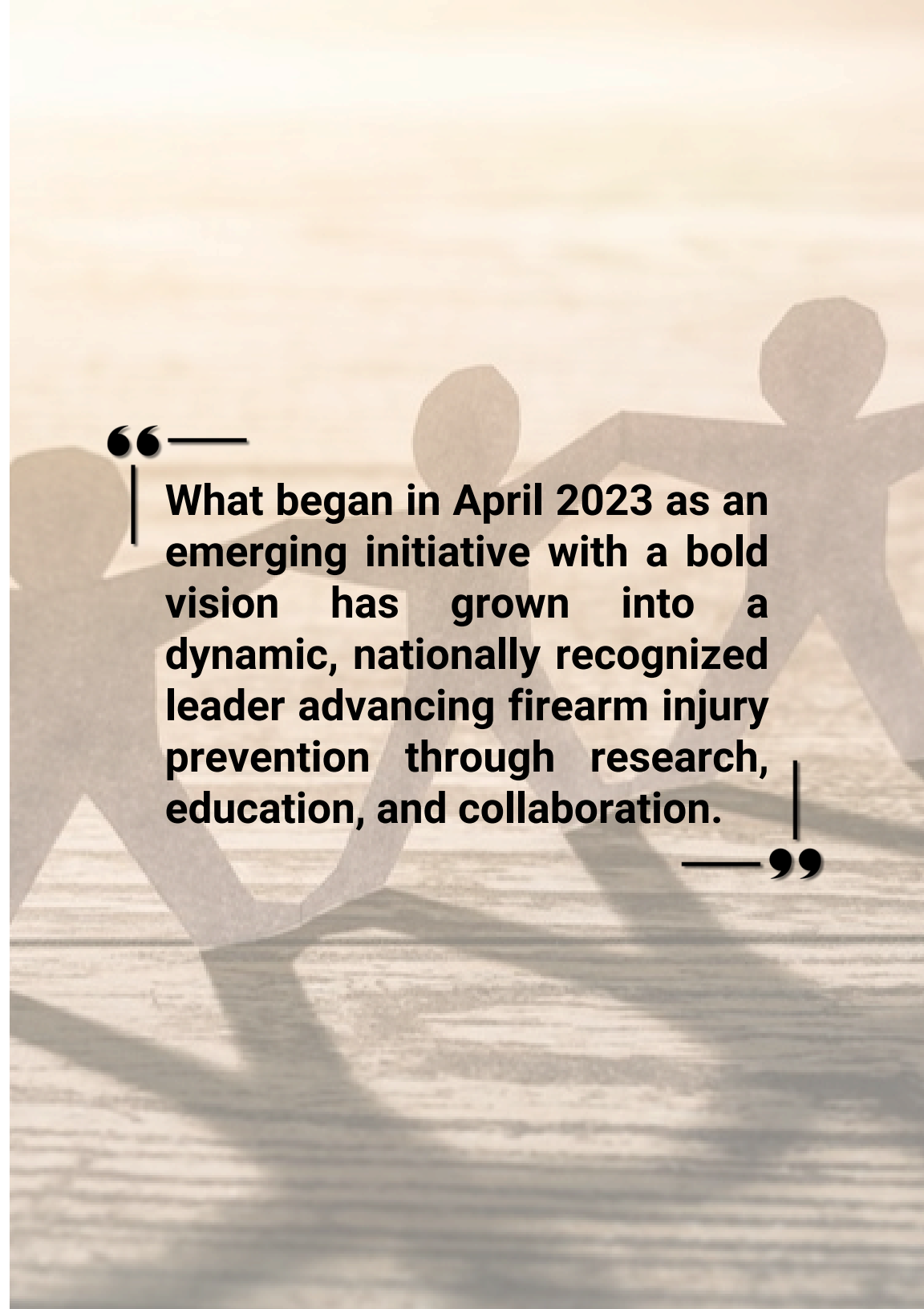


FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION INITIATIVE

THREE-YEAR IMPACT REPORT
2023-2026

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“
What began in April 2023 as an emerging initiative with a bold vision has grown into a dynamic, nationally recognized leader advancing firearm injury prevention through research, education, and collaboration.”

Dear Friends,

As we commemorate the end of the University of Colorado (CU) Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative's (FIPI) three-year startup period, we are honored to reflect on the remarkable journey we have taken together and the expanse of our accomplishments. From the beginning—supported by essential startup investments from the CU Anschutz School of Medicine—we set out to build something ambitious and urgently needed. What began in April 2023 as an emerging initiative with a bold vision has grown into a dynamic, nationally recognized leader advancing firearm injury prevention through research, education, and collaboration. We not only met our initial goals but far surpassed them. This demonstrates what is possible when researchers, clinicians, firearm owners, community partners, students, practitioners, and more come together with a shared commitment to preventing firearm injury, death, and related harms.

Throughout this period of unprecedented growth, FIPI has remained grounded in a core belief: **we all have a role in preventing firearm injuries**. This belief has guided us through uncertainty and change, including shifting landscapes and evolving federal funding priorities, and will shape our work long into the future. FIPI's strength lies not only in our expertise, but in the relationships and collaboration infrastructure we have built across the CU system, the state, and the country. Collaboration is at the heart of our work—deepening our understanding, challenging our assumptions, and inspiring informed, relevant, and meaningful solutions.

This three-year chapter marks our evolution from a promising idea to a leader positioned for even greater impact ahead. Our research portfolio expanded in scale and diversity, contributing meaningfully to areas including suicide prevention, violence intervention, secure storage, post-injury recovery, and the psychological impacts of firearm-related harms. We've made a marked impact nationally and in our home state of Colorado by building and sustaining data infrastructure where none existed and by serving as a trustworthy academic partner.

Alongside scientific advancements, support from our institutional, government, and philanthropic partners facilitated remarkable efforts to translate evidence into action across sectors and communities. We launched and expanded five signature programs. These range widely in goals and scope—from building leadership capacity to supporting secure storage conversations—but are all grounded in our commitment to bringing diverse perspectives together for a safer future. Collaboration has been the thread connecting each year of our work, demonstrating how relationships rooted in trust can yield innovative, community-responsive solutions.

We are profoundly grateful to the CU Anschutz School of Medicine, the Anschutz Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, and the generous individuals and partners whose support enabled FIPI's beginning. These investments made our foundational chapter possible, allowing us to build amidst challenges and lead with compassion, curiosity, and commitment.

This initial chapter is both a milestone and an inflection point. FIPI now stands on a strong foundation: a dedicated team, a robust research portfolio, a vibrant network of partners, and a shared belief. With this foundation—and with demand for our work growing rapidly—we are entering a new era in which expanded partnership and investment will be essential in meeting the moment. We are ready to keep collaborating, growing, and building an even broader coalition committed to preventing firearm-related harms.

Thank you for learning alongside us during these formative years. The progress we celebrate today is yours as well. We invite you to continue walking with us as we build the next chapter together.

With gratitude,

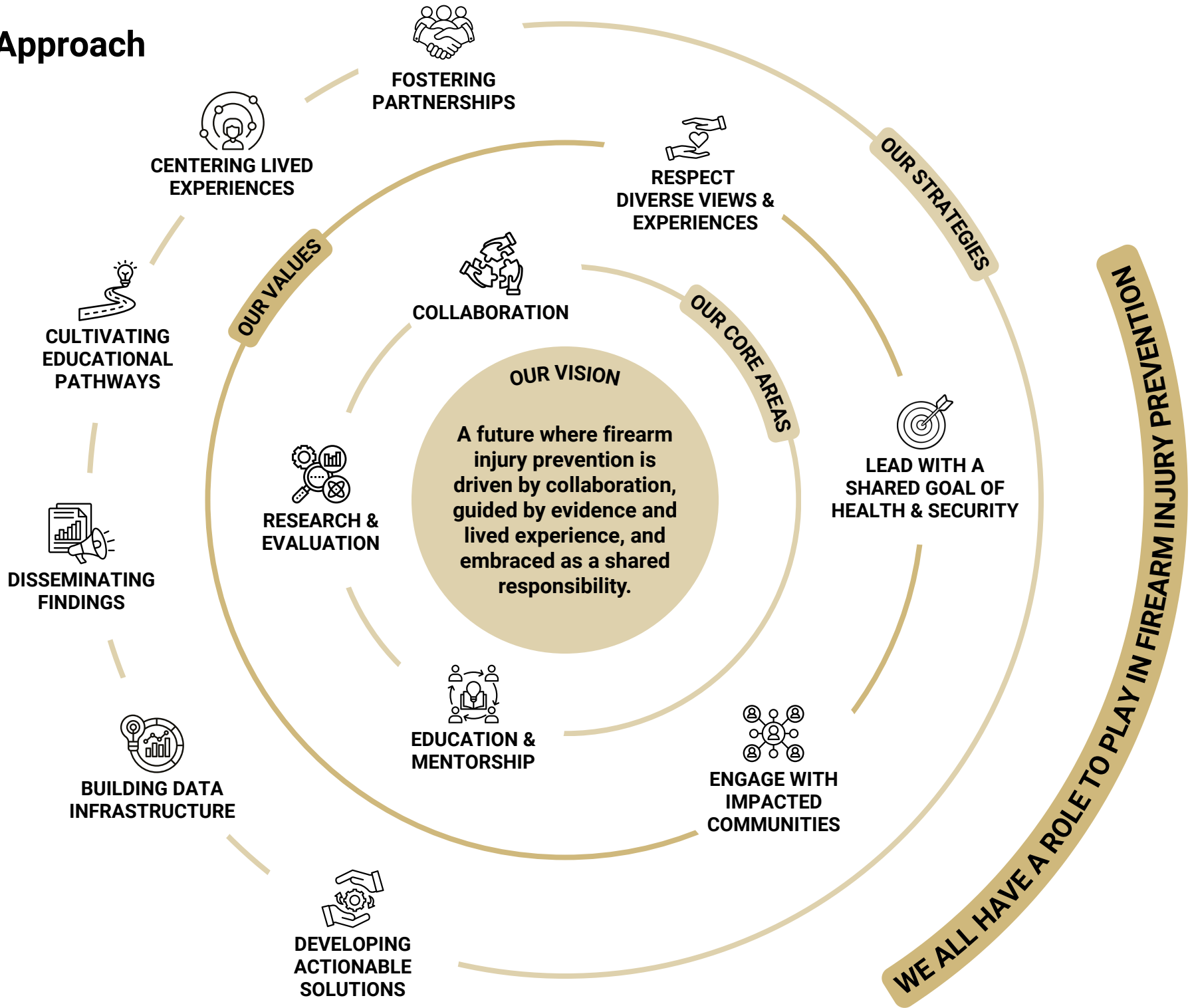
Emmy Betz, MD, MPH
Founding Director

Jessica Buck Atkinson, MPH
Associate Director



L to R: Jessica Buck-Atkinson & Emmy Betz

Our Approach



Key Accomplishments 2023-2026

BUILT A **NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUB** FOR FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION RESEARCH

- Secured \$36,845,752 in funding for CU-based firearm research, including major NIH, NIJ, and DoD awards as well as notable philanthropic gifts.
- Demonstrated national reach and impact with 156 publications and 356 presentations.
- Advanced practice-driven research on secure storage, clinical interventions, community violence intervention, military and veteran suicide prevention, and firearm policy implementation.
- Expanded staffing and built strong internal systems for dissemination, implementation, research administration, and partnership coordination.

SERVED AS COLORADO'S **LEADING ACADEMIC PARTNER** FOR FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION

- Strengthened partnerships with government agencies, healthcare systems, law enforcement, firearm retailers, military installations, community organizations, and campus groups.
- Engaged partners in 28 Colorado counties, provided technical assistance to 45 organizations, and participated in annual community events, including the National Western Stock Show.
- Built Colorado's firearm data infrastructure, including the annual COFIPS survey—the state's first representative survey on firearm culture, storage, risk perceptions, and prevention—and databases tracking implementation of major firearm laws.

DEMONSTRATED OUR **COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES**

- Launched FIP-LEAD, the nation's first multi-sector leadership program in firearm injury prevention.
- Co-hosted the annual national Military Firearm Suicide Prevention Summit with the CU Anschutz Center for Combat Medicine and Battlefield (COMBAT) Research, driving collaboration across academia, government, and industry.
- Convened diverse groups and brought together gun owners, clinicians, and public health professionals through events like the Shared Targets Symposium and the Colorado Firearm Safety Coalition.

DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE TO **SUPPORT CURRENT & FUTURE LEADERS** IN THE FIELD

- Built a CU-wide initiative supported by multiple schools and departments, creating an affiliate network of 59 researchers across 20 departments and three campuses.
- Established robust mentorship and training infrastructure to grow early-career researchers and provide hands-on experience for students and trainees.
- Recruited four new assistant professors to CU Anschutz.
- Launched the FIPRN Scholars Program, a prestigious NIH-funded national training program for early-career nurse and allied researchers.

ADVANCED **INNOVATIVE, ACCESSIBLE, & COMMUNITY- GROUNDED** SOLUTIONS

- Secured new philanthropic investment to scale Safe Starts at Home statewide, training hundreds of home-visiting professionals and distributing safety kits to families across Colorado.
- Expanded Pause to Protect outreach to 38 firearm businesses near 10 military installations.
- Delivered 198 lectures, trainings, and technical assistance sessions to hundreds of clinicians, students, practitioners, and community groups.
- Integrated firearm injury prevention into CU clinical curricula and supported departments across CU Medicine, UHealth, the Veterans Health Administration, and Children's Hospital Colorado.

April 24, 2023

FIPI launches with a \$4.5 million investment from the CU Anschutz School of Medicine.



October 2023

FIPI Founding Director Emmy Betz, MD, MPH, is elected to the National Academy of Medicine for her leadership and innovation in firearm injury prevention.

August 2024

FIPI receives the Military Health System Research Symposium Outstanding Research Accomplishment Team Award for the initiative's dedication to collaboratively using evidence-based approaches in finding solutions to prevent firearm harms.

June 2023

FIPI administers the inaugural Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (COFIPS), building critical data infrastructure for the state in partnership with the Colorado Office of Gun Violence Prevention (CO OGVP). Learn more about COFIPS on page 19.

March 2024

FIPI launches Pause to Protect (P2P). Learn more about P2P on page 19.



September 2024

FIPI recruits four new faculty researchers to CU Anschutz with funds from the School of Medicine Dean's Office.



May 2023

FIPI establishes its faculty affiliate network to connect and train faculty members across the CU system interested in firearm injury prevention research and practice.



October 2023

FIPI distributes its 500th free firearm locking device to gun show attendees across the state.



September 2024

FIPI launches the Firearm Injury Prevention Leadership Engagement & Development (FIP-LEAD) program. Learn more about FIP-LEAD on page 17.



September 2023

FIPI co-hosts the Second Annual Military Firearm Suicide Prevention Summit with the COMBAT Center.

July 2024

FIPI's partnership with the CO OGVP is highlighted as a national model during the first-ever convening of state offices of gun violence prevention hosted by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention under the Biden Administration.





February 2025

FIPI faculty support the opening of Denver Youth Program's REACH Clinic.

October 2024

FIPI faculty presented at the White House Roundtable on Addressing Gun Violence in Latino Communities, the first meeting of its kind.



October 2025

Safe Starts at Home, a program co-developed by FIPI and the CU Injury & Violence Prevention Center (IVPC), receives funding as part of the Anschutz Mental Health Collaborative. Learn more about Safe Starts at Home on page 18.



January 2026

FIPI is invited to participate in the first-ever Suicide Prevention Town Hall at the 2026 SHOT Show, attended by more than 53,000 firearms-industry professionals.



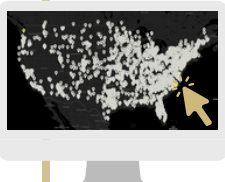
June 2025

FIPI hosts its first film event, "Documentary & Dialogue," highlighting efforts to bring individuals together across differences to find solutions to prevent firearm-related harms.



January 2025

FIPI partners with the Colorado Area Health Education Center to distribute free firearm locking devices at the National Western Stock Show for the first time.



September 2024

Two FIPI efforts, Pause to Protect and the Colorado Gun Storage Map, are highlighted by the Biden Administration as effective tactics to prevent firearm suicide.



September 2025

FIPI releases a series of non-partisan "state of the policy," briefs on the implementation of key firearm-related laws in Colorado.

November 2025

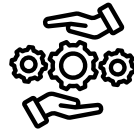
FIPI co-hosts a national symposium with the Arizona State University BRIDGS Initiative bringing firearms-industry leaders and researchers together to build dialogue.



February 2026

FIPI, alongside IVPC and the CU Anschutz College of Nursing, hosts 13 national scholars on campus as part of the NIH NINR-funded Firearm Injury Prevention Research in Nursing (FIPRN) Scholars Program. Learn more about FIPRN on page 20.

33 states reached through trainings, technical assistance, workshops, invited talks, and more



50 organizations received technical assistance from FIPI faculty & staff

640 newsletter subscribers
200+ new subscribers annually, on average



64% average newsletter open rate

1,380 new LinkedIn followers
450+ new followers annually, on average



7,237 unique website visitors
2,412 unique website views annually, on average



422 media interviews & mentions



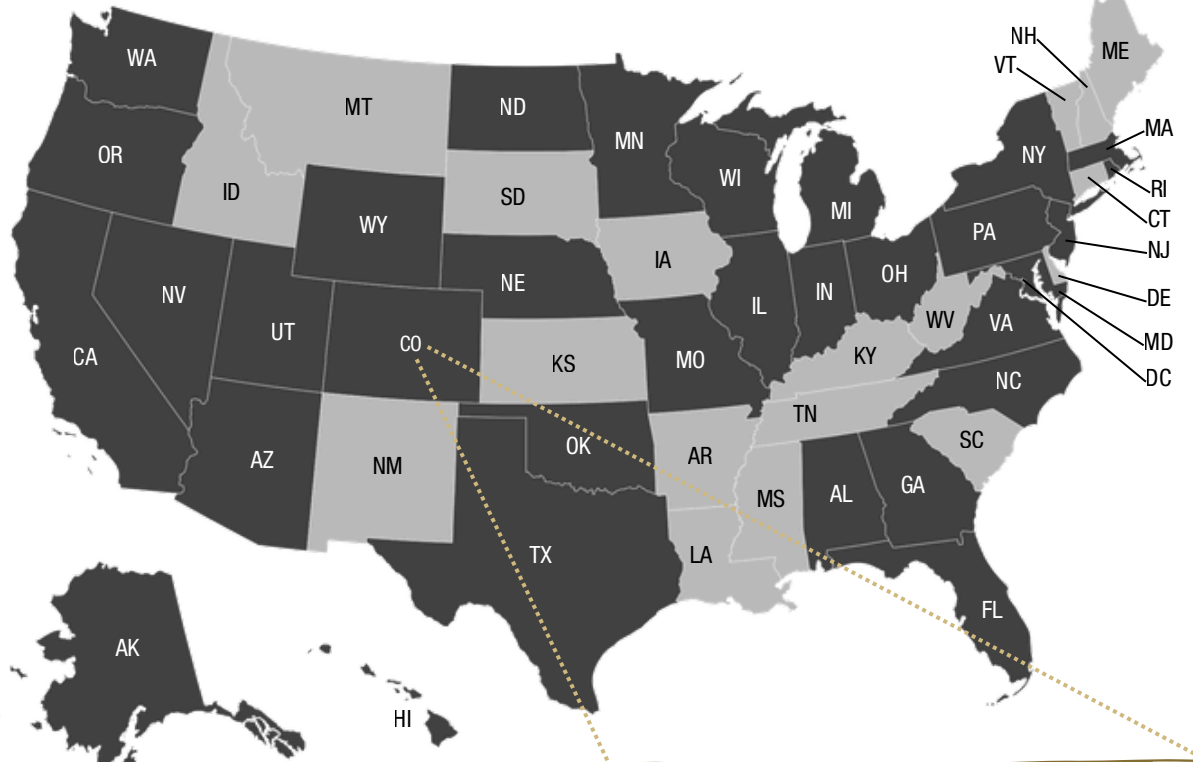
including in CBS News, Colorado Public Radio, Colorado Sun, Denver Post, GQ, National Public Radio, PBS, The Guardian, The Trace, and Wall Street Journal

40+ students connected with FIPI for Mentored Scholarly Activities, capstones, and practicum and research placements

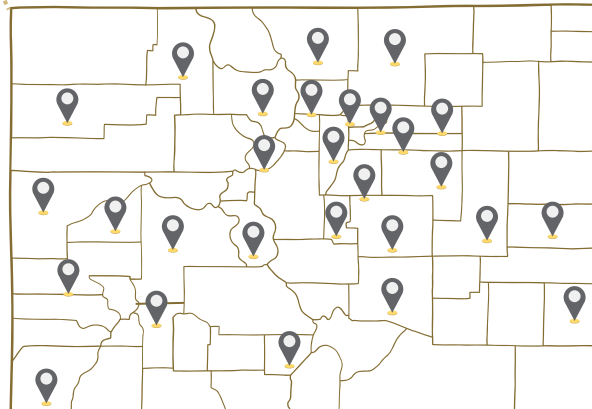
67 lectures & education delivered to CU programs



46 national societies, organizations, and commissions led or supported by FIPI faculty and staff



28 Colorado counties reached through trainings, technical assistance, and workshops

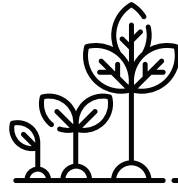


1,000+ locking devices given out at Colorado gun shows and community events



\$36.8m

research and programmatic funding awarded to CU FIPI-affiliated investigators



For **every dollar** the CU Anschutz School of Medicine invested in FIPI over the past three years, FIPI brought back **\$8.19** in research and program funding

#3

Between 2023 and 2026, CU FIPI **advanced from 8th to 3rd nationally** among academic institutions for the number of NIH-funded firearm injury prevention grants received



\$104,045

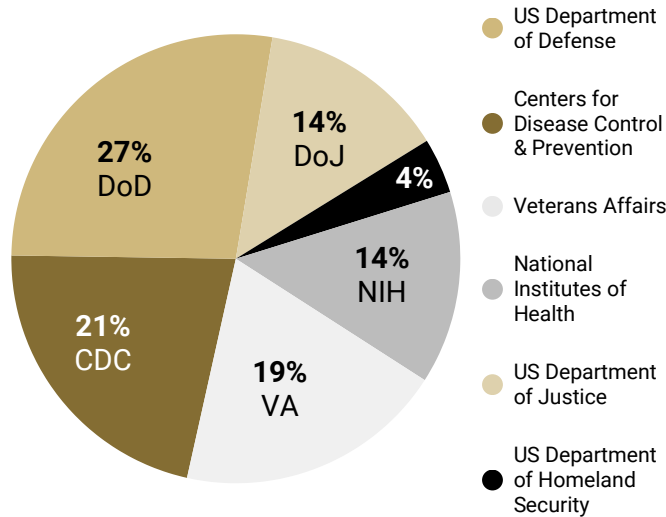
distributed to **12** faculty & student affiliates via FIPI research awards program (read more on page 15)

\$16,405

awarded to support students and early career faculty with publishing & presenting their work



Federal Funders



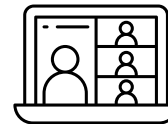
- US Department of Defense
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Veterans Affairs
- National Institutes of Health
- US Department of Justice
- US Department of Homeland Security

State, Local, & Foundation Funders

- Colorado Department of Law
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Colorado Department of Public Safety
- Adams County
- City & County of Denver
- Anschutz Foundation
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Avielle Foundation
- Face the Fight Foundation
- Fund for a Safer Future
- Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine
- National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research
- Rose Community Foundation
- Assorted Universities

5 

signature programs launched & expanded



15

national webinars hosted with 300+ attendees and 400+ asynchronous viewers



35 evidence-based, practical resources developed & shared



356


local, state, & national invited talks & conference presentations

156 

academic articles published in **85** peer-reviewed journals and co-authored with researchers representing **203** unique institutions

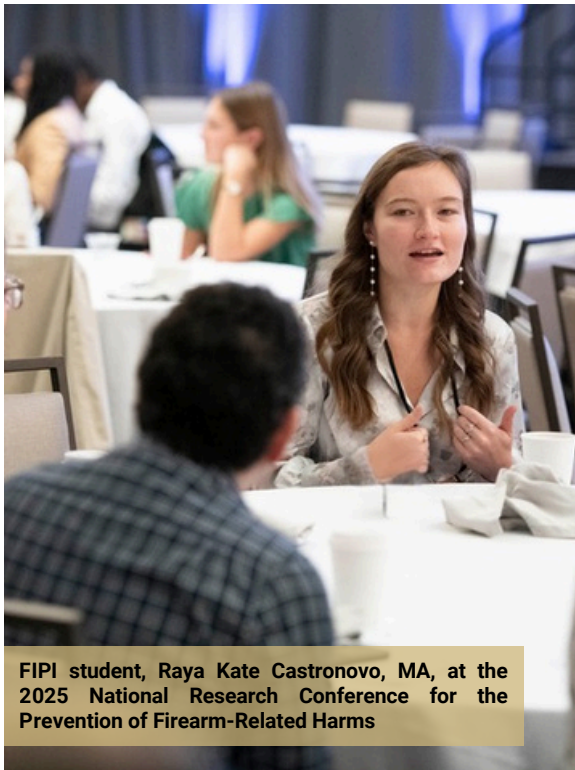
59 faculty affiliates joined the FIPI Faculty Affiliate Network

Scan or screenshot the QR code to explore our resources



Collaboration

Collaboration has been at the core of the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative since our founding. Over the past three years, we have built and strengthened partnerships with impacted communities, multidisciplinary researchers, peer institutions, practitioners, and government agencies. These relationships guide our priorities, shape our every aspect of our work, and reaffirm a simple truth: **meaningful firearm injury prevention is only possible when we work together.**



FIPI student, Raya Kate Castronovo, MA, at the 2025 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms

Internal Collaboration First

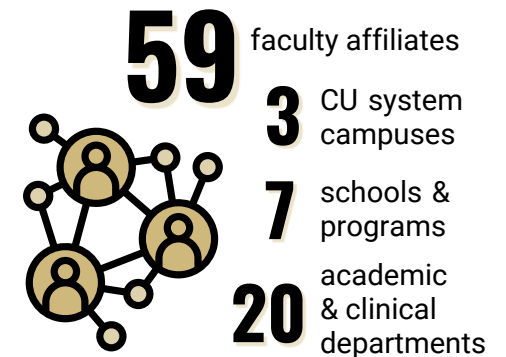
Our collaboration has always started with us, which is why our efforts began with building partnership and connection across our researchers, our home medical campus, and the CU system. FIPI has built infrastructure to support all aspects of academic and clinical work related to firearm injury prevention. From connecting multidisciplinary scholars to training clinicians, our collaboration and expertise has benefited our institutional home.

Our Campus Partners

- Adult and Child Center for Outcomes Research & Delivery Science
- Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Health
- Center for Combat Medicine and Battlefield Research
- College of Nursing
- Colorado Area Health Education Center
- Colorado Poverty and Health Initiative
- CU Anschutz Police Department
- Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center
- Injury and Violence Prevention Center
- Marcus Institute for Brain Health
- Office of Access and Equity

Our Faculty Affiliate Network

Since its launch in 2023, the FIPI Faculty Affiliate Network has grown to include 59 faculty members advancing firearm injury prevention. Today, affiliates representing three of the four CU campuses collaborate through shared learning opportunities and focused research interest groups, and bring multidisciplinary expertise to preventing firearm-related harms. Their collective contributions deepen our impact, expand our capacity, and position CU as a national leader.



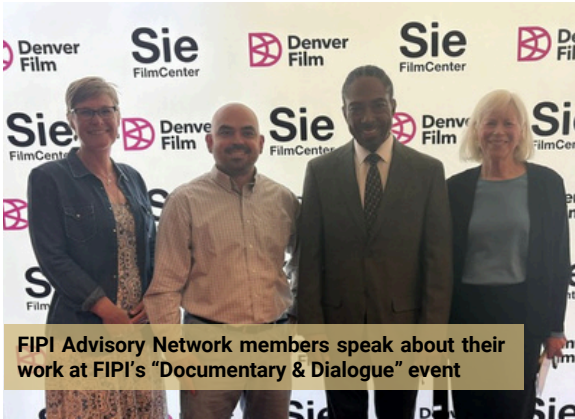
Scan or screenshot the QR code to review our full list of affiliates

Collaboration

Internal Collaboration First

Colorado-Centered Collaboration

Leading Nationwide Collaboration



FIPI Advisory Network members speak about their work at FIPI's "Documentary & Dialogue" event



FIPI community partners speak on a panel about community-academic partnerships



FIPI faculty affiliates, Ben Li, MD, and Maya Haasz, MD, attend White Coats at the White House in 2024

Colorado-Centered Collaboration

In three years, FIPI has strengthened statewide collaboration, serving as an academic partner to state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and leaders addressing firearm injury across Colorado. These partnerships—spanning our work with the CO OGVP and the Colorado Attorney General's Office, as well as initiatives with public health, law enforcement, and community violence prevention groups—reflect our dedication to approaching the issue through shared goals and local expertise.

“ We are proud to partner with FIPI, showcasing the importance of academic medical centers and public health departments working together to prevent firearm-related harms. ”

Molly Siegel, MS
Director, CO OGVP

Our Colorado-focused efforts, including facilitation of the Colorado Firearm Safety Coalition, create spaces where individuals with diverse lived experiences and perspectives on firearms and firearm-involved violence can convene for open dialogue and practical, data-driven problem solving. This commitment to partnership has established FIPI as Colorado's leading scientific collaborator to prevent firearm injuries and positioned the state as a national leader in advancing community-centered, evidence-informed strategies.

Our State & National Partners

Leading Nationwide Collaboration

FIPI has quickly become a national leader in advancing evidence-informed, nonpartisan approaches to preventing firearm injuries and deaths. Our work now supports organizations across the country through technical assistance, capacity building, and active participation in major national coalitions. Through leadership in clinician-focused initiatives, engagement with national medical and public health organizations, and partnerships with firearm industry and military leaders, we help expand practical, community-centered strategies that resonate in diverse settings. With FIPI experts contributing to national research, convenings, and policy implementation efforts, we continue to champion science, collaboration, and lived experience as essential drivers of meaningful progress nationwide.

Changing the Conversation

A defining component of our work is creating spaces for open, constructive dialogue about the complex interplay of social, cultural, and political factors surrounding firearms in the US. By bringing together individuals with diverse experiences and beliefs, we believe we can create stronger, more sustainable solutions to prevent firearm harms.

In 2025 we advanced this work, and our leadership, on a national level through two key efforts. First, we co-hosted “Shared Targets: Supporting Collaboration across Gun Experts and Firearms Researchers,” a symposium designed to bridge long standing divides between firearms experts and academic researchers, with the ASU BRIDGS Initiative. This created a rare and constructive space where participants explored differences, surfaced blind spots, and produced concrete recommendations

for future collaboration to address shared concerns.

The second effort, led by FIPI Director of Strategy, Chris Knoepke, PhD, MSW, and Associate Director, Jessica Buck-Atkinson, MPH, aims to understand and shape future opportunities for research and dissemination to advance not only prevention, but trust and partnership amongst diverse firearm-owning communities. The community-engaged project will generate a proposed research agenda grounded in mutual respect, cultural competence, and trust.

By fostering trust where mistrust has historically prevailed, FIPI hopes to lay the foundation for more nuanced, effective, and culturally informed approaches to reducing firearm-related harms while honoring the role of firearms in American life.

National Leadership & Service

Our faculty and staff actively participate in national coalitions, research initiatives, and professional organizations including service to the following:

- Ad Council’s Nationwide Public Awareness and Education Campaign on Youth Gun Violence
- American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Injury, Violence, and Poisoning Prevention
- Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) Hospital Champion, Medicaid Reimbursement, and Research and Evaluation Working Groups
- Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education Advisory Committee
- National Academy of Medicine
- National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms Awards, Planning, and Science Committees
- Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms Board
- Safe States Alliance’s National Firearm Injury Data Infrastructure Workgroup
- Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research President and Student & Early Career Professionals Committee
- Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Suicide Prevention Task Force

Community-Rooted Collaboration

FIPI believes the most effective and impactful solutions to preventing harm are co-created with impacted communities and those with lived experience. Several key faculty members model this belief daily by collaborating with Denver Youth Program (DYP), a local community-based organization that provides mentorship, entrepreneurial support, clinical and holistic therapies, and peer support to youth.

Through intentional partnership, FIPI faculty serve as academic partners to DYP programs, notably At-Risk Intervention and Mentoring (AIM)—the Rocky Mountain region’s only hospital-based violence intervention program—and REACH Clinic—one of a small but growing number of post-discharge wound care and wraparound service clinics in the US providing specialized support for individuals recovering from injuries related to violence and trauma after leaving the hospital.

Led by Ginny McCarthy, DrPH, MPH, MDiv, this community-academic partnership is setting the national example for true community-engaged research by developing and implementing novel approaches to equip Violence Prevention Professionals with the skills and support to contribute to and lead qualitative research efforts.



“ Violence prevention starts with trust. As Violence Prevention Professionals, we meet people where they are and build real relationships. Through programs like DYP, AIM, and REACH, we are able to step in during critical moments, interrupt cycles of harm, and connect individuals to support, resources, and a path forward.

Juanita Holman
Violence Prevention Professional
Denver Youth Program



DYP staff and FIPI faculty present at the 2025 HAVI Conference



Ginny McCarthy, DrPH, MPH, MDiv, and Johnnie Williams co-presenting at the 2024 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms



2025 REACH Clinic Community-Academic Forum



2025 REACH Clinic Reverse Site Visit

“ Doing this work is a privilege. It carries a lot of intention and responsibility. My existence is the way I breathe hope back into the lives of others.

Alma R. Mireles-Monsivais
AIM Outreach Project Coordinator
& Violence Prevention Professional
Denver Youth Program

Research

FIPI was founded on a long-standing tradition of CU Anschutz research that has shaped national understanding of firearm injury prevention. Building on this legacy, FIPI now provides the infrastructure, partnerships, and scientific leadership needed to expand and accelerate rigorous, community-informed research on firearm harms prevention across the CU system.

Over the past three years, we have supported the growth of a multidisciplinary research portfolio that includes projects focused on firearm suicide prevention, community violence intervention, trauma, secure firearm storage promotion, clinical and e-health intervention development, policy implementation, enhancing firearm community engagement in research, firearm safety across the lifespan, and military and veteran populations.

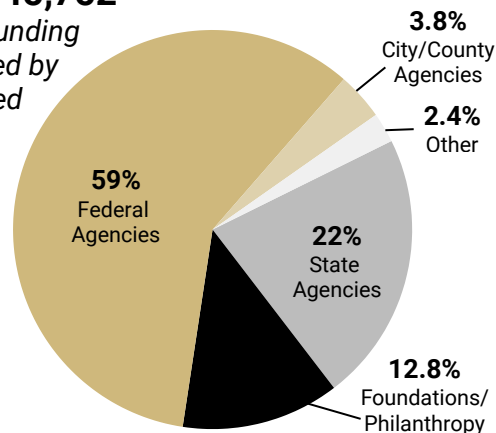
Guided by our mission and values, our research is overwhelmingly initiated and shaped through our partnerships with impacted communities and intentionally designed to inform and produce real-world solutions. Our action-oriented approach ensures that the evidence we generate produces practical tools, guidance, and resources for practitioners and the public. Supported by a growing network of dedicated affiliates and funded through national, state, and private sources, FIPI's research continues to advance both the science and practice of firearm injury prevention in Colorado and across the country.

Our Research Portfolio

During our first three years of operation, FIPI supported its affiliate faculty in securing **\$36,845,752** million dollars in research and programmatic funding, including awards from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Justice, Anschutz Foundation, the US Department of Defense, and Face the Fight Foundation.

\$36,845,752

Total Funding Received by Affiliated Faculty



Research Spotlights

“Firearm Safety in PTSD (FaSP): A Randomized Controlled Trial of Lethal Means Safety Counseling Among Service Members & Civilians with PTSD.”



PI: Ian Stanley, PhD



Funder: US Department of Defense, \$2,993,024

This study evaluates a brief lethal means safety counseling intervention addressing exaggerated perceptions of threat to promote secure firearm storage practices for firearm-owning service members and civilians with PTSD.

“Mental Health Phenotypes Shaped by Trauma Exposure, Symptom Severity, & Individual Characteristics Among Recent Latinx Immigrant Adults.”



PI: Laura Vargas, PhD, MSW, MPA



Funder: National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities, \$604,070

This K01 Award aims to examine mental health among recently arrived Latinx immigrant adults to inform the development and delivery of appropriately timed and tailored interventions.

“A Micro & Macro Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Colorado”



PI: Chris Knoepke, PhD, MSW



Funder: National Institute of Justice, \$1,456,274.00

This study aims to explore effects of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) on firearm fatalities in Colorado as well as the effectiveness of ERPOs in reducing risk of firearm violence for those involved.

Investing in Discovery

FIPI's internal Research Award Program was launched in 2023 with the goal of advancing the research careers of our affiliate faculty and students by enabling them to initiate studies that position them for subsequent external funding.

Since releasing the first call for proposals, FIPI has awarded a total of \$104,045 to 12 faculty and student affiliates—including five early career investigators. Through this investment, FIPI is cultivating the next generation of firearm injury prevention researchers and accelerating discovery across the CU system. Awardees represent seven departments and schools, and across the five that have completed their 12-month projects, the pilot funds have generated five publications, five presentations, and two external funding applications or awards.

Awardees

Artificial Intelligence in Community Violence Intervention: A Systematic Review

PI: Ben Li, MD

Clinicians' Perspectives on Interventions for Reducing Firearm Injury in At-Risk Patients & Barriers to Implementation

PI: Bahroze Rakeen, PhD

Evaluating Routine Care Template Changes to Increase Health Care Provider Discussion of Firearm Injury Prevention

PI: Eric Sigel, MD

Feasibility, Acceptability, & Needs Assessment of a Firearm Injury Prevention Intervention for Families Receiving Child Protective Services in Arapahoe County, Colorado

PI: Megan McCarthy, MPH

Framing of Firearm Injury Prevention Policy

PI: Emma Gilchrist, MPH

Healthcare Use Prior To Firearm Femicide Victimization

PI: Julie Kafka, PhD, MPH

The Intersection of Law Enforcement, Medical Care, & Patient Support Services: The Perspective of Hospital Violence Intervention Program Outreach Workers

PI: Anna Abrams, MD

Legal Epidemiology & Colorado Firearms Laws: A Vertical Mapping Study

PI: Daniel Goldberg, JD

Mental Health Trajectories of Newly Arrived Pregnant Latinx Immigrants: A Longitudinal Study of Firearm-Related & Traumatic Exposures, Resiliency Factors, And Health Outcomes of Newborns

PI: Laura Vargas, PhD, MSW, MPA



FIPI faculty affiliate, Uriel Lomeli Castillo, PhD, presenting at the 2025 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms

Understanding Survivors' Experiences of Nonfatal Gun-Related Intimate Partner Violence

PI: Ruschelle Leone, PhD

Optimizing An Intervention to Promote Secure Firearm Storage Practices Among Individuals With PTSD: A Qualitative Investigation of Stakeholder Views

PI: Ian Stanley, PhD

Transformative Voices Transform Violence Prevention: Violence Prevention Professional Engagement in Qualitative Inquiry Informs Relevant Program Implementation & Effectiveness Measures for a Regional Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program

PI: Ginny McCarthy, PhD, MPH, MDiv

Education & Mentorship

Over the past three years, FIPI has grown into a trusted source of education, inspiration, and mentorship for those committed to preventing firearm related injuries and deaths. What began as a vision to support emerging leaders has evolved into a vibrant, multidisciplinary education and mentorship ecosystem that reaches learners in classrooms, campuses, clinics, community centers, and conference halls across campus, the state, and the nation.

Through faculty led courses, hands on workshops, individualized mentorship, and practicum, capstone, and research assistantship placements, we empower students, early-career researchers, clinicians, and practitioners to become leaders in firearm injury prevention.



FIPI Founding Director, Emmy Betz, MD, MPH, leads an early-career workshop with FIPI faculty, Ginny McCarthy, DrPH, MPH, MDiv, participating

Cultivating Research Leaders

At our core, we believe education and mentorship are more than the sharing of knowledge—they are catalysts for innovation, collaboration, and lasting change, fueling a new generation of leaders ready to move our field forward. FIPI has built a strong, nationally recognized foundation for supporting early-career researchers, providing the structure and guidance young professionals need to thrive. Through individualized mentorship, works-in-progress groups, early-career seminar series, and support in grant development, we help emerging investigators sharpen their skills, produce impactful scholarship, and accelerate their growth.

Our commitment to cultivating the next generation of leaders was further affirmed by a prestigious NIH–NINR R25 award, which funded the launch of the Firearm Injury Prevention Research in Nursing (FIPRN) Scholars Program, an innovative national training initiative equipping early-career researchers with cutting-edge research skills and interdisciplinary, community-engaged approaches to preventing firearm-related harms (learn more on page 20). As we look ahead, FIPI is dedicated to nurturing a diverse, skilled, and forward thinking community of researchers who will carry the field—and our organization—into its next chapter.

Newly Recruited Faculty

Thanks to generous funding from the CU Anschutz School of Medicine Dean's Office, FIPI recruited four new faculty members to the University during its three-year startup period. Together, these faculty have strengthened FIPI's research portfolio with their diverse subject matter expertise and skill sets.

Leslie Barnard, DrPH, MPH
Department of Epidemiology

Julie Kafka, PhD, MPH
Department of Emergency Medicine

Rachel Kennedy, PhD, MSN/MPH, RN
Department of Emergency Medicine

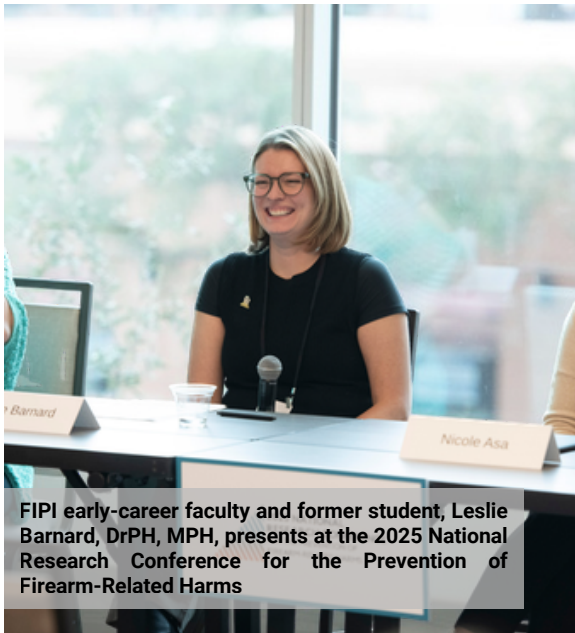
Ginny McCarthy, DrPH, MPH, MDiv
Department of Surgery

I am deeply grateful and humbled to have found a community of researchers dedicated to a shared mission of addressing firearm-related harms, a critically important but understudied public health issue.

Julie Kafka, PhD, MPH
Faculty Affiliate
Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative

Building Student Pathways

FIPI has created clear pathways for students to gain hands-on experience in firearm injury prevention, matching their interests and skills with faculty mentors and active research projects. Through placements in Mentored Scholarly Activities, capstones, and research assistantships, students have contributed to rigorous, community engaged work from designing clinician trainings to examining protective factors in impacted communities. By connecting students directly with experienced researchers and ongoing projects, FIPI is building a strong pipeline of future professionals prepared to pursue research and/or practice careers in the field.



FIPI early-career faculty and former student, Leslie Barnard, DrPH, MPH, presents at the 2025 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms

“The mentorship, collaboration, and opportunities I’ve experienced working for FIPI have provided an invaluable foundation that allowed me to transition into my doctoral training already connected to an incredible network of public health researchers and practitioners working to prevent firearm-related harms.”

Kaitlyn Friedman, MSc
DrPH Candidate
Colorado School of Public Health



DrPH candidate and Hoffman Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention Scholarship Awardee, Kaitlyn Friedman, MSc


“At FIPI I’ve had the opportunity to work alongside a team of dedicated and compassionate colleagues who have welcomed me into the sphere of public health research. Through this experience, I’ve deepened my understanding of firearm injury prevention while developing meaningful critical analysis and collaboration skills.”


Zach Liptzin
FIPI Undergraduate Research Intern



Erin Wright-Kelly, DrPH, MA, Matt Wetenkamp, and Joe Simonetti, MD, MPH, discuss the VetStore project with community partners


Community Education


 **50** organizations received technical assistance from our team

67  lectures provided to academic & clinical programs in the CU system

81  staff & faculty-led trainings, workshops, and outreach events

Mentorship

6  career development grants in progress, submitted, or received

Hoffman Firearm Injury and Violence Prevention Scholars **143**  publications & conference presentations with student or early-career authors

Our Signature Programs

In three years, FIPI’s signature programs have grown from early ideas into a coordinated, practice-ready suite of efforts that bring our research to life in the places and communities most affected by firearm injury. Each program reflects our commitment to turning evidence into meaningful, community-centered solutions. Together, these initiatives embody our belief that prevention requires collaboration, respect, and sector-specific tools that meet people where they are. As a collective, they demonstrate how research can move beyond academic settings and into homes, clinics, businesses, and communities—advancing a healthier, safer future for Colorado and beyond.



Snapshot of the FIP-LEAD workbook



“I used to think that firearm injury prevention didn’t have anything to do with me, but now I know I was wrong.”

FIP-LEAD Participant

The **Firearm Injury Prevention Leadership Engagement and Development (FIP-LEAD)** program is a day-long workshop designed to equip formal and informal, multi-sector leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to drive collaborative, evidence-informed, and locally focused firearm injury prevention efforts. FIP-LEAD is rooted in our core belief that we all have a role to play in preventing firearm-related harms and is designed to help community members feel comfortable in engaging in their roles.

Since the program’s inception, we have trained over **100** physical and behavioral healthcare providers, local public health agency staff, and community leaders across six workshops. Looking ahead, we are actively expanding our partnerships with education professionals, youth service providers, and more.



Community partners participate in a FIP-LEAD workshop with the Aurora Health Alliance

Over 95% of participants agreed that FIP-LEAD increased their:



knowledge of evidence-informed approaches to preventing firearm injury within their field



confidence in discussing firearms and firearm-related issues with others



confidence to be a leader in firearm injury prevention

98% of workshop participants **would recommend** FIP-LEAD to other leaders who want to implement evidence-informed prevention strategies

Safe Starts at Home

Safe Starts at Home is a Colorado-grown initiative co-developed with the CU Injury & Violence Prevention Center (IVPC) that equips home-visiting professionals, such as nurses, social workers, and county caseworkers, to help families reduce the risk of firearm injuries and opioid overdoses through practical, research-informed conversations about secure storage of firearms, medications, and other potentially harmful household items. Built in response to county requests and designed to integrate seamlessly into existing infrastructure, the program provides training for home-visiting professionals and household safety kits for families that include firearm locking devices, medication storage bags, and educational materials.

Following strong early demand—with nearly 40 Colorado counties expressing interest within the program's first year—Safe Starts at Home received an investment from the Anschutz Foundation, enabling FIPI and IVPC to scale the program statewide and reach thousands more families across Colorado. This support allows Safe Starts at Home to deepen its community-centered footprint and ensure more Coloradans have access to the tools and knowledge needed to create safer home environments by 2031.



“We respond after the crisis has already occurred, and we hear and see a lot of awful things. We wanted to do something to try and prevent those awful things. Even though it's rare that we have assessments where a child gets a hold of a firearm and they hurt themselves or somebody else, we wanted to be able to prevent a tragedy from even happening.”

Christine Laster
Intake Administrator, Arapahoe County



The **Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (COFIPS)** is an annual, state-representative survey developed by FIPI that captures Coloradans' beliefs, experiences, and behaviors related to firearm injury risk, firearm access and storage, and attitudes toward prevention strategies. Designed to fill critical gaps in state- and federal-level data, COFIPS provides actionable insights that help inform responsive education, policy, and prevention efforts while monitoring trends over time.

FIPI makes COFIPS data accessible to communities through publications, data briefs, webinars, the COFIPS website, and technical assistance, ensuring the findings meaningfully support local and statewide prevention work.



Explore the COFIPS website



Scan or Screenshot



PAUSE TO PROTECT

“Being all Vets [ourselves], this is a way for us to give back and lower the number of Veteran suicides.”

Participating Business
Heroes of Valhalla
Ft. Moore, GA



Megan McCarthy, MPH, and Katie Davis at the Pause to Protect booth at the 2026 SHOT Show

First launched near Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, CO, **Pause to Protect (P2P)** is a national program dedicated to promoting firearm injury prevention and secure storage through a network of 38 firearm businesses near 10 military installations. P2P has expanded its impact beyond military communities by making available to businesses nationwide an online resource hub that includes information on tested standard operating procedures, guidance for staff, and a national map of businesses offering voluntary, temporary out-of-home firearm storage.



Jacquelyn Clark and Emmy Betz, MD, MPH, present at the National Shooting Sports Foundation's 2025 Marketing & Leadership Summit (left) and 2026 SHOT Show (right)



Firearm Injury Prevention Research in Nursing Scholars Program



The **Firearm Injury Prevention Research in Nursing (FIPRN) Scholars Program** is a 12-week training initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Nursing Research, designed to equip early-career researchers with advanced skills in firearm injury epidemiology, rigorous research methods, and community-engaged prevention science. With partners from IVPC and the CU Anschutz College of Nursing, the FIPRN curriculum blends a week-long, in-person intensive training with longitudinal, weekly virtual sessions and structured mentorship to prepare emerging scholars for impactful careers in the field.

In 2026, we launched the inaugural FIPRN Scholars cohort, a dynamic group of 13 researchers representing nursing, social work, psychology, public health, and sociology, whose work spans firearm suicide prevention, community and interpersonal violence, trauma-informed care, aging, and youth mental health. They bring diverse lived experiences, methodological strengths, and deep commitments to partnering with communities impacted by firearm injury—reflecting the interdisciplinary, community-centered ethos at the heart of FIPRN. Together, the program and its inaugural cohort signal a bright future for the field as FIPI continues to help develop a new generation of leaders prepared to advance firearm injury prevention research nationwide.



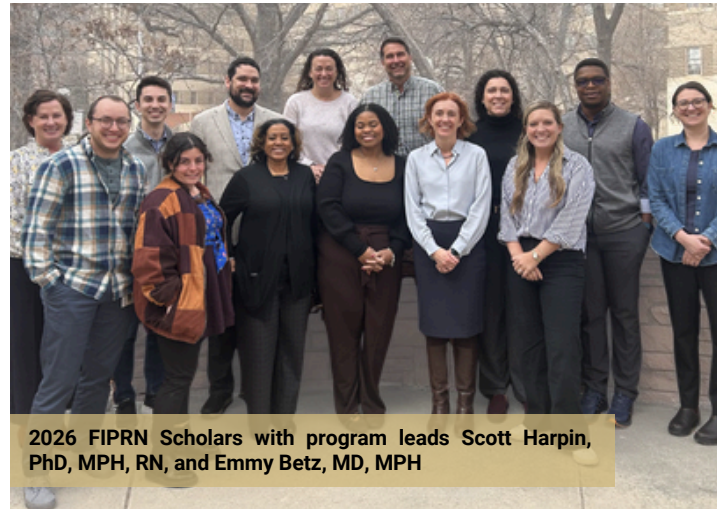
2026 FIPRN Scholars attend the in-person intensive

2026 Scholars

Avery Anderson, PhD, MS, PMHNP-BC
 Sativa Banks, PhD, MPH
 Allison Bond, PhD
 Chuka Emezue, PhD, MPH, MPA
 Gretchen Goldman, MSN, RN
 David Hancock, PhD
 Kenyatta Hazlewood, MPH, RN NE-BC
 Elizabeth Johnson, PhD, RN
 Nathan Lowry, MS
 Monte-Angel Richardson, MSW
 Danielle Walker, PhD, PMHNP-BC
 Erin Walton, MSW, LCSW-C
 Devon Ziminski, PhD, MSSP

“The team – both senior and peers – made such an impact on me during the in-person intensive. Having everyone who is passionate about this topic in one room, instilled so much hope in me. When this work feels tough I will look back on that week, reach out to others, and keep doing the work.”

2026 FIPRN Scholar



2026 FIPRN Scholars with program leads Scott Harpin, PhD, MPH, RN, and Emmy Betz, MD, MPH

Honoring Our Beginning, Continuing the Journey

As we close this inaugural three year chapter, we do so with deep gratitude—for the partners who trusted us, the communities who taught us, and the colleagues whose passion and curiosity have brought our work to life. Amidst rapid growth and unprecedented challenges, we have remained true to our purpose, grounded in collaboration, and fueled by the joy, generosity, and shared humanity that define FIPI. Our core message, that preventing firearm injury requires all of us, has not only endured but strengthened, shaped by the lessons we have learned from diverse voices across Colorado and the nation.

The impact reflected in these pages is only the beginning. As we move into our next chapter, we do so with optimism, humility, and an unwavering commitment to building collaborative solutions and making firearm injury prevention not only a shared responsibility, but a shared success.

Our mission is made possible thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. We invite you to keep walking with us, supporting this work, and helping to expand the coalition of people who believe, as we do, that everyone has a role in preventing firearm-related harm. With your partnership, investment, and encouragement, the possibilities before us are as promising as the future we are working to create. Whether you're giving financially or in partnership, expertise, or by sharing our work we are grateful for your support of FIPI.

To invest in our work, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/fipi-giving>



With gratitude,

The FIPI Executive Leadership Team

Emmy Betz, MD, MPH
Founding Director

Jessica Buck-Atkinson, MPH
Associate Director

Chris Knoepke, PhD, MSW
Director of Strategy





Joe Simonetti, MD, MPH
Director of Education

Erin Wright-Kelly, DrPH, MA
Director of Practice



L to R: Erin Kelly, DrPH, MA, Joe Simonetti, MD, MPH, Chris Knoepke, PhD, MSW, Jessica Buck-Atkinson, MPH, Emmy Betz, MD, MPH

Our Strategic Goals for the Next Five Years

-  Advance our national reputation as a leader in the field by deepening expertise, driving innovative, actionable research, and broadening impact.
-  Strengthen and elevate our role as the leading academic partner in Colorado efforts to reduce firearm harms by, expanding partnerships, capacity, and measurable impact.
-  Develop the next generation of firearm injury professionals by broadening training pathways, strengthening mentorship opportunities, and creating collaborative learning opportunities.
-  Build and refine our organizational and operational capacity to support high-quality and high-impact work, strategic growth, resilience, and long-term sustainability.

Leadership Council

Steve Berkowitz, MD
Mental Health Lead

Ian Stanley, PhD
Military & Veteran Lead

Catherine Velopulos, MD
Community Violence Lead

Eric Sigel, MD
Youth & Adolescence Lead

Laura Vargas, PhD, MSW
Global Health Lead

Shale Wong, MD, MSPH
Policy Lead

Staff



Jacquelyn Clark
P2P Firearm Industry
Partnerships Manager



Kathryn Davis
Safe Starts at Home
Program Manager



Kaitlyn Friedman, MSc
OGVP Program
Manger



Andrew MacFarland, MCJ
COFIPS Program
Manager



Megan McCarthy, MPH
Research & Evaluation
Coordinator



Avery Moje, MPH
FIPI Program
Manager



Makiya Owens
Education Program
Coordinator



Kerry Plunkett, MPH
Graduate Research
Assistant



Matt Wetenkamp
Collaboration &
Partnerships Coordinator

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Avery Anderson, PhD, MS, PMHNP-BC
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Shelby Bandel
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Aaron Bergman, PhD
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Ashley Brooks-Russell, PhD, MPH
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Mark Deutchman, MD
Anne Drabkin, MD
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Sarah Goodrum, PhD
Ashley Griffith, PhD
Maya Haasz, MD
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Ruschelle M. Leone, PhD
Benjamin Li, MD
Uriel Lomelí Carrillo, PhD
Virginia McCarthy, DrPH, MPH, MDiv
Amber R. McDonald, PhD
Claire McNellan, PhD, MPH
Lindsey L. Monteith, PhD
Quintin Myers, PhD
Stesha Peacock, MPH
David Pyrooz, PhD
Bahroze Rakeen, PhD
Sushil Rijal
Abigail Rolbiecki, PhD, MPH, MSW
Erica Sheline, MD
Christina Studts, PhD, MSPH, LCSW
Lauren Tolle, PhD
Shane Urban, BSN, RN, CCRC
Michael Victoroff, MD
Chelsea Wolf, MD

FIPI-Led Publications, 2025-2026



Between April 2023 and March 2026,
FIPI faculty affiliates, staff, and
students led and/or coauthored

156

peer-reviewed
publications.

Arredondo Mattson, S., Kingston, B. E., **Goodrum, S.**, Harms, C., Argamaso, S., **Lomelí Carrillo, U.**, Woodward, W., Tannous, H., & Stiles, B. (2026). The Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol: A quality improvement evaluation of the training. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tam0000267>



Balsler, M., Knoepke, C. E., Sanders, M., Little, K., Barnard, L., & Wright-Kelly, E. (2025). Acceptability of extreme risk protection orders across regions of Colorado. *AJPM Focus*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2025.100442>



Barnard, L. M., Betz, M. E., Frattaroli, S., Knoepke, C. E., Christy, A., Schleimer, J. P., Pear, V. A., McCarthy, M., Kapoor, R., Norko, M. A., Rowhani-Rahbar, A., Ma, W., Wintemute, G. J., Swanson, J. W., Easter, M. M., & Zeoli, A. M. (2025). Extreme risk protection order use in six US states: A descriptive study. *Injury Epidemiology*, 12, 30. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-025-00585-x>



Barnard, L. M., Rosenberg, S., Brooks-Russell, A., Betz, M. E., & Schacht, J. P. (2026). Alcohol use, risk of suicide, and access to firearms among youth in Colorado. *Cogent Mental Health*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/28324765.2025.2607769>



Barnard, L., Perng, W., Brooks-Russell, A., Spark, T. L., Betz, M., & DiGuseppi, C. (2025). Firearm access, storage practices, and suicide risk factors among Colorado adults during 2020-2022. *Academia Mental Health & Well-Being*, 2(4). <https://doi.org/10.20935/MHealthWellB8023>



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Friedman, K., Mocerri-Brooks, J., Meza, K., Ho, R. A., Jr., Baker, J. C., Bryan, A. O., Bryan, C. J., Anestis, M. D., & Betz, M. E. (2025). Firearms, alcohol, suicide, and intimate partner violence perpetration among service members: Military partner experiences. *Psychological Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000988>



Griffith, A. M., Miller, C., Caulfield, N. M., Forster, J. E., Holliday, R., Hoffmire, C. A., Simonetti, J. A., Spark, T. L., Schneider, A. L., & Monteith, L. L. (2025). Rural-urban differences in post-9/11 women veterans' firearm ownership and characteristics. *Injury Epidemiology*, 12, 73. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-025-00622-9>



Haasz, M., Myers, M. G., Carter, P. M., Castineau, K., & Sokol, R. L. (2025). Caregivers asking about firearms in homes their children visit. *Pediatrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2025-071373>



Kafka, J. M., AbiNader, M. A., Adhia, A., Mustafah, A., & Rivara, F. P. (2025). Preventing intimate partner murder-suicide: A case-control study of suicidal males in abusive relationships. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 69(6), 108076. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2025.108076>



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FIPI-Led Publications, 2025-2026

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McCarthy, V., Visconti, V., Williams, J., **Myers, Q. W. O., Li, B.,** Wright, S., Hart-Rodriguez, E., Mireles-Monsivais, A., Perez, F., Green, E., McNeal, R., Gonzales, E., **Wright-Kelly, E., Betz, M. E., Velopulos, C.,** Williams, M., Foley, S. K., & **Brooks-Russell, A.** (2025). Research by us, for us: Violence prevention professional researchers lead measure development for HVIPs. *INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing*. (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00469580251384773>

Monteith, L. L., Kittel, J. A., Holliday, R., Schneider, A. L., Herring-Nathan, E., Krishnamurti, L. S., Brenner, L. A., & Hoffmire, C. A. (2025). Suicidal ideation and non-fatal suicidal self-directed violence prevalence and associations among Veterans residing in U.S. Pacific Island Territories: Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. *PLoS One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0326533>

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Stanley, I. H., Finn, J., Flarity, K. M., Xiao, M., **Johnson, R. L.,** Kearns, J. C., Wilver, N. L., **Berkowitz, S. J.,** Anestis, M. D., **Betz, M. E., & Simonetti, J. A.** (2025). Project Safe Guard-Trauma (PSG-T): Protocol for a randomized controlled trial of lethal means safety counseling to promote secure firearm storage among individuals with PTSD. *Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications*, 47, 101549. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conctc.2025.101549>

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Wright-Kelly, E., Simonetti, J. A., Haasz, M., Rosenberg, S., **Myers, Q. W. O., & Brooks-Russell, A.** (2025). Perceived access to a loaded firearm among youths in Colorado. *JAMA Network Open*, 8(7), e2523362. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2836838>



4

Access a full list of FIPI publications




Scan or Screenshot


Legend:


- Manuscripts using COFIPS data
- Manuscripts led by FIPI-affiliated early career faculty
- Manuscripts with a FIPI-affiliated student
- Manuscripts addressing military or veteran suicide and lethal means prevention
- Manuscripts with a clinical focus


Co-Authored Publications, 2025-2026


Anestis, M. D., Paruk, J., Mocerri-Brooks, J., **Bandel, S. L.**, Bond, A. E., & Semenza, D. C. (2025). Alignment between self- and perceived peer support for specific firearm policies: Results from a representative survey of adults in nine U.S. states. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 54, 103104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2025.103104>

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 Eisenhauer, I. F., Paruk, J., Cozza, S. J., Limbacher, S., Finn, J., Harnke, B., Flarity, K. M., **Betz, M. E.**, **Brooks-Russell, A.**, & **Stanley, I. H.** (2025). Firearm access among military-connected youth: A systematic review. *Military Medicine*, usaf470. <https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usaf470>

Ellyson, A. M., **Kafka, J.**, Adhia, A., Shanahan, S., Bowen, D., & Rowhani-Rahbar, A. (2026). Crime reductions after enhanced implementation of Washington state's domestic violence protection order firearm relinquishment law. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 102, 102591. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102591>

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Co-Authored Publications, 2025-2026



Hoffmire, C. A., **Kittel, J. A., Holliday, R.**, Morano, T. T., Imai, Y., & **Monteith, L. L.** (2025). Gender differences in non-fatal suicidal self-directed violence prevalence and methods among U.S. veterans. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 191, 6530663. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2025.10.013>

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