

# STUDENT ADVOCACY

UNION NM



Child access prevention (CAP) laws impose criminal liability on adults who give children unsupervised access to firearms. Researchers have found that millions of children live in homes with easily accessible guns. 27 states including DC have CAP laws.

***Nearly 1,300 children die and 5,790 are treated for gunshot wounds each year in the United States.***

## STUDIES HAVE PROVEN THAT CAP LAWS SAVE LIVES

One study found that in twelve states where such laws had been in effect for at least one year, unintentional firearm deaths fell by 23% from 1990-94 among children under 15 years of age.<sup>1</sup> Florida's CAP law carries some of the stiffest penalties in the country and has proven to be especially effective cutting accidental child deaths from guns in half.

## CAP LAWS COULD HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

In a study by the United States Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education found that over 2/3 of school shooters acquired their firearms from their home or the home of a relative.<sup>2</sup>

## CHILDREN KNOW WHERE THE GUNS ARE HIDDEN

The presence of unlocked guns in the home increases the risk not only of accidental gun injuries but of intentional shootings as well. 73% of children aged nine and under reported knowing the location of their parents' firearms and 36% admitted that they had handled the weapons.<sup>3</sup>

## TEENAGERS, SUICIDE AND FIREARMS

A study by the CDC found that 38% of gun deaths among children are suicide.

## GUN DEATHS ARE HAVING A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN

According to the New Mexico Department of Public Health 85 children lost their lives to firearms from 2012 -2014. Of those deaths, 40 children committed suicide and 42 were killed in a homicide.

1. Peter Cummings et al., *State Gun Safe Storage Laws and Child Mortality Due to Firearms*, 278 JAMA 1084, 1084 (Oct. 1997), <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/418289>. ↗@

<sup>2</sup> UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, July 2004 <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/preventingattacksreport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Frances Baxley & Matthew Miller, *Parental Misperceptions about Children and Firearms*, 160 ARCHIVES OF PEDIATRIC & ADOLESCENT MED. 542, 544 (2006)