



Hillsborough
County

Crime prevention and safety tips

Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

August 2010



Prevent Gun Violence

More than 30,000 people in the United States die from gun violence every year.¹

Frightening Facts

- The rate of firearm deaths among children under age 15 is almost 12 times higher in the U.S. than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.²
- American children are 16 times more likely to be murdered with a gun.²
- 6.1% of high school students nationally reported carrying a gun at least once during a 30-day period.²
- There are 90 guns for every 100 citizens in the U.S. compared to 10 firearms for every 100 citizens in the rest of the world.³
- More teenage boys in America die from gunfire than from car accidents.⁴
- Every day, about 75 American children are shot. Fifteen of those don't recover.⁴
- Gunshot wounds are now the leading cause of death of teenage boys in America.⁴
- Only 39% of U.S. homes with children and guns report keeping the firearms locked, unloaded and separated from ammunition.⁵

Make Your Home Safe

- Store guns unloaded and locked in cabinets, with bullets removed, stored and locked separately.
- Hide the keys to the firearm and ammunition storage boxes.
- Use a trigger lock if you don't have access to proper locked storage. You can find trigger lock kits at most sporting goods or gun stores; or log onto www.projectchildsafe.org for instructions.
- Make sure you know how the firearm operates.
- Never assume a firearm is unloaded and always point a gun in a safe direction.
- Never leave a gun unattended, even when cleaning it, not even for a moment.
- Teach your children never to touch guns.
- Ask your children if any of their friends have guns in their homes.

Make Your Neighborhood Safe

- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Program. Contact the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office at (813) 247-8115 for information on setting up a Neighborhood Watch Program in your area.
- Learn how to organize a neighborhood initiative and join *Celebrate Safe Communities* by logging onto the National Crime Prevention Council Web site at www.npc.org.
- Support after-school programs that keep young people off the streets.
- Learn more about state and federal gun laws. Log onto www.bradycampaign.org.

¹Natl. Center for Injury Prevention and Control; ²Centers for Disease Control; ³Small Arms Survey 2007; ⁴familyeducation.com; ⁵Natl. Center for Health Statistics.

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, fax it to 813-276-2630 for consideration for a future Crime Prevention and Safety Tip. If you have questions regarding this tip, call 813-276-2033.