

The Intersection of Gun Violence and Suicide

Firearm suicide is a critical part of the gun violence crisis with serious implications for the health and safety of our communities. Addressing it through prevention, safe firearm storage, and strong community support can save lives and create safer, healthier places to live.



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The Scope of Firearm Suicide in America

- Nearly **26,000** Americans die by firearm suicide each year... with approximately 71 deaths every day, including **1,300 children/teens** and **4,600 veterans**.¹
- Men make up **87%** of firearm suicide victims. White Americans and people in rural areas are also disproportionately affected.¹
- Presence of a gun in the home increases suicide risk by **300%**.^{1,2}
- Veterans represent **20% of adult firearm suicides**.³
- 6 in 10** gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides.^{1,4}
- The national firearm suicide rate has increased 21% in the last decade, with a **36% increase among youth**.¹

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- In 2023, someone died of gun suicide **every 19 minutes**.⁵
- Gun suicide rates continued to rise rapidly among Black youth (ages 10–19), with a **245% increase** since 2014 and **81% increase** since 2019.¹⁵
- The gun suicide rate of Black females **increased 65%** from 2019 to 2023.⁵
- Youth firearm suicides increased **40% nationally** (2014–2023).⁶
- Nearly 80%** of child firearm suicides involve a gun belonging to a family member, highlighting the urgent need for secure storage practices in the home.⁷

Why Reducing Access to Guns Saves Lives

- Firearms cause **5% of life-threatening suicide attempts** but over 50% of suicide deaths.^{8,9}
- About **90%** of gun suicide attempts are fatal; only **4%** of other suicide attempts result in death.¹⁰
- Secure storage lowers youth firearm suicide risk by **78–85%**.¹¹
- Child Access Prevention laws reduce adolescent suicide rates up to **14%**.^{12,17}
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) prevent **1 suicide for every 10–22 guns removed**.¹³
- Waiting periods have been associated with a 7–11% reduction in firearm suicides.¹⁶
- Connecticut's handgun purchaser licensing law was associated with a **15% reduction** in the state's firearm suicide rate.^{16, 18}
- 90%** of people who survive suicide attempts do not die by suicide later.¹⁴

If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline—free, confidential 24/7 support.

Sources:



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