

70% OF VETERAN SUICIDE DEATHS INVOLVED A FIREARM

SECURE FIREARM STORAGE REDUCES THE RISK OF FIREARM INJURY OR DEATH.

- ▶ Creating **time** and **distance** between a person in crisis and a firearm helps keep them safe.
 - ▶ Firearm injuries in the home can be prevented by making sure firearms are secured when not in use, with ammunition stored in a separate location.
 - ▶ There are many storage options that still allow for rapid access.
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CONSIDER TEMPORARY OUT-OF-HOME FIREARM STORAGE DURING...

- ▶ Personal crisis
- ▶ Relationship stress or divorce
- ▶ Substance misuse or legal challenges
- ▶ Depression or thoughts/talk of harming oneself or others

STORAGE OPTIONS

- ▶ **Clean and Hold:** Your retailer may hold your firearms for a set period of time and may offer basic cleaning or other services for a small fee.
- ▶ **Temporary Storage:** Your retailer may agree to temporarily store your firearm for free or a small cost.



The Armory Project is a coalition of firearm retailers who have agreed to provide free or low cost firearm storage for their communities.

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VETERANS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO USE FIREARMS AS A MEANS OF SUICIDE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION

HOW TO TALK TO PATIENTS ABOUT SECURE FIREARM STORAGE

- ▶ Approach the conversation with an understanding of Veterans' experiences and perspectives about firearms.
- ▶ Reassure the Veteran that no one is trying to take their firearm away.
- ▶ Emphasize how secure firearm storage can help prevent accidents and suicides.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS' ROLE IN FIREARM SUICIDE PREVENTION

- ▶ Identify and engage Veterans at risk for suicide.
- ▶ Educate and encourage patients to practice secure firearm storage.
- ▶ Half of Veterans who die by suicide are seen in primary care settings in the month prior to death.

FIREARM STORAGE OPTIONS

- ▶ Creating time and space between a person and lethal means (firearms) in a time of crisis is recommended.
- ▶ **Secure in-home storage:** storing firearms secured, with ammunition stored in a separate location.
- ▶ **Temporary out-of-home storage:** best practice for high-risk patients.



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TAP partners have received suicide prevention training and are committed to preventing firearm suicide.

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