

RESPONSIBLE GUN SAFETY

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year in Mississippi, almost **300 people** end their lives with a gun. In 2017, firearms accounted for **66% of all suicide deaths** in Mississippi compared to 51% across the nation.

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System (Mississippi Data)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data & Statistics Fatal Injury Report for 2017 (National Data)

SAFETY TIPS TO REDUCE

SUICIDE BY FIREARMS

- Lock your guns and bullets in separate locations when not in use.
- Free gun locks may be available through your local law enforcement and projectchildsafe.org.
- Ask a friend or local police department about temporarily storing guns away from the home of someone showing signs of suicide.



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Supporting a Better Tomorrow...One Person at a Time

HELPLINE • 1-877-210-8513



PREVENT SUICIDE WITH GUN SAFETY

WHAT ARE SOME WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE?

- Comments like “Things will never get better”, or “No one would miss me if I were gone”
- Recent difficulties with chronic health issues, relationships, work, school, or legal problems
- Depressive symptoms, withdrawal or isolation from family, friends and hobbies, or becoming suddenly cheerful after a period of depression
- Noticeable change in behavior including mood, appearance, sleeping habits, or eating habits
- Increase in risky behavior including drug and alcohol consumption
- Giving away prized possessions

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- By putting time and distance between a suicidal person and a gun, you may save a life.
- By following gun safety tips and recognizing possible warning signs, you can prevent suicides.
- If someone you know shows any of these signs of suicide, **ACT**.
- **A**cknowledge the risk is real. **C**are enough to listen without judgement. **T**ell someone to access help.

If You Don't Know Where to Start:



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention