

In Memory of Aaron B. Xue

SUPPORT CAP LAW IN VERMONT

CAP Law = Child Access Prevention from Firearms = Safe Firearm Storage

VERMONT CAP LAW IS ABOUT

Safe Gun Storage: Require firearm owners to securely **STORE** their firearms (either in a locked box or container or with a child-safety lock) when knowing minors may have access to them.

Penalty on Gun Owner*: Hold firearm owner responsible for not taking reasonable steps to secure a firearm to prevent unsupervised access by a minor.

Level I: Misdemeanor penalty when a minor gains access to a negligently stored firearm, takes the firearm to a public place, uses the firearm in a threatening manner, or in the commission of a crime.

Level II: Felony penalty (3 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both) when minor uses firearm to cause death or injury.
(*see table for current VT law and penalty)

Minor means any person under age **18**.

CAP LAWS ARE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING YOUTH FIREARM INJURY AND MORTALITY

- The presence of loaded or unlocked guns in the home increases the risk of suicide, accidental and intentional shootings in children by **3-5 FOLD**¹.
- **SAFE GUN STORAGE** - keeping a gun unloaded, locked, storing ammunition locked, and in a separate location - is associated with a protective effect in reducing injuries or death in homes with children and teenagers where guns are stored¹.
- CAP laws are associated with the prevention of **829 INJURIES** among both children and adults, and a saving of **\$37m MEDICAL COST** in seven states that had CAP laws in 2001².
- CAP laws are associated with **23%** reduction in unintentional youth firearm death in 12 states that had CAP laws in effect for at least one year (1990-1994)³.
- CAP laws are associated with a significant reduction (by **8.3%**) in suicide rates among youth aged 14 to 17 years⁴.
- CAP law's effectiveness is **GREATER** in states that allowed **FELONY PENALTY** than those states that did not⁵. CAP laws are associated with the continued reduction in national youth unintentional firearm death rates⁵.

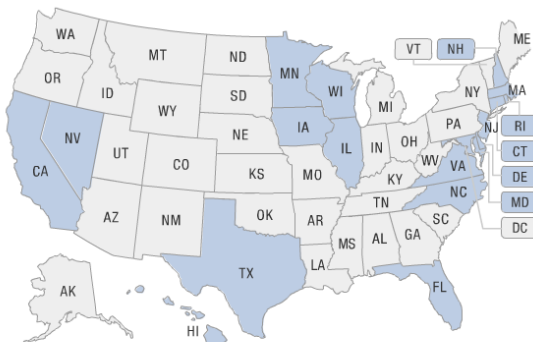
¹Nelson et al. Am Child Health, 1997. ²Nordstrom et al. Injury prevention, 2001. ³Dolins, Christoffel. Pediatr, 1994.

⁴Webster et al. J Am Med Assoc, 2004. ⁵Hepburn et al. J Trauma Injury, Infection and Critical Care, 2006.

COMPARISON OF CURRENT VT YOUTH FIREARM ACCESS LAW TO OTHER CHILD SAFETY LAWS

Issue	Law	Penalty
Alcohol	Must be 21 to legally consume alcohol. Must be 18 to serve or pour alcohol.	<u>For an adult:</u> \$500-\$2000 fine and/or imprisonment up to 2 years for serving or selling to a minor. <u>For a minor:</u> imprisonment for up to 5 years and/or fined up to \$10,000 for violating this law and operating a motor vehicle and causing death or serious bodily injury to self or others.
Tobacco product	Must be 18 to purchase or possess tobacco products.	<u>For an adult:</u> \$100 first offence and \$500 subsequent offence for selling or making tobacco products available to a minor <u>For a minor:</u> \$50 or 10 hours of community service, or both, for misrepresenting his/her age.
Seat belt use	Children under 16 must be in a restraint system or use seatbelt.	<u>For an adult:</u> \$25 first, \$50 second and \$100 third offence for failing to have child in restraint system/seatbelt.
Access to guns	Adults other than parents are not allowed to sell or furnish firearms to children under 16 . Must be 17 to possess firearms without parental consent.	<u>For an adult (other than parent):</u> \$10-\$50 fine for selling or furnishing firearms to children under 16. <u>For a minor:</u> deemed a delinquent child (meaning education).

CAP LAWS EXIST IN 28 STATES



KEY: ■ Legislation enacted ■ No laws in place

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