



NATIONAL GUN SAFETY CONSORTIUM

The National Gun Safety Consortium

The National Gun Safety Consortium (NGSC) is a non-partisan partnership between municipalities, law enforcement and private-sector leaders to significantly reduce gun violence using a unique strategy: to build a market for new products that keep guns safe from theft, unauthorized use, and accidental discharge. NGSC's primary goal is to decrease the number of gun-related deaths and injuries by addressing the issue of unsecured guns in America.

The Problem

Studies show that more than half of gun-owning households in the country fail to keep their guns secure.ⁱ The problem of unsecured guns multiplied during the COVID-19 pandemic as millions of Americans purchased firearms, including many first-time gun owners. Child and teen gun related deaths rose 50% between 2019 and 2021ⁱⁱ, now standing as the leading cause of death in children under 18.ⁱⁱⁱ Unsecured guns have dangerous consequences:

- Each year, an estimated 400,000 guns are stolen from homes, vehicles, and businesses with a majority funneling into trafficking networks, often later used in violent crimes.^{iv}
- Unsecured guns are used in thousands of suicides each year and suicides account for more than half of US gun deaths.^v The suicide rate rose another 2.6% from 2022-2023, following a 5% rise from 2021-2022.^{vi} Eighty-two percent (82%) of firearm suicides among youth 17 or younger involved a family member's gun.^{vii}
- Unsecured guns result in hundreds of unintentional shootings by children each year.^{viii}

One reason gun owners cite for not securing their weapons is the perceived trade-off between securing a gun and accessing it quickly. Until recently there were few products that allowed for both. New ready-access locking and storage devices create the possibility that millions more gun owners will secure their weapons.

The NGSC Goal

Reduce the incidence of theft, unauthorized use, and accidental and suicide-related discharge of firearms by promoting public awareness of available and emerging safety products that can be used to effectively secure firearms in homes, cars and other places.

The NGSC Approach

Members of the NGSC include law enforcement agencies as well as city and county governments and is expanding into partnerships with private institutions, physician groups, and healthcare

facilities. Included in this expansion is an accredited pilot study of the gun-owning public through a collaboration with Northwell Health and its Center for Gun Violence Prevention.

The NGSC purchases the latest gun safety devices from market innovators and provides the available products to law enforcement departments and agencies to test, evaluate and provide feedback to developers through an evaluation process. The NGSC is currently working with 17 companies in various stages of developing safety products that fall into four categories: 1) mechanical and trigger locks, 2) biometric and RFID devices, 3) long-gun locking systems, and 4) user authenticated-personalized weapons.

Studies show that the gun-buying public relies on law enforcement as a trusted messenger for advice on gun products. Law enforcement's understanding and acceptance of these products is a critical component for growing this market and creating options for gun owners to safely secure their weapons.

The Future Vision

A problem as vast and complex as gun-related violence demands multiple approaches. The NGSC provides an opportunity for responsible gun ownership that public and private sector entities can help advance. Supported by both gun enthusiasts and gun violence prevention advocates, the Consortium remains committed to seeking pathways to overcome partisan differences and develop practical solutions, shifting from discord to action to reduce harm and save lives.

The History and Background of the NGSC

The NGSC was launched in 2020 as an outgrowth of the Industrial Areas Foundation's (IAF) efforts to promote gun safety through its *Do Not Stand Idly By* campaign. Founded in 1940, the IAF is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local community and faith-based organizations with a successful track record of developing citizen leadership and helping congregations and other civic organizations act on their missions for achieving lasting change in the world. IAF affiliates are in 65 cities across the United States.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.gunsafetyconsortium.org

ⁱ "Storage Practices of US Gun Owners", American Journal of Public Health, 2/22/18, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

ⁱⁱ "What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S.", Pew Research, 4/6/23

ⁱⁱⁱ "Trends and Disparities in Firearm Deaths Among Children", Pediatrics, 8/21/23,

^{iv} "Stolen Guns Pose a Tremendous Risk to Public Safety", Everytown Research, 2023

^v "New Gun Deaths Data in U.S. Show Continued Rise in Suicides:", Harvard School of Public Health, 2/1/23

^{vi} "Suicide Data and Statistics", CDC, 8/10/23

^{vii} "Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides?", Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, 2010, 40(6), 609-11

^{viii} "Unintentional Shootings by Children", Everytown Research, 8/30/21