Keep Our Kids at Play, Lock Your Guns Away: A Community-Based Approach to Increase Safe Storage of Firearms within Family Homes of Rural Wyoming

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Hypothesis: Distributing educational material with free firearm cable locks at a local community event will increase safe firearm storage practices within family homes.

Background

- Douglas, Wyoming is a rural community of 6,120 residents located in Converse County
- Douglas is a community built upon natural resource extraction.
 The main economic drivers are surface coal mining and oil/natural gas drilling & extraction
- Firearms are naturally part of the community culture and many residents own firearms and enjoy activities such as hunting & shooting

Keep Our Kids at Play, Lock Your Guns Away

FREE GUN CK

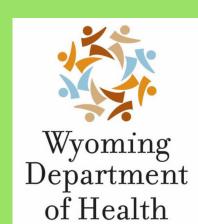
Community Safer From Gun Accidents and From Suicide

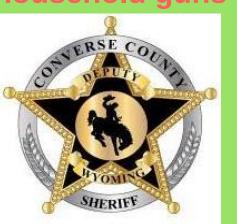
Help Make Your

- It is estimated more than 50% of gun owners don't securely lock their guns at home (Centers for Disease Control)
- It is estimated as many as 85% of the guns used in youth firearm suicides & unintentional injuries were obtained from the home (JAMA, 2001)
- Among youth ages 15-24 in
 Wyoming, suicide is the second leading cause of death (WY Department of Health)
- Of all firearm deaths in Wyoming between the years 2010 and 2014, 86% were suicides (WY Department of Health)

Help us keep our Community Safe

- 1. Store personally owned firearms locked and in a secure location
- 2. Store all firearms unloaded
- 3. Store ammunition in a locked AND separate location from all firearms
 Please take these free cable locks to safely secure your
 household guns







Literature Review

Key findings:

- Distributing education with free firearm locking devices at community events leads to an increase in safe firearm storage practices within family homes
- Partnering with respected community organizations such as local law enforcement or sheriff departments increases the power of interventions

Community Health Project Design

- Utilize a back-to-school event to distribute educational material and free-of-charge cable gun locking devices to community members
- Provide additional education to children and parents regarding safe handling of firearms via partnering with Converse County Sheriff Department
- Partner with Converse County Public Health with endorsements/help from the Converse County Sheriff Department and WY Department of Health

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Table set up at back-to-school event attended by over 140 families

Deliverables to Community

- Comprehensive literature review provided to community partners
- Design of an up-to-date, evidence based informational flyer that was distributed at the community event and can be distributed at future events

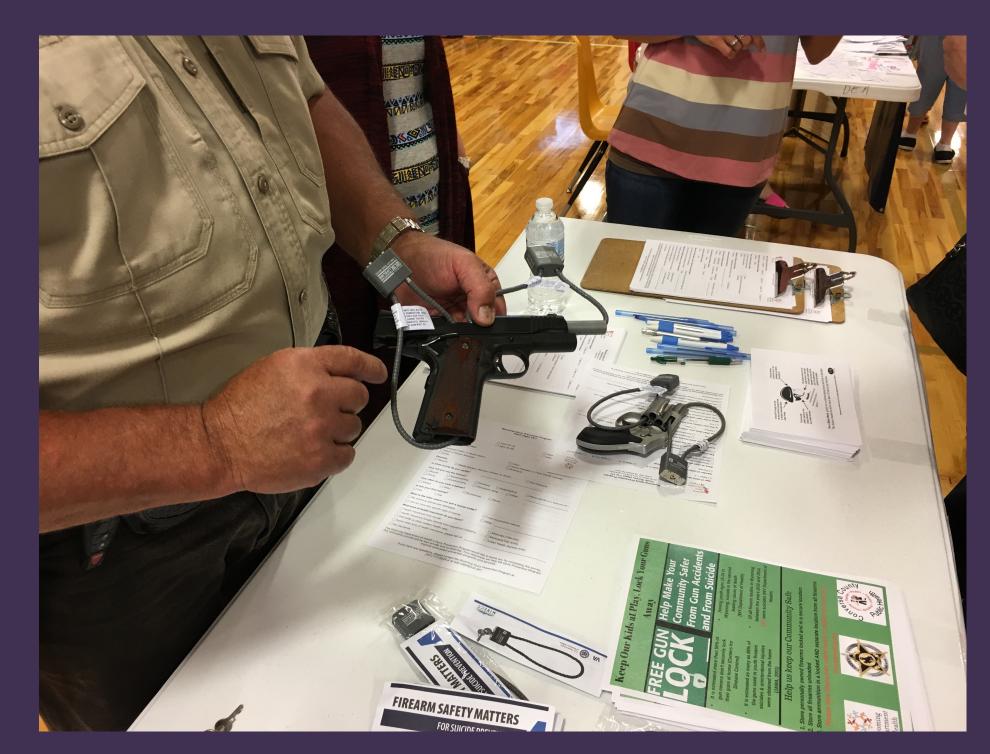
Next Steps

- Expand to additional community events to distribute education and free firearm cable locking devices. Possibilities include:
 - Converse County Health Fair
 - WY State Fair in Douglas, WY
 - Local businesses

Acknowledgements

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- Lisa Patterson for providing cable locks



Converse County Sheriff Clint Becker demonstrating the proper use of firearm cable locks