Although most firearm-related deaths are suicides, firearm suicides represent a low percentage of suicides overall.

Firearm suicide rates began falling in the 1980s.

A number of studies, from a range of different sources, have shown that:

- The 1996 firearms legislation did not have a significant impact on the pre-existing downward trend in firearm suicides.
- Declines in firearm suicide have been accompanied by an increase in the use of other suicide methods (especially hanging).
- Declines in non-firearm suicides began around the same time as the gun laws were changed. The declines coincided with the introduction of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

A recent report backed by the Public Health Association of Australia concluded that the 1996 gun laws were “not a cost effective intervention” for suicide prevention.

References


