Firearm safety counseling among caregivers of high-school age teens: Results from a National Survey

Data were collected from a cross-sectional, web-based survey of 2,924 primary caregivers of teenage children

Prevalence of Safety Screening

14.9%

of caregivers said that their teen received firearm safety counseling from their healthcare provider

Caregiver Receptivity to Counseling

24.6%

of caregivers said that they were receptive to their teen’s healthcare provider discussing firearm safety

Factors that Increased Receptivity

- Prior comfort with firearm counseling
- Caregiver trust in healthcare provider to discuss firearm safety

Key Conversation Elements

Caregivers who received counseling reported that the provider talked to them about...

- Number of firearms in the household (75.7%)
- Storing firearms locked (66.8%)
- Storing firearms unloaded (53%)

Future Directions

- Research ways to understand the best methods for increasing healthcare provider competency to provide effective firearm safety counseling
- Establishing counseling methods that enhance provider-patient trust and lead to increased uptake of firearm safety practices