

BEN'S CAMPAIGN* wants you to...

***PREVENT
DEATHS
FROM
UNSAFELY
STORED GUNS**

LOCK IT UP!

It's the only SAFE way to store a gun.

**FREE GUN
LOCKS**
ARE AVAILABLE
TO HELP FAMILIES
PREVENT
INJURY & SECURE
FIREARMS
IN THE HOME

GUNS & DEMENTIA

Dementia is a progressive brain disease that can cause changes in a person's ability to safely handle a firearm, including:

- Poor judgement leading to bad decisions
- Memory loss and confusion
- Difficulty understanding situations and surroundings
- Mood and personality changes
- Impulsive behavior
- Trouble recognizing familiar people

No matter how much experience a person has with firearms, cognitive impairment affects the ability to judge safe and unsafe situations. This can put family members, caregivers, and emergency services personnel in potentially harmful circumstances.

SAFETY CHECKLIST:

If you have firearms and someone living with dementia in your home, consider:

- Do you know where all the guns are?
- Does the person living with dementia have access to them?
- Is it safe for the person with dementia to have access to the guns?
- Has there been conversation about gun safety since the dementia diagnosis?
- Do you have the options for securing or removing guns?



**PROTECT YOU
& YOUR FAMILY
NOW!**

SUICIDE

SUICIDE STATS/FACTS

- According to the Centers for Disease Control, firearms accounted for 51% of all suicides in 2016.
- The CDC also reported that in 2016, the highest suicide rate (19.72) was among adults between 45–54 years of age, and the second highest rate (18.98) occurred in those 85 years or older.
- For every individual that dies by suicide, at least 30 others attempt suicide.

SUICIDE & THE ELDERLY

- People 65 years of age and older account for almost 15.6% of all suicides. Elderly white men are at the highest risk of suicide—84% of elderly suicides were male, and the rate of males suicides in late life are 5.25 times greater than for female suicides.
- For the elderly, firearms are the most common means (71.3%) used for completing suicide.*

(*"Suicide in the Elderly", 2014, Betty Owen, MS, MFT)

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Anxiety, agitation
- Pulling away from friends & family
- Past attempts
- Hopelessness
- Increased use of alcohol & drugs
- Risk-taking behavior
- Suicidal thoughts, plans, actions
- Access to lethal means such as firearms and drugs

RESOURCES

In Bucks County, if you are in a crisis situation call 1-800-499-7455 to speak to a trained crisis worker—Anytime—Day or Night.

LOCKS are available FREE from:

Local Police Departments

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
30 East Oakland Ave • Doylestown, PA 18901
267-880-5700

Bucks County Sheriff Office

**For additional help and resources,
call the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging,
267-880-5700, or the
Elder Abuse Hotline, 1-800-490-8505;
Crisis Services: 1-800-499-7455.**

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