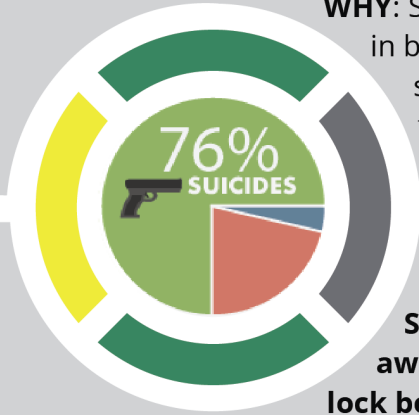




**SAFER HOMES
SUICIDE AWARE**

Safer Homes, Suicide Aware Suicide Prevention Certification Program

WHAT: A comprehensive certification program that supports firearms retailers and instructors by ensuring they are operating their business in the safest environment possible, to reduce suicides by firearms.



WHY: Suicide is the most common type of firearms fatality in both the US and Washington state. In Washington, suicide accounted for more than three quarters of firearm-involved deaths¹. We have significantly reduced unintended injury and death by firearms (hunting mishaps dropped from 441 in the 1970s to 49 in the 2010s²), but we still need to address suicide prevention. **Suicide prevention is the focus of the Safer Homes, Suicide Aware program. Because awareness and simple measures such as lock boxes can save lives.**



Washington state is a national leader in suicide prevention, having been the first state to require suicide prevention training for all medical and mental health professionals. This effort continued in 2016 with the legislature creating the Safer Homes, Suicide Aware Task Force. With representation from the firearms industry, public health, and other diverse stakeholders, Safer Homes works to educate the public about suicide risks and distribute secure storage equipment for medications and firearms.

This program saves lives by ensuring more Washingtonians know how to secure their firearms and have the means to do so, by:

- ✓ Educating gun owners about the role of firearms safety in preventing suicides
- ✓ Distributing free lock boxes and other safety devices



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¹ CDC WONDER, 2012-2016.

² Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Hunter Ed Course.

OVERVIEW OF THE SAFER HOMES, SUICIDE AWARE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Participating organizations save lives by learning when to recognize that a customer may be at risk of suicide, and by teaching customers how to secure their firearms to keep their loved ones safe.



Participants will receive a Safer Homes, Suicide Aware plaque signed by Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation, certifying their strong commitment to firearms safety, suicide prevention and second amendment rights.



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Participating organizations will receive:

A **checklist of best practices** to help you prevent suicides at your business and respond to them at your establishment

Free online training in suicide prevention via the Safer Homes website (www.saferhomescoalition.org) for you and your staff



Free informational materials (postcards, stickers, and posters) to include with firearms purchases or to display at your store or range

A **suicide prevention training module** that can be added to existing firearms safety courses

Consultation services by Safer Homes, Suicide Aware firearms instructors on incorporating suicide prevention into your organization's coursework



An option for customers to attend a **firearms safety seminar that meets and exceeds all requirements of I-1639**, enabling your Washington resident customers to purchase semi-auto rifles

Since its inception, Safer Homes Suicide Aware has been a groundbreaking program, reducing the risk of suicide by educating firearms owners about the importance of securing firearms in the home so that those in mental health crisis can't access them. We've already worked with retailers and ranges across Washington to spread our suicide prevention message, and we hope to reach many more Washingtonians with your help.



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