

Every day in Oklahoma one person dies from a firearm injury—sometimes more.

*Many injuries happen in **predictable, preventable** ways.*

Keep firearms in a locked safe or cabinet and lock bullets in a separate place. Persons who are depressed or express intent to commit suicide should not have access to firearms.

Firearm Injuries in Oklahoma

- On average at least one person dies every day from firearm injury in Oklahoma.
- An average of 473 Oklahomans die each year from firearm-related injuries.
- The rate of death due to firearms in Oklahoma was 29% higher than the U.S. rate during 2004-2007.
- Firearm injuries are the third leading cause of injury death in Oklahoma behind motor vehicle crashes and unintentional poisoning.
- Firearms account for 1 out of every 6 injury deaths among Oklahomans.
- More than half of Oklahoma households own a functional firearm.
 - Research indicates that for each firearm incident of self-protection in the home, there are 1.3 unintentional deaths, 4.6 homicides, and 37 suicides.
 - It is 12 times more likely that a firearm in the home will be used to kill a family member or acquaintance rather than a stranger.
- From 2004 to 2008:
 - Handguns were used in the majority of firearm deaths.
 - An average of 314 Oklahomans committed suicide with firearms each year.
 - 60% of all suicides were committed using a firearm.
 - The firearm-related suicide rate among whites was more than two times higher than the rate among blacks and 1.4 times higher than the rate among Native Americans.
 - 28% of suicide victims expressed their intent to commit suicide before it occurred.
 - An average of 130 firearm-related homicides occurred each year in Oklahoma.
 - 61% of all homicides were committed using a firearm.
 - The firearm-related homicide rate among blacks was more than 8 times higher than the rate among whites, and more than 4 times higher than the rate among Native Americans.
 - An average of 10 Oklahomans died each year due to unintentional firearm injuries.
 - Young males 5-24 years of age were at highest risk of unintentional firearm death.

Prevention

- Firearms should be kept in a locked place and bullets locked up in a separate place from the firearms.
- Use trigger locks, load indicators, and other safety devices.
- All gun owners should take a firearm safety course.
- Assure that children and unauthorized persons cannot gain access to guns.
- If persons are depressed or have expressed their intent to commit suicide, remove firearms from the environment to restrict access to lethal means.

Internet Resources

- <http://www.nrahq.org/education/guide.asp>
- http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/house/gun_safety.html#
- <http://www.tn.gov/safety/pubsafety/handgunsafety.shtml>

Live Injury-Free!