

Firearm Screening in the Outpatient Setting



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INTRODUCTION

The AAP recommends that pediatricians incorporate questions about the presence and availability of firearms into their patient history taking and urge parents who possess guns to prevent access to these guns by their children¹. Studies show that parents who are counseled by their pediatricians are more likely to adopt responsible gun storage practices². Gun owning families who were counseled by a doctor about safe firearm storage were 2.2 times as likely to improve their practices as those who were not¹. Brief physician counseling directed at parents, combined with distribution of gunlocks, may be effective in promoting safer storage of guns in homes with children³. Safer storage of guns reduces injuries, and physician counseling linked with distribution of cable locks appears to increase safer storage³. Implementation of this approach could result in a significant reduction in firearm related injury each year².

OBJECTIVES

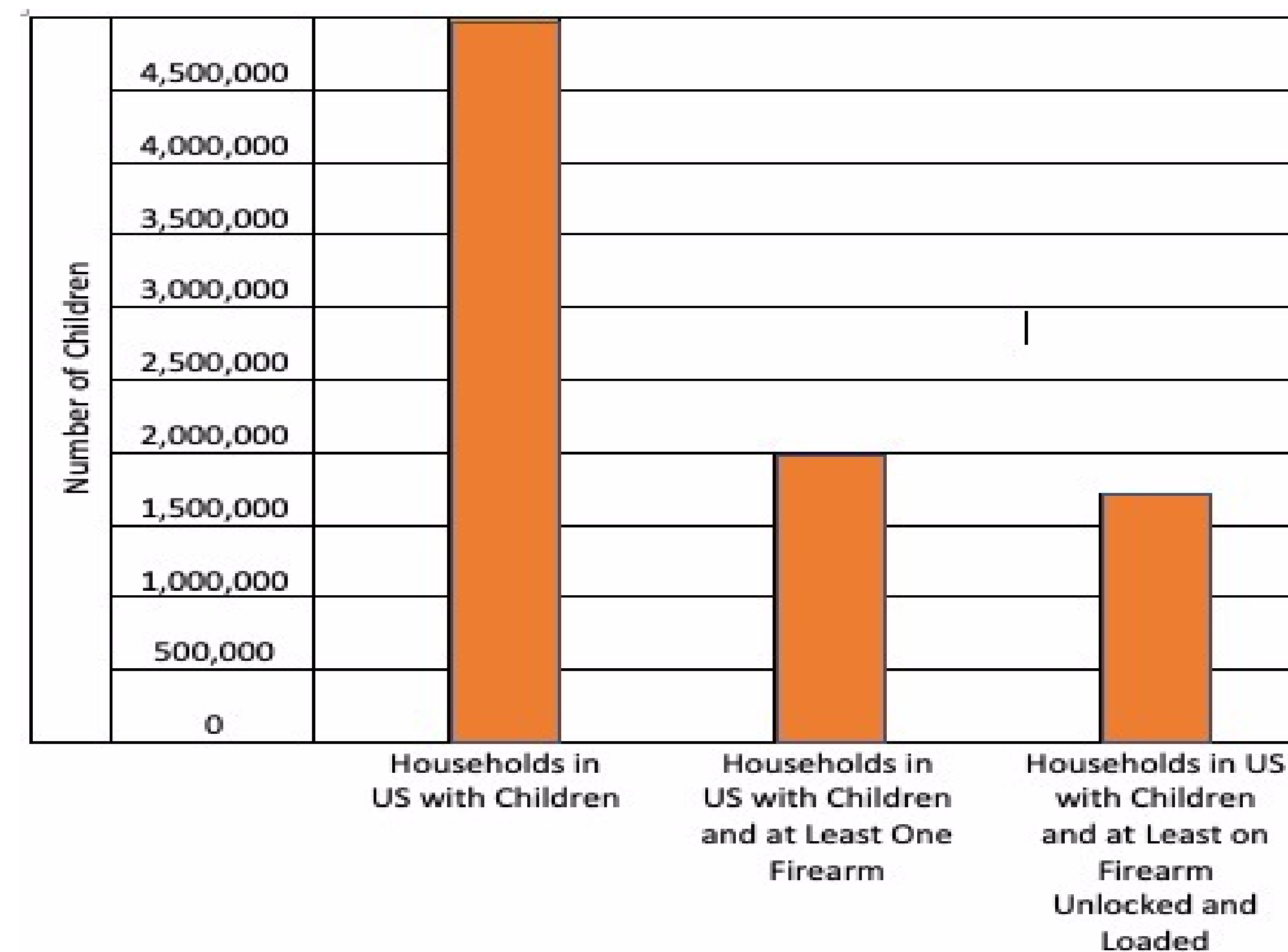
The purpose of this study was to investigate the occurrence of firearm screening questions and related anticipatory guidance during well child checks at the OSU Pediatric Clinic.

METHODS

We conducted a retrospective chart review of patient visits for those 3-18 years old seen between the dates of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

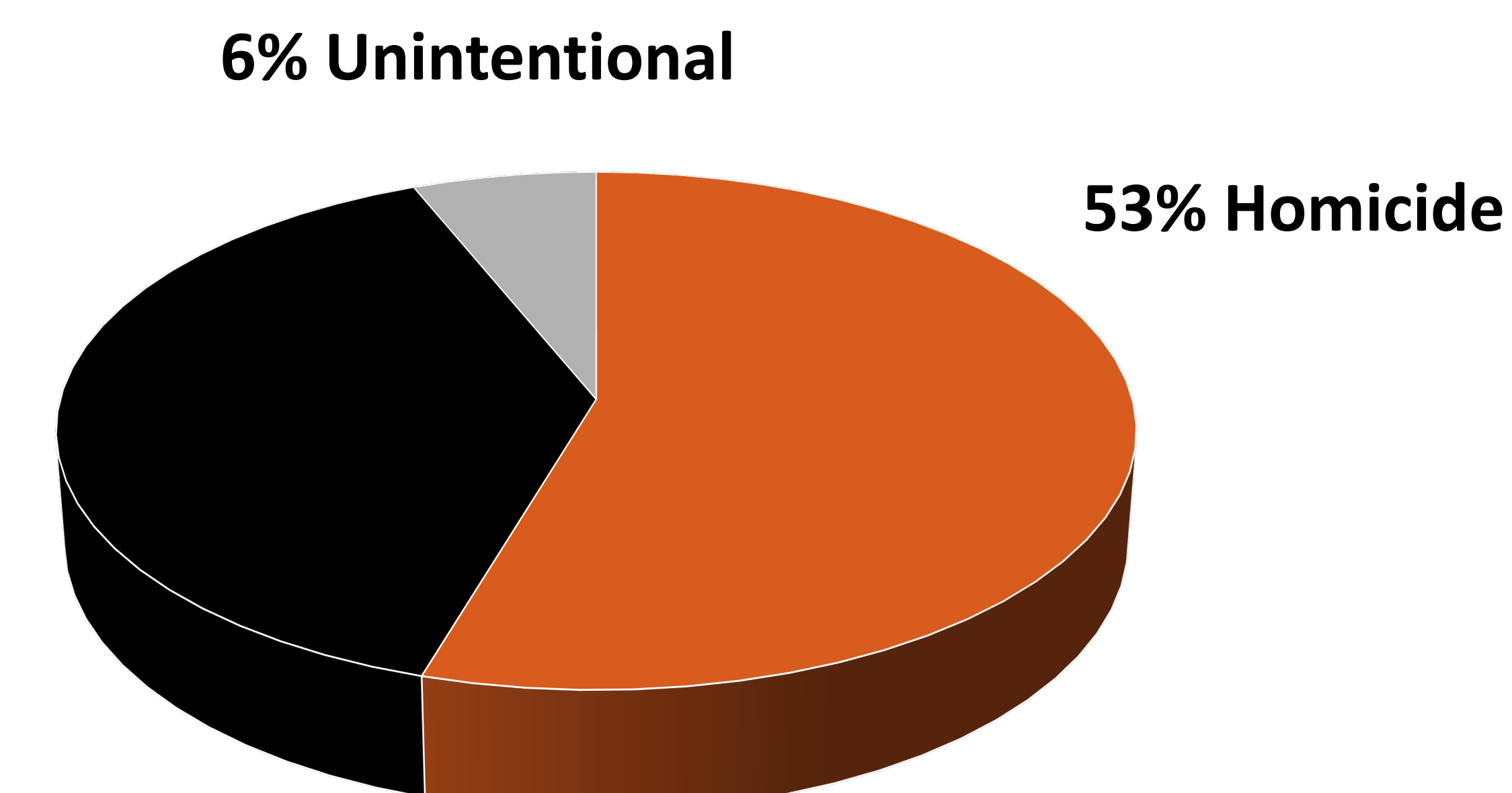
BACKGROUND

Firearms in US Households with Children



Everytown for Gun Safety. *Innocents Lost: A Year of Unintentional Child Gun Deaths*.

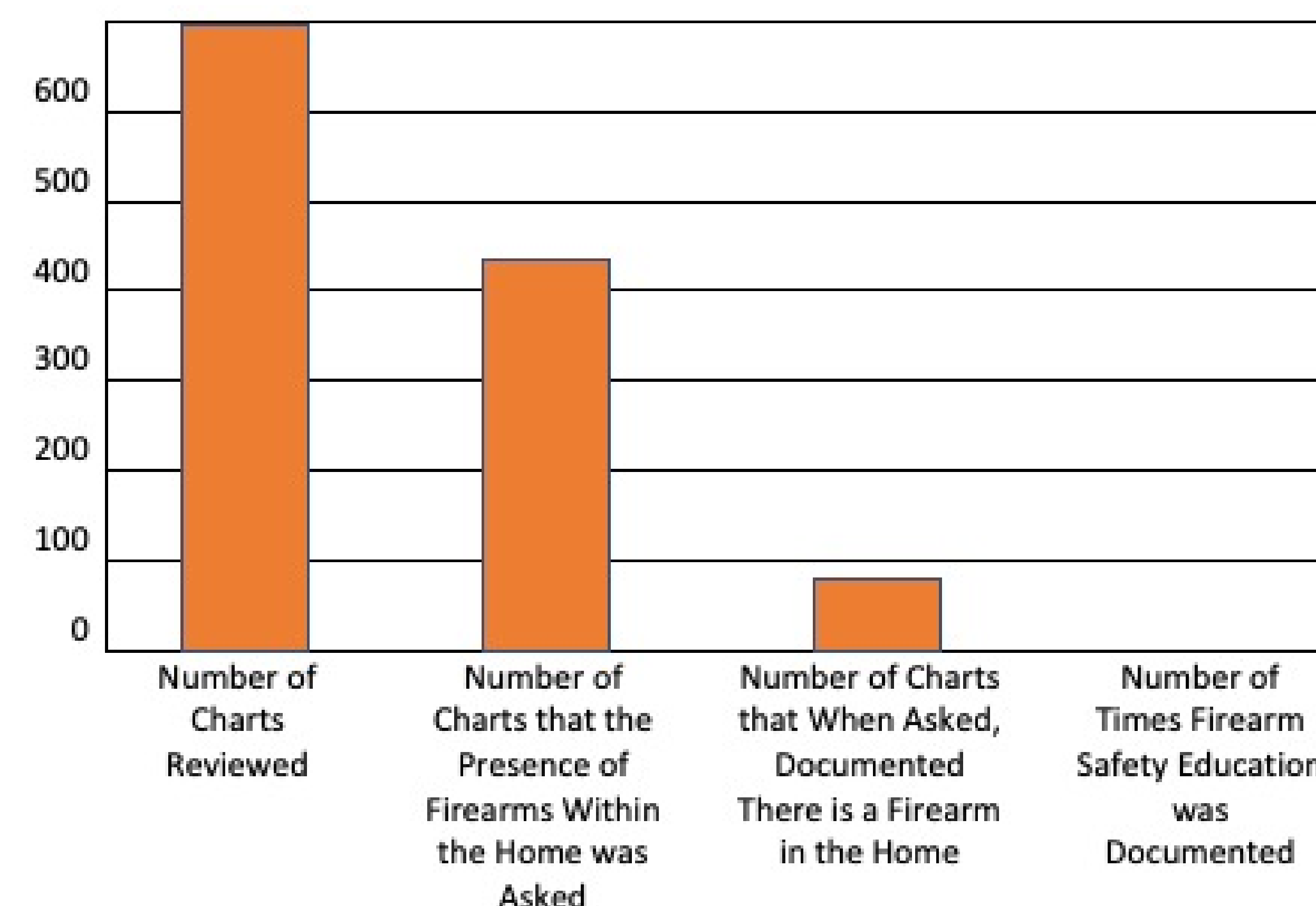
Firearms Deaths in US Children from 2012-2014



Wintemute, Garen J, MD, MPH. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2017 December; 167(12): 886-887. *What You Can Do to Stop Firearm Violence*.

RESULTS

Of the 600 charts reviewed, the presence of firearms within the home was asked 71% of the time. Of those, 18.3% stated yes but education regarding AAP recommendations was not documented.



CONCLUSION

OSU Pediatrics needs further training on firearm screening, safety, and appropriate documentation in order for practices to be consistent with current AAP guidelines.

REFERENCES

1. Everytown for Gun Safety. *Innocents Lost: A Year of Unintentional Child Gun Deaths*.
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3. Dowd, M. Denise, MD, MPH, Sege, Robert D, MD, PhD. American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement, Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention Executive Committee. November 2012, Volume 130, Issue 5. *Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population*.



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