Firearm training among U.S. adults

Findings from a study by VA researchers and colleagues

• The percentage of U.S. firearm owners who reported receiving formal firearm training showed little change between 1994 (56 – 58%) and 2015 (61%).

• The most commonly reported combination of training topics was safe handing, safe storage, and accident prevention.

• Only 15% of owners said their training covered suicide prevention.

• Conclusion: The proportion of U.S. firearm owners with formal firearm training has not meaningfully changed in two decades. Training programs vary widely. Efforts are needed to standardize and evaluate the effectiveness of training.