



Colorado Office of Gun Violence Prevention 2025 Annual Report

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Executive Summary

Since its establishment in 2021 by House Bill (HB) 21-1299 (§§ 25-20.5-1201-1206, C.R.S.), the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (office) has made substantial progress on its founding responsibilities. The office has established strong relationships and partnerships with various state agencies, including the Office of Suicide Prevention, the Attorney General’s Office, the Office of School Safety, and the Department of Public Safety. The office is a member of the Governor’s Crime Prevention Cabinet Working Group, collaborating to make Colorado one of the top 10 safest states.

The office’s purpose is to coordinate and promote effective efforts to reduce gun violence and promote research regarding causes of, and evidence-based responses to, gun violence. Responsibilities include:

- Increase the awareness of, and educate the general public about, state and federal laws and existing resources relating to gun violence prevention, including:
 - The availability of and process for requesting an Extreme Risk Protection Order.
 - How to report a lost or stolen firearm.
 - Safe and responsible gun ownership, including safe storage best practices and increasing awareness of compliance with relevant law.
- Conduct awareness campaigns directed toward gun owners, parents and legal guardians of children, and professionals who provide services to people and communities disproportionately affected by gun violence.
- Administer a grant program, subject to available money, to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives that are primarily focused on interrupting cycles of gun violence, trauma, and retaliation by providing culturally competent intervention services.

- Create and maintain a resource bank where all Coloradans can learn about firearm injury and explore data-driven solutions.
- Identify and apply for available federal grants and other funding to further its efforts in preventing gun violence.

Highlights during the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 reporting period:

- The "Let's Talk Guns, Colorado" campaign achieved over 61.5 million impressions statewide. The campaign website attracted over 171,000 unique visitors seeking information on gun violence prevention resources and laws.
- The grant program allocated approximately \$500,000 to six organizations focused on community-based prevention and intervention of gun violence. Approximately 90% of these dollars were from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, with the remaining funds coming from the state General Fund.
- The office used \$1,122,173 in federal funding from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice to enhance its grant program and develop new training materials on Extreme Risk Protection Orders for health care and mental health professionals.
- The office collaborated with the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the Colorado School of Public Health to update the state's first gun violence prevention resource bank.
- The office conducted extensive stakeholder engagement, representing a range of perspectives and experiences to address gun violence in Colorado. These meetings included the following sectors: state and local government, the firearm-owning community, academia, advocacy funding and convening organizations, community-based organizations, and hospitals and health systems.

Introduction

As directed by C.R.S. § 25-20.5-1206(2), on or before November 30 of each year, the Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment shall report on the activities it has conducted in the previous 12 months. The report is submitted to the department's executive director. The report must include information about the awareness and education campaigns conducted by the office; effective gun violence intervention programs identified and conducted by the office; any federal grants or other funding the office applied for and whether the office received those grants or other funds; and a general summary of new and relevant research included in the office's resource bank and the nature of research assistance provided by the office.

Data Landscape

The office is data-driven, relying on several data sources to inform its work. Some sources do not have data for 2024. The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey and Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey are biannual surveys and were not administered in 2024. Additionally, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System did not ask questions about firearm ownership in 2024. The data below is a high-level summary that drives the office's work.

Deaths due to Firearm-Related Injury

- In 2024, 958 Colorado residents died due to a firearm-related injury. The age-adjusted mortality rate due to injury by firearm was 15.4 per 100,000 population (Colorado Vital Statistics, 2024). In comparison, 1,012 Colorado residents died due to a firearm-related injury in 2023, with an age-adjusted mortality rate of 16.5 per 100,000 population (Colorado Vital Statistics, 2023).

Hospitalization due to Firearm-Related Injury

- In 2024, there were 451 hospital discharges and 863 emergency department visits mentioning injuries by firearms in Colorado. The age-adjusted hospital discharge rate for injury by firearm was 7.7 per 100,000 population, and the

age-adjusted rate for emergency department visits was 14.6 per 100,000 population (Colorado Hospital Association, 2024).

Firearm Access

- An estimated 37% of Coloradans have at least one firearm in or around the home. Fifteen percent of Coloradans who have a firearm in the home store at least one firearm unlocked and loaded (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2023).
- Twenty-one percent of middle schoolers and 19% of high schoolers report being able to fire a loaded gun without adult permission in less than one hour (Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, 2023).

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

- In Colorado, 692 order petitions were filed between January 2020 and December 2024. Of these, a judge granted 478 temporary orders and 371 final orders (Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative, 2020-2024).
- In total, health care or mental health professionals filed six orders. Judges granted all six orders that were filed by health care or mental health professionals (Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative, 2020-2024).
- Approximately 44% of Coloradans are aware that Extreme Risk Protection Orders laws exist (Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey, 2023).

In FY 2024-2025, the office continued to implement its statutory directives. Updates on each strategy are provided below.

Awareness and education campaigns

The office officially launched the “Let’s Talk Guns, Colorado,” campaign in 2022. The statewide education and awareness campaign is designed to help reduce gun violence and promote firearm safety across the state. The campaign is intended to increase awareness and understanding among Coloradans about state and federal laws and existing resources relating to gun violence prevention. Topics include gun safety laws

and best practices related to the safe storage of firearms, requirements for reporting a lost or stolen firearm, and how to request an Extreme Risk Protection Order.

During the reporting period, Coloradans saw Let’s Talk Guns, Colorado campaign materials in print and online; through cable, network, and streaming TV services; on billboards and bus signs; through social media; on the radio; when driving past billboards near military bases; and when visiting local businesses and public spaces; and more. The campaign generated over 61.5 million impressions statewide and attracted more than 171,000 unique website visitors.

The campaign websites at LetsTalkGunsColorado.com and ColoradoHablemosdeArmas.com offer information on firearm storage options, safe gun ownership checklists, the process for requesting the temporary removal of access to firearms from someone who may pose a significant risk of harming themselves or others, and more.

The office and campaign vendor optimized and expanded materials. The work is responsive to ongoing changes in policy, including [Senate Bill 23-170](#), which expanded petitioner groups for Colorado’s Extreme Risk Protection Order law and required the office to include this information in its campaign. The office and its vendor gathered feedback from Colorado health care and mental health stakeholders, including doctors, nurses, and other clinical specialists. That input informed the structure, creative design, content, and usability of the online training curriculum.

The office also began planning for an independent campaign evaluation to be completed during the next fiscal year.

Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs

The office utilized funding received from the Division of Criminal Justice to fund a community grant program focused on preventing unintentional and intentional firearm-related harm and community-based firearm violence intervention initiatives. Grantees include:

- Youthzone serving Garfield, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco counties: Youthzone’s Safe Pathways program focused on repairing harm for victims, offenders, and the community to facilitate community reintegration after a firearm-related incident.
- American Academy of Pediatrics Colorado Chapter: This project was a statewide expansion of their existing efforts to support community pediatricians with a “Secure Their Future” toolkit on how to discuss secure firearm storage with families.
- SpeakUp, Reach Out, serving Eagle, Summit, and Garfield counties: This project sought to reduce the number of suicides by firearms through a public education campaign and offering Lethal Means Safety classes to local health care providers and the wider community.
- Joint Initiatives for Youth & Families, serving El Paso and Teller counties: This project supported the Pathways Beyond Violence program, which uses a multi-disciplinary team approach and restorative practices to address the complex needs of youth at-risk of firearm violence.
- Metro Denver Partners, serving three Denver-based Level 1 trauma hospitals: The At-Risk Intervention and Mentoring (AIM) program expanded its bedside intervention program beyond the three Level 1 trauma hospitals by developing partnerships with other metro-area public health and school-based partners.
- Struggle of Love Foundation, serving North Aurora and Northeast Denver: Their Violence Interruption Program addressed neighborhood violence through the credible messenger model, using direct conflict resolution strategies to interrupt neighborhood violence and continuing to engage youth with lived experience in the community.

The six grantees achieved early measurable impact across four core areas: communication, training and education, expansion through partnership development, and individual intervention and community harm reduction.

Three grantees launched 75 unique communications (mass media, digital, and print) to increase awareness of firearm-related harm and preventive measures.

Four grantees successfully delivered or participated in 34 training activities, developing 44 unique educational materials for purposes including internal capacity building, health care providers, and community education (e.g., Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Counseling on Access to Lethal Means, Secure Their Future, and suicide prevention). A total of 190 individuals completed training, and post-training surveys indicated high impact: 92% reported gaining knowledge from the training, and 60% reported applying that knowledge afterward.

Two grantees made 13 outreach efforts, resulting in 22 provider engagements with pediatric practices and hospitals to expand services.

Four grantees engaged 118 participants, primarily youth aged 13-24 (66%), through judicial referrals. These individuals and 138 family members received support, with 69 service providers delivering 155 service encounters that included mentorship, mental health, legal aid, and basic needs assistance.

The office's grantee reporting and evaluation is continuous. Success is measured through interim and final evaluations conducted by office staff, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Center for Environmental Data evaluators, and the Prevention Services Division.

The office also engaged in stakeholder outreach with over 75 organizations, including state and local government agencies, academic institutions, hospitals, health systems, and community organizations, for purposes of cross-sector collaboration, community building, and discussion around office initiatives. This included a focus on Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

Federal Funding/Grants

The office utilized \$1,122,173 in funding received from the Division of Criminal Justice. \$454,444 was used to cover 90% of a \$500,000 community grant for firearm

harm reduction and violence intervention, with the office supplying the final 10%. An additional \$454,445 from the Division of Criminal Justice supported the creation and launch of a new curriculum and online toolkit to facilitate health care and mental health professionals in filing Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

Resource Bank/Research Assistance

The office worked with the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the Colorado School of Public Health to update the state's first [gun violence prevention resource bank](#), where all Coloradans can learn about firearm-related harms and prevention strategies. The resource bank is housed on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's website and helps visitors understand what firearm injury and death look like in Colorado. It also offers information that allows users to explore solutions, informed by research, that may reduce the overall burden of firearm injuries and deaths.

Resource bank web pages cover a variety of topics, including Colorado laws and firearm harms such as suicide, community violence, mass shootings, and intimate partner violence. The resource bank also contains information about gun violence prevention approaches like secure storage, out-of-home storage, Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and lethal means safety counseling. The data include mortality rates of firearm deaths, Colorado Bureau of Investigation background checks, mass shooting incidents (incidents where a minimum of four victims are shot, either injured or killed, not including the shooter), Extreme Risk Protection Order use in Colorado, and firearm access/storage. These and other data are from law enforcement agencies, health care providers, state and federal agencies, and an independent data collection research group ([Gun Violence Archive](#)).

To increase user engagement, the office improved the usability of the resource bank throughout the reporting period.

- The team updated existing data and curated additional data sources that feed into an [interactive dashboard](#).
- The team expanded the resource bank's accessibility, including translating the pages into Spanish.

The office anticipates all updates will be published to the Resource Bank by the end of the calendar year. The office continues to update data and resources, and develop new content (i.e., fact sheets, infographics, and/or toolkits) focusing on gun violence prevention topics.

The office funded the [2024 Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey](#), which was administered to Colorado Peace Officers by the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the Colorado School of Public Health. The survey included questions related to Extreme Risk Protection Orders and child access prevention laws. The survey is an anonymous online questionnaire that provides comprehensive, Colorado-specific data and insight into the impact and prevention of firearm-involved harms in our state.

Conclusion

The Office of Gun Violence Prevention is continuing its work to implement innovative data-driven initiatives, expand collaborations, fund gun violence prevention and firearm safety programs across the state, and decrease the impact of gun violence and accidental firearm injuries across Colorado.