

TITLE: Educating Providers and the Public About the Link Between Firearm Ownership and Suicide

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Education of health care providers and general public regarding suicide and firearms

ABSTRACT: The rate of suicide in Oregon is far above the national average. The 2018 suicide rate was 18.5 per 100,000 which was a decline from 19.3 in 2016 but still far above the national average of 13.9 per 100,000. Firearm ownership is clearly correlated with an increased rate of suicide. As we assessed the data from national surveys, we asked if the public in general and health care providers in particular know the high rate of suicide in Oregon and that access to firearms significantly increases the risk of suicide. According to a 2015 study (Conner A, Azrael D, Miller M., Public Opinion About the Relationship Between Firearm Availability and Suicide: Results From a National Survey. Ann Intern Medicine) nearly 1 of 3 health care practitioners agreed that having a household firearm increases suicide risk; among health care practitioners who own firearms, 11.8% agreed with this statement. Based on this information, we are creating an education campaign to increase awareness of the link between firearm ownership and increased suicide and how people can reduce access to firearms among those at high risk for suicide.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the rate of suicide in Oregon.

Compare the rate of non-firearm suicide and firearm suicide in Oregon.

Describe the percent of public and health care providers who know the rate of suicide.

Describe the percent of public and health care providers who understand that having access to a household firearm increases the rate of suicide.

Demonstrate the link established between access to a household firearm and suicide.

Design effective means to educate the public and healthcare providers about the increased risk of suicide when a household firearm is available.
