

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention (GSIVP) Community Grant Program
 Stories of GSIVP Community Partnerships At Work



AAP California Chapter 4 (Orange County Chapter)
 Newport Beach CA

When California enacted [Assembly Bill #452](#) requiring schools to notify their students’ parents of state safe firearm storage laws, the [Orange County Chapter](#) saw an opportunity. Recognizing that schools – and pediatricians – would need supportive resources to meet the new law’s requirements, they convened a multi-agency, multidisciplinary team of experts and champions within and beyond their chapter and got to work.

With GSIVP funding, the chapter led efforts to develop co-branded educational materials about gun safety and safe gun storage with children’s hospitals in the region. In addition to webpages and social media assets, printable materials in 8 languages were designed to meet community needs. The team’s collaborative approach and tenacity resulted in the first ever resources to include the logos of all three local children’s hospitals, demonstrating unified and consistent messaging about safe firearm storage recommendations.

Over the 9-month GSIVP program period, the chapter also planned and implemented a 2-part webinar series, *California Law and Practical Strategies for Safe Storage* and *Pediatric Firearm Injuries and Fatalities: The Clinician’s Guide to Policies and Approaches to Firearm Harm Prevention*.

Their GSIVP-related accomplishments and longstanding commitment to child injury prevention have resulted in the chapter being identified as an Orange County lead in addressing gun safety as a medical and public health issue.



...being able to work with the police department, the Giffords organization, the schools, the hospitals, the public health agency just really reinforces to me why I love pediatrics, which is really that it takes a village, right? It takes all of us to work together to try to make this change and reduce gun violence and gun injuries.

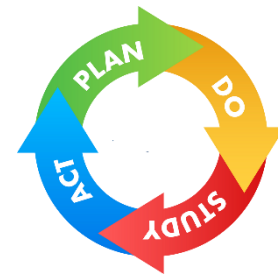
Orange County Chapter Team Member

For more information, contact **Jamie S. McDonald, MPH**
 Executive Director, AAP Orange County Chapter
jamie@aap-oc.org



AAP Georgia Chapter Atlanta GA

Quality improvement (QI) initiatives in healthcare settings often result in better patient care. The GSIVP-funded QI initiative implemented by the AAP [Georgia Chapter](#) has the potential to save lives. Noting concerns about pediatrician education regarding AAP firearm-related policies and a lack of financial incentive to distribute firearm safe storage devices through pediatric practices, the chapter developed the Georgia Firearm Injury Prevention Quality Improvement Project to support the state’s pediatricians. Six pediatric practices took part, gaining strategies for sharing politically neutral messaging, counseling, and anticipatory guidance about firearm safety and safe storage. Across the 6 practices, the chapter also distributed 60 gun safes to help pediatricians meet the needs of families opting for safer firearm storage. Participating pediatricians provided positive feedback regarding their experiences in carrying out the initiative and desire to continue outside of the program.



...our hope is that showing how quick and how easy it is to navigate these conversations, that the practice leaders that participated in the project will go back to their individual practices and develop more formalized pathways that work within their EMR.

Georgia Chapter Team Member

1st Annual Prevention of Firearm Injury Symposium Georgia Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics Agenda	
Saturday, August 26, 2023 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Welcome & Introduction <i>Angela Higbbang-Battle, MD</i> <i>Sofia Chandhary, MD</i>
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children & Youth: Injury Prevention and Harm Reduction: An AAP Update <i>Kisha Fraser-Doh, MD</i>
10:30 am – 11:15 am	History Firearms Regulation & Legislation <i>David Puccio</i>
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Firearm 101 and Secure Storage <i>Jason Boren</i>
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Grab Your Lunch
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Protective Factors in Firearm Injury Prevention <i>Sofia Chandhary, MD, Moderator</i> <i>Nina Agostini, MD</i> <i>Judy Baumstein, LCSW</i> <i>Kenneth Gilstrap</i> <i>Major Watne Puckney</i>
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Break
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Perspectives from Responsible Gun Owners <i>Claudia Frain, MD, Moderator</i> <i>Jason Boren</i> <i>Jaqueline Seay</i> <i>Jim Johnson, RN</i> <i>Jahnae White</i>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Firearm Secure Storage: A Pediatric Practice Quality Improvement Project <i>Sofia Chandhary, MD</i> <i>Claudia Frain, MD</i>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Call to Action - Next Steps <i>Kisha Fraser, MD</i>
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Amplifying the reach of their GSIVP grant, the chapter also sponsored the **1st Annual Prevention of Firearm Injury Symposium**. Among the day’s highlights was a panel discussion, *Perspectives from Responsible Gun Owners*, that fostered candid and respectful dialogue between the audience and panel members. The gun-owning panelists shared their thoughts on appropriate terminology and nonconfrontational messaging. Over 100 attendees participated in the live event and the symposium recording is available on the chapter’s website as an enduring program resource. GSIVP team members are already planning next year’s symposium!

For more information, contact [Fozia Eskew](#)
Director of Child Health, AAP Georgia
Chapter feskw@gaaap.org



Antifragility Initiative University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Cleveland OH

At the heart of University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's [Antifragility Initiative](#) (AI) is the conviction that children who experience community violence can heal and recover to be even stronger than before their injury or trauma. Using evidence-based practices, AI has long provided coordinated, case management services and individual counseling to youth and family survivors of violence in the Cleveland area.

The GSIVP grant created opportunities for AI to expand their focus and reach. In collaboration with [Case Cares](#), a student-led volunteer organization at Case Western Reserve University, AI took their programming to young men in the Cleveland Juvenile Detention Center. Working with small groups, Case Cares volunteers implemented the [Seeking Safety](#) curriculum along with STEM-based learning activities. Based on the success of these partnerships, AI is exploring opportunities to pilot a similar program with female youth and implement evaluation activities to assess program impacts.



Further enhancing the capacities of the AI team to meet community needs, AI staff utilized GSIVP support to complete specialized Seeking Safety training adapted specifically for adolescents. This additional training is allowing the AI team to introduce Seeking Safety content to other child-serving community organizations. Invited to educate the faculty and staff of an all-male public high school in Cleveland about Seeking Safety, the AI team's expertise is already being recognized.

One of the biggest takeaways from this program was that we saw the youth really benefit from it. It gave them an avenue to open up, to share. And I can see them applying the information that they've learned in the long term.

Antifragility Initiative Team Member

For more information, contact [Matthew Krock, MSSA, LISW-S](#)
Antifragility Initiative Coordinator
Matthew.Krock@uhhospitals.org



Youth Violence Intervention Program Children's National Medical Center Washington DC

When the unthinkable happens and a young person is a victim of gun violence, a parent's last worry should be transportation to visit their hospitalized child, but this is the reality for many families. Mindful that social care needs are often inextricably linked with health care needs, the [Youth Violence Intervention Program](#) at [Children's National Medical Center](#) led by Medical Director, Katie Donnelly, MD, MPH, sought to support families at a critical and stressful time.

With GSIVP funding, the team purchased grocery gift cards and transportation vouchers and distributed these resources to families with a child impacted by community violence. The project also purchased prepaid mobile phones for families that resulted in multiple positive impacts – helping families stay in contact with each other, allowing case workers to connect with youth and families, and facilitating youth receipt of tele-mental health services.



Getting to and from places is a real struggle. We had one mom who burned through \$200 worth of Uber gift cards to see her son multiple days while he was in-house with a gunshot wound over a weekend. It really was a blessing to be able to kind of take that worry off their shoulders for a little bit.

Children's National Medical
Center Team Member

Reflecting on ways to prevent firearm injuries in their community led the team to pivot from purchasing cable locks to trigger locks and lock boxes with GSIVP program dollars. Over the project period, 50 trigger locks were distributed – at no cost and with no questions asked – to individuals and families.

Bringing the topics of firearm safety and injury prevention to the classroom, Dr Donnelly provided pediatric residents with opportunities for hands-on learning about gun locks and lock boxes.

In August 2023, members of the Children's National Medical Center GSIVP team were featured in a [BBC story](#) about breaking the cycles of violence.

For more information, contact [Katie Donnelly, MD, MPH](#)
Medical Director, Children's National Hospital-based
Violence Intervention Program
kdonnell@childrensnational.org



City of New Orleans Health Department New Orleans LA

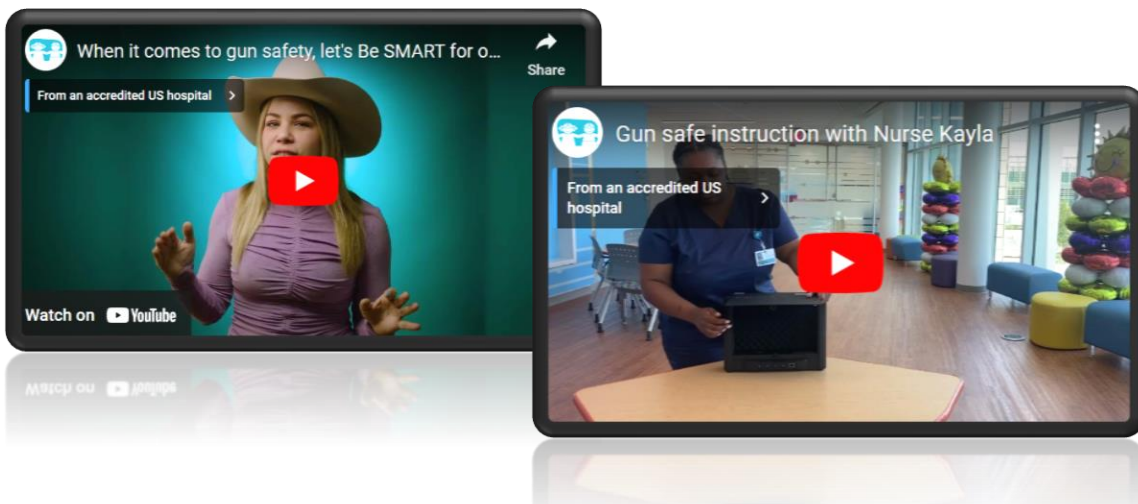
The [City of New Orleans Health Department](#) used their GSIVP grant to start a city-wide, child-focused gun safety campaign. No small task in a diverse metropolitan area of over 1 million residents! Working collaboratively with their hospital-based partners, families of children under age 18 seen in the Emergency Departments at local LCMC hospitals are screened for interest in learning more about gun safety. A positive screen prompts distribution of educational materials about gun safety and safe storage. Resources have been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese in response to community need.

I know that gun ownership is not going to go away anytime soon and so I think this will just be a constant beat-the-drum effort that we continue moving forward.

City of New Orleans Health
Department & Children's
Hospital New Orleans Team
Member

To expand project reach and enhance campaign promotion, the team adopted a multifaceted approach, working with local and national organizations to develop print materials, a [webpage](#) housed on the Children's Hospital New Orleans website, social media assets, as well as radio, television, and digital advertisements. Local celebrities and community leaders recorded video messages about gun safety and the importance of safe gun storage. A community mailing about the campaign prioritized households with children.

Over the program period, the team leveraged their AAP grant funds to secure additional biometric lock boxes for community distribution. By December 2023, over 800 gun safes/lock boxes had been distributed, 100 of those purchased with GSIVP dollars. To gather data on use of safe storage devices, project team members contact recipients at regular intervals with a short survey. These touchpoints result in valuable program data while creating opportunities for lock box recipients to ask questions about gun storage and receive additional instruction about correct lock box use.



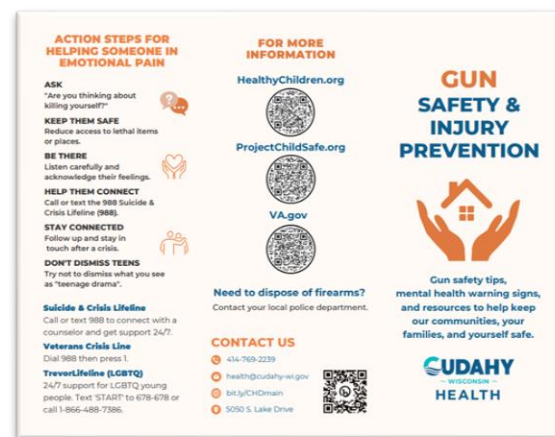
For more information, contact [Jocelyn Pinkerton LCSW-BACS](#)
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program Director
Jocelyn.Pinkerton@nola.gov



Cudahy Health Department Cudahy WI

In 2023, the [Cudahy Health Department](#) faced a new challenge. An indoor shooting range, offering the sale of firearms, was opening in their community – a community already experiencing complex needs and medium to high levels of social vulnerability.

Putting GSIVP funds into action, the Cudahy team developed a gun safety awareness campaign – the components of which included social media content and a toolkit available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Pairing education with gun safety devices, the group created and distributed 136 gun safety kits (containing key resources and a cable lock); additionally, 27 trigger locks and 3 biometric gun safes were provided to community members over the 9-month program period. The gun safety kits are now standard in Cudahy Health Department outreach and a kit was displayed at Cudahy City Hall throughout the latter half of 2023 to raise awareness.



Thanks to the efforts of the Cudahy grantee team, the impacts of GSIVP support will continue long after the project concludes. Health department staff and partners provided community members with suicide prevention training using the [Talk Saves Lives](#) program and offered trauma-informed care training to other health department staff and first responders. Talk Saves Lives training has also been provided to employees of the new shooting range as part of their onboarding process. Additionally, the team purchased supplies for local first responders to support lifesaving [Stop the Bleed](#) program implementation.

Among the Cudahy Health Department's GSIVP activities with the greatest potential for an enduring legacy may be those accomplished in partnership with community youth. Understanding the valuable insights that youth contribute when addressing issues such as violence, suicide prevention, and mental health, Cudahy Health Department along with student leaders from Cudahy High School held a community event centered on restorative practices. Furthering their engagement with young people, the team worked with a group of students to review results from their most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#). The teens identified three issues on which to focus – adverse mental health, violence and bullying, and nutrition – and created a community event including a **data walk** during which youth interacted with community members and sought additional input on the issues.

For more information, contact **Teresa Ortiz, MPH**
Public Health Manager
teresao@cudahy-wi.gov



Humboldt County Public Health Eureka CA

[Humboldt County Public Health](#) serves a largely rural population of over 136,000 residents in northwest California. While their Health Communities Division programming already included suicide and violence prevention, staff and leaders identified a need for messaging and resources tailored for youth audiences.

With GSIVP funding, Humboldt County Public Health partnered with local youth serving organizations who queried young people about the types of resources and messages that would resonate. Those same organizations are now distributing the for-youth-by-youth resources, as are Gun Shop Project partner members. A QR code on program materials links to the county's [Keep it Safe](#) webpage where users can request a free lockbox and community partners can sign on to become a lockbox distributor.

To expand the reach of their messaging, Humboldt County Public Health also used GSIVP funds to develop and broadcast suicide prevention and firearm safe storage-related public services announcements (PSAs) on local radio stations. Over 700 PSAs aired between September-December 2023, some recorded by individuals and voices familiar to firearm owners in the community.

This project really highlighted how great our community partnerships are and how committed our community partners are to suicide prevention, especially to taking care of our youths. It was really great for the visibility and connections and recognition of our program. The inclusion of the campaign materials in the classes offered by our Gun Shop Project partners and distribution of those materials through youth serving agencies increased the knowledge about the existence of our free lockbox program. It strengthened ties with our community partners because we were able to offer these free resources which they were, of course, really grateful for. We received a lot of positive feedback. I even got a handwritten card! ...Whenever you can do something that shows a little love to your community partners...it really lets them know that they're valued as a partner.

Humboldt County Public Health Team
Member

Keep It Safe

Handguns are the type of firearm most likely to cause unintentional death or injury. Children are the group at highest risk for unintentional firearm death and injury.

Despite common misconceptions, rifles and shotguns can be used for suicide. They are disproportionately used in youth suicides.

Handguns can be stored safely in lockboxes.

Rifles and Shotguns can be stored safely with cable locks or trigger locks.

FREE lockboxes, cable locks, and trigger locks are available through Humboldt County Public Health's Keep it Safe campaign. To request a lockbox or more information, please call 707-268-2132 or email keepitsafe@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Source: <https://bulletpoints.org>

For more information, contact
publichealthsvp@co.humboldt.ca.us



Kings Against Violence Initiative Brooklyn NY

The [Kings Against Violence Initiative](#) (KAVI) addresses violence through a public health lens. Partnering in community schools and hospital settings, the organization seeks to prevent and disrupt violence through advocacy, peer leadership, community mobilization, and social justice.

With their holistic approach to serving youth, KAVI planned to use their GSIVP grant to better understand and support client healthcare needs. The team developed a pilot project with an ambitious goal to **screen the parents of 100 KAVI participants** regarding use of pediatric health care and access to health insurance. While meeting their screening goals, the team discovered some surprising findings. Not only did youth/families report having health insurance, 95% had a doctor whom they saw in the past year and no client reported using the Emergency Department in the past 12 months due to lack of primary care access. Further, no client/family reported difficulty obtaining or activating health insurance. From the pilot, the KAVI team took away other important learnings, including the value of administering their screener in person rather than electronically and skills to navigate the reluctance of some families to share personal information. KAVI now has plans to expand their healthcare service/insurance screening efforts in the larger community to explore needs among youth not affiliated with KAVI programs.

When KAVI realized surplus GSIVP funds, the team quickly identified an opportunity to benefit the community. On a winter Saturday, KAVI brought together a variety of organizations for an intergenerational Gowanus Houses Health Fair. In addition to health-related screenings, partners offered other information, resources, and trainings in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship.



Gowanus Houses Health Fair photos used with permission

For more information, contact
Ramik Jamar Williams, MPA
 Co-Executive Director
ramik@kavibrooklyn.org
 and
Anthony Buissereth
 Co-Executive Director
anthony@kavibrooklyn.org



Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids of Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Grand Rapids MI

The color orange is associated with gun violence prevention. The [Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids / Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital](#) GSIVP team made an orange statement that could not be missed by **distributing 917 "Store It Safe" t-shirts** to their colleagues. On National Gun Violence Awareness Day, hospital leaders and staff wore their shirts promoting camaraderie and awareness. On that same day, ~250 gun locks were distributed with no questions asked to hospital staff and community members.

Over the 9-month GSIVP funding period, the team also ensured that 1,100+ physicians, advanced practice providers, social workers, and support staff were educated on gun safety, screening, and counseling through an Epic-based training module. Practices received a supply of cable locks and other resources as an incentive for physician training. Exceeding the team's goal of 75%, **86% (n=90) of physicians in zip codes with the highest rates of firearm injuries completed the training**. The group leveraged GSIVP funding to obtain additional support to purchase even more safe storage devices.



Team members Harland Holman MD and
Jodie Westra CPST, CFLE, CCLS
Photo used with permission



Injury prevention team members with Helen DeVos
Children's Hospital President, Robert Fitzgerald MD, MBA
Photo used with permission

A physician workgroup is currently evaluating if a firearms-related screening tool should be proposed to hospital leadership as a best practice alert and a study is planned to examine whether screening tool use results in increased physician engagement with firearm safety education.

In June 2023, the team's gun violence prevention efforts were featured in a [local television story](#).

This grant helped us realize the power of simple tools to help educate and spread awareness around the topic of gun safety.

Corewell Health Team Member

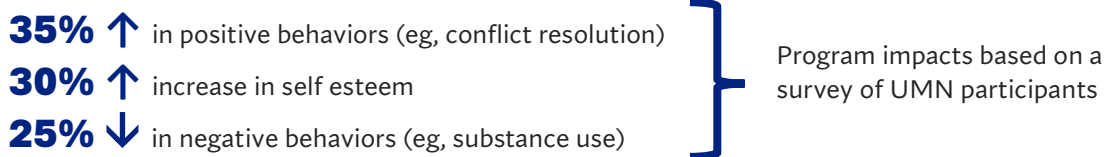
For more information, contact
injuryprevention@helendevoschildrens.org



Urban Male Network Chicago IL

[Urban Male Network](#) (UMN) serves Chicago neighborhoods long impacted by structural racism and income inequalities but also known for family resilience and community engagement. UMN’s mentorship mission takes a holistic approach, focusing on youth personal and professional development as well as community service. Understanding the pervasive effects of violence and associated trauma, UMN leaders wanted to do even more.

Plans to provide their client population with mental health services and social emotional learning supports were in place when multiple tragedies occurred in the UMN community. During the GSIVP program period, a young mentee was killed in an act of gun violence and a friend of UMN participants was murdered, the victim of a carjacking incident. With GSIVP support, UMN mobilized mental health professionals from the community to provide individual and group services to program participants including counseling, journaling, meditation, and breathwork. Small group therapy and mentoring sessions continued throughout the school year and summer. While initially met with resistance from some participants, most came to value these activities and requested additional opportunities to engage with mental health professionals as individuals and groups.



In addition to providing new and expanded mental health services to their clients, UMN utilized their GSIVP funds to purchase case management software, an enduring resource that will allow the organization to better track and monitor the services they provide to individual youth and as an organization.

UMN leaders and program staff are dismantling the stigma of mental health supports, one young person at a time – an outcome that will have ripple effects within individuals and across communities.

The way that they [program youth] typically learn how to deal with a problem is being combative. They're ready to fight. So it's teaching them about how do you not be so quick to react. And that comes, too, from having, I feel, unresolved trauma that you haven't dealt with. So teaching them the proper way and how to deal with that, that it doesn't always have to resolve to violence.

UMN Team Member

For more information, contact
Marlon Haywood, EdD
 CEO/Founder
marlon@urbanmalenetwork.org