

# Gun Safety

Presented by  
The Crime Prevention Unit

# Types of Guns

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- Handgun- A firearm that is held and fired with one hand
- Rifle- A firearm with a rifled bore, designed to be fired from one shoulder
- Shotgun- A light, smooth bored gun, often double barreled, specifically designed for firing at short range

# Accidental Shootings

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- Hundreds of children die each year in accidental handgun shootings. Most occur in the victim's or playmate's home and could have been prevented with proper safety precautions
- Firearms are the second leading cause of death for children ages 10-19 (second to car accidents).
- Owning a handgun means you take a full time responsibility for the weapons safety and security

# Firearm Injury Statistics

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- Everyday approximately 20 people under age 19 are killed by firearms
- Firearm related deaths exceeds the number of motor vehicle deaths in the U. S.
- Handguns account for the majority of firearm related injuries in the U. S.

# Firearm Statistics

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- Approximately 50% of all U. S. homes have a firearm
- Over 50% of handguns are stored loaded with the ammunition
- Keeping a gun in the home increases the chances of a homicide by three times and increases the chances of a suicide by five times
- A gun kept in a household is 43 times more likely to kill someone that the family knows than to kill someone in self defense
- 77% of violent deaths in schools are caused by guns

# Cost to Healthcare

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- The mean cost per injury due to gunshots is approximately \$30,000
- The injuries due to gunshots in 2005 alone, created a projected \$2.9 billion in medical costs over a lifetime
- Of the 2.9 billion in medical costs, 1.8 billion will be paid by taxpayers

# Firearm Exposure in Children

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# Firearm Exposure in Children

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- Children watch an average of 70 violent acts on TV each day
- Playing with toy guns may contribute to unintentional shootings with real ones
- Emphasize to children that real guns are not toys, and life is not a video game
- Discuss with children the fatal consequences that could occur if the gun discharges and hits a target

# Firearm Injuries are Preventable

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# Cost of prevention

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- Not having a gun in the house \$0
- Trigger locks for guns Free--\$10
- Lockable cabinet \$30-\$50
- Home firearm safety training \$50-\$100
- Fire resistant safe \$1500
- Preventing a child death.....Priceless

# Firearm Safety Tips

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- Don't buy a gun unless you know how to use it safely
- Store it unloaded and locked up
- Lock it out of children's reach
- Lock up ammunition separately from the gun
- Keep trigger locks on your guns for extra prevention, or disassemble your gun completely

# Firearm Safety Tips

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- Hide the keys to the locked firearm and ammunition storage boxes
- Only parents should know the location of the gun storage
- When handling or cleaning a gun, never leave it unattended, not even for a moment
- Talk to your kids, about the risk of firearm injury outside the home, in places they may visit or play
- Talk with your kids about guns and violence and the differences between TV and video game violence and real life violence

# Gun Buyback Programs

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- Helps raise awareness about gun violence
- Demonstrate the need for home gun safety
- Helps reduce gun accidents and violence in the home
- Prevents guns from being stolen and used in a crime
- Gets guns off the street

# Gun Locks

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# Gun Locks

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- Provide extra security for the gun
- Available for free from most law enforcement agencies
- Children are curious by nature; if they find a handgun the gun lock will prevent the gun from being used



# Keep Children Safe

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- Parents and gun manufacturers need to take responsibility for safety
- Research shows that only telling children not to touch guns does not work
- Keep handguns out of reach and sight of children
- Find out if their friends homes have guns

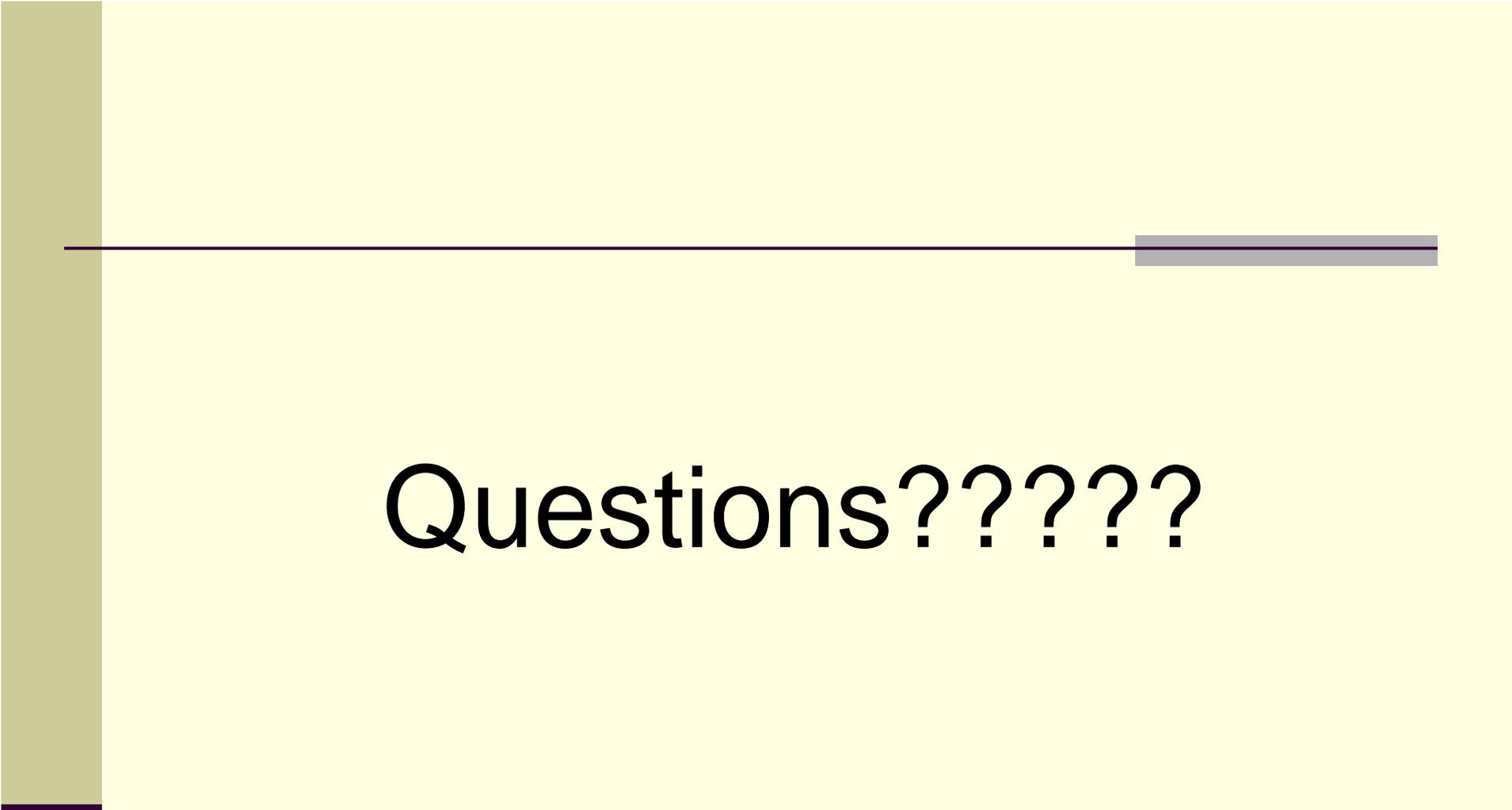
# Eddie Eagle

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Eddie Eagle, a program sponsored by the National Rifle Association (NRA), teaches kids what to do when they come across a gun:

- Stop!
- Don't touch
- Remove yourself from the area
- Tell an adult

Reinforce these actions and discuss the consequences of an accidental discharge



Questions?????