PLEASE SHARE A REASON OR STORY THAT HIGHLIGHTS YOUR PASSION TO BE PART OF STORE IT SAFE (SIS)

WHY IS THIS WORK SO IMPORTANT?

• Firearms cause a significant number of injuries and deaths among children and teens.
  ◦ Each day, 28 U.S. children and teens—the equivalent of a high school classroom—die from gun injuries.
  ◦ **Firearms are the number 1 killer of children and teens.**
• In US emergency departments, there is a 60% increase in children presenting for mental health problems over the past year.
• Of the **youth who died by suicide by a firearm, 82% used a gun from their home.**
  ◦ In a study examining misconceptions by parents of children with guns in the home, 73% of children knew the location of the weapon, and 36% admitted to personally handling it.
• Studies show that 70% of teens that attempted suicide, did so within one hour of the thought.
• Also, studies have shown that 25% of teens at any time are depressed, even if they have never had a diagnosis of depression.

DISCUSS BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF SIS

In response to unintentional firearm injury to children, Ohio AAP leadership established the Store It Safe program in 2015. The program brought together organizations and individuals with different viewpoints about firearms to develop unified, nonpartisan messaging, resources, and approaches to reduce unintentional firearm injuries and deaths in children, then expanded to address suicides by firearms in adolescents.

• At the onset, we agreed that preventing firearm injuries was going to take a multi-faceted approach. However, we decided to start with a simple question – How can we prevent unintentional firearm injuries to young, curious children and to impulsive teens wanting to commit self-harm?
BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF SIS CONT.

- Unanimously, the group agreed that the key message is to “Store it Safe.” If a firearm is not attached to the owners body, it was their responsibility to secure the weapon so that others could not touch it.
- Over the years, the program has grown to include a wide variety of education, advocacy, quality improvement and community initiatives.
- Although Store it Safe was initiated in the pediatric office setting, this work can and should be done with all groups and individuals that interact with adolescents.
  - Only 29% of teens routinely visit their pediatrician for well-child visits.
- Since teens are incredibly impulsive and suicide is occurring at epidemic numbers, all caregivers and organizations need to help screen, provide resources and recommend safe storage of all lethal means (guns, medications, alcohol, etc.)

SHARE MATERIALS AND HOW TO USE THEM

Whether purchasing a firearm, ammunition, lessons, or a holster - a safe place to store the device is essential. It has been demonstrated that safe storage is linked to positive outcomes such as lower rate of death by suicide and unintentional injuries.

- Today, we want to share with all of you – whether you are a parent of a teen or you routinely interact with them – materials to help you utilize the Ohio AAP’s Store it Safe materials.
- These materials are available at https://ohioaap.org/storeitsafe and we have samples today for your use.

ASK OF PARTICIPANTS

- Today, we ask each of you to play your part to reduce preventable deaths.
  - Ask friends or family members who interact with teens to store lethal means safely.
  - Share Ohio AAP SIS materials with teens and families.
  - Screen youth and provide resources.
- We are happy to answer any questions you may have at this time!