunition. Some exemptions are made for shotguns and rifles under certain circumstances when permission to access the rifle or shotgun has been given and the minor has completed a hunter safety course, or the minor accesses the rifle or shotgun for self-defense. Exactly how a rifle or shotgun can be non-accessible under some circumstances, but still accessible for self-defense is unknown.

Public Safety §5-133 creates a lifetime prohibition for a violation of Criminal Law §4-104 if the violation involves the subsequent injury or death of another person. In effect, a person who is found guilty of a specific offense for actions under their control will then be held responsible the actions of another which occurred without their direct involvement.

The proposed language contained in the Tax-General Article, §10-757 is not consistent with the existing language of Criminal Law Article §4-104 or §3-204 (a)(3). Specifically, both Sections make reference to the term "access" in the context that a prohibited person cannot make physical contact with the firearm. However, §10-757 (A)(1) describes devices such as trigger locks and cable locks. While trigger locks and cable locks are effective deterrents which prevent the operation of a firearm, they do not prevent access. A device which qualifies for a tax discount under §10-757 does not necessarily meet the requirements of §4-104 as currently in stature nor does it meet the requirements of §3-204 (a)(3).

Cable locks have been distributed free of charge for many years by local police departments, yet these devices do not meet the requirements of either §4-104 as currently in statute or §3-204 (a)(3) as proposed.

The situation is compounded when local jurisdictions such as Anne Arundel County publish information which is technically misleading (<https://aahealth.civilspace.io/en/projects/youth-gun-safety-toolkit>) by including cable locks and trigger locks as viable methods to secure firearms. When misleading information is published on an official government website, citizens will still reasonably believe the information is accurate. (See Attachment #1)

Given the increased penalties now applicable, these inconsistencies could subject well-intentioned citizens to prosecution for an offense they did not know they were committing.

Taken as a whole, Senate Bill 1 adds multiple layers to prohibited already prohibited acts which only serves to make the current law more confusing.

We urge an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

John H. Josselyn  
2A Maryland

Attachments (1)

**From:** [Anne Arundel County Department of Health: GVIT](#)  
**To:** [John Josselyn](#)  
**Subject:** GVIT Winter 2023 Newsletter  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2023 9:13:29 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT)

# Community Meeting 2023 Newsletter

Stay up to date on Anne Arundel County gun violence intervention resources, data and events by visiting [our website](#).

### Save the Date

Our quarterly community meeting and panel discussion will be on March 2, 2023, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be hybrid, with the option to join in person or virtually. You can register by [clicking here](#) or scan the QR code.



### Gun Safety Save Lives

Be on the lookout! A few libraries throughout Anne Arundel County will be distributing free gun locks. For more information, visit our [website](#) and subscribe to our email list to be the first to know the start date.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

## February Highlights

---

February is the start of Black History Month and National Gun Violence Survivors Week, so it's important to highlight both.

### **Gun Violence in Black Communities**

As Black History Month begins, we want to highlight the impact gun violence have on black communities. [According to Every town for Gun Safety](#), black communities continue to be disproportionately affected by gun violence in America. Research shows that, on average, 30 Black Americans are killed by guns daily, and more than 110 experience non-fatal injuries.

Gun violence doesn't only affect the victim or the victim's family. It involves the community as a whole, so it's crucial to educate communities about gun safety, new policies, and new interventions to help reduce gun violence.

### **National Gun Violence Week, February 1 - 7**

This week is a time to honor every life affected by gun violence. [According to Everytown research](#), more people die from gun violence by early February in the United States than during an entire calendar year in other high-income countries. This week highlights the many stories of survivors who have been affected by sharing their stories in their own words and encouraging others to amplify their voices. Learn more by visiting: [Moments that Survive](#)

If you or someone you know is affected by gun violence or having suicidal thoughts and need support, please see below:

#### **Anne Arundel County Crisis Helpline**

[410-768-5522](tel:410-768-5522)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

#### **Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline**

[1-800-422-0009](tel:1-800-422-0009)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

988 **Suicide** and **Crisis Lifeline** or text TALK to 741741

# Suicide Prevention Toolkit

FROM THE GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION TEAM



## Strategic Plan

Have you read the GVIT Strategic plan? If not, click the link below to learn more about GVIT's plans to help reduce gun violence throughout Anne Arundel County.

[Click here to view the full Strategic Plan.](#)

**Learn more about**  
**Gun Violence Intervention**  
in Anne Arundel County  
and how we can increase  
gun safety in our community.  
Visit: [aahealth.civilspace.io](http://aahealth.civilspace.io)

Copyright © 2022 Anne Arundel County Department of Health, All rights reserved.



# Youth Gun Safety Toolkit

[Main Site](#)

[Other Toolkits](#)

## Learn More

**Gun injuries** are tragically common and have long-term consequences.

**In Anne Arundel County every year:**

- An average of **149 INDIVIDUALS** seek medical care due to gun injuries
- At a combined medical cost of **\$3 MILLION**

**Did you know?**  
Gun violence costs each Maryland resident \$949 every year.

**Demographics of the average gun violence victim in the county:**

- Median age is **32**.
- Black males have the highest gun injury rate at **195 injuries per 100k people**.
- This is **11x** the rate for white males.

Many survivors experience **life-long impacts** on their mental and physical health.

Sources: HSCRC Data (2016-2019) and EveryStat for Gun Safety  
www.kidshooting.org

**You can prevent gun injuries among children and teens.**

Take steps to protect those you care about!

- SECURE HOUSEHOLD GUNS:** Lock up, limit access or remove household guns and other lethal means.  
*Keep guns and ammunition stored separately. Only the owner should know where keys and combinations are kept.*
- HAVE OPEN AND HONEST CONVERSATIONS:** Talk to children, teenagers, and other parents about gun safety.

Too often, the **victims** of unintentional shootings and gun injuries are **children and teens**.

**Around 1 in 7** gun incident victims is under 18.  
*Of police report incidents where age is known.*

**Adolescents are curious and smart.**  
Teenagers know where household guns are kept and how to get to them, even in households with parents who believe otherwise.

Sources: Police report incident data for from Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City Police Departments (2016-2020)  
www.kidshooting.org

[Click to enlarge and download.](#)

[En español](#)

## Gun Injuries Are a Frequent and Serious Public Health Issue in Anne Arundel County

More than 200 individuals sustain a gun injury in the United States every single day. Of those who survive a gun injury, often adolescents and young men, many suffer from lifelong physical

complications and trauma. In Anne Arundel County, unintentional discharges are the most common cause (53%) for gun-related hospital visits, which is higher than the national rate (20%). The second most common cause in the county are assaults (40%), which is lower than the national rate (70%).

## Guns Are a Leading Cause of Injury and Death Among Children and Teens

In the United States, nine children and teens die to gun violence every day. For every fatality, an estimated five youth are injured by a gun. Each year, nearly 350 children gain access to a gun, most often in their home or that of a friend or relative, and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Guns are the top leading cause of death among children and teens in Maryland. In Anne Arundel County, 15% of all police reported gun incidents involve a victim under 18 years old. Out of these incidents, youth made up 13% of reported injuries and 6% of reported deaths.

## Gun Injuries and Unintentional Shootings are Preventable

The resources on this page are intended for adolescents seeking resources and support. Parents and caregivers can also use the information in this toolkit to learn more about what they can do to make their homes and communities safer, and how to talk about gun safety with children, teens and other parents.

## Teen Resources

▶ [Click for more information.](#)

## Safe Storage Saves The Lives of Children and Teens

▼ [Click for more information.](#)

It is the responsibility of caregivers to ensure that household guns are securely stored to prevent children, grandchildren, friends or other children and teens from gaining access.

**Lock Up:** Use a gun lock or safe to securely store guns. Keep guns unloaded and store ammunition separately.

**Limit Access:** Make sure children and teens do not have access to keys or combinations to locked guns.

**Transfer:** Consider temporarily storing your guns with a trusted individual outside of your home, especially when children or teenagers may be present.

# Keep the "safe" in firearm safety

Hiding a gun is not enough! Kids are curious, and studies show they usually know where a family keeps a gun.

Gun safes can lower the risk a curious child will be hurt:



Safe or lockbox for handguns



Locked gun safe for rifles



Gun trigger locks—  
inexpensive and effective



Lock box for ammo



[Click to](#)

[enlarge and download.](#)

[Learn more](#) about gun locks, boxes or safe options that match your needs while keeping children and teens safe.

Maryland's Child Access Prevention Law states that a person may not store or leave a loaded gun in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child would gain access to it.

Safe storage of guns in households where children live and play can prevent unintentional injuries. Around 5.4 million children in the United States currently live in households where at least one gun is loaded and unlocked. Researchers estimate that if even half of those households were to lock up all of their guns, the lives of hundreds of children and teens would be saved each year.

Free gun safety kits are available by contacting the following departments:

- Anne Arundel County Police Department
- Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office
- Annapolis Police Department

Adolescents are smart and curious. In studies about gun accessibility, almost half of teens reported knowing where and how to access a household gun. This occurred even among parents who believed otherwise. Of parents who believed their child could not gain access, one-third of their children reported knowing how to access or had previously handled a household gun. Teens are not the only



ones capable of handling a gun. Children as young as three are strong enough to pull the trigger of a handgun.

In this short video clip, the Utah Suicide Prevention Coalition shares the importance of safe storage to prevent teen suicide. In Maryland, gun suicides are a leading cause of death among adolescents ages 15-19 at a rate of 7.1 out of 100,000. In the United States, young people have the fastest growing rate of gun suicides.

01:15

To learn more about suicide prevention in Anne Arundel County, visit our [Suicide Prevention Toolkit](#).

## **Parent, Grandparent and Caregiver Resources**

▶ Click for more information.

## **Student and Educator Resources**

▶ Click for more information.

Every year, hundreds of children in the US gain access to firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. This is **#NotAnAccident.**



[Click to](#)

[view the #NotAnAccident Index and learn more.](#)

### **Learn More about Gun Violence Intervention**

This toolkit is a part of the Gun Violence Intervention Team's (GVIT) strategies for promoting gun safety in Anne Arundel County. [Click here to visit the main project page or any of our other toolkits.](#)

### **Want to Stay Involved?**

[Click here](#) to be redirected to the Gun Violence Intervention Team sign-up page to receive notifications about updates and opportunities to get involved.

► [Footnotes](#)

### **Site Use Policy and Disclaimer**

## **Stay Informed**

Get notified on upcoming engagements and the latest project related news.

[Sign up for notifications](#)

**" We lock up the poisons when our kids are around. We put childproof locks on things to keep our kids out of that. We even put sockets on outlets so that kids won't stick things [in them]. We don't seem to have the same due diligence with our firearms. "**



**Georges Benjamin, M.D.**  
Executive Director, American Public Health Association

## TAKE ACTION

### **Secure Household Guns**

Lock up, limit access or remove household guns and other lethal means.

### **Have open and compassionate conversations.**

Talk with children, teenagers and other parents about gun safety.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

-  [Asking About Secure Gun Storage](#)
-  [Gun Injury Postcard](#)
-  [Gun Safe Storage](#)
-  [Gun Safety Tip Sheet](#)
-  [Gun Storage For Your Lifestyle](#)
-  [Real Convo Guide](#)
-  [Asking About Secure Gun Storage En Espanol](#)

# GUN

# SAFETY

## Tips from CHOP experts



### CHILDREN ARE SAFEST IN A HOME WITHOUT A GUN.

If you have a gun in your home, keep children safe by following this advice:

- Store all guns unloaded, locked and out of sight.
- Store all bullets separately and keep them locked and out of sight.

There are many options to store your gun safely. Keep keys and combination codes hidden and secure.



Cable lock



Trigger lock



Gun safe

### TALK ABOUT GUN SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY.

- If your child sees a gun tell them to not touch it, move away from the area and tell a grown up immediately.
- Ask family members and friends about guns in their homes and how they keep their guns safe and out of reach before your child goes to visit.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Guns are the second leading cause of injury-related deaths for kids ages 1-17 in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- Playing with a gun is the most common cause of accidental gun deaths among children.<sup>1</sup>
- Three out of four kids ages 5-14 know where guns are kept in the home.<sup>2</sup>
- A 3-year-old is strong enough to pull the trigger of a handgun.<sup>3</sup>
- Most cases of childhood suicide involve a family member's unlocked gun.<sup>4</sup>
- Children may not know the difference between a toy gun and a real gun.

For more information on keeping kids safe around guns, please visit [chop.edu/gun-violence-facts](http://chop.edu/gun-violence-facts).

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Fowler KA, et al. Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2017;140(1).

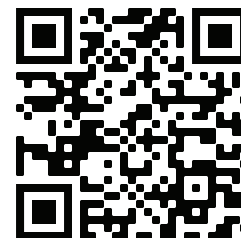
<sup>2</sup>bradycampaign.org/our-impact/campaigns/keep-kids-and-families-safe

<sup>3</sup>healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx

<sup>4</sup>Youth suicide: Findings from a pilot for the National Violent Death Reporting System.

Suicide Prevention Resource Center & Harvard Injury Control Center. 2007.

Learn how to use gun locks and lock boxes: Use the camera or QR code reader on your phone to scan this code to watch an instructional video



# GUN STORAGE FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE



As a gun owner, you can choose from multiple options for safely storing and protecting your firearms when they're not in use. Use this guide to determine which mechanism best suits your lifestyle, priorities and environment.

## A RANGE OF OPTIONS



### CABLE LOCK

Price Range: \$10-\$50

A cable lock can be used on most firearms, allows for quick access in an emergency and offers security from theft. The cable runs through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from being accidentally fired, requiring either a key or combination to unlock it.

- AFFORDABLE
- ACCESSIBLE
- THEFT DETERRENT



### GUN CASE

Price Range: \$10-\$150

For those looking to conceal, protect or legally transport a registered firearm, a gun case is an affordable solution available in a variety of materials including plastic, fabric or metal. Be sure to lock it with an external device for added security.

- AFFORDABLE
- PORTABLE
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



### LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$25-\$350

With integrated lock, storage boxes provide reliable protection for firearms, and allow gun owners to legally transport them outside of their home.

- PORTABLE
- ACCESSIBLE
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



### ELECTRONIC LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$50-\$350

Electronic lock boxes are an effective way to store or legally transport firearms, and they also prevent theft since only the person with the code can access the contents. Some electric lock boxes are specially designed for quick access to stored firearms.

- PORTABLE
- THEFT DETERRENT
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



### FULL SIZE AND BIOMETRIC GUN SAFES

Price Range: \$200-\$2,500

A gun safe protects its contents from the elements and allows owners to safely store multiple firearms in one place. Gun safes of all sizes are now available with biometric options to ensure only certain people have access.

- THEFT DETERRENT
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE

Attachment #1 - SB 858 - 2A Maryland - Misleading Messages

## PLEASE HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS. STORE FIREARMS RESPONSIBLY.

These are just a few of the storage options available to firearm owners. For the greatest level of security, consider using a combination of safety mechanisms and educate family members about handling firearms properly.

To learn more about firearm safety, visit [ProjectChildSafe.org](http://ProjectChildSafe.org)