

## ➤ How CHWs are Working to Keep Your Community Safe

Community Health Workers (CHWs) provide individuals and local communities with awareness, outreach, education, and linkages to resources for health-related issues such as:

- Diabetes, Kidney Disease, Maternal and Child Health, Dementia Care, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Community Safety

**They will also provide linkages to resources for needs such as:**

- Access to Health Insurance, Transportation to Medical Appointments, Access to Affordable Food, Rental and Utility Assistance, Childcare, and Advocacy for the Voice of Your Community

If a CHW approaches you about an issue affecting you or your community, take a moment to speak with them or get their contact information. They will devote their time to you.



## Keeping Your Loved Ones SAFE

IPHA Community Health Workers at Community-Based Organizations and Local Health Departments Work Together to Keep All Residents of Illinois Safe



## > Suicide Deaths Affect Central & Southern Illinois

Suicide Information You Should Know from the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System:

### ILLINOIS CENTRAL COUNTIES

- **65.1%** of all violent deaths due to suicide
- **20%** of these are veterans
- **33.8%** of these are ages 65+
- In **61.3%** of these cases, a firearm was the primary weapon

### ILLINOIS SOUTHERN COUNTIES

- **83.8%** of all violent deaths due to suicide
- **15.8%** of these are veterans
- **31.6%** of these are ages 55-64
- **12.3%** of these are 15 years and younger
- In **50.9%** of these cases, a firearm was the primary weapon

## Always Keep Your Loved Ones Safe – Suicides & Unintended Deaths Affect All Residents of the State of Illinois

When you are done using your firearm:

- Thread Your Gun Lock or Place Your Gun in the Gun Locker
- Lock Your Gun Lock or Lock Your Gun Locker
- Remember to Place Your Locked Gun Out of Reach of Loved Ones
- Double Check These Steps
- Regularly Check Your Safety Measures & Recommended Maintenance

## > Suicide Prevention

- Firearm safety is not only about preventing accidents – it's also about protecting lives. Because moments of crisis can happen suddenly, secure storage is one of the most effective ways to prevent suicide.
- Keeping firearms locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition can create the time and space needed for someone in distress to find help.
- Every gun owner plays a role in protecting themselves, their loved ones, and their community by practicing safe storage and encouraging others to do the same.
- Together, we can reduce the risk of tragedy and save lives.



Follow These Steps  
and Be a Champion  
of Safety in Your  
Community



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