

## **Talking About Lethal Means: A Course for Crisis Counselors**

What is lethal means safety? Can limiting access to lethal means impact a suicidal crisis? How can lethal means be effectively addressed by crisis line workers during a crisis conversation? The Suicide Prevention Resource Center's online course Talking About Lethal Means: A Course for Crisis Counselors answers these questions and more. This two-hour, self-paced online course is designed specifically for crisis line workers.

The course includes four chapters that incorporate videos, interactive scenarios, and knowledge checks to allow learners to practice skills and reflect on their crisis work experiences. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the importance of reducing access to lethal means during a suicidal crisis. Chapter 2 explores practical aspects of talking about lethal means during crisis conversations and guides the learner through techniques for approaching the topic of lethal means and methods for reducing access to means such as firearms and medication. Chapter 3 reviews how building a strong connection with an individual in crisis can impact lethal means conversations. It also provides considerations for working with adolescents. Finally, Chapter 4 focuses on emergency interventions and explores ways to ensure involuntary emergency interventions are used only when absolutely necessary. It also addresses the ways lethal means conversations can impact decisions about emergency interventions.

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