

# Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (COFIPS)

## 2023 Survey

### Survey programming notes:

- 1) **[branching logic indicators are in red, precede question, and include reference question]**
- 2) Questions by default are single response questions.
- 3) Where “Select all that apply” is noted, multiple responses may be selected.
- 4) *(exclusive response)* refers to multiple selection questions in which certain responses are the only responses that may be selected (i.e. “None of the above”).
- 5) Questions that are designed as matrix questions are noted as **[matrix]**.
- 6) Text that should be displayed without a question is noted as **[display]**.
- 7) Questions numbers should not be seen by respondents.

Begin survey \_\_\_\_\_

[display]

You are being asked to respond to this survey because you are a Colorado resident and at least 18 years old. If you take this survey, you will be asked to respond to questions on a number of firearm-related topics. Possible discomforts or risks include exposure to questions about sensitive topics like firearm violence. There may be additional risks the study team has not considered.

This study is not designed to benefit you directly, but this information will be used to help inform ongoing firearm injury prevention strategies in Colorado. The study team will not have access to your name or any information that could be used to identify you. Your answers will be kept confidential.

This study is supported by funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. You have a choice about participating in this survey. You do not have to complete this survey if you do not want to.

The data we collect will be used for this study but may also be important for future research. Your data may be used for future research or distributed to other researchers for future study without additional consent if information that identifies you is removed from the data.

You may have questions about your rights as someone in this study. If you have questions, you can call COMIRB (the responsible Institutional Review Board) at (303) 724-1055. The study protocol number is: 23-0497.

By selecting "Continue" you indicate your consent to participate in this study

[display]Throughout this survey we use the word "firearm" to refer to any guns, including pistols, revolvers, shotguns, and rifles, but not including air guns, BB guns, starter pistols, or paintball guns. The survey questions are about working firearms. By working firearms, we mean firearms that are in working order and capable of being fired.

[display]The first set of questions will ask for your perspectives about firearms and firearm ownership.

**1.1 Did you grow up in a household with firearms?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

**1.2 Have you ever taken a training or class about firearm safety?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

**1.3 How many of your family and friends do you think own firearms?**

1. All
2. Most
3. Some
4. None
5. I don't know

**1.4 How do you feel about people in your local community owning firearms?**

1. Very Negative
2. Negative
3. Neither positive nor negative
4. Positive
5. Very Positive

**1.5 Does (or would) keeping a firearm in your home make it a safer place or more dangerous place to be?**

1. Safer
2. More dangerous
3. It depends
4. Unsure/ No opinion

[display]The next set of questions ask about your knowledge and opinions on community safety and firearm access.

**2.1 To the best of your knowledge, what is the most common cause of death involving firearms in Colorado?**

1. Homicide
2. Suicide
3. Accidental shootings
4. I don't know

**2.2 To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following statements? [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. Access to a firearm increases the risk of injury and death involving a firearm.
- b. Securely storing firearms can reduce the risk of firearm injury and death.
- c. Temporarily removing firearms from the home if someone is in crisis decreases the risk of injury and death involving a firearm.
- d. Many suicides can be prevented.
- e. Violence can be prevented.

Responses:

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither disagree nor agree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

### **2.3 Overall, how safe or unsafe do you think your local community is?**

1. Very unsafe
2. Unsafe
3. Neither unsafe nor safe
4. Safe
5. Very safe

### **2.4 In general, how concerned are you about each of these issues in your local community?**

[matrix]

Statements:

- a. Homicide among adults
- b. Homicide among youth
- c. Suicide among adults
- d. Suicide among youth
- e. Mass shootings
- f. School shootings
- g. Police-involved shootings
- h. Accidental shootings among adults
- i. Accidental shootings among youth
- j. Gang violence
- k. Spouse or partner violence

Responses:

1. Not concerned at all
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Moderately concerned
4. Very concerned

**2.5 In general, how concerned are you about each of the following violent events happening to you or your family? [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. Homicide among adults
- b. Homicide among youth
- c. Suicide among adults
- d. Suicide among youth
- e. Mass shootings
- f. School shootings
- g. Police-involved shootings
- h. Accidental shootings among adults
- i. Accidental shootings among youth
- j. Gang violence
- k. Spouse or partner violence

Responses:

1. Not concerned at all
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Moderately concerned
4. Very concerned

**2.6 Have you done any of the following to protect yourself or your family from the possibility of firearm-related violence? *Select all that apply.***

1. Avoided large crowds, such as music festivals or crowded bars and clubs
2. Avoided attending religious services, cultural events, or celebrations
3. Avoided using public transit, such as buses or trains
4. Purchased a firearm
5. Attended a firearm safety class or practiced shooting a firearm
6. Changed or considering changing the school that your child attends
7. Talked to your child or other family members about firearm safety
8. Talked to your child or other family members about how they can protect themselves against firearm violence
9. Changed where you live
10. Talked to a mental health professional or health care provider about my concerns
11. Talked to law enforcement about my concerns
12. Other
13. None of these (*exclusive response*)

**2.7 Have you or anyone in your close social circle (family or close friends) ever been injured by or died from any of these events? *Select all that apply.***

1. Homicide
2. Suicide
3. Mass shootings
4. School shootings
5. Police-involved shootings
6. Accidental shootings
7. Gang violence
8. Spouse or partner violence
9. None of these (*exclusive response*)

**2.8 How difficult do you think it is for an adult in Colorado to get a firearm?**

1. Not at all difficult
2. Somewhat difficult
3. Moderately difficult
4. Very difficult

**2.9 How likely do you think it is that youth (under 18) in your community could get a firearm in the following ways? [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. Steal or take it from a family or friend's home
- b. Steal it from a stranger
- c. Borrow or buy it from a friend or family member
- d. Have a friend or family member buy it for them
- e. Purchase it from a licensed dealer
- f. Purchase it from an unlicensed dealer

Responses:

1. Very Unlikely
2. Unlikely
4. Likely
5. Very Likely
6. I don't know

**[display]**The next series of questions ask about your awareness of and opinions about policies and prevention strategies to reduce firearm-related injury and violence in Colorado.

**3.1 To the best of your knowledge, does Colorado have a law... [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. ...that punishes or leads to consequences for firearm owners whose firearms could be or are accessed by unsupervised children or unauthorized users?
- b. ...requiring a background check prior to all firearm purchases/transfers?
- c. ...requiring firearm owners to report lost or stolen firearms to the police?
- d. ...requiring a background check prior to transferring a firearm to an immediate family member (e.g., adult child, sibling)?
- e. ...requiring individuals to be added to a registry when they purchase a firearm?
- f. ...allowing certain individuals (like law enforcement or family members) to ask a judge to sign an order that makes it illegal for someone to have or buy firearms if that person is believed to be an immediate danger to themselves or others?

Responses:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. I don't know



**3.2 Please indicate your level of support or opposition for the following policies: [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. Preventing persons with severe/debilitating mental illness from owning firearms
- b. Prohibiting a person with a domestic violence restraining order from having a firearm for the duration of the order
- c. Universal background checks, including for private sales and at gun shows
- d. Prohibiting firearm possession by people believed to be at risk of harming themselves or others
- e. Requiring that persons obtain a permit to purchase a firearm
- f. Prohibiting the purchase of magazines that hold 10 or more rounds of ammunition
- g. Requiring by law that a person take reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized access to their firearms
- h. Requiring background checks before a person can obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm
- i. Requiring a firearm safety course before the purchase of a firearm
- j. Requiring legal firearm owners to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun
- k. Requiring legal firearm owners to obtain a permit to carry an unconcealed handgun (open carry)

Responses:

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Oppose
3. Neutral
4. Support
5. Strongly Support

[display] Colorado has something called an “Extreme Risk Protection Order”, or ERPO. This is also sometimes called a “red flag” law. If someone is threatening to hurt themselves and/or others, an ERPO can be used to temporarily prevent that person from having or buying a firearm. The person’s household members, roommates, someone who they share a child with, law enforcement, licensed medical care providers, licensed mental health-care providers, licensed educators, or district attorneys can petition a judge for an ERPO in Colorado. In an emergency, the judge can issue an immediate order that lasts for up to 2 weeks. After a court hearing, the judge can issue an order that lasts for up to 364 days.

**3.3 In general, do you think it would be appropriate for an ERPO to be issued in the following scenarios? Assume the person has or could get a firearm, and other options (like voluntary actions) have failed or are not appropriate. [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. The person is experiencing a severe emotional crisis
- b. The person has dementia or other cognitive impairment
- c. The person has threatened to physically hurt themselves
- d. The person has threatened to physically hurt you or someone else
- e. The person has threatened to physically hurt a group of people

Responses:

1. Never appropriate
2. Sometimes appropriate
3. Usually appropriate
4. Always appropriate
5. I don't know

**3.4 In your opinion, should firearm laws in Colorado be stronger, less strong, or are they about right?**

1. They should be less strong
2. They are about right
3. They should be stronger
4. I don't know

**3.5 In general, how often is it appropriate for parents/guardians to ask if there are unlocked firearms in a home where their children go to play?**

1. Never appropriate
2. Sometimes appropriate
3. Usually appropriate
4. Always appropriate
5. I don't know

**3.6 In general, how often is it appropriate for doctors and health professionals to talk to their patients (or their patients' parents/guardians) about how firearms are stored?**

1. Never appropriate
2. Sometimes appropriate
3. Usually appropriate
4. Always appropriate
5. I don't know

**3.7 Please indicate your level of support or opposition for investing public resources in the following violence prevention strategies: [matrix]**

Statements:

- a. Affordable housing
- b. Access to transportation
- c. Access to quality education
- d. Employment opportunities
- e. Enhancing economic stability
- f. Access to quality health care (including mental/behavioral health)
- g. Access to parks and open spaces
- h. Access to sidewalks and bicycle/walking paths
- i. Enhancing the environment (tree coverage, clean air or water)
- j. Community service/volunteering

Responses:

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Oppose
3. Neutral
4. Support
5. Strongly Support

[display]These next questions ask about whether you own firearms and if so, why you own firearms, who can access them, how you store them, and whether you carry them. Remember, your responses are completely confidential; the study team will not have access to your individual responses.

**4.1 Are there any firearms in your home currently, whether or not you own them?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

**[BRANCH 4.1=1]**

**4.2 Do you personally own any of the firearm(s) in your home?**

1. Yes
2. No

**[ask to all]**

**4.3 Do you have children or minors (under 18) living, visiting, or staying in your home?**

1. Yes
2. No

**[BRANCH if 4.3=1]**

**4.4 How many children or minors (under 18) are living, visiting, or staying in your home in each of these age ranges? [matrix]**

Rows:

- a. 0-5 years old
- b. 6-12 years old
- c. 13-17 years old

Columns:

insert #

**[Branch if 4.3=1]**

**4.5 On average, how often are there children/minors (under 18) in your home (either living, visiting, or staying) in a 30-day period?**

1. Every day
2. 2-3 times per week
3. Once per week
4. Once every two weeks
5. Once per month
6. I typically do not have children in my home in an average 30 day period

**[Branch if 4.1=1 AND 4.3=1]**

**4.6 Which of the following statements best describes how child(ren) access and use firearms in or around your home?**

1. Child(ren) in my home can access/use firearmown
2. Child(ren) in my home can only access/use firearm(s) under an adult's direct supervision
3. Child(ren)in my home can access/use firearm(s) if needed for defense of our home/family
4. Child(ren) in my home are not allowed to access/use the firearm(s)
5. None of the above

**[Branch if 4.2=1]**

**4.7 How often do you check the location(s) where you keep your firearm(s) to see if anything is missing?**

1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Every few months
5. Once per year
6. Never

**[BRANCH if 4.2=1]**

**4.8 Please indicate the reason(s) you own firearms. *Select all that apply.***

1. I own firearms for my own protection
2. I own firearms to protect my family
3. I own firearms to protect my community
4. I own firearms to protect my property
5. I own firearms to exercise my Constitutional rights
6. I own firearms because I collect them
7. I own firearms because it is a tradition in my family
8. I own firearms because I inherited them/they are a family heirloom
9. I own firearms for hunting
10. I own firearms for sport or competition
11. I own firearms because I use them for my job
12. I own firearms to manage wildlife/pests on my property
13. None of these (*exclusive response*)

**[BRANCH if 4.2=1]**

**4.9 How many firearms do you personally own of each type below? [matrix]**

Rows:

- a. Handguns
- b. Long guns

Columns:

1. None (0)
2. 1-2
3. 3-4
4. 5 or more

**[BRANCH if 4.2=1]**

**4.10 How many people in your close social circle are aware that you have a firearm(s)?**

1. All
2. Most
3. Some
4. None

**[BRANCH if 4.1=1 AND 4.3=1]**

**4.11 Which of these things, if any, have you done with the child(ren)/minor(s) in your home? Select all that apply.**

1. Talked about rules of safe firearm handling
2. Personally taught the child/minor how to use a firearm
3. Arranged for the child/minor to take a firearm handling course/training
4. Provided opportunities to participate in shooting activities
5. None of these (*exclusive response*)

**[BRANCH if 4.1=1]**

**4.12 If you were not there, who in your household could access one of the firearms in your home (and load it if it is not loaded already) if they needed to? Select all that apply.**

1. Spouse or partner
2. Child(ren) (12 and under)
3. Child(ren) (13-17)
4. Other adults (18 and over)
5. No one/none of the above (*exclusive response*)

**[BRANCH if 4.1=1]**

**4.13 For the firearm(s) in or around your home, approximately how often in the past 12 months have you fired any of them?**

1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Every few months
5. Once per year
6. I have not fired any of them in the last 12 months

**[BRANCH if 4.1=1]**

**4.14 Approximately how often in the past 30 days have you carried a firearm in public settings (either openly or concealed)?**

1. Every day
2. 2-3 times per week
3. Once per week
4. Once every two weeks
5. Once in the last 30 days
6. I have not carried a firearm in public in the last 30 days

**[BRANCH if 4.1=1 for all questions in this section except 5.8]**

**[display]**The following question(s) focus(es) on firearm storage habits, and thoughts on group(s) best suited to educate on storage/safety.

**5.1 What storing/staging methods do you currently use for any of the *handguns* in or around your home? *Select all that apply.***

1. Unlocked, hidden
2. Unlocked, not hidden
3. Locking device with a key, number PIN or dial
4. Biometric locking device (e.g. fingerprint)
5. Cable lock
6. In-vehicle lock
7. Trigger lock
8. Clamshell/ "life jacket"
9. Gun safe
10. Gun cabinet
11. Lock-box/ hard case
12. Some other locking device
13. Stored away from the home
14. None of these methods (*exclusive response*)
15. There are no handguns in the home (*exclusive response*)
16. I don't know (*exclusive response*)

**5.2 What storing/staging methods do you currently use for any of the *long guns* in or around your home? *Select all that apply.***

1. Unlocked, hidden
2. Unlocked, not hidden
3. Locking device with a key, number PIN or dial
4. Biometric locking device (e.g. fingerprint)
5. Cable lock
6. In-vehicle lock
7. Trigger lock
8. Clamshell/ "life jacket"
9. Gun safe
10. Gun cabinet
11. Lock-box/ hard case
12. Some other locking device
13. Stored away from the home
14. None of these methods (*exclusive response*)
15. There are no long guns in the home (*exclusive response*)
16. I don't know (*exclusive response*)

**5.3 To the best of your knowledge, please indicate how the ammunition in your home is stored. *Select all that apply.***

1. Locked away from firearms (for example in an ammunition box or cabinet)
2. Locked in the same location as the firearms (for example in a safe)
3. Not locked, but in a separate location from firearms
4. Not locked, and in the same location as firearms
5. None of these (*exclusive response*)
6. I don't know (*exclusive response*)

**5.4 To the best of your knowledge, is there at least one firearm in your home kept loaded and outside of a locked container or mechanism?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know
4. Prefer not to respond



**5.5 What are the reasons why you currently use firearm locking devices, cabinets/safes, or store your firearm(s) away from your home? *Select all that apply.***

1. Prevent theft
2. Prevent unauthorized access by an adult household member (18+)
3. Prevent unauthorized access by a teenager (13-17)
4. Prevent unauthorized access by a child (0-12)
5. Prevent accidental injury or death
6. It is important to keep firearms stored securely
7. Keep firearm in good condition
8. I do not use locking devices, cabinets/safes, or store my firearm(s) away from my home  
*(exclusive response)*

**[Branch if 5.1 OR 5.2= 1 or 2, OR IF 5.4=1]**

**5.6 For currently unlocked firearms, are there any circumstances where you would consider using a locking device or storing your firearm(s) away from your home? *Select all that apply.***

1. Prevent theft
2. Prevent unauthorized access by an adult household member (18+)
3. Prevent unauthorized access by a teenager (13-17)
4. Prevent access by a child(ren) (0-12)
5. Keep firearm in good condition
6. I would not consider using a locking device or storing firearm(s) away from the home *(exclusive response)*

**5.7 Does your household have a plan to temporarily store firearm(s) outside the home in the event that a household member becomes a threat to themselves or others?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know
4. Prefer not to respond

**[Ask to all]**

**5.8 Have you ever temporarily stored someone else's firearm(s) at a time when they were thinking about harming themselves or others?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Prefer not to respond

**[Branch if 4.1= 1]**

**5.9 Which of these individuals/groups have you heard promote secure firearms storage or temporary removal of firearms from your home? *Select all that apply.***

1. Law enforcement
2. Healthcare provider
3. Teacher/School Employee
4. Social worker
5. Employer
6. Firearms Instructor
7. Firearm range or retail location employee
8. Friend
9. Family member
10. Parents of my child's friends
11. Social media groups
12. None of these (*exclusive response*)

**[BRANCH if 5.9 = ANY 1 thru 11]**

**5.10 Which change(s) did you make as a result of these conversations or communications? *Select all that apply.***

1. I sought additional information about secure storage or temporary removal
2. I talked with someone about secure storage or temporary removal
3. I stored my firearms securely in my home
4. I temporarily removed firearms from my home
5. I permanently removed firearms from my home
6. I did not make any changes (*exclusive response*)

[display] Please answer the following questions about yourself. Remember, your responses are completely confidential; the study team will not have access to your individual responses.

## **County**

### **6.1 Gender**

Male

Female

Prefer to self-describe

### **6.2 Sexual Orientation**

Sexual orientation (Gay or Lesbian; Straight, that is, not gay; Bisexual; Something else)

### **6.3 Marital Status**

(1 = Now married, 2 = Widowed, 3 = Divorced, 4 = Separated, 5 = Never married)

### **6.4 Ownership Status of Living Quarters**

Ownership Status of Living Quarters (1 = Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household, 2 = Rented for cash, 3 = Occupied without payment of rent)

### **6.5 Age**

Age, 7 categories (1 = 18-24; 2 = 25-34; 3 = 35-44; 4 = 45-54; 5 = 55-64; 6 = 65-74; 7 = 75+)

### **6.6 Military Service**

Military service (Ever served on active duty, Currently in Armed Forces, Ever member of Reserve or National Guard, Currently in Reserve or National Guard, Branch of Armed Forces in which currently active or last served, Length of service, Reserve component in which serve/served, Immediate family member currently on active duty, Ever served in combat or war zone)

### **6.7 Race/Ethnicity**

Race (White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 2+ races)

Hispanic Origin (Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Cuban American, Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino)

### **6.8 Domicile Location**

(County, Metro Area, Urban/suburban/rural, DMA, State, Region)

### **6.9 Education**

Education, 5 categories (1 = No high school, diploma or GED, 2 = High school graduate (high school diploma or the equivalent GED), 3 = Some college or Associate degree, 4 = Bachelor's degree, 5 = Master's degree or higher)

### **6.10 Household Income**

(1 = Less than \$10,000; 2 = \$10,000 to \$24,999; 3 = \$25,000 to \$49,999; 4 = \$50,000 to \$74,999; 5 = \$75,000 to \$99,999; 6 = \$100,000 to \$149,999; 7 = \$150,000 or more)

### **6.11 Military Service**

Military service (Ever served on active duty, Currently in Armed Forces, Ever member of Reserve or National Guard, Currently in Reserve or National Guard, Branch of Armed Forces in which currently active or last served, Length of service, Reserve component in which serve/served, Immediate family member currently on active duty, Ever served in combat or war zone)

### **6.12 Housing Type**

Housing Type (1 = One-family house detached from any other house, 2 = One-family condo or townhouse attached to other units, 3 = Building with 2 or more apartments, 4 = Other (mobile home, boat, RV, van, etc.)

### **6.13 MSA Status**

MSA Status (0 = Non-Metro, 1 = Metro (as defined by U.S. OMB Core-Based Statistical Area))