

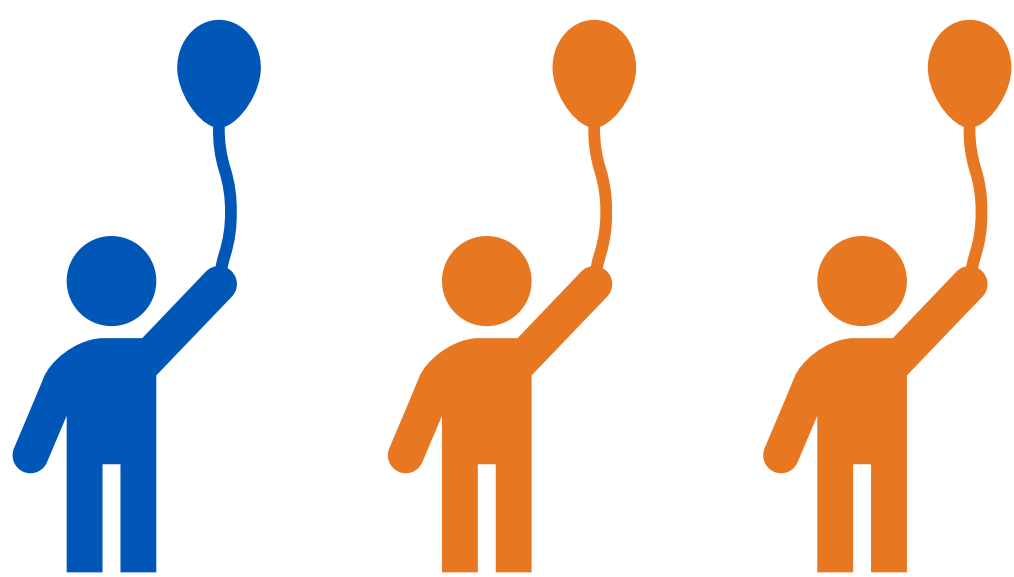
Protecting Children with Oregon's Secure Firearm Storage Law

Secure storage laws require firearm owners to securely store their firearms when not in use to prevent access by minors and others without permission to access them. Research suggests that secure storage laws are associated with lower risks of suicide, unintentional shootings, and firearm theft. Child access prevention (CAP) laws are a type of secure storage law focused on preventing firearm access by children.

Oregon's law (ORS 166.395) requires that firearm owners secure their firearms with an engaged cable or trigger lock, in a locked container, or in a gun room when not in use.¹ Unsecured firearms can lead to a civil penalty and a fine of up to \$500. If a minor accesses the firearm, this fine can increase to up to \$2,000.

Preventing Access to Firearms among Children

An estimated **1 in 5** households store at least one firearm loaded and unlocked, resulting in about **5 million** U.S. children living in a home with an unsecured firearm. Among new firearm owners, that number rises to an estimated **2 in 5** households.²



Among households where parents believed firearms were inaccessible, **1 in 3** children reported being able to access a firearm in less than **5 minutes**.³

82%

of firearms used in **school shootings committed by adolescents** were accessed from a **relative's home**.⁴

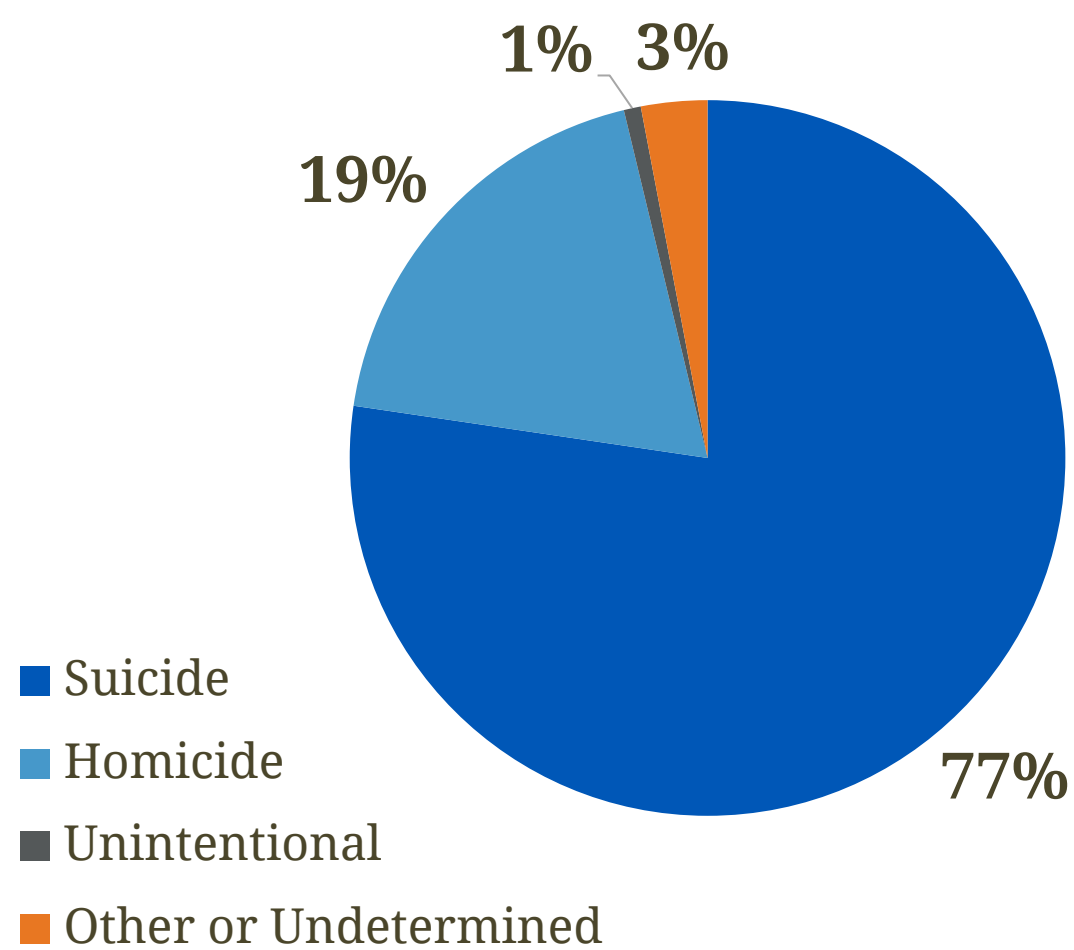
77%

of children who died by **firearm suicide** used a firearm **belonging to a family member**.⁵

Secure Storage Laws are Effective in Preventing:

Firearm Suicides

Intent of Firearm Injury Deaths in Oregon, 2018-2023



- From 2018-2023, **77%** of firearm deaths in Oregon were firearm suicides.⁶
- States with higher rates of unsecured firearm storage (unlocked and loaded) tend to have higher rates of firearm suicide.⁷
- Secure storage laws are associated with **14% lower youth firearm suicide rates** compared to states without such laws.⁸

- An estimated **380,000 firearms** are stolen annually nationwide.⁹
- Firearms were **stolen from vehicles** in approximately **40%** of all reported firearm theft incidents in 2022.¹⁰
- Oregon's secure storage law specifically prohibits leaving handguns unattended and visible inside a vehicle.¹

Firearm Theft



Unintentional Firearm Injuries



- Having an unsecured firearm in the home has been identified as a risk factor for unintentional firearm injury deaths among children.¹¹
- Research has found that secure storage laws are associated with a **23% reduction in child unintentional firearm injury deaths**.¹²

Learning from Past Tragedies

From 2015 through 2024, the Gun Violence Archive documented **14 incidents** in Oregon where a child was found handling a firearm, **10 of which resulted in injury or death** to the child or another individual.¹³ Half of these incidents occurred in the **child's home** and nearly 80% involved the **child accessing a parent's firearm**. Below are example scenarios describing these incidents.

In 2015, a two-year-old child in Western Oregon discovered an unsecured handgun on their family's coffee table and unintentionally shot themselves. The child suffered serious injuries but survived and recovered.

In 2017, a seven-year-old child in Eastern Oregon discovered an unsecured firearm in their parent's vehicle and unintentionally shot their younger sibling. The younger sibling, who was two years old at the time, was left in critical condition.

In 2018, a two-year-old child died in Northeastern Oregon after unintentionally shooting themselves with their parent's unsecured firearm.

In 2020, a three-year-old child in Northwestern Oregon found an unsecured handgun in a bedroom end table drawer and fatally shot themselves. The child's father was in the room next door when the shooting happened.

To find out where to access secure firearm storage devices in your area, please visit:
<https://projectchildsafe.org/get-a-safety-kit/>

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