



COLORADO Child
Fatality
Prevention
System

Firearms Death Data,
2012 - 2016



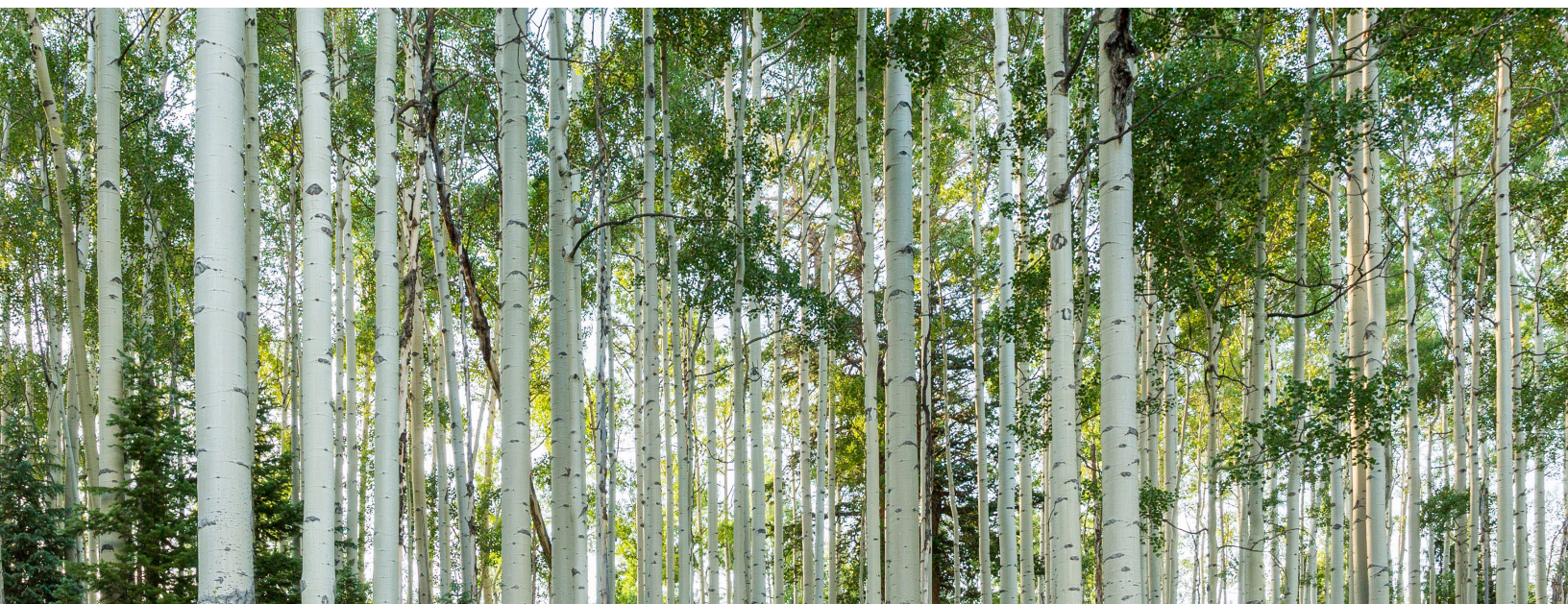
Introduction

The Child Fatality Prevention Act (Article 20.5 of Title 25, Colorado Revised Statutes) established the Child Fatality Prevention System (CFPS), a statewide, multidisciplinary, multi-agency effort to prevent child deaths. Although not codified in Colorado Revised Statutes until 2005, CFPS has been conducting retrospective reviews of child deaths in Colorado since 1989. CFPS applies a public health approach to prevent child deaths by aggregating data from individual child deaths, describing trends and patterns of the deaths and recommending prevention strategies. Child fatality prevention review teams and their partners implement and evaluate the identified strategies at the state and local levels with the goal of preventing similar deaths in the future.

The data presented within this data summary come from comprehensive, statutorily-mandated reviews of deaths among those under 18 years of age occurring in Colorado between 2012 and 2016. Local child fatality prevention review teams are responsible for conducting individual, case-specific reviews of deaths of children meeting the statutory

criteria. Reviewable child deaths result from one or more of the following causes: undetermined causes, unintentional injury, violence, motor vehicle/transport-related, child maltreatment, sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) and suicide. During Fiscal Year 2018, local teams reviewed deaths that occurred in 2016.

The CFPS review process includes deaths of Colorado residents occurring in Colorado, as well as deaths of out-of-state residents who died in Colorado or were transported to a Colorado hospital and died. CFPS does not review deaths of Colorado residents that occur outside of the state. These criteria are different from other reports of child fatality data and in many other Colorado government data sources. As a result, the data presented in this topic-specific data brief may not match other statistics reported at both the state and national levels. This data brief provides an overview of firearms death data from CFPS. For more details on CFPS data, access cause-specific data briefs and an interactive data dashboard here: www.cochildfatalityprevention.com/p/reports.html.

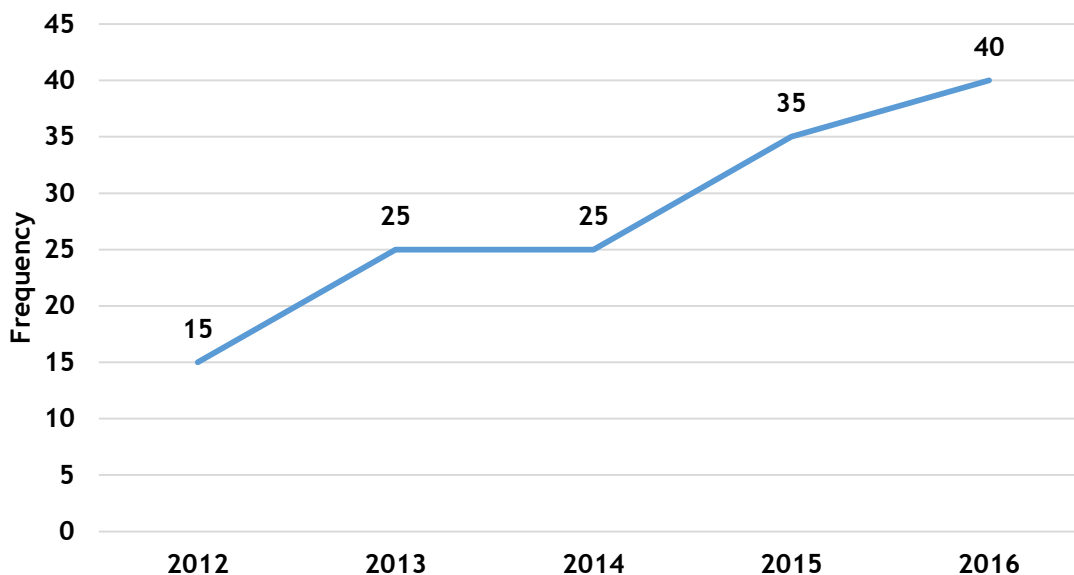


Firearms Death Data, 2012-2016

Overview of Firearms Deaths

CFPS analyzes circumstance data on deaths involving firearms in Colorado, regardless of manner. From 2012-2016, 140 children and youth ages 0-17 died as a result of firearms injuries. Figure 1 shows that the number of yearly firearms deaths for the period ranged from 15 in 2012 to 40 in 2016, averaging 28 deaths per year. The rate has been increasing since 2012, and this difference was statistically significant when comparing 2012 (1.1 per 100,000 population) to 2016 (3.1 per 100,000 population) (data not shown). Among these deaths, suicide was the leading manner of death (66.4 percent, n=93), followed by homicide (29.3 percent, n=41) and accidental manner (2.9 percent, n=4).

Figure 1. Firearms deaths occurring among those under 18 in Colorado by year, 2012-2016 (n=140)



Firearms Death Data, 2012-2016

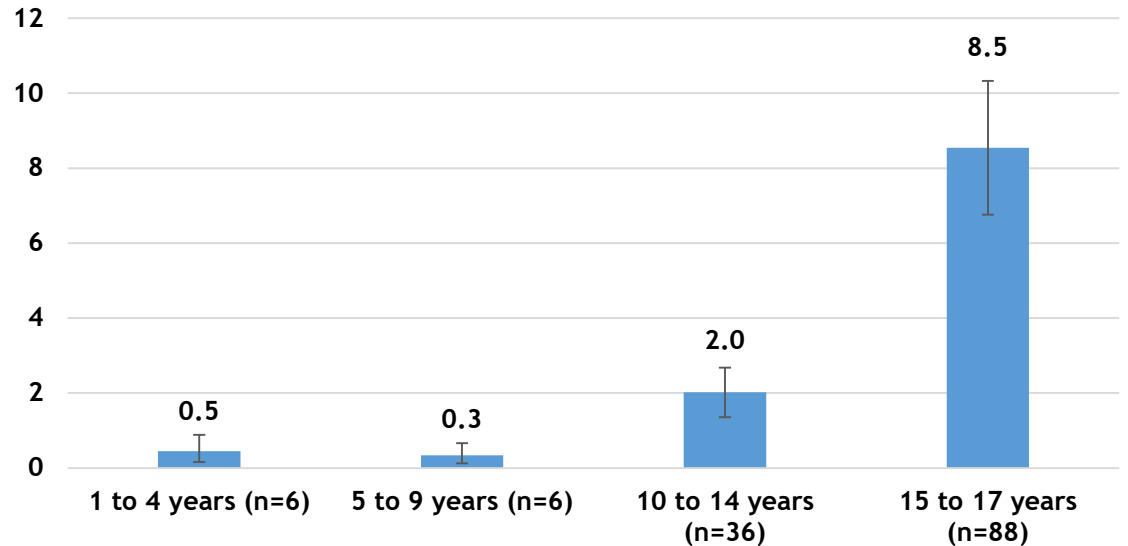
Demographics of Firearms Deaths

Of the 140 deaths occurring in Colorado from 2012-2016, 64.3 percent (n=90) occurred among youth ages 15-17 and 25.7 percent (n=36) occurred among those ages 10-14, representing 90.0 percent (n=126) of all firearms deaths occurring in Colorado (data not shown).

Additionally, the rates of firearms deaths were significantly higher among youth ages 10-14 and 15-17 relative to other age groups (Figure 2). Of the 140 firearms deaths, 84.3 percent (n=118) of the decedents were male, 70.0 percent (n=98) were non-

Hispanic white and 21.4 percent (n=30) were of Hispanic origin. The rate of firearms deaths was significantly higher for males (3.6 per 100,000 population) than for females (0.7 per 100,000 population).

Figure 2. Age-specific rates of firearms deaths occurring in Colorado among Colorado residents under 18 years of age by age group, 2012-2016



*Error bars represent 95% confidence limits for rates.

Circumstances of Firearms Deaths

Figure 3. Type of firearm for firearms deaths occurring among those under 18 in Colorado, 2012-2016 (n=140)

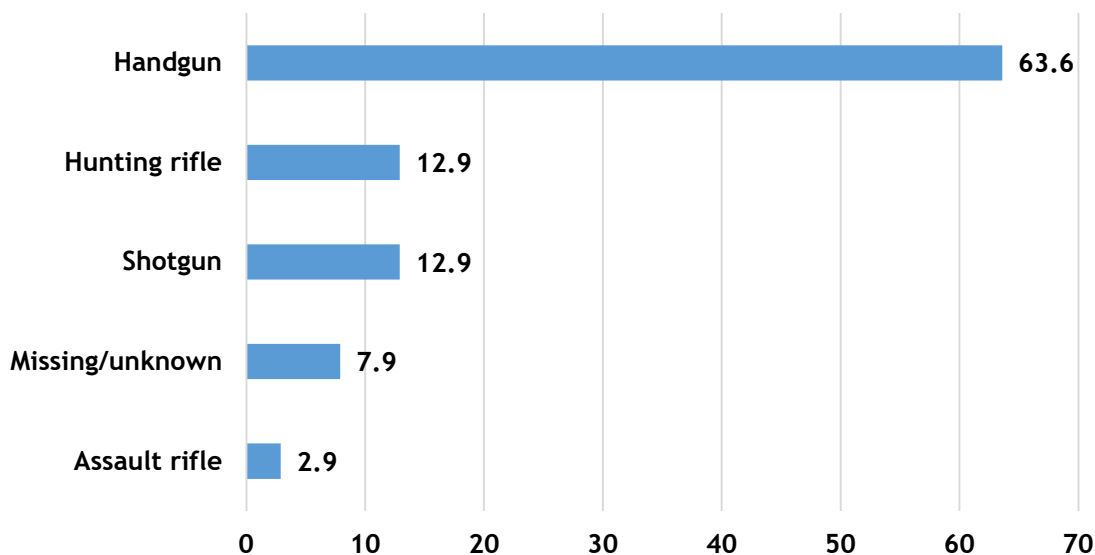


Figure 3 displays the types of firearms used in firearms deaths occurring in Colorado. The weapon type most commonly associated with these deaths was a handgun 63.6 percent (n=89) of the time, followed by hunting rifles and shotguns (12.9 percent, n=18, each) and assault rifles (2.9 percent, n=4). Records and information about weapon type were missing or unknown for 7.9 percent (n=11) of these deaths.

Firearms Death Data, 2012-2016

Figure 4. Firearm storage status for firearms deaths occurring among those under 18 in Colorado, 2012-2016 (n=140)

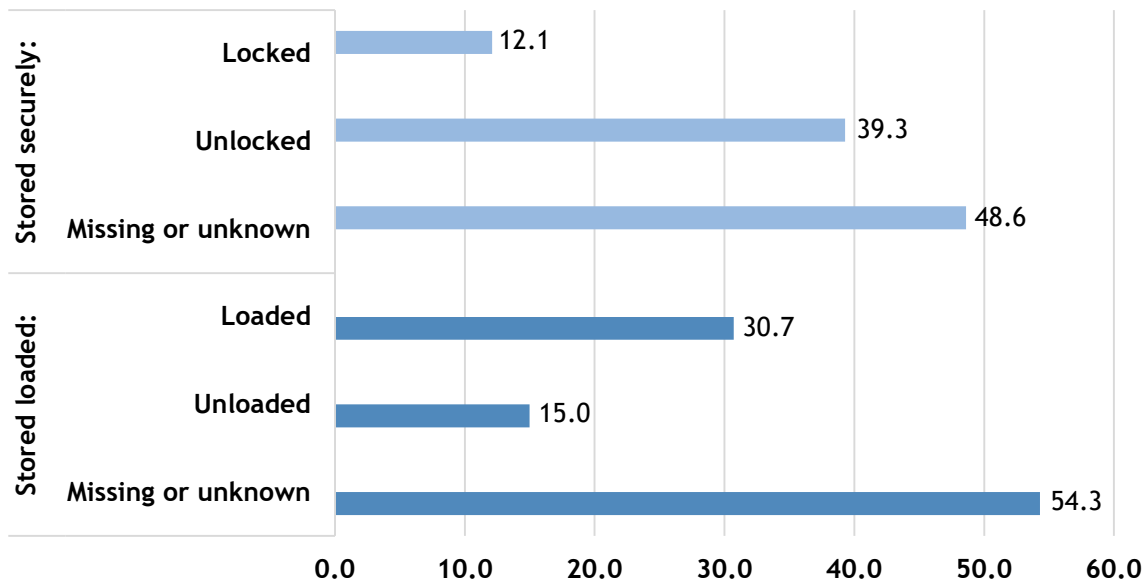


Figure 4 includes information about where the firearm used to inflict fatal firearm injuries was stored. Only 12.1 percent (n=17) of firearms involved in the death of an infant, child or youth in Colorado were known to have been stored in a locked storage location. These firearms were stored unlocked 39.3 percent (n=55) of the time, and this information was missing or unknown for 48.6 percent (n=68) of these firearms. Moreover, these firearms were stored unloaded only 15.0 percent (n=19) of the time, and this information was missing 54.3 percent (n=76) of the time.



Firearms Death Data, 2012-2016

Figure 5. Firearm ownership for firearms deaths occurring among those under 18 in Colorado, 2012-2016 (n=140)

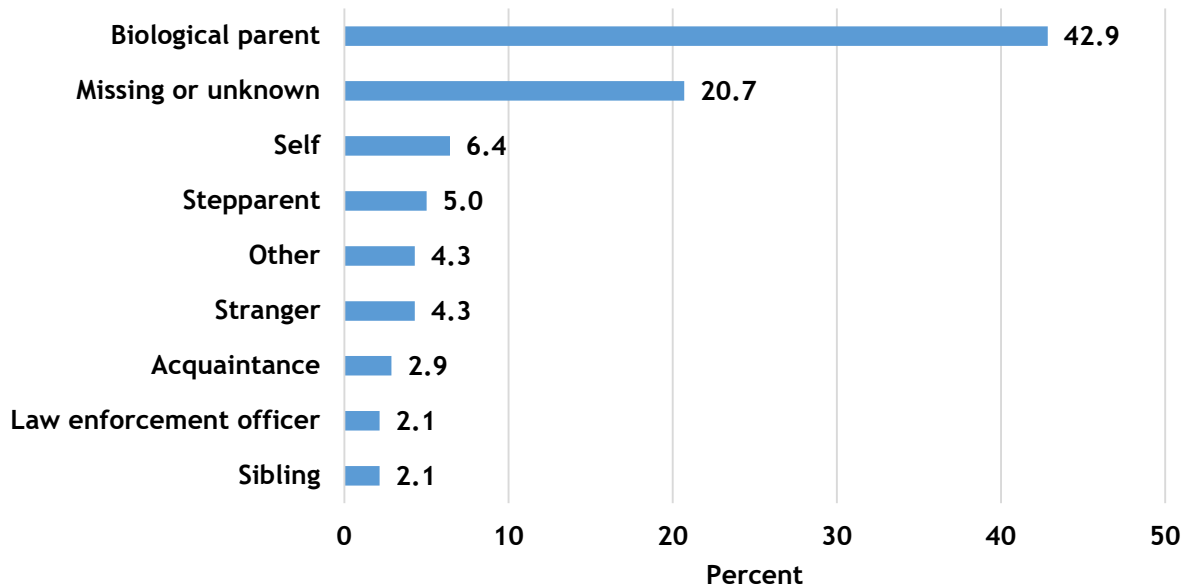


Figure 5 demonstrates ownership of firearms involved in firearm deaths in Colorado by relationship to the child or youth who died. Biological parents were most commonly the reported owners of the firearm involved in the death of an infant, child or youth (42.9 percent, n=60). The child or youth themselves owned the firearm for 6.4 percent (n=9) of the firearm deaths and this information was missing or unknown for 20.7 percent (n=29) of the deaths. Approximately 61.4 percent (n=86) of the firearm owners were male, 10.0 percent (n=14) were female, and information about the sex of the owner was missing for 28.6 percent (n=40) of these deaths (data not shown).

For more information about CFPS data, please contact the CFPS Support Team at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: support@cfps.freshdesk.com