FIREARM SAFETY:
Preventing Death by Suicide

FIREARMS ARE THE FOURTH LEADING CAUSE OF INJURY DEATH FOR CHILDREN AGES 10-19.*

Approximately nine children and adolescents ages 10 to 19 die by firearm injury each day in the U.S., and about three of those deaths are suicide-related firearm injury.

Firearm injury suicide death rates increased by 6.3% per year on average between 2010 and 2019.**

More than a third (39%) firearm injury deaths are related to suicide in adolescents ages 10-19.

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

American Indian/Alaskan Native youth have the highest rates of deaths by suicide:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: More than a third (39%) firearm injury deaths are related to suicide in adolescents ages 10-19.
- White:
- Black:
- Asian/Pacific Islander:
- Hispanic:
- Male:
- Female:

BY SEX

Males have a higher firearm suicide rate than females:

- Male: 6.8
- Female: 4.8

PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR FAMILIES: Store firearms safely, use gun safes or gun locks, and store bullets separately.

FOR CLINICIANS: Screen caregivers of youth for the presence of a firearm in the home and educate them around firearm safety.

FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES: Provide social and emotional learning and behavioral skills training to youth to reduce violence and prevent harmful use of firearms.

MORE INFORMATION

- Firearm Safety 2021 Resource Guide | Children’s Safety Network

- Firearm Violence Prevention | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Childhood Firearms Injuries in the United States | Pediatrics

SOURCES

* All data from CDC WISQARS, 2016-2019 unless noted.

** Joinpoint regression analysis for data from CDC WISQARS, 2010-2019 provided annual percent change for the time points in which firearm injury trends significantly changed.