

Aiming for Better: Addressing Gun Safety in the Clinic

Siobhan D. Wilson, MD, PhD, FACP
2023 ACP-WI Annual Scientific Meeting
September 9, 2023



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Conflicts of Interest

Siobhan D. Wilson has **no** relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

Siobhan D. Wilson **does not** intend to discuss any unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs/devices in the presentation.



2

Admission of Limitations

Siobhan D. Wilson held a gun for the first time in 2023

Siobhan D. Wilson is not a legal expert

Siobhan D. Wilson is pursuing health related advocacy as of Nov '22



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Jan 24, 2022

Today 12:25 PM

There's an active threat at the school

We're barricaded and hiding

Text Message Today 12:36 PM

Middleton High Sch: Staff, We received word that a student was on campus with a gun in his backpack. The student's name is [redacted]. We believe he has exited the building but have not confirmed. Please continue to keep students calm.

1:07 PM

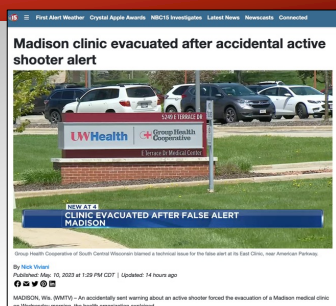
Hey

So, before I say anything, respond as fast as possible, I'm in school and there is an active threat happening, I'm really worried and need someone to help me. Please respond as fast as you can



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May 10, 2023



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Learning Objectives

After this lecture, you will be able to...

1. **Recall** what medical organizations have or are developing position statements or guidelines regarding guns and medicine
2. **Identify** at least one reference that will allow you to quickly access high quality, evidence-based information on guns and medicine
3. **Identify** at least one high quality, evidence-based resource for patient education on gun safety
4. **Recommend** "safer," evidence-based behaviors to your patients regarding gun ownership and use
5. **Develop** (or borrow!) verbal scripts and/or note templates for counseling regarding gun safety
6. **Complete** a gun safety plan with a patient




6


All Those People

“If it’s not a health problem,
then why are all those people dying
from it?”

- Dr. David Satcher, 1993



Applebome 1993



7

All Those People





29,398 as of 9/5/23



8


All Those People

2022: > 44K

Majority: suicides

> 76K more injured and survive

<1% Mass shootings




| GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE 2023 | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Evidence Based Research - since 2015 | |
| PUBLISHED DATE: September 05, 2023 | |
| Total Number of GV Deaths - ALL Causes ¹ | 29,398 |
| Homicide/Murder/Unintentional/DGU ¹ | 13,030 |
| Suicide ¹ | 16,368 |
| Total Number of Injuries ¹ | 75,445 |
| Mass Shootings ² | 485 |
| Mass Murders ² | 30 |
| Number of Children (age 0-11) ¹ | Killed 208 Injured 481 |
| Number of Teens (age 12-17) ¹ | Killed 1,005 Injured 2,828 |
| Officer Involved Incident ¹ | Killed 35 Injured 262 |
| Officer Involved Incident ¹ | Killed 980 Injured 557 |
| Subject-Suspect Killed or Injured | |
| Defensive Use ² | 813 |
| Unintentional Shooting ² | 1,108 |
| Murder/Suicides Incidents ² | 466 |


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All Those People


IN WISCONSIN

- Average year: 678 people die by guns
 - 68% suicide
 - 1,028 injured and survive
 - Gun death rate: 11.5 per 100K
 - 37th highest in the US
- From 2012 to 2021:
 - Gun death rate up 62% [US: 39%]
 - Gun suicide rate up 33% [US: 19%]
 - Gun homicide rate up 123% [US: 73%]





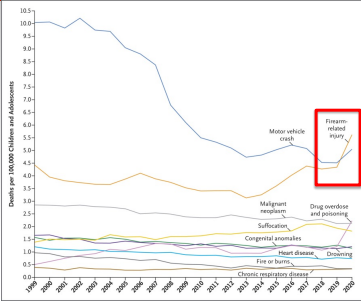
<https://everystat.org/>
Accessed 9/5/23




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All Those Children

2020: Firearms became the leading cause of death for children and adolescents (1-19) in the US





Goldstick JE, Cunningham RM, Carter P. (2022) New England Journal of Medicine. 386:1955-1956.



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Why US?




12

An American Culture

US vs. other high income OECD countries (2010):

- Most civilian-owned guns in the world
 - >2x Yemen
- 120 guns per 100 adults
- ~1 in 3 US households has a gun
- Gun exposure even higher:
 - 72% adults have shot a gun
 - 2/3 have lived in households with guns
 - ~1/2 grew up in households with guns



The American Journal of Medicine (2016)
129, 266-273

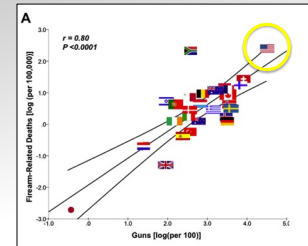


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An American Problem

The number of guns per capita per country is a strong and independent predictor of firearm-related death in a given country



Bangalore S, Messeri FH. Gun ownership and firearm-related deaths. Am J Med. 2013 Oct;126(10):873-6.



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An American Problem

US vs. other high income OECD countries (2010):

- All cause firearm death rates 10.0 x higher
- Gun homicide rates 25.2 x higher
 - Homicide rates 7x higher
- Gun suicide rates 8x higher
 - overall suicide rates average
- Unintentional gun death rate 6.2 x higher



The American Journal of Medicine (2016)
129, 266-273



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An American Problem

US vs. other high income OECD countries (2010):

- 90% of women
- 91% of children (0-14yo)
- 92% of young adults (15-24yo)
- 82% of all people

...killed by firearms in 2010 were from the US.



The American Journal of Medicine (2016)
129, 266-273



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An American Equity Problem

Black Americans are disproportionately affected by gun violence compared to white Americans. Black Americans experience:

- 10x more gun homicides (~30/day)
- 18x more gun assault injuries (~110/day)
- ~3x more fatal police shootings (1 e/o/d)
- Worse in large cities (Black Americans 68%)
- Worse in underserved communities



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. <https://everytownresearch.org/issue/gun-violence-black-americans/> (accessed 4/18/23)



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Firearm myths vs. reality

- Most Americans purchase guns for protection¹
- 81% of gun owners say having a gun in the home makes them feel safer²

BUT

- A gun in the home increases firearm risks³
 - Suicide OR 3.24
 - Homicide OR 1.94 (2.84 for women)

¹<https://news.gallup.com/poll/1645/guns.aspx>

²<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/08/16/for-most-u-s-gun-owners-protection-is-the-main-reason-they-own-a-gun/>

³Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, Rutherford G. Ann Intern Med. 2014 Jan 21;160(2):101-10.



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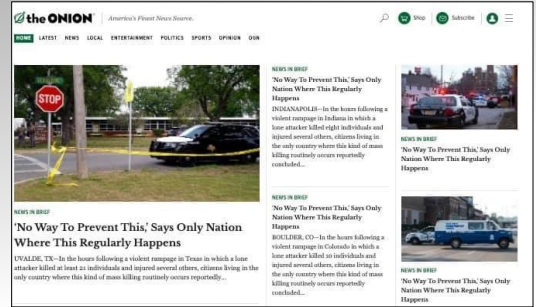
So What?

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"No Way To Prevent This," Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens



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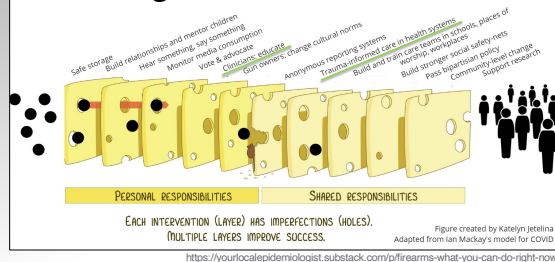
<https://www.theonion.com/no-way-to-prevent-this-says-only-nation-where-this-r-1848971688>

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There Is A Lot We Can Do

Reducing firearm deaths in the U.S.

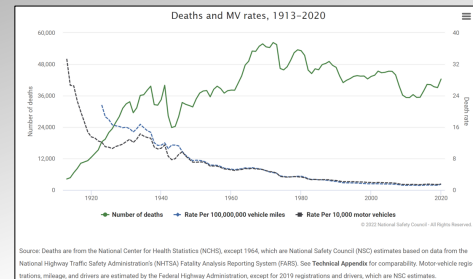


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There Is A Lot We Can Do



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We Occupy a Unique Role

- Patients trust us
- Patients expect us to counsel on safety
- We are uniquely positioned to identify risk

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So How?

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Objective 1:

Recall position statement organizations

- **American College of Physicians**. (2018)
- **American College of Surgeons** (2018)
- **AAFP** (2018)
- **American Psychiatric Association** (2015)
- **American Association of Pediatrics** (2022)
- **VA** partnership with National Shooting Sports Foundation and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (2019)



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Objective 1:

Recall position statement organizations

Medical Summit on Firearm Injury Prevention

- Inaugurated 2019
- Most recent meeting in Chicago, Sept 10-11, 2022
- Cohosted by
 - American College of Surgeons
 - American College of Physicians
 - American College of Emergency Physicians
 - American Academy of Pediatrics
 - Council of Medical Specialty Societies
 - (47 total)
- Proceedings published June, 2023¹



¹Journal of the American College of Surgeons 236(6) p 1242-1260, June 2023.



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My "Trusted Nerds"

ACP
Annals of Internal Medicine
LATEST ISSUES CHANNELS CME/MOC IN THE CLINIC JOURNAL CLUB WEB EXCLUSIVES AUTHOR INFO
• PREV ARTICLE • THIS ISSUE • NEXT ARTICLE •
POSITION PAPERS | 20 NOVEMBER 2018
Reducing Firearm Injuries and Deaths in the United States: A Position Paper From the American College of Physicians
Renee Butkus, BA; Robert Doherty, BA; Sue S. Bornstein, MD, for the Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians *



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ACP 2018

Position Statements and Recommendations:

1. Public Health Approach
2. We have a special responsibility
3. Supports regulating firearm purchases
4. Guns should be subject to consumer product regulation
5. Firearm owners should adhere to best practices
6. ACP cautions against broadly including those with mental health diagnoses in "dangerous" category



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ACP 2018

Position Statements and Recommendations:

7. Favors legislation to ban semiautomatic firearms and retain automatic weapons ban
8. Supports efforts to modify firearms to improve safety
9. More research is needed!
 - Accurate data are critical to understanding
 - CDC, NIH, NIJ should receive adequate funding
10. Supports enactment of ERPO laws



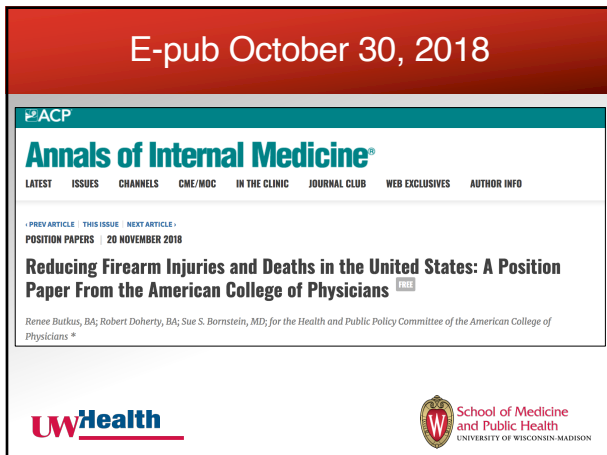
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What Role(s) Can We Play?



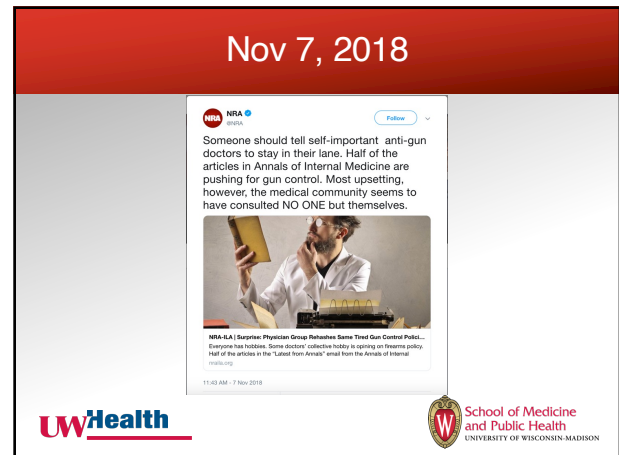
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E-pub October 30, 2018



31

Nov 7, 2018



32

Nov 9, 2018



33

Nov 16, 2018



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There are no state or federal statutes prohibiting discussions about a patient's access to firearms.



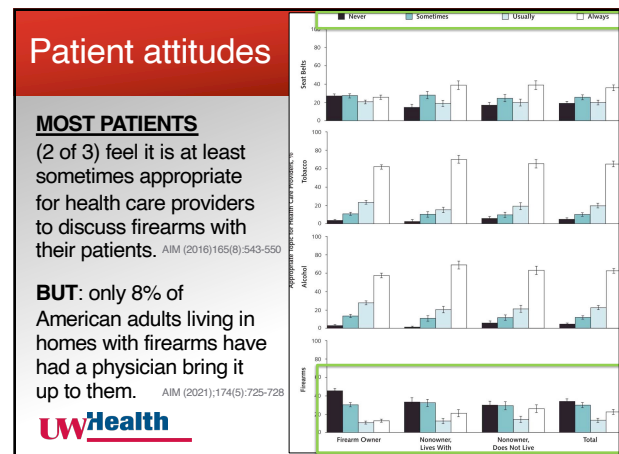
35

Patient attitudes

MOST PATIENTS

(2 of 3) feel it is at least sometimes appropriate for health care providers to discuss firearms with their patients. *AIM (2016) 165(8):543-550*

BUT: only 8% of American adults living in homes with firearms have had a physician bring it up to them. *AIM (2021):174(5):725-728*



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Why Aren't We Asking??



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Our Barriers are Common Barriers!

- Lack familiarity with firearms
- Lack familiarity with risks and benefits
- Lack familiarity with resources
- Concern for effectiveness
- Concern for reaction
- Personal belief (outside scope of practice)
- No time



• <https://www.bulletpointproject.org/>
 • Ann Intern Med. 2016 Aug 2;165(3):205-13. doi: 10.7326/M15-2905. Epub 2016 May 17. PMID: 27163181.



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Our Barriers are Surmountable!

We know how to do this for other subjects!

- A kind of cultural competence
- MANY resources available
- Many evidence-based methods & interventions



Betz ME, Wintemute GJ. Physician Counseling on Firearm Safety: A New Kind of Cultural Competence. JAMA. 2015 Aug 4;314(5):449-50.



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Objective 2:

Identify trusted reference (background info)

Objective 3:

Identify trusted reference (patient education)

Objective 4:

Recommend safer behaviors

Objective 5:

Develop scripts

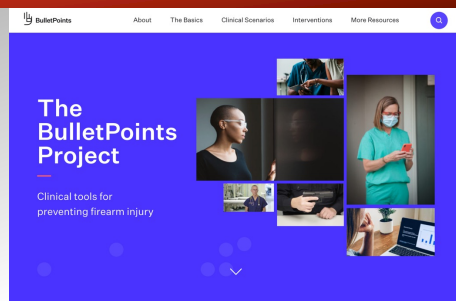


<https://www.bulletpointproject.org/>



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UC Davis: BulletPoints Project



<https://www.bulletpointproject.org/>



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UC Davis: BulletPoints Project

- Web resources
- Patient Printables
- Blog
- E-mail newsletter
- Webinars
- CME



<https://www.bulletpointproject.org/>



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BulletPoints Project: CME

BulletPoints

Preventing Firearm Injury: What Clinicians Can Do

- Free
- 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

<https://continuingeducation.bulletpointsproject.org/courses/preventing-firearm-injury/>

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The 3 A's Framework

Approach

Assess

Act

Advocate

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Adapted from <https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>



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The 3 A's
Framework
BulletPoints

Approach

Approach

- Address knowledge gaps!
- Ask your patients!

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<https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>



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So How Do We Ask?

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The 3 A's
Framework
BulletPoints

Approach (Ask)

About 1 in 3 US households has a gun, and gun owners are a diverse group.

It is difficult to accurately predict who does and doesn't own a gun.

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<https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>



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The 3 A's
Framework
BulletPoints

Approach (Ask)

- Be informed
- Be respectful – practice cultural humility
- Focus on harm reduction
- Be individualized
- Language matters!

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<https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>



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Cultural Competency

- Research suggests gun owners prefer:
 - Non-judgmental language
 - Language emphasizing autonomy

[Just like all other motivational interviewing!]



Marino, et al. (2016) *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 37(1):110-121.



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Assess

- Risk factors
- Ideation or threats
- Access to guns
- Willingness to collaborate



<https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>



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Assess

Try using the 5 L's:

Locked?
Loaded?
Little children?
Feeling Low?
Learned owner?



Pirnholt, et al. 2014



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Assess

Risk Factors

- Psychiatric d/o (i.e., MDD, BPDO, schizophrenia)
- AODA (esp alcohol, stimulants)
- PMH suicide attempts
- PSH: violence, IPV
- Dementia/cognitive impairment
- Stressors: recent relationship or job loss
- Unsafe gun storage
- Veteran
- Vulnerable residents in the home (including visitors!):
 - Children
 - Anyone with above risks



Pallin & Barnhorst. *Inj. Epidemiol.* 8, 57 (2021).



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Objective 5: Develop scripts

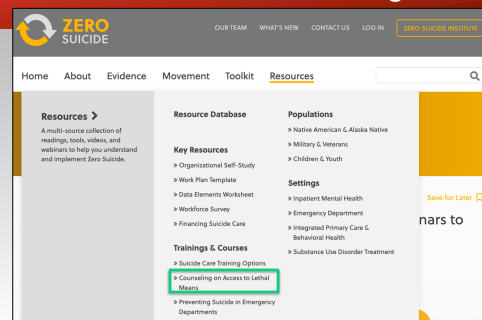
Assess for access:

- "A lot of my patients have guns at home. Are there any firearms in or around your home?"
- "Have you thought about how to keep your kids safe around your guns?"
- "What do you think about storing your guns off-site until the situation improves?"
- <https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/how-to-counsel/>



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Free Lethal Means Counseling Course



<https://zerosuicide.edc.org/>



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Objective 4: Recommend safer behaviors

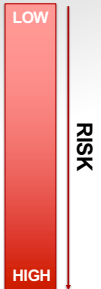
- Treat high risk “comorbidities”
- Counsel safer gun storage
- Remove guns from high risk situations
- Follow up after any intervention
 - Risk amplifiers change over time!



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Act

- Safe Storage
- LM counseling/Temporary Transfer
- Mental Health Hold
- Civil Protective Order (e.g., ERPO)

Adapted from <https://www.bulletpointproject.org/>

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Gun Storage

- **Less than half (~46%) of gun owners report safely storing ALL of their guns**
- **The safest way to store a gun is “triple locked”**
 1. Unloaded
 2. Locked up (with device)
 3. Separate from ammunition
 - Inaccessible to children, unauthorized users, others at risk
 - (hidden keys, secret combinations, biometric)

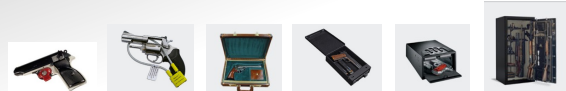
<https://www.bulletpointproject.org/safe-firearm-storage-devices>
 Crittasi CK, et al. Am J Public Health. 2018 Apr;108(4):532-537.



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Gun Storage Resources

- Bullet Points Project
 - <https://www.bulletpointproject.org/safe-firearm-storage-devices/>
- Project Child Safe *
 - https://projectchildsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PCS_SafeStorage_20-print.pdf
- National Shooting Sports Foundation
 - https://www3.nssf.org/share/infographics/GunSafeInfographic_LetterSize.pdf
- NRA
 - <https://www.nrafamily.org/content/6-ways-to-safely-store-your-firearms-2/>



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Does Storage Counseling Work?

Effectiveness of Interventions to Promote Safe Firearm Storage

All Rowhani-Rahbar*, Joseph A. Simonetti, and Frederick P. Rivara

- Systematic review of safe firearm storage interventions
- 7 studies (heterogenous)
 - 3 provided safety device → significantly improved storage practices
 - 3 of 4 counseling only → no effect
 - **Summary: overall suggests interventions are helpful**



Epidemiologic Reviews, Volume 38, Issue 1, 1
January 2016, Pages 111–124.



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Does Storage Counseling Work?

Lethal Means Counseling, Distribution of Cable Locks, and Safe Firearm Storage Practices Among the Mississippi National Guard: A Factorial Randomized Controlled Trial, 2018–2020

Michael D. Anestis, PhD, Craig J. Bryan, PhD, Daniel W. Capron, PhD, and Annabelle O. Bryan, MS

- 232 firearm-owning members of the Mississippi National Guard
 - Counseling vs control; counseling alone vs + lock
 - 3, 6 mo follow up
- LM counseling alone: **increased use of gun safes/locking devices 40%**
- LM + cable locks: **2x more likely to use locking devices**



Am J Public Health. 2021 Feb;111(2):309-317.



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Gun Storage – Guideline Statements

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

- PICO 1: We conditionally recommend that gun locks be used to prevent unintentional firearm injury. (LOE: Level III)
- PICO 2: Because of the large effect size and the reasonable quality of available evidence with safe storage of firearms, we recommend safe storage prevent firearm-related injuries. (LOE: Level III)

J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2018;84: 1003–1011

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Act

- Safe Storage
- LM counseling/Temporary Transfer
- Mental Health Hold
- Civil Protective Order (e.g., ERPO)

LOW
RISK
HIGH

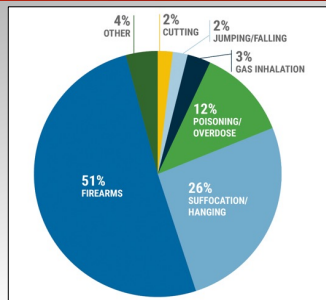
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Adapted from <https://www.bulletpointproject.org/>

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Suicide Death Rates in the U.S. by Method (1996-2016)



Case Fatality Rates:

- Poisoning/OD: 1-2%
- Cutting: 1-2%
- Firearms: 80-90%

The lethality [& irreversibility] of the method used in a suicide attempt is one of the biggest factors determining whether the person lives or dies.

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¹Retrieved from <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> (via Zero Suicide)

²Spicer, et al. (2000) American Journal of Public Health, 90(12), 1885

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Guns and Suicide Risk

- Only 5% of suicide attempts are by firearm, BUT
- 50% of completed US suicides are by firearm
- ~90% of suicide attempts by firearm result in death¹
- Majority of near-lethal SA made with little planning²
- Firearm in the house → 3x risk of completed SA³
- Time and distance → saves lives

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¹Ann Int Med. 2019 Dec 17;171(12):885-895.

²N Engl J Med. 2008 Sep 4;359(10):989-91.

³Ann Intern Med. 2014 Jan 21;160(2):101-10.

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Research Suggests Warning Signs

- Of people who die by suicide in the US
 - ~40% of people are seen by PCPs within the preceding month¹
 - >75% within the preceding year²
 - ~80% of people considering suicide show signs³
- Active shooters display 4-5 warning behaviors prior to act³
 - Mental Health
 - Problematic interpersonal interactions
 - Other signs of violent intentions
- **Like a sentinel bleed**

¹O'Connor E, Gaynes BN, Burda BU, Soh C, Whitlock EP. Ann Intern Med. 2013 May 21;158(10):741-54.

²Luoma JB, Martin CE, Pearson JL. Am J Psychiatry. 2002 Jun;159(6):909-16.

³Robert Golden, Fred Peterson, and Carla Weiland. The truth about illness and disease. Infobase Publishing 2009

⁴Silver, et al. "A Study of the Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters in the United States." Federal Bureau of Investigation, June 2018

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Model: Reducing Access to Lethal Means

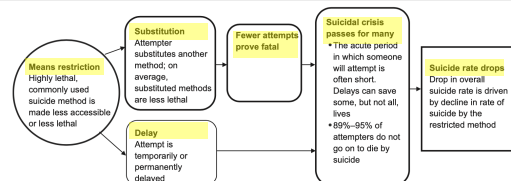


Figure 1. Conceptual model of how reducing access to a highly lethal and commonly used suicide method saves lives at the population level

**More people stop an attempt than complete it.
Irreversibility of the method matters.²**

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¹Barber & Miller. Am J Prev Med (2014);47 (3S2) :S264-272.

²Drum, et al. Professional Psychology (2009). 40(3), 213-222.

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Does Storage Counseling Reduce Harms?

EVIDENCE BASED PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE

Safer storage of firearms at home and risk of suicide: a study of protective factors in a nationally representative sample

Edmond D Shenassa, Michelle L Rogers, Kirsten L Spalding, Mary B Roberts

- Counseling patients on safer storage practices has been associated with increased rates of safer storage among gun owners.
- Firearm owners who practice safer storage practices (locked, unloaded) are *at least* 60% less likely to be firearm related suicide compared to owners who do not.



J Epidemiol Community Health.
2004 Oct;58(10):841-8.



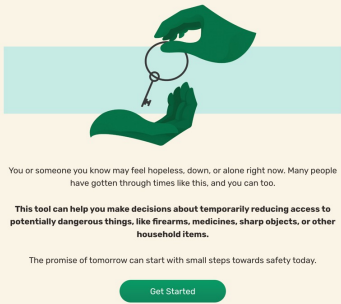
67

Objective 6: Complete a gun safety plan



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Lock to Live



Beltz ME, Knoepke CE, Siny B, Clement A, Azrael D, Ernestus S, Matlock DD. Inj Prev. 2018 Oct 13.



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Temporary transfer

- Focus on words like “voluntary” and “temporary”
- Focus on specific, feasible plans
- Potential sites:
 - Family members (WI: no background ✓ or license req)*
 - Gun shops/ranges
 - Law enforcement
 - Storage facilities**
 - Pawn shops

*Harvard: Means Matter <https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/127/2018/09/State-Laws-Pertaining-to-Temporary-Firearm-Transfer-to-Protect-Persons-At-Risk.pdf>

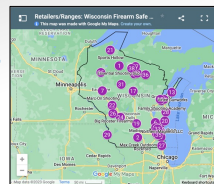
**Check facility policies



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Temporary Transfers

- Wisconsin Gun Shop Project:
 - <https://www.betherewis.com/firearm-storage-online-map/> *
 - <https://safercommunity.net/gun-shop-project/#resources>
- Hold My Guns non-profit:
 - <https://www.holdmyguns.org/>



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Does Temporary Transfer Work?

- Data needed



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The 3 A's Framework
Bulleted Points

Act

- Safe Storage
- LM Counseling/Temporary Transfer
- Mental Health Hold (5150)
- Civil Protective Order (e.g., ERPO)

RISK
LOW
HIGH

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Adapted from <https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>
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Extreme Risk Protection Order

- Temporarily remove firearms from people who may pose a risk to themselves or others
- **Involuntary**
- 21 states + DC
- Heterogenous
- Requested by 3rd parties
 - Law enforcement
 - Family/household members
 - Employers/Co-workers
 - Educators
 - *Only 5/21 allow Medical petitioners



<https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/implementERPO>

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The 3 A's Framework
Bulleted Points

Act

No ERPO in WI, however: **YOU CAN DISCLOSE**

HIPAA: Disclosure permitted when “necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and **imminent threat** to the health or safety of a person or the public and...is to a person or persons reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat”

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>

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Do ERPOs work?

Following 1999 enactment of ERPO law in CT ('99-13):

- For every 10-20 guns removed from someone in crisis
- 1 suicide was prevented
- **NNT = 10-20**

Swanson JW et al., *Law and Contemporary Problems* 179-208 (2017)

Following 2005 enactment of ERPO law in IN ('05-15)

- **7.5% reduction in firearm suicides**

Kivisto AJ, et al., *Psychiatric Services* 69(8):855-862 (2018)

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I'm Not A Lawyer, but...

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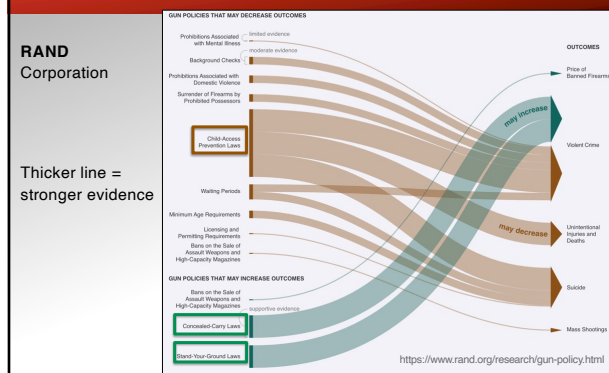
Resources on Firearm Laws

- Giffords Law Center
 - <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/>
- NRA-ILA website
 - <https://www.nraila.org/gun-laws/state-gun-laws/>
- Johns Hopkins (ERPO)
 - <https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/implementERPO>
- Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
 - <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/state-laws-and-published-ordinances-firearms-34th-edition>
- RAND: State Firearm Law Database
 - <https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TLA243-2-v2.html>

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How do gun policies affect outcomes?



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Recent Federal Legislation

- **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (S2938)**
 - Signed into law June 2022
 - Funding to establish state ERPOs
 - Closes “boyfriend” loophole (dating/intimate partners)
 - Funds community violence intervention programs
 - Req. enhanced background ✓ < 21 yo for long guns
 - Addresses gun trafficking
 - Updates language re: licensed gun sellers
 - **May 14, 2023:** Executive Action supporting above



<https://giffords.org/press-release/2022/06/giffords-celebrates-president-biden-signing-of-bipartisan-safer-communities-act/>



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2023-2025 Wisconsin Legislation

- 5/2/23: All gun violence prevention budget items removed by JCF
- Reintroduced as bills June 2023
 - AB 368: Universal background checks
 - AB 350: ERPOs
 - AB 352: Sales tax exemption for gun safes/locks
 - AB 173, AB 355: Gun Shop Project
- Fall Floor Periods
 - September 12 - 21; October 10 - 19; November 7 - 16



https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/tb/jfc/motions/2023/2023_05_02/000_budget_motions/motion_10_omnibus_budget_motion

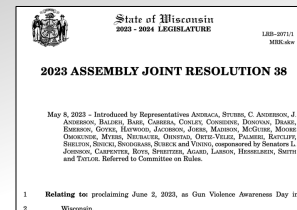


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Wisconsin: AJR 038 – introduced 5/8

Bipartisan Joint Resolution on Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 2, 2023)



<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/proposals/ajr38>



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How to get involved

FIRST AND FOREMOST:

Check your institution's advocacy policies!



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How to get involved

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Medical advocacy groups | HAVI AFFIRM #This Is Our Lane (WI) |
| Society-associated advocacy | ACP WMS |
| State/National Community | Moms Demand Action WAVE WI Coalition for Gun Safety |
| Write an Op-Ed | June: Gun Violence Awareness Sept: Suicide Awareness Oct: Domestic Violence Awareness |
| Legislative advocacy | Contact your Rep/Sen Public hearings on bills (*online!) |

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ACP-WI Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Workgroup

- Mara Terras, MD, FACP
 - mara.terras@gmail.com
- Sophie Kramer, MD, FACP
 - drsophiekramer@gmail.com
- Siobhan Wilson, MD, PhD, FACP
 - dr.siobhanwilson@gmail.com
- & more!



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Wisconsin Coalition for Gun Safety

- Co-chairs:
 - Rep. Shelia Stubbs
 - Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov
 - Rep. Deb Andraca
 - Rep.Andraca@legis.wisconsin.gov
 - Sen. LaTonya Johnson
 - contact via website
- Monthly meetings (9/11 @ 3:00P)
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/join?register=1&zoom-join=0&id=F78vQY4xIqJ09QEA5u3DOE>



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Learning Objectives

After this lecture, you will be able to...

1. **Recall** what medical organizations have or are developing position statements or guidelines regarding guns and medicine
2. **Identify** at least one reference that will allow you to quickly access high quality, evidence-based information on guns and medicine
3. **Identify** at least one high quality, evidence-based resource for patient education on gun safety
4. **Recommend** "safer," evidence-based behaviors to your patients regarding gun ownership and use
5. **Develop** (or borrow!) verbal scripts and/or note templates for counseling regarding gun safety
6. **Complete** a gun safety plan with a patient



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Take Home Points

- There are evidence-based ways to reduce harms from firearms
- Medical providers have a special role we can play in reducing firearm injuries



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THANK YOU!



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Additional Resources

| | All free of cost |
|-----------------------|---|
| ACP Toolkit | Reducing Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths - Policy, resources - Sample letters to legislators |
| Bullet Points Project | See previous slides Preventing Firearm Injury (CME: 1 hr) Train the Trainer CME 10/25/23 (CME: 4.25 hrs) |
| ZeroSuicide | CALM Lethal Means counseling course (online module, 2hrs, no CME) Informational handouts |
| Johns Hopkins | www.coursera.org/learn/gun-violence (17 hrs) Focus: public health, legal, policy |



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Additional Resources

| | All free of cost |
|--|---|
| Stanford | Clinicians and Firearms: A Curriculum on Firearm Injury Prevention in Medical Practice (CME: 1 hr) |
| American Academy of Pediatrics Toolkit | https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/gun-safety-and-injury-prevention |
| Means Matter (Harvard) | LM Counseling resources Gun Shop Project |
| Northwell Health | The Gun Violence Prevention Learning Collaborative for Health Systems and Hospitals |



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Lethal Means Counseling Scripts

Collaborative/Guiding

"Lots of people have guns at home. Some will store their guns outside of their home temporarily—such as at a relative's house or a gun shop—until they are feeling better. What do you think about a strategy like that?"

Directive

"I'm going to recommend that for now you store your guns away from home. Is that something you could do?"



¹<https://zerosuicide.edu/>
[Counseling on Access to Lethal Means]



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LM Counseling: Challenging Scenarios

Not willing to disclose

"Will you tell me what you're worried would happen if you say you have a gun? I may be able to ease those worries."

Patients worried about you "taking away" their guns

"I am not questioning your right to own guns. Since you've talked about feeling suicidal, I'm concerned about helping you stay safe. Have you also been concerned?"



¹<https://zerosuicide.edc.org/>
[Counseling on Access to Lethal Means]



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LM Counseling: Challenging Scenarios

Worried about confidentiality

"Before we talk about your specific situation, I can let you know what sort of information I will write down and what I can omit."

When in doubt:

- Lead with curiosity!
- Honor patient values and autonomy
- Build collaborative relationships



¹<https://zerosuicide.edc.org/>
[Counseling on Access to Lethal Means]



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Safety Planning

Patients willing to collaborate:

- Online interactive Lethal Means Decision Aid
 - <https://lock2live.org/>
- VA resource
 - <https://www.va.gov/reach/lethal-means/>
- Safety in Dementia
 - <https://safetyindementia.org/>



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Safety in Dementia

<https://safetyindementia.org/>

| IN HOME STORAGE | OUT OF HOME OPTIONS |
|--|---|
| LOCK BOX OR LOCKING DEVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person with dementia should not have access to key or PIN Gun can still be accessed by authorized users Gun must be unloaded for some devices Some may be easy to break into Lock boxes can be too small for some items, particularly rifles | FAMILY, FRIEND, NEIGHBOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick and easy way to get firearms out of home May require a background check, depending on state Firearm is stored with a trusted person Some people are not allowed to possess firearms Person with dementia may be anxious if firearms not accessible |
| GUN SAFE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person with dementia should not have access to key or PIN Gun can still be accessed by authorized users Can store guns of many sizes Can be more expensive than smaller devices Large size requires more space in home Can use change combination on dial safes | GUN SHOP OR SHOOTING RANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trusted member of firearm community Some shops may provide pickup services or private lockers Some facilities may need a background check or even store firearms - call ahead to check |
| DISASSEMBLE OR DISABLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be a good option if person with dementia is unsure about not having access to firearms Can give most parts to other people without background checks Some firearms cannot be easily disassembled Call local law enforcement or gun shops if unsure how to disassemble or disable firearms | GIVE AWAY OR SELL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firearms can be sold through gun shops, retailers, or other services May require specific forms or permits for gun transfer, such as a legal power of attorney Check with local law enforcement for buy-back or donation options Laws and regulations vary state-by-state; consult with a firearm retailer for more information |

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Safety Starts with You

Caring for someone with dementia can be hard.

There are physical, emotional, financial, and life-style changes to face. There are also new issues to think about. Thinking about these safety concerns can prevent injuries and deaths.

Now is the time to make choices and plans for the future. You may have already thought about some steps to improve safety at home. You may have had discussions about what to do about driving or firearm access. This site can support these discussions.

These can be hard topics to tackle, but you're not alone. Many others have faced issues like this.

The tools on this site can help you make decisions about safety and dementia.



What do I do about firearm access? →



When is the time to stop driving? →



How can I make the home safer? →

<https://safetyindementia.org/>

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HOME ABOUT FIREARM LIFE PLAN RESOURCES Q

FIREARM RESPONSIBILITY AND PLANNING:

Creating a Firearm Life Plan

[Download Full Toolkit](#)

<https://firearmlifeplan.org/>

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