

**Firearm Deaths in Kansas Display  
First Presbyterian Church  
July, 2024**



**Firearms Were Involved in More Child Deaths in 2020 and 2021 Than Any Other Cause**

On a per capita basis, the firearm mortality rate among children and teens in the U.S. is over 9.5 times the rate of Canada, the country with the second-highest child and teen firearm death rate. If firearm deaths in the U.S. had mirrored Canada's rates between 2010 and 2021, approximately 30,000 U.S. children and teenagers would still be alive.

<https://www.kff.org/mental-health/issue-brief/child-and-teen-firearm-mortality-in-the-u-s-and-peer-countries/> (Kaiser Family Foundation)

First Presbyterian Church is raising awareness of gun safety with a lawn display of 43 t-shirts. The CDC collects data by cause of death. The CDC's most recent statistics published in 2019 showed that Kansas recorded 43 deaths by firearm for ages 0-19 years. The red t-shirts represent 23 of those deaths as by suicide. The yellow t-shirts represent 20 of those deaths as by homicide or accident. The display will continue during the month of July. The display is on the church north lawn. The church is located close to the intersection of Clinton Parkway and Crestline Drive.

Firearms are a leading cause of death among children in many states. In Kansas, Firearms are the second leading cause of death among children. That is why it is more important for parents to know how to secure firearms. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all firearms in households with children should be unloaded and in locked storage, with ammunition stored separately. (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx>)

“The Be SMART campaign was launched to raise awareness that secure gun storage—storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition—can save children’s lives. Be SMART emphasizes that it’s an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer. The Be SMART campaign was launched in 2015 to promote responsible gun ownership in order to reduce child gun deaths. Whether you’re a gun owner, or you know someone who owns a gun, there is a role for everyone in the conversation around secure gun storage. Be SMART is a framework that parents, caretakers, and community leaders can follow to help keep their communities safe. Ultimately, you can help prevent kids from accessing firearms by storing them securely, and encouraging others to do the same. Because children deserve to feel safe, no matter where they are.” <https://besmartforkids.org/>

