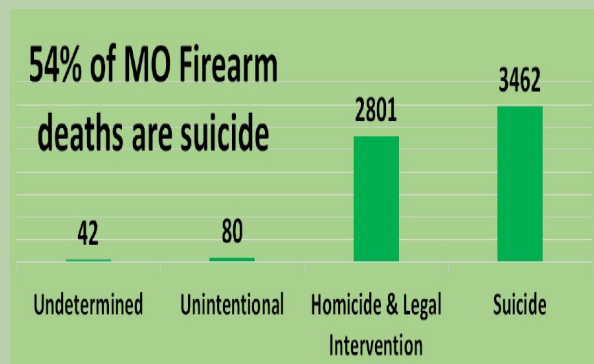


GUN OWNERS LEAD THE WAY ON SAFETY

Adding Suicide Prevention to Gun Safety

While unintentional firearm deaths are low in Missouri (approximately 18 a year), 3462 MO residents (nearly 700 a year) died by suicide with a firearm between 2016 and 2020.



MO firearm deaths by type, 2016-2020 from CDC/WONDER 2020

Following the usual Gun Safety Rules will continue to keep unintentional firearm deaths near zero.

Adding the 11th Commandment could save a life. Before someone in the home is in a crisis or is at risk for suicide, store all firearms in a safe, locked and unloaded. When someone in the home is at risk for suicide, ensure that they cannot access the designated personal or home safety firearm by storing it in a biometric or quick access safe. "Cause a Pause" by securing firearms with a cable or trigger lock, or keep pictures of loved ones or reminders for living inside the gun safe. If the owner of the firearm(s) is a person at risk for suicide, consider storing them away from home until things improve, lock them up in a gun safe and ask a trusted friend to hold onto the key(s), or change the combination.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE



The Safer Homes Collaborative (SHC) brings together individuals and organizations with a broad range of views on gun ownership who share a commitment to firearm safety

and preventing suicide. The Safer Homes Collaborative is modeled after the NH Firearm Safety Coalition's Gun shop project.

A firearm used in a suicide attempt results in death 9 out of 10 times. Through a variety of storage strategies gun owners and those who live in homes with access to firearms can prevent the tragedy of suicide by putting time and distance between the firearm and a person at risk for suicide.

Since 2018, the SHC has partnered with gun shops and shooting ranges to promote the usage of safe storage options, distraction techniques to "cause a pause", and the temporary and voluntary removal of firearms from the home as effective strategies to delay or prevent death by suicide. In 2022, the SHC expanded outreach efforts and educational opportunities to faith-based organizations, first responders, service members, veterans, and their families, and occupations with the highest suicide rates.

If you would like to partner with the SHC to prevent firearm suicide, contact us at 314-516-8454 or visit our website at www.saferhomescollaborative.org.



Adapted with permission of the NHFSC



GUN

SAFETY

RULES

11 ~~10~~ COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY

Look inside to see what's new!



11 COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.**
2. **Always point the muzzle in the safest direction.**
Be aware of where the firearm is pointed.
Never point it at yourself or anyone else.
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.** Your trigger finger should be extended, pointing forward, pressed against the side of the gun and outside the trigger guard.
4. **Be sure of your target—and what's beyond.**
Be absolutely sure that you have identified your target. If there is any doubt, don't shoot. Also, if you don't have a backstop, be sure you know where the shot will go if it goes beyond your target.



5. **Know how to safely operate and maintain your firearm before shooting.** Get proper training before firing any firearms. Also, learn the specifics of each gun before you handle, shoot or clean it.
6. **Be sure that your firearm is safe to operate.** While unloaded, verify that the muzzle is clear of obstruction and that the gun is well maintained.
7. **Be sure your firearm and ammunition are compatible.** Use only the proper ammunition for the gun you are using.
8. **Wear eye and ear protection when shooting.** Since guns are loud and can emit debris, proper eye and ear protection can prevent injuries.
9. **Never use alcohol or other drugs when operating or cleaning firearms.**

10. **Safely store all guns to prevent theft and unauthorized access.** Store all firearms unloaded and locked when not in use. Lock ammunition in a separate location. Ensure that household members who shouldn't have unsupervised access (teens and children, adults at risk for suicide or other misuse) don't know the combination to the locks or where the keys are.

← New

11. **Consider temporary off-site storage if you or a family member may be suicidal or going through a rough time.** When someone is going through an emotional crisis (e.g. break-up, job loss or legal issues) or a significant change in behavior (violence, depression, heavy drinking/drug use, sleeplessness), temporarily storing guns away from home may save their life. Friends and family, gun shops, shooting ranges, or the police may provide safe storage until the situation improves.

