

Children's Wisconsin provides Safe at Home program to prevent injuries

Children's Wisconsin offers Safe at Home, a program focused on child safety and injury prevention. Patients and their families at Children's Milwaukee hospital, outpatient clinics and primary care offices are offered materials to keep kids and teens safe from preventable injuries. In Children's latest Milwaukee community health needs assessment, safety and violence were identified as one of four most important community health priorities.

Since 2022, Safe at Home has provided more than 200 patients and community members with products, like medication lock bags, lock boxes, and trigger/cable locks, among others. Most patients served through Safe at Home were seen at Children's for intentional ingestions, accidental ingestions and suicide/suicidal ideation. In addition, many Children's clinics screen patient families for social determinants of health needs, which includes a question about firearms in the home. Many families who indicate they have unsecured firearms at home are interested in receiving free storage devices to promote safety for their children and loved ones.

Physicians in the Level I emergency department and trauma center at Children's care for children impacted by firearm injury and suicide attempts. They share that the Safe at Home program fills a much-needed void for patients and families. "We have found that there is a large interest in our emergency department and at community events in having access to safe firearm storage devices provided through Children's Wisconsin. Families hope to keep their kids safe and the Safe at Home program offers them that opportunity."

Recently, a teen had been admitted to Children's Wisconsin for ingestion of medication when living with their relatives. Their relatives were able to access secure storage for medications to help prevent future ingestions and keep their teen safe.

Children's receives grants to cover some program costs but supports the Safe at Home program with community benefit investment.

-Children's Wisconsin-Milwaukee