What is Bulletproof Kids?

Bulletproof Kids is a campaign co-sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Utah Parents Against Gun Violence.

Our goal is to promote firearm safety and safe storage to protect our youth. We hope to keep this campaign apolitical and non-confrontational to reach a broad audience.

Through partnerships with many local organizations we wish to educate the community, parents, health care professionals, legislators, gun organizations, manufacturers, sellers, and shooting ranges about firearm safety and safe storage.

We hope to do this by building public awareness on the web, broadcasting public service announcements, distributing fliers, stickers, and posters, and purchasing highway billboard advertisements.

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In Utah from 2007-2011, firearm suicide in the 0-17 years old age group has accounted for 36 percent of suicides and has taken an average of six children per year. Utah has the 17th highest suicide rate in the U.S.¹

In Utah from 2007-2011, an average of nine children per year aged 17 and younger have been hospitalized for firearm related injuries and there has been one death per year on average from accidental firearm injury over the last 12 years.¹

In Utah, suicide is the second leading cause of death among youths ages 10-24, and almost half of these suicides involve firearms.²

Having access to an improperly stored gun substantially increases the risk of youth suicide, making it about five times more likely.³

Guns are the most lethal method of suicide. 85 percent of firearm suicide attempts are lethal, compared to three percent for pill ingestions and wrist cutting.⁴

20 percent of children at risk for suicide have access to a gun in their homes and most of them know how to access the gun and bullets.⁵

22 percent of children with gun-owning parents have handled the firearms without their parents knowledge.⁶

Many teen suicides are impulsive, thought about only five minutes before the attempt. Among suicide survivors, only 10 percent go on to kill themselves in the future.⁶

American children are 12 times more likely to die from gun injuries than all other industrialized countries combined.⁶

In the eleven years following Columbine (2000-2010), 15,929 children and teens have died from gun suicides, homicides and accidents. That is equivalent to 58 classrooms of 25 students dying each year.⁷

References
1. Indicator Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS-PH)
5. Stephen J. Teach study presented at Pediatric Societies meeting; Washington, D.C. May 2013
7. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - WISQARS Data and Statistics