

**IF THE LIGHT BULB WANTS TO CHANGE, DOES IT MATTER? DOES PARENT INTEREST IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION (VP) PREDICT ACTUAL CHANGE?** Stacia Finch, MA<sup>1</sup>; Jenny Steffes, MSW<sup>1</sup>; Alicia Merline, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Eric Slora, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Richard Wasserman, MD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>; Shari Barkin, MD, MSH<sup>3</sup>. (Sponsored by Stacia Finch) <sup>1</sup>Department of Research, American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village, IL, United States; <sup>2</sup>Department of Pediatrics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, United States; and <sup>3</sup>Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, United States.

**Background:** The Safety Check VP intervention consisted of brief screening, motivational interviewing techniques (eg, open ended questions, assessing interest), and “tangible tools” (timers, gun cable locks). Safety Check has shown effectiveness in storing guns more safely and decreasing media use, but whether parents’ initial interest in changing behavior relates to subsequent change is unknown.

**Objective:** To determine, of those exposed to Safety Check, the degree to which initial parent interest in changing VP-related behaviors (timer use for time-outs (TO) and media restriction (MR); cable lock installation for gun storage (CL)) was associated with subsequent change.

**Design/Methods:** Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) clinicians (n=104) randomized to the intervention arm of a cluster RCT were trained to deliver Safety Check as part of routine well child care (ages 2-11). Analyses were conducted on parents who reported receiving tools (MR: n=1310) and limited to ages 2-5 for TO (n=715) and reported gun owners for CL (n=330). Immediately post-visit, parents reported interest in tool use. Behavior change was measured as reported tool use 1 and 6 months later and compared 2 interest groups (low=not at all/somewhat (LO); high=interested/very (HI)). Chi-square and logistic regression analyses were conducted.

**Results:** Overall, 85% of families received timers and 34% received cable locks. HI parents were more likely to change their behavior at 1 and 6 months.

**Chi-Square Analysis: HI vs LO tool use at 1 & 6 months**

	Time-out	Media Restriction	Cable Lock
1 mo			
High Interest	27%*	22%*	55%
Low Interest	8%	5%	40%
6 mo			
High Interest	18%#	17%*	67%
Low Interest	7%	4%	50%

#p<.01; \*p<.0001

While timer use declined at 6 months, CL use increased. Multivariate modeling examined the independent contribution of parent interest to subsequent change at either 1 or 6 months, controlling for urbanicity, race, ethnicity, income, and education. High initial parent interest in change independently predicted use of TO (OR: 1.95, p<.001) and MR (OR: 1.84, p<.0001).



**Conclusion:** Higher degrees of initial parent interest immediately following well child visits was associated with 2 of 3 VP behavior changes. Low variability in CL interest (HI=94%) may account for non-significant results. Motivational strategies that stimulate parent interest appear to be effective adjuncts to simple provision of tools.