

Finding (Un)Common Ground: Collaboration with Gun Owners to Prevent Suicide

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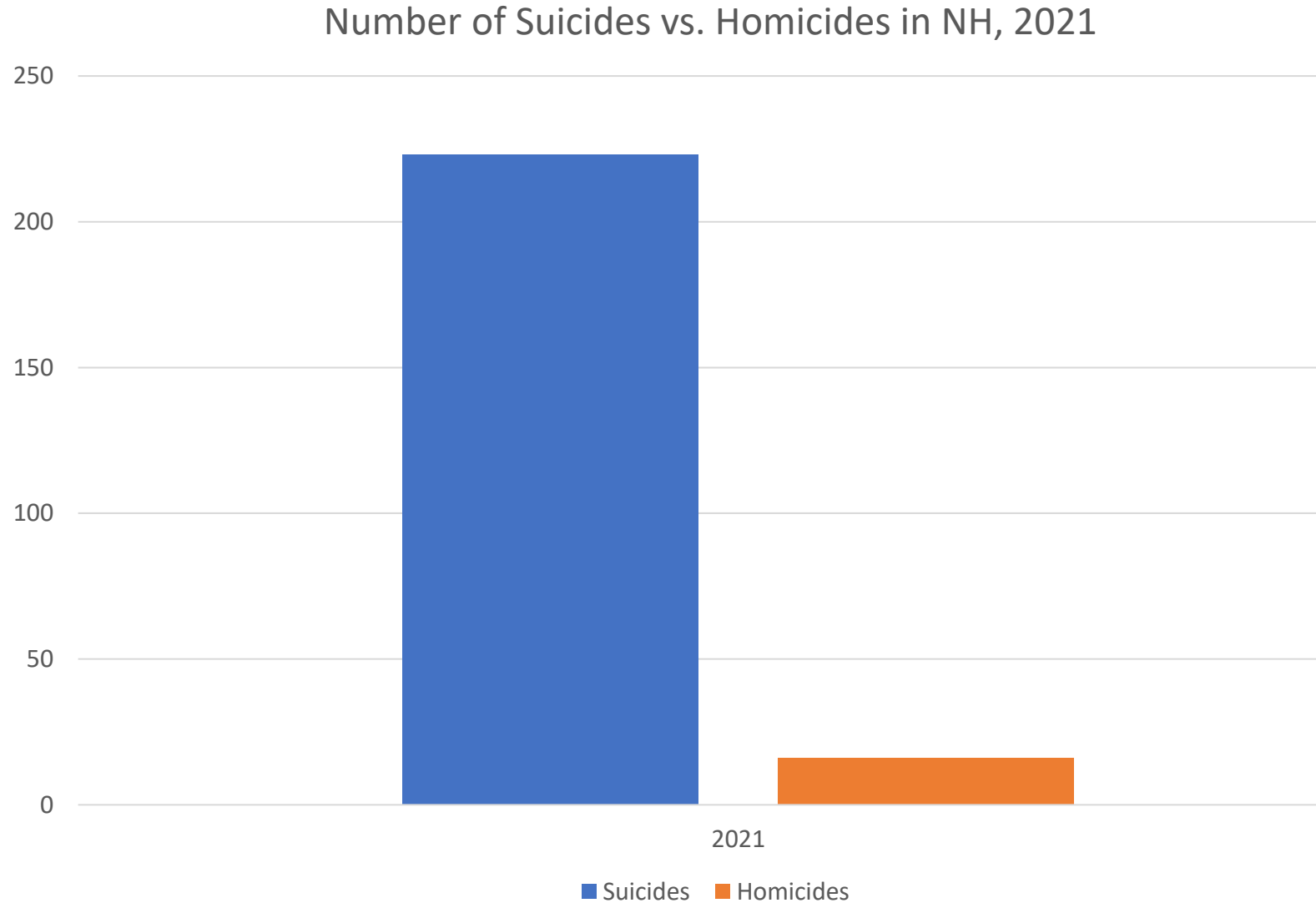


Building bridges....



NH's suicide rate is 15 per 100,000 – slightly higher than the national rate.

Roughly 90% of gun deaths in NH are suicides.



COMPARING SUICIDES IN STATES WITH HIGH VS. LOW GUN OWNERSHIP

Suicides in the 15 U.S. States with the Highest vs. the 6 U.S. States with the Lowest Average Household Gun Ownership

	High-Gun States	Low-Gun States
Population	39 million	40 million
Household Gun Ownership	47%	15%
Non-Firearm Suicide	5,060	5,446
Firearm Suicide	9,749	2,606
Total Suicide	14,809	8,052

Putting time and distance between a person with a suicidal impulse and a highly lethal method is one of the most effective ways to prevent suicide.



Why Does Lethal Means Reduction Work?

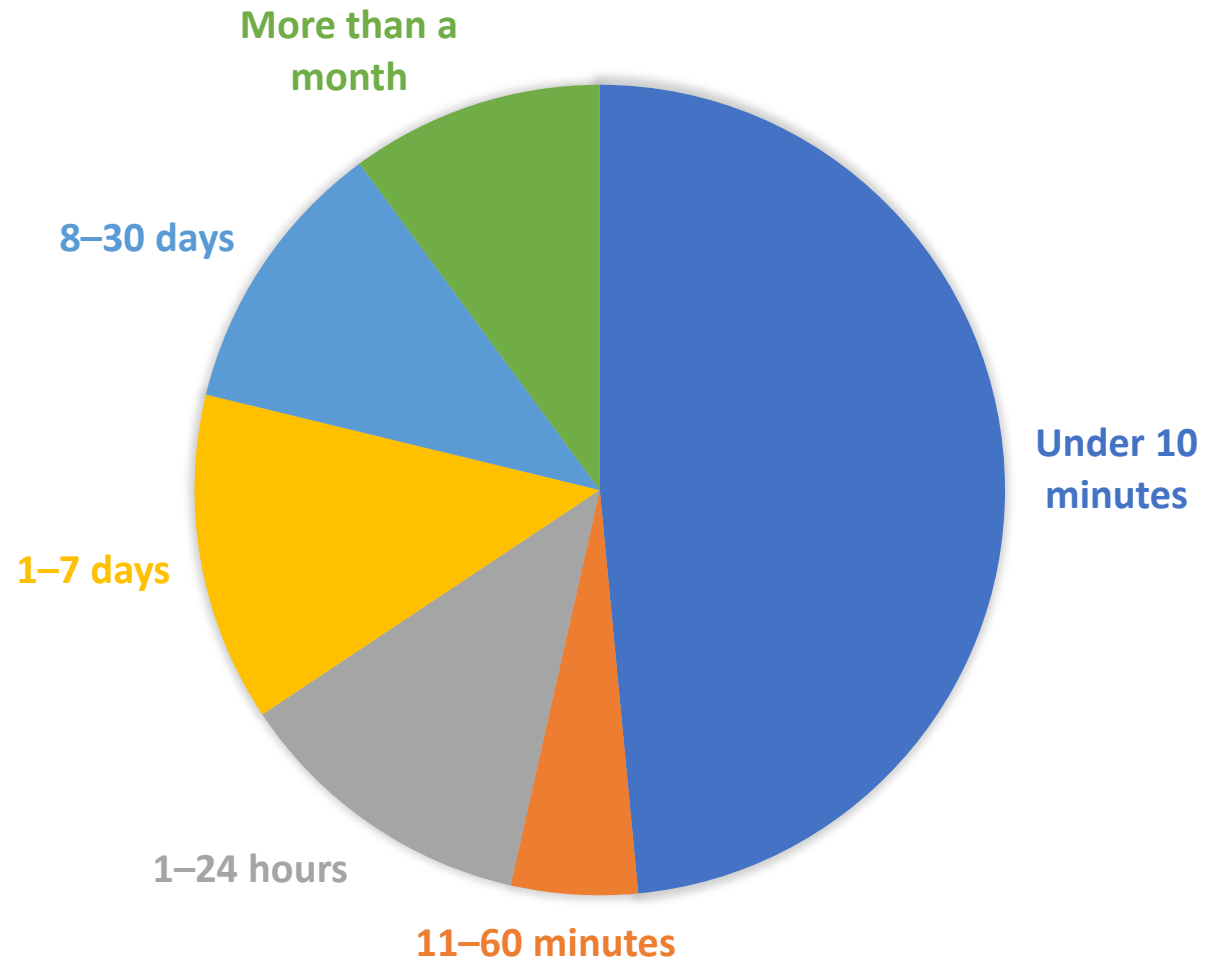
1. Many suicide attempts occur with little planning during a short-term crisis
2. Guns are deadly, fast, and irreversible
3. It's not true that "They will find another way"



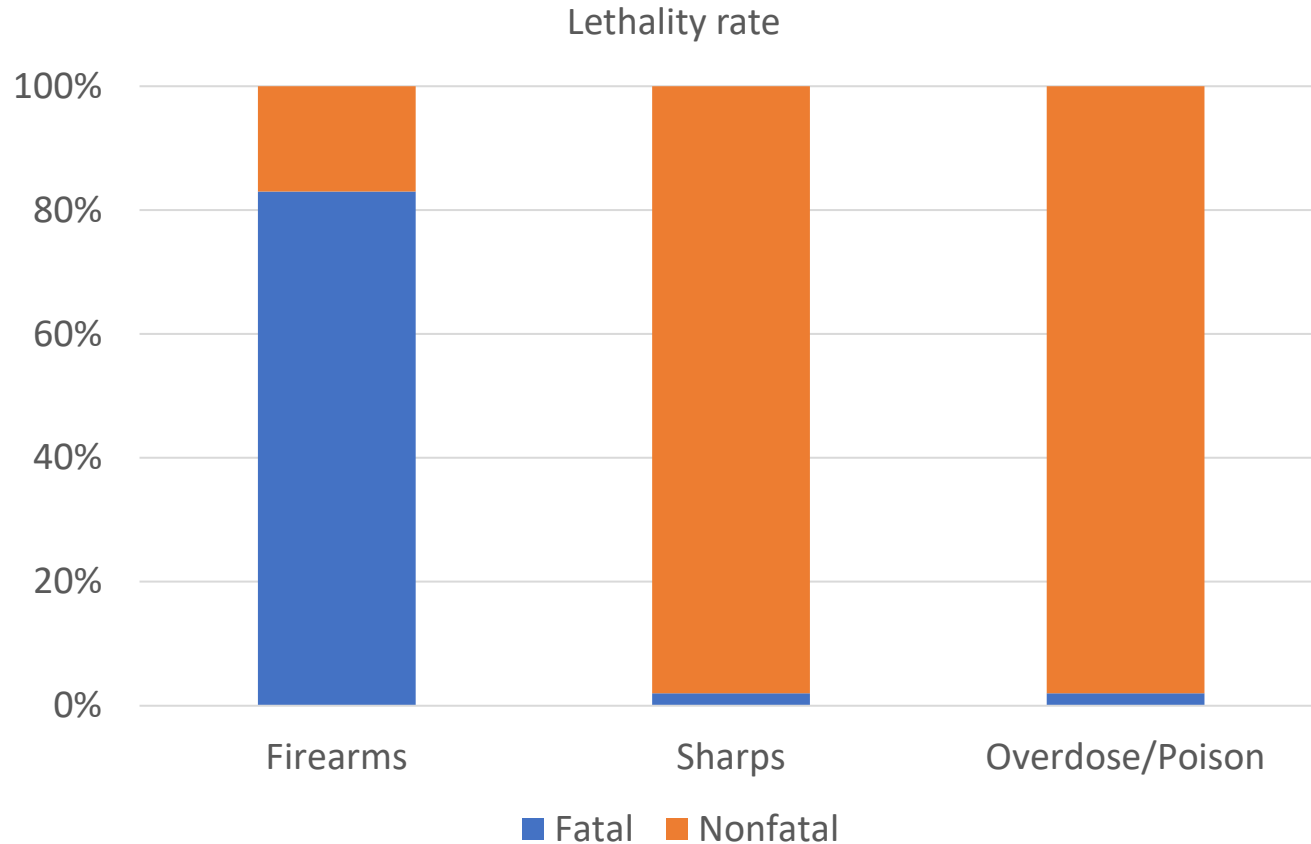
1. Many suicide attempts occur with little planning during a short-term crisis

People seen in the hospital following a suicide attempt were asked when they had *first* started thinking about making that attempt.

Almost 48% responded that they first started thinking about suicide **less than 10 minutes prior to an attempt.**



2. Guns are deadly, fast, and irreversible



Sharp instruments and overdose/poison are lethal in 1-2% of cases

3. It's not true that “they will find another way”

- Over 90% of people who attempt suicide and survive do NOT go on to take their lives
- A life saved in the short-term is usually a life a saved for good!





Law Enforcement

Researchers

Gun Owners

Health Professionals

Veterans Groups

Survivors

For Some of Us:

- Guns are symbols of violence
- Gun regulations increase safety
- Guns are not necessary for safety
- Guns are mostly harmful
- Gun violence diminishes personal liberty



For Some of Us:

- Guns are symbols of personal freedom
- Gun regulations limit freedom
- Guns are necessary for personal safety
- Guns are mostly beneficial
- Gun ownership is a Constitutional right

But ALL of Us:

- Want our loved ones to be safe
- Are horrified that ~90% of gun deaths are suicides

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COMMON GOAL:

A new social norm - no person in suicidal crisis should have ready access to a firearm

Could we bring our
common ground work...

● How We Fix This

Washington State Debuts Unique Tool to Reduce Gun Suicides

An innovative prevention measure gives people the power to suspend their own gun rights. For the law professor who developed the concept, it's deeply personal.

By [Elizabeth Van Brocklin](#) • May 28, 2019



to a legislative arena?

The Utah Recipe:

1. Required Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) to create a process and forms available by download
2. Required individual to deliver the form to law enforcement agency with ID in hand OR have their healthcare provider electronically deliver it to BCI after verifying patient's ID; BCI must add the person to the restricted list within 24 hours.
3. Gave individual choices for signing up:
 - Restriction for 180 days with automatic removal after 180 days
 - Restriction for 30 days with automatic removal after 30 days
 - Restriction indefinitely, with ability to request removal 90 days after being added
4. Automatically removed an individual after 180 days unless they asked to remain on – removal must be processed within 3 days of request for removal.
5. Required individual to sign a statement indicating that they understand they may not possess or purchase a firearm while their name is on the restriction list.
6. Required law enforcement to destroy all records immediately after a person is removed from list

The Utah Recipe:

1. Engage in months of dialogue, building understanding and trust
 2. Respect pro-gun values
 2. Focus on safety for a temporary difficult period
3. Respect the sacrifice gun owners make in reducing access even temporarily
 4. Emphasize privacy and confidentiality
 5. Build on values of protection, safety, and self reliance
 6. Framed as part of a preventive, not prohibitive, strategy

How one of the most pro-gun states in the US managed to pass gun reform — with the backing of gun advocates

Mar 25, 2021, 11:17 AM



A worker inspects an AR-15 gun at Davidson Defense in Orem, Utah. George Frey/AFP/Getty Images

“We, on both sides, wrongly imagine that empathy with the ‘other’ side brings an end to clearheaded analysis when, in truth, it’s on the other side of the bridge that the most important analysis can begin.”

- Arlene Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land*

