

Suicide Prevention for Firearm Owners



As a firearm owner, being responsible with your firearm and knowing more about suicide prevention can save lives. One unsecured firearm can put everyone in a household at risk of injury or death, not just the firearm owner. The decision to attempt suicide can happen in a matter of minutes. Being able to recognize a crisis, along with having your firearm properly stored and secured, could be the difference between life and death for yourself or a loved one.

DID YOU KNOW?

45%

of suicides in Maryland involved firearms between 2003 - 2020

(Maryland Violent Death Reporting System, 2023)



The majority of firearm deaths in the US are suicides. There are more firearm suicide deaths than firearm homicides.

(Pew Research Center, 2023)



Unsecured handguns are used in the majority of firearm suicides.

(Death Studies, 2022; Rutgers, 2022)

Suicide is preventable. You can save a life.

1 Be SMART Safety Store Your Firearms



S **Secure** all firearms in your home and vehicles

M **Model** responsible behavior around guns

A **Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes

R **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide

T **Tell** your peers to Be SMART

2 VOLUNTARY FIREARM STORAGE



If someone is feeling suicidal, has recently attempted suicide, or is experiencing a crisis, remove firearms until the situation improves. Consider storing firearms at a temporary, voluntary external safe storage option.

For more information, visit mdpgv.org/safestoragemap

3 MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS? CALL OR TEXT 988



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