

# Behavioral Responses to the Threat of Firearm Violence Among Colorado Adults

Maksimuk TE, BA<sup>1</sup>; Kelly EW, DrPH MA<sup>1</sup>; Little K, BA<sup>1</sup>; Simonetti JA, MD MPH<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO
2. Division of Hospital Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

## Background

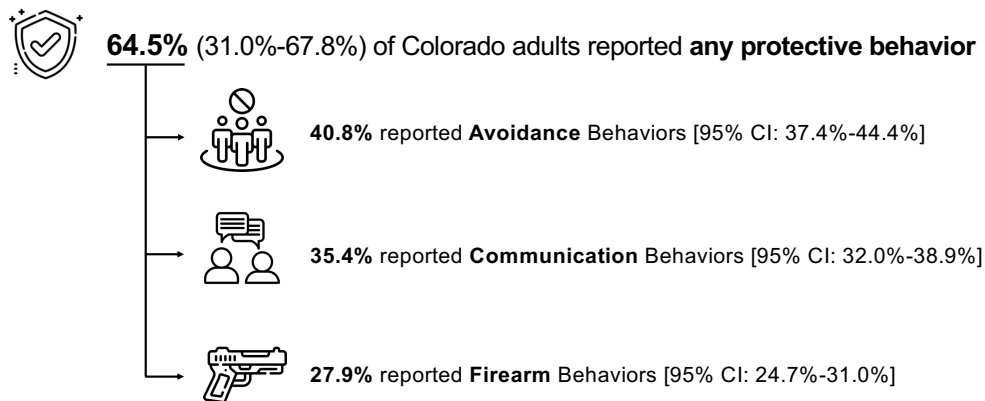
- Firearm injury became the **leading cause of death of youth** in the United States in 2020
- Access to a firearm in the home is an **independent risk factor for suicide**
- Attitudes and behavior changes that result from fear of firearm injury are underexplored
- **Aim: To describe self-reported protective behaviors among Colorado adults**

## Methods

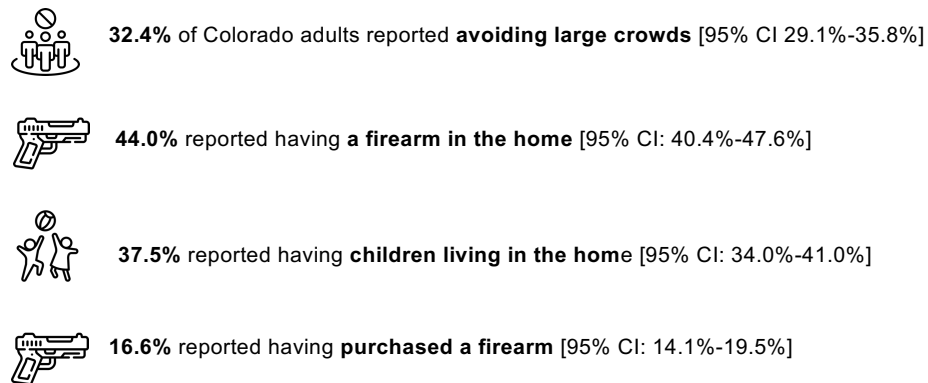
- 2023 Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (COFIPS)
  - May-June 2023
  - Colorado adults
- **Primary outcome:** Self-reported engagement in any of 11 possible protective behaviors:

Avoidance Behaviors
Avoided large crowds, such as music festivals or crowded bars and clubs
Avoided using public transit, such as buses or trains
Avoided attending religious services, cultural events, or celebrations
Changed or considered changing the school that your child attends
Changed where you live
Communication Behaviors
Talked to your child or other family members about firearm safety
Talked to your child or other family members about how they can protect themselves against firearm violence
Firearm Behaviors
Purchased a firearm
Attended a firearm safety class or practiced shooting a firearm

## Results



### Of all Colorado Adults:



## Conclusions and Implications

- Economic and environmental impacts of these behavior changes are unknown
- Adults in Colorado are purchasing firearms as a part of a larger set of protective behaviors
- Questions remain about who these individuals are, what their firearm storage practices are, and if they have children in the home
- Additional research necessary to further elucidate opportunities for targeted interventions

## Disclosures

- No relevant disclosures

### Acknowledgements:

- **Dr. Joseph Simonetti, MD MPH**
- Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative staff and affiliates

 @TiffanyMaksimuk



American Journal of  
Preventive Medicine

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Behavioral Responses to the Threat of Firearm  
Violence Among Colorado Adults

Tiffany E. Maksimuk, BA,<sup>1,2</sup> Erin Wright-Kelly, DrPH, MA,<sup>1,2</sup> Kate Little, BA,<sup>1,2</sup>  
Joseph A. Simonetti, MD, MPH<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>