

Subject: Risks of Gun Ownership

Referred to: NHMS House of Delegates

WHEREAS, Injury is the leading cause of death for persons aged 1 - 44 in the United States and firearm related deaths represent a significant proportion of these deaths; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies have suggested that the presence of a gun in a household is associated with an approximately fivefold increase in the risk of suicide and threefold increase in the risk of homicide for household residents; and

WHEREAS, AMA policy:

- recognizes the importance of attention to injury prevention and safety and its significance in improving well-being and reducing health care costs;
- recognizes that uncontrolled ownership and use of firearms, especially handguns, is a serious threat to the public's health inasmuch as the weapons are one of the main causes of intentional and unintentional injuries and death; and
- encourages and endorses the development and presentation of safety education programs that will engender more responsible use and storage for firearms; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the New Hampshire Medical Society develop model legislation that requires all purchasers of firearms to be informed of the increased incidence of accidental injury, suicide, homicide and other risks incurred by owning a firearm.