

The **S.A.F.E. (Suicide and Accident prevention through Family Education) Firearm** program adapts an existing evidence-based intervention to increase counseling about firearm storage to parents and caregivers of youth in pediatric primary care.

The Impact

The S.A.F.E. project will result in *community, economic, and policy* benefits.

Increasing secure firearm storage will reduce youth suicide and childhood injury and death due to firearms. By consulting pediatricians and those who are not always heard in the research process - such as parents who own firearms, firearm safety course instructors, members of law enforcement, and firearm retailers - the project can improve implementation of firearm safety interventions and identify the best approach to national implementation.

The Challenge

Firearms are the second leading cause of death for youth in the United States. An estimated 4.6 million children live in homes with at least one firearm stored unlocked and loaded.

Despite the existence of evidence-based interventions to promote secure firearm storage and the acknowledgment among physicians that firearm safety promotion is a priority, physicians remain reluctant to discuss firearm safety in primary care.

The Approach

The research team adapted an existing firearm storage program to create S.A.F.E. Firearm, which includes:

- Universal counseling for all parents on firearm storage, including those who do not have firearms in the home
- Free firearm cable locks for all parents
- An expanded age range to include parents of children ages 5-17
- Electronic health record reminders for pediatricians, plus one year of facilitation to target implementation barriers in half of participating clinics

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- S.A.F.E. Firearm will engage **158** clinicians across **30** clinics to provide counseling for parents of **48,475** youth in two health systems in Michigan and Colorado.
- Simulation research has found that even a modest increase in secure firearm storage could prevent as many as **32%** of youth firearm deaths due to suicide and accidents.

Key TSBM Impacts



COMMUNITY

Increasing secure firearm storage will reduce youth suicide and childhood injury and death due to firearms



COMMUNITY

Two large U.S. health systems will be provided with the S.A.F.E. firearm program to promote firearm counseling by pediatricians



ECONOMIC

This project will help understand the most cost-effective way to implement S.A.F.E. Firearm in health systems



POLICY

Several states are considering adopting legislation requiring training for clinicians in counseling families on secure firearm storage



COMMUNITY

The project will identify the implementation strategies that are most effective at increasing the delivery of firearm counseling

The team:

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Find out more:

[Visit the full case study](#)

[Visit the S.A.F.E. Firearm website](#)

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