

## Research Update



# Nearly 70% of pediatric residents report caring for children with gun injuries

from [AAP Research](#)

By the time they complete residency training, most pediatricians have direct experience treating gun injuries.

Sixty-nine percent of 2018 graduates reported treating a gun injury in training, according to the AAP Annual Survey of Graduating Residents presented at the 2019 Pediatric Academic Societies meeting. Among these residents, 41% treated five or more children with gun injuries, and 18% treated 10 or more injuries.

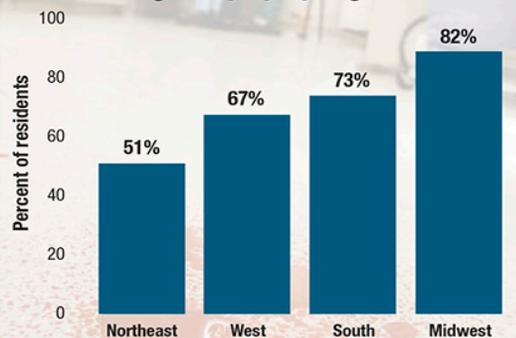
Clinical experience with gun injuries was most common for those who trained in the Midwest and least common for those who trained in the Northeast (see figure).

Large majorities of pediatricians starting their careers believe pediatricians have a role in counseling families on gun safety. Ninety percent agree (strongly agree or somewhat agree) that pediatricians should ask about the presence of guns in the home; 96% agree pediatricians should ask parents to unload/lock guns; and 44% agree pediatricians should ask parents to remove guns from the home.

In addition, most graduating residents support policies aimed at reducing gun injuries in children. High portions support strategies such as universal background checks

### 7 in 10 residents treated a gun injury during training

#### Percentage of residents who treated a gun injury by region



Source: AAP Annual Survey of Graduating Residents, 2018 (n=470)

(95%) or banning assault weapons (90%), while few (14%) support allowing teachers in grades K-12 to carry guns in schools.

The AAP Section on Pediatric Trainees

(SOPT) will focus on gun safety as its 2019-'20 advocacy priority.

“These new data underscore why we have committed to gun safety as our advocacy focus. We know firsthand that gun injury, tragically, is a pediatric issue,” said Shawnese L.S. Gilpin, M.D., M.P.H., co-chair of the SOPT campaign. “As a first-year resident in a major city, I have already cared for more than 10 patients with gunshot wounds and even more indirectly affected by gun violence. As pediatricians, we must be involved to speak up for the health of our patients.”

The AAP Annual Survey of Graduating Residents is sent to a nationally representative random sample of 1,000 residents graduating from U.S. pediatric programs. Surveys are mailed and emailed each year from May to August. The response rate for the 2018 survey was 49%.

## RESOURCE

The AAP Section on Pediatric Trainees is looking for trainees to get involved in its 2019-'20 advocacy campaign on gun safety. For more information, contact Julie Raymond, in AAP Membership Engagement and Marketing, at 630-626-6137 or [jraymond@aap.org](mailto:jraymond@aap.org).