

Many older gun owners fail to consider future ownership transfer

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(HealthDay)—Half of older gun owners have a plan for transferring gun

ownership after death and even fewer have a plan for transferring ownership in the case of impairment, according to a research letter published online Oct. 6 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Marian E. Betz, M.D., M.P.H., from University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, and colleagues used data from the second online National Firearms Survey (conducted from July 30 to August 11, 2019) to assess the frequency of advance planning by older gun owners (≥ 65 years) to transfer their firearms to someone else if they can no longer handle them safely or if they die.

The researchers found that approximately one-fifth of older firearm owners had a plan for securing, removing, or transferring firearms if they became unable to handle them safely. These plans were more often unwritten versus written (16.1 versus 5.6 percent). Nearly half of respondents had a plan for transferring firearms to someone upon death, either written (22.5 percent) or unwritten (25.4 percent).

"Informed by this work, trusted messengers—whether from the medical, legal, firearm, or other communities—can help prevent firearm injury by assisting in contingency planning for [firearm](#) retirement," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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