OUT-OF-HOME FIREARM STORAGE

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None of us wants firearm-related injuries or deaths in our HOMES or our COMMUNITIES.
Action-oriented, innovative research, including policy and program evaluation, for development and dissemination of evidence-based solutions.

Outstanding education and mentoring informs impacted communities, policy makers, front-line gatekeepers, and public – and trains the next generation of researchers and practitioners.

Serve as a trusted partner and collaborator with impacted communities to optimize effective, acceptable approaches. Living our values is only possible through collaboration with diverse networks.
PROBLEM STATEMENT
11. Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member may be suicidal. When there is an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal trouble) or a major change in someone’s behavior (like depression or anger, more drinking) that causes concern, storing guns outside the home until the situation improves may save a life. Friends, shooting clubs, police departments, and some firearms stores may provide storage services.
PROBLEM STATEMENT
Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Takes Steps to Prevent Suicide, Including by Promoting Safe Storage of Firearms

- Educate the public on lethal means safety, and in turn encourage safer storage practices, safety planning, and time and space behavioral measures for crisis response. The agencies are planning to use:
  - Professionally developed public service announcements;
  - Paid media promoted via social media platforms as well as internet search engines;
  - Toolkits developed with industry partners, as appropriate, designed to amplify campaign calls to action;
  - Multi-state storage maps to help individuals find where they can safely store firearms outside of their homes; and
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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Suppliers
Retailers, ranges, LEAs (Colorado & Washington)

Users
Firearm owners, family (Colorado & Washington)

National
Dissemination & implementation

1a Interviews  2a Survey

2a Interviews  2b Survey

3a Interviews  3b Toolkit

NIH/NIMH R61MH125754
Interviews with 100 stakeholders showed support for concept but concerns about liability and funding/logistics (PMID: 35224749)

27% of people in homes with firearms had stored them away from home in past 5 years (PMID: 36915179)

45% of firearm ranges/retailers in two states had provided storage (PMID: 36037869)
RESEARCH – KEY FINDINGS

LOGISTICS
We're all just right now figuring out of it as we go ... Think about if it had that kind of prompts for how do you think about this, instead of baptism-by-fire learning. That'd be fantastic.
OPEN LETTER TO ALL FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES PROVIDING FIREARM STORAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS

On March 14, 2023, President Biden issued an Executive Order 14092 on Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer. Among other things, that order emphasized the need for Federal agencies to promote the safe storage of firearms. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) is issuing this open letter to assist Federal Firearms Licensees (“FFLs”) in understanding their obligations when they choose to provide firearm storage services to their customers and the public.

Individuals may seek the services of an FFL to store firearms for a variety of reasons. For example, an individual might wish to store a firearm while traveling to a neighboring State or foreign country that does not permit possession of the firearm. Storage of firearms at an FFL’s business premises may also be desirable or convenient for an individual, or may allow an individual to temporarily remove firearms from a home. FFLs can assist in such cases if they adhere to applicable Federal, State, and local laws when storing and returning such firearms.
RESEARCH – KEY FINDINGS

LOGISTICS

LIABILITY
“No person shall have a cause of action against a federal firearms licensee operating lawfully in the state of Louisiana for any act or omission arising from a firearm hold agreement and resulting in personal injury or death of any natural person, including the return of any firearms to the individual firearm owner by a federal firearms licensee at the termination of a firearm hold agreement.”
“A dealer who provides a service of allowing a person to temporarily store a firearm on the dealer's premises in a storage locker, box, or container that is locked and not accessible to the dealer does not thereby create a special relationship, for civil liability purposes, between the dealer and the person who temporarily stores the firearm on the dealer's premises.”
RESEARCH – KEY FINDINGS

LOGISTICS

LIABILITY

FUNDING
FUNDING

- Louisiana – VA Armory project
- VetStore (CSPH)
- Department of Defense (pending)
- Federal legislation (pending)
“What I try to keep in mind is that some of the alternatives, for example, for storage, are not gonna necessarily be things that people think about [...] I’m just gonna use [storage at] the range for an example. Because it’s not something they typically do. They associate that with something white people do, and so that as an alternate way of storage is not gonna resonate with them.” (ID21).

“That’s ultimately why [organization] exists because queer people need a group of gun owners where they can talk about these things and not be regarded as crazy [...]” (ID28).

“...You had to be a closet, closet liberal while you were asking questions about your favorite firearm or ‘I’m a brand new firearm owner, how do I get this, and oh, by the way, I voted for Obama’ and then suddenly nobody wants to talk to you” (ID11).

- Idea of belonging:
  - Socialized understanding of “gun culture”
- Social community
- Internal & external group associations
- Full citizenship
- Self-protection
LESSONS LEARNED

Suppliers
Retailers, ranges, LEAs (Colorado & Washington)
- Interviews
- Survey

Users
Firearm owners, family (Colorado & Washington)
- Interviews
- Survey

National
Dissemination & Implementation
- Interviews
- Toolkit

NIH/NIMH R61MH125754

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QUESTIONS?

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