

Are there other methods of self-protection or safety that you could use?

Consider using security methods that do not put your family at risk such as:

- Home security system
- Improved window and door locks
- Neighborhood watch
- Police patrolling

Are you willing to accept 24-hour-a-day responsibility of owning a gun?

- Responsible gun ownership means handling and storing your gun safely to prevent injury or death.
- Unload your gun, lock it up, and lock the bullets in a separate place.
- Do not allow children or teens to have access to the gun or to the keys to the locking devices.



The safest choice is to remove guns from the home. Easy access to a gun could be fatal for someone in your family.

Consider these facts...

Indiana's rate of death from guns is higher than the national average.

Indiana has the second highest rate of death from guns of all the Midwest states.



Indiana Partnership to Prevent Violent Injury and Death
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Is **YOUR FAMILY** safe from gun injury?



Take this quiz to see if your family could be at risk for gun injury.

- 1. Is there a gun in your home?**
Yes No Unsure (If no, go to #3)
- 2. Is the gun ever kept loaded or unlocked?**
Yes No Unsure
- 3. Do your children come home from school to a home that has an unsecured gun and no parent or adult?**
Yes No Unsure
- 4. Is there a gun accessible to anyone in your home who uses alcohol or drugs or who shows violent behavior?**
Yes No Unsure
- 5. Is there a gun accessible to someone in your home who is depressed or suffers from other mental illness?**
Yes No Unsure
- 6. Does anyone in your family use or carry a gun outside the home for protection?**
Yes No Unsure
- 7. Are there guns in the homes where your children play or visit?**
Yes No Unsure

If you answered **Yes** or **Unsure** to any of these questions, you or your loved ones could be in danger. If you answered **NO** to all of these questions, you or your loved ones may **STILL** be at risk.

Learn more about keeping your family safe.

Does a gun in the home make your family safer?

- A gun in the home is more likely to kill a friend or family member than to be used for self-defense.
- The risk of homicide is 3 times greater in homes with guns.
- The risk of suicide is 5 times greater in homes with guns.

Are there children living in your home?

If so, consider these facts:

- Children are curious and usually know where a gun may be hidden, even though parents do not believe this to be true.
- Children are attracted to guns, and may use them to copy what they have seen on television.
- Lack of parental supervision increases the chance for experimenting with a gun.
- Studies show that children are likely to touch or play with a gun even after they have been told not to do so.

Are there teens living in your home?

Typical adolescents and teens:

- Are searching for identity and independence.
- Believe they can not be hurt, and do not think about the outcomes of their actions.
- Are strongly influenced by peers and are looking for ways to feel powerful.
- Often experiment with alcohol or drugs, which can increase risky behaviors such as playing with guns.

Does anyone in your home use drugs or alcohol or show violent behavior?

- Guns are used in about 60% of all homicides among intimate partners.

Is anyone in your home depressed or suffer from other mental illness?

- Those who are depressed or suffer from a mood disorder or another type of mental illness are more likely to commit suicide.
- One who attempts suicide with a gun is more likely to die than one who attempts suicide by another means.
- Over half of the gun deaths each year in Indiana are suicides.

Do your children spend time in homes besides yours?

Since almost half of Indiana homes have at least one gun, it is a good idea to:

- Ask if there are loaded guns in those homes.
- Talk to the owner about locking up or removing the guns.
- If guns are not removed or locked up, consider other safe places for your child to stay or play.

