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To: [Community Safety](#); [donnamarie.ofsc](#); [Andrew White](#)
Cc: [Kemple Toni C](#)
Subject: June 30th Community Safety Task Force deliverables
Date: Monday, June 30, 2025 11:48:39 PM
Attachments: [Foci 3. Firearm Surrender Fact Sheet.pdf](#)
[Foci 4. Community Safety Best Practices Report .pdf](#)
[Foci 5. Domestic Violence Fact Sheet.pdf](#)
[Foci 6. Risks to First Responders Research Brief.pdf](#)

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Hi Donna-Marie, Andrew, and Toni,

Please find the OHSU June 30th Task Force deliverables attached here. These address the following (and final) four of six OHSU focus areas:

Foci #3. Efficacy of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) and challenges to voluntary firearm surrender protocols.

Research approach: Analyze ERPO data from 2018 through the first 6 months of 2024. Summarize interviews with law enforcement officers regarding their firearm surrender protocols and challenges and meet with the Oregon Firearm Safety Coalition's members who conducted a firearm retailer survey regarding voluntary firearm storage/surrender to learn of their findings; synthesize findings from these sources.

Deliverable: The ERPO findings will be summarized in a fact sheet shared with the Task Force and uploaded to the Center's website. Findings regarding the firearm surrender protocols will be reported to the Task Force members at a monthly meeting or via a brief report.

Foci #4. Barriers to implementing community safety best practices.

Research approach: Consult with national and state experts and review existing literature to identify community safety best practices and describe barriers to their implementation.

Deliverable: Findings will be summarized in a brief oral or written report shared with Task Force members and made accessible to the public via the OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center website.

Foci #5. Domestic violence as a risk factor for both community safety and suicide threats.

Research approach: Synthesize data (where available) from multiple sources (e.g., ERPO court records, the Gun Violence Archive, and Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (VDRS)) involving domestic violence and review the existing literature.

Deliverable: Findings will be summarized in a brief oral or written report shared with Task Force members and made accessible to the public via the OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center website.

Foci #6. Risks faced by first responders.

Research approach: Synthesize data (where available) from multiple sources (e.g., ERPO court records, the Gun Violence Archive, and Oregon VDRS) involving first responders and review the existing literature.

Deliverable: Findings will be shared with Task Force members via brief oral or written report.

My team and I look forward to discussing further. Thank you, and hope everyone is doing well—
Kathleen

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Methods to Prevent Access to Firearms During Times of Increased Risk

Separating individuals in crisis from access to lethal means (e.g., firearms) can save lives.¹⁻²

Various strategies exist to prevent access to firearms during times of increased risk. Each strategy helps form a patchwork of potential solutions to be considered on a case-by-case basis.



Secure Firearm Storage

Secure storage involves securing firearms with a locking device or in a gun room. Secure storage can be practiced by all firearm owners (not just during a crisis) and is legally required in Oregon.

Voluntary Out-of-Home Storage

Voluntary out-of-home storage may be used when an individual is willing to temporarily store their firearms with family, a friend, a firearms retailer, a pawn shop, or another out-of-home location during times of higher risk.

Voluntary Firearm Disposal

Voluntary firearm disposal can occur through firearm buyback or disposal events, or the sale of firearms. This method may be preferred by some firearm owners.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) are civil court orders that temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms/deadly weapons when at imminent risk of harming themselves or others. ERPOs typically prohibit firearm purchasing and possession for one year (unless terminated or renewed).

Secure Firearm Storage

Secure firearm storage practices, which is often described as storing firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition, may be used by all firearm owners to increase safety, even in the absence of a crisis or risk of harm. Unsecure firearm storage has been associated with increased risks of firearm suicide (generally and among youth), unintentional firearm injury among youth, and firearm theft.³⁻⁵ Still, fewer than half of all firearm owners in the U.S. report storing all of their firearms locked and unloaded.⁶

To increase secure storage practices across Oregon, there is a need to:

- **Reduce barriers** through secure storage device distribution and discounts or financial incentives for purchasing secure storage devices.
- **Shift the status quo** by normalizing a culture of secure storage.
- **Educate the public** on the importance of secure storage through community-based interventions and lethal means counseling.

Potential interventions include:

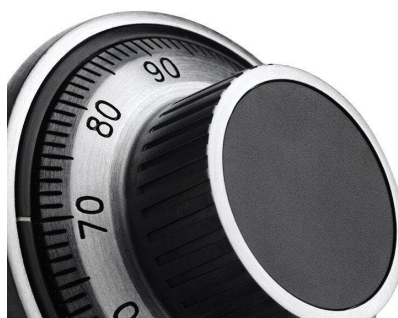
- **Healthcare and community-based interventions:** Interventions in healthcare and community settings that provide counseling on secure storage are associated with increased in secure storage practices, especially when firearm storage devices are distributed.⁷
- **Educational campaigns:** Educational campaigns may increase willingness to engage in secure storage practices, especially when the messaging acknowledges the importance of safety and home protection and comes from trusted messengers (e.g., law enforcement officers and veterans).⁸⁻⁹

Educational campaigns like Gun Storage Check Week by the National Shooting Sports Foundation help to shift the status quo and increase education and awareness of the importance of secure storage.¹⁰

GUN STORAGE ✓

**MAKE SURE
IT'S SECURE.**

Don't wait. Prioritize safety now.
Visit GunStorageCheck.org.



A PROGRAM OF
NSSF
The Firearm Industry
Trade Association

Secure storage is the law in Oregon.¹¹

Firearm owners must **secure firearms** with an engaged trigger or cable lock, in a locked container, or in a gun room when not in use. If a firearm owner violates the secure storage law, they may be:

- **Charged with a civil penalty**, including a maximum fine of \$500 (or \$2,000 if a minor obtains access to the firearms as a result of the violation).
- **Held liable in a civil lawsuit** if an unsecured firearm is accessed by an unauthorized person and used to injure a person or property within 2 years of the violation.

Voluntary Out-of-Home Storage or Disposal

When individuals are experiencing a crisis, including suicidal or homicidal ideation or intent, it may be important to further increase the time and distance between the individual and access to lethal means. If an individual is willing to allow a family member, a friend, a federally licensed firearms retailer (FFL), a pawn shop, a law enforcement agency (LEA), or another third party to temporarily store their firearms, voluntary out-of-home storage may be an appropriate option.

Options for temporary out-of-home storage or firearm disposal:

- Call local FFLs, pawn shops, or LEAs and ask if they provide firearm storage services.
- Bring firearms to a local gunsmith for deep cleaning.
- Ask a trusted family member or friend to temporarily hold firearms or the key to secure storage devices.
- Disassemble firearms and store the parts without serial numbers with a trusted family member or friend or in a self-storage unit.
- Sell firearms or bring them to a firearm disposal or buyback event.

Storage with a trusted family member or friend:

Temporary firearm storage with a trusted family member or friend is allowed under Oregon law “for **the purpose of preventing imminent death or serious physical injury**, and the provision lasts only as long as is necessary to prevent the death or serious physical injury.”¹²

Challenges:

- **Liability:** Individuals are concerned about being held liable if they return the firearm and it is misused.
- **Timing:** Individuals may wish to store firearms outside the home for safety when they are struggling but may not be at “imminent” risk. There is also a lack of clarity on when firearms must be returned.

Storage with an FFL or other business:

Through efforts to map secure storage locations in Oregon, the Oregon Firearm Safety Coalition (OFSC) learned that many pawn shops and FFLs offer temporary firearm storage, but few advertise this option or are willing to be added to a map due to concerns around liability and costs.

Challenges:

- **Liability:** FFLs fear losing their license or being held liable if they return the firearm and it is misused.
- **Cost:** Some FFLs raised concerns that temporary storage will cost them money due to the costs of background checks and staff time spent inventorying firearms.
- **Space:** FFLs may not have adequate storage space to temporarily hold firearms, potentially requiring them to purchase additional gun safes.

The Oregon Armory Project:

OFSC is working to develop partnerships with FFLs to facilitate voluntary, out-of-home firearm storage and distribution of information on firearm suicide prevention.

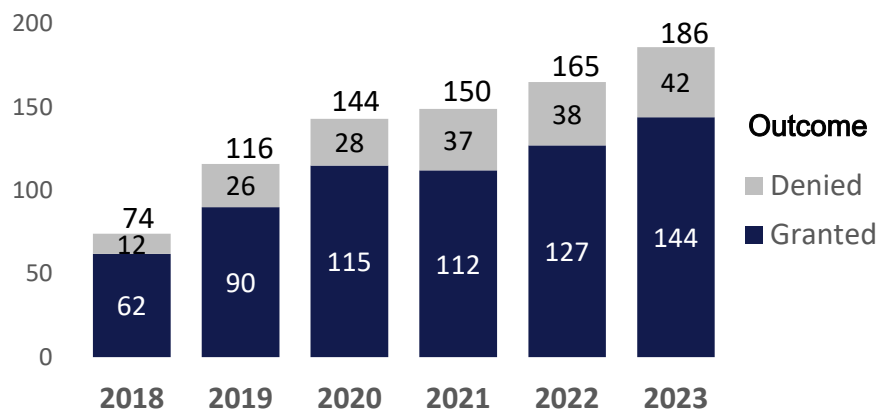
Extreme Risk Protection Orders

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) may be used when voluntary options are not feasible or potential risk is imminent. Oregon's ERPO law, which went into effect on January 1, 2018,¹³ allows family/household members and law enforcement officers (LEOs) to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms and other deadly weapons when at **imminent risk of harming themselves or others**. Our team analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records* from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2023, and conducted interviews with professionals** involved in the implementation of Oregon's ERPO law in Summer-Fall 2024. We share some of the results of our analysis and interviews here.

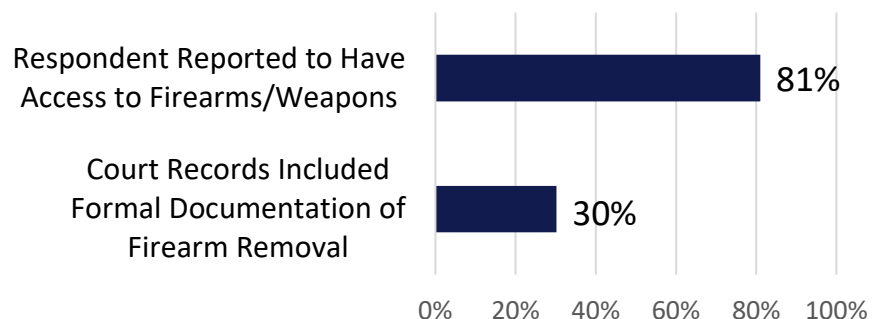
About Oregon's ERPO Law

- **Firearm access restrictions:** ERPOs prohibit both **purchasing** and **possession** of firearms for the duration of the order. The respondent (the individual subject to the ERPO) must surrender all deadly weapons and their concealed handgun license to law enforcement, a federally licensed firearms dealer, or a third party within 24 hours of being served the order. Law enforcement submits ERPO information to a state and national data system after the ERPO is served to prevent firearm purchasing.
- **Duration:** Typically 1 year (unless terminated or renewed).

835 ERPO petitions were filed from 2018-2023, 78% of which were granted



70% of all granted ERPOs lacked documentation of firearm removal in the court records



Interviewees described strategies that they utilized to ensure safety of ERPO service and improve compliance:

- Using a **nonconfrontational**, “warm” approach;
- **Clearly explaining the order**, the consequences of noncompliance, and the options for firearm dispossession in **plain language**;
- Offering to **help** the respondent transfer their firearms;
- Working with the **family** of the respondent; and
- **Following up** with the respondent 24 hours after service.

* Data were abstracted from court records provided by the Oregon Judicial Department.

** Professionals included law enforcement officers, judges, representatives from district and city attorneys' offices, and prevention professionals.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

While most interviewees saw ERPOs as an effective tool for reducing firearm violence, they identified considerable barriers to enforcement and firearm dispossession.

Interviewees identified factors that made firearm surrender challenging, including:

- The **widespread availability of firearms** and ability to obtain firearms through illegal means;
- The **risk of “poking the bear”** (LEO interviewee) or escalating the situation; and
- The **lack of legal mechanisms** to confirm whether respondents truly surrendered all of their firearms.

“

If someone has this order placed on them but they want to get a gun, I can guarantee you they’re going to have a gun out here...**Guns are accessible.**

DA interviewee

“

We're poking the bear...potentially that at minimum gives them a 24-hour period to decide whether they want to do that terrible thing or not.

LEO interviewee

“

When you go in and ask somebody to surrender their weapon, you’re assuming that they’ll say, “Oh sure, these are all my weapons,” but **as far as you know, they can have five semi-automatics in the garage.**

LEO interviewee

“

There is a lag time...that makes you nervous. What is he going to do in the next 24 hours? **Maybe this sets him off and he goes on some kind of shooting rampage.**

LEO interviewee

Interviewees shared various ideas for strengthening enforcement of ERPOs.

Strategies for strengthening enforcement and ensuring firearm surrender included:

- Requiring respondents to **file declaration of firearm surrender forms with the court** indicating to whom they surrendered their firearms or attesting that they do not have firearms in their possession;
- Requiring respondents to **go before a judge at a compliance hearing** if they do not file the declaration of firearm surrender form within a certain timeframe; and
- **Dedicating resources and personnel** in law enforcement agencies and district attorneys’ offices focused on firearm dispossession.

“

I think that **[compliance hearings]** would be a **good improvement for any gun dispossession issue from protective orders** but certainly warranted in ERPOs.

DA interviewee

“

It’s going to take **people and resources focused on the problem** to really impact it, **not just creating another document** for people to fill out.

LEO interviewee

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SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Oregon Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention

Community Safety Best Practices

Prepared by the OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center

Background

Firearm injury is a public health crisis impacting communities across Oregon, resulting in 642 deaths in Oregon in 2023 alone.¹ The majority of these firearm-related deaths in Oregon were firearm suicides (76%).¹ For every person killed by a firearm, more will suffer nonfatal firearm injuries.² In 2023, there were a total of 761 firearm injury emergency department visits across Oregon.³

Most Americans recognize a need for interventions to reduce gun violence, with 79% of Americans identifying gun violence as either a moderately big or major problem in a 2024 survey.⁴ To effectively respond to the firearm injury crisis in Oregon and beyond, there is a need to implement evidence-based interventions and policies that recognize the full breadth of the problem and work to address the causes and consequences of firearm injury. It is important to consider both the existing evidence supporting various policies, as well as the political and social context within Oregon, to determine what policies and practices may be most effective within the state.

The OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center was tasked with creating a report for the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide to identify community safety best practices and describe barriers to their implementation. Through consultation with national and state experts and review of existing literature, we have identified five community safety best practices to consider in Oregon: policies that address social, structural, and economic drivers of violence, community violence intervention, firearm purchaser licensing, risk-based firearm removal policies, and secure firearm storage. The following report summarizes the evidence and identifies barriers and facilitators to implementing each of these five best practices in Oregon.

Methodology

The OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center sought to examine best practices for promoting community safety, as well as the barriers and facilitators to these practices. First, we sent emails to 38 academic experts (defined as researchers with publications related to firearm violence prevention in the peer reviewed literature). We aimed to engage a diverse group of academic experts from across the U.S. Emails included brief questions about these experts' views on community safety best practices. Questions included:

1. Based on your knowledge of the literature and your experiences in the field, what are the top 3-5 most impactful, evidence-based best practices for reducing firearm violence (including self-harm, interpersonal violence, and/or community violence)? (Best practices may include community-based efforts, policies, etc.)
2. Can you share why you believe these to be the most effective?
3. What would you say are the primary barriers to implementation for the policies/practices you listed? (And/or, conversely, the facilitators of implementation?)

We received responses from 17 experts, whose names and affiliations are listed at the end of this report. Our team reviewed the best practices identified from these expert responses while considering Oregon's policy landscape. We identified the following five promising policy/practice areas to explore in more detail: policies that address social, structural, and economic drivers of violence, community violence intervention, firearm purchaser licensing, risk-based firearm removal policies, and secure firearm storage. We then reviewed the literature on these policies, including peer reviewed literature and grey literature, and examined the status of each in Oregon.

Expert Opinions on Community Safety Best Practices

Academic experts identified a variety of community safety best practices. We aggregated these responses, grouping some into broader policy categories. Best practices identified included:

- Firearm purchaser licensing laws
- Risk-based firearm removal policies (including Extreme Risk Protection Order laws, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, and prohibitions associated with mental illness or criminal convictions)
- Secure firearm storage (including secure storage laws, lethal means counseling, and collaborative community efforts to promote legal and temporary out-of-home firearm storage)
- Violence reduction councils/gun violence review commissions
- Community violence intervention (CVI)
- Upstream social interventions/Social policies that address social, structural, and economic drivers of violence
- Background check policies
- Waiting periods for firearm purchasing
- Child-access prevention laws
- Minimum age requirements for firearm ownership and purchasing
- Ban on sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Policies limiting guns in public spaces
- Cardiff violence prevention model (a collaborative approach to understanding where violence is occurring by combining and mapping both hospital and police data on violence)
- Focused deterrence
- Community gun buyback/disposal events
- Targeted crisis lines (e.g., Veterans crisis line)
- Built environment interventions (e.g., greening, blight remediation, and improvements in lighting)

These experts also provided explanations or rationale in support of these best practices. Common reasons for identifying these practices included the strength of the evidence base and high public support. Experts also identified the importance of community-driven interventions and the inclusion of diverse voices and communities, including firearm owners, when implementing any of these potential interventions.

Experts identified barriers to the implementation of these best practices, many of which were applicable across interventions. Common barriers included:

- Political tensions/political will
- Lack of sustainable funding, investment, and resources
- Variable implementation of policies
- Lack of investment in research to strengthen the existing evidence base in support of these policies/practices
- Lack of understanding of the risks of firearm access
- Societal norms and messaging around firearm ownership, storage, and safety
- Cultural acceptability
- Structural racism, which has resulted in existing disinvestment in communities with high rates of violence and contributes to continued lack of will to invest in these communities

The word cloud on the following page displays the variety of policies and practices that experts recommended, with more frequently recommended policies appearing in larger font sizes.

Built Environment Interventions
Violence Review Commissions
Waiting Periods
Minimum Age Requirements
Secure Storage
Community Violence Intervention
Sensitive Spaces Laws
Firearm Purchaser Licensing Laws
Crisis Lines
Cardiff Model
Risk-Based Removal Policies
Upstream Social Interventions
Background Check Policies
Child Access Prevention Laws
Assault Weapons Bans
Community Gun Buyback/Disposal Events

Addressing Social, Structural, and Economic Drivers of Violence

Firearm violence impacts all Oregonians, but some communities face

disproportionate impacts driven by social, structural, and economic disparities. The Aspen Health Strategy Group, an initiative of the Aspen Institute, highlights these disparities in their report on reducing the health harms of firearm injury, noting that “structural factors such as poverty, living in an area with low social mobility, or being in a historically marginalized group affected by structural racism also substantially increase risk of a firearm injury or death.”¹

Community violence and firearm homicide disproportionately impact communities of color in Oregon,

due in part to policies and practices such as sundown laws, redlining, restrictive zoning practices, neighborhood disinvestment, and gentrification that have created barriers to home ownership and contributed to economic instability, gaps in educational attainment and income, and unequal access to health care among Oregon’s Black and African-American population.²⁻⁴ Centuries of structural colonialism also compound the discrimination that has led to health disparities among Native American and Alaska Native populations in Oregon.⁵ Black/African American and Native American/Alaska Native Oregonians experience the highest rates of fatal and nonfatal firearm injury in the state.⁶⁻⁷

Firearm suicide risk disproportionately impacts rural Oregonians and Veterans

compared to those in urban areas⁸ and non-Veterans.⁹ While this is driven in part by differential access to firearms,¹⁰ there are also various social determinants of health that contribute to these disparities in firearm suicide risk, including economic opportunity, education, and housing.¹¹ Additionally, Oregon’s shortage of mental and behavioral health providers is particularly acute in rural areas, which, combined with stigmatization of mental illness, may prevent or deter those in rural areas from receiving behavioral health care.¹²

Recognizing the “upstream” causes of the unequal distribution of the firearm injury burden in Oregon is important when considering effective strategies for prevention. Some strategies that have been explored to address the social, structural, and economic drivers of violence include income support, educational opportunities, expansion of affordability and accessibility of healthcare, and built environment or environmental design policies. For example, research has documented associations between the presence and generosity of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (a cash transfer program intended to alleviate poverty among low-income families in the U.S.) and reductions in youth violence,¹³ firearm suicide,¹⁴ and interpersonal firearm violence.¹⁵ Additionally, greater state and local spending on welfare programs (e.g., unemployment insurance, work incentive programs, and public assistance programs) and education have each been linked to significant decreases in local firearm homicide rates.¹⁶ Addressing food insecurity may also help reduce firearm violence, with research finding associations between state-level expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and reduced firearm suicide deaths,¹⁷ and access to SNAP benefits and reduced firearm homicide and suicide among Black youth.¹⁸

Upstream interventions may be costly upfront but may have the most far-reaching impacts. In addition to reducing firearm violence, upstream interventions may impact other health and wellbeing outcomes, with one estimate finding that socioeconomic factors such as education, income, and social support impact 47% of health outcomes.¹⁹ Additionally, gun violence currently costs Oregon \$8.1 billion each year, of which at least \$89.1 million is paid by taxpayers.²⁰ Upstream interventions targeting the social and structural determinants of health and violence may result in cost savings in the long-term.²¹

Community Violence Intervention

Community violence is a deliberate act of harm that occurs between two or more individuals in public places.¹ Youth between the ages of 10-34, particularly in Black and Latino communities, are disproportionately impacted.¹ High rates of violence in these communities are driven by decades of discriminatory policies that have created barriers to educational attainment and economic stability.²⁻³ There is increasing recognition that relying solely on arrests, surveillance, and punitive measures will not achieve reductions in community violence.⁴

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs use “credible messengers” – individuals with lived experience of gun violence – to build relationships with and address the needs of individuals at high-risk for gun violence by providing connection to services and supports, conflict mediation, and mentoring.⁴ CVI programs have been shown to be effective at reducing violence and related outcomes.^{5,6} For example, an analysis of 24 CVI programs across the U.S. found that these programs reduced violent crime by an average of 30%.⁵ Academic experts noted particular benefits of CVI, including being community-driven, evidence-based, and responsive to local needs.

Dozens of CVI programs are being implemented in Oregon. For example, **Healing Hurt People – Portland** is a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program offered by the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center that meets survivors at the hospital bedside after violent injury and provides social and emotional supports for a year or longer.⁷ The **Youth Empowerment Shelter** in the Dalles conducts outreach and engages youth ages 10-24 in services and activities, identifies potential conflicts, and resolves disputes prior to acts of violence.⁸

CVI programs lack funding to successfully sustain implementation over time and adequately pay their workers. CVI programs are often grant funded for 1-2 years and, after funding ends, programs stall along with the hard-won relationships that CVI workers have built with their communities.⁴ Further, CVI workers are often underpaid and struggle with financial instability.⁹ Along with regular exposure to violence and stressful situations inherent in working in CVI programs, burnout and turnover among CVI workers is common.⁹

Successful implementation of CVI programs requires sustained funding to ensure programs are implemented consistently over time and CVI workers are paid a livable wage.⁴ CVI programs also require robust social and emotional support and ongoing training for CVI workers.⁹

In 2023, the Oregon legislature allocated \$10 million dollars to support CVI programs through grants administered by the Department of Justice.¹⁰ This funding has been removed from the 2025-27 budget for the Department of Justice that was passed by the House of Representatives in the current 2025 Regular Session.¹¹ Advocates and CVI organizations have urged lawmakers to reincorporate this funding into the budget to sustain and promote CVI programs in the state.¹¹

Firearm Purchaser Licensing

Firearm purchaser licensing (FPL) laws, also known as permit-to-purchase laws, create requirements that individuals obtain permits prior to purchasing firearms to ensure that individuals pass a background check and fulfill any additional requirements (e.g., firearm safety training) prior to purchasing a firearm.¹ FPL laws have withstood recent legal challenges under the Supreme Court's *Bruen* framework.¹

Research supports the effectiveness of FPL laws at reducing:

- **Firearm homicide:** Nationally, FPL laws have been associated with an 11% reduction in firearm homicide in urban counties.² Additionally, the implementation of a FPL law in Connecticut was associated with a 28% reduction in the state's firearm homicide rate,³ whereas the repeal of such a law in Missouri was associated with at least a 24% increase in the state's firearm homicide rate.⁴
- **Firearm suicide:** The implementation of a FPL law in Connecticut was associated with a 33% reduction in the state's firearm suicide rate,³ whereas the repeal of such a law in Missouri was associated with at least a 16% increase in the state's firearm suicide rate.⁵
- **Mass shootings:** States with FPL laws were associated with a 56% lower risk of fatal mass shooting incidents compared to states without this policy.⁶
- **Diversion of guns to criminal use:** FPL laws may reduce firearm trafficking, with studies finding that fewer crime guns recovered by police were originally purchased in states with FPL laws.⁷⁻⁸
- **Law enforcement officer-involved shootings:** Firearm purchaser licensing laws were associated with a 28% lower rate of law enforcement officer-involved shootings.⁹

Oregon passed a firearm purchaser licensing law in 2022 through Ballot Measure 114. This law requires individuals to obtain a permit from local law enforcement every five years to purchase a firearm and requires a photo ID, fingerprinting, safety training, a criminal background check, and a fee payment to apply for a permit.¹⁰

The implementation of this law has been fraught and has been held up by legal challenges in state and federal courts.¹¹ Law enforcement agencies, which are responsible for providing permits, have reported lacking the funding, infrastructure, resources, and personnel to create and implement a permitting system in a timely manner.¹² Other opponents of the law have expressed concerns around the cost of the permit and the accessibility and availability of required training courses, as well as racial equity concerns related to disparate enforcement and the requirement to go to a law enforcement agency to obtain the permit.¹³ There is a need to address these concerns through collaboration with the firearm-owning community to ensure equitable implementation of this law in Oregon.

While this law has been contentious in Oregon, states that have successfully implemented firearm purchaser licensing laws have reported high levels of support among firearm owners, with 74% of firearm owners supporting the policy in these states compared to 59% of firearm owners in states without firearm purchaser licensing.¹ This increased support may suggest that these states have found ways to overcome these challenges to implementation. Recommendations from the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions also address many of the concerns around equity and accessibility and encourage community engagement and dedicated funding to support the implementation process.¹

Risk-Based Firearm Removal Policies

Risk-based firearm removal policies, such as Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) and Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) laws, provide mechanisms to temporarily prohibit firearm purchasing and possession from those at risk of harming themselves or others through civil court orders. Often, those closest to an individual may be the first to notice changes in behavior or warning signs of increased risk of suicide or interpersonal violence. Risk-based firearm removal policies allow for intervention before these tragedies occur.

Oregon's ERPO law, which took effect on January 1, 2018, allows family/household members and law enforcement officers to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict one's access to firearms or other deadly weapons if the court determines that individual is at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.¹ If an ERPO is granted, law enforcement officers serve the order to the respondent (the individual subject to the ERPO) and submit ERPO information to state and national data systems to prevent firearm purchasing. The respondent must surrender all deadly weapons and concealed handgun license to law enforcement, a federally licensed firearms dealer, or another eligible third party within 24 hours of service. An ERPO remains in effect for one year, unless the order is dismissed or renewed. Between 2018 and 2023, 835 ERPO petitions were filed in Oregon, 78% of which were granted.² Most petitions were filed by law enforcement officers (61%), followed by family/household members (25%).² Petitions commonly mentioned threats or concerns related to assault or homicide (86% of petitions), self-harm or suicide (62%), domestic violence (37%), and harm to children (15%), with most petitions citing multiple threats or concerns.²

Oregon's DVRO law, known as the Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA), was initially passed into law in 1977, but the requirement that those subject to a FAPA be prohibited from possessing firearms took effect on January 1, 2020.³⁻⁴ Family/household members may petition for a FAPA if they have experienced abuse within the last 180 days and if there is imminent risk of future bodily injury or sexual assault to the petitioner or their children.³ Whereas ERPOs focus solely on weapon dispossession, FAPAs offer additional protections, including no contact provisions and temporary custody orders. FAPAs remain in effect for two years, unless renewed. FAPAs are utilized significantly more frequently than ERPOs; from 2018 to 2021, there were 37,533 FAPAs filed in Oregon compared to only 484 ERPOs.⁵

Research supports the effectiveness of these risk-based firearm removal policies. In a multi-state study, it was estimated that one suicide was prevented for every 13-17 ERPOs issued.⁶ Additionally, prohibiting individuals subject to DVROs from possessing firearms is associated with significant reductions in intimate partner homicide rates.⁷

Effectiveness of these laws hinges on implementation. Research on DVRO laws across the U.S. has identified barriers to enforcing firearm prohibitions, including lack of guidance for law enforcement and legal and practical constraints to law enforcement authority.⁸⁻⁹ Interviews with professionals involved in ERPO implementation in Oregon have revealed similar challenges, with law enforcement officers questioning how to enforce the orders given the lack of legal mechanisms for confirming whether respondents truly surrendered their firearms.¹⁰ Enforcement of these firearm prohibitions may be strengthened through additional court proceedings (e.g., requirements that all respondents submit a declaration of firearm surrender form to the court and/or attend a compliance hearing).¹⁰⁻¹² In Oregon, FAPA respondents are statutorily required to file a declaration of firearm surrender within two judicial days of the order being granted and may face contempt proceedings if this is not filed, but this practice is not commonplace nor statutorily required for ERPOs.⁴ Another barrier to ERPO implementation identified by professionals in Oregon was training, with most interviewees describing a need for more training on ERPOs, particularly for law enforcement officers.¹⁰ Specialized behavioral health teams or units and firearm dispossession units within law enforcement agencies and district attorneys' offices may support implementation and enforcement of ERPOs and DVRO firearm prohibitions as well.^{10,12}

Secure Firearm Storage

Secure firearm storage practices, which consist of storing firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition, may help prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths among firearm owners and other household members.¹ Unsecure firearm storage has been associated with increased risks of firearm suicide (generally and among youth in particular), unintentional firearm injury among youth, and firearm theft.²⁻⁴ Still, fewer than half of all firearm owners in the U.S. report storing all of their firearms locked and unloaded.⁵

Secure storage may be incentivized and encouraged through educational campaigns, community-based interventions, and lethal means counseling. Interventions in healthcare or community settings that provide counseling on secure storage are associated with increases in secure storage practices, especially when firearm storage devices (e.g., lockboxes) are distributed.⁶⁻⁷

Secure storage may also be legally required through secure storage and child access prevention laws. Secure storage laws are associated with reductions in firearm suicide and unintentional injury, particularly among youth.⁸⁻⁹ Still, a law's effectiveness may be dependent on firearm owners' knowledge of the law and changes in firearm storage practices. The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions has published a model policy guide for developing and implementing secure storage laws, which includes recommendations around educating the public about the law and evaluating the law through research and data collection.¹⁰

In 2021, Oregon passed a law requiring firearm owners to secure firearms with an engaged trigger or cable lock, in a locked container, or in a gun room when not being used by the firearm owner.¹¹ Violation of this law may result in a civil penalty, including a maximum fine of \$500 (or \$2,000 if a minor obtains access to the firearms as a result of the violation). Firearm owners may also be held liable in a civil lawsuit if a firearm not stored securely is accessed by an unauthorized person and used to injure a person or property within two years of the violation.¹¹

Educational campaigns may help increase public awareness and knowledge of Oregon's secure storage law and of the benefits of secure storage more broadly. Oregon's schools may play a critical role in educating parents about the risks of firearm access among youth, the importance of secure firearm storage, and the existence of the secure storage law. For example, in 2020, Oregon's Lake Oswego School District passed a resolution directing the District to increase efforts to educate parents about the importance of secure firearm storage by adding information on the District website and collaborating with law enforcement, health agencies, and non-profits on educational efforts.¹² In 2022, California passed a bill requiring all school districts to distribute information on the state's secure storage law annually so that parents may be aware of the law and of the benefits of secure firearm storage.¹³

Educational campaigns and secure storage device distribution require funding and resources. Educational materials should be developed in collaboration with trusted messengers (e.g., firearm owners and retailers, Veterans, etc.), as has been done with the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Gun Storage Check Weeks.¹⁴ Additionally, firearm owners cannot securely store firearms without access to secure storage devices. While cable locks are widely distributed, firearm owners have expressed limited utilization of these devices and a preference for other secure storage devices.¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Providing options of secure storage devices and considering the preferences of firearm owners may increase the effectiveness of distribution efforts, but these efforts will need sustainable funding. In Washington, \$1 million allocated by the state legislature to the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention has enabled greater distribution of secure storage devices to firearm owners across the state.¹⁷ Greater funding and resources are needed to support secure storage efforts in Oregon.

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We thank these individuals for sharing their time and
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Addressing Social, Structural, and Economic Drivers of Violence

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Secure Firearm Storage

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Domestic Violence in Oregon: Understanding the Risks and Risk Factors

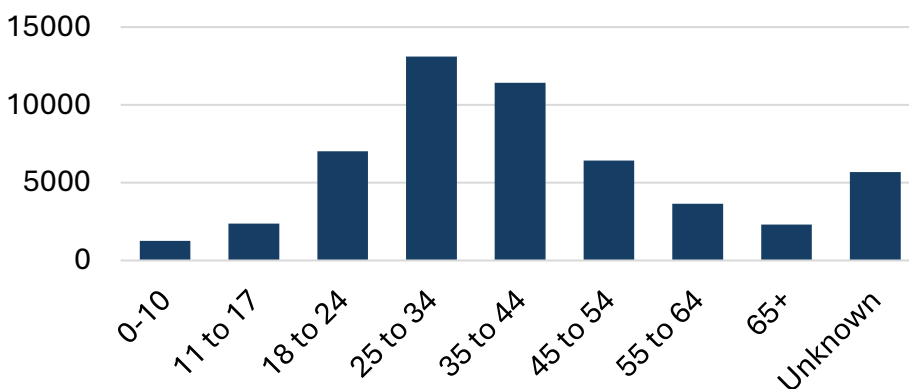
The following report provides key insights from the literature on domestic violence (DV), including the intersections of DV and firearm access, mass violence, and suicide risk. National research is complemented by Oregon-specific data.

Definitions

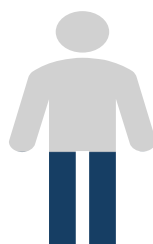
- **Domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV)** both involve “a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control,” including physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats.¹
- **Victims of DV** may include family or household members, including children, parents, and current or former intimate partners.
- **Victims of IPV** may include current or former spouses and dating partners, regardless of whether individuals live together.

From 2020-2024, there were over 50,000 DV-related crimes reported in Oregon, primarily impacting 25-to-34-year olds²

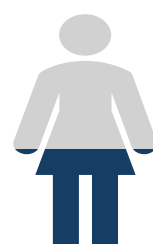
Number of reported victims of DV-related crimes by age in Oregon, 2020-2024



In Oregon, lifetime experiences of IPV were reported by:



39%
of
men³



42%
of
women³

Oregon-Specific Data Sources

- **The Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (OUCR) System** is a state-wide data system to which all law enforcement agencies in Oregon are required by law to report crime statistics. This fact sheet contains OUCR data on DV-related offenses from 2020-2024.²
- **The 2016/2017 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey** is an ongoing national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. IPV estimates reported here represent the lifetime prevalence of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner.³

1. United Nations. (n.d.). What is domestic abuse? <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse>.

2. Oregon State Police. (n.d.). Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Data. Accessed June 10, 2025, at <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Uniform-Crime-Reporting-Data.aspx>.

3. Smith et al. (2023). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2016/2017 state report. Atlanta (GA): CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Between 2013 and 2022, 386 Oregonians died due to DV-related homicide¹



Those who died were primarily **women** (56%), **white** (77%), and **ages 25-64** (64%).



12% of those who died were **under 18**; of these minors, **71% were killed by a parent**



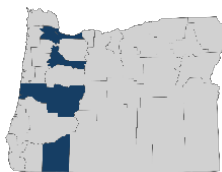
39% of those who died were killed by their **spouse or intimate partner**



52% of these DV-related homicides involved a **firearm**, primarily **handguns**



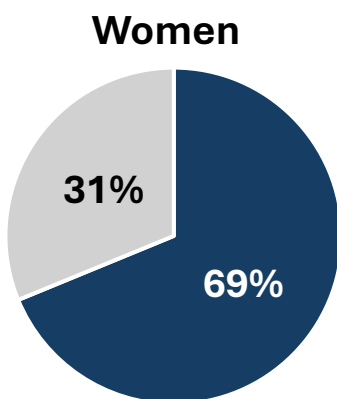
83% of these DV-related homicides occurred in a **house or apartment**



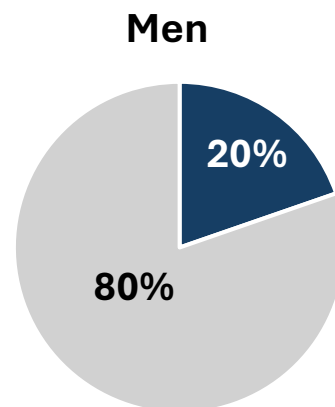
54% of these DV-related homicides occurred in **5 of Oregon's 36 counties***

* Multnomah, Lane, Washington, Jackson, and Marion

69% of all homicides among women were DV-related, compared to only 20% of homicides among men¹



■ DV-Related Homicides
■ Non-DV-Related Homicides



Oregon-Specific Data Sources (Continued)

- **The Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS)** captures details on all violent deaths in Oregon and is the source of information for DV-related deaths between 2013-2022 in this report.¹
- **Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law**, which took effect on January 1, 2018, allows family/household members and law enforcement officers to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict one's access to firearms or other deadly weapons if the court determines that individual is at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.² This report includes data and narrative examples from the 316 ERPO petitions filed from 2018-2023 that mentioned DV risk.³

1. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.

2. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Available at: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_166.525.

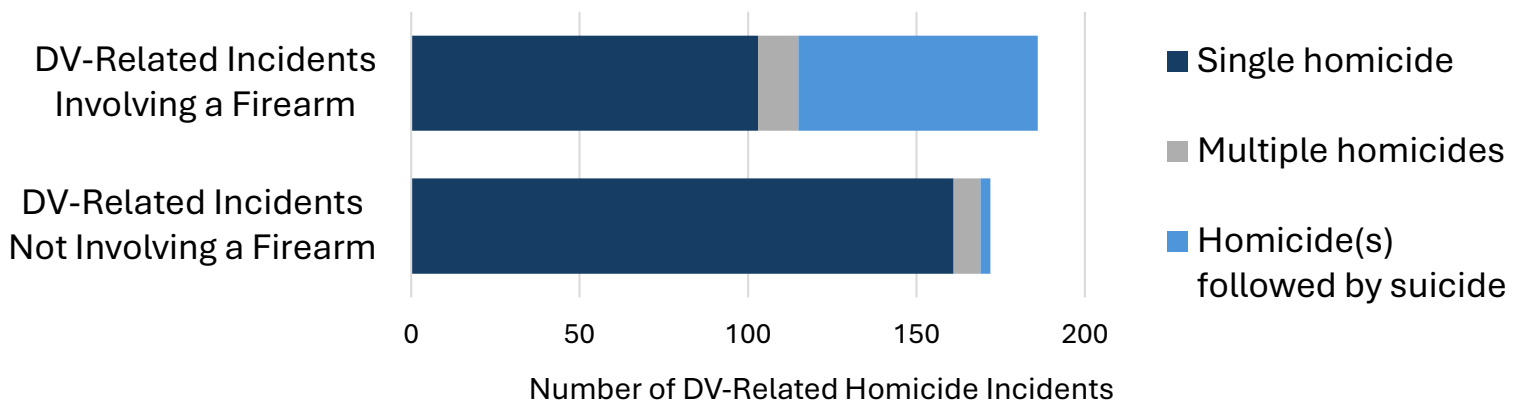
3. Our team has analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records obtained from the Oregon Judicial Department.

Domestic Violence and Firearm Access

Firearms increase the risk of fatal DV outcomes and can be used by perpetrators of DV to threaten and exert control over their victims

- **10% of U.S. adults** have experienced **nonfatal IPV involving a firearm** (e.g., intimate partner displaying a firearm or threatening to shoot them) in their lifetime.¹
- **49% of U.S. adults** who reported past experiences with nonfatal firearm IPV reported **having a child at home at the time of the abuse**.¹
- The presence of a firearm in intimate partner violence situations is associated with **5 times greater risk of intimate partner homicide**.²
- **52%** of all DV-related homicides in Oregon from 2013-2022 **involved a firearm**, primarily handguns.³

DV-related homicide incidents involved multiple deaths (often including the death of the DV perpetrator) more frequently when firearms were involved³



Restricting a DV perpetrator's access to firearms may reduce rates of intimate partner homicide

- Prohibiting individuals subject to **DV restraining orders** from possessing firearms is associated with **significant reductions in intimate partner homicide rates**.⁴
- **ERPO laws**, which prohibit firearm possession and purchasing if a court determines an individual is at-risk of harming themselves or others, may also be used to address firearm access in DV situations.
- Where such laws exist, gaps remain in the **implementation and enforcement** of these firearm prohibitions.⁴
- Between 2018-2023, **316 ERPO petitions citing risks or histories of DV** were filed in Oregon, **65% of which were granted**.⁵

1. Adhia et al. (2021). Nonfatal use of firearms in intimate partner violence: Results of a national survey. *Prev Med*, 147.

2. Campbell et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *Am J Pub H*, 93(7): 1089-97.

3. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.

4. Zeoli et al. (2016). Risks and targeted interventions: Firearms in intimate partner violence. *Epidemiologic Reviews*, 38(1): 125-39.

5. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Available at: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_166.525.

Domestic Violence and Mass Violence

Many mass violence incidents are either directly related to DV or perpetrated by individuals with histories of DV

- **59% of mass shootings** that occurred in the U.S. between 2014-2019 involved the **death of the perpetrator's intimate partner or family member**.¹
- **35% of perpetrators of public mass shootings** (i.e., those that occurred in public locations) in the U.S. from 1996-2024 **had a history of DV**.²

Of the 92 ERPOs filed in Oregon from 2018-2023 that cited risks of mass violence, 28% also cited histories or risk of DV³

In one example scenario: The respondent was under investigation for **allegations of DV**. They had **supervised visits with their children** at the Department of Human Services (DHS) and **expressed grievances with DHS staff**. The respondent **threatened to place explosive devices at or bring a firearm to the DHS facility** and **was observed conducting surveillance** outside of the facility. The petitioner was a law enforcement officer. The ERPO was granted.

Domestic Violence and Suicide Risk

Both victims and perpetrators of DV face increased risk of suicide⁴

- **23% of women** who sought help or services for IPV **reported previous suicidal ideation or acts**.⁵
- **20% of DV-related homicide incidents** in Oregon from 2013-2022 ended with the **DV perpetrator dying by suicide**.⁶

Of the 316 DV-related ERPOs filed in Oregon from 2018-2023, 66% also cited histories or risk of suicide or self-harm³

In one example scenario: The respondent **threatened to kill their spouse, their children, and themselves, all while holding a handgun**. Police responded to the domestic dispute and the respondent confirmed that they had **multiple firearms in their possession** and **expressed not having much to live for since they were getting a divorce**. When told that they were being arrested, the respondent repeatedly tried to go back into their house, which law enforcement officers worried was an attempt to get guns from inside. Officers later learned that **the respondent had placed a firearm just next to the front door when the police arrived**. The respondent was arrested. The petitioner was a law enforcement officer. The ERPO was granted.

1. Geller et al. (2021). The role of domestic violence in fatal mass shootings in the United States, 2014–2019. *Inj Epidemiol*, 8(1):38.
2. The Violence Project. (2024). U.S. Mass Shootings and Shooters. <https://www.theviolenceproject.org/mass-shooter-database/>.
3. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Available at: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_166.525.
4. Kafka et al. (2022). Intimate partner violence victimization and perpetration as precursors to suicide. *SSM Popuk Health*, 18.
5. Cavanaugh et al. (2011). Prevalence and correlates of suicidal behavior among adult female victims of IPV. *Suicide Life Threat Behav*, 41(4): 372-83.
6. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.

Risks to First Responders in Oregon

The Oregon Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide tasked the OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center with synthesizing the available data and existing literature on firearm-related risks faced by first responders in Oregon. The following report provides key insights from the literature and data on firearm-related risks to first responders in Oregon and nationwide, including risks of firearm assault and homicide while on duty and risks of firearm suicide. The report primarily focuses on law enforcement officers (LEOs) but also includes data on other first responders such as firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS).

Firearm Homicide and Assault

- Though violence against police is relatively rare, and deaths of LEOs in the line of duty have drastically decreased over the past several decades, the frequency of police contact with the public still results in a high number of violent incidents against police.¹
- Compared to those in other occupations, LEOs are exposed to high levels of gun violence and account for a disproportionate number of workplace firearm injuries and homicides.²
- According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, in 2024, 148 Officers were killed in the line of duty, a 25% increase compared to the year prior, which saw 118 Officer deaths. Of these, 52 were firearm-related fatalities.³
- In 2023, 118 Officers were killed in the line of duty, including 1 Officer in Oregon.⁴
- Greater state-level firearm ownership has been associated with increased odds of firearm assaults on LEOs in states without universal background check laws.⁵

1. White MD, Dario LM, & Shjarback JA (2019). Assessing dangerousness in policing: An analysis of officer deaths in the United States, 1970–2016. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18(1), 11–35. 10.1111/1745-9133.12408
2. Sierra-Arévalo, M., Nix, J., & O’Guinn, B. (2022). A national analysis of trauma care proximity and firearm assault survival among U.S. police. *Police Practice and Research*, 23(3), 388–396
3. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. (2025). 2024 Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report. Washington, DC.
4. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. (2024). 2023 Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report. Washington, DC.
5. Gobaud et al. (2022). Firearm assaults against US law enforcement officers in the line-of-duty: Associations with firearm ownership and state firearm laws. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 30, 102002.

Firearm Homicide and Assault

Between 2018 and 2023, 22 incidents resulted in the injury or death of 26 Officers in Oregon

In 50% of incidents, Officers were **responding to a call** (responding to report of a violent or erratic individual, burglary, domestic disturbance, or welfare check)

In 50% of incidents, Officers were **initiating contact** (traffic stop, contacting due to involvement in crime, serving an eviction or warrant)

Oregon-Specific Data Sources

- **Gun Violence Archive (GVA)** is an independent data collection and research group that hosts an online archive of data on gun violence incidents collected daily from 6,500 media, law enforcement, government, and commercial sources to provide near real-time data about the results of gun violence. This fact sheet includes GVA data involving law enforcement officers shot or killed in Oregon from 2018 to 2023. ¹



24 Officers were injured; **2** were killed



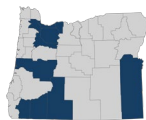
14% of incidents resulted in multiple Officers' injuries or deaths



In **36%** of incidents, suspects **fled** the initial scene



36% of incidents occurred at a **private residence**



54% occurred in **3 of Oregon's 36 counties***

*Marion, Clackamas, and Multnomah Counties



14% of incidents involved a suspect blindly **shooting at Officers from inside a residence**



18% of incidents involved a suspect **barricaded in a residence or vehicle**

Firearm Suicide

- LEOs and firefighters who die by suicide are more likely to use firearms than the general population.¹⁻²
- LEOs and other first responders are exposed to occupational stressors that contribute to suicide risk, including easy access to firearms, repeated involvement in life-threatening situations, exposure to violence, and sleep pattern disturbance and relationship strain resulting from shift work.³⁻⁶
- In a study of LEO wellness, only 65% of LEO respondents felt that their agency supported its officers' mental wellness.⁷ Those who reported a supportive agency reported lower stress and improved well-being.⁷

Between 2013 and 2022, 70 first responders in Oregon died by firearm suicide⁸



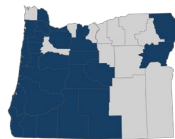
39 deaths occurred among LEOs



31 deaths occurred among firefighters and EMS



76% of suicide deaths occurred in a house or apartment



Firearm suicide deaths occurred in **24 of Oregon's 36 counties**

Oregon-Specific Data Sources

- **The Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS)** captures details on all violent deaths in Oregon using data from death certificates, medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and toxicology reports.⁸ It was used to report firearm suicide deaths among first responders (including LEOs, firefighters, and EMS) from 2013 to 2022.



Those who died were primarily **men** (96%), **white** (96%), and **ages 65+** (47%)



46% of those who died had a known mental health diagnosis



79% of these firearm suicide deaths involved the use of a handgun

1. Zimmerman et al. (2024). Examining differences in the individual and contextual risk factors for police officer, correctional officer, and non-protective service suicides. *Justice Quarterly*, 41(2), 190–217.

2. Pennington et al. (2021). An epidemiologic study of suicide among firefighters: Findings from the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2003-2017. *Psychiatry Research*, 295, 113594.

3. Rouse et al. (2015). Law enforcement suicide: Discerning etiology through psychological autopsy. *Police Quarterly*, 18(1), 79–108.

4. Lawrence et al. (2024). Law enforcement deaths by suicide (No. RM-2024-U-037860-Final). <https://www.cna.org/reports/2024/03/law-enforcement-deaths-by-suicide>.

5. Dixon, S.S. (2021). Law enforcement suicide: The depth of the problem and best practices for suicide prevention strategies. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 61, 101649.

6. Baumert et al. (2014). Adverse conditions at the workplace are associated with increased suicide risk. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 57, 90-95.

7. Thoen et al. (2020). Agency-offered and officer-utilized suicide prevention and wellness programs: A national study. *Psychological Services*, 17(2), 129–140.

8. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.