

## **The home is more of a threat than a school shooting**

It is interesting that schools are self-imposing near prison like conditions to guard against random school shootings that, in comparison to other threats to children, are not that great. The most dangerous place for a child is at home as they suffer abuse and neglect. “Nearly half of all U.S. children and 90 percent of black youngsters will be on food stamps at some point during childhood, and fallout from the current recession could push those numbers even higher, researchers say” (Tanner, 2010, para. 1).

Activist parent groups want to ban assault rifles and high-capacity ammunition cartridges yet 84% of all shooting deaths involve handguns (with assault rifles attributable to less than 1% of annual deaths).

Further, the primary threat to children is the home. An average of five children die every day as a result of child abuse. More than three quarters of these deaths are children under the age of four. It is estimated that between 60-85 percent of child fatalities, due to maltreatment, are **not** recorded as such on death certificates (“What are the”, 2011, para. 14).

Millions of dollars have been spent, and will continue to be spent, on school security with the intent to thwart an active-shooter scenario. In comparison, the estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect, in the United States, for 2007 was \$104 billion (“What are the”, 2011, para. 14). It is currently 2016, so this number is nine years old...which means that it is likely much higher now.

I think that we, as a society, could divert our attention and resources to the true cause of children’s deaths and poor health.

### References:

National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse. (2011). *What are the statistics of the abused?* Retrieved from <http://www.naasca.org/2012-Resources/010812-StatisticsOfChildAbuse.htm>

Tanner, L. (2010, March 18). *Food stamps will feed half of US kids, study says.* Retrieved from [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/02/food-stamps-will-feed-hal\\_n\\_342834.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/02/food-stamps-will-feed-hal_n_342834.html)