

The S.A.F.E Firearm Program



Firearm injury and mortality is a priority for our health system

As of 2024,

Firearm mortality rate in Michigan

11.9 deaths per 100,000
individuals

Firearm mortality rate nationwide

13.1 deaths per 100,000
individuals

- Firearms are the **leading cause of death for pregnant women and youth**, and a leading cause of death for the general population
 - Most pregnant women and parents had a healthcare visit in the previous year
- Clinicians are trusted messengers about safety and prevention broadly
- Firearm-owning patients are open to *respectful conversations* about firearms
- Today, we will teach you a strategy to have a 1-minute secure firearm storage conversation during well-patient visits.

What is S.A.F.E. Firearm?



S.A.F.E. Firearm is an evidence-based secure firearm storage program that involves:

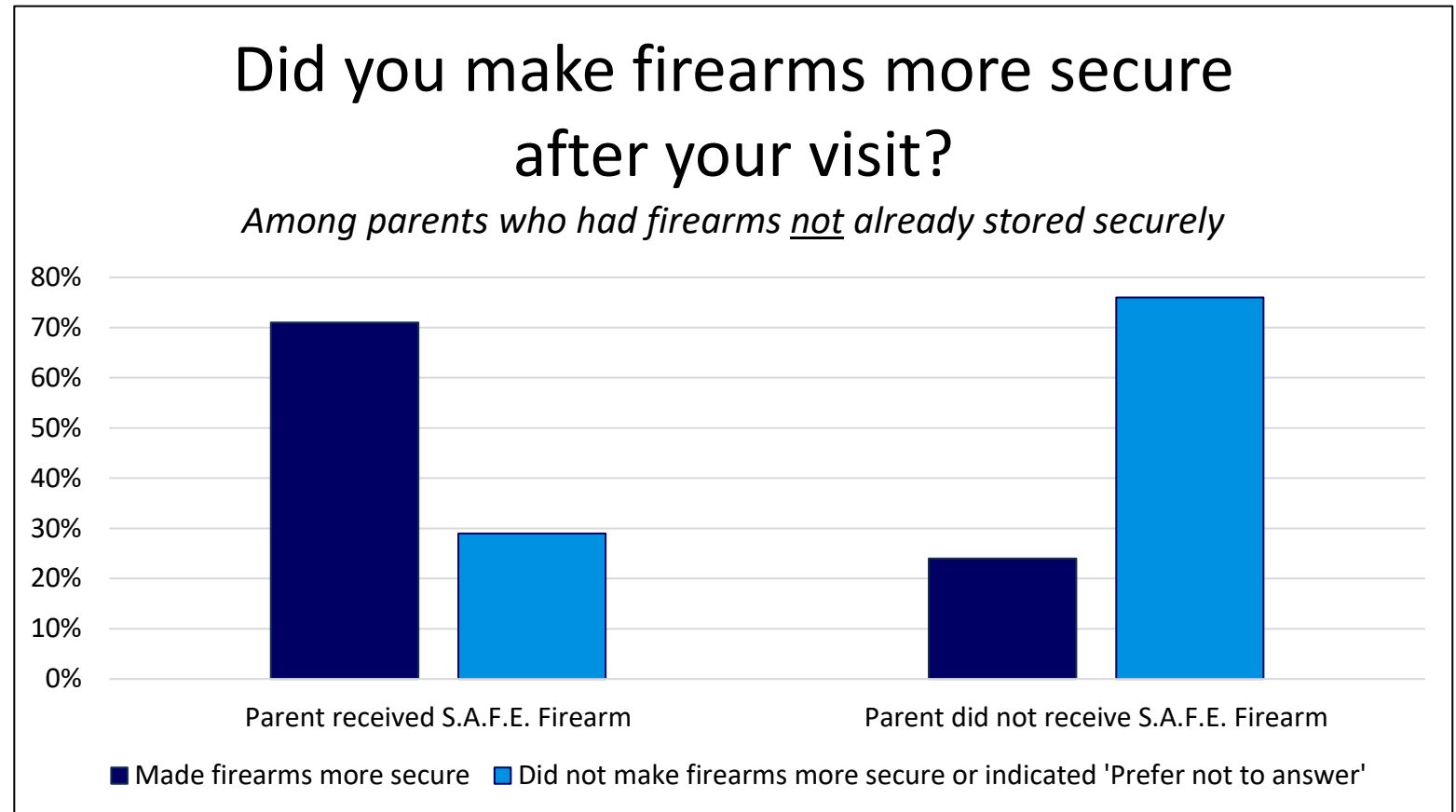
A brief
conversation with a
harm reduction
lens between
patient and
provider

Free cable
locks

Universal program:
all patients receive
a conversation and
are offered cable
locks

Our Previous Work: Pediatric S.A.F.E. Firearm Program

**Key Finding: Parents who received S.A.F.E
Firearm were more likely to make firearms
more secure**



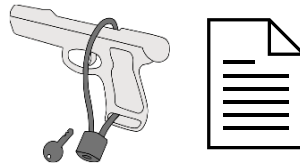
Parent-reported firearm storage behavior (n=401)

Scaling Out S.A.F.E. Firearm

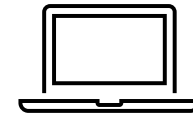
In OBGYN and Primary Care clinics
during eligible adult well visits, and 24-week prenatal visits:



Have a 1-minute secure
firearm storage
conversation focused on
harm reduction, **without
screening for firearm
ownership**



Offer a free firearm cable
lock and informational
handout



Document in the EHR

Materials

Cable Locks

- We will make locks available to your clinic
- You can distribute these however makes sense to your clinic workflow
 - Most pediatric clinics found it most effective to store locks in exam rooms
 - Other possible options: clinician and/or MA offers directly to patient; offered at check-out, etc.
- **Please offer locks to all patients**



Patient Handout

- We will provide printed copies to be offered to all patients along with the cable lock to support counseling

Training Materials and Support

- Clinician guide: A quick-reference guide to support clinicians with firearm safety conversations, best practices, and FAQs
- Facilitation: Erin will help clinics to develop an implementation plan, provide coaching & instruction, along with monitoring & problem solving.

EHR Nudge Tutorial – **ACTION NEEDED**

Please document any conversations about firearm safety and/or cable lock offers!

We ask that you integrate the new **S.A.F.E. Firearm nudge** into your respective **well-visit and 24-week prenatal templates within the preventative/safety section**

SmartPhrase = ***.safefirearm***

Name	Description
☆ SAFEFIREARM	"Secure firearm storage discussed: {Storage Discussed:13029459}, ...

The Smartphrase contains 2 questions:

- *Secure firearm storage discussed [yes/no]*
- *Cable lock offered [yes/no]*

Secure firearm storage discussed:

Storage Discussed: Yes ▾

Cable lock offered: Cable Lock: Yes ▾

Note: default
answer is yes

How to Have the Conversation

- Non-judgement
- Normalize secure firearm storage by relating it to other universal prevention conversations
- Cable locks ***offered*** to everyone
- Emphasize with non-owners – “it is important to talk with families, neighbors, and friends to prevent unauthorized firearm access in the homes where your loved ones spend time”

Say this...



"I talk with all my patients about secure firearm storage"



"If there are firearms in your home, or other homes where your loved ones spend time, it's important they're secured..."

Not this...



"How are your firearms stored?"



"Are there firearms in your home?"

More
helpful tips
in the
Clinician
Guide

ICARE: Helpful Tips in Having the Conversation

I **Introduce:** *Acknowledge you're pivoting to talk about prevention and safety in the home.*

C **Common goal:** "It's a priority at HFH to help keep patients and their loved ones safe and well. That's why I talk with all my patients about firearm storage."

A **Access prevention:** "If there's a firearm in your home or another home where your loved ones spend time..."

R **Recommend secure storage:** "It's important to secure firearms to prevent unauthorized access, like by intruders, children, or loved ones struggling with their mental health."

E **Equip and empower:** "Feel free to take a free firearm cable lock for anyone you know who could use one. We have a handout with locking options and conversation starters."

Next Steps

To do in the next week:

- Input the *.safefirearm* nudge into your respective templates for annual physical and 24-week prenatal visits
- Know where your locks are located and how you will be offering to patients
- Access and review the Clinician Guide:
 - We will send via email. Can also be found on the **SAFE Firearm website** under [Michigan Clinician Resources](#)
- Identify a “Point Person”. This person will oversee:
 - Lock management and stocking
 - Contacting the study team for more supplies or to troubleshoot any problems

Tentative Launch Date is July 20th, 2026

Questions?

Visit the S.A.F.E. Firearm website (<https://safe-firearm.org/>) for:

- Training slides and clinician resources
- Evidence-based research
- Patient handouts

Please feel free to contact us with any other comments, questions, or concerns that come up!

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THANK YOU!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING ON THIS
IMPORTANT WORK.

