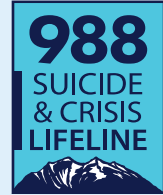


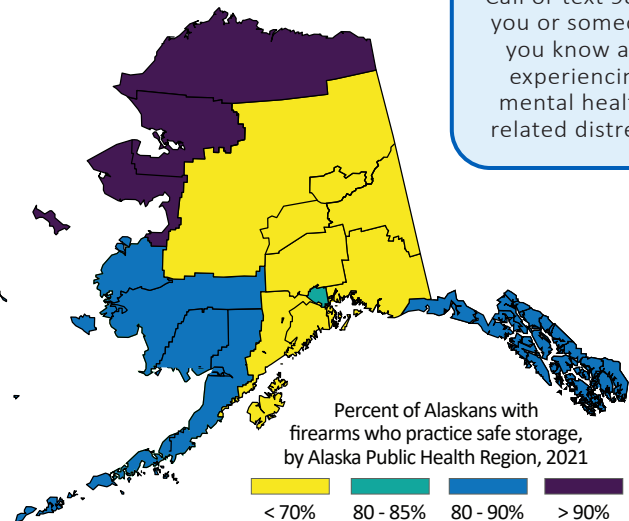
Most Alaska adults (57%) keep firearms in or around their house. In the past 10 years, there have been 1,209 hospitalizations in Alaska due to firearm-related injuries.¹ An average of 20 children and teens die by guns every year in Alaska, and 60% of those deaths are suicides.² Safe storage of firearms and ammunition keeps firearms away from children and may provide critical life-saving moments between impulse and action for those at risk of suicide.



Call or text 988 if you or someone you know are experiencing mental health-related distress.

82% of Alaskans who own firearms store them safely (unloaded and/or locked)

- Households with children under 18 years of age are significantly **more likely** to practice safe storage (**89%**) compared to those without children (**77%**).
- Alaska Veterans are significantly **less likely** to practice safe storage (**73%**) compared to non-Veterans (**83%**).
- Residents of the Interior Public Health Region³ are the **least likely** to practice safe firearm storage (**74%**).
- Residents of the Northwest Public Health Region³ are the **most likely** to practice safe firearm storage (**94%**).



Recommendations

Properly storing firearms and ammunition can reduce the risk of suicide and unintentional injury.⁴ Regularly reassess storage of firearms to ensure that it is safe, especially during periods of increased stress or emotional crisis.



Store unloaded firearms in a locked location, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users, such as a safe.



Lock firearms with a device that requires a key or combination to access or fire it.



Store ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms.

References

- ¹ Alaska Trauma Registry, Registry of all traumatic injury hospitalizations that occur within Alaska, 2012 – 2021.
- ² CDC National Violent Deaths Reporting System, five-year average 2017 – 2020, ages 0 – 19.
- ³ Alaska Public Health Regions. https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/Data/geo_phr.aspx
- ⁴ Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business: A Toolkit for Safe Firearm Storage. https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Toolkit_Safe_Firearm_Storage_CLEARED_508_2-24-20.pdf

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