



Safety at Home

Resources for Students & Families



Facts & Data

- More than 46,000 Americans die from firearm-related injuries each year, including suicides, homicides, and unintentional shootings.
- Each year, tens of thousands of young children are treated in emergency departments after accessing medications while an adult was not watching.
- In Washington state, 30 children (0-17 years of age) died as a result of guns in 2025. This is the equivalent of a child or teen being killed by gunfire every 12 days.
- According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 5 out of 10 counterfeit pills tested contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl.
- Washington continues to experience high rates of opioid- and fentanyl-related overdose deaths, particularly among adolescents and young adults.
- Washington schools have reported substantial increases in naloxone administration, reflecting the growing impact of opioid overdoses among youth.

Action Items

- Talk to your children about medication safety and teach them to stay away from guns.
- Store firearms unloaded, locked and separate from ammunition. Use a secure locking device such as a gun safe or lock box. Store keys, combinations, or access codes where children cannot access them.
- Ask about firearm storage before your child visits another home.
- Store all medications in a locked location, including prescription and over-the-counter medications. Child-resistant packaging should not replace secure storage.
- If you think your child might have taken medication or another potentially harmful substance, call Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to appear.
- Know how to respond to an opioid overdose. Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and can save a life. If someone may be experiencing an opioid overdose, call 911 and give Naloxone if available.

Conversation Starters

- "It is important for us to talk as a family about safety."
- "What would you do if you found a gun at a friend's house?"
- "Have you ever seen a gun? Remember to never touch a gun if you see it."
- "What would you do if someone offered you a pill that was to prescribed to you?"
- "What would you say if someone offered you their prescription or asked to have some of yours?"
- "What questions do you have about medications, firearms or other safety concerns?"

Additional Resources

- [American Academy of Pediatrics – Gun Safety Resources](#) Safe firearm storage guidance; how to ask about guns before playdates; resources for families.
- [HealthyChildren.org \(AAP\)](#) Articles on talking with children about firearms; home safety checklists; injury prevention information.
- [Project ChildSafe](#) Free firearm safety education; secure storage information; safety videos and printable materials.
- [Be SMART for Kids](#) Parent conversations about firearm safety; tips for asking about unsecured firearms in homes your child visits; secure storage education.
- [DEA – Get Smart About Drugs](#) Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention; information on marijuana, vaping, pills, fentanyl, and other drugs; conversation guides for families.
- [Operation Parent](#) Age-specific parent handbooks; prevention webinars; guidance on alcohol, vaping, social media, and drug trends.
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) – Parents & Educators](#) Science-based information about drugs; teen brain development; prevention and family conversation tools.
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Opioid Prevention](#) Information about prescription opioids; fentanyl facts; prevention strategies; treatment resources.
- [CDC – Overdose Prevention](#) Facts about opioid overdose; Fentanyl information; youth prevention resources; Naloxone education.
- [SAMHSA – Talk. They Hear You.](#) Conversation starters for parents; Videos and interactive tools; guidance for discussing alcohol and drug use with children.
- [Washington State Department of Health – Opioid and Overdose Prevention](#) Local prevention programs; Naloxone information; community resources.
- [Starts With One Campaign](#) Washington State Health Care Authority resources for parents about opioid safety; safe medication storage and disposal; youth prevention materials.