



Curbing Gun Violence: How to Engage Your Community

As Emergency Medicine physicians you have unique expertise and responsibility to educate patients, families, colleagues and medial administrators about the impact of gun violence and ways to reduce it. Below is a list of examples of how you can get started:

Educate your colleagues:

Lead presentations for **Journal Club**, **Fellows' Conference** and **Grand Rounds** to review the research on gun violence. How does gun violence compare to other leading causes of morbidity and mortality? Who are the most vulnerable populations/situations? How do ammunitions differ in their ability to damage tissue? How should this information guide interventions?

<http://besmartforkids.org/>

Educate your patients and families:

Promote **ASK Day** (Asking Saves Kids) in **June**. AAP/Brady Campaign Center program urging clinicians to ask 1 question: "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/Is-There-A-Gun-Where-Your-Child-Plays-Asking-Can-Save-Lives.aspx>

Write a letter to the editors of your local paper sharing your experience and expertise on this issue.

Promote Gun Safety:

Firearm Lock Box giveaway – ask your institution to fund lock box give-aways at public events such as county fairs, churches and sporting events.

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2018/03/03/lock-box-giveaway-provides-another-piece-insurance-prevent-gun-deaths/392540002/>

<http://wreg.com/2017/10/17/free-lock-giveaway-aims-to-keep-children-safe-guns-secure/>

Create a web page on your hospital website:

<http://www.seattlechildrens.org/classes-community/community-programs/gun-safety/>

Meet with your local representatives:

State representatives and senators rely on experts to guide their decisions. Your experience and expertise carries a lot of weight. Schedule a meeting to educate and offer suggestions for legislation that can help reduce gun violence in your community.