Firearm safety is an important public health issue that can affect your health and your family’s well-being.

If you own a firearm, or live in a household where there are firearms, the following information can help keep you and those around you safe. Similarly, reducing access to other household risks, like medications, can help ensure your family’s safety.
Firearm Safety

Nearly half of all Veterans own a firearm, and most Veteran firearm owners are dedicated to firearm safety. Firearm injuries in the home can be prevented by making sure firearms are **unloaded, locked, and secured** when not in use, with ammunition stored in a separate location.

Firearm Storage Options

There are several effective ways to safely secure firearms, as shown below. Learn more and find the option that works best for you and your family from the National Shooting Sports Foundation at [www.nssf.org/safety](http://www.nssf.org/safety).

- **Cable Lock**
  - Price: $10–$50

- **Lockbox**
  - Price: $25–$350

- **Gun Safe**
  - Price: $200–$2,500

Talking About Suicide Risk

You can take simple steps to protect yourself and your family, particularly if you or others in the household are in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors.

If you are worried about a friend or family member, ask them directly about suicide and encourage them to seek help. Talk about safe firearm storage and the possibility of temporarily storing firearms with a trusted friend, relative, or elsewhere (check state and local laws).

You can ask for help from a primary care physician, mental health counseling center, or local emergency department. The Veterans Crisis Line also offers free, confidential support and crisis intervention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. To reach the crisis line, call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

Practicing safe storage can decrease risk for suicide.

Since many suicidal crises are brief, safe storage practices can save a life by increasing the amount of **time and space** between the suicidal impulse and access to a firearm or other household risks.