

High number of homes report unsecured guns

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

This month, a 12-year-old playing with a firearm in a Brooklyn apartment unintentionally shot and killed his cousin, officials said. Three days later, a 5-year-old boy with a loaded handgun shot and killed himself in a Maryland home, according to reports.

The two events are among the array of gut-wrenching scenes that play out each year when family members fail to secure firearms, according to a new federal report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published on Thursday. The study looked at data on families with children and loaded firearms in their homes in a handful of states. In at least 25% of these homes, at least one loaded gun was left unsecured.

“Out-of-sight and out-of-reach is not secure storage,” Tom Simon, acting co-director of the CDC’s division of violence prevention and a study co-author, told USA TODAY. Often, he added, parents think their children aren’t aware they have a gun in the house, or they think because they’ve scolded their child for playing with their gun, the child won’t try to access it.

“They hope that’s enough,” he said. “It’s just often not.”

These tragedies are entirely avoidable, according to Sarah Burd-Sharpe, senior director of research at the non-profit Everytown for Gun Safety. “Roughly once every day in the United States, a child under the age of 18 gains access to a loaded gun and unintentionally shoots themselves or someone else,” Burd-Sharpe said in a statement. “But there is no such thing as an accidental shooting by a child – the onus to store guns securely and keep them out of reach of children is always on adults.”

Earlier research found most fatal unintentional firearm deaths among children occur in a house or apartment due to weapons that were loaded and left unlocked. Children often die playing with a weapon or when showing it to a friend, CDC researchers noted.



Safe storage, such as keeping a firearm unloaded and locked in a gun cabinet, can reduce the risk of children being accidentally shot.
KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DETROIT FREE PRES FILE

Having a firearm in the home increases the risk of homicides or suicides in a household. Safe storage, such as keeping a firearm unloaded and locked in a gun cabinet, can reduce the risk of children being accidentally shot.

The study drew from over 53,000 respondents across eight states to questions about firearms in homes in 2021 and 2022. Overall, about half of people with a loaded firearm said they stored at least one loaded weapon in an unsecured, unlocked place, the CDC report found. Results varied by state. In California, less than one-fifth of respondents said they kept firearms in or around their homes. More than half of respondents kept guns in Alaska. For those with a weapon at home, 19.5% of people in Minnesota kept the firearm loaded, compared with nearly 44% in North Carolina.

In March, Everytown released research showing that in 2023 more children were involved in unintentional shootings than in any year since tracking began in 2015. Since then, the group has documented 3,200 unintentional shootings by children, including more than 400 in 2023 alone.

Simon, the CDC researcher, noted the 2021 and 2022 data used in the report isn’t nationally representative and it relied on respondents self-reporting on their behavior.



Bipartisan legislation co-authored by Sens. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., left, and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., would also establish a federal grant program to support agencies collecting and reporting trafficking data.
JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY FILE AND ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bipartisan bill would create human trafficking database

Vivian Jones
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., on Thursday introduced a new bipartisan bill that seeks to establish a national human trafficking database housed at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The database would compile state-level trafficking crime data, streamline connections with anti-trafficking and survivor support organizations, and create incentives for state law enforcement agencies to report data.

“Human trafficking prosecutions have skyrocketed in recent years, and the federal government must use every available tool to convict criminals that have not yet been identified in our communities,” Blackburn said in a statement. “The National Human Trafficking Database Act would help combat this heinous crime by incentivizing states to identify the risks of human trafficking in their counties and track the number of prosecutions statewide.”

If passed by Congress and signed into law, the National Human Trafficking Database Act would create a public database housed on the FBI’s website that includes a human trafficking risk

assessment index score for each county in each participating state, names and services provided by anti-trafficking organizations in each county, and the total number of state-level human trafficking prosecutions.

The legislation would also establish a federal grant program to support agencies collecting and reporting trafficking data.

Blackburn sponsored the bill with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.

“We must do all we can to prevent human trafficking. This means making sure that we have the best data and tools available,” Klobuchar said in a statement. “This bipartisan legislation will establish a national database to fill critical information gaps, help streamline collaboration between those fighting to end trafficking, and ultimately save lives.”

Last year, Blackburn and Klobuchar introduced legislation authorizing \$50 million in new federal funding for grants to support state and local government and nonprofit efforts to stop smuggling and trafficking of women and girls across the U.S. border.

The U.S. State Department has estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the country each year.



of Eden & Outreach Ministries, born out of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the beautiful people of Louisiana in need and to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found in our communities. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. We promote mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples. The Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.



Your donations are key to saving lives because they make the Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden possible and goes toward doing God’s work in our communities. God Bless you and your family and God Bless America!!!!

Here are the ways you can make a donation:

Donate online at www.KingdomofEden.org or Send it via mail to P.O. Box 51 New Llano LA, 71461.

For prayer/counseling call us at 337-509-8389 (24/7)

The Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden & Outreach Ministries

The humanitarian outreach of the Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden brings hope to the hopeless around the world giving back to those impacted by delivering Kingdom Care Packages, pounds of food, clothes, and other emergency relief to those suffering from poverty and natural disasters. To continue making an impact on all of God’s people this holiday season and beyond giving in all possible ways that the Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden, our projects emphasize local ownership and community involvement as keys for long lasting success. In all of our work, we employ a holistic approach to meet the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of those we serve. Programs, projects, and activities provide tools and structure, but the real investment is in people and staying true to God. Our newest community clothing donation bin (pictured to the left) located 621 Entrance Rd, Leesville, LA 71446.

The Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden & Outreach Ministries is a community based independent 501 (c) 3 organization headquartered in Leesville Louisiana. The Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden & Outreach Ministries has been delivering a proven approach to engaging individuals, families, and communities in all of Louisiana evaluating their needs; creating transformational action plans; implementing effective strategies; and understanding how and why their actions can create positive change.

The Kingdom Sanctuary

As a visionary, the Kingdom of Heaven Ambassador Joshua Chronicles who leads the Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden is implementing a community credit improvement course and training to increase the purchasing power of individuals and their family members. Joshua’s efforts continued by establishing a Kingdom of Heaven community marriage enrichment in the ministry to strengthen the foundation of Christian marriages. A community clothing ministry closet was established within the Kingdom Sanctuary of Eden to assist with clothing needs. Amongst his future vision, one is to establish a community “food bank” that will feed families in time of necessities for children and their family members.

