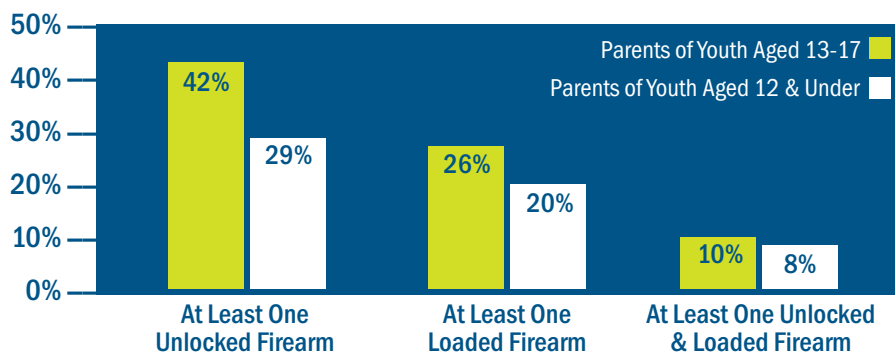




Parents of Youth Aged 13-17 More Likely to Store Household Firearms Unsafely Than Parents of Youth Younger Than 13

A new study¹ on firearms safety found that a large percentage of parents with youth and gun(s) in their homes store their gun(s) unsafely. Among survey respondents, all of whom possessed one or more guns and had at least one child under the age of 18 at home, over one third reported that their gun(s) were loaded and/or not locked up (22% had a loaded gun, 32% had a gun that was not locked up, and 8% had a gun that was both loaded and not locked up). The study also found that parents with youth between the ages of 13 and 17 were more likely to store household firearms unsafely than parents with youth ages 12 and under. Among parents with only youth age 13-17 at home, 42% had a firearm in the home that was not locked up, compared to 29% of parents with only youth age 12 and under at home. Similarly, 26% of parents with only older youth at home had a loaded firearm in the home, compared to 20% of parents with only younger youth at home.

Percent of Households Reporting Loaded and/or Unlocked Firearms in the Home, by Age Range



Source: Johnson, R. M. et al. (2006). "Are Household Firearms Stored Less Safely in Homes With Adolescents?" *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. Vol. 160, No. 8 (August 2006), pp. 788-792. Retrieved August 9, 2006, from <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/160/8/788#top>.

¹ Data originate from the 2004 National Firearms Study. For this study, researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health narrowed down a sample (N=392) of respondents who indicated they possessed at least one gun and had at least one child younger than age 18 living at home.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit www.tasc.org.