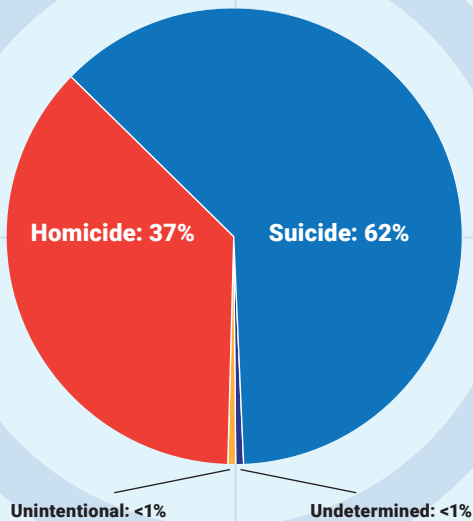


GUN OWNERS CAN SAVE LIVES

In 2021, 1924 people ended their lives with a firearm in Florida, which accounted for 62% of all gun deaths in the state. In Florida, the most common way to die by suicide is with a firearm, and the most common way to die by firearm is suicide.

62% OF FIREARM DEATHS IN FLORIDA IN 2021 WERE SUICIDES



**SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE
CALL OR TEXT**

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

FOR VETERANS, PRESS "1"

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself
- Gathering the items needed to kill oneself
- Talking about feeling hopeless or trapped, lack of purpose, or being in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious, agitated, reckless or full of rage
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Displaying extreme mood swings

ABOUT THE COALITION

The Broward Suicide Prevention Coalition formed in 2018 to address Broward County's rising suicide rate. Its goal is to coordinate and strengthen suicide prevention efforts countywide in order to save lives.

Firearms have been the leading method of suicide death in Broward for the last decade. To tackle this issue, the Coalition has adopted The Gun Shop Project, a best-practice model which includes gun owners and distributors in the suicide prevention effort.

The coalition is led by United Way of Broward County with the support of the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition and includes approximately 50 local agencies, including Broward County, Florida Department of Children and Families, Broward County Public Schools and Children's Services Council of Broward County.



GUN SAFETY RULES

~~11~~ 10 COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY

Look inside to see what's new!

THE ~~10~~ ¹¹ COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY

SHOOTING A GUN

- 1. Seek proper instruction.** Take a reputable firearms safety course or seek private instruction before using a firearm. Before using a new gun, learn how it operates and familiarize yourself with its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action, and how to safely remove ammunition. *Remember, a firearm's mechanical safety device is never foolproof and can never replace safe firearm handling.*
- 2. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.** Firearms are loud and emit debris and hot gases that can cause injury. *For these reasons, safety glasses and ear protectors are recommended.*
- 3. Be sure your gun and ammunition are compatible.** Only cartridges or shells designed for a particular gun can be safely fired by that gun. Most guns have their cartridge or shell type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and stamped on each cartridge. *Do not fire the gun if there is any question about the compatibility of the gun and ammunition.*

4. Carry only one gauge/caliber of ammunition when shooting. Smaller ammunition can be accidentally placed in a gun chamber designed for larger ammunition, creating an obstruction and a very hazardous situation. *Remove unfired ammunition from pockets to avoid accidentally mixing different ammunition.*

5. Be sure of your target—and what's beyond. Be absolutely sure you have identified your target and be aware of the area beyond your target. Observe your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction where there are people or potential for mishap. *It's simple: think first, shoot second.*

6. Don't mix alcohol or drugs with shooting. Any substance likely to impair mental or physical function should not be used before or while handling firearms. *Don't mix alcohol or drugs with shooting.*

OWNING & HANDLING A GUN

7. Store your guns safely and securely when not in use. Hiding guns where you think children or others will not find them is not enough. Always store guns unloaded and locked in a case or gun safe when not in use, with ammunition locked and stored in a separate location. *In the U.S., 8 children are accidentally shot every day, and a gun is stolen every 26 minutes, often out of vehicles.*

8. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. There's a natural tendency to place your finger on the trigger when holding a gun. Avoid it! Your trigger finger should be extended, pointing forward, pressed against the side of the firearm, above the trigger area.

9. Keep the action open and the gun unloaded until ready to use. When picking up a gun, immediately check the action to make sure the chamber is unloaded. If the gun has a magazine, make sure it is empty. Even if the magazine is empty or removed, a cartridge may still remain in the firing chamber. If you don't know how to open the gun's action, leave it alone or get help from someone who knows.

10. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. When shooting or handling your gun, never point the muzzle at yourself or at others. Usually, it is safest to point the gun upward or towards the ground. **Never point the muzzle at yourself or at others.**

11. Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member may be suicidal. When an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal trouble) or a major change in someone's behavior (like depression, violence, heavy drinking) causes concern, storing guns outside the home may save their life. Friends, shooting clubs, police departments, or gun shops may be able to store them until the situation improves.

