



Dementia and Firearm Safety



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HARBORVIEW
 INJURY PREVENTION
 & RESEARCH CENTER

hot topics in practice

Northwest Center
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

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Question for the Viewers


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How would you rate your understanding of firearm injury risks in the older adult population?


- A. High level
- B. Moderate level
- C. Low level
- D. Other (please type in chat)

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Firearm Injury and Older Adults




Dementia and Suicide Risks



Clinical, Individual, and Family Solutions



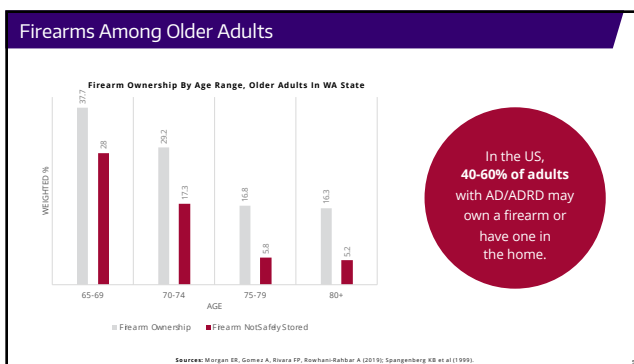
Tools and Policy Solutions



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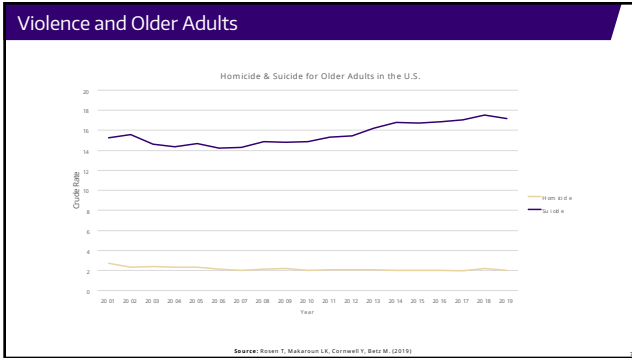
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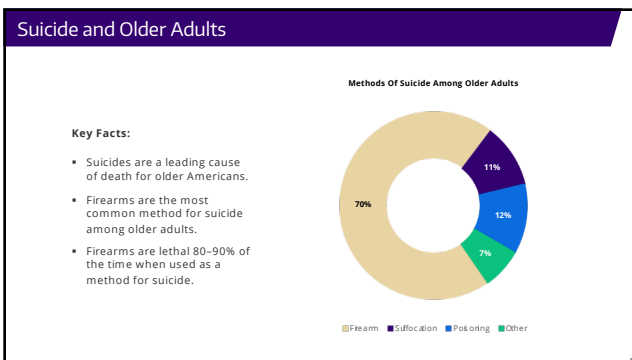
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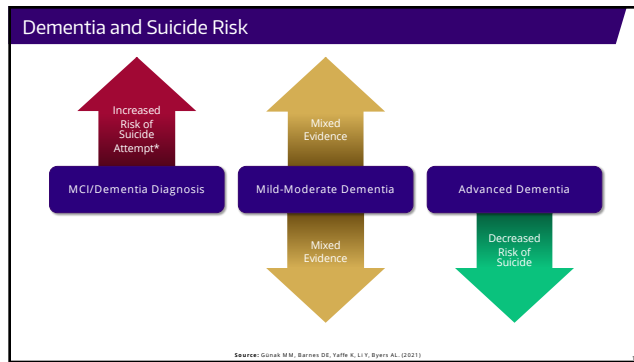
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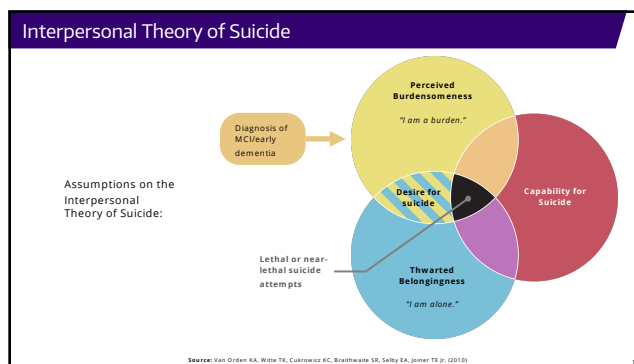
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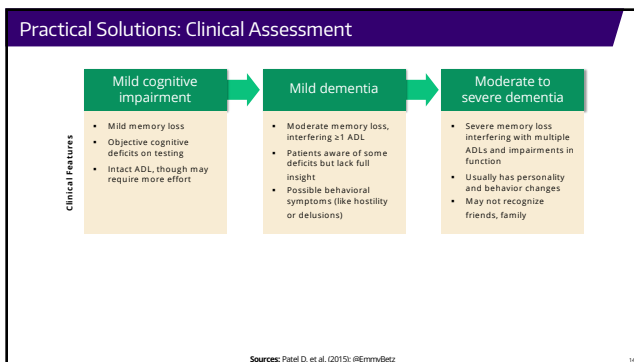
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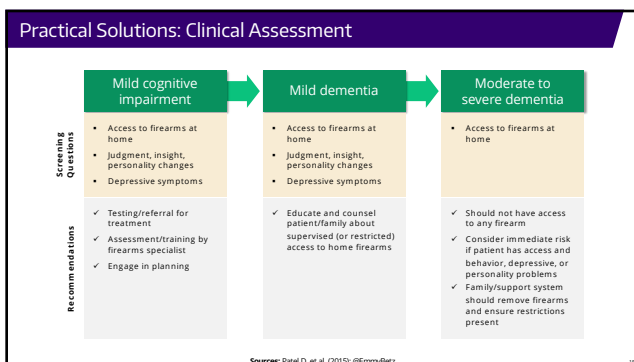
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Practical Solutions: Planning

Use Online Planning Tools




Example: Safety in Dementia

Create a Written Plan



Practice Safe Storage at Home



Examples: Trigger locks, lock boxes, gun safes

Sources: Betsy, et al. (2018). BECrimDeter

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Question for the Viewers

Does your state or jurisdiction have specific laws targeting gun violence among persons with dementia?

- A. Yes (please share in chat)
- B. No
- C. I'm not sure
- D. Other (please type in chat)

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Federal Law: Gun Ownership

Background Checks

When firearm is purchased from a Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer

The following persons are prohibited from owning:

- Felons
- Fugitives
- Persons with Addiction
- Underage
- Danger to self or others or "lack the mental capacity to contract or manage their own affairs"
- Involuntary hospitalizations
- Non-citizens unlawfully in the United States
- Has an active restraining order
- Has been convicted of domestic violence

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State Laws: ERPO and Dementia

Concise Research Report | Published: 16 October 2020

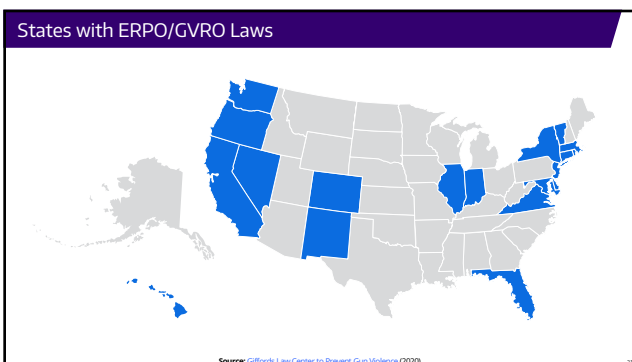
Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Persons with Dementia in the State of Washington

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Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) are a potential tool to reduce gun violence among persons with dementia.

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ERPO: Extreme Risk Protection Orders

What is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil court order Prevents firearm access to high-risk individuals Based on behaviors 	What does it do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new firearms (background check would prevent) Relinquish existing firearms
What behaviors are covered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence Threats of self harm Dangerous mental health crises Abuse of alcohol/drugs 	Who can file? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close family member Roommate Employer/ Employee Law Enforcement Officer

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Firearm Transfers

Washington firearm safe storage map

Source: Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, Google Maps


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Key Takeaways


- ✓ **Takeaway 1:** Suicide is the primary risk with firearms for older adults.
- ✓ **Takeaway 2:** Firearms are the most common mechanism for suicide and are used with increasing frequency as we age.
- ✓ **Takeaway 3:** Specific recommendations for firearm safety and planning are available for persons with cognitive impairment and dementia, and they vary by disease stage.
- ✓ **Takeaway 4:** Certain policy tools such as ERPOs may help protect people in situations where a person is demonstrating concerning behavior.

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A Chat with Laura Prater




Allene Mares



Laura Prater

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QUESTIONS?



To ask a question, please click the  icon in the Zoom toolbar to open your Q&A Pod.

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Resources

Forefront Suicide Prevention
University of Washington
<https://inthe forefront.org/>

Three Interventions Toolkit
Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center
<https://hiirc.org/3interventionstoolkit/>

Safety in Dementia
Tools to help people make decisions about safety and dementia.
<https://safetyindementia.org/>

Giffords Law Center
Gun Law and Policy Resources
<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/>

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