



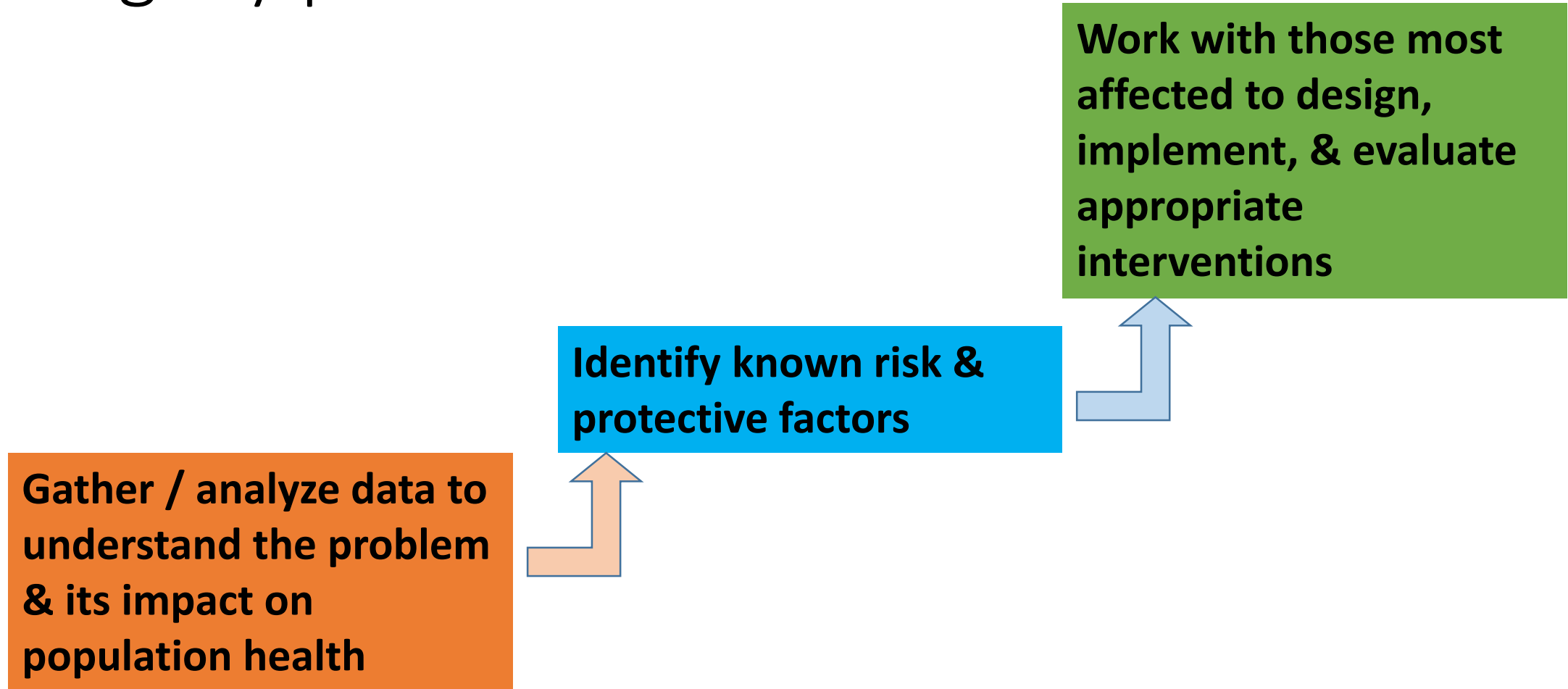
Briefing: Lock-It-Up Safe Firearm Storage Program

Seattle City Council

Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education Committee

June 13, 2018

What is the public health approach to firearm tragedy prevention?



In 23% of King County households, firearms are stored in / near the home (includes vehicles)

- **Good News: More than 1/2 of King County gun owners store firearms locked up.**
- **But... 15% of firearm households store at least 1 firearm loaded & unlocked.**

WA storage practices vary with suicide risk factors.

- **37% of firearm owners reported the best safety practice (locked and unloaded)**
- **No significant difference in mental health indicators between those who did and did not own firearms**
- **Suicide risk factors greater – even with children in the house – among the 63% storing less safely (unlocked and loaded or intermediate practices):**
 - **More binge drinking**
 - **More chronic drinking**

Firearms are used in most homicides and almost half of suicides in King County.

- 151 deaths from firearm injuries in 2016, 7 under age 18
- Most are suicides
- 62% of homicides and 41% of suicides are by firearm (2016)
- Highest in the south region

King County Child Death Review (CDR)

Purpose: To better understand the circumstances around why a child dies in order to enhance implementation of prevention strategies to prevent future child injury and death

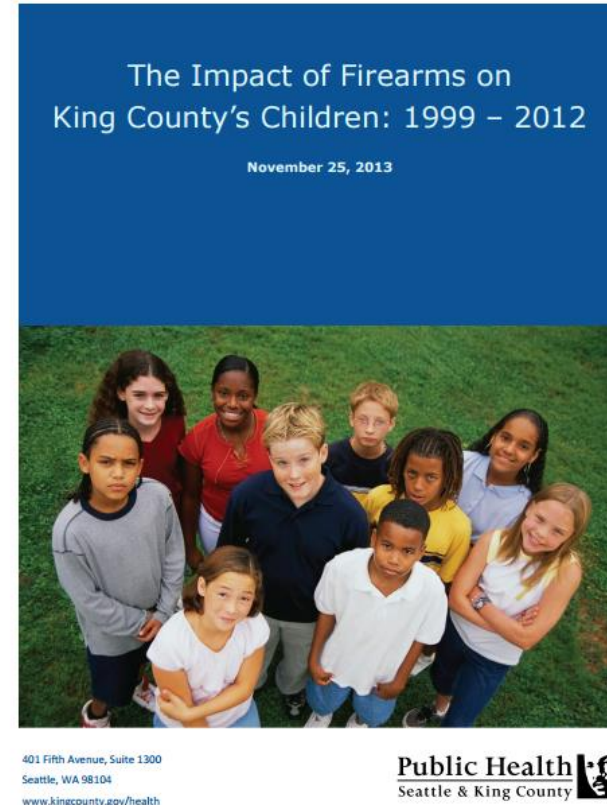


Multidisciplinary community team of professionals involved with children:

- **Medical Examiner**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Child Protective Services (CPS)**
- **Public Health**
- **EMS/First Responders**
- **Other professionals**

King County Child Firearm Suicide 1999-2012

- 25 children under 18 died by suicide using a firearm (1999-2012)
- 70% used a gun owned by a family member
- Risk of child suicide by firearm is estimated 52 times greater in households with unsecured firearms.

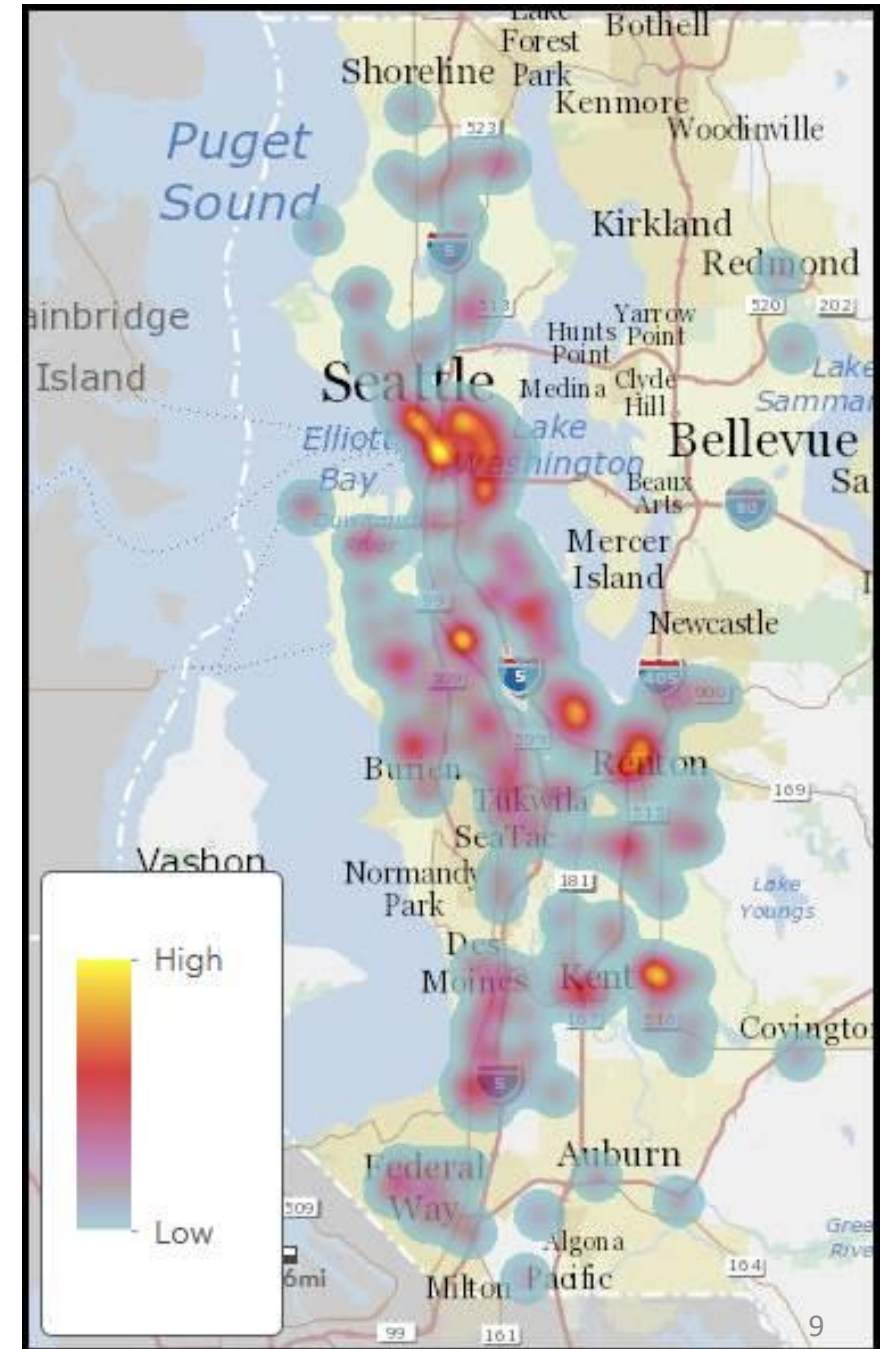


Most nonfatal firearm injuries are assaults and unintentional shootings.

- 95 hospitalizations in 2015, including 9 children under 18
- Mainly assault and unintentional injury
 - Firearms are a very lethal (85%) means of suicide; few nonfatal suicide attempts

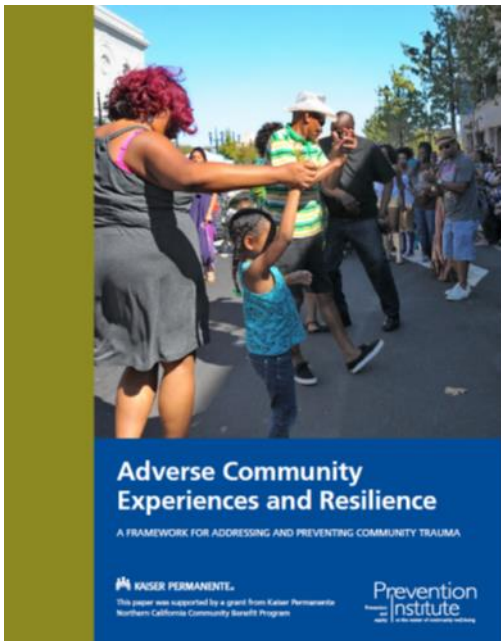
Where do homicides and assaults by firearm occur?

(2017 to the present, data from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office)



The costs of firearm injury are high.

King County firearm fatalities in 2015: **over \$200 million in medical costs and lost productivity.** (CDC)



Costs for law enforcement, emergency services, mental health care, and lost quality of life are much higher.

Human costs:

- Ongoing care for injury & emotional trauma
- Reduction in life expectancy and quality
- Risk of contagion (both suicide and violence)
- Toll on family and friends
- [Community trauma](#)

Theft of unsecured firearms contributes to injury.

- Residential burglary and car prowls are common
- Unlocked firearms (including in glove boxes) are a target for theft
- Stolen guns enter the crime and trafficking pipeline and resurface when used in interpersonal violence, suicide, and crime.
- Value of stolen firearms in Washington was \$3.5 million - \$2.5 million in King County

Storing firearms locked reduces injuries.

David Grossman, UW/Harborview

	Reduction in risk from safe storage
Firearm suicides	78%
Unintentional shootings	85%
Shootings with handguns	83%
Shootings with long guns	75%

The Lok-It-Up program promotes voluntary safe storage of firearms.



- **Partnerships with firearm and safe storage device retailers**
Give a discount on storage devices to customers who mention the program; share information
- **Partnerships with law enforcement**
Share information with Concealed Pistol License applicants
- **Public education**
Health fairs, website, presentations, data dissemination
- **Community partnerships**
We are a resource and convener across the spectrum of gun violence prevention work.

Why the Lok-It-Up model?

- Allows us to work closely with those most affected by the problem
- Establishes a point of common ground among firearm owners, advocates, industry, government and community organizations.
- Empowers firearm owners to be part of the solution
- Reduces firearm injuries and deaths – our ultimate goal

The Lok-It-Up program is thriving in 2018.

- 13 retail partners
- Partnerships with most law enforcement agencies in the county
- Contract with media firm Team Soapbox for County Council-funded public education campaign, to be carried out in 2018
- Plans for evaluation and making our local data more accessible

Safe storage in practice: demonstration

- What storage devices look like
- Demonstration of quick access



Questions?

Contact us for more information.

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