

*Every day in Oklahoma one person dies from a firearm injury—sometimes more.*

*Many injuries happen in **predictable, preventable** ways.*

*Keep firearms in a locked safe or cabinet and lock bullets in a separate place. Persons who are depressed or express intent to commit suicide should not have access to firearms.*

### Firearm Injuries in Oklahoma

- On average at least one person dies every day from a firearm injury in Oklahoma.
- Approximately 560 Oklahomans die each year from firearm-related injuries:
  - 380 suicides,
  - 150 homicides,
  - 10 deaths due to an unintentional injury from a firearm,
  - 20 deaths due to legal intervention or undetermined intent.
- 61% of all suicides and homicides are committed using a firearm.
- Firearm injuries are the third leading cause of injury death in Oklahoma behind motor vehicle crashes and unintentional poisoning.
- Firearms account for 1 out of every 6 injury deaths among Oklahomans.
- White people are about 2 times more likely to suicide using a firearm than black people, and 30% more likely to use a firearm to suicide than Native Americans.
  - Nearly 30% of suicide victims express their intent to commit suicide before they attempt it.
- Black people die 5 times more often due to a firearm-related homicide than Native Americans and 8 times more often than white people.
- Young males 5-24 years of age are at highest risk of dying due to an unintentional injury from a firearm.
- Approximately 31.2% of Oklahomans own a firearm<sup>1</sup>.
  - Studies indicate that having a firearm in the home increases the risk for firearm-related suicide and homicide in the home.
- Handguns are used in the majority of firearm deaths.

### Prevention

- Firearms should be kept in a locked place and bullets locked up in a separate place from the firearms.
- Use trigger locks, load indicators, and other safety devices.
- All gun owners should take a firearm safety course.
- Assure that children and unauthorized persons cannot gain access to guns.
- If persons are depressed or have expressed their intent to commit suicide, remove firearms from the environment to restrict access to lethal means.

### Internet Resources

- [http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/gun\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/gun_safety.html)
- <http://share.tn.gov/safety/pubsafety/handgunsafety.shtml>

**Live Injury-Free!**

<sup>1</sup> Kalesan B, Villarreal MD, Keyes KM, and Galea, S. (2015). Gun ownership and social gun culture. Injury Prevention Online First, 29 June 2015. doi:10.1136/injuryprev-2015-041586