

The background features several thin, light-colored lines that intersect to form various geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a modern, architectural feel.

HB 203

SECURE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

REPRESENTATIVE ADAM WOOL

STAFF: ASHLEY CARRICK

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW:

- Impacts of Gun Violence
- The Nature of the Problem
- Prioritizing Responsible Gun Ownership
- Efficacy of Secure Storage
- What HB 203 Does
- Supporters of Secure Storage in Alaska

IMPACTS OF GUN VIOLENCE: YOUTH ACCIDENT AND SUICIDE DEATHS

APD: 4-year-old girl shot self with kitchen counter
Wednesday, July 31, 2019 - 15:28
sted: Wed, 07/31/2019 - 2:15pm

Sitka Police said a toddler shot off a gun as parent slept close by

News Home More from News of the North
Monday, October 26th, 2020 11:39am
Sitka, Alaska (KINY) - Sitka Police said no one was hurt after gunfire erupted in a home in the 3800 block of Halibut Point Road Sunday.



Police identify 5-year-old boy killed in accidental shooting
By Matt Tunseth
Updated: July 29, 2018
Published: July 28, 2018

5-year-old Anchorage boy dies from self-inflicted gunshot wound
Anchorage police have...
at a Spenn...

Suicide attempts among younger Alaskans have risen even as overall suicide deaths declined in 2020

Kokhanok boy killed in accidental shooting
KDLG 670AM
Published January 25, 2016 at 9:38 PM AKST



Kadin T. Mann was shot accidently in an Anchorage hospital.
Kadin Tige Mann, age 5, died Sunday.

Police: Barrow boy, 13, dies of gunshot wound
By Devin Kelly
Updated: September 28, 2016
Published: February 5, 2014

A 13-year-old boy died of a gunshot wound afternoon, police said.

About 3:40 p.m., the North Slope Borough reported that the teen had shot himself at



RADIO NEWS EDUCATION SUPPLY

18-year-old killed in goose hunting accident in Western Alaska
By Anna Rose MacArthur, KYUK - Bethel - April 30, 2021

An 18-year-old died when he was shot while bird hunting with two other young people in Nightmute on April 26.



"Joseph George was shot in the head at close range by a minor as a goose flew by," Alaska Department of Public Safety Information Officer Gretchen Weiss-Brackley wrote in an email to KYUK.

Daily News
ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS
Teen shot in head at friend's house after gun discharges
By Zaz Hollander
Delta Junction boy injured in accidental shooting
FAIRBANKS -
Staff Report Sep 18, 2014 Updated Sep 18

Alaska News

Alaska's adolescent suicide rate keeps rising. Advocates say they're doubling down on prevention efforts.

Man charged in shooting deaths of aunt, 3 cousins near Anchorage
Alaska State Troopers say another 6-year-old was apparently spared during the early Monday morning shooting spree.

Local News
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THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM:

GUN VIOLENCE PREVALENCE

- Nationally, suicide constitutes most of the firearm deaths in the U.S., even though just 5% of self-harm episodes, including both non-suicidal self injury and attempted suicide, involve firearms.
- Firearms are known for their high lethality, with an 82.5-92% lethality for suicide attempts using firearms.
- As many as 80% of people considering suicide give notice of their intentions beforehand, making intervention possible in many cases.

THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM: GUN VIOLENCE IN ALASKA

- Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Alaska.
- Alaska has the second-highest rate of gun death in the U.S. Alaska's gun suicide rate is more than double the national rate. 68% of Alaska's gun deaths are firearm suicides.
- Suicides make up two-thirds of all firearm deaths in Alaska, and three in five suicides in Alaska are committed using a firearm.
- In 2019, there were 117 firearm suicide deaths in Alaska, including 17 children and teens (ages 0-19).
- 12,380 children live with unlocked, loaded firearms in Alaska.

THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

- An average of 22 children and teens die from to accidental or intentional shootings each year.
- 25% of Alaskan high school students have considered suicide in the past year and a further 19.7% reported an attempted suicide.
- Among high school students in Alaska, 37.5% reported that they could access a loaded gun in less than an hour.
- 59% of youth gun deaths are suicides and an additional 26% are homicides.
- Other health disparities exist in gun violence and youth suicide attempts.

PRIORITIZING RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP:

OPINIONS OF GUN OWNERS

- Gun owners do NOT want to see these tragic incidents occur.
- Across the state, 64.5% of residents report owning guns, ranking Alaska third among all states in per capita firearm ownership.
- Most gun owners across the country report putting a high value on responsible ownership. For example:
 - 95% of gun owners say it is essential to talk to their children about gun safety
 - 66% of gun owners believe it is essential for their firearms to be kept in a locked place when there are minors in the home.

PRIORITIZING RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP:

SAFE STORAGE OPTIONS

Secure storage or safety devices include:

- Devices that are designed to prevent the firearm from being operated without first deactivating the device.
 - Examples: Cable locks that block a firearm cartridge from being fired or trigger locks that allow loading, but which prevent the trigger from being pulled.
- Devices that are incorporated into the design of the firearm to prevent operation of the firearm by anyone without access to the device.
 - Example: Personalized “smart guns” that only allow an authorized user to access the gun.
- A safe, gun safe, gun case, lock box, or other device that is designed to be unlocked only by means of a key, combination, or other similar means.

EFFICACY OF SECURE STORAGE:

STATE BY STATE COMPARISONS

- Currently, 33 states have some type of secure storage law.
- Compared to states with no child-access laws, states with the strongest secure storage laws saw a 44 percent reduction in children hospitalized for firearm injuries related to unintentional shootings.
- A 2020 study found a 59 percent reduction in unintentional firearm deaths among children ages 0 to 14 in the states with the most stringent child access prevention laws.

EFFICACY OF SECURE STORAGE: REDUCING YOUTH MORTALITY

- One study found that young children who go through a weeklong gun safety training program are just as likely as children with no training to approach or play with a handgun when they find one.
- It is impossible to predict the behavior of every child who may be invited into your home, and difficult to be assured of your child's safety in another person's home when there are unsecured firearms present.

WHAT HB 203 DOES:

MISCONDUCT CHARGES

Misconduct involving weapons in the sixth degree:

- Keeping a firearm in your home that is not under the direct control of an authorized person. **See: Section 3 (a) (1)**
- Keeping a firearm that the owner or authorized person knows or reasonably should know is accessible by a prohibited person. **See: Section 3 (a) (2)**

Misconduct involving weapons in the fourth degree:

- If section 3 is violated and a prohibited person has used a firearm to commit a crime or to injure themselves or another. **See: Section 2**

WHAT HB 203 DOES:

KEY TERMS

Direct control is where the owner or possessor of the firearm is:

- Close enough to prevent another person who is not an authorized person from obtaining the firearm OR
- The firearm is in the person's own residence, either alone or with only authorized persons who also live in the residence and who are not minors, and the residence is secure.

Authorized Person: A person authorized by the owner or possessor of a firearm to temporarily carry or control the firearm.

Prohibited Person: Minors, convicted felons, or those with other Federal or State restrictions on gun ownership.

SUPPORT FOR FIREARM SAFETY:

LETTERS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- American Academy of Pediatricians - Alaska
- Grand Camp Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native Sisterhood
- Alaska Public Health Association
- Alaska Behavioral Health Association
- Alaska League of Women Voters
- Juneau Alliance for Mental Health Inc (JAMHI) - Health and Wellness
- Alaska Nurses Association
- Alaska Children's Trust
- Moms Demand Action- Alaska
- Faith leaders from across the state- 21 faith communities

QUESTIONS?

