

Discussion on Gun Safety Programming

McKinney Police Department



Gun Violence in McKinney

- McKinney has a low violent crime rate and a low overall crime rate
- For the past several years McKinney has had the lowest overall crime rate in the State of Texas for cities with a population over 100,000
- The ratio of offenses involving firearms has remained fairly consistent over the past four years
 - January to September (rate per 1000 population)
 - 2016 0.36
 - 2017 0.39
 - 2018 0.43
 - 2019 0.41
 - These offenses include any time a gun was involved including unlawfully carrying

Gun Safety Education Programs

- Who? (Types of programs):
 - Adult education -- safe/proper use, handling, and safe storage
 - Child education – avoidance and accident prevention

Gun Safety Education Programs

- Why?
 - To help to reduce accidental shootings and suicides
 - To emphasize the dangerous nature of firearms
 - To reduce overall gun violence in society

Gun Safety Education Programs

■ What?

—Programs for Youth

- One of the largest NRA's Eddie Eagle Program
 - “gun accident prevention program”
 - “Stop, Don't Touch, Run Away, Tell an Adult

—Programs for Adults

- Texas LTC (21 years old, No Felony conviction, 6 hour Handgun proficiency course)
 - Laws related to weapons and use of deadly force
 - Handgun use and safety
 - Non-violent dispute resolution
 - Proper storage and prevention of accidental child injury
 - P.C. 46.13 Making Firearm Accessible to a Child
- Be SMART program “Everytown for Gun Safety” (storage, behavior, asking about unsecured guns, teen suicide risk awareness)

Gun Safety Education Programs

- Efficacy of Programs (Do they work?)
 - Adults:
 - Intuitive probability of effectiveness since the courses are voluntary.
 - The adult brain differs from the child in understanding of consequences and curiosity.
 - Studies have shown that those adults taking the class are no more likely to store the gun safely than those who did not take the class
 - Medical Professionals involvement has shown promise
 - When storage devices (gun locks) are given away free as part of the program, higher compliance is reported.

Gun Safety Education Programs

– Children:

- While the instruction given is sound, studies indicate that the programs have no effect on the behavior of children around guns (in controlled studies boys picked up the gun almost 2/3 of the time and of those two-thirds 90% pulled the trigger)
- The safest thing to do is keep guns inaccessible to children unless under adult supervision

Gun Safety Education Programs

- Conclusions
 - Gun safety is the responsibility of gun owners
 - Need to keep guns inaccessible to children
 - Training is offered for adults and children
 - Existing Child Gun Safety Education programs appear to have little or no effect on behavior
 - This is in keeping with findings regarding law enforcement taught drug awareness programs
 - National awareness campaigns have had minimal effect
 - 2005 “Buy a Box for Your Gun, Not Your Kid”
 - 2013 “Lock it Up” DOJ, Ad Council, National Crime Prevention Council
 - 2016 “Project Child Safe” National Shooting Sports Foundation
 - Greatest success when clinicians counseling patients in conjunction with providing a storage device free of charge

Gun Safety Education Programs

- Recommendations

- Continue to promote gun safety to adults and children with an emphasis on making guns inaccessible to children
- Build strong families and societal bonds to promote community and respect for others and respect for authority
- Consider enlisting clinicians in counseling safe storage practices and providing a storage device free of charge.