



Personal Firearm Safety in the Home

Training Program Presentation

An educational program to promote firearm safety in the home



Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Uniformed Services University
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program



Thank you for serving our Nation.

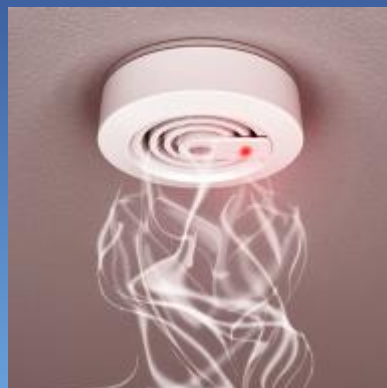
Our purpose is to:

- Discuss military family safety
- Promote family safety by reducing risks
- Address risks relating to personally owned firearms
- Create a military family safety plan and pledge





Safety Risks and Military Families



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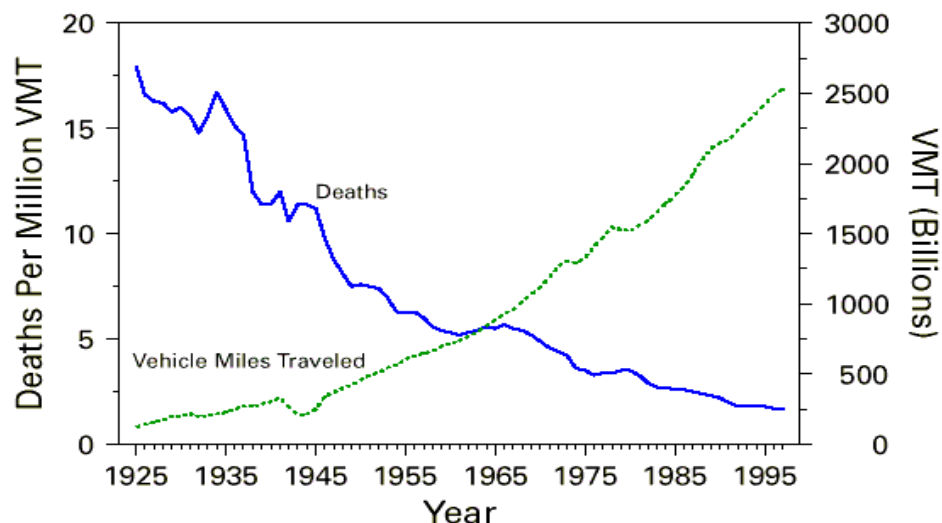


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Public Health and Safety

FIGURE 1. Motor-vehicle-related deaths per million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and annual VMT, by year — United States, 1925–1997



How did we make this happen?



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Source:

[/www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4818a1.htm#fig1](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4818a1.htm#fig1)



Public Health and Safety

Did you know?

...the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that seat belts have saved the lives of more than 280,000 children and adults since 1975.

Since 1975, 9600 children have lived because of safety seats or seat belts.



Traffic Safety Facts Overview, June 2012
<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811630.pdf>



Public Health and Safety

- Public health interventions significantly reduced motor vehicle associated deaths and injuries
- Public Health interventions include:
 - Product (antilock breaks, airbags, guardrails)
 - Person (driver's safety education, DUI campaigns)
 - Practice (vehicle inspections, speed limits)



Public Health and Safety

Public Health safety planning steps

- *Identify Hazards* — that may be harmful
- *Assess Risk* — considering unique circumstances
- *Take Action* — implement change to reduce risk

Product

Person

Practice



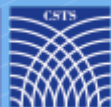


Public Health and Safety

Safety Practices — continually assess risk as situation changes:



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Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Exposed electrical outlets
- New toddler in the house

Assess Risk

- How likely is it a curious child will get shocked?

Take Action

- Safety covers on exposed outlets



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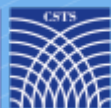
Safety Risks and Military Families

Common Family Safety Practices

- Drugs and poisons out of reach of children
- Electrical outlets covered
- Neighborhood watch
- Meet children's friends
- Meet children's friend's parents in their home
- Safe driving
- Model safe alcohol use



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Safety Risks and Military Families

Common challenges of military service members and family:

- Frequent moves and separation from extended family
- Decreased community connections
- Single spouse caring for home during deployments

Do you have additional deployment related factors that increase your safety risk and require a plan?





Safety Risks and Military Families

- David is a 27 year old, active duty E-5. He is married with two children ages 3 and 1. He just got orders to deploy overseas for 12 months
- His wife has noticed that David is up a lot at night. He says he doesn't feel like going in to work most days. He has become forgetful and snaps at the children more.



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Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Service member with family and stress about deployment

Assess Risk

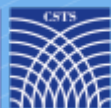
- Is this David's typical response to stress?
- Are there other factors in play?

Take Action

- Based on circumstance, and your current assessment of risk, **what actions do you take?**



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Safety Risks and Military Families

- David's friends and family have noticed that he is drinking alcohol every day which is more than usual.
- One night, during an argument, David punches a wall and leaves the house



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Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- David is drinking more and is becoming more angry

Assess Risk

- Is David becoming depressed?
- Is there a risk of family violence?

Take Action

- Based on this circumstance, **what would you do?**



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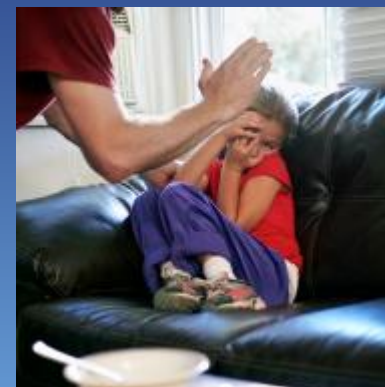


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Safety Risks and Military Families

- David gets home from work late and gets annoyed with his son, Peter. Peter wants to share what he learned in school today but his dad just wants to be alone. After telling Peter to be quiet for the last time he strikes the 3 year old and yells, “I can’t take this anymore!”
- David storms out of house and drives away abruptly



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Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Possible suicide statement.
- Possible family violence

Assess Risk

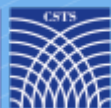
- Is David safe?
- Is his family safe?

Take Action

- Based on circumstance, and your current assessment of risk, **what actions do you take now?**



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What if David Kept a Gun in His Home?



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Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 24 March 2011: Josh Lipstein called his father, Don. Dad could tell that something was wrong. He asked his son to unload his gun. 'Dad,' he replied, 'I can't do that.' Josh said goodbye. A few moments later the 23- year-old veteran shot himself.
- Don knew Josh was depressed and addicted to pain killers



The New York Times, May 2011



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- Don knew Josh was depressed and addicted to pain killers

What would you do?





Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Josh kept a loaded firearm
- Experiencing depression
- Addicted to painkillers

Assess Risk

- Was Josh safe?

Take Action

- Based on your current assessment of risk
what actions could you take?





Safety Risks and Military Families

Did you know...?

1. Approximately 30,000 people die from firearms each year
 - 2/3^{rds} of those deaths are suicides
2. Access to firearms increases risk for death by suicide AND homicide
3. Half of all military suicides were by non-issue firearms (5x more than military weapons)



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National Center for Health, 2010
Annals of Internal Medicine, Anglemeyer, 2014
DoDSER 2011



Firearm Safety in Your Home

From recent news reports

- 12 August 2013: “...a child reportedly shot himself in the foot with a BB gun.... Police...determined it was an accident, according to reports.”
- 12 August 2013: “...police were called to...Hospital after a child who had been shot with a pellet gun checked into the emergency room. Reports...determined that the child’s siblings caused the injuries accidentally while playing.”

Delaware News, ThisWeek Community News





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What would you do?



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Safety Risks and Military Families

Identify Hazards

- Children living in home
- Accessible pellet guns

Assess Risk

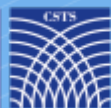
- Is this an unsafe situation?

Take Action

- Based on circumstance, and your current assessment of risk, **what actions do you take?**



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From recent news reports

- 17 July 2013: "...a 9-year-old is dead after he is accidentally shot by a 10-year-old....Police say the family was in the dining room when the accident happened in grandparent's bedroom."
- Danville, VA (6 Aug 2013): "...a 6-year-old child picked up a gun and accidentally shot one-year-old cousin"

"Gun Salesman Talks Safety After Child Accidentally Shot," WJTV.com,
"Danville Sheriff's Office Giving Away Gun Locks After Accident," WSET-TV,





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“Danville Sheriff’s Office Giving Away Gun Locks After Accident,” WSET-TV,





Safety Risks and Military Families

Did you know...?

1. For the majority of households, the factor that may have the most impact on a child's risk of firearm injury is whether the child's parents own a firearm.
2. Half of all unintentional shooting deaths among children occur at home, and almost half occur in the home of a friend or relative.
3. Nearly 1,500 children younger than 18 years of age die from shootings every year.



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<http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cirp-gun-safety>



Firearm Safety in Your Home

Let's take a short quiz:

— Keeping guns clean and in working order, and/or disposing (or disabling) firearms once they are no longer serviceable, can promote firearm safety in the home?

True or False?



Firearm Safety in Your Home

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Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— Untrained individuals should not have access to guns and ammunition.

True or False?



Firearm Safety in Your Home

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— Untrained individuals should not have access to guns and ammunition.

True or False?



Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— What percentage of children (1st and 2nd graders) know where a gun is stored in the home?

- a. 5%
- b. 20%
- c. 50%
- d. 75%



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Current Opinion in Pediatrics, 1994



Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— 21% percent of gun owners in a recent study reported storing their gun loaded. What percentage of their spouses reported the same thing?

- a. 2%
- b. 7%
- c. 21%
- d. 30%



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- d. 30%



The Official Journal of American Pediatrics, 2000



Firearm Safety in Your Home

Quiz:

— If firearms and ammunition are stored in a home where untrained persons live (or visit), they should be stored separately, in locked firearm cabinets, to minimize risk of unintended access

True or False?



Firearm Safety in Your Home

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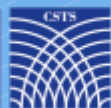
JAMA, 2005,



What Can You Do to Protect Your Family?



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Disclaimers

- Political, legal, and medical experts have differing views regarding firearms in the home and optimal methods to protect family safety.
- There are safety risks associated both with maintaining and not maintaining a personal firearm in your home.
- If you choose to maintain a personal firearm in your home, then it is your responsibility to follow applicable laws and follow proper safety precautions.
- Partially implemented safety measures such as applying trigger locks without a comprehensive safety plan can increase risk to your family.
- On the issue of mental health and firearms, 14 medical societies agree on the need for increased public education, increased research, better access prevention, and clinical counseling when needed.





Public Health and Family Safety

- Do you remember the primary intervention areas?
 - Product
 - Person
 - Practice
- Let's apply individual safety practices to these primary intervention areas!



Public Health and Family Safety

Product

- Properly service your firearms
- Dispose or disable firearms when they are no longer serviceable
- Apply properly fitted trigger/cable locks to properly stored unloaded weapons





Public Health and Firearm Safety

Person

- Weapon safety courses
- Appropriate gun safety program for children
- Increased risk → alternate storage plan
 - If physical illness or mental illness make it less safe to keep a gun at home, then have an alternate storage plan
 - If conflict or substance abuse make it less safe to keep a gun at home, then have an alternate storage plan



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Public Health and Firearm Safety

Practice

- Keep personal firearms in locked gun cabinet
- Store ammunition separately
- Gun communication with spouse, partner, roommate or friends
- Gun communication with children





Firearm Safety Planning

- While there are elements that are common to all Firearm Safety Plans, these should be unique to your situation and regularly reviewed as firearm risks change
- Please review the *Firearm Safety Planning Guide* included in your handout and check off those elements you plan to implement in your home
- Firearm Safety Pledge!





Firearm Safety Planning

DoD

- Military Crisis Line:
 - 1-800-273-8255, Press "1"
- Vets-4-Warriors..... <http://vets4warriors.com>
 - 24/7 peer support (855-838-8255)
- Defense Suicide Prevention Office..... <http://suicideoutreach.org/>
- Military One Source..... <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>
- After Deployment..... <http://www.afterdeployment.org>
- Guard & Reserve..... http://www.dcoe.mil/Families/Guard_and_Reserve.aspx
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program..... <http://www.yellowribbon.mil/>

If you would like a complementary cable to help you get started on your own Firearm Safety Plan, then please remain after the session.



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Thank you.



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