

Firearms & Suicide

Death by firearms is the fastest growing method of suicide.

Firearms are used in more suicides than homicides.

- Firearms account for 60% of all suicides.
- 200 million guns are now in the hands of individual Americans, which is more than double the number held in 1969.
- Firearm suicide accounts for almost 60% of all firearm deaths in this country - more than any other cause of firearm injury deaths.
- Firearms are now the most frequent method of suicide for men and women of all ages, including boys and girls aged 10 to 14 years.
- White males aged 85 years and over account for the highest rate for suicide by firearms.
- More than 90% of people who kill themselves with a firearm already have the gun in the house.

- Although most gun owners reportedly keep a firearm in their home for "protection" or "self defense," 83% of gun-related deaths in these homes are the result of a suicide, often by someone other than the gun owner.

- Research shows that residents of homes where a gun is present are 5 times more likely to experience a suicide than residents of homes where there are no guns present.
- The availability of guns in the home, independent of firearm type or method of storage, markedly increases the likelihood of suicide by a young person in such a home.

Restricting the availability of guns will prevent suicide.



SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL
of St. Joseph County and Surrounding Areas

**For more information visit our website at
www.sjcsuicideprevention.com
or call (574) 220-6381.**

Crisis and Suicide Intervention
National HOTLINE
1-800-273-TALK
Local Help: Emergency Services
(877) 234-0061 toll free
(574) 234-0061 local

(operated by Madison Center)