Section on Medical Students, Residents and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSRFT) Advocacy Campaign 2013-2014
Annual AAP SOMSRFT Advocacy Campaign

• AAP Section on Medical Students, Residents and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSRFT) annual campaign focused on advocacy
• Provides a framework for **YOU** to get involved, learn about advocacy, and implement an advocacy project of your own
• Successful campaigns in the past focused on smoking, vaccines, obesity, voting for kids, and childhood literacy (Read, Lead, Succeed!)
Why Firearm Injury Prevention?

- Events in
  - Newtown, Connecticut
  - Aurora, Colorado
  - Virginia Tech, Virginia
- Personal/patient stories
  - Injuries
  - Gun violence exposure
  - Suicide
  - Homicide

Public Health issue impacting children and families
What We Know

- Approximately **7.4** people per day are killed unintentionally by a gun\(^1\)
- A child is killed or injured by a firearm every **30 minutes**\(^2\)
- **33%** of U.S. homes contain a gun; **half** don’t lock it up\(^3\)
- A firearm is **22x** more likely to be used in the setting of suicide, criminal assault, homicide or accidental death than in self defense\(^4\)
- **Risk of suicide** is **5x greater** if a gun is kept in the home\(^4\)

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1. Injury Mortality Reports, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC, 2010; 2011

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What We Know

- Number of **kids killed in 1 year** by gun related injuries could **fill 134 classrooms**¹
- In 2010 the # of children and teens killed by guns was ~**5x** the # of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan¹
- **Teens = most @ risk**
  - 86% of deaths and 89% of injuries from firearms happen in 15-19 year olds¹

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Firearm Injury Pyramid

31,672 Deaths¹

41,363 Hospitalized Injuries²

42,656 Treated & Released from EDs²

¹ Centers for Disease Control National Vital Statistics, 2010
² Estimates from the CDC Firearm Injury Surveillance Survey
State and Federal Laws and Statistics

- Learn about your state’s current gun laws, gun death and injury statistics, and federal public health stats by visiting:
  - AAP Division of State Government Affairs State Gun Safety Laws
  - Children’s Defense Fund Report “Protect Children, Not Guns”:
  - Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence State Scorecard:
    http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/
  - Law Center To Prevent Gun Violence: http://smartgunlaws.org/
  - CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
    http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/
What is Firearm Injury Prevention?

- A **public health issue** just like:
  - Car seats
  - Drowning prevention
  - Bike helmets
  - Seat Belts
  - Child abuse prevention
- **NOT** a political issue!
  - Not about gun “control” or gun “rights”
  - About keeping kids/teens **safe**
Three Main Advocacy Areas

Goal: Keep Kids/Teens Safe

- Support common sense firearm legislation that protects kids
- Provide education and research about firearms
- Expand mental health screening and access
How can you get involved?
Firearm Injury Prevention: Clinic

- Education, research, anticipatory guidance
  - Physician firearm counseling
  - Discuss during well child checks
  - Use firearm injury prevention smart phrase
  - QI projects regarding parent education before vs. after the campaign interventions
  - Start the discussion, bring awareness to the issue!
Firearm Injury Prevention: Clinic

• Create/distribute parent handouts
  • i.e. AAP Connected Kids
  • Display the 2013 P.A.V.E. poster
• Educational commercial/video in waiting rooms
• Dispensing of gun safe locks
• Discuss teen violence, how to avoid it, and ways to have positive conflict resolution
• How to talk to children after a firearm-related injury
Educate Parents and Patients

- **Safest way = no firearms in the home**
- **Discuss** the dangers of guns; they are not toys
- **ASK:** Are guns in the homes where your children play?
  - Where is it stored?
  - How is it secured?
- **ASK Campaign**

Source: healthychildren.org

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Advice to Parents

- For parents who choose to keep firearms in the home:
  - Always keep the gun unloaded and locked up
  - Bullets locked and stored separately
  - Hide keys
  - Never tell child the lock/safe’s code
  - Discuss repercussions

Source: healthychildren.org
Forearms and Mental Health

Strong evidence suggests that the presence of firearms in the home increases the risk of suicide among adolescents\(^1\)

- Expand mental health screening and access
  - Screen for depression and mental illness
  - Recognize effects of toxic stress
  - Make appropriate and timely referrals
  - Give general and specific counseling!

Recognize the impact of firearm-related injuries

- All children at risk of psychological injury
  - Anxiety
  - Posttraumatic stress reactions and disorder
- Concern when prolonged emotional response or accompanied by functional impairment
- Children are resilient given adequate support and counseling

http://www.aap.org/en-us/my-aap/advocacy/workingwiththemedia/Pages/Coping-with-theAftermath-of-a-Community-or-School-Shooting
Counseling after a firearm-related injury: Pediatricians

- Guide parent to make necessary accommodations
- Make appropriate and timely referrals
- Children’s reaction based on developmental abilities
  - 6-year-old may react by refusing to separate from parents to attend school
  - Adolescent may attempt to hide concern, start to argue more with parents, decline in school
Counseling after a firearm-related injury: Parents and Teachers

- Reassurance of safety, support, and love
- Strengthen child’s communication and coping skills
  - Allow child to express feelings
- Mobilize resources around child
- Returning to the routine can be helpful, kids thrive on structure

Firearm Injury Prevention: Community

- Speak to school groups about firearms
  - Incorporate guest speakers impacted by firearm injury
- Parent education at after school programs
- Collaborate with law enforcement, Boys & Girls Club, community centers, etc.
- Partner with ED/Trauma teams for high school education
Firearm Injury Prevention: State/Federal Levels

- Know your state’s laws
  - Work with your AAP chapter to advocate for common sense firearm legislation that protects kids
  - Find your AAP chapter reps: http://www2.aap.org/member/chapters/chaplist.cfm
Firearm Injury Prevention: State/Federal Levels

• Read AAP’s federal policy positions
• Contact your state and federal legislators ➔ Support common sense firearm legislation that protects kids
  • P.A.V.E template letter & http://federaladvocacy.aap.org
• Organize or participate in a firearm injury prevention advocacy day
  • Write an op-ed or letter to the editor
Unified Part of the Campaign

- 7th of every month
- Engage in social media
  - Facebook SOMSRFT fan page
  - Twitter (#PAVE, #PutKids1st, #KeepKidsSafe)
  - Change profile photos to PAVE logo
  - Email blasts
- Video testimonials
- Visit our website: [http://www2.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/advocacy/PAVE.html](http://www2.aap.org/sections/ypn/r/advocacy/PAVE.html)
How to get involved with the National P.A.V.E. Campaign

- Organize a project at your school/program, in your community, state, or AAP district
- Join the SOMSRFT advocacy subgroup committee
- Advocate through social media
- Participate on advocacy subgroup conference calls
Helpful Resources

- AAP Department of Federal Affairs: www.aap.org/federaladvocacy
- Brady Campaign: http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/
- Center to Prevent Youth Violence: http://www.cpyv.org/
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America: www.momsdemandaction.org
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Thank you!
Together we will P.A.V.E
the way to firearm injury prevention

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