



Efforts to Limit Access to Lethal Means

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 Office of Health Promotion, Violence and Injury Prevention Section

August 7, 2023

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Illinois Department of Public Health

Office of
Health
Promotion

**Division of
Emerging
Health
Issues**

**Violence
and Injury
Prevention
Section
(VIPS)**



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Presentation Overview

- Overview of IDPH/VIPS
- Burden of firearm-related deaths
- Overview of IDPH/VIPS's efforts to limit access to lethal means
 - Recent legislation
 - Increase awareness of the Firearms Restraining Order Act
 - Increase awareness of safe storage
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Limit access to lethal means
 - Other related-projects
 - Hospital-based violence intervention



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IDPH Efforts to Limit Access to Lethal Means:

OVERVIEW OF IDPH/VIPS



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Violence and Injury Prevention Section (VIPS) Staff

Staff

- Dr. Sarah Patrick, Division Chief, Division of Emerging Health Issues
- Jennifer Martin, Injury and Violence Prevention Project Manager
- Jill McCamant, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- Megan Koch, Violence and Injury Epidemiologist
- Vacant, Rape Prevention and Education

Contractual/Graduate Interns

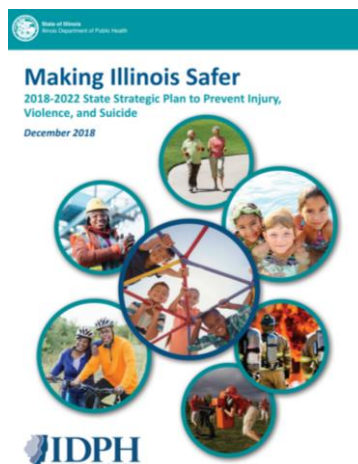
- Ana Betancourt, Hospital-based Violence Intervention Coordinator
- Rohit Kaushik, GPSI Motor Vehicle Data Linkage Project
- Neva Wright, GPSI Adolescent Suicide Prevention
- Vacant, GPSI Injury and Violence Prevention (*starting Aug 16*)
- Vacant, GPSI Rape Prevention and Education



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State public and private partnership

- Illinois Partnership for Safety
 - Focus on both unintentional and intentional injury prevention across the life span
 - Advisory for the [Making Illinois Safer: Strategic Plan 2018-2022](#)
 - Next meeting – Aug 14 from 1-3 (WebEx)



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State public and private partnership

- Director-appointed Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance
 - Focus on suicide prevention across the life span
 - Advisory for the [Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan](#)
 - Next meeting – Aug 29 10-1 (WebEx)



ILLINOIS SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN



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Priority areas

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences** (CDC funding)
- **Child Product Safety** (Public Act)
- **Firearm-Related Safety** (GRF funding)
- **Rape Prevention and Education/Sexual Assault** (CDC and Block Grant funding)
- **Suicide Prevention**
 - Veterans (Partnership with IDHS)
 - Youth (IDPH/MCH, ISBE, and SAMSHA funding)
 - Across the lifespan (GRF and CDC funding)
- **Traumatic Brain Injury** (CDC funding)
- **Traffic Safety** (CDC and IDOT funding)
- Protective factors
 - **Resiliency** (ISBE funding)
- **Violence Prevention**
 - **Data** (GRF funding; CDC funding to bona fide agency)
 - **Hospital-Based Violence Intervention** (COVID funding)



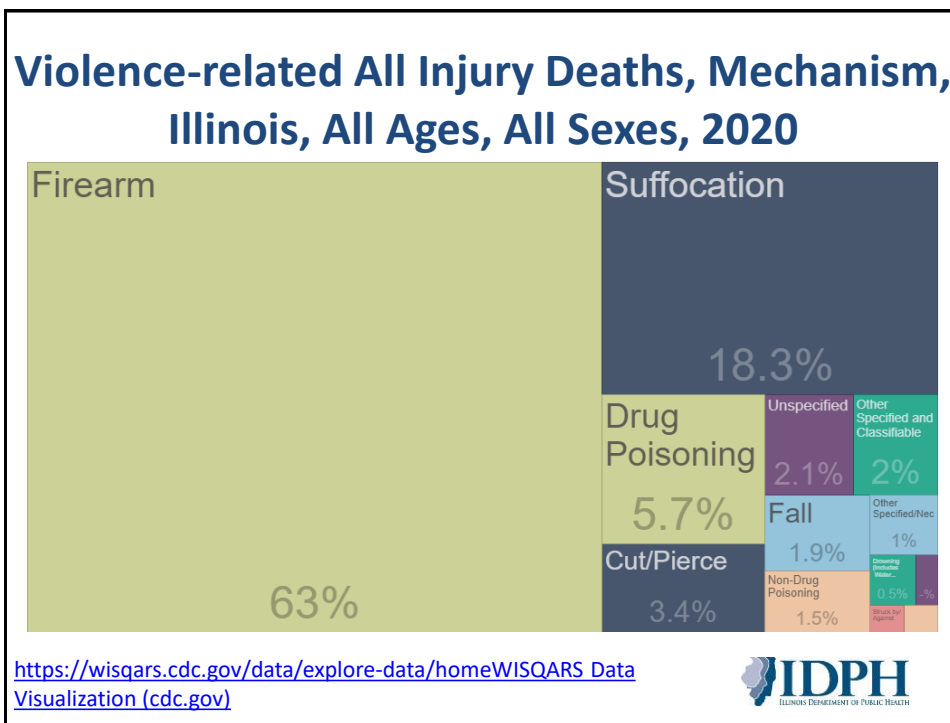
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IDPH Efforts to Limit Access to Lethal Means:

BURDEN OF FIREARM-RELATED DEATHS

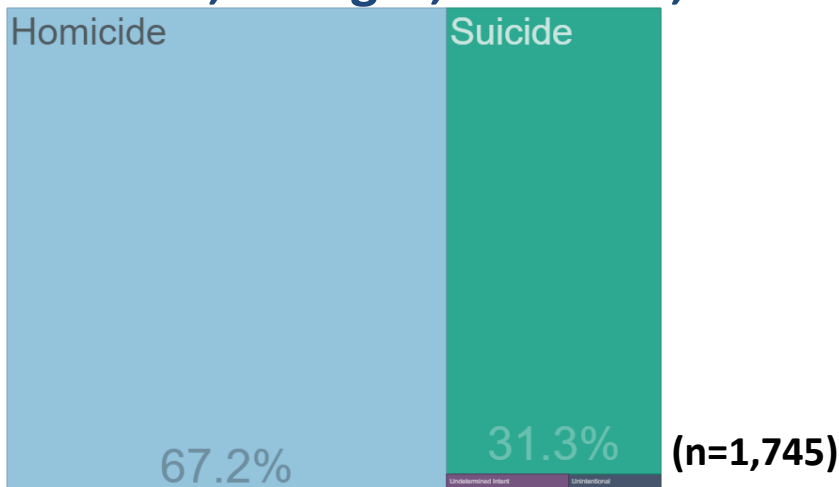


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Firearm Deaths, Illinois, All Intentions, All Races, All Ages, All Sexes, 2020

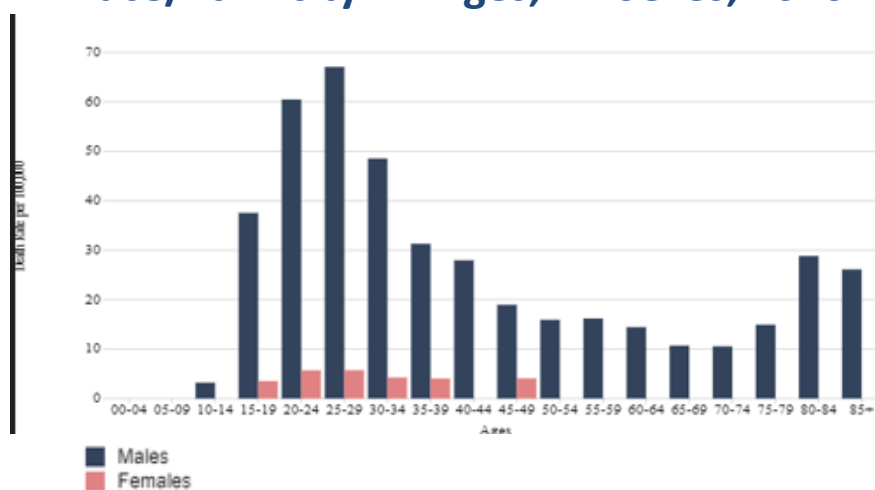


[https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/explore-data/homeWISQARS Data Visualization \(cdc.gov\)](https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/explore-data/homeWISQARS>DataVisualization(cdc.gov))



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Firearm-related Deaths, All Intentions, Illinois, All Race/Ethnicity All Ages, All Sexes, 2020



[https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/explore-data/homeWISQARS Data Visualization \(cdc.gov\)](https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/explore-data/homeWISQARS>DataVisualization(cdc.gov))

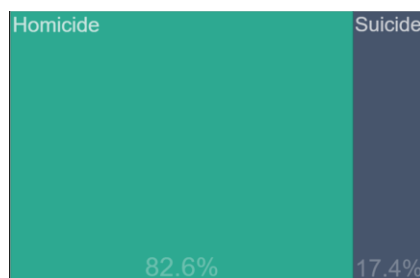
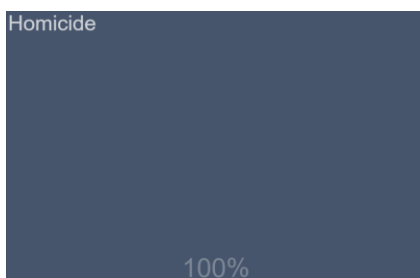


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Firearm-related Deaths, Illinois, Intent by Age Group, All Sexes, 2020

10-14 years of age (n= 16)

15-19 years of age (n=170)



<https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/explore-data/home> WISQARS Data Visualization (cdc.gov)

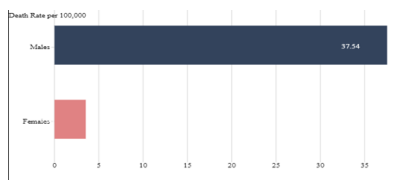
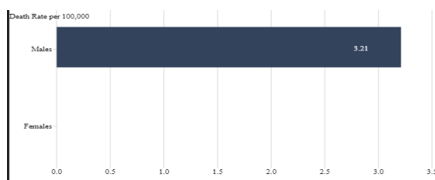


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Firearm-related Deaths, Illinois, by Sex by Age, All Race/Ethnicity, 2020

10-14 years of age (n=13)

15-19 years of age (n=170)

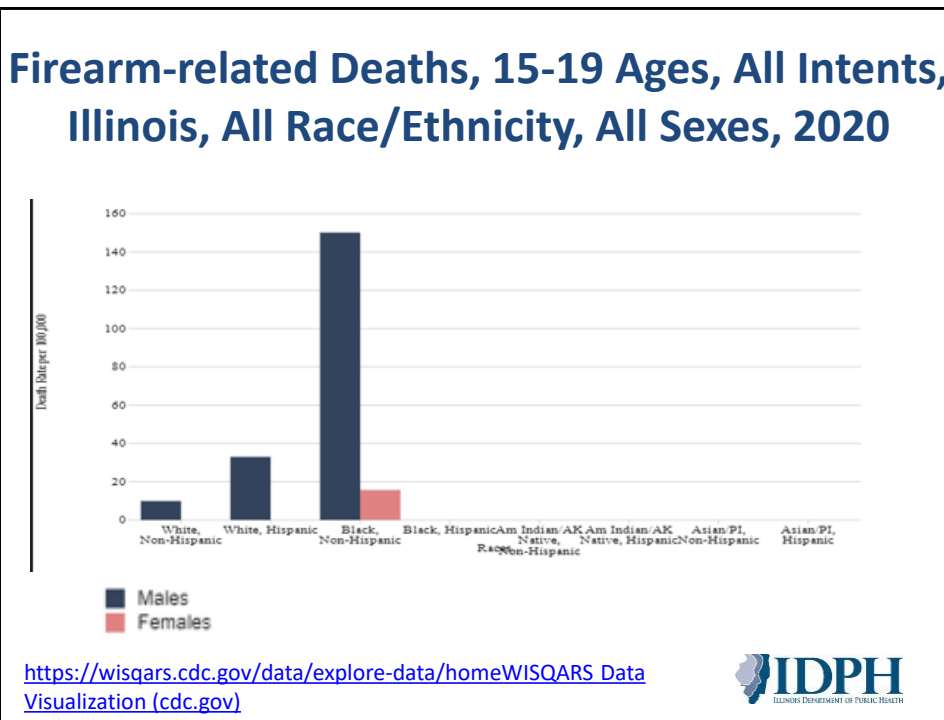


■ Females
■ Males

<https://wisqars.cdc.gov/data/explore-data/home> WISQARS Data Visualization (cdc.gov)



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IDPH Efforts to Limit Access to Lethal Means:

OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS TO LIMIT ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS

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Recent legislation - 1

- [Firearm Restraining Order Act Public Awareness](#) (PA 102-0345)
 - Promote awareness of firearms restraining orders (FRO) to the general public
 - Disseminate information of the options people have to seek assistance using a FRO and the process in which to file one
 - Production of materials that can be given to health care workers that assist in identifying people who may benefit from awareness of the FRO Act
 - Specific information on situations in which a FRO may be appropriate such as with situations of domestic violence, mental health crisis, or anyone who is at risk of injuring themselves or others.
 - Led by IDPH Communications Staff in collaboration with IDPH VIPS staff



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Firearms Restraining Order

- What is a FRO?
 - A FRO is a tool to buy time when it matters most and empowers law enforcement and families to prevent gun violence and firearm related suicide.
 - Provides a formal legal process to ask a civil court to issue a FRO to temporarily limit an individual's access to firearms, ammunition, and firearm parts when that person poses a significant danger to themselves or others.
- When is a FRO needed?
 - In heightened moments, removing access to firearms to those at risk of harming themselves and others provide a time to pause.



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Firearms Restraining Order

- Who can petition for a FRO?
 - A family or household member or law enforcement can ask, or “petition,” an Illinois circuit court for an order to temporarily limit firearm access for a “respondent,” the individual who poses a danger of injury.
- How long does a FRO last?
 - There are two types of FROs:
 - an emergency FRO that immediately addresses a crisis and lasts up to 14 days,
 - and a plenary FRO that provides longer protection but only after there has been a full court hearing.



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Recent legislation - 2

- [Safe Gun Storage Public Awareness Campaign](#) (PA 102-1067)
 - comprehensive 2-year statewide safe gun storage public awareness campaign
 - The campaign is divided into the following 3 phases:
 - Statewide messaging (*Lead by IDPH Communications in collaboration with IDPH VIPS*)
 - Build upon the FRO Awareness campaign
 - A gun lock and gun safe distribution campaign and gun buy-back program
 - Partnership with the VA to distribute cable gun locks (request form; state fair)
 - A comprehensive evaluation



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Safe Storage Resources

- **Families/Communities**

- [Gun Safety Campaign Toolkit \(American Academy of Pediatrics\)](#) – includes materials on “Ask About Guns” before sending your child over for playdates, Firearm Safety for Families
- Everytown for Gun Safety, who created [Be SMART](#) campaign to promote responsible gun ownership in order to reduce child gun deaths. SMART stands for Secure, Model, Ask, Recognize, Tell.
 - Under [Be SMART Resources](#) there are handouts on safe storage practices and types of safe storage. For instance, Asking About Secure Gun Storage, Guide to Secure Gun Storage Devices, Talking to Your Children About Guns, Keeping Your Home Safe with Secure Storage, etc.



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Safe Storage Resources

- **Families/Communities (cont.)**

- [Parents & Gun Owners \(National Shooting Sports Foundation: Project ChildSafe\)](#) – a partnership between National Shooting Sports Foundation and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Includes many resources such as [A Tip Sheet for Parents: Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Firearm Safety](#), [Safe Storage Options Infographics](#), [10 Tips for Firearm Safety at Home](#), [Firearm Safety in Vehicles](#), etc.
- Lurie Children’s Memorial Hospital created a [Firearm Safety Toolkit](#) (Electronic Version with Hyperlinks). [Firearm Safety Toolkit](#) (Print Version with Full URLs). [Resources for Parents & Caregivers](#) (pages 3-6 of the Firearm Safety Toolkit). [Resources for Parents & Caregivers](#) (pages 3-6 of the Firearm Safety Toolkit) (SPANISH)
- [Firearm Injury Prevention \(Injury Free Coalition for Kids\)](#) – includes a Firearm Injury Prevention Checklist



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Suicide Prevention

- [Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan 2020](#)
 - Goal 6: Reduce access to lethal means of suicide.
- Youth Suicide Prevention Early Intervention (SAMHSA)
 - Screening programs, post-suicide information; resources after an attempt; trainings for child welfare, juvenile justice, and higher education; **address reduction of access to lethal means**; input from those with lived experience and American Indian health services.
 - Depressions screening NOFO – screen for a gun in the home
- Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CDC)
 - Reduce access to lethal means among people at risk



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Other

- Hospital-based Violence Intervention
 - multidisciplinary programs that identify patients at risk of repeat violent injury and link them with hospital- and community-based resources aimed at addressing underlying risk factors for violence
- Data
 - Illinois Violent Death Reporting System
 - Emphasis report
- Collaboration with other initiatives
 - Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families led by IDHS
 - IDHS Office of Firearm Violence Prevention



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IDPH violence prevention efforts:

RESOURCES



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Firearm Restraining Order (FRO)

- [Firearms Restraining Order Brochure \(IL Attorney General\)](#) – a brochure for the general public on the Firearms Restraining Order.
- [Firearm Restraining Orders in Illinois \(Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority\)](#) – a research article providing an overview of FROs, including the FRO structure and impact in Illinois, research on FROs and similar types of laws, limitations and criticisms of FRO laws, and future direction for FRO laws and research.
- [Getting a Firearm Restraining Order against Someone \(Illinois Legal Aid\)](#) - a webpage providing information on what is a FRO, who can ask and file for a FRO and how to file a FRO and insight into factors after a FRO is issued.



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Educators

- [Educators \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Urge Your School Board to Keep Communities and Schools Safe \(Be SMART\)](#)



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Campaigns to help increase awareness of safe storage

Several organizations have created materials to help increase awareness of safe storage, including:

- Examples of general/broad safe storage-related awareness materials - [Secure Gun Storage Saves Kids' Lives \(English, Spanish\)](#), [End Family Fire](#), [Own It? Respect It. Secure It.](#), [National Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend](#), etc.
- Examples of materials to reach specific populations, such as pediatricians ([Gun Safety Campaign Toolkit](#)), hospitals ([Hospitals United](#)), etc.



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Health and Behavioral Health Care Professionals

- [Counseling on Access to Lethal Means \(Zero Suicide\)](#)
- [Firearm Injury Informational Resource Guide \(Doctors for America\)](#)
- [Firearm Injury Prevention Activities \(American College of Surgeons\)](#)
- [Gun Violence \(American Public Health Association\)](#)
- [Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis \(American Public Health Association\) https://youtu.be/8-HHp92KjNQ](#)
- [Hospital-based Violence Intervention \(The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention\)](#)
- [Learning Collaborative for Health Systems and Hospitals \(Center for Gun Violence Prevention | Northwell Health\)](#)
- [Prevention of Gun Violence \(American Academy of Family Physicians\)](#)
- [Safe Firearm Storage Video Series \(American Academy of Pediatrics\)](#)
- [Safer: Storing Firearms Prevents Harm – Online Course \(American Academy of Pediatrics\)](#)



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Storage Practices

- [Benefits of a Gun Lock Box \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Cable-style Gun Lock Installation Instructions - Spanish](#)
- [Firearm Storage and Safety Assessment Quiz \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Gun Lock Safety Brochure \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Gun Storage for Your Lifestyle \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Lock It Up. Simple. Secure. Ready \(Public Health Seattle & King County\)](#)
- [Safe Handling \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Ten Tips for Firearms Safety in Your Home \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Unload, Lock, and Separate: Secure Storage Practices to Reduce Gun Violence \(Be SMART\) - Spanish](#)



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Suicide Prevention

- [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)
- [A Tip Sheet For Parents: Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and Firearm Safety \(Project ChildSafe\)](#)
- [Facts and Resources on Child Firearm Suicide \(Be SMART\) - Spanish](#)
- [Firearms and Suicide - Project 2025 \(American Foundation for Suicide Prevention\)](#)
- [Firearms and suicide prevention \(American Foundation for Suicide Prevention\)](#)
- [Gun-related suicide prevention \(End Family Fire\)](#)
- [Lethal Means & Suicide Prevention: A Guide for Community & Industry Leaders \(National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention\)](#)
- [Lethal Means \(National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention\)](#)
- [Lethal Means Safety Guide for Military Service Members and their Families \(Defense Suicide Prevention Office\)](#)
- [Prevent Firearm Suicide \(Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions\)](#)
- [Safe2Help Illinois \(Illinois Emergency Management Agency\)](#)
- [Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business: A Toolkit for Safe Firearm Storage in Your Community \(US Department of Veterans Affairs, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, National Shooting Sports Foundation\)](#)



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Training

- [Counseling on Access to Lethal Means \(Zero Suicide\)](#)
- [Safe Storage of Firearms - Video Series \(American Academy of Pediatrics\)](#)
- [Safer: Storing Firearms Prevents Harm - online course \(American Academy of Pediatrics\)](#)
- [Training Portal: Illinois Governor's Challenge \(Illinois Department of Human Services\)](#)



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THANK YOU

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- IDPH Injury-Related Webpages
 - [Injury and Violence Prevention](#)
 - [Safety Recall System](#)
 - [Suicide Prevention \(adolescent\)](#)
- IDPH Injury Data-Related Webpages
 - [Injury-Related Data](#)
 - IDPH Vital Statistics – [Injury Deaths by County and Demographics](#) (scroll to bottom)