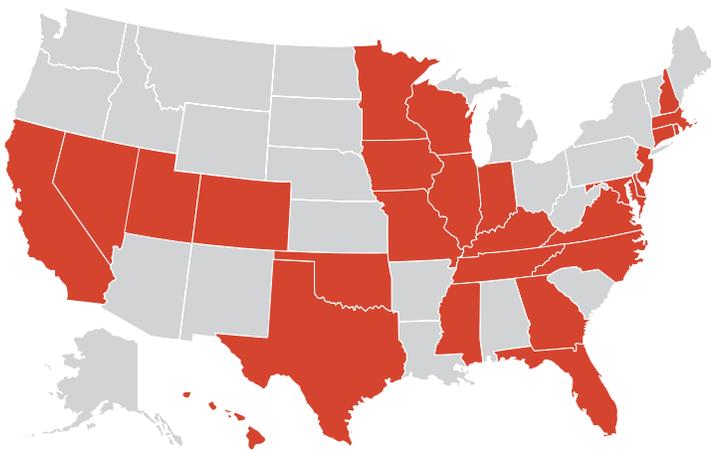


CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION

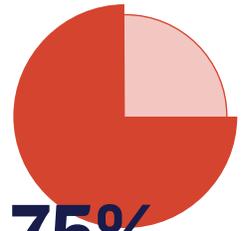
Guns in homes pose a clear risk to the safety of children. **Especially when guns are not stored safely or securely, tragic accidental shootings and youth suicides occur far too often.** Child access prevention (CAP) laws hold gun owners accountable for the safe storage of their firearms, which helps prevent guns from falling into young hands.

A POPULAR SOLUTION: CAP LAWS ACROSS THE NATION



Child access prevention laws hold gun owners accountable for the safe storage of firearms. 27 states and DC have enacted some form of CAP law.

■ States that have enacted CAP laws



75% of the guns used in youth suicide attempts and unintentional injuries are stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a friend.

1/3

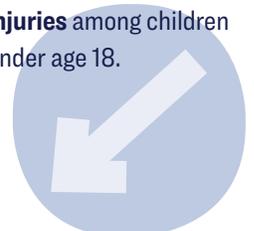
of handguns are kept loaded and unlocked, and **most children know where their parents keep their guns**—even if their parents think otherwise.

73%

of children under age 10 living in homes with guns reported knowing the location of their parents' firearms, and **36% had handled the guns.**

A POWERFUL TOOL

A 2013 study of hospital data found that **CAP laws are associated with reductions in nonfatal gun injuries** among children under age 18.



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EFFECTIVE, LIFESAVING LAWS PREVENT TRAGEDY

In 2015 alone, America lost nearly 3,000 children and teenagers to gun violence.

More than 1,000 of these deaths were either suicides or accidental shootings.

Child access prevention (CAP) laws are a proven tool for reducing the accidental shootings and suicides that claim far too many young lives.

THE IMPACT OF CAP LAWS

CAP laws have been shown to be effective at reducing youth suicides and unintentional shootings:

- One study of twelve states where CAP laws had been in effect for at least one year found that **unintentional firearm deaths fell by 23%** among children under 15 years of age.
- Researchers recently found that CAP laws were associated with an **8.3% decrease in suicides** among children ages 14 to 17.
- A 2005 study concluded that safe storage practices serve as a protective measure to **reduce youth suicide and unintentional injury** in homes with children and teenagers.

NO FEDERAL CAP LAWS

There are no CAP laws at the federal level, and federal law does not generally require gun owners to safely store their guns. Federal law does, however, make it unlawful for any licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer to sell or transfer any handgun unless the transferee is provided with a “secure gun storage or safety device.” Federal law also immunizes the lawful owner of a handgun who uses a secure gun storage or safety device from certain civil actions based on the criminal or unlawful misuse of the handgun by a third party.

State CAP Laws Take a Variety of Forms:

- **The strongest CAP laws impose criminal liability when a minor gains access to a negligently stored firearm.**
- The weakest CAP laws merely prohibit certain persons, such as parents or guardians, from directly providing a firearm to a minor.
- There is a wide range of laws that fall somewhere between these extremes, including laws that impose criminal liability for negligently stored firearms, but only where the child uses the firearm and causes death or serious injury.
- Despite the strong evidence of the protective effect of CAP laws, there are still 23 states that do not have any such laws on the books.

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For more details and underlying research, visit lawcenter.giffords.org/child-access

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210+

lifesaving gun safety laws have been enacted in 45 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

115,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

25x

Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed by a gun than people in other developed nations.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

CONTACT US

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