

BEXAR COUNTY GUN SAFETY

STATISTICS

One in three homes with children in America have firearms, and many owners neglect to lock them or remove ammunition. **Firearms have become the leading cause of death in children and teens in the U.S.** Nine children or teens in our country are shot every day in firearm-related events — over 3,000 youth every year.

In 2024, we surveyed Bexar County residents to find out what gun safety looks like in our community. We wanted to not only know how many gun owners we have, but also to gauge how people feel about gun safety and how they practice it. This is what we found in our research.

1. THE BIG PICTURE

Firearms are the #1 cause of death for children in Bexar County.¹

63% of Bexar County adults say gun violence is a major problem — and they feel it's getting worse.

70% of adults surveyed strongly agree that we need to reduce gun deaths from violence, accidental shootings, domestic abuse, and suicides.

About half of the households in Bexar County reported having at least one firearm.

There are an estimated **800,000 gun owners** and more than 1.5 million guns in Bexar County.

2. WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS FEELING

Adults with children worry more about a shooting at their child's school than losing their job or income.

Parents with kids at home worry more than adults without about suicide risk among loved ones.

When asked what they believe contributes to gun deaths, **84% of parents** cited easy access to guns for criminals and abusers. This rated higher than mental health, drug use or domestic violence as contributing factors.

67% of adults rated themselves as more responsible than the average gun owner — yet the data shows key safety gaps in believing in gun safety and practicing it.

Among gun owners who say they are much more responsible than average:

41% carry a gun outside of the house at least some of the time.

53% keep a loaded, easily accessible gun in their house at least some of the time.

27% keep a loaded, easily accessible gun in their car at least some of the time.

69% rarely or never inform visitors with children that there are guns in their house.

27% have never taken a gun safety or hunter safety class.

¹Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

3. WHAT THE DATA SHOWS ABOUT GUN OWNERSHIP

48% of Bexar County adults report personally owning at least one gun.

60% of Bexar county gun owners own more than one gun.

56% of Bexar County adults own a gun or live in a household with a gun owner.

90% of gun owners have a handgun or pistol.

43% have a rifle; **38%** have a shotgun.

90% cite protection as their primary reason for owning a gun.

4. SAFE STORAGE GAPS

35% of gun owners say there is always a loaded, easily accessible gun in the home.

53% keep a loaded, easily accessible gun in their house at least sometimes.

44% of parents with guns admit to leaving a loaded and accessible firearm in their home at least some of the time.

27% of gun owners in Bexar County report having a loaded gun easily accessible to them in their car at least some of the time.

Approximately **50% of unintentional firearm injury and deaths** among children and adolescents occurred at their home.

Playing with or showing the firearm to another person was the most common precipitator.

Overall, firearms used in unintentional injury and deaths were often stored both loaded and unlocked, and were commonly accessed from nightstands and other sleeping areas.²

5. THE STORAGE OPPORTUNITY

76% of parents said they'd use trigger locks or lockboxes if they were free.

More than half of gun owners think trigger locks are essential.

Biometric and keypad safes offer secure and fast access in emergencies.

6. KIDS, VISITORS AND CONVERSATIONS

Only 35% of parents think it's essential to ask other parents about guns in the home their child visits.

In Bexar County, you have a **1 in 2 chance** of entering a home with a gun — and **only a 3 in 10 chance** the owner will tell you it's there.

99% of all gun owners believe it's important to talk to kids about gun safety.

SAID ANOTHER WAY

56%
of homes
have a gun.

70%
of those
homeowners won't
let you know.

82% of adolescent firearm suicides involve a gun owned by a family member.³

² **Source:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

³ **Source:** Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

7. SAFETY EDUCATION GAPS

97% of gun owners say taking a safety class is important. Yet, one in three haven't taken one.

76% of parents say their kids have never taken a gun safety class.

3 SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOUSEHOLD



Secure it.

Use trigger or cable locks.



Store it right.

Keep guns locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition.



Talk about it.

Start the conversation early — with your kids, friends, family and neighbors.

“It doesn’t hurt to ask. But it might kill if you don’t.”



MORE RESOURCES

Visit **BexarResponsibly.org** to get free safety tips, resources and information.