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BY THE NUMBERS
FIREARM INJURIES IN
2017
60% of US gun
deaths were due
to SUICIDE

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NATIONALLY 90% of FIREARM SUICIDE attempts are FATAL

Firearm Suicide Rates are Highest in the Intermountain Areas

Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico And Rural Areas

Currently <50%

Of suicidal patients discharged home are asked about firearm access prior to discharge

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Nevada Seniors (65-85+) 1999-2015 Suicide Rates

NEVADA 31.5 Wyoming 28.6 Montana 25.7

Oregon 23.3

UNITED STATES 15.3

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US Suicide Rate Increased 35% 1999 to 2018

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Relative risk of suicide for physicians VS general population

FEMALES 2.27 X MALES 1.41 X

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50%

• Of suicide decedents did not have a known mental health condition

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 Of U.K. physicians would not seek professional outpatient help for mental illness

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21.7%

 Essential workers have seriously considered suicide in the past 30 days.

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EMS SUICIDE THREAT

emsworld.com 2/2020

- EMS providers more likely to die by Suicide than non-EMS providers. Prehosp Emerg Care, 2018 Sept; 1-6
- 15% of firefighters had attempted suicide at least once in their lifetime. Clin Psychol Rev, 2016; 44: 25-44
- HIGH RISK for burnout, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and SUICIDE.

YOU HAVE A VERY TOUGH JOB!

THE STUDY

- Anonymous Survey
- N = 903
- 20 different regional agencies
- July 2017- October 2017
- Fire based, private, hospital-based, third party services, and air-medical EMS agencies.

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THE RESULTS

- 31.3% increased risk for future suicidal behavior.
- 27.2% reported suicidal ideation in past year.
 7X higher than general population.
- RISK for Suicidal behavior M>F
- Increased risk included family history of depression or suicide.
- Top 3 stressors: Career, Finances, and Lack of Sleep

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THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS

- Lack of support from peers, supervisors, and the organization.
- Lack of resources within the EMS community.
- Need for downtime after difficult calls.

