

# **Be SMART about Safe Gun Storage**

Take these five simple steps to help prevent gun violence  
and promote responsible gun ownership

## **SECURE**

- Thirteen million households with children contain at least one gun.
- Studies have found that the majority of children in gun-owning households knew where the gun was stored.
- Assume children and teens can find guns. Store firearms locked, with a specific locking device, unloaded and separate from ammunition.

## **MODEL RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR**

- It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns.
- Make gun safety a part of normal conversations you have with your children.
- Keep the language simple; for example: "If you see a gun, don't touch it. Tell an adult right away."

## **ASK ABOUT UNSECURED GUNS IN OTHER HOMES**

- More than 4 million U.S. children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun.
- When sending your child to the home of a friend or neighbor, ask about unsecured guns, as you would any other safety topic.

## **RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF GUNS IN SUICIDE**

- 90% of suicide attempts with a gun result in death; a much higher fatality rate than any other means of self-harm.
- A survey of high school students found that 20% had seriously considered attempting suicide within the last year.
- One study showed that 41% of adolescents in gun-owning households report having "easy access" to the guns in their homes.

## **TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO BE *SMART***

- Text SMART to 64433 to learn more.
- Share Be SMART with your community.