

Firearms, Culture and Suicide Risk: What Is Safety?

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Safer Homes, Suicide Aware
saferhomescoalition.org

1

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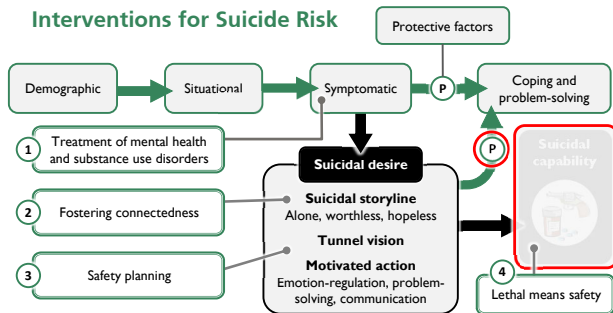
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September 29, 2021

- What is safety?
- Cultural worldviews and cultural humility
- The population at risk
- What is the message?
- Cultural competency training
- Cultural knowledge

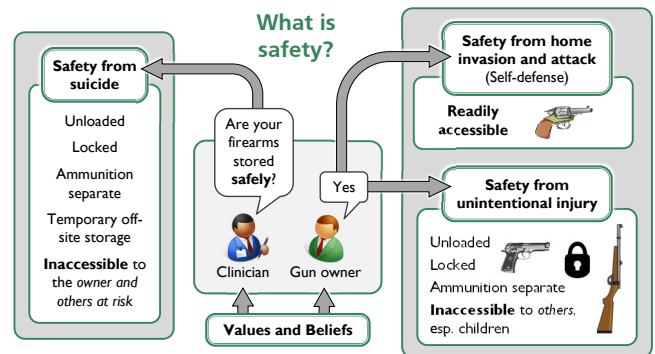
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Interventions for Suicide Risk



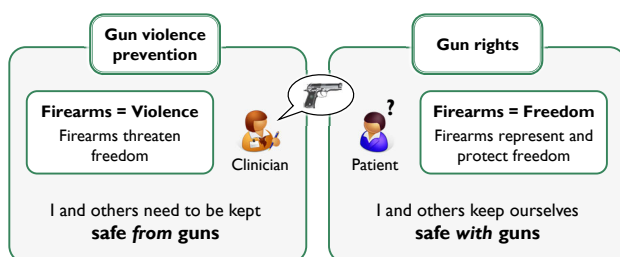
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What is safety?



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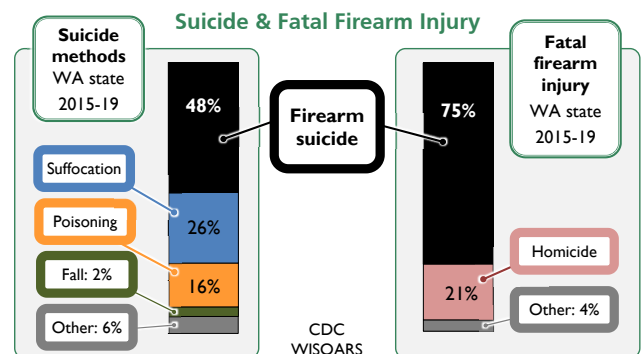
Cultural Humility: Recognizing and Examining Personal Worldviews



Stewart & Kuhls, 2016 in JTACS; Yamane, 2017; Yamane, 2018

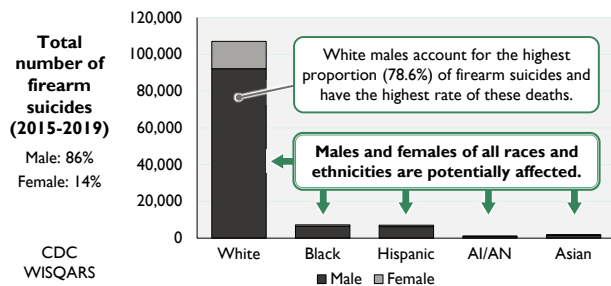
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Suicide & Fatal Firearm Injury



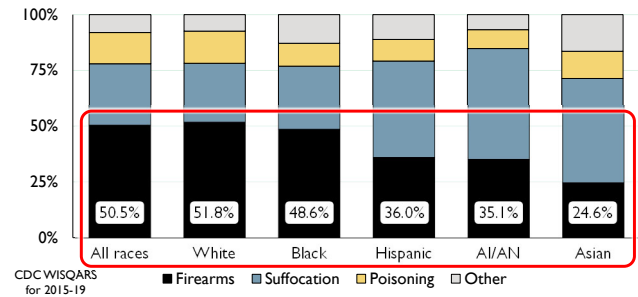
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Firearm Suicide: Populations at Risk



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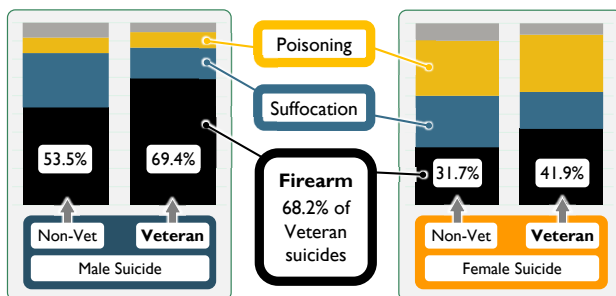
Firearm Suicide: Populations at Risk Suicide Methods by Race/Ethnicity



8

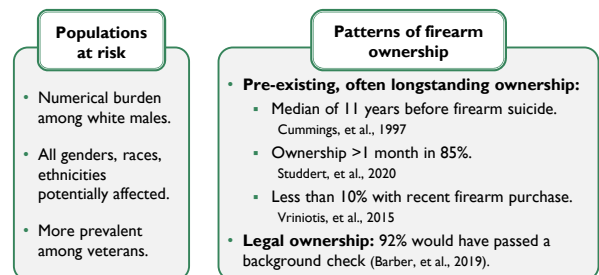
Firearm Suicide: Populations at Risk

National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report (2020) for 2018



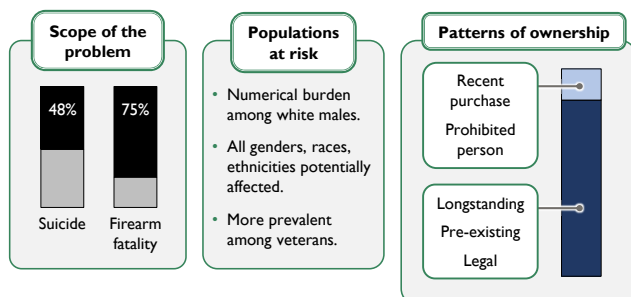
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Populations at Risk & Patterns of Firearm Ownership



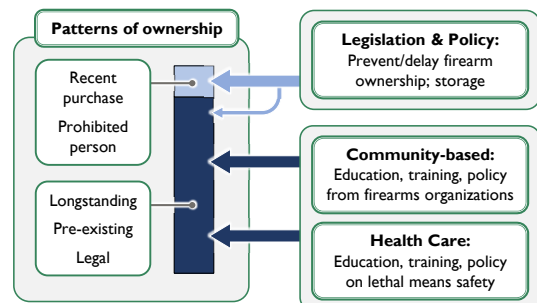
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Firearms and Suicide: Summary



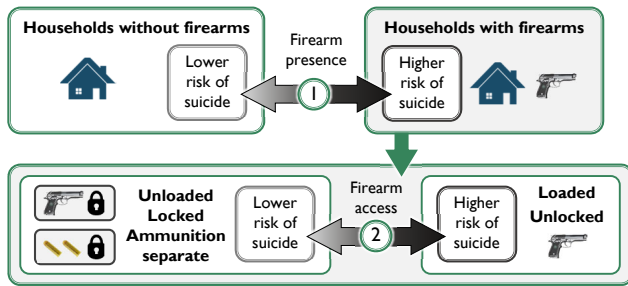
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Firearms and Suicide: Types of Intervention



12

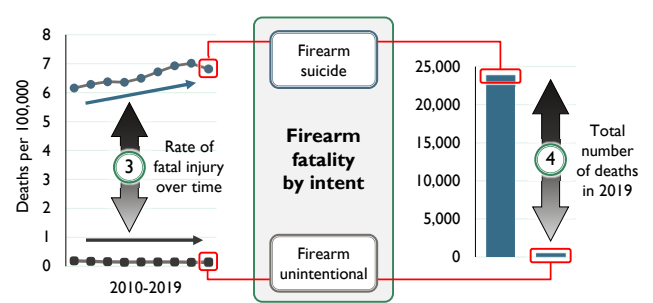
Firearms and Suicide Risk: What is the Message?



Anglemeyer, et al., 2014 in AIM; Dempsey, et al., 2019 in JAMA; Miller, et al., 2016 in ER; Pallin, et al., 2019 in AIM

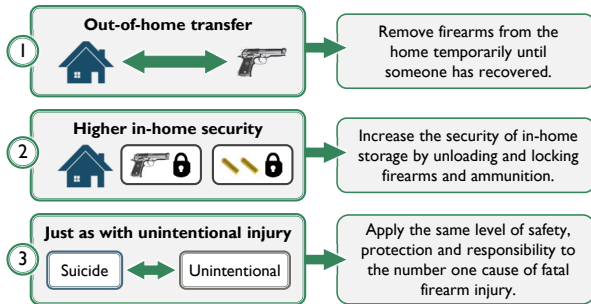
13

Firearms and Suicide Risk: What is the Message?

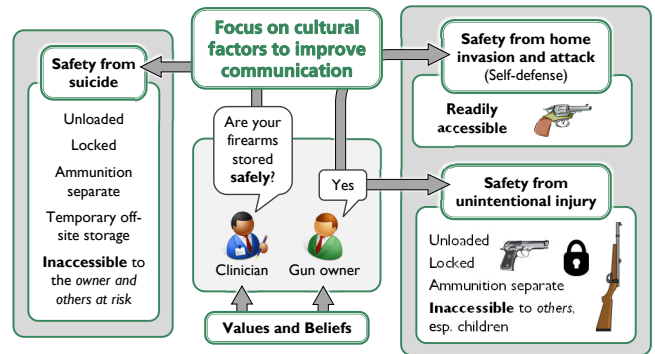


14

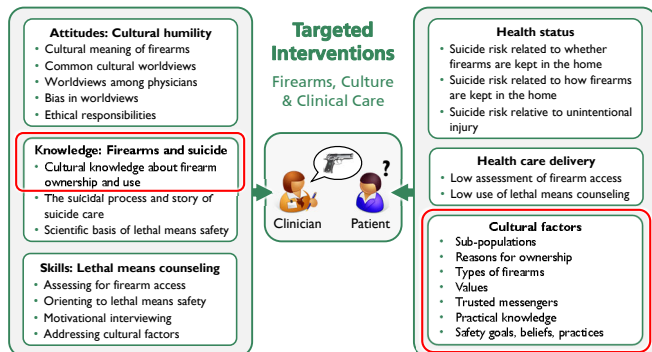
Firearms and Suicide Risk: What is the Message?



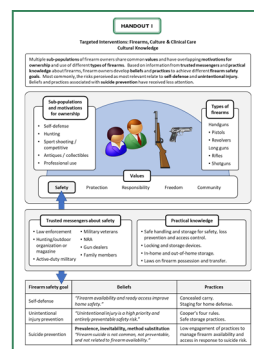
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16



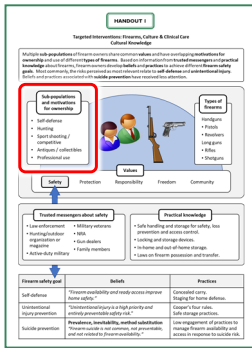
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18

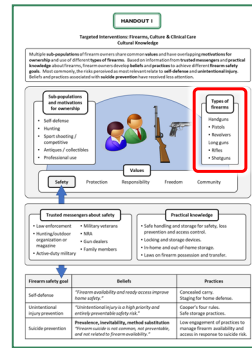
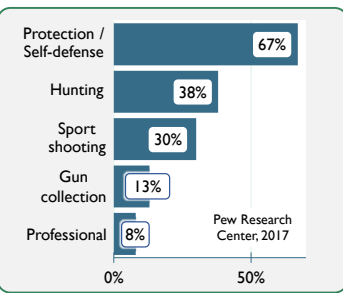
Cultural Knowledge

- Cultural factors related to firearm ownership and use
- Sub-populations
- Reasons for ownership
- Types of firearms
- Values
- Trusted messengers
- Practical knowledge
- Safety goals, beliefs, practices



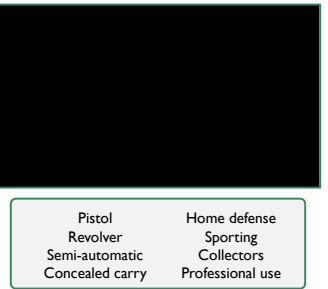
Cultural Knowledge

Sub-populations & motivations for ownership



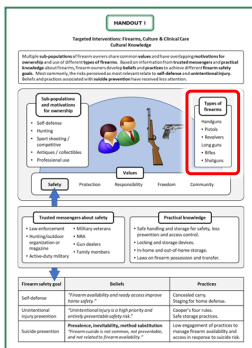
Cultural Knowledge

Types of firearms: Handguns



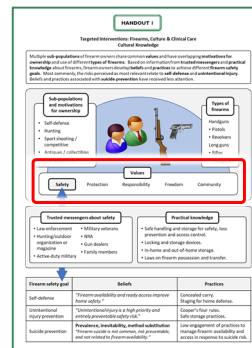
19

20



Cultural Knowledge

Types of firearms: Long guns



Cultural Knowledge: Values

The Rifleman's Creed

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.

Without me, my rifle is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless.

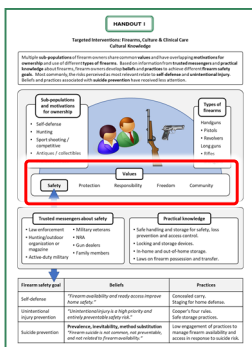
My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life...We will become part of each other.

Before God, I swear this creed...My rifle and I are the defenders of my country.

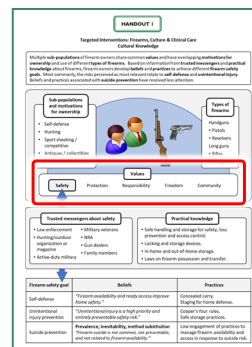
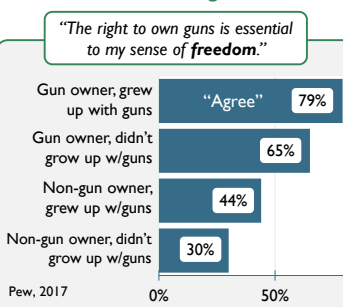
So be it, until victory is America's and there is no enemy, but peace!

21

22



Cultural Knowledge: Values



Cultural Knowledge: Values

The Pink Pistols

"We are dedicated to the legal, safe, and responsible use of firearms for **self-defense of the sexual-minority community**. We no longer believe it is the right of those who hate and fear gay, lesbian, bi, trans, or polyamorous persons to use us as targets for their rage. Self-defense is our RIGHT."

"We will help you select a firearm, acquire a permit, and receive proper training in its safe and legal use for self-defense."

23

24



NAAGA Mission Statement

Education. Training. Safety. Self-Defense.
Advocacy. For and By African Americans."



DC Project: Women for Gun Rights

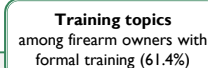
Individual journeys on one unified path: to preserve the Second Amendment



Survey of gun owners: Best and worst **messengers** about safe firearm storage for suicide prevention? (Anestis, et al. 2021)

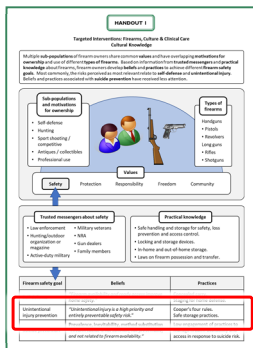
28

30



- 32%

National Firearms Survey, 2015
Rowhani-Rahbar, et al., 2017 in *BMJ* *IF*



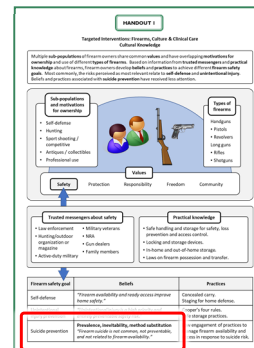
Cultural Knowledge: Safety Goals Unintentional injury prevention

Cooper's Four Universal Rules of Safe Firearms Handling

1. All guns are always loaded.
2. Never let a gun point at anything you don't intend to shoot, kill, or destroy.
3. Keep your finger off of the trigger until you are on target and intend to fire.
4. Be sure of your target plus what is around and behind it.

Morrison, G.B., 1991

31



Cultural Knowledge: Safety Goals Suicide prevention

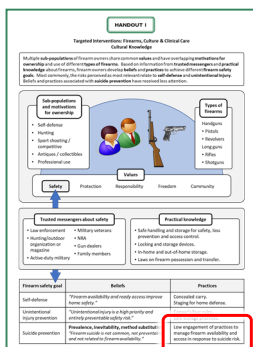
Beliefs about firearms and suicide

- **Prevalence:** "Suicide is not a common cause of gun deaths."
- **Inevitability:** "If someone is determined to die, there's nothing anyone can do about it."
- **Method substitution:** "If they don't have a gun, they'll just find another way."

Walton & Stuber, 2020; Knopke, et al., 2017; Miller et al., 2006

Prevalence **Duration of crises**
Long-term survival **Lethality**

32



Cultural Knowledge: Safety Goals Suicide prevention

"Time and distance"

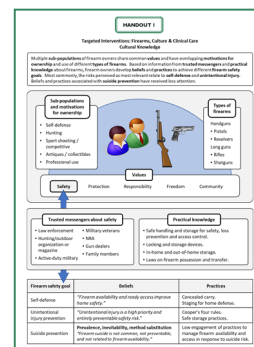
Out-of-home transfer



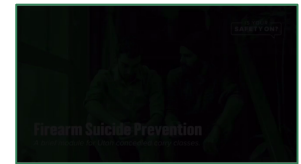
Higher in-home security



33



Cultural Knowledge



Sub-populations	Types of firearms	Practical knowledge: Laws, locking devices
Values: Safety, protection, responsibility, freedom, community		
Trusted messenger	Safety goals: Self-defense, unintentional injury prevention	
Safety goal: Suicide prevention	Beliefs: Prevalence, inevitability, method substitution • Prevalence • Long-term survival, duration of crises, lethality	Practices "Time and distance" • Off-site storage • Increased in-home security

34

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35