

Abstract

Firearm-related deaths in the United States are the third leading cause of overall death among children and the United States continues to have the highest rate of firearm-related injuries compared to other industrialized countries. Roughly 1/3 of U.S. homes with children contain firearms. In 2017, at least 285 children got ahold of a gun and inadvertently shot themselves or someone else. Teenagers are at a higher risk for suicide when there is a gun in the home. This project aims to see if giving a presentation on gun violence prevention and facilitating a role-play scenario within the community will increase knowledge of this topic.

We plan on volunteering at various health fairs and community events to give an oral presentation on gun violence prevention in both Spanish and English. We then ask individuals participating in partaking in a role-play scenario with one another pretending to ask other parents about firearms in the home before “play-dates.” The presentation will focus on three objectives: firearm risk, the relationship between firearms and suicide, and safe firearm storage. After the presentation and role-play scenario, we plan on administering a retrospective pre-post survey for volunteer participants to see if the presentation increased knowledge of the three objectives outlined during the presentation.