Did You Know?

- Firearms are a leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1–17 in the U.S.
- Having a gun in the home significantly increases the risk of suicide.
- Millions of children live in homes with at least one unlocked, loaded firearm.
- Most teens who attempt suicide with a gun use a firearm owned by a family member.
- Firearms are used in more than half of suicides in the U.S. and attempts involving guns are far more likely to be fatal.
- The majority of veteran suicide deaths involve firearms.
- At least one gun is stolen from a vehicle in the U.S. every 9 minutes.

Easy access to firearms can turn a moment of crisis into a permanent tragedy.

Safe storage saves lives.

Decisions about firearm use, maintenance and handling are solely your responsibility, not that of the Saratoga County Suicide Prevention Coalition or any of its members.

Free Gun Locks & Support

For free cable gun locks and information on safety and prevention contact or visit:

- **Saratoga County Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services:**
  135 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs,
  518-584-9030
- **Suicide Prevention Coalition:**
  suicidepreventioncoalition@saratogacountyny.gov
- **Saratoga County Sheriff's Office:**
  6012 County Farm Road, Ballston Spa
- **Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency:**
  2144 Doubleday Road, Ballston Spa

Emotional & Crisis Support

If you need emotional support or are in crisis, please call:

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Suicide and Crisis Line:
Call or text 988, or chat at 988lifeline.org if you or someone you know needs to talk. Press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line.

NORTHERN RIVERS

Northern Rivers Mobile Crisis:
Call 518-292-5499,
M-F 8am-10 pm; Sat, Sun 11am-7pm.
Help is available by phone or to come to you.

Check this map for locations for temporary, voluntary firearm storage throughout New York State:

Learn more about NYS safe storage laws and options:

Firearm Safety

Safe Storage Saves Lives

Suicide Prevention Coalition of Saratoga County

A project of the
Suicide Prevention Coalition
of Saratoga County

with support from the
Office of Gun Violence Prevention of the
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
and the Department of Veterans Affairs

Safe Firearm Storage: You have Options

If you own a gun, it's your responsibility to store it safely. There are a range of affordable and effective options to meet your individual needs.

Cable Lock. A cable lock threads through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent someone else from firing it.

Gun Case. A gun case is a safe place to secure your firearms at home and beyond. The case can also protect your firearms from damage.

Gun Safe. A gun safe is the most secure choice for locking up your firearm. Gun safes come with a variety of lock options, including electronic and biometric locks.

Lockbox. A lockbox can be portable or bolted down for additional security. There are also options designed specifically for use in vehicles.

Trigger Lock. A trigger lock fits easily over the trigger guard of a firearm to prevent the trigger from being pulled.

Safe Off-Site Storage Options:

During times of stress or crisis, voluntary temporary storage can help keep everyone safe. Safe off-site storage options include:

- **Trusted Family Member or Friend:** Phone a friend or family member. It will not only keep you and your loved one safe, but it will also provide you with more support to manage this difficult time.
- **Law Enforcement:** Call local law enforcement to understand the procedures for giving them your firearms and returning them to you.
- **Offsite Storage at a Self-Storage Rental Facility:** Some facilities have safety deposit boxes and smaller options if you are storing handguns.
- **Shooting Ranges or Gun Shops:** Some facilities have storage options. Call ahead to find out. You could also take your firearm(s) in to be cleaned and serviced and have them hold them until the risk is decreased.
- **Pawn Shops:** Many pawn shops will hold your firearms either as a pawn item or for a small fee. Call ahead to verify with your local pawn shop.

Keep it Secure

Lock your firearm every single time. Follow these tips to keep your firearm secure:

- Choose a combination or code that can't be easily guessed by children or other unauthorized users.
- Hide your key someplace it can't easily be found.
- Lock your firearm at home and in vehicles.
- Store ammunition separately.

What can Parents do?

Parents can follow these simple steps to reduce the number of children harmed by guns:

- Educate your children about gun safety.
- Store firearms locked, unloaded, and out of sight.
- Ask about gun storage in homes your child visits.

Additionally, if your children happen to encounter a gun, teach them three easy steps:

- Don't touch the gun.
- Move away from the gun.
- Alert an adult.

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