Conversations with Families about Gun Safety.

Michael McBride
Winter Refresher

Objectives

1) Identify at least two reasons gun safety questions should be part of a primary care assessment.
2) Understand cultural aspects of gun ownership.
3) Describe the VA’s suicide prevention program and gun safety.
4) Examine pediatric programs for discussing gun safety with kids and parents (UM and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia).

Why ask your patients about gun safety?

Two Reasons: suicide prevention and child safety.

Physician Counseling on Firearm Safety
A New Kind of Cultural Competence
Marian E. Betz, MD, MPH1; Garen J. Wintemute, MD, MPH2


Cultural Competence

• Respect for variation among cultures
• Awareness of your own beliefs and practices
• Interest in learning about other cultures
• Developing skills to enhance cross-cultural communication
• Acknowledgement that culturally competent practices support delivery of quality health care
“…physicians who own guns may be more likely than those who do not to counsel patients about firearm safety.”
Between 13% to 41% of physicians own guns.
Betz and Wintemute

Gun Culture; A Personal Story

Wisconsin Deer Hunting

Facts about Wisconsin Deer Hunting
- Over 600,000 licenses sold.
- 10% of the State’s population will join the hunt.
- Estimated one billion annual economic impact for the State.

“Wisconsin’s largest simultaneous participating event.”

Question: What is the leading cause of injury during gun deer hunting season?
Falls out of Deer Stands.

What famous Wisconsin hunting season begins Feb. 13th?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3wzc0is-B4

Are any firearms now kept in or around your home? Include those kept in a garage, outdoor storage area, car, truck, or other motor vehicle.

CDC 2001

44.4%

Of Wisconsin Homes
Suicide Rates in Wisconsin 2014

Facts about guns and kids.
- 1/3 of homes with children under the age of 18 have guns.
- 50% of weapons were kept in the home loaded.
- 40% of stored the gun in a bedroom or closet, not in a locked safe, cabinet or vault.
- Most teen suicides are impulsive acts with time from idea-to-action less than five minutes.

More Facts
- 95% of suicide attempts via firearms are fatal.
- 75% of children ages 5 to 14 know where their parent’s guns are stored, even when the parents believed they were hidden.
- Children as young as 3 have the finger strength to pull a trigger.

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Injury Research and Prevention
Developmental Counseling

University of Michigan Injury Center: Firearm Safety Curriculum

VA Suicide Prevention