

# Implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Colorado from 2020-2022: Firearm Relinquishment and Return and Petitioner Characteristics



**Injury & Violence  
Prevention Center**  
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## BACKGROUND

- In 2021 there were increases in all types of firearm death resulting in nearly 50,000 deaths.
- In Colorado (CO), 73% of homicides and 54% of suicides occurred using a firearm.
- CO's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law was implemented on January 1, 2020.
- ERPOs are civil restraining orders allowing for removal of firearms from those at imminent risk of violence against themselves or others.
- A temporary ERPO (TERPO) is an initial 2-week order granted when a petition is filed and is pending further review.

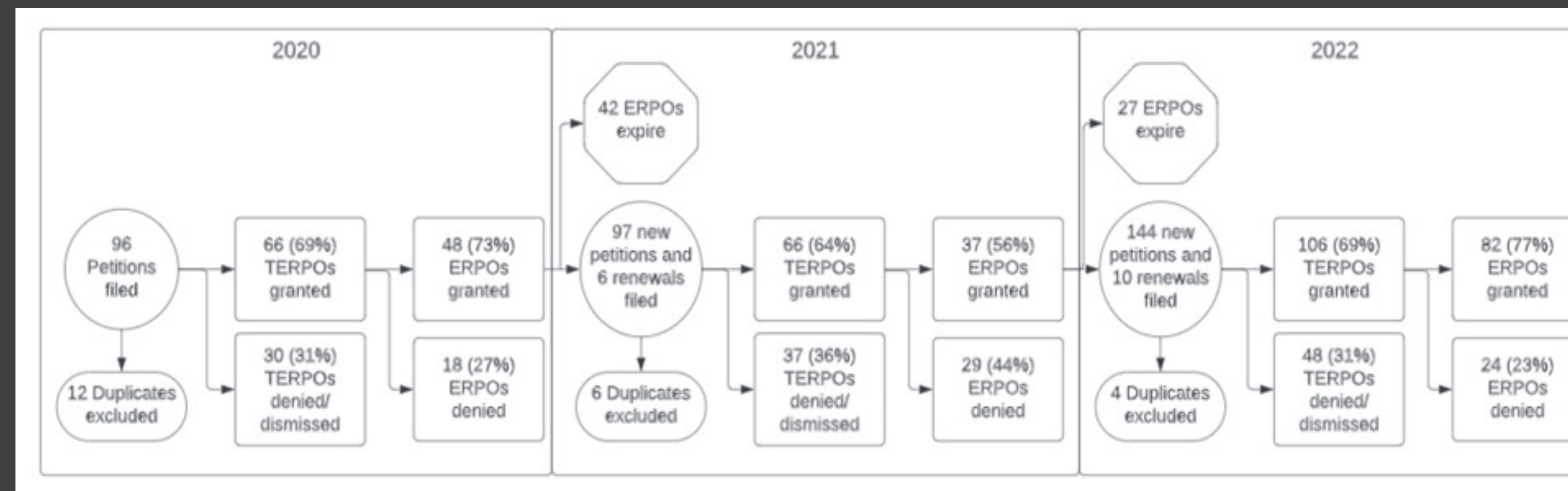
## PROJECT AIMS

- Describe overall use of ERPOs in CO.
- Describe the implementation of ERPOs in CO.
- Describe petitioner type and differences between law enforcement (LE) and non-LE filed petitions.

## METHODS

- Court records for ERPO petitions filed in Colorado from 2020 and 2022 were collected via public information requests.
- Data abstraction was performed by a trained team (IRR 85% of a random 1% sample)
- Univariate analysis was used to summarize petitioner and respondent characteristics.
- Case information and outcomes were compared using chi-squared or Fisher's exact tests.

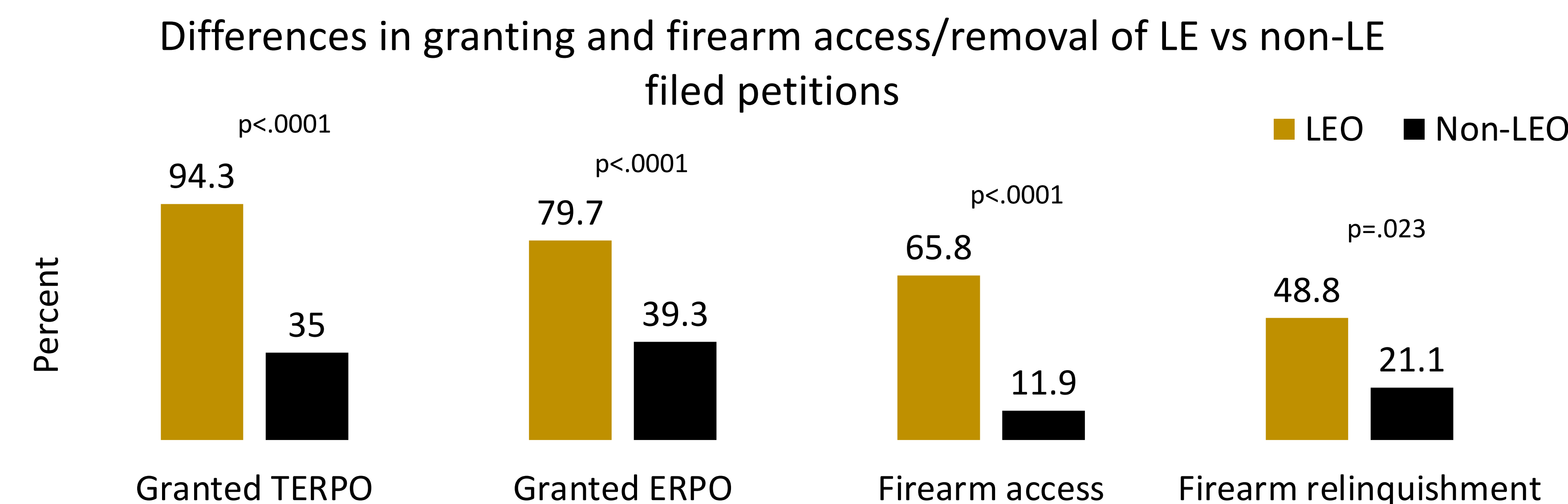
## RESULTS



### ERPO petitions filed in 2020-2022 (n=353)

Variable	n (%)
<b>Male</b>	297 (84.1)
<b>White</b>	226 (64.0)
<b>Filed by LE Officer</b>	193 (54.6)
<b>Granted TERPO</b>	238 (67.8)
<b>Granted ERPO*</b>	167 (70.1)
<b>Implementation (only among petitions granted a TERPO or ERPO)</b>	
<b>Firearm access</b>	146 (87.4)
<b>Firearm relinquishment**</b>	66 (39.5)
<b>Where were the firearms relinquished to:</b>	
<b>Police</b>	59 (88.6)
<b>Family/Friend</b>	5 (7.5)
<b>Refusal to relinquish**</b>	1 (0.7)
<b>Firearm return upon expiration**</b>	24 (20.6)

\*Denominator is granted TERPOs  
\*\*only where firearm access was noted in the petition



## CONCLUSIONS

- Results from this analysis shed light on data gaps surrounding ERPO usage and implementation
- Differences in outcomes between petitioner types suggest the need for additional training/education among the public
- ERPO efficacy hinges on the removal of firearms from a respondent -> limited documentation on this topic suggests a need for standardization in documentation processes
- Limitations:* Missing data from petitions

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Increased education in the community on ERPO filing is necessary
- Continued research is needed to understand ERPO efficacy in reducing firearm injury and mortality
- Collaboration with LE and judicial institutions to standardize ERPO documentation is key
- Efforts in ERPO evaluation should be ongoing

## DISCLOSURES

Ms. Barnard, Thies and McCarthy, Dr. Knoepke and Dr. Betz reported receiving grants from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment during the duration of the study. Dr. Knoepke additionally receives grant funding from the Fund for a Safer Future and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (K23HL153892). This research was funded in part by the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research. The views expressed in this manuscript are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the view of the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research or authors' employers.