



---

# Media Advisory

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 3, 2022**

Contact: Valancia Turner, Public Information Officer, FCCS, 614-275-2521, [vkturner@fccs.us](mailto:vkturner@fccs.us)

## **May is Mental Health Awareness Month Join FCCS in Preventing Youth Suicide**

During Mental Health Awareness Month this May, Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) is focusing on preventing youth suicide. According to research conducted by the Ohio Department of Health, in 2020, suicide was the second leading cause of death among Ohioans 10-14 years of age. As youth develop, they face challenges and stressful situations that may lead to mental health crises. Teenagers, especially need the support and guidance of adults to help them recognize and address problems that occur and prevent tragedies.

It's not only important to provide youth with resources for addressing mental health issues, but also limit their access to lethal means when crisis situations arise. The Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost reports that conceal carry firearms licenses issued in Ohio increased 78% in 2020, compared to 2019. Safeguarding firearms as well as medication can help keep youth safe.

FCCS is partnering with Columbus Public Health (CPH) along with Nationwide Children's Hospital to increase awareness and promote limiting access to lethal means. Through their Locks Save Lives campaign, CPH stresses the importance of limiting access to firearms and medication, especially if there are concerns about suicide. Email [ChildInjuryPrevention@columbus.gov](mailto:ChildInjuryPrevention@columbus.gov) to learn how to receive a free lockbox. During the month of May, FCCS will promote preventing youth suicides through various advertising mediums and social media.

*Franklin County Children Services is the public agency mandated by federal and state law to ensure that our community's children are safe and well cared for. We provide protection, care and permanency for children who are abused, neglected or dependent.*

## **Franklin County Children Services**

*Through collaboration with families and their communities, we advocate for the safety, permanency, and well-being of each child we serve in a manner that honors family and culture.*