

THE GUN SAFETY CONVERSATION

**SIMPLE STEPS FOR DISCUSSING GUN SAFETY
WITH PATIENTS.**



WHY IT MATTERS?

65%

of gun owners have at least one unlocked firearm

4.6 Million

children live in homes with unlocked guns

73%

of kids under 10 know where guns are stored

Patients counseled by healthcare providers are

3 times

more likely to store guns safely

Firearm injuries & deaths are

11 times

higher in U.S. children than in any other developed country

Source: American Journal of Public Health, John Hopkins University, Brady

CONVERSATION STARTERS

"I ask all my patients about home safety, including medications, car seats, and firearms. Are there any firearms in your home?"

"How are firearms stored to keep everyone safe?"

"Safe storage means guns are unloaded, locked, and ammunition is stored separately. Would you like resources on this?"



SAFE STORAGE BASICS

Unload firearms.
Keep them locked in safes, lockboxes, or using trigger/cable locks.
Store ammunition separately.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COUNSELING

- ✓ Normalize the conversation
- ✓ Be nonjudgmental
- ✓ Use open-ended questions
- ✓ Focus on safety
- ✓ Offer practical solutions
- ✓ Discuss affordable storage options
- ✓ Maintain confidentiality



Scan the QR Code for more information on 'How to talk to patients about gun access and safety'.

