

Common ground for the Commonwealth.

Keep Kentuckians Safe. And Our Gun Rights Too.

- In Kentucky, **more than half** of households own at least one gun.¹
- **There were 947 firearm related deaths in Kentucky in 2021.** 534 (56%) were suicides and 373 (39%) were homicide/legal intervention.²
- In Kentucky's rural areas, **68% of firearm deaths were from suicide in 2021**, a 26% increase in firearm deaths from suicide since 2001.³ Firearm suicides are 1.4 times higher in rural areas than in urban areas.⁴
- **79% of Kentucky's veteran suicides in 2020** were by firearm, compared to 64.9% of overall Kentucky suicides.⁵ Farmers (36.1 per 100,000) and Miners (54.2) also have a significantly higher suicide rate than the general population (27.4).⁶
- In 2021, one Kentuckian died by firearm suicide **every 16 hours**.⁷
- Per the Gun Violence Archive, **there have been eight incidents of mass violence** in our state this year: Lexington (1), Louisville (6), and Paducah (1).

Common Ground for the Commonwealth

Whitney/Strong is dedicated to finding common ground solutions to gun death and injury. We're balancing Kentuckians' tradition of firearm ownership with public safety and the **urgent need to ensure the mental health and wellness of gun owners.**

Helping Gun Owners Help Gun Owners

If we connect gun owners to help when they need it most, we can lessen the likelihood firearms will be misused - be that in acts of violence against self, others, or both.

The Solution

A bipartisan bill, **Crisis Aversion and Rights Retention (CARR)**, allows for the temporary transfer of firearms away from people on the brink of crisis. It ensures you have a way to intervene before your loved one misuses a gun. States with processes for the temporary transfer of firearms **see rates of suicide by firearm drop between 7 and 14 percent**.⁸ Recent studies show compelling evidence for mass violence prevention too.⁹

Nearly **80% of individuals considering suicide give some sign** of their intentions.¹⁰

Studies conducted over 30 years show that **90% of mass shooters engaged in suicidal behavior before their attacks, and 80% expressed their intent to others**.¹¹

When the signs are visible, CARR is the tool.

CARR Is Supported By



Behind the Numbers with Whitney/Strong

700+

Petition
Signatures
Gathered

32

Counties
Represented
with Signatures

1MM +

Kentuckians
educated on
CARR

20,000 +

Emails sent in
support of CARR

2

Interim Hearings
with Joint Judiciary
Committee

6000+

Supporter
Base

1 Schell, Terry L., Samuel Peterson, Brian G. Vegetabile, Adam Scherling, Rosanna Smart, and Andrew R. Morral, State-Level Estimates of Household Firearm Ownership. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2020. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TL354.html>.

2 CDC, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021.

3 Id. and CDC, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database 2001, comparing total firearm suicide deaths in non-metro locations in Kentucky 2021 vs. total firearm suicide deaths in non-metro locations in Kentucky 2001.

4 CDC, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Fatal Injury 2011-2020 on WISQARS Database. Urban is classified as large central metro and large fringe metro counties. Rural is classified as nonmetro counties.

5 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Kentucky Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2020. <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2020/2020-State-Data-Sheet-Kentucky-508.pdf>

6 Disparities in Suicide." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2023 (citing 2016 data). https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/disparities-in-suicide.html#industry_occupation.

7 CDC, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021.

8 Kivisto, A.J., & Phalen, P. (2018). Effects of risk-based firearm seizure laws on suicide rates in Connecticut and Indiana, 1981-2015. *Psychiatric Services*, 69(8), 855-862.

9 Pear VA, Pallin R, Schleimer JP, et al Gun violence restraining orders in California, 2016–2018: case details and respondent mortality *Injury Prevention* 2022;28:465-471.

10 "Promote Hope, Healing and Help to Prevent Suicide." 2023. NAMI. Accessed December 13. <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/September-2016/Promote-Hope-Healing-and-Help-to-Prevent-Suicide>.

11 A. Lankford, Identifying Potential Mass Shooters and Suicide Terrorists With Warning Signs of Suicide, Perceived Victimization, and Desires for Attention and Fame. *Journal of Personality Assessment* (2018).