

Reducing firearm-suicide in rural Oregon

AUTHORS: Penny Okamoto*, Joanne Skirving

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Reducing firearm-suicide in rural Oregon/Health care providers

ABSTRACT: The gun suicide rate for six rural Oregon counties is 14.4 per 100,000 - twice the gun suicide rate of 6.5 for three urban Oregon counties. The national rate for firearm suicide is 6.7 per 100,000.¹ Suicide rates among adults aged 45 to 64 years rose more than 50 percent from 18.1 per 100,000 in 2000 to 28.7 per 100,000 in 2012.² Materials are, or soon will be, available that can increase awareness of the high rate of firearm suicide in rural Oregon and provide culturally sensitive fact sheets about how to prevent suicide. The Gun Shop Project³ is a nationwide suicide prevention program that partners with gun stores to provide suicide prevention materials to customers. The National Council on Aging recommends different strategies for preventing suicide in older Americans.⁴ Oregon Health Authority is creating a brochure for medical care providers on how to have an effective discussion with patients about limiting access to firearms when necessary to reduce suicide.⁵ Providing culturally sensitive materials about firearm suicide can educate firearm owners about the risk of suicide.

¹ <http://projects.oregonlive.com/ucc-shooting/oregon-gun-ownership/>

² http://www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2013/05/why_oregons_suicide_rate_is_am.html

³ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/gun-shop-project/>

⁴ <https://www.ncoa.org/resources/issue-brief-4-preventing-suicide-in-older-adults/>

⁵ <http://suicideprevention-icrc-s.org/speaking-same-language-developing-culturally-informed-messages-about-firearm-safety>

OBJECTIVE(S):

- List the rate of firearm suicide in Oregon's rural and urban counties.
- List two venues to provide suicide prevention information to rural communities (health care provider, gun shop).
- Identify health providers who should discuss firearm suicide with patients and family (primary health care, doctors specializing in geriatric medicine).

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Penny Okamoto, BS
Executive Director
Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation
5034513630 | ceasefireoregon@gmail.com

CO-PRESENTER(S):

Joanne Skirving | ceasefireoregon@gmail.com