



STAYING SAFE AT HOME

As Americans confront the fear and uncertainty brought about by COVID-19, some individuals are turning to guns for a sense of safety and security. But the evidence is clear, guns do not make us safer.

Research shows that having a gun in the home increases ones likelihood of dying by suicide, assault, or unintentional shooting.

SUICIDE

- Access to a gun in the home increases the odds of suicide more than three-fold.¹
- Suicide attempts by firearm are almost always deadly -- 9 out of 10 firearm suicide attempts result in death. By comparison, the most frequently chosen suicide attempt methods, cutting and overdose, are less fatal, resulting in death in less than 2% of attempts.²

HOMICIDE

- Access to firearms in the home doubles the likelihood of household members dying by homicide.³
- Possessing a gun in public also increases the odds of being murdered. For example, one study found that individuals in possession of a firearm were 4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault when compared to their non-gun possessing counterparts.⁴

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE

- The likelihood of being murdered by an abusive partner increases five-fold when there is a gun in the home.⁵
- An abused woman is 10 times more likely to be threatened with a gun than to defend herself with one.⁶

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM DEATHS

- Individuals living in a home with a firearm are 3.7 times more likely to die by an unintentional gunshot injury.⁷
- Each year an estimated 110 children ages 0-14 die from unintentional shootings. The vast majority of these cases involve improperly stored firearms in the home.⁸

BOTTOM LINE: Access to firearms during this crisis, and at all times, greatly increases the risk of harm or death to you and your loved ones. If you choose to keep firearms in your home, store them locked and unloaded, and lock up ammunition separately from firearms.

¹ Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, & Rutherford G. (2014). [The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) *Annals of Internal Medicine.*

² Conner A, Azrael D, & Miller M. (2019). [Suicide case-fatality rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014: A nationwide population-based study.](#) *Annals of Internal Medicine.*

³ Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, & Rutherford G. (2014). [The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) *Annals of Internal Medicine.*

⁴ Branas CC, Richmond TS, Culhane DP, Ten Have TR, & Wiebe DJ. (2009). [Investigating the link between gun possession and gun assault.](#) *American Journal of Public Health.*

⁵ Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, Block C, Campbell D, Curry MA, Gary F, Glass N, McFarlane J, Sachs C, Sharps P. (2003). [Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study.](#) *American Journal of Public Health.*

⁶ Sorenson SB & Wiebe DJ. (2004). [Weapons in the lives of battered women.](#) *American Journal of Public Health.*

⁷ Wiebe DJ. (2003). [Firearms in US homes as a risk factor for unintentional gunshot fatality.](#) *Accident Analysis & Prevention.*

⁸ Hemenway D & Solnick SJ. (2015). [Children and unintentional firearm death.](#) *Injury Epidemiology.*