VA researchers and colleagues used data from a 2015 nationally representative sample to learn about Veterans’ firearm-storage practices and attitudes. Here’s part of what they learned:

1 in 3 Veteran firearm owners store household firearms loaded and unlocked

1 in 20 believe that a firearm increases household suicide risk

1 in 4 consider their loaded, unlocked firearm to be inaccessible to suicidal household members

**Conclusion:** “Storing a firearm **loaded and unlocked** is common among Veterans. … **Suicide prevention initiatives** among Veterans should incorporate **communication strategies** that address **common misperceptions** about household firearm risk and whether safe storage practices may better align with reasons most Veterans own firearms (i.e., **safety**)—especially when someone in their home is at **increased risk for suicide**.”