



## Safety around Firearms

- Firearms are the 8th leading cause of ALL deaths in the United States.
  - Firearms are the 2nd leading cause of injury deaths.
- One child unintentionally shooting another child is the 5th leading cause of unintentional injury death for 0 to 14-year olds;
  - Every day, one child under age 15 is killed in an unintentional shooting incident.
- Nearly 40% of the children who are unintentionally shot by other children were shot with guns left unloaded and/or unlocked in the homes of friends or relatives.
- In Oklahoma, children as young as 10 years have committed suicide with a gun.
- In the United States, many incidents of elementary school children bringing guns to school have been reported. Thousands of secondary school students say they carry a gun to school daily. Students often get guns from home without the knowledge of their parents.
- It is important for parents to keep guns away from children and to teach them about the danger of firearms.
  - If there is a firearm in the home, keep it unloaded and locked away out of the reach of children.
  - Always store ammunition in a locked container and separate from the firearms.
- Teach children that if they find a gun to:
  - Not to touch a gun,
  - Leave the area,
  - Tell a trusted adult.
- If children have access to firearms, teach them appropriate safety rules.
- Teach children the consequences of real-life violence versus violence portrayed on videos and television.