

Presentation to the Oregon Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention

OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center

October 6, 2025

Rebecca Valek, MSPH

Research Project Coordinator

Jenn Reed, PhD, MPH

Postdoctoral Fellow



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Methods to Prevent Access to Firearms During Times of Increased Risk

Rebecca Valek, MSPH

Research Project Coordinator

OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center



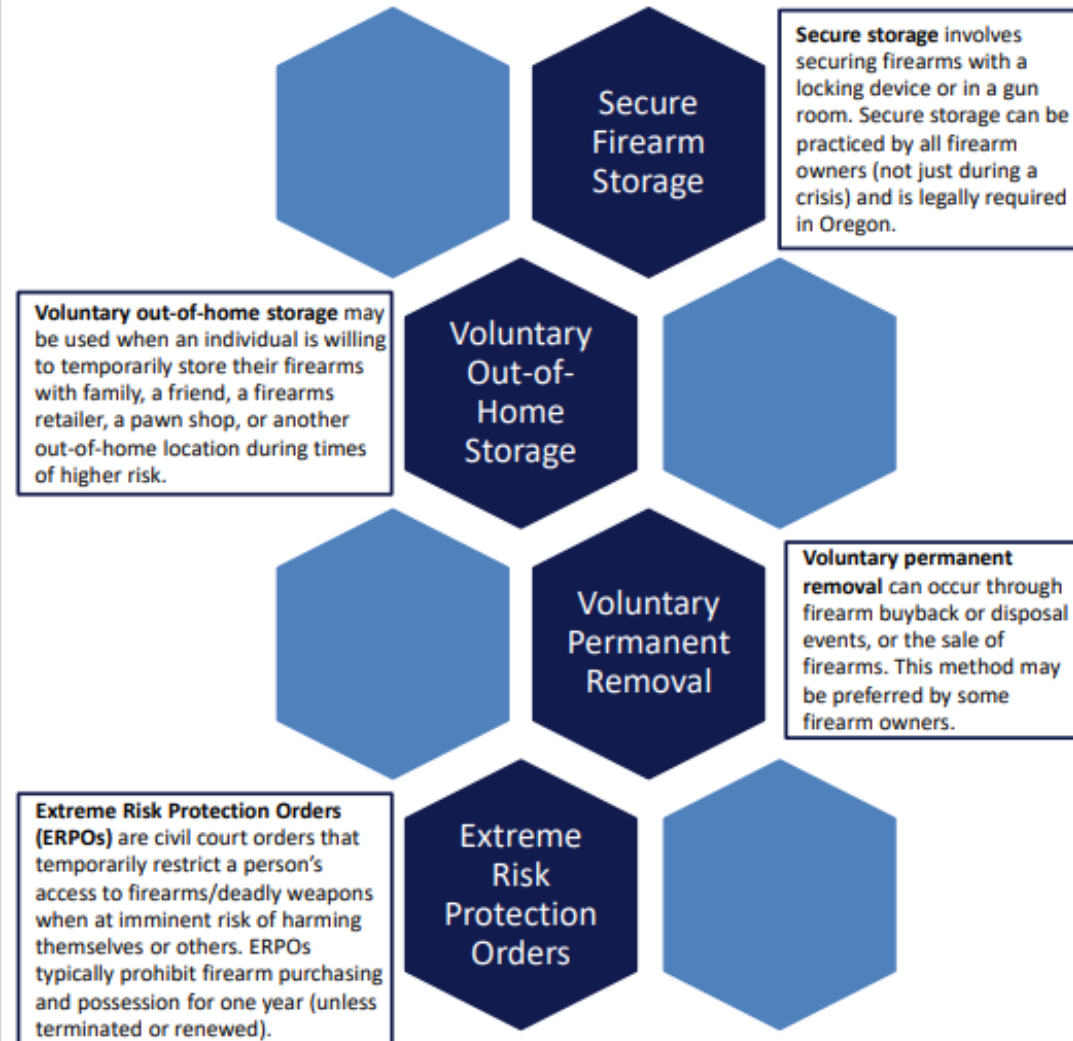
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Foci #3: Efficacy of 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: Fact sheet and brief oral/written report

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.

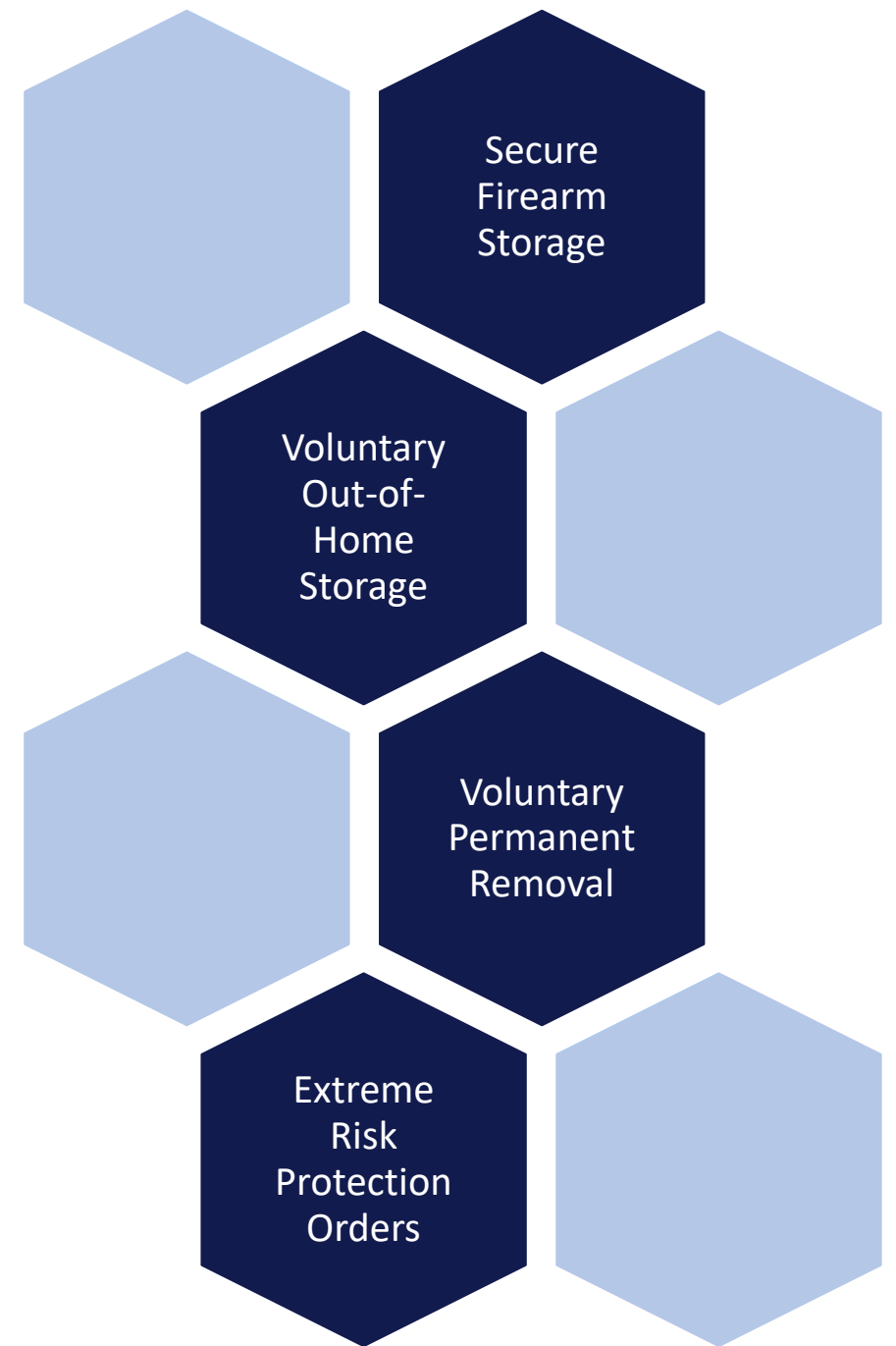


Preventing Access to the Most Lethal Means

- Separating individuals in crisis from access to lethal means (e.g., firearms) can save lives¹⁻²
- Preventing firearm suicide:
 - Firearms are among the most lethal suicide methods³
 - Nearly 9 out of every 10 individuals who attempt suicide using a firearm do not survive⁴
 - ~90% of survivors do not later die by suicide²

1. Anglemeyer et al. (2014). The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 160(2), 101-110.
2. Barber, C. W., & Miller, M. J. (2014). Reducing a suicidal person's access to lethal means of suicide: A research agenda. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 47(3), S264-S272.
3. Cai et al. (2022). The lethality of suicide methods: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 300, 121-129.
4. Swanson, J. W. (2021). Preventing suicide through better firearm safety policy in the United States. *Psychiatric Services*, 72(2), 174-179.

Preventing Access to Lethal Means



Secure Firearm Storage (Locked, Unloaded, and Separate from Ammunition)

- May be used by all firearms owners (not just during a crisis)
- Legally required in Oregon (ORS 166.395)
- Unsecure storage associated with increased risks of firearm suicide, unintentional youth firearm injury, and firearm theft¹⁻³

1. Anestis et al. (2017). Differentiating suicide decedents who died using firearms from those who died using other methods. *Psychiatry Research*, 252, 23-28.
2. Grossman et al. (2005). Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries. *JAMA*, 293(6), 707-714.
3. Hemenway et al. (2017). Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of gun theft victims. *Injury Epidemiology*, 4(11).

Image Credit: Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. (n.d.). Safe and Secure Gun Storage.

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/safe-and-secure-gun-storage>.



Increasing Secure Firearm Storage

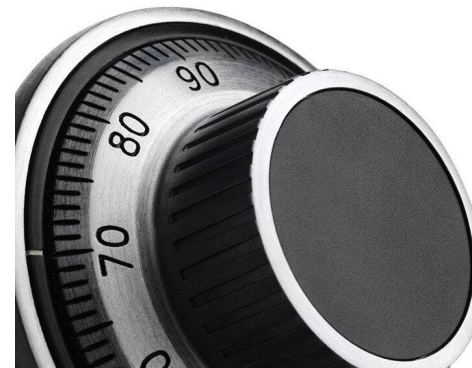
- Requires **reducing barriers** through device distribution or financial incentives, **normalizing culture of secure storage**, and **educating the public**
- **Potential interventions:**
 - Healthcare and community-based interventions and secure storage device distribution
 - Educational campaigns

Image Credit: National Shooting Sports Foundation. (n.d.). Gun Storage Check Week. Accessed June 30, 2025, at: <https://www.nssf.org/gun-storage-check-week/>.

GUNSTORAGE ✓

**MAKE SURE
IT'S SECURE.**

Don't wait. Prioritize safety now.
Visit [GunStorageCheck.org](https://www.gunstoragecheck.org).



A PROGRAM OF
NSSF
The Firearm Industry
Trade Association

Voluntary Out-of-Home Storage or Voluntary Permanent Removal

- Temporarily and voluntarily store firearms with family, a friend, a firearms retailer, a pawn shop, or another out-of-home location during times of higher risk (or sell firearms or bring them to a disposal or buyback event if permanent removal is preferred)
- **Challenges:** Liability, timing, cost, and space
- **Oregon Armory Project:** ongoing partnership with Oregon Firearm Safety Coalition and FFLs to facilitate voluntary, out-of-home firearm storage and distribution of information on firearm suicide prevention

Image Credit: The Armory Project. <https://www.armoryproject.org/>.



Reasons for storing firearms out of the home temporarily...

- Young children visiting
- Relationship stress or divorce
- Depression or thoughts/talk of harming oneself or others
- Substance abuse or legal challenges

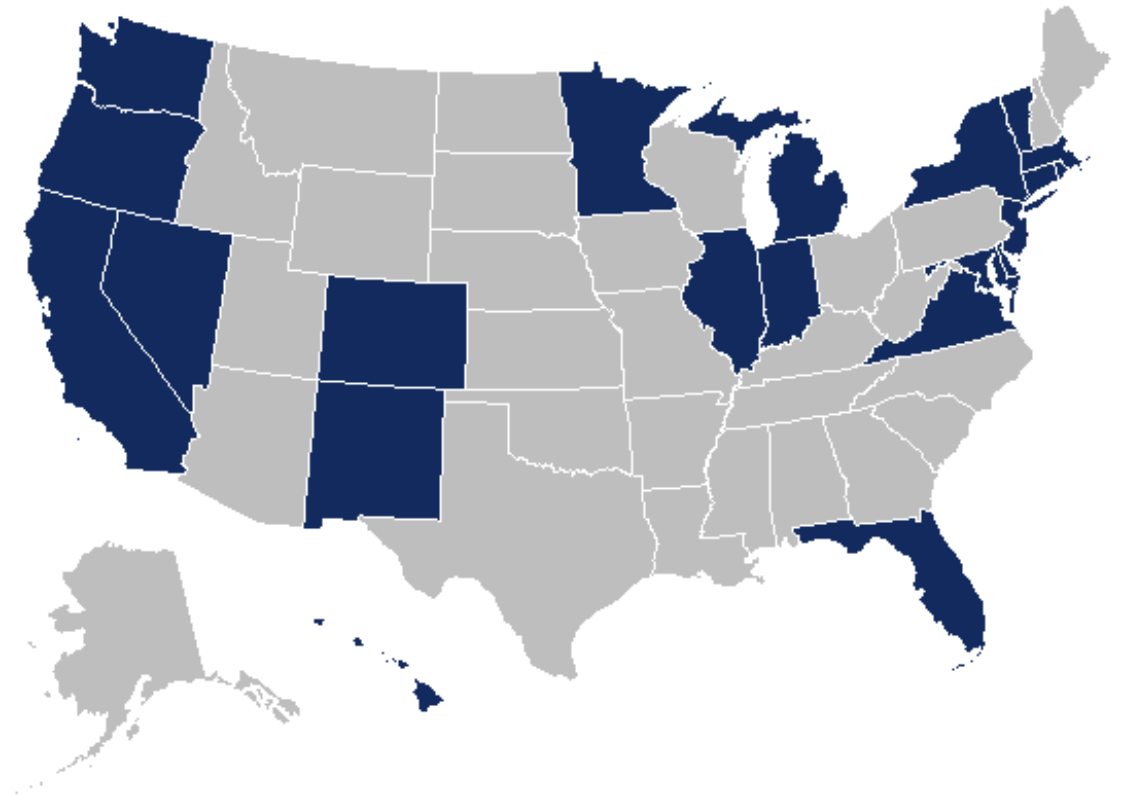
Fortunately, **there are options.**

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Laws

- **21 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands** have enacted ERPO laws*
- Allow certain individuals to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms or other deadly weapons if the court determines that the person is at **imminent risk** of causing harm to themselves or others

*As of August 2025

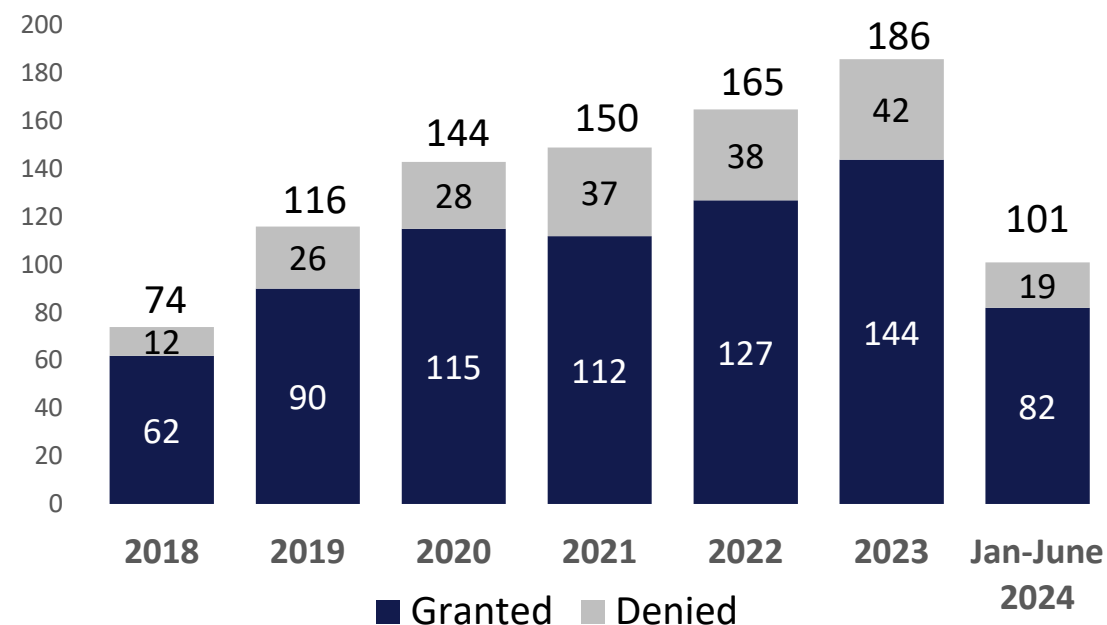
US States with ERPO Laws



The ERPO Law in Oregon

- Became effective January 1, 2018
- Allows **family or household members** or a **law enforcement officer** to petition a civil court for an ERPO
- If granted at ex parte, **respondent has the option to request a hearing** to contest the order
 - Otherwise, remains in effect for **1 year** unless terminated or renewed

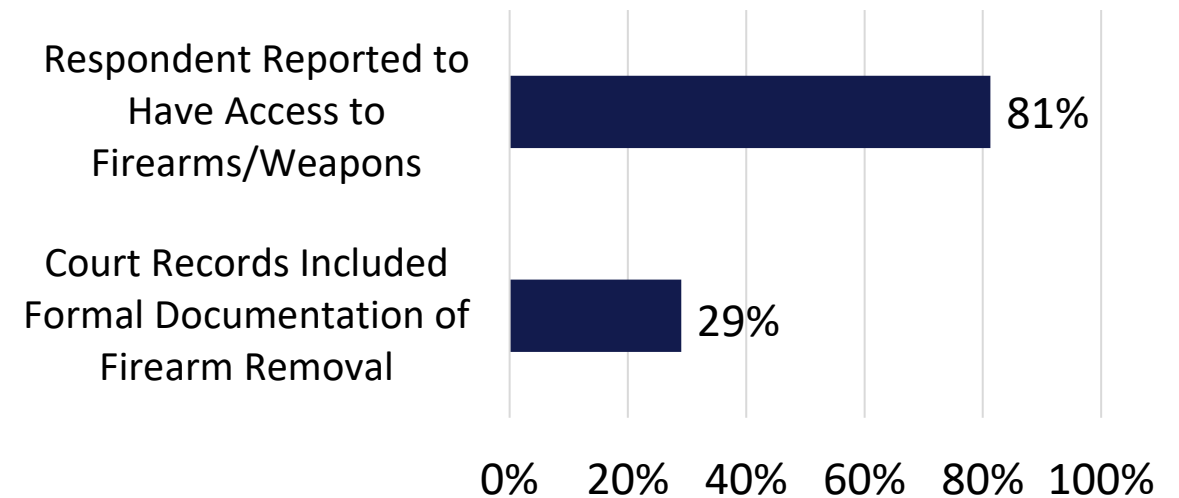
936 ERPO petitions were filed from January 2018 to June 2024, 78% of which were granted



Effectiveness Hinges on Implementation

- ERPO laws are receiving attention as **effective tools to prevent firearm suicide and homicide, including mass shootings**¹⁻⁵
- **Effectiveness hinges on implementation**
- **Lack of documentation of firearm removal in Oregon's ERPO court records**

71% of all granted ERPOs lacked documentation of firearm removal in the court records



1. Kivisto AJ, Phalen PL. Effects of risk-based firearm seizure laws in Connecticut and Indiana on suicide rates, 1981-2015. *Psych Services*. 2018;69(8):855-862.
2. Swanson JW, Zeoli AM, Frattaroli S, et al. Suicide prevention effects of extreme risk protection order laws in four states. *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law*. 2024; 52(3): 327-337.
3. Gimbrone C, Rudolph KE. Florida's Red Flag gun law and firearm and nonfirearm homicide and suicide rates. *JAMA*. 2024; 332(11):931-933.
4. Zeoli AM, et al. Extreme risk protection orders in response to threats of multiple victim/mass shooting in six U.S. states: A descriptive study. *Prev Med*. 2022;165(Pt A):107304.

Interviews with Professionals Involved in Implementation



**Law Enforcement
Officers (LEOs)**
(n=18)



**Circuit Court
Judges**
(n=5)



**District and City
Attorneys' Offices**
(n=5)



**Prevention
Professionals**
(n=5)

Current Practices to Improve Compliance

- Use **nonconfrontational, “warm” approach** to service and firearm dispossession
- **Clearly explain the order**, the consequences of noncompliance, and the options for firearm dispossession in **plain language**
- Offer to help the respondent transfer their firearms
- **Work with the family** of the respondent
- **Follow up** with the respondent 24 hours after service

Barriers to Enforcement and Firearm Dispossession

- Widespread availability of firearms
- Lack of legal mechanisms to confirm respondent truly surrendered all firearms and reliance on respondent's word
- Risk of escalating the situation
- Respondent has 24 hours to surrender their firearms

“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)

“You have to balance the effectiveness of the ERPO to truly separate somebody from their firearms with escalating or upsetting somebody. **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)

Ideas to Strengthen ERPO Enforcement

- Require respondents to file a declaration of firearm surrender form with the court
- Compliance hearings
- Dedicating resources and personnel in law enforcement and DA's 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)

“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)

Domestic Violence in Oregon: Understanding the Risks and Risk Factors

Rebecca Valek, MSPH

Research Project Coordinator

OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Foci #5: Domestic Violence (DV) as a Risk Factor for 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: Brief oral or written report

Domestic Violence in Oregon: Understanding the Risks and Risk Factors

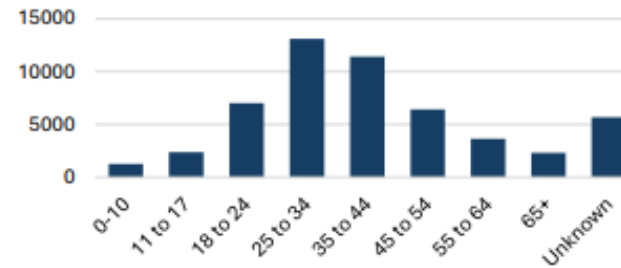
The following report provides key insights from the literature on domestic violence (DV), including the intersections of DV and firearm access, mass violence, and suicide risk. National research is complemented by Oregon-specific data.

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:



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>.

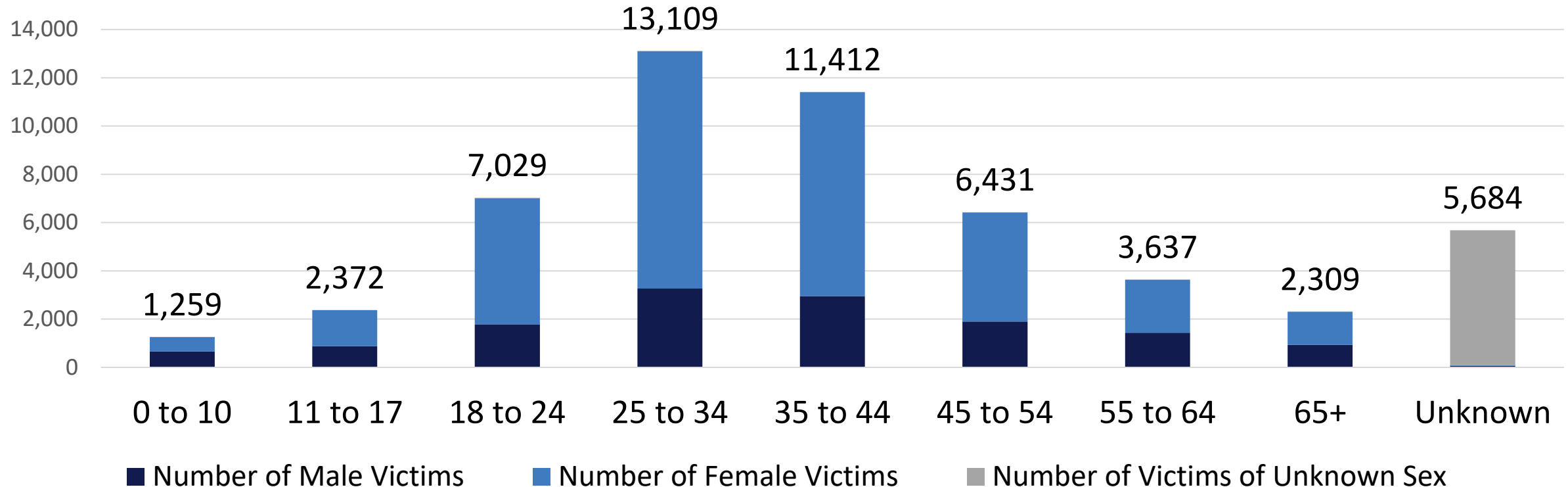
2. Oregon State Police. (n.d.). Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Data. Accessed June 10, 2025, at <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Uniform-Crime-Reporting-Data.aspx>.

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.

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Foci-5-Domestic-Violence-Fact-Sheet-Updated.pdf>

From 2020-2024, there were over 50,000 DV-related crimes reported in Oregon¹

Number of Reported Victims of DV-Related Crimes in Oregon
by Age and Sex of Victim, 2020-2024

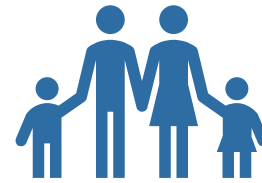


1. Oregon State Police. (n.d.). Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Data. Accessed June 10, 2025, at <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Uniform-Crime-Reporting-Data.aspx>.

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**



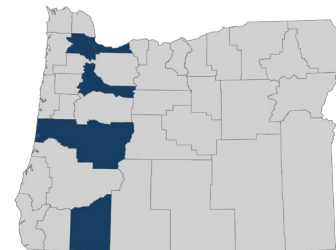
39% of those who died were killed by their **spouse or intimate partner**



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



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

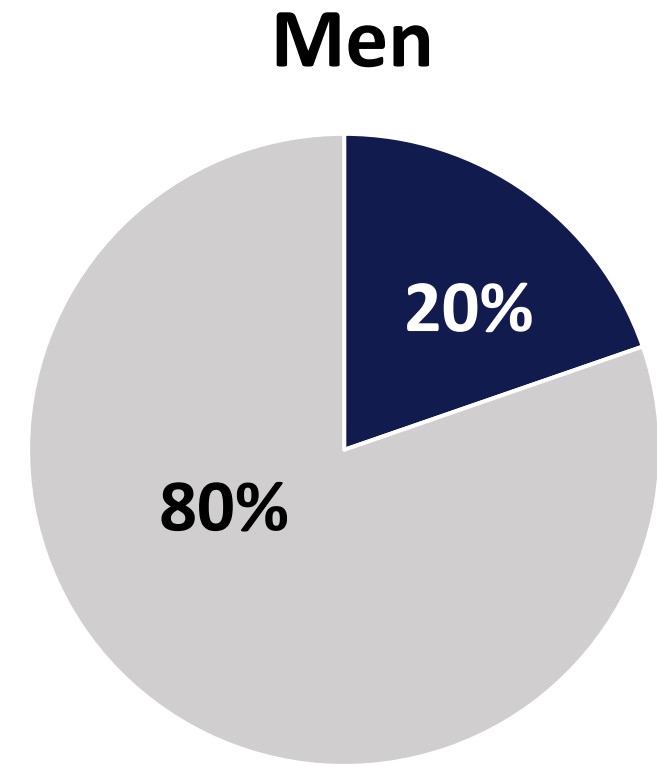
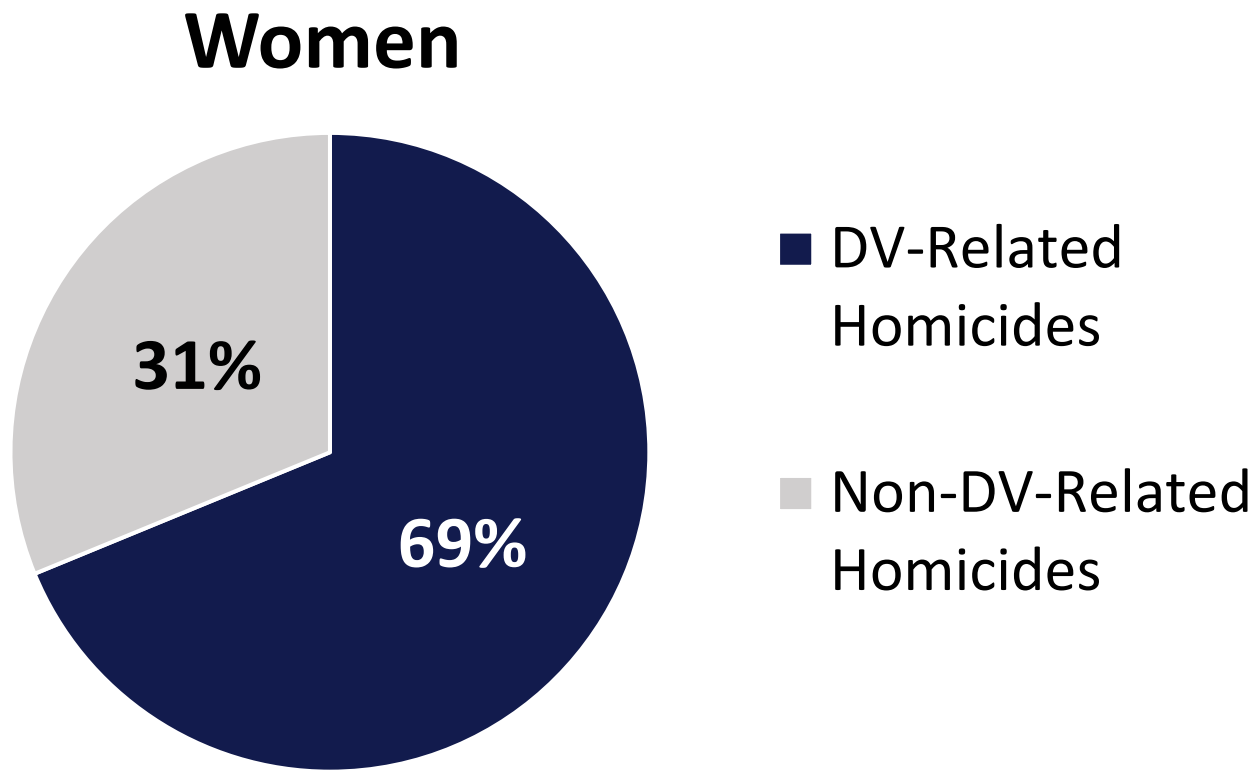


54% of these DV-related homicides occurred in **5 of Oregon's 36 counties***

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

* Multnomah, Lane, Washington, Jackson, and Marion

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



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

Domestic Violence and Firearm Access

10%

of U.S. adults have experienced non-fatal intimate partner violence involving a firearm (e.g., an intimate partner displaying a firearm or threatening to shoot them) in their lifetime¹

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

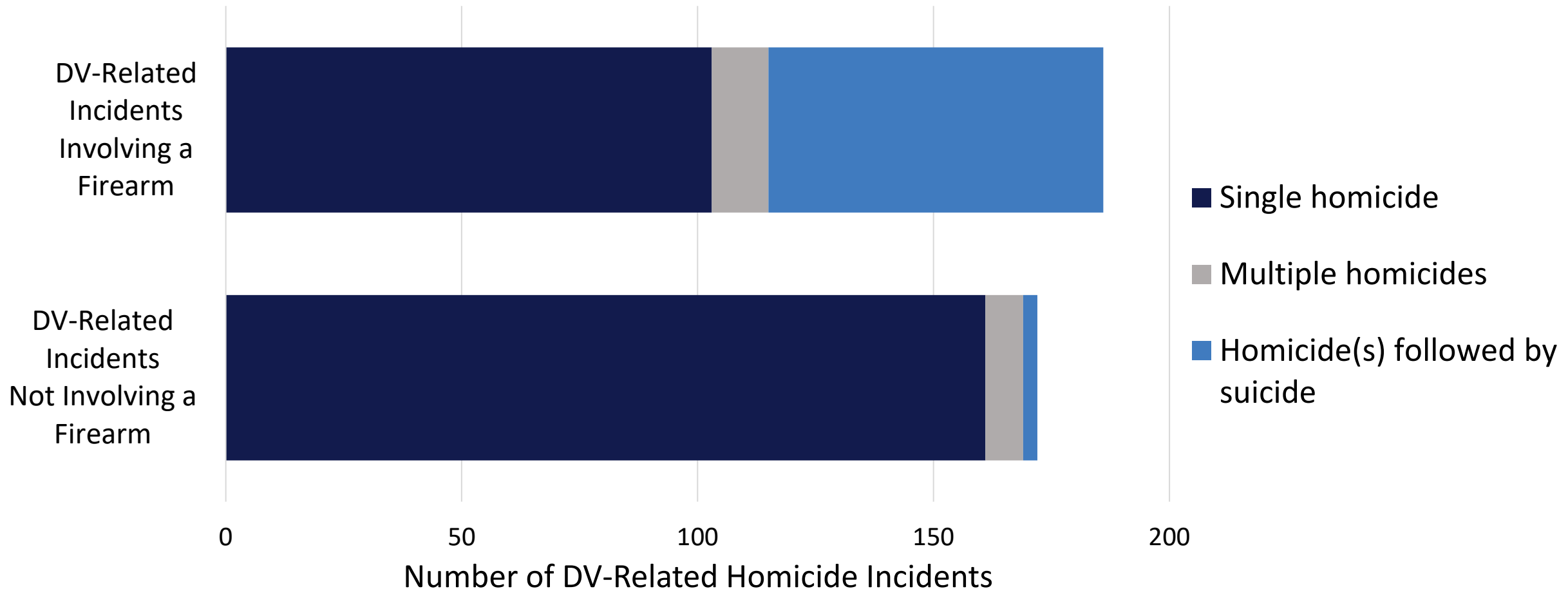
5 x

greater risk of intimate partner homicide is observed when perpetrators of IPV have access to firearms²

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.

DV-related homicide incidents involved multiple deaths more frequently when firearms were involved¹



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

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**¹
- **ERPO laws** may also be used to address firearm access in DV situations
- Between January 2018 and June 2024, **359 ERPO petitions citing risks or histories of DV** were filed in Oregon, **67% of which were granted**²
- Where such laws exist, gaps remain in the **implementation and enforcement** of these firearm prohibitions¹

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

2. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Our team has analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records obtained from the Oregon Judicial Department.

Domestic Violence and Mass Violence

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 to 2024 **had a history of DV**²

30% of the 106 ERPOs filed in Oregon from January 2018 to June 2024 that cited risk of mass violence also cited histories or risk of DV³

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

Domestic Violence and Suicide Risk

23% of **women** who sought help or services for intimate partner violence reported **previous suicidal ideation or acts**¹

20% of **DV-related homicide incidents** in Oregon from 2013-2022 ended with the **DV perpetrator dying by suicide**²

66% of the **359 DV-related ERPOs** filed in Oregon from January 2018 to June 2024 also cited **histories or risk of suicide or self-harm**³

1. Cavanaugh et al. (2011). Prevalence and correlates of suicidal behavior among adult female victims of IPV. *Suicide Life Threat Behav*, 41(4): 372-83.

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

3. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Our team has analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records obtained from the Oregon Judicial Department.

Firearm-Related Risks Faced by Oregon First Responders

Jenn Reed, PhD, MPH

Postdoctoral Fellow

OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Foci #6: Risks to First Responders in Oregon

- 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: Brief oral or written report

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.

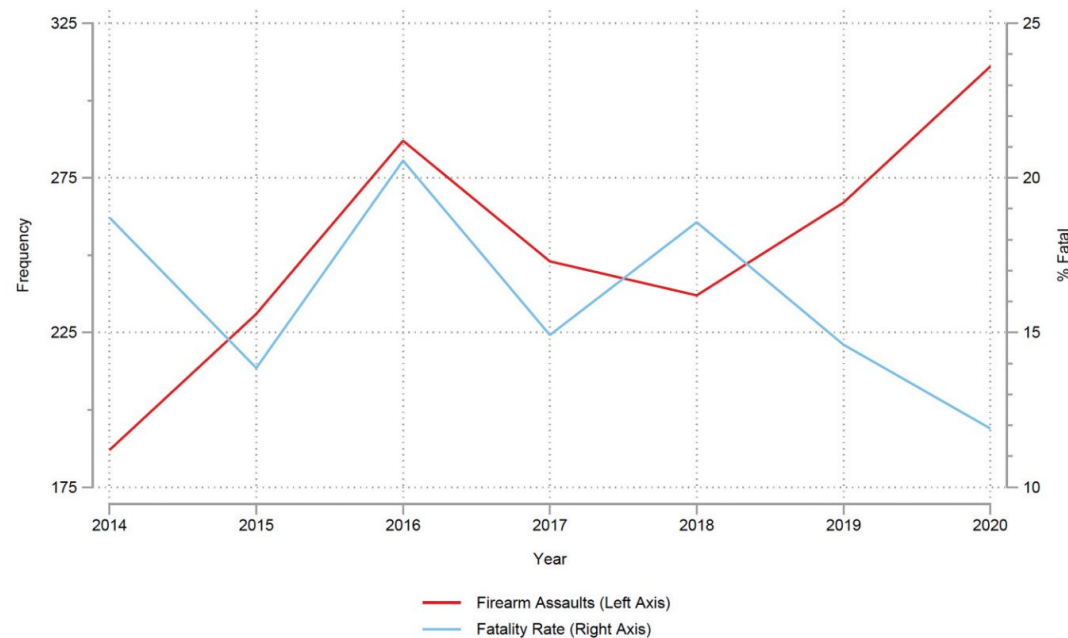
4. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. (2024). 2023 Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report. Washington, DC.

5. Gobaudo 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.

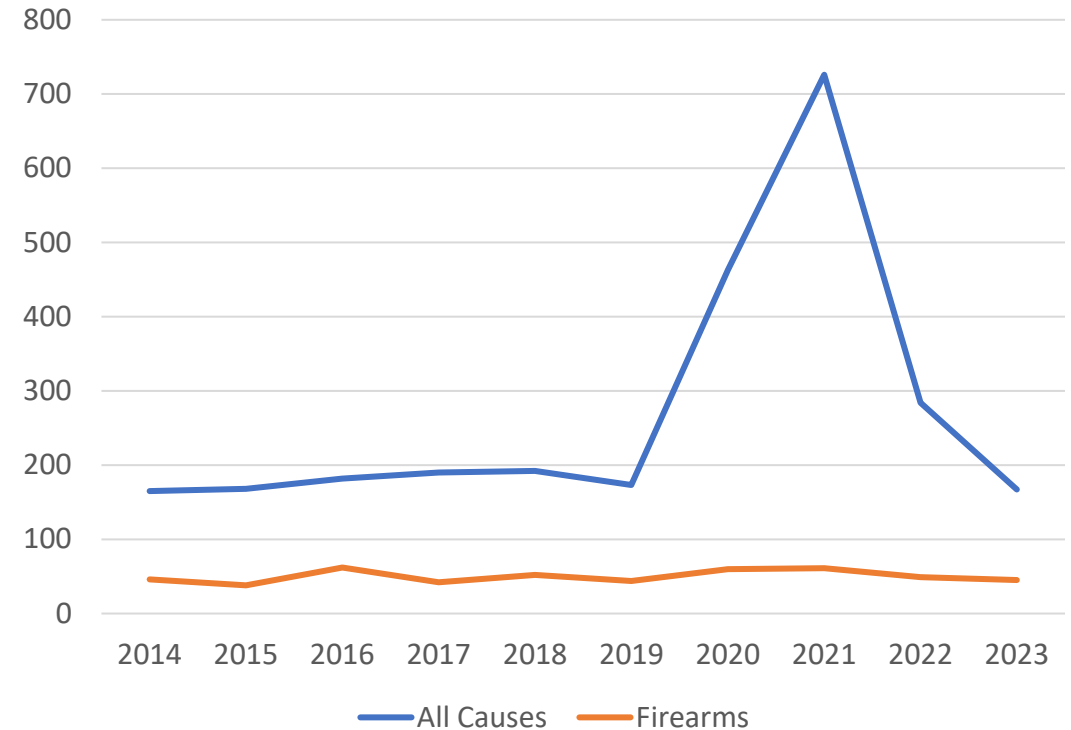
<https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Foci-6-Risks-to-First-Responders-Research-Brief.pdf>

National Trends: Firearm Assaults and Fatal Shootings of Police Officers

Firearm Assaults and Fatality Rates¹



Line of Duty Deaths²⁻³



1. 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.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2022.2036611>

2. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (n.d.). *Crime Data Explorer* [Dataset]. Retrieved October 2, 2025, from <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#>

3. Officer Down Memorial Page. (2025). <https://www.odmp.org/>

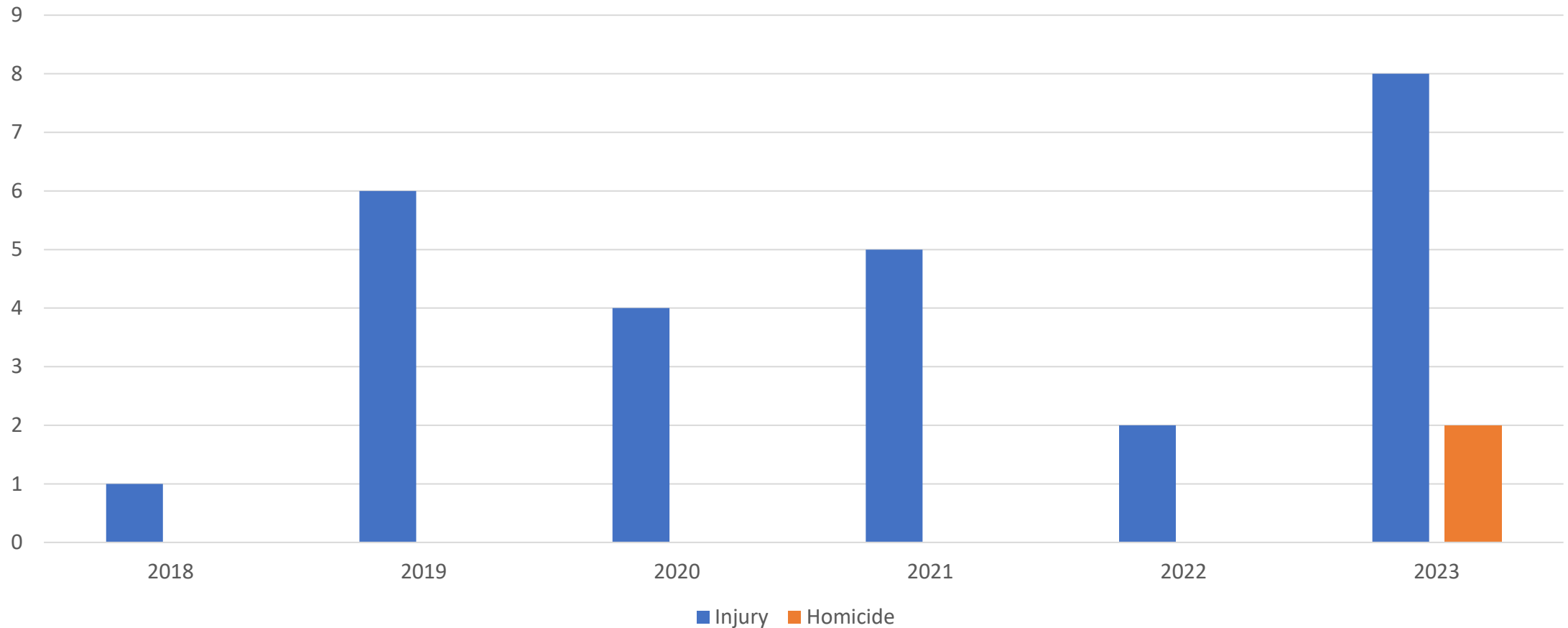
Firearm Legislation Affects Officer Safety

- Universal background checks protect officers against firearm assaults
 - 12.4% increase in the odds of an officer being assaulted by a firearm for every 1% increase in state firearm ownership rate in states **without** universal background checks¹
 - No association between state firearm ownership rate and firearm assaults of officers in states **with** universal background checks¹
- Three-strikes laws put officers at risk
 - 33% increase in fatal firearm assaults of officers after states adopt three-strikes laws²

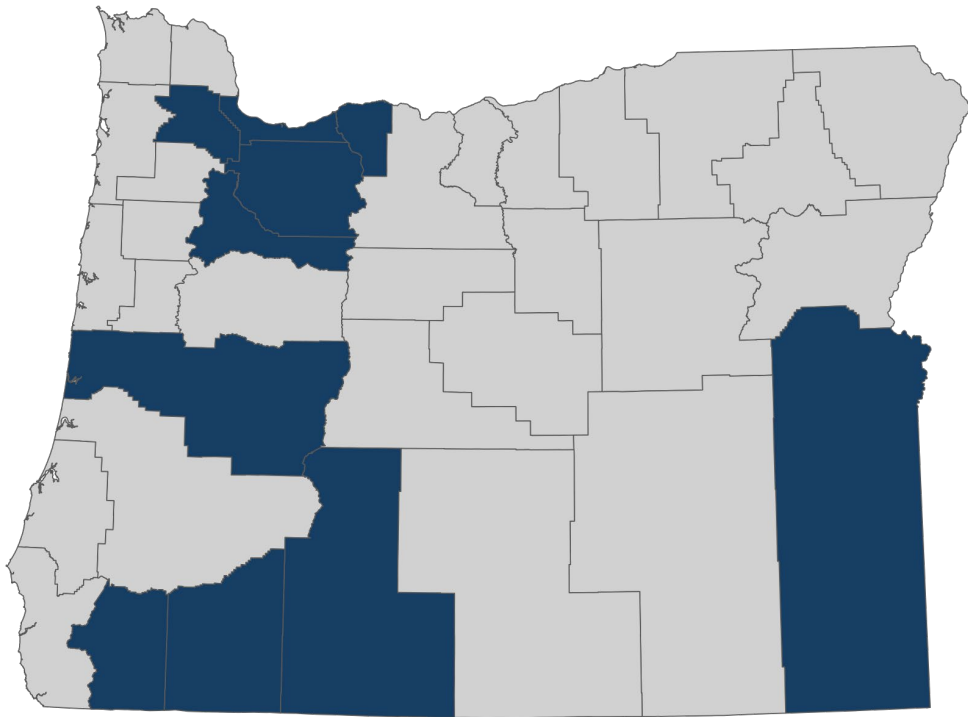
1. Gobaudo, A. N., Mehranbod, C. A., Reeping, P. M., Bushover, B. R., & Morrison, C. N. (2022). Firearm assaults against US law enforcement officers in the line-of-duty: Associations with firearm ownership and state firearm laws. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 30, 102002. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2022.102002>

2. Crifasi, C. K., Pollack, K. M., & Webster, D. W. (2016). Effects of state-level policy changes on homicide and nonfatal shootings of law enforcement officers. *Injury Prevention*, 22(4), 274–278. <https://doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2015-041825>

Firearm Homicides and Assaults of Law Enforcement Officers in Oregon, 2018-2023



Firearm Homicides and Assaults of Law Enforcement Officers in Oregon, 2018-2023



50%

Dispatched call-for-service

50%

Self-initiated activity

36%

Occurred at a private residence

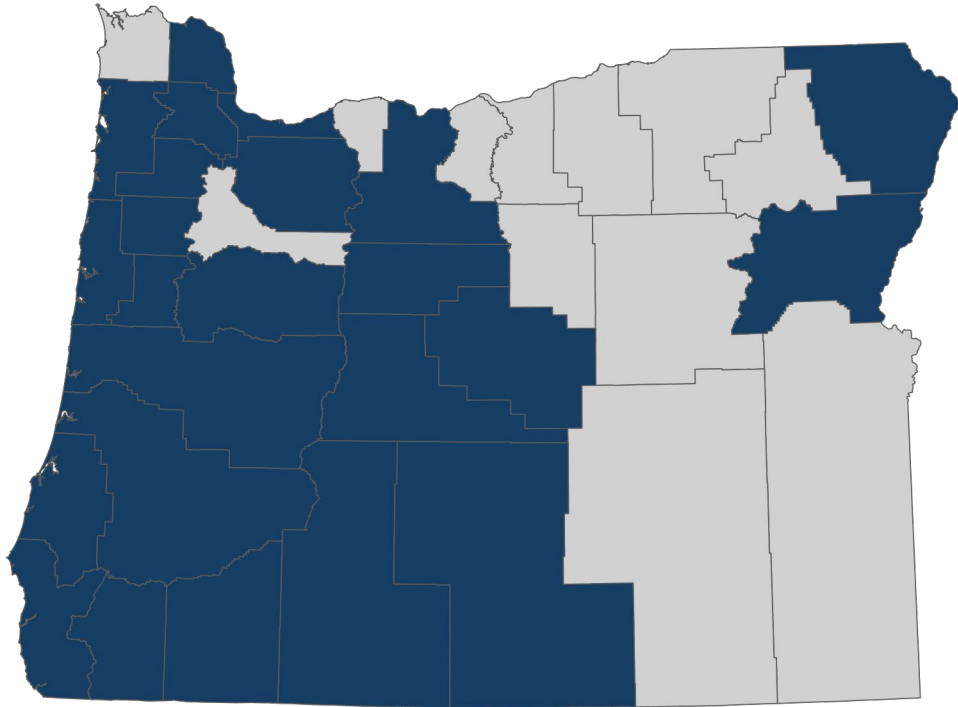
14%

Suspect blindly shot at officers from inside the residence

18%

Suspect barricaded inside a residence or vehicle

Firearm Suicides of Oregon First Responders, 2013-2022



39

Law enforcement officers

31

Firefighters and EMS

76%

Occurred in a house or apartment

46%

Decedent had a known mental health diagnosis

79%

Involved the use of a handgun

Firearm Violence and Suicide Affects the Mental Health of First Responders

- Study conducted April-June 2024
- Study goal was to understand officer perspectives on what it would mean for the mental health wellness policies adopted by agencies to be trauma-informed
- Ride-along interviews conducted with 11 officers and deputies from 6 agencies

Firearm Violence and Suicide Affects the Mental Health of First Responders

Officer 59 spoke of a traumatic incident in which a domestic abuser shot two people, killing one and seriously injuring the other. The agency proactively offered administrative leave even though it was not required by statute or policy, which showed that the agency cared about the well-being of officers.

Addressing First Responder Mental Health

“Being able to process your stress helps to keep you from getting suicidal.”

(Officer 87)

Addressing First Responder Mental Health

- Shared experience or understanding
 - “I would have a hard time talking to someone I don’t know, who hasn’t been through the same things.” (Officer 05)
- Confidentiality
 - “The idea of me talking through a traumatic incident and it being used to throw me in prison...that scares me.” (Officer 05)
 - Officer 93 was concerned that their agency might be able to track usage of the telehealth services within the agency-provided wellness app and that this would compromise their privacy.

Addressing First Responder Mental Health

“There needs to be something to protect you from yourself in our field with masculine A-type personalities.”

(Officer 05)

Addressing First Responder Mental Health

- Culture and Leadership
 - Deputy 16 was worried that seeing a therapist might cause them to be perceived as weak in the eyes of other deputies.
 - Deputy 50 noted that it's especially hard for police to seek help when suicidal because it would make the officer feel like they're a victim.
 - Officer 69 spoke of a shift briefing where a superior officer shared their own personal experiences using the services of a local culturally-competent mental health clinician.

Addressing First Responder Mental Health

“I know that having my peers be healthy is good for me.”

(Officer 87)

Identifying Best Practices for Preventing Gun Violence and Promoting Community Safety

Rebecca Valek, MSPH

Research Project Coordinator

OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

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: Brief oral or written report



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.

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Foci-4-Community-Safety-Best-Practices-Report-Updated.pdf>

Methodology

- Contacted 38 academic experts (defined as researchers with publications related to firearm violence prevention in the peer reviewed literature) via email to ask their perspectives on the best practices for reducing firearm violence
 - Received responses from 17 experts
- Considered the identified best practices in the context of the literature and Oregon's policy landscape

Note: Please see the published written report for more information on each best practice and for the associated citations/research supporting these practices

Community Safety Best Practices

Community Safety Best Practices

Community Violence Intervention

Secure Storage

Firearm Purchaser Licensing Laws

Risk-Based Removal Policies

Upstream Social Interventions

Waiting Periods

Minimum Age Requirements

Background Check Policies

Child Access Prevention Laws

Assault Weapons Bans

Community Gun Buyback/Disposal Events

Sensitive Spaces Laws

Crisis Lines

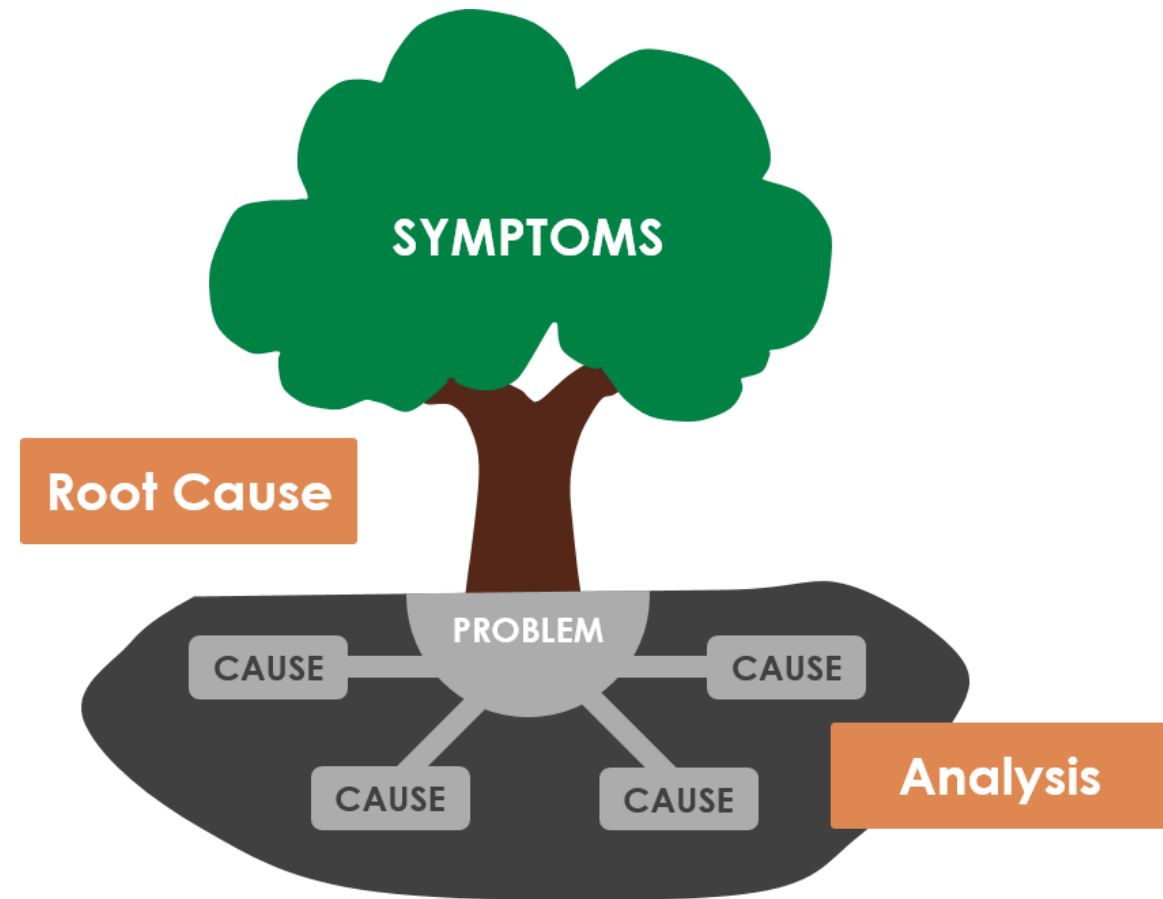
Cardiff Model

Built Environment Interventions

Violence Review Commissions

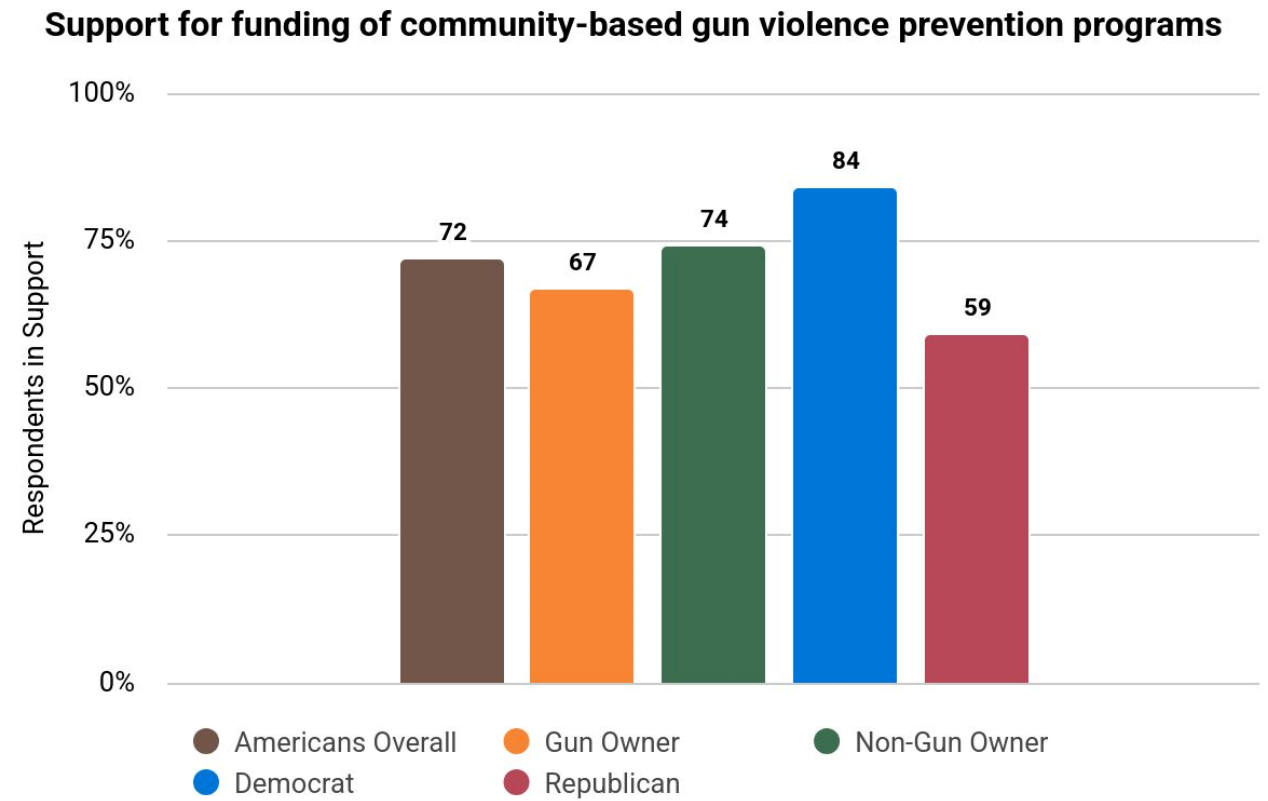
Addressing Social, Structural, and Economic Drivers of Violence

- Social, structural, and economic factors drive disparities in the impact of firearm violence
 - Community violence primarily impacts communities of color in Oregon
 - Firearm suicide risk disproportionately impacts rural Oregonians and Veterans
- Strategies to address the “upstream” or “root” causes of firearm injury:
 - Income support
 - Educational opportunities
 - Expansion of affordability and accessibility of healthcare



Community Violence Intervention

- Individuals with lived experience of gun violence (“credible messengers”) build relationships with and address needs of individuals at high-risk for gun violence
- Provide mentoring, connection to services and supports, conflict mediation, etc.
- Analysis of 24 CVI programs across the U.S. found associated reductions in violent crime by an average of 30%



National Survey of Gun Policy | Center for Gun Violence Solutions (publichealth.jhu.edu)

Community Violence Intervention in Oregon

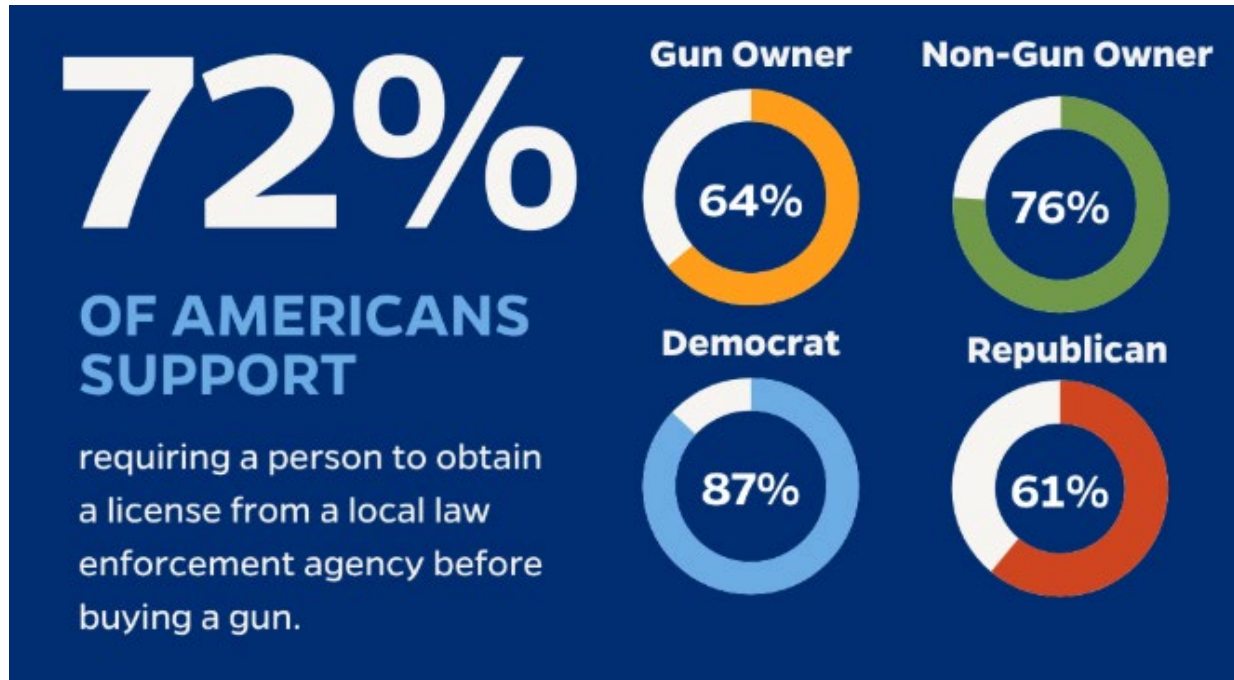
- **Many organizations** working in this space in Oregon
- CVI programs **lack funding to sustain implementation over time and adequately pay workforce**
- In 2023, **the Oregon Legislature allocated \$10 million** to support CVI programs through grants administered by the Department of Justice, but **this funding was removed from the 2025-27 budget**



Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center



Firearm Purchaser Licensing



More specifically research shows that FPL laws are associated with:

- ✓ Reducing firearm homicides in urban areas
- ✓ Reducing mass shootings
- ✓ Preventing guns from being diverted to criminal use
- ✓ Protecting law enforcement

28% DECREASE

—
in the firearm homicide rate in Connecticut after implementation.

25% INCREASE

—
in Missouri's firearm homicide rate after repeal.

33% DECREASE

—
in Connecticut's firearm suicide rate.

16% INCREASE

—
in Missouri's firearm suicide rate.

Firearm Purchaser Licensing in Oregon

- **In 2022, Oregon passed a firearm purchaser licensing law through Ballot Measure 114, which:**
 - Requires individuals to obtain a permit from local law enforcement every 5 years to buy a firearm; and
 - Requires photo ID, fingerprints, safety training, criminal background check, and fee payment to apply for a permit
- **Barriers to implementation:**
 - Legal challenges in state and federal courts
 - Local law enforcement agencies need funding, infrastructure, and resources to create permitting systems
 - Accessibility and availability of required trainings
 - Racial equity concerns
- **Oregon may overcome these barriers through collaboration with the firearm-owning community, as other states have done**

Risk-Based Firearm Removal Policies

- Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and Extreme Risk Protection Orders allow temporary removal of firearms from those at risk of harming themselves or others through civil court orders
- Evidence supports risk-based firearm removal policies
 - Calculated that one suicide was prevented for every 13–17 ERPOs issued in a multi-state study¹
 - DVROs that include dating partners and ex parte orders were associated with 11% and 12% (respectively) reductions in intimate partner homicide²

1. Swanson et al. (2024). Suicide prevention effects of extreme risk protection order laws in four states. *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law*, 52(3): 327-337.

2. Zeoli et al. (2018). Analysis of the strength of legal firearms restrictions for perpetrators of domestic violence and their associations with intimate partner homicide. *Am J Epi*, 187(7), 1449-55.

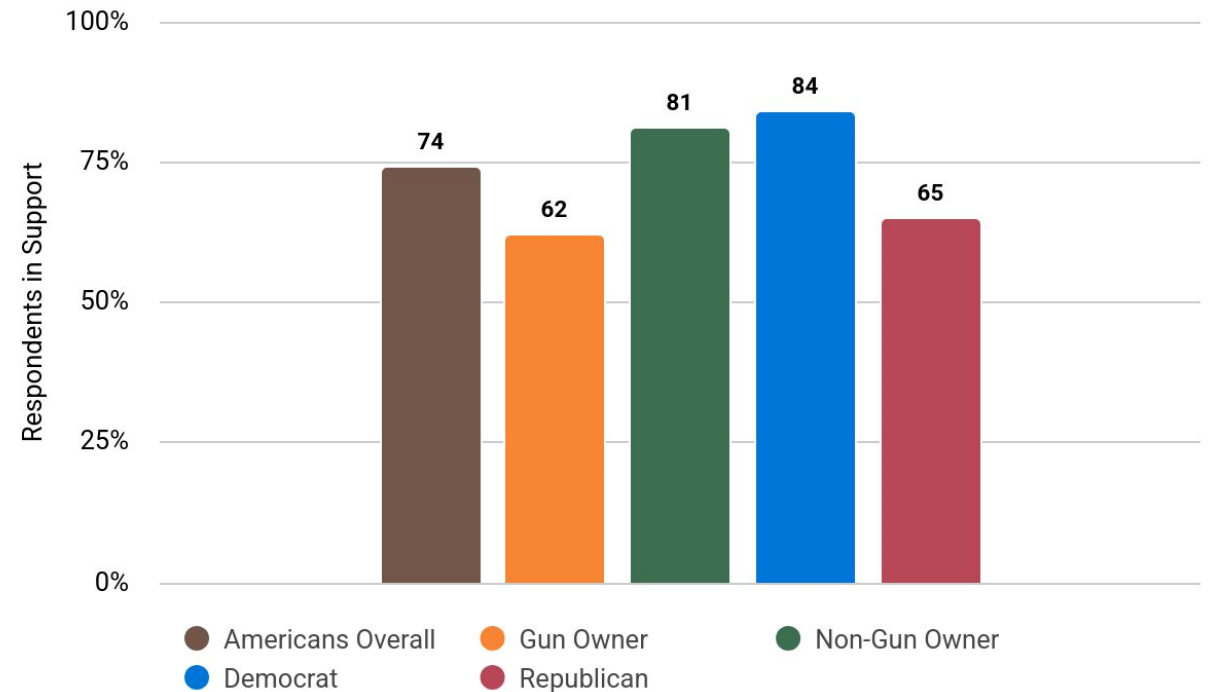
Risk-Based Firearm Removal Policies in Oregon

- Oregon's ERPO law took effect on January 1, 2018
- Oregon's Family Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) law initially passed in 1977, with associated firearm prohibitions beginning in 2020
- Policy considerations may include:
 - Strengthening compliance/enforcement mechanisms
 - Funding and creating statewide training and resources for law enforcement
 - Public education
 - Support for petitioners

Secure Firearm Storage (Locked, Unloaded, and Separate from Ammunition)

- Secure firearm storage may help prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths and firearm theft
- Oregon law requires firearm owners to securely store their firearms
- Educational campaigns may help increase public awareness and knowledge of Oregon's secure storage law and the benefits of secure storage

Support for requiring someone to lock up their guns when not in use



National Survey of Gun Policy | Center for Gun Violence Solutions (publichealth.jhu.edu)

Considering Potential Recommendations

- Considering the local context, what policies/practices/interventions hold the most promise in Oregon?
- What are the barriers to implementing these policies?
- What does the Task Force want the legislature to know about firearm injury prevention?

OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center



gunviolenceprevention@ohsu.edu



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Rural Health