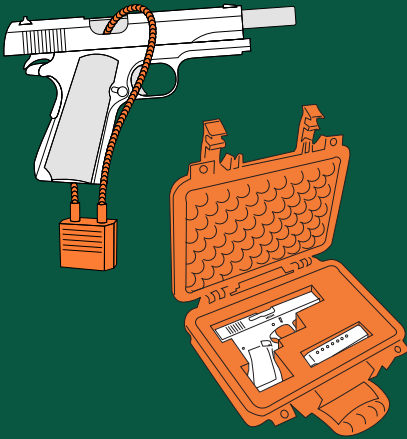


Safe Firearm Storage Can Make a Lifesaving Difference in Preventing Suicide



In 2021, there were 1,412 suicides in North Carolina. A firearm was used in 64% of them.

Gun locks, gun cases, and gun safes can all form a lifesaving barrier between a firearm and a person considering suicide. Please help us highlight the critical issue of secure firearm storage, especially as that relates to suicide prevention.

What You Can Do To Help

- ✓ **Learn About the Issue.** Firearms are a highly lethal means of suicide. Secure firearm storage puts time and space between a firearm and someone considering suicide.
- ✓ **Know the Steps of Secure Firearm Storage.** Whenever a firearm is not in use, it should be stored unloaded and locked, with ammunition stored separately whenever possible.
- ✓ **Ask Questions.** If you are a mental health provider, consider including questions in your visits with patients to ask about safe firearm storage, potential access to firearms, or any concerns about access to firearms.
- ✓ **Provide Information and Resources.** The [NC S.A.F.E. website](#) contains information on safe firearm storage for various audiences. The site's [Safe Storage 101 page](#) includes a map of locations across North Carolina where gun owners can store their firearms safely outside the home if they or someone in their home may be facing a mental health crisis.



For more resources and information on safe firearm storage, scan the QR code or visit

ncsafe.org



If you or a loved one is experiencing a mental health, substance use, or suicidal crisis, call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, available 24/7.