

Using Data to Prevent Firearm Harms in Colorado

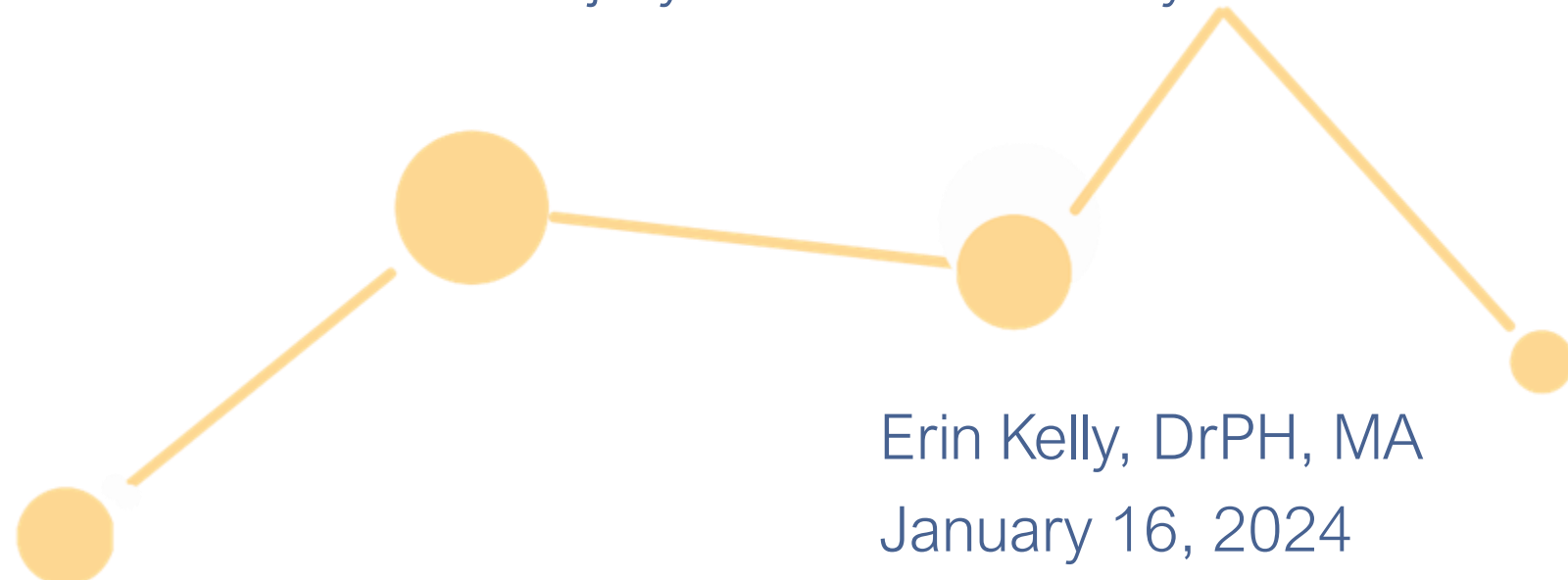
Findings from the Inaugural Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey



Sign up for the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative newsletter to receive updates about COFIPS

 Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

**Injury & Violence
Prevention Center**
colorado school of public health



Erin Kelly, DrPH, MA
January 16, 2024

Acknowledgements



Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

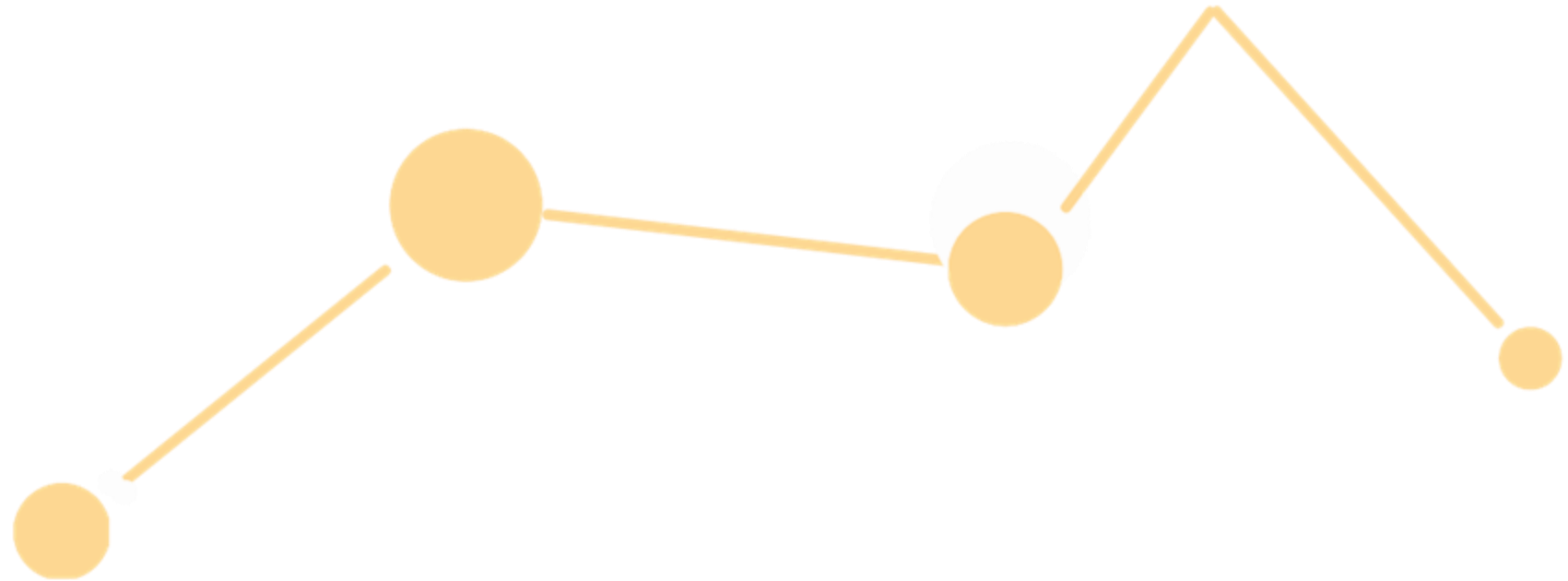
Injury & Violence Prevention Center

colorado school of public health

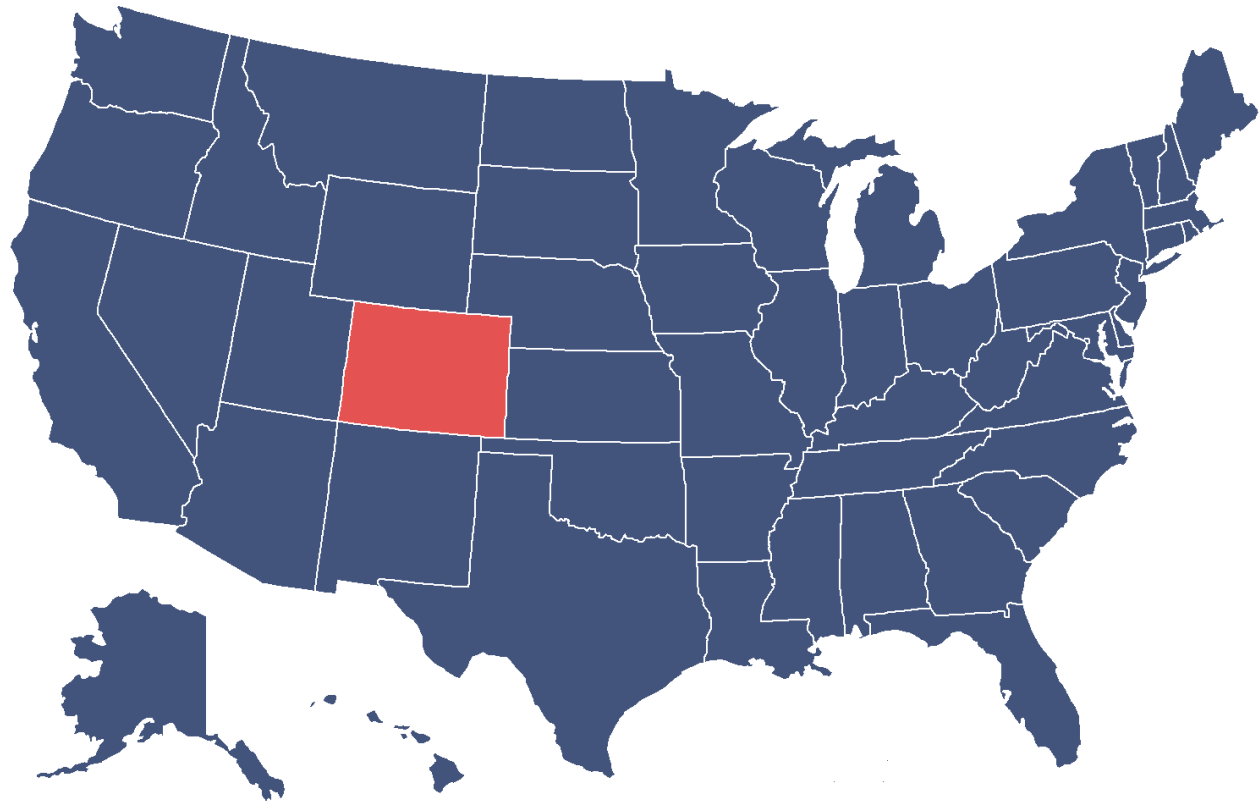
COFIPS is possible due to funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). The OGVP also supported the development of the survey.

This content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the University of Colorado nor the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

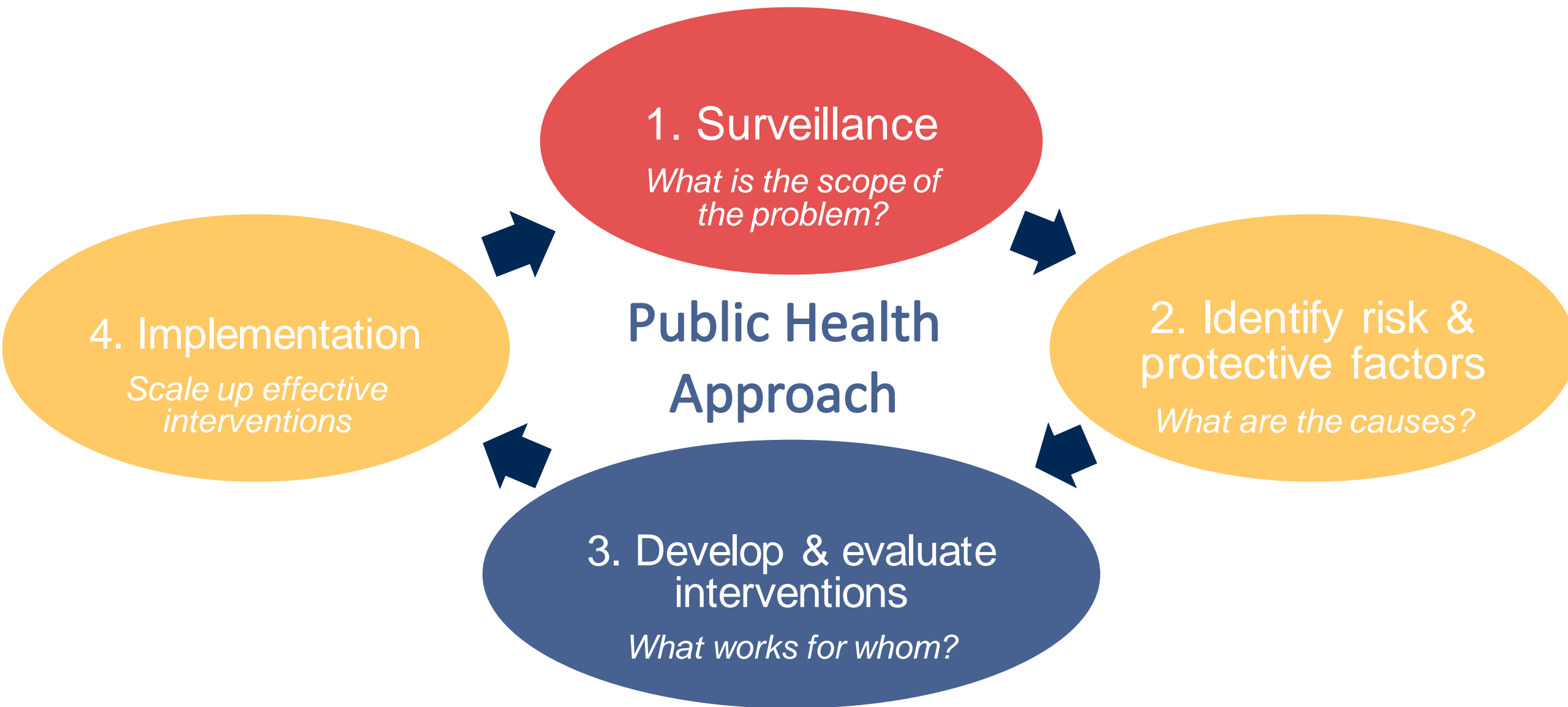
OVERVIEW



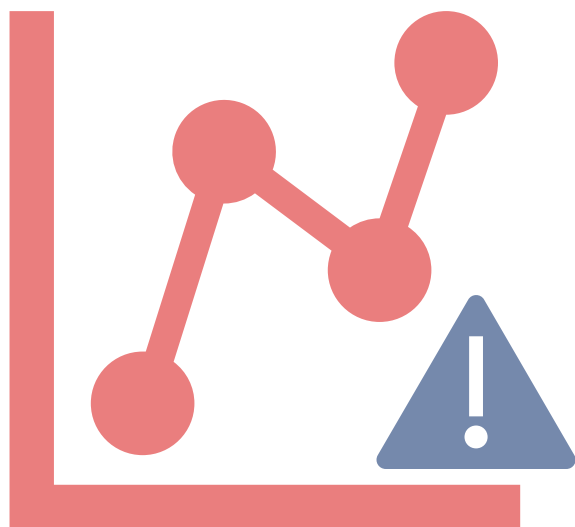
Why is this topic important?



- More people die from firearms than from motor vehicle accidents.
- In 2021, almost 50,000 died due to firearms in the U.S.
 - 3.6x more were injured by firearms than died.
- Colorado has the 21st highest firearm death rate in the U.S.



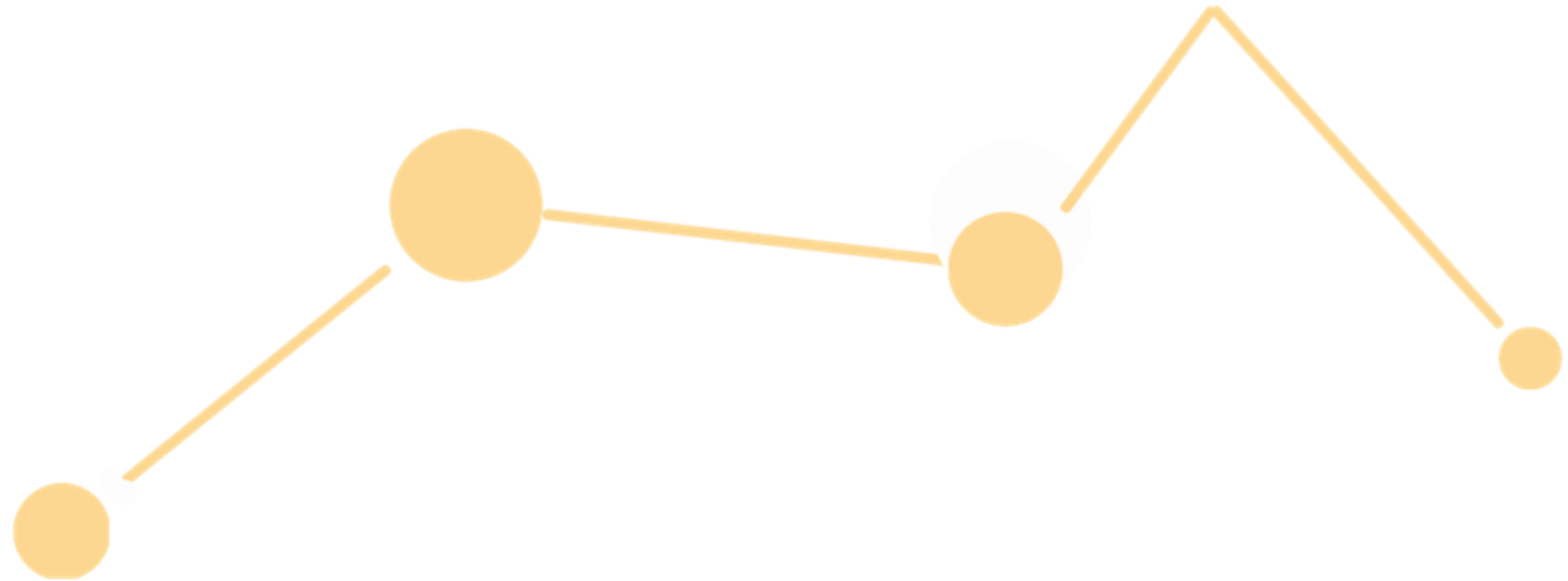
Why did we administer COFIPS?



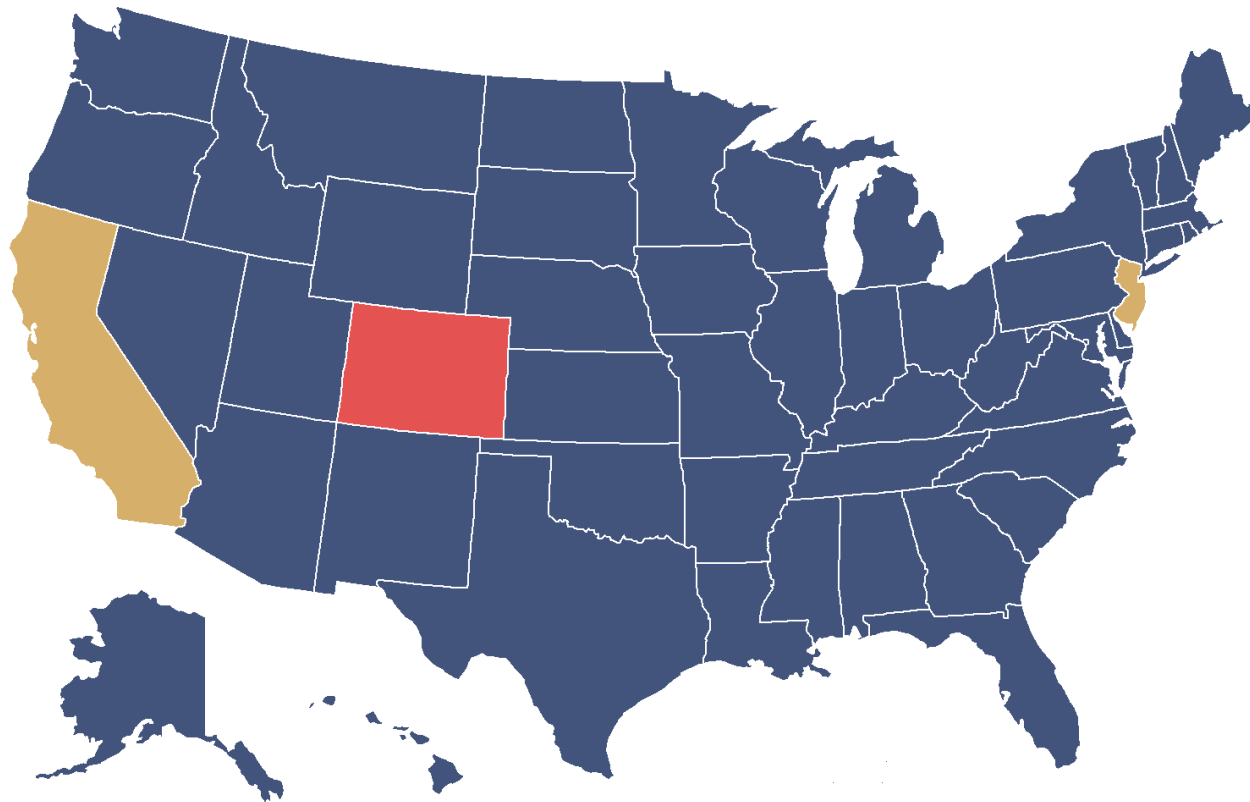
Data infrastructure is lacking, especially at state level

- 1 Advance understanding of firearm-related topics
- 2 Monitor trends over time
- 3 Inform responsive education and prevention of firearm harms

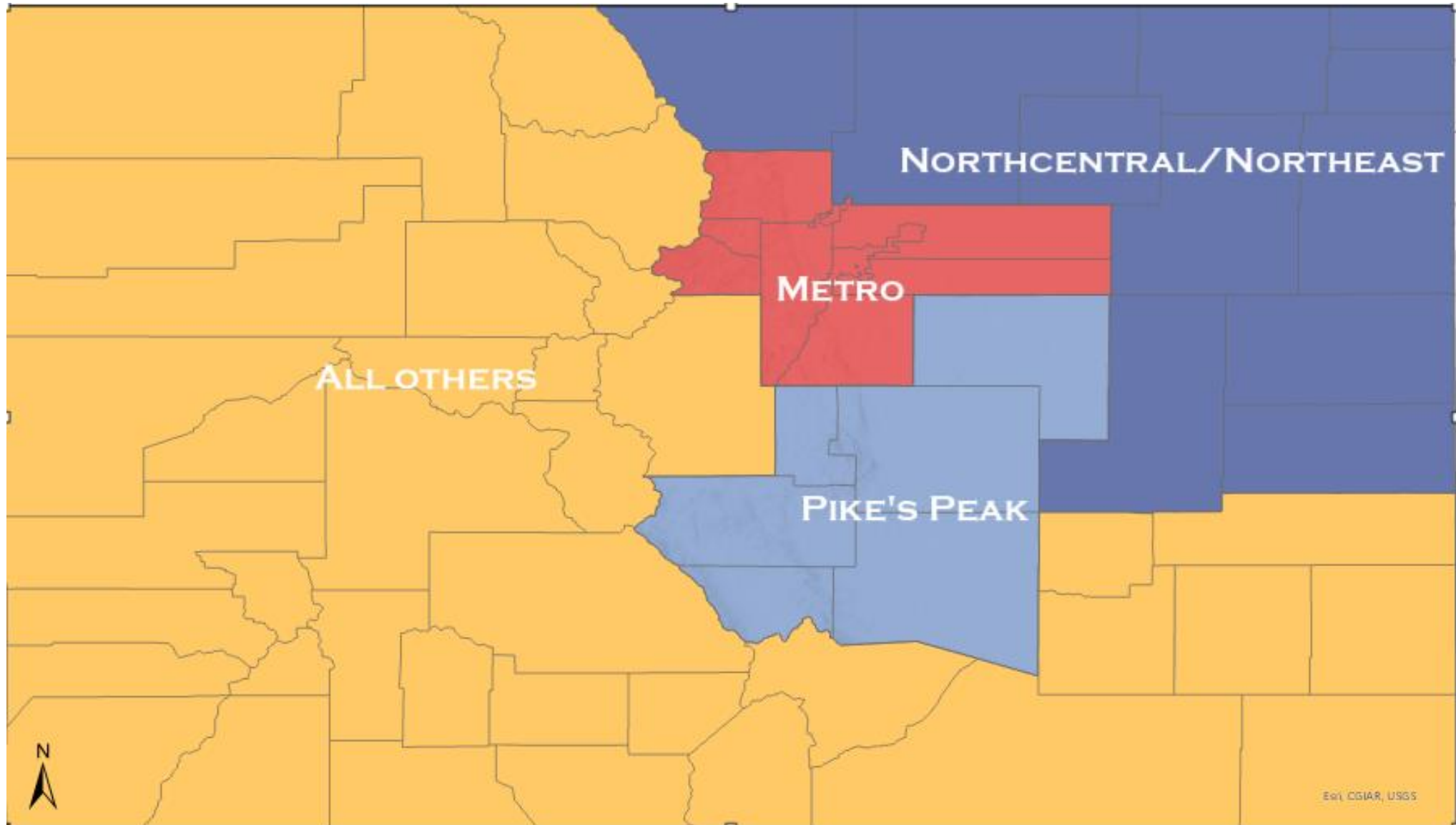
METHODS



What is COFIPS?



- **Odd years:** Core survey, representative of Coloradans (state, regional)
- **Even years:** Specialty survey, focused on impacted communities or groups supporting education and prevention efforts



What did we ask about?

A Venn diagram consisting of three overlapping circles of a light blue color. The circles are arranged horizontally and overlap in the center. Each circle contains text describing a research topic. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Firearms
Culture,
Access, &
Safety
Behaviors**

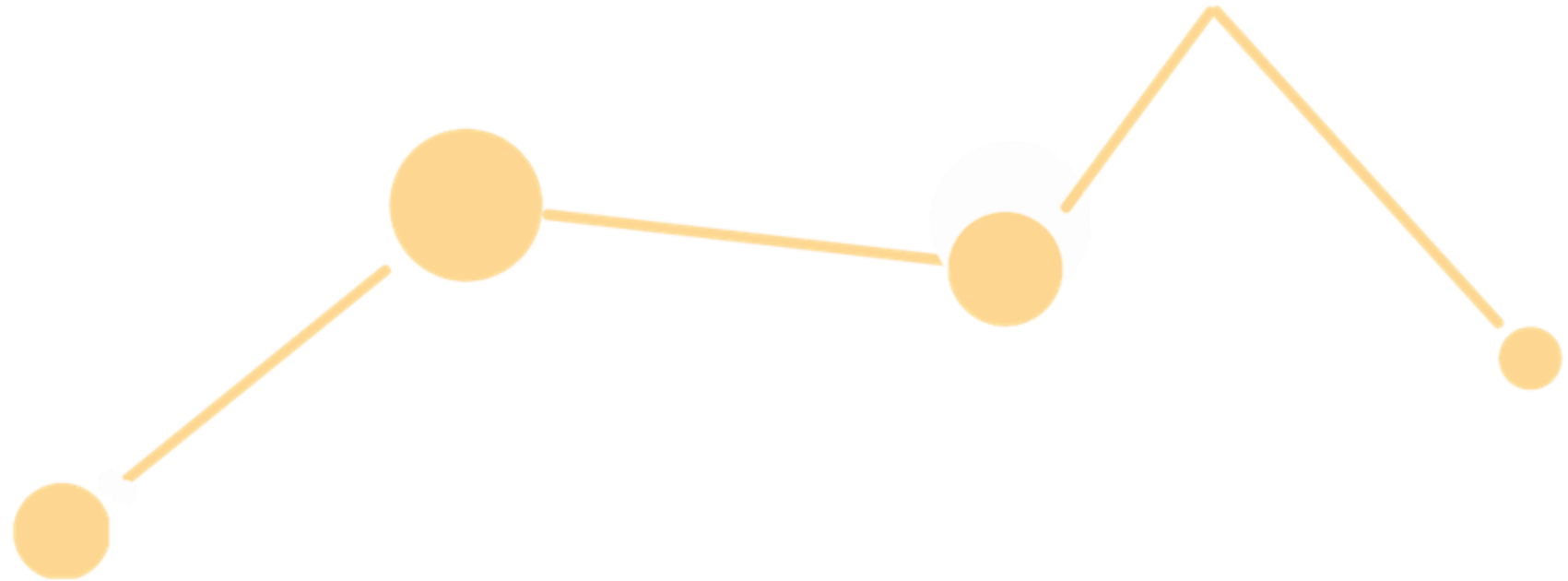
**Concerns &
Experiences
with Firearm
Harms**

**Awareness &
Opinions on
Prevention
Practices and
Policies**

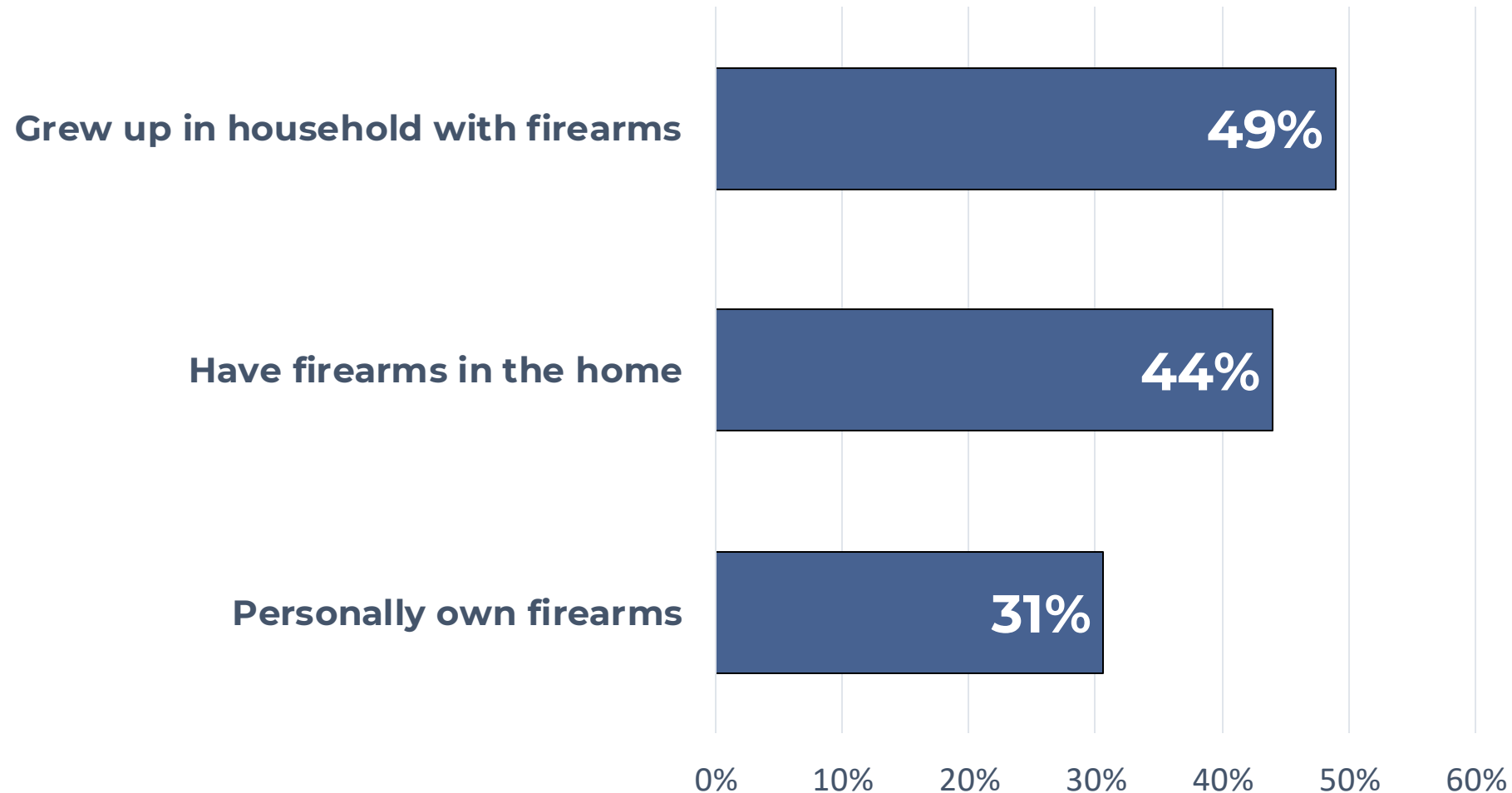
Administration and Analysis

- Online survey from May-June 2023
- Partnered with Ipsos to administer
- 1,520 total participants
- The sample was weighted to be statistically representative of the state and regions

FINDINGS



Colorado Context: Firearms Culture



Firearm Ownership
in Colorado



Firearm Access and Storage Practices

Why Important?



Those who have access to firearms are at increased risk of theft and injury and death (due to presence and lethality).



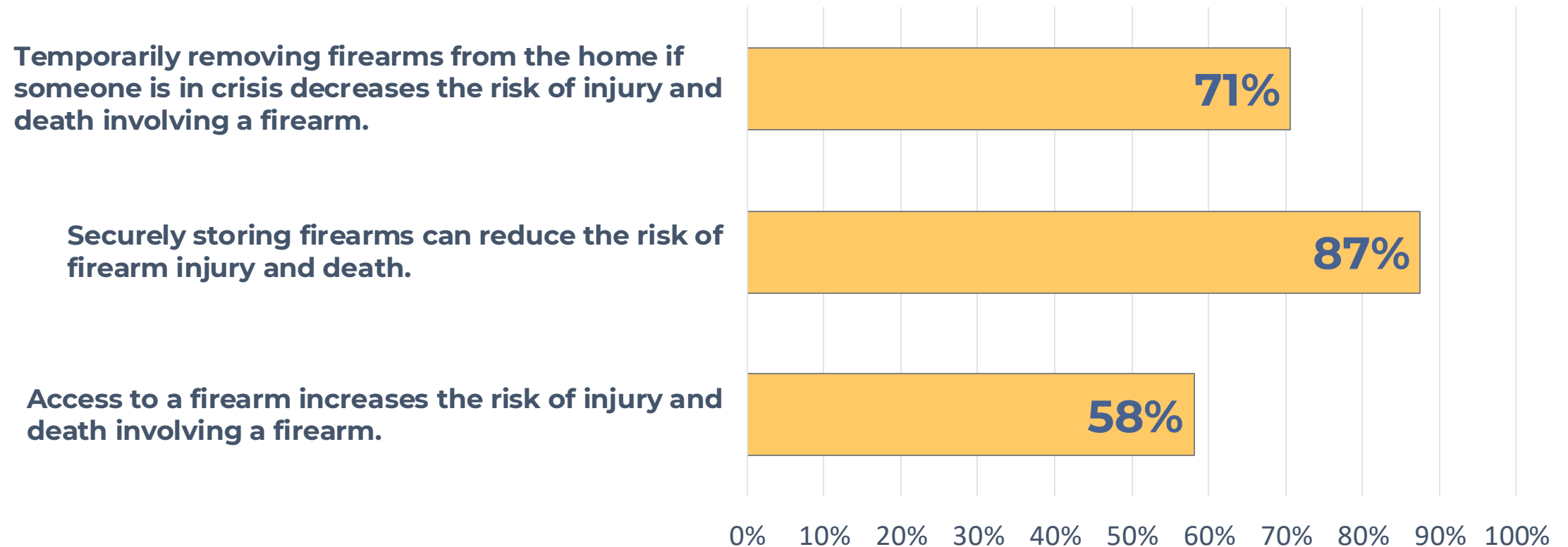
Secure storage of firearms can prevent unauthorized access and help save lives.



Decisions on how to store depend on personal circumstances and home context.

Firearm Access & Storage Opinions

Coloradans Agree That...



Who Owns Firearms in Colorado

Twice as many men own firearms compared to women.

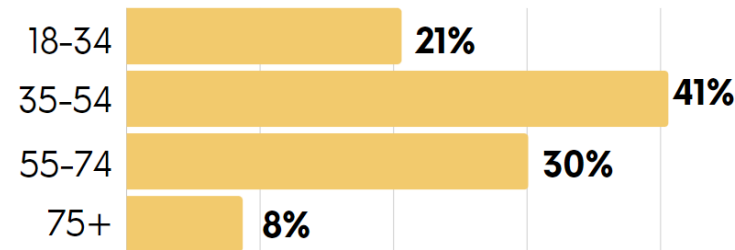


 **27%**

of firearm owners are Veterans.

88% of Coloradans who personally own a firearm are white.

Most Colorado adults who personally own firearms are between the ages of 35-54.



The majority of Colorado who personally own firearms live in suburban areas.



47%
in suburban



31%
in urban



22%
in rural



Children live in **38%** of the Colorado households that own firearms.

Firearm Ownership in Colorado



Firearm Safety Education in Colorado

63%

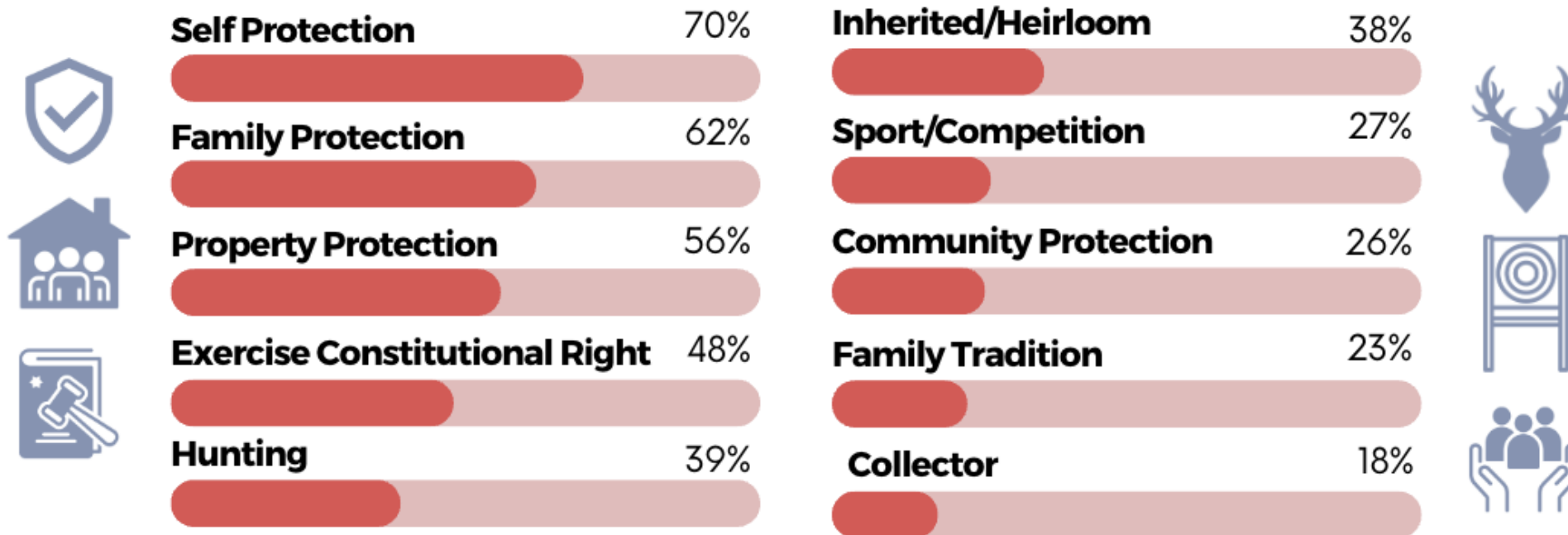
of Coloradans with **firearms in the home** have taken a class on firearm safety

75%

of Coloradans who **personally own a firearm** have taken a class on firearm safety



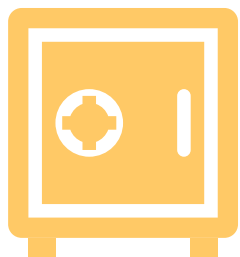
Reasons for Ownership in Colorado



Firearm Ownership
in Colorado



Secure Storage in Colorado

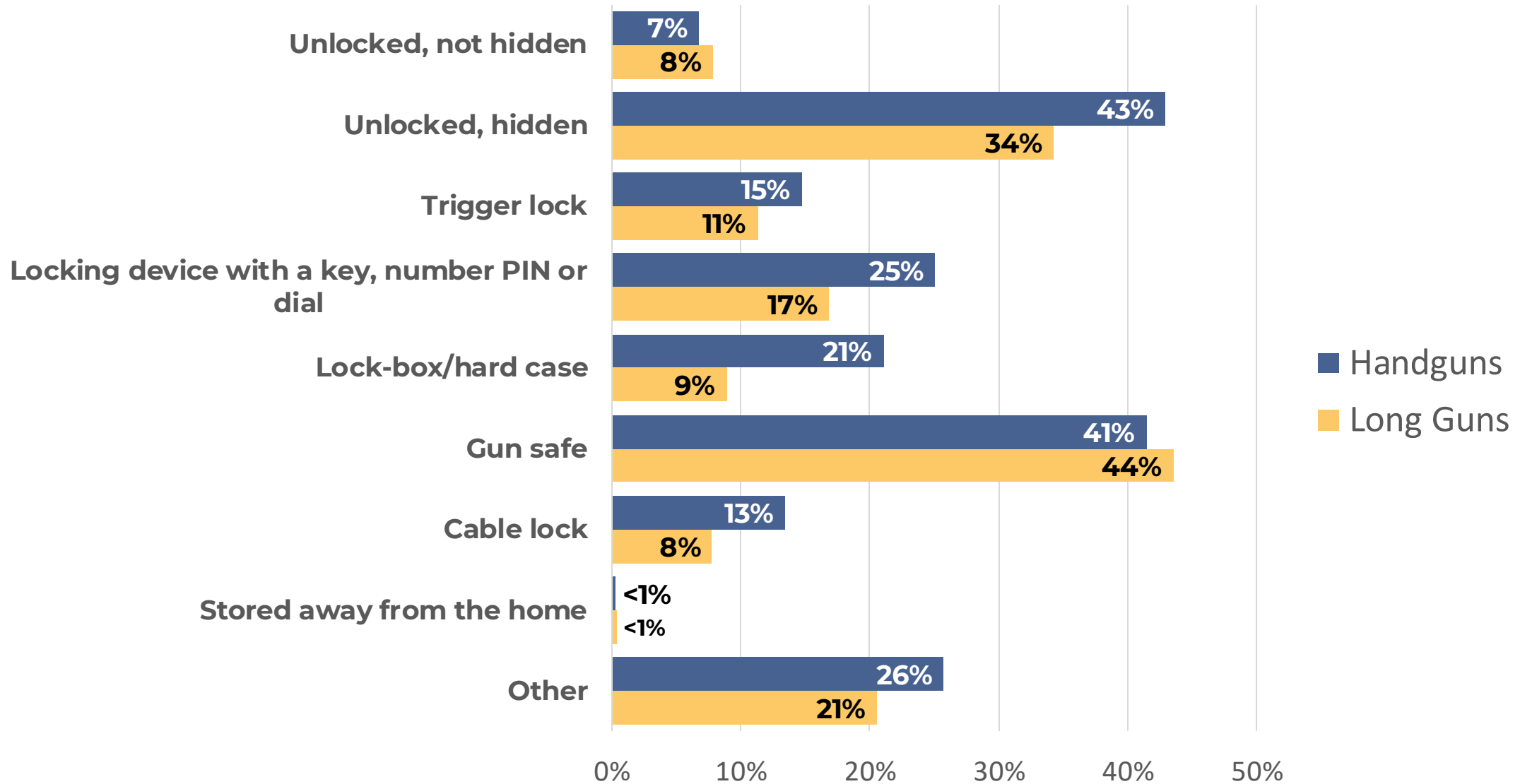


65% of Coloradans
with firearms in the home
have all firearms
locked and unloaded

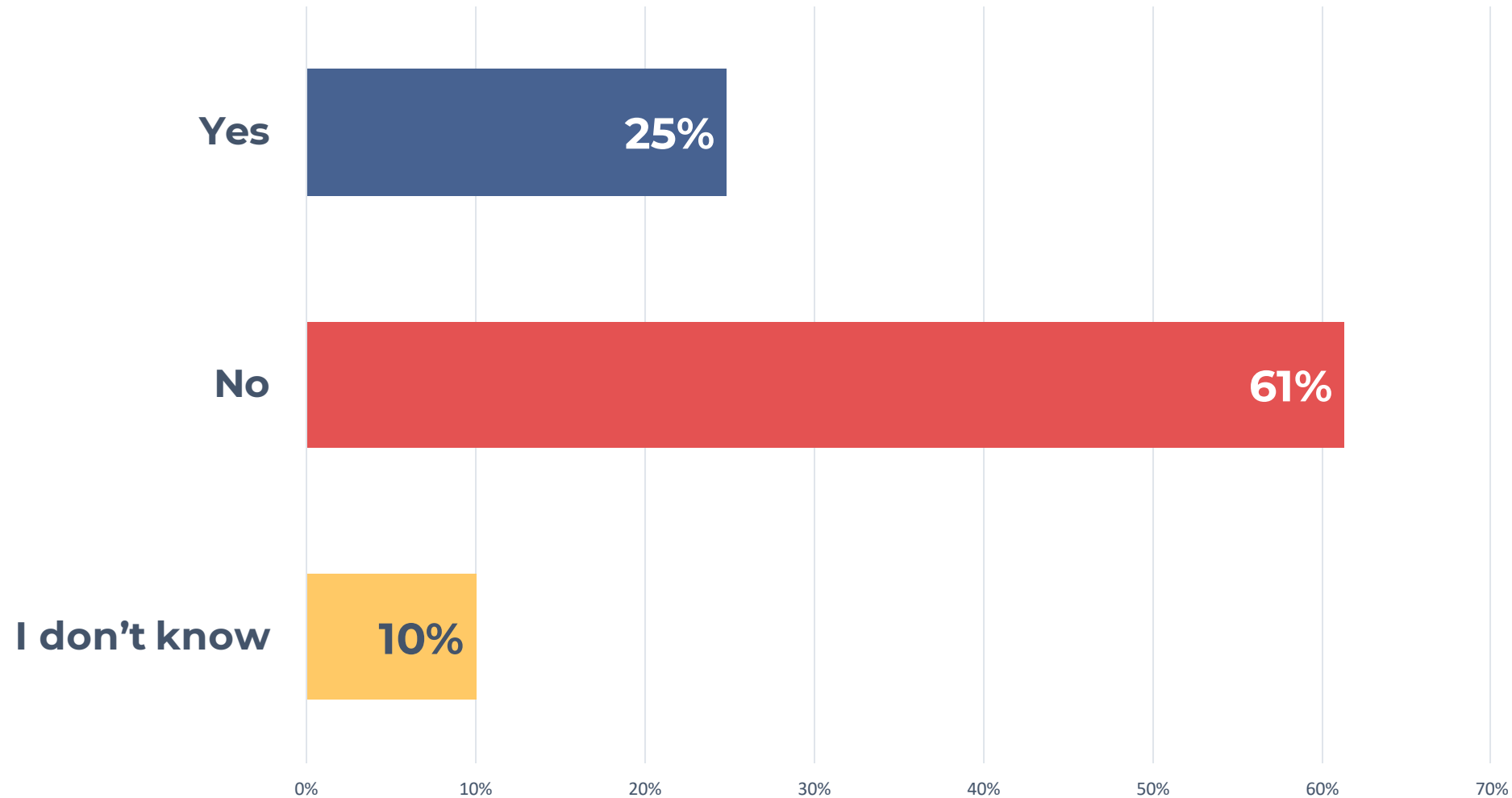


Learn more about
secure storage

Firearm Storage Methods



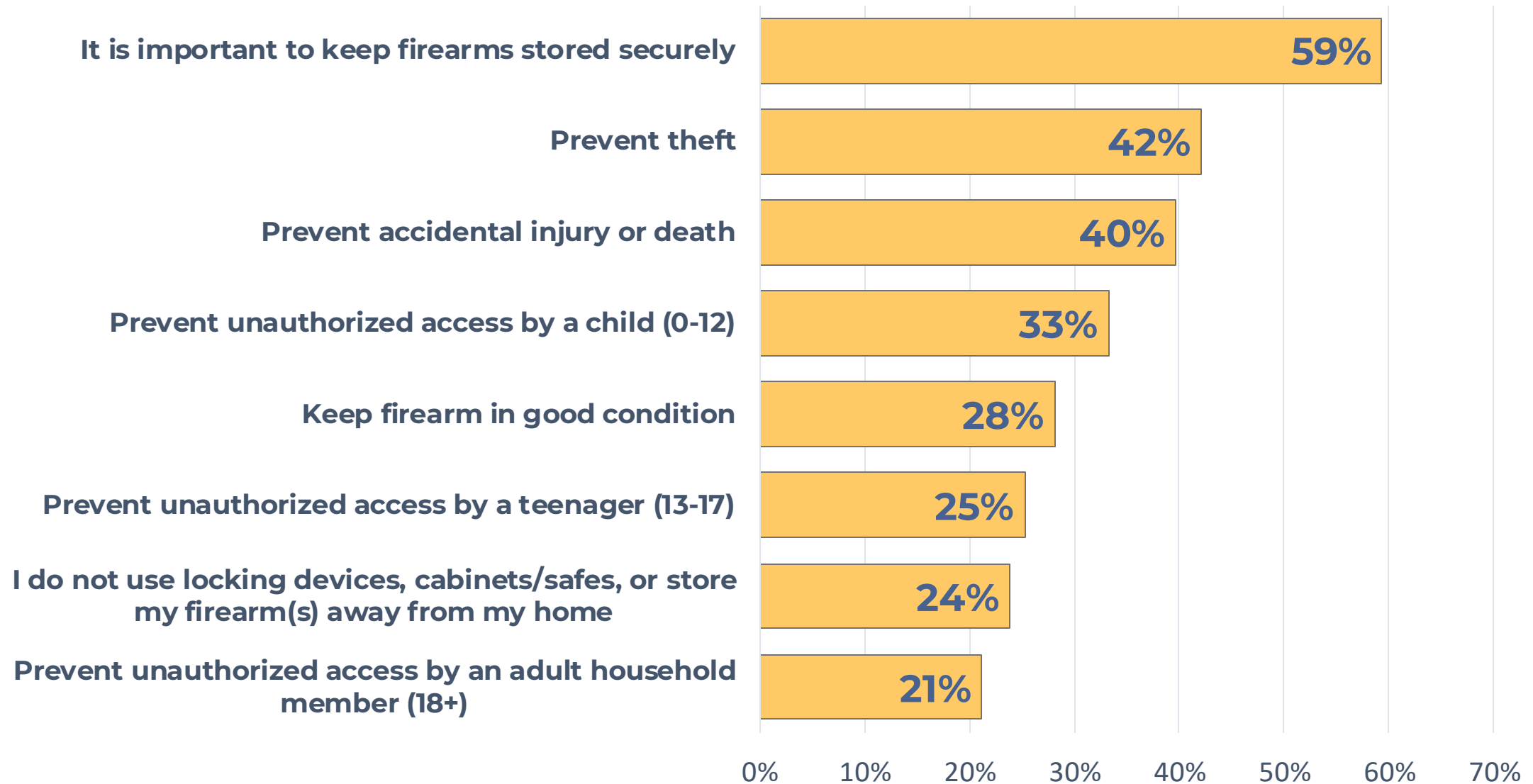
Plans for Temporary Safe Storage Among Coloradans with Firearms in the Home



Out of Home Storage Locations in Colorado

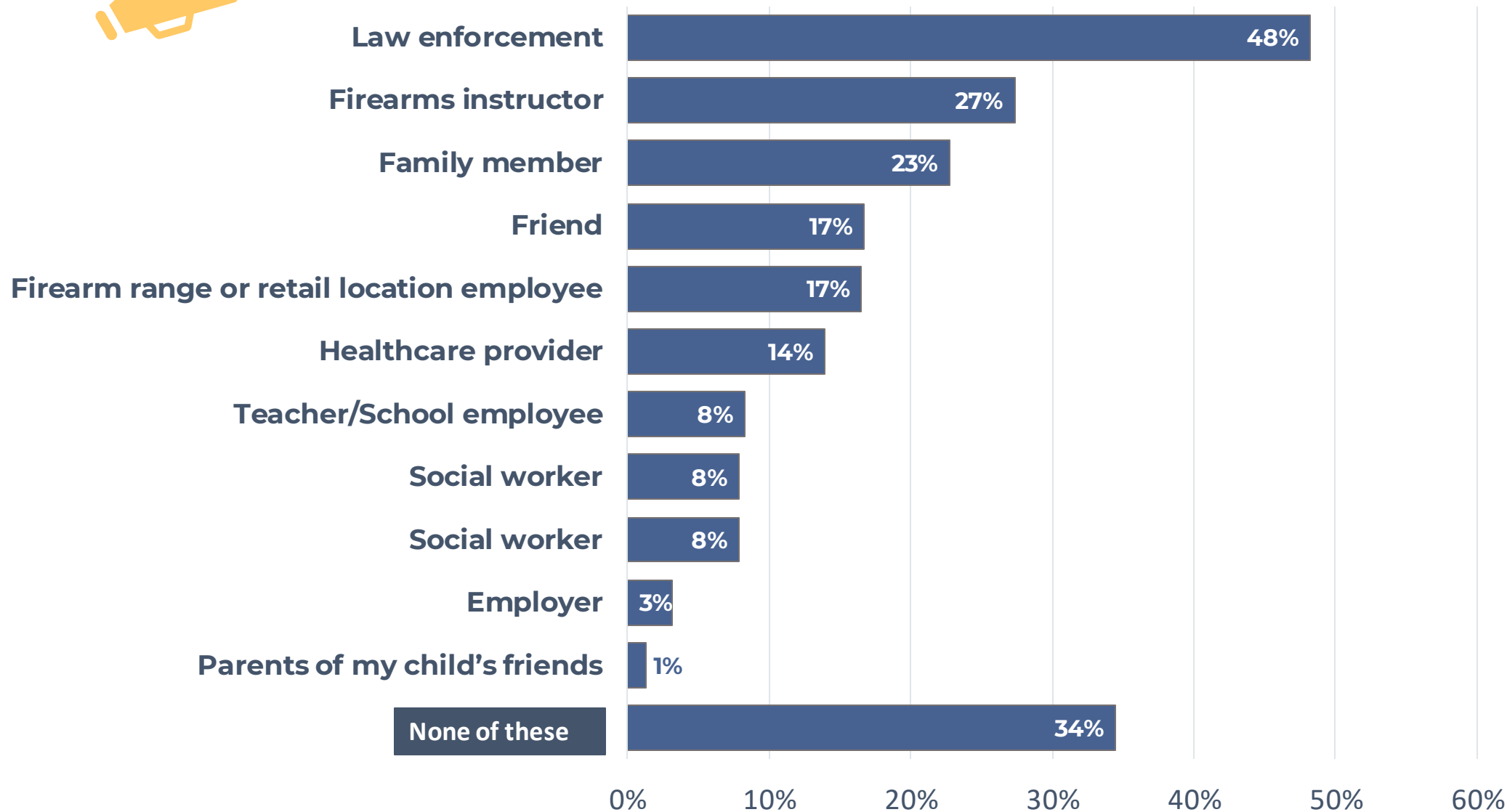


Why People Lock Their Guns



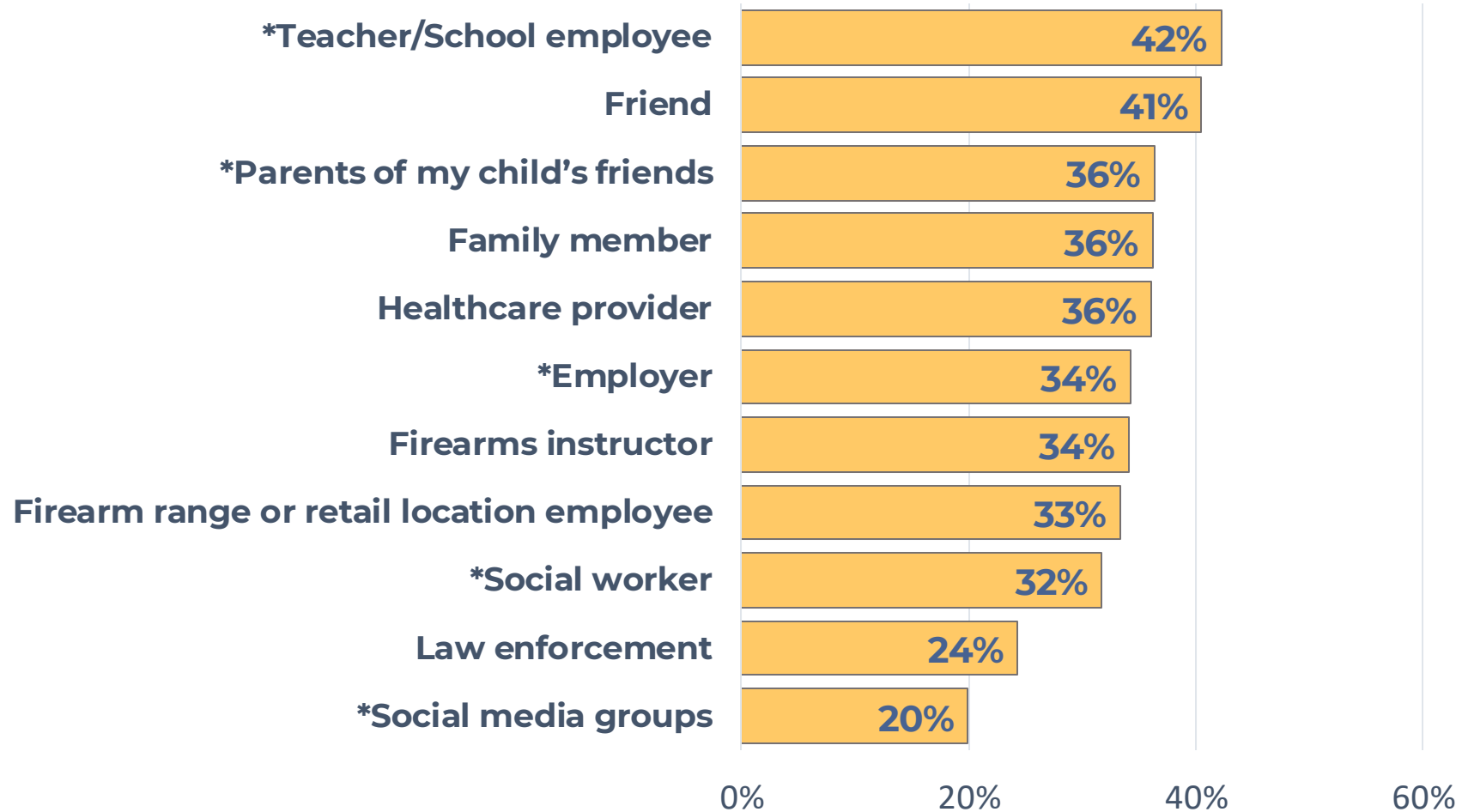


Promoters of Secure Firearm Storage



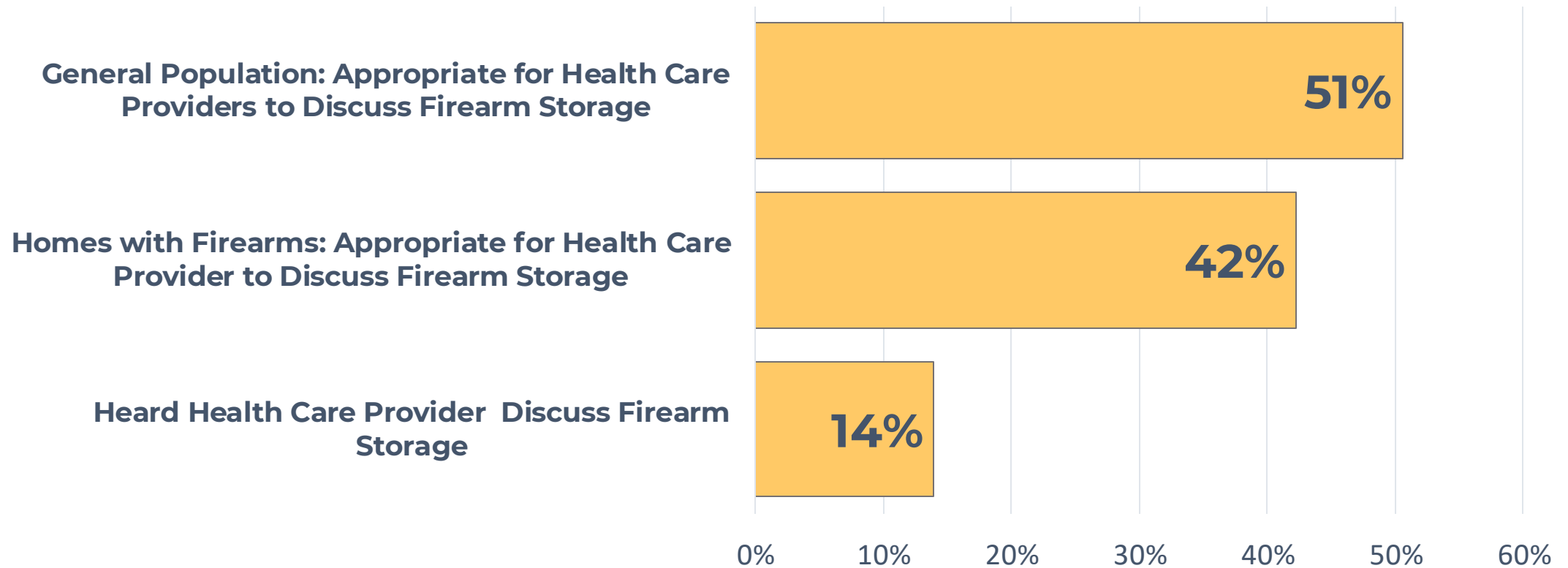


Messengers That Led to More Secure Firearm Storage



* Calculations for these values may be unstable as n<30

Healthcare's Role in Promoting Safe Storage



Implications for education and prevention for those who access firearms:



Prevent unauthorized access to firearms with secure storage practices.



Educate on the importance of locking and unloading firearms, especially in situations where they are needed.



Use the right message with the right messenger.

Coloradan's Concerns about Firearm-Related Harms

Why Important?



Understand and address the fears of Coloradans

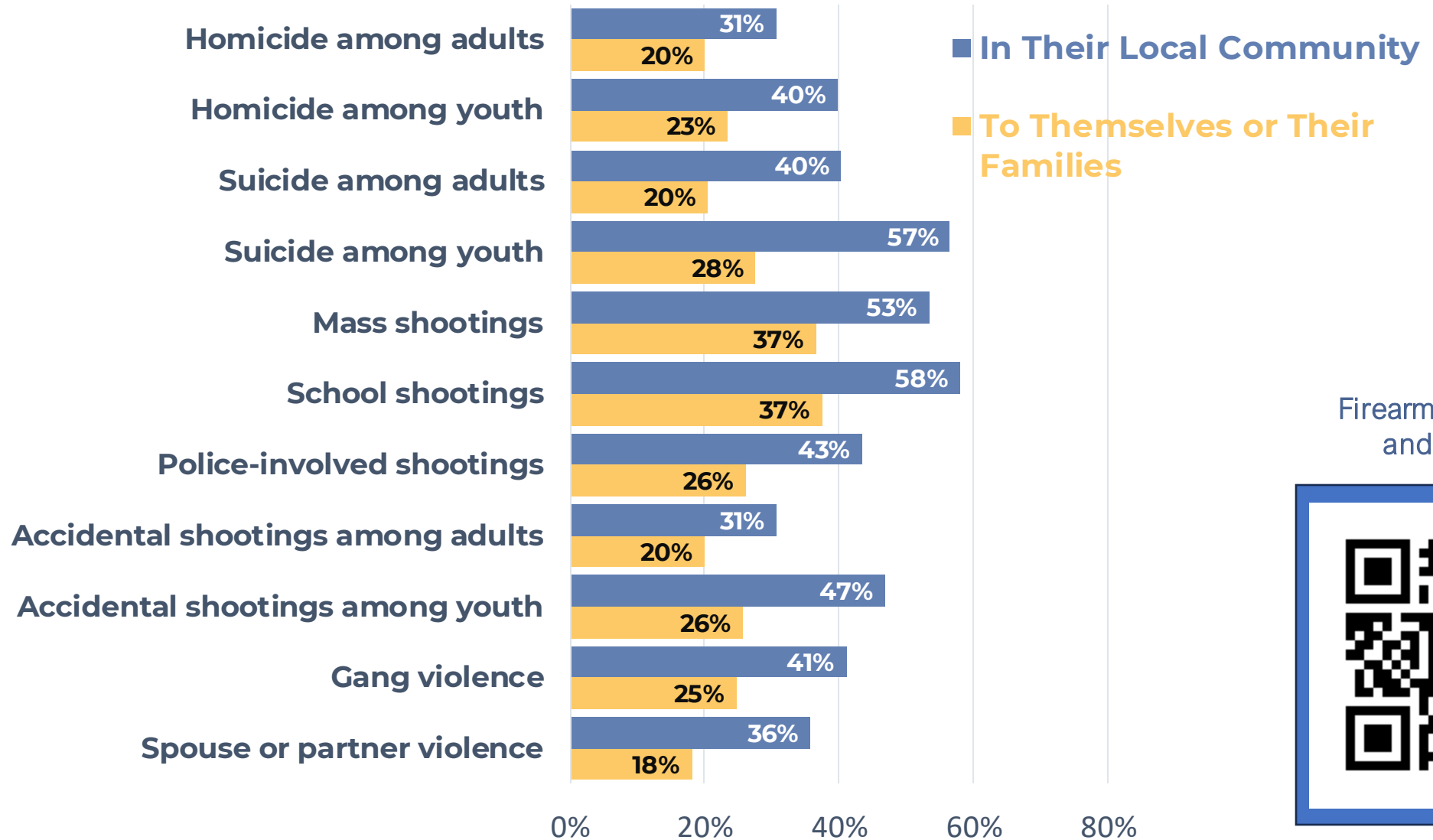


Understand experiences of those impacted



Understand what actions are being taken as a result of experiences and fears informs education and prevention

Concerns About Violent Events Happening...



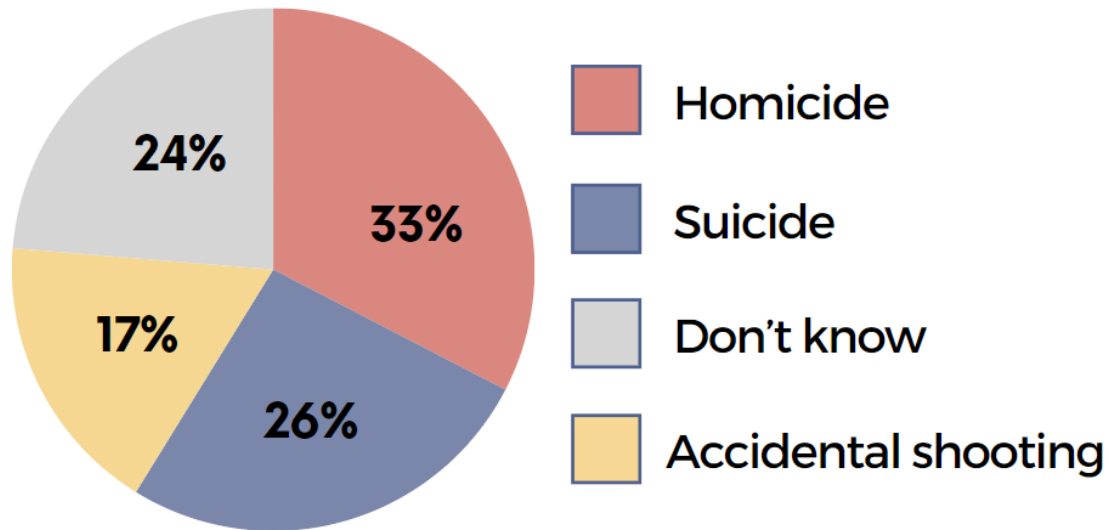
Firearm Perceptions
and Realities



PERCEPTION

Most Colorado adults (18+) believe **homicide** is the most common cause of death involving firearms in our state...

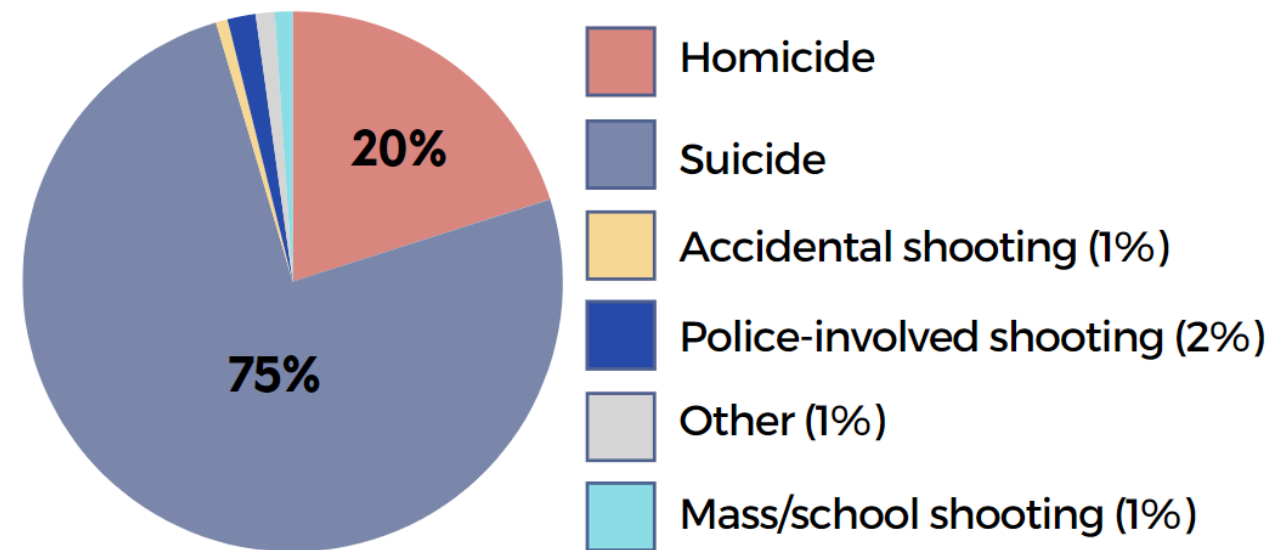
BELIEFS AMONG COLORADO ADULTS



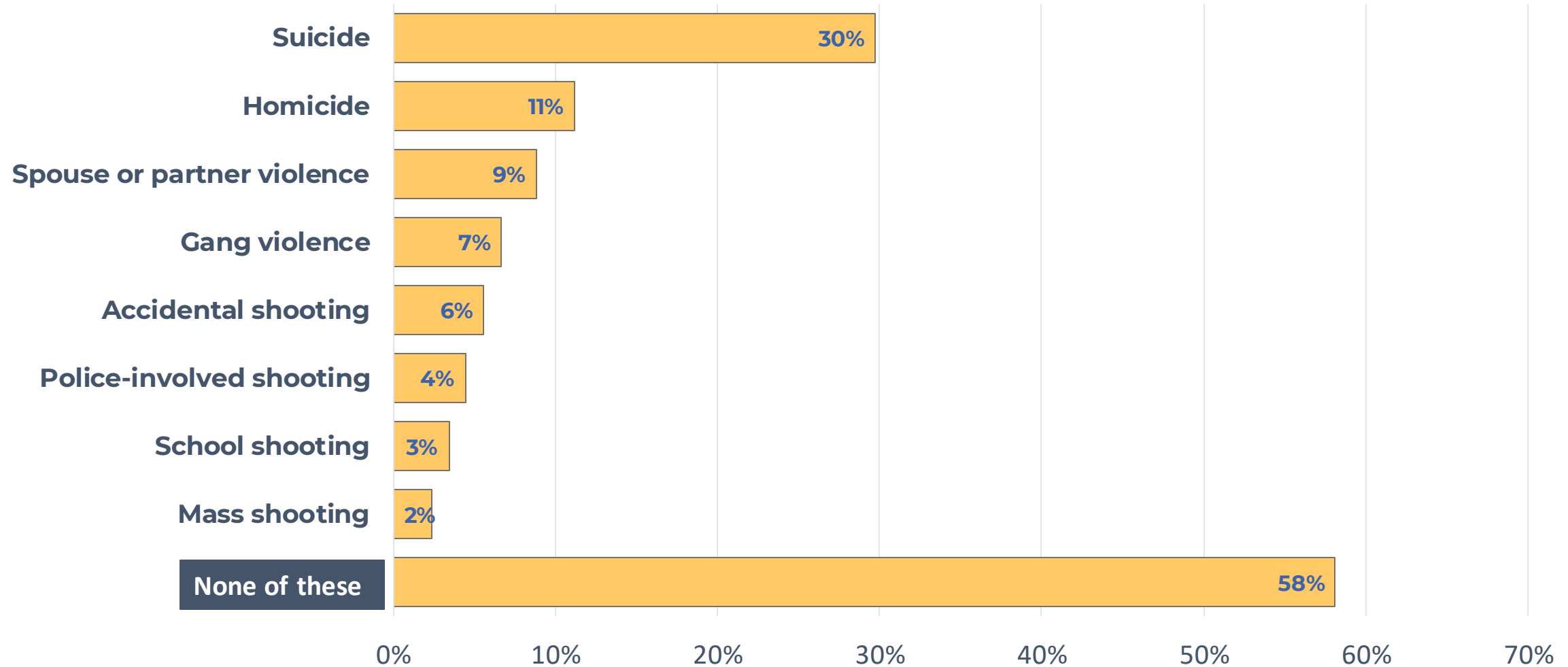
REALITY

...**however**, the majority of firearm-involved deaths in Colorado are **suicides**.

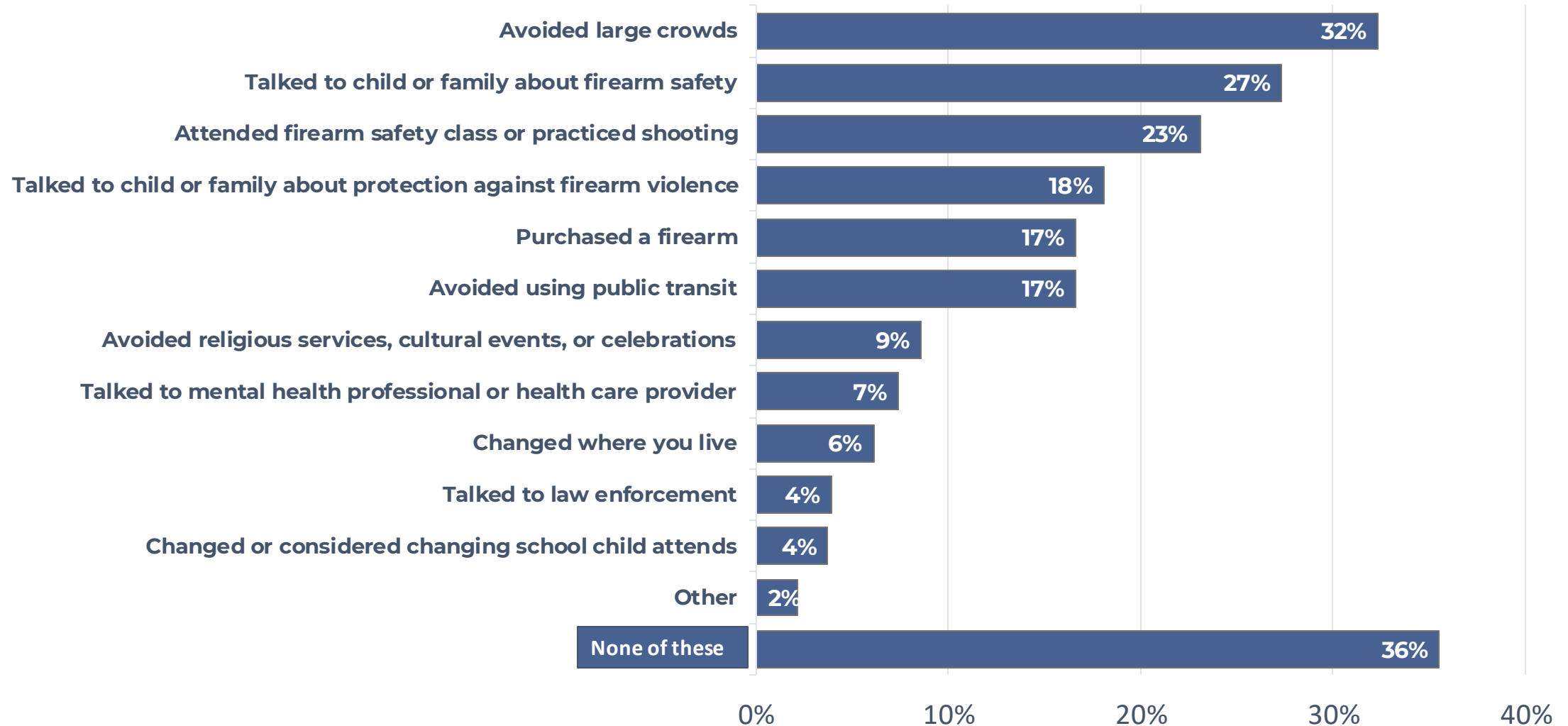
FIREARM DEATHS IN COLORADO BY INTENT
(2017-2021, N=4221)^{1,2}



Experiences with Firearm Harms



Protections Taken Against Firearm Violence



Implications for education and prevention for those who have experienced or are concerned about firearm harms:



Get the facts out in a non-sensationalized manner



Support people who have experienced or fear these harms by promoting resources and programs that can help them to heal and protect them from these harms

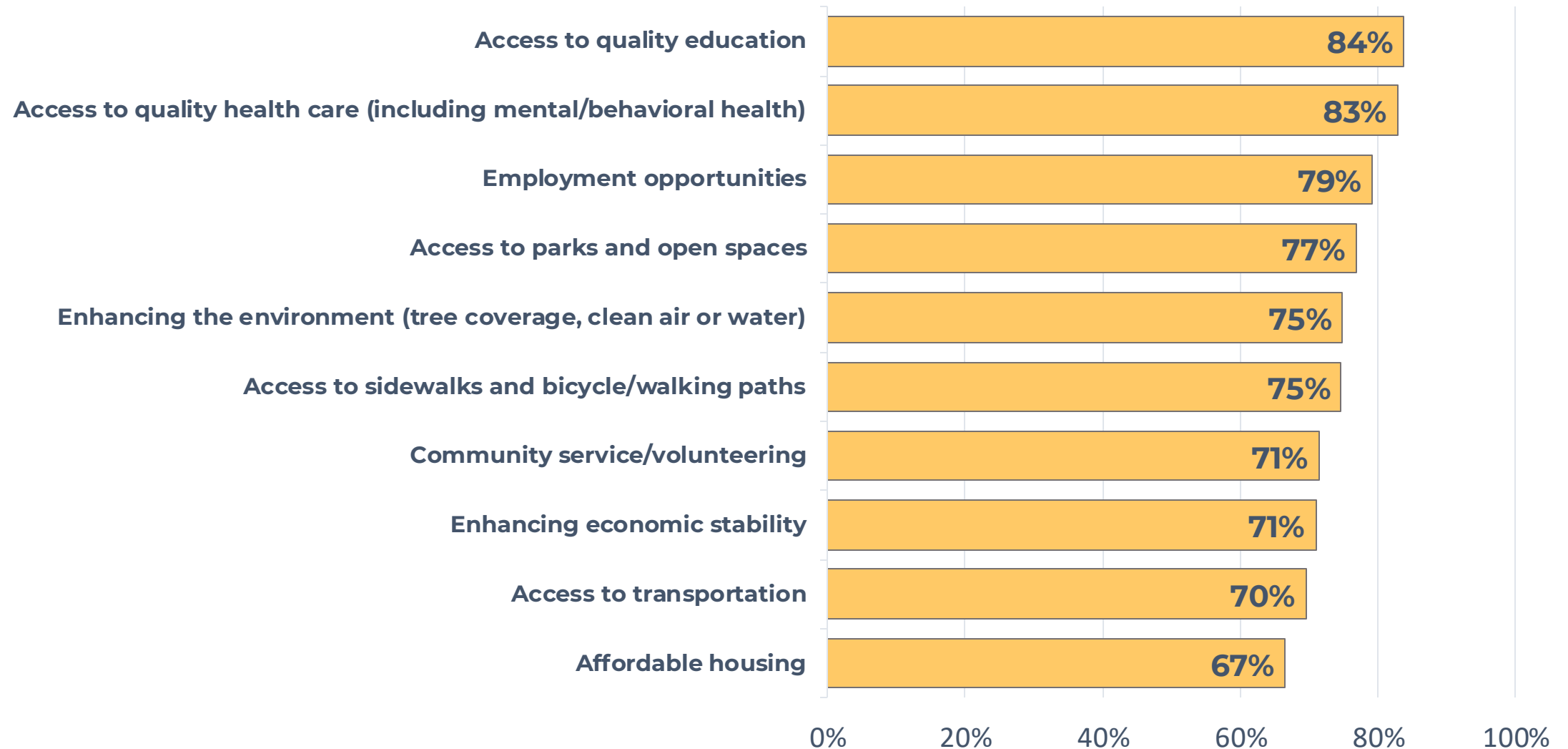
Creating Protective Environments

Why Important?

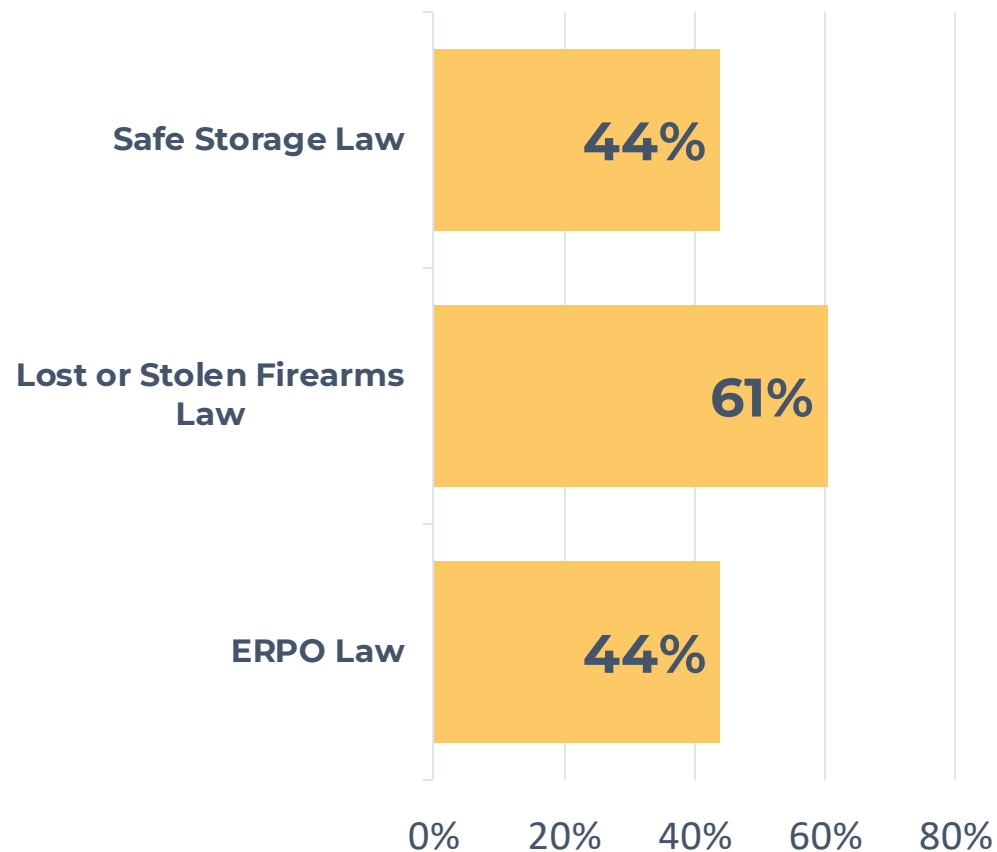


We can invest in, promote, and implement solutions that address the root causes of firearm harms and build community assets, resources, and regulations that protect against firearm harms.

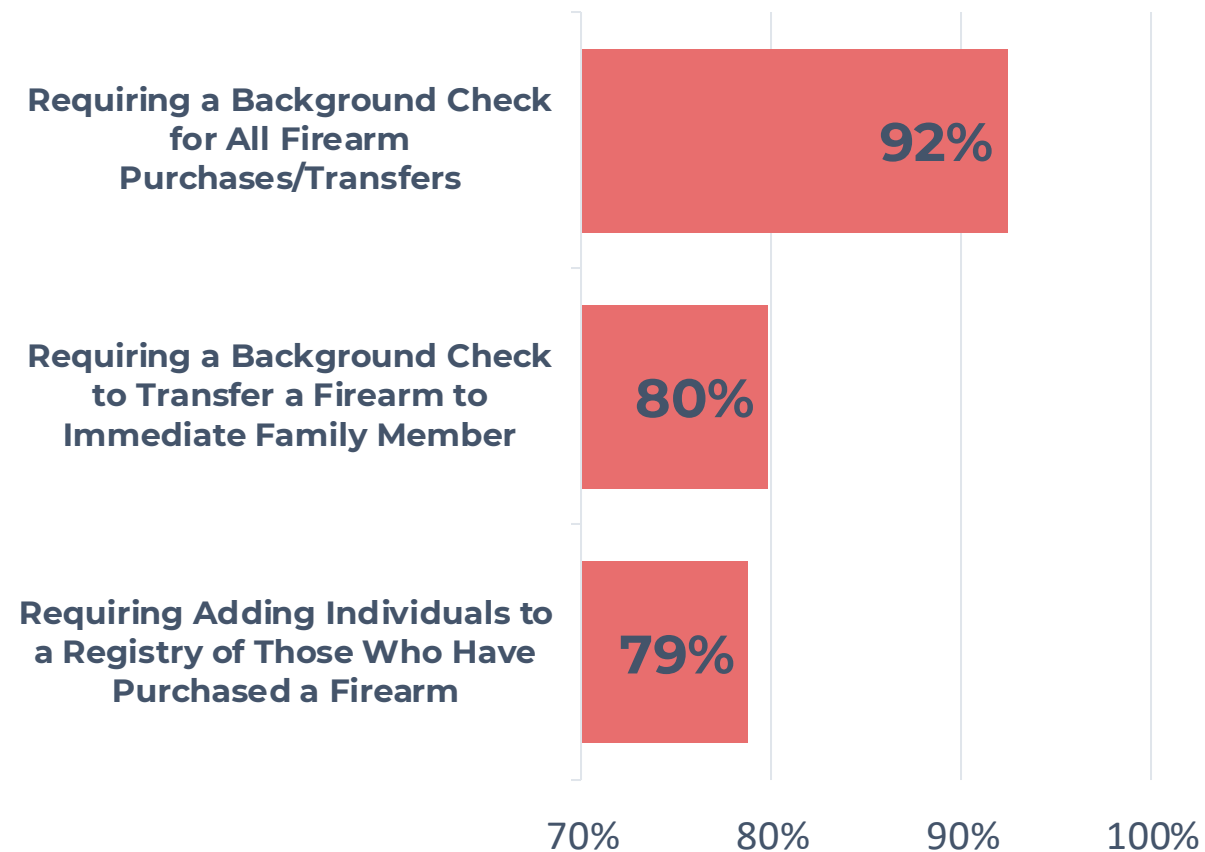
Support Investments to Create Protective Environments



Existing Colorado Laws



Non-Existing Colorado Laws



Values indicate the percentage of Coloradans who think each law exists

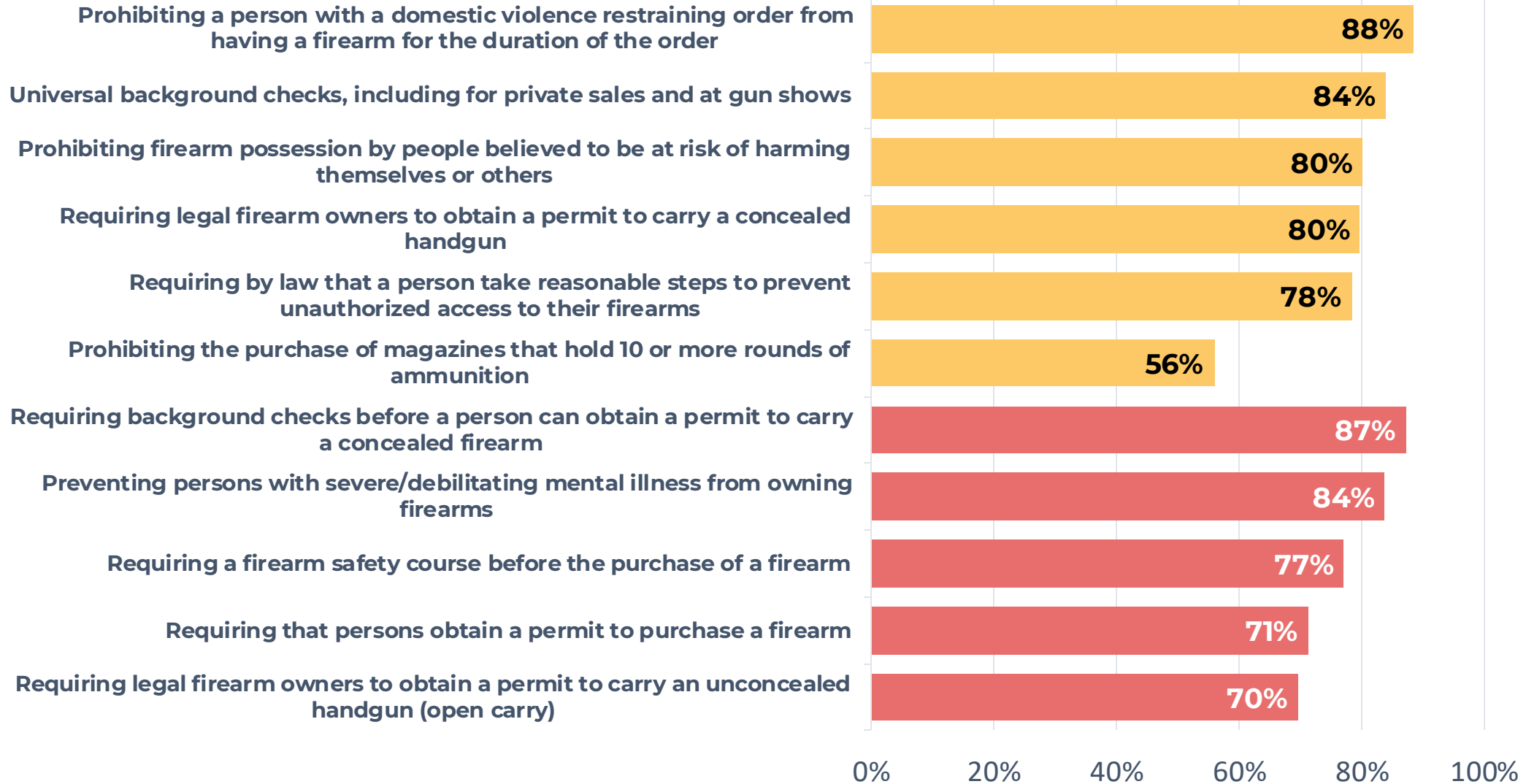
Support for Firearm Policies



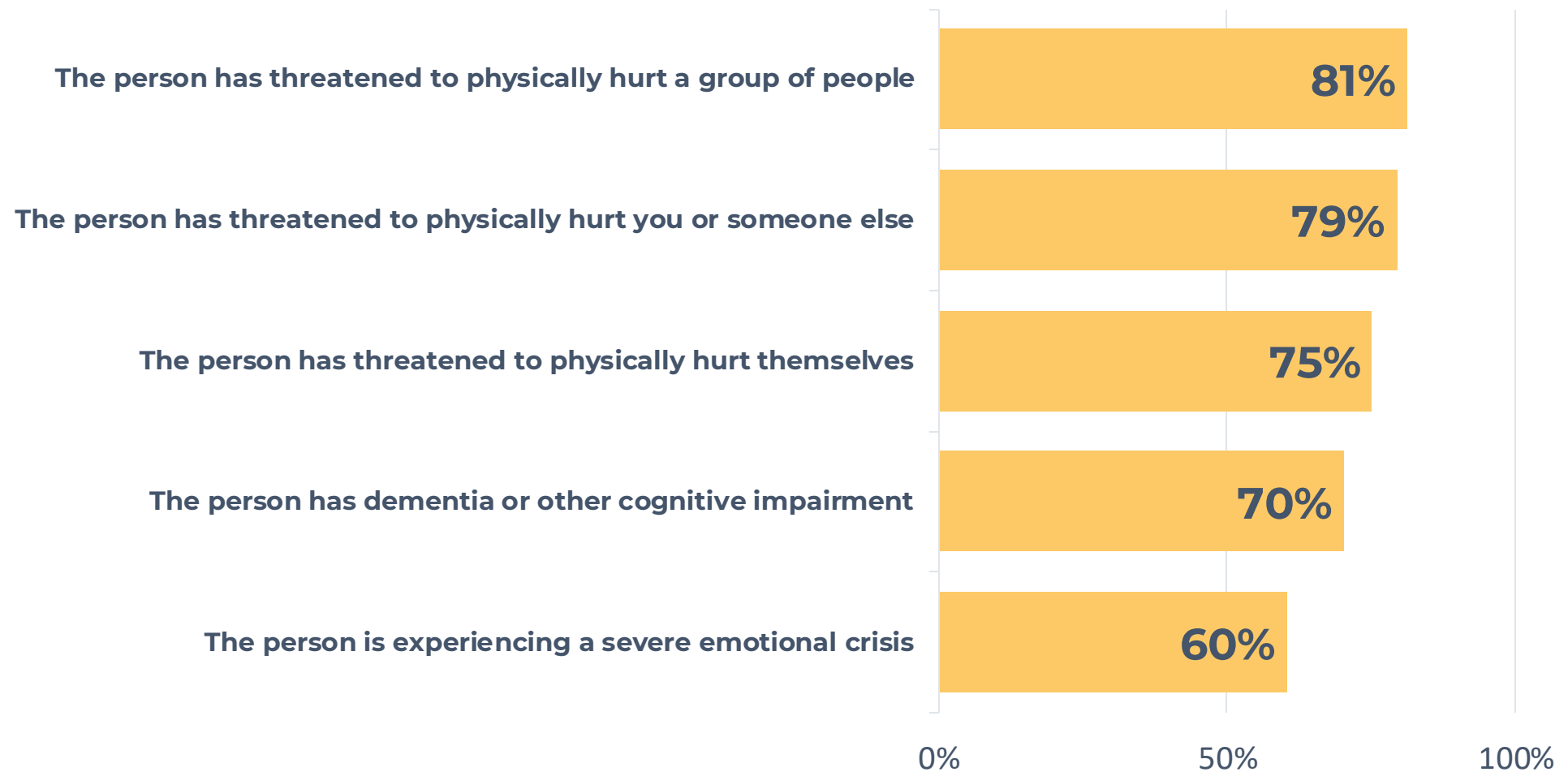
Policies Exist



Policies Do Not Exist



Appropriate to Issue an ERPO if...



Implications for education and prevention for creating protective environments:



Many issues where we commonly agree we can be doing work to create communities where people have access to resources that give them a better quality of life.

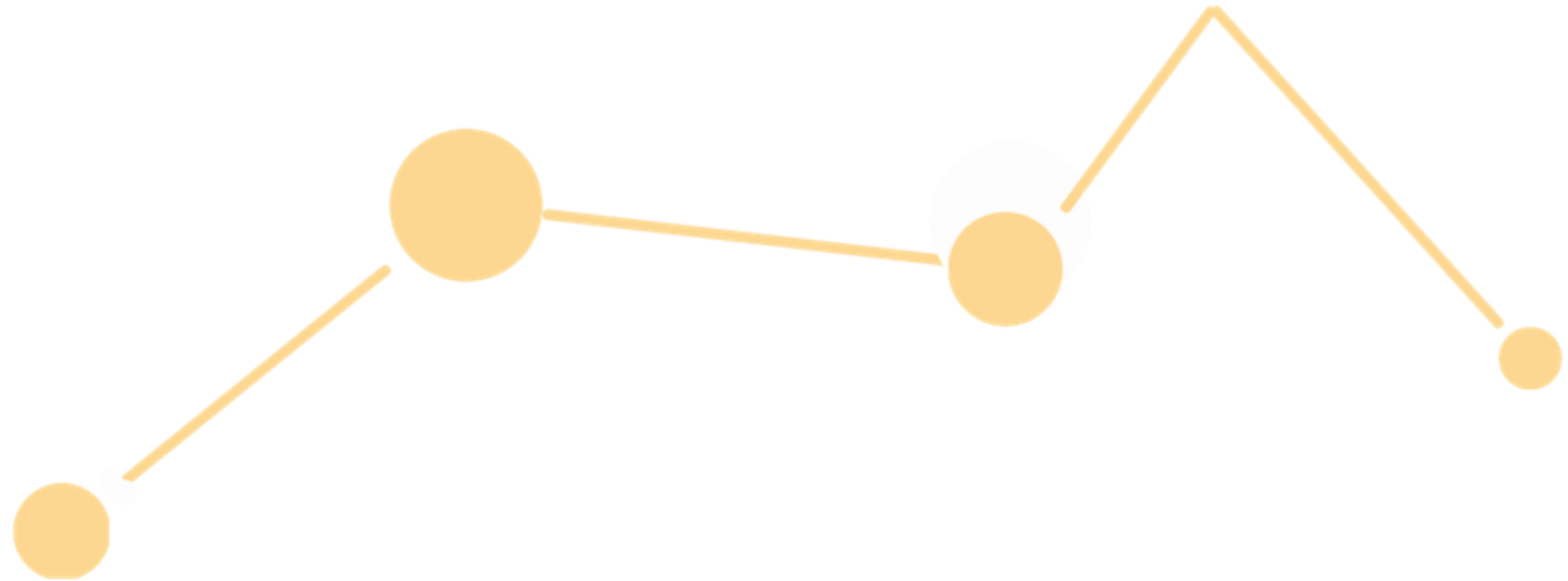


Many areas where laws already exist that people support and there are opportunities for support of additional regulations.



Policy-makers should engage affected communities in the policy process; these findings help to give some overarching opinions and perspectives.

NEXT STEPS



Use the state and regional data to inform local action!

- ✓ Make individual changes to your own practices/behaviors
- ✓ Apply for funding using COFIPS data to support your program or strategies
- ✓ Guide prevention strategies implemented by your government agency or community organization



cofips.org

Sign up for the FIPI newsletter to hear about when we release more resources.



- ✓ Dashboard
- ✓ More brief reports on specific topics
- ✓ Peer-reviewed publications



Ongoing Administration

2024: Administer specialty survey; determining the focus currently.

2025: Second iteration of the core survey, so we can monitor trends over time.



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Thank You

FIPI/IVPC Staff

- Kate Little
- Andrew MacFarland
- Jessica Buck-Atkinson
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- Leslie Barnard
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- Matt Wetenkamp
- Shale Wong

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- Jonathan McMillan
- Eric France
- Kristin McDermott



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