



Reversing the Trend of Irreversible Actions

The Ohio AAP, Life Side Ohio, and The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation understand that more than **50% of homes in Ohio and the United States have a firearm**. Similar to safety around pools and motor vehicles, we want to make sure that children and teens living in or visiting a home with a firearm are safe.



Important Facts and Safety Considerations:

- **EVERY youth is at risk for accidental or intentional injury from a firearm** – even if they are experienced and comfortable with firearms.
- Youth should only have **supervised access** to firearms.
- The adolescent brain is still developing, which can lead to **emotional situations that override their still-developing impulse control**.
- Knowing risks for injury and **using a barrier can help keep youth safe**.
- Youth can engage in risky behaviors and **react to seemingly small stressors**.
- Even with no history of depression, **youth sometimes make impulsive decisions with deadly results**.

EDUCATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH.

Barriers should be put in place – and can mean the difference between life and death.



90% OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS that involve a firearm result in death.



2/3 OF ALL FIREARM DEATHS are due to suicide.



Unsupervised youth firearm access **TRIPLES THE RISK** of death by suicide.



50% OF SURVIVORS made an attempt within 20 minutes of their decision to attempt suicide. Delaying access to firearms is critical to saving lives!

Keep in Mind...



Firearm safety knowledge and experience **MATTERS LITTLE DURING TIMES OF MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS.**



Children with **NO HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS CAN AND DO ATTEMPT SUICIDE** after an upsetting life event.



Safe storage barriers are **CRITICAL TO SAVING A LIFE** in these instances.

Safe Storage Options for Firearm Owners

Firearm retailers can help you decide which option best fits your needs. Always remember that keys to safety devices should be stored separately and children and teens should not know the location of keys or safety device combinations.

STORAGE DEVICE	PRICE RANGE	TYPICAL COST	HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Cable Lock</p> 	\$5 – \$45	Under \$10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable, accessible • Firearms must be unloaded to use • Can be cut with wire or bolt cutters
<p>Lock Box</p> 	\$25 – \$300	Under \$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact, smaller than a safe
<p>Firearm Safe</p> 	\$200 – \$2500	Under \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most secure option for multiple guns, especially long guns • Not discrete • Expensive

Ohio Chapter

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