Families Know First: Preventing Suicide Deaths
Anneliese Dickman, Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort
Gun deaths in Wisconsin 2016

Total gun deaths: 664
Total gun suicides: 445
State Sen. Rick Gudex dies at 48
Annual average gun suicide deaths by age 2000-2016

- 15-24: 10%
- 25-34: 15%
- 35-44: 15%
- 45-54: 20%
- 55-64: 17%
- 65-74: 15%
- 75+: 14%
Annual ave gun suicide death rate per 100,000 by gender 2000-2016

Male: 11.3
Female: 1.2
95% Percent of total gun suicide deaths in Wisconsin that are white victims 2000-2016

By Daniela Altimari • Contact Reporter

A 1999 law that allows police to remove guns from the homes of potentially violent people likely prevented dozens of suicides, according to a new study.

Researchers at Duke University, Yale University and the University of Connecticut examined 762 gun-removal cases and concluded that one suicide was prevented for every 10 to 20 guns seized under the law.
Characteristics of suicide by firearm victims are similar between

WI + CT

Male: WI 90%, CT 92%
Older: WI age 45+, CT age 50+
White: WI 95%, CT 96%
Lethal Violence Restraining Order:
Similar to domestic violence restraining order, but applies to threats made in other contexts, including threats to self.

“Families Know First” Law
Provides a civil procedure for removing firearms temporarily due to a credible threat of harm.
762 removal orders issued in CT since 1999
average of 7 guns removed per order = 5,300 guns
Threats giving rise to removal orders in CT 1999-2013

- Suicide: 0.61
- Harm to others: 0.32
- Both: 0.09
- Other: 0.16
Percent of CT orders receiving treatment in state mental health/addiction services system 1999-2013

- Treated year prior: 0.12
- Treated year after: 0.29
Among the 762 protective order cases, there were 21 subsequent suicide deaths; a rate equal to 482 per 100,000.

In the general population in CT the suicide rate equals 12 per 100,000.

Researchers estimate that the orders have prevented 121 other attempts.
Annual ave total gun suicide deaths in CT

Before law (1981-1998)

After law (1999-2005)
In states where more people own guns, suicide rates are higher.
Wisconsin gun suicide deaths 2000-2016
BRIGHT SPOT

Under a Families Know First Law:

43 protective orders per year in Wisconsin

at least 300 guns removed per year

potentially preventing 70 suicide deaths
over the next decade