

lethal weapon

You've seen the news in the papers and on TV. It's no secret that guns are a big cause of injury and death to people your age. Keeping a gun at home increases the risk of murder and suicide in the home.

Gun Facts

1/3 of high school students in a large metropolitan area have reported they have a gun or easy access to a gun.

1/4 of these students carried a gun to school.

Every 3 hours a teenager takes his or her life using a gun.

Murder is the **2nd leading cause of death** for people 15 to 24 years old.

In the United States, **10 children and teens are killed** each day by guns.

People who keep a gun at home for self-protection are **43 times more likely to kill themselves**, a family member, or a friend, than to kill an intruder.

Having a gun in a home is associated with almost **5 times more risk of suicide** and it triples the risk of murder.

What you can do

- **Don't carry guns.**
There is no proof that carrying a weapon will reduce your risk of becoming a victim of violence. In fact, carrying a weapon can get you into a lot of trouble in school or elsewhere, and may increase the chance that someone else may use a gun against you.
- **Talk to your family about getting the guns out of your house.**
Keeping a gun at home increases the risk of murder and suicide in the home. The risk increases even more if you or someone living with you is depressed, abusing drugs, or abusing other family members.
- **Don't try to solve violence with violence.**
If you are worried about threats you have received or violence that you have seen, don't use a gun to deal with these tough problems. Talk to someone you trust: your parents, relatives, teachers, peer counselors at school, police officers, and don't forget your doctor.
- **Follow the rules of safe gun handling.**
If you have any type of gun at home, make sure that your family stores it unloaded in a securely locked cabinet. And, always treat a gun as if it's loaded.