



Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

# From All **Angles**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

April 2024-March 2025

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# A Note From Our Founding Director

Dear Friends,

Since launching in April 2023, the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative (FIPI) has been committed to preventing firearm-related injury, death, and related harms through an approach that acknowledges, leverages, and celebrates the roles of varied individuals and organizations. With this report, we are proud to highlight the growth, accomplishments, and partnerships that shaped our second year and strengthened our ability to navigate an evolving landscape.

Even amid political turbulence and federal funding uncertainties, FIPI continued to expand over the past year. This growth was made possible by our commitment to collaboration and our belief that we must approach firearm injury prevention from all angles. Central to our work—and success—are our partnerships, which extend across the campus, state, and nation. These partnerships enable and push us to identify, develop, and understand novel programs and strategies to prevent firearm-related harms. For example, FIPI's new SafeHomesCO program, created alongside local county child and home visit service programs, has allowed us to reach more communities with resources and evidence-based education.

We've also grown our network by recruiting four new faculty to the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Anschutz) community and simultaneously welcoming 16 new affiliate faculty members from across the University of Colorado system, expanding FIPI's areas of expertise and ability to cultivate interdisciplinary research opportunities. Our innovative research portfolio looks at preventing firearm-related harms across the life course and encompasses work addressing the varied physical and psychological outcomes on individuals, homes, and communities. We're proud that so much of our work emphasizes translating research into practice to advance both evidence-informed and practice-informed solutions. This emphasis, passion, and leadership were recognized at the national level this year, with FIPI receiving the 2024 Military Health System Research Symposium Outstanding Research Accomplishment Team Award.

We remain dedicated to advancing firearm injury prevention through expanded education and mentorship efforts. This year, we broadened our public-facing outreach, including engagement at the National Western Stock Show, while also strengthening training and mentorship opportunities for future research and practice leaders in the field. We launched the Firearm Injury Prevention Leadership Engagement and Development (FIP-LEAD) program to equip multi-sector leaders with collaborative prevention strategies. Additionally, we introduced the Firearm Injury Prevention Research Career Development Seminar Series, further supporting the next generation of researchers.

We are deeply grateful for the financial support from our institution, generous individuals, and the Rose Community Foundation, whose investments have been instrumental in advancing our work. Their support ensures that FIPI can continue leading innovative research, education, and community-driven initiatives that make a difference. As we look ahead, we continue to draw strength from our accomplishments, our collective efforts, and the promise of collaboration.

Onward,



**Emmy Betz, MD, MPH**  
Founding Director



“  
***This year's theme, From All Angles, speaks to the values, commitments, and passions that are the foundation of our work.***  
”

## MISSION

To use collaboration, research, and education to prevent all types of firearm-related injuries, deaths, and other harms in our homes and communities.

## VISION

Create a future without firearm-related injuries, deaths, or other harms.

### VALUES



Respect for and consideration of a wide range of views and experiences



Recognition of a common goal of health and security



Engagement of impacted communities and those with lived experiences

### OUR CORE AREAS



**COLLABORATION**



**EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP**



**RESEARCH & EVALUATION**

## Key Accomplishments



### **BUILT TRUST**

Strengthened our reputation as a trusted resource for firearm-related injury prevention research and solutions — locally and nationally



### **GREW PARTNERSHIPS**

Expanded strategic partnerships on campus, across Colorado, and nationally



### **LED NATIONALLY**

Demonstrated national leadership in firearm injury prevention research



### **EXPANDED EXPERTISE**

Recruited new faculty members, expanding expertise at CU Anschutz



### **SUPPORTED JUNIOR FACULTY**

Launched programs to further support early career researchers

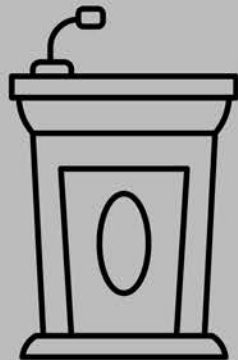


### **INCREASED COLLABORATION**

Increased collaboration across the FIPI faculty affiliate network

# TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

**\$11.4m**  
research funding  
awarded to FIPI-affiliated  
investigators



**158**

local, state, & national  
conference presentations  
& invited talks  
↑ 15% increase from 2023/24



**510**

newsletter  
subscribers  
↑ 55 new  
subscribers

**605**

LinkedIn  
followers gained  
↑ 103% increase  
from 2023/24



**67**

organizations across  
the US supported

**41**

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

**51**

academic articles  
published in peer-  
reviewed journals  
↑ 38% increase from 2023/24



**2,951**

website visitors  
from 41 countries

**372**

media  
interviews  
& mentions

including in Denver 9News,  
Colorado Public Radio, PBS News  
Hour, The Guardian, CBS News,  
Axios, and the United States  
Army's Directorate of Prevention,  
Resilience, and Readiness'  
podcast.

evidence-based,  
practical resources  
developed & shared

**13**

# WORKING TOGETHER FROM ALL SIDES

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to collaboration and the belief we all have a role in preventing firearm injury and related harms. Over the past year, we worked hand-in-hand with affected communities, multidisciplinary experts, peer institutions, and government agencies to advance shared goals and navigate common challenges. Our collective efforts stand as a testament to the power of collaboration—ensuring that every voice, discipline, and community plays a role in crafting solutions.

## ON CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

By working closely with other schools, departments, and programs, this past year we expanded our reach, shared valuable resources, and developed solutions. These partnerships enhance our work and foster a dynamic, interconnected CU Anschutz campus community dedicated to shared success.

### Injury and Violence Prevention Center UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Our ongoing partnership with the **Injury and Violence Prevention Center (IVPC)** — a collaboration between the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) and the University of Colorado School of Medicine (CU SOM) — is rooted in a shared commitment to increasing safety and reducing injury and violence through scientific discovery and evidence-based practice. By combining expertise, resources, and partnerships across the Rocky Mountain region and beyond, we are strengthening our collective impact and driving real-world solutions to complex problems.

#### TOGETHER WE:

- Co-submitted two proposals to the National Institute of Nursing Research with the CU College of Nursing to expand nurse investigator involvement in firearm injury prevention research
- Provided grant funding and technical assistance to local community violence prevention organizations

### Office of Access and Engagement UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Grounded in a shared commitment to collaboration and service to the communities surrounding CU Anschutz, this year FIPI partnered with the **Office of Access & Engagement (OAE)** through its Resident Leadership Council (RLC) initiative. Based on the RLC's interest in firearm injury prevention, FIPI worked with OAE to provide education and resources for residents and families in campus-adjacent communities. These efforts included facilitated conversations to develop recommendations for addressing community safety and firearm-involved violence, especially among youth.

#### TOGETHER WE:

- Provided education directly to community members
- Co-created a bilingual firearm secure storage resource and decision guide
- Co-facilitated a Town Hall with the Denver and Aurora Police Departments and campus-adjacent neighbors





The **Center for Combat Medicine and Battlefield Research (COMBAT)** seeks to save and improve lives on the battlefield and at home. Collaboration between FIPI and COMBAT has resulted in initiatives focused on preventing firearm suicide and other firearm-related harms among military service members,

veterans, their families, and their communities. Together, our researchers and staff lead solutions-focused, community-informed research aimed at developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and strategies that directly address the needs of the US military.

## Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

FIPI takes a non-partisan approach to firearm injury prevention, including efforts to understand how firearm-related laws and regulations impact communities. Our policy work focuses on tracking the implementation of Colorado laws and educating key stakeholders on how evidence can inform policy implementation, improve communication with the public, and shift outcomes. These efforts would not be possible without the **Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center**, which develops and translates evidence to advance policies and integrate systems to improve health and well-being. Together, we've expanded campus expertise on firearm injury prevention policy, defined ourselves as subject matter experts for Colorado state legislators, and contributed to an advanced understanding of Colorado's firearm injury prevention policy landscape.

### TOGETHER WE:

- Co-hosted the third annual Military Firearm Suicide Prevention Summit, bringing together stakeholders from across the US military, academia, industry, and beyond to advance firearm suicide prevention efforts
- Expanded the DOD-funded initiative Pause to Protect (read more on page 14)

### TOGETHER WE:

- Met with various policy makers, including former Department of Health and Human Services Region 8 Director and state legislators, to provide non-partisan subject matter expertise
- Developed policy-specific education materials for the Colorado Gun Violence Prevention Resource Bank
- Conducted policy research related to awareness and use of Colorado firearm laws

# STATE & NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Building on our commitment to collaboration, we've also expanded partnerships at the state and national levels. From providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to convening diverse stakeholders around common goals, our work with these partners continues to drive innovation while modeling that everyone has a role to play in preventing firearm-related harms.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO COLORADO

Efforts to support our home state of Colorado are especially important to FIPI. This past year, we partnered with organizations in 17 counties across the state. This includes FIPI representation at 34 events and the provision of FIPI support and expertise to over 52 organizations. Of note this past year was our presence at a Colorado-favorite event, the **National Western Stock Show**, where we distributed over 180 locking devices and had individual conversations with event attendees about the importance of secure storage.



FIPI staff and faculty distributing firearm locking devices at the 2025 National Western Stock Show

“ Having been raised in Colorado and now being a long-time resident, I'm particularly proud of our work with people across the state – from kids to older adults, and from rural to urban areas.

**Emmy Betz, MD, MPH**  
Founding Director  
Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative



## COLORADO OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG)

FIPI partners with the **OAG** on various projects focused on the role of law enforcement in firearm injury prevention. Together, we are improving training programs for law enforcement officers (LEOs), describing the ways in which new firearm legislation is being enforced, and connecting the dots between law enforcement and other systems to address domestic violence.

### TOGETHER WE:

- Piloted an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) training with 100+ law enforcement personnel from four Colorado agencies
- Surveyed LEOs to better understand their perspectives, needs, and experiences regarding their role in firearm injury prevention

## COLORADO OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION (OGVP)

Our partnership with **OGVP** continues to grow, driven by our shared commitment to reducing firearm-related harms through a public health approach. By combining our expertise and influence, we are working together to support Coloradans by improving state-level data, educating the public on prevention strategies, and strategically aligning resources.

### TOGETHER WE:

- Revised the Colorado Gun Violence Prevention Resource Bank to better meet the needs of Coloradans by providing guidance on how to implement prevention programs and strategies
- Advanced understanding on how Colorado policies are being implemented and opportunities for improvement



## REACH CLINIC

This year, FIPI supported the Denver Youth Program in launching the **REACH Clinic**, a community-based space for survivors of community-based violence to access support and resources to facilitate healing. The model prioritizes hospitality, generosity, and co-location of support services, including wound care, mental health support, and case management for employment, education, housing, legal navigation, and primary care. As one of the few US clinics focused on holistic recovery, REACH is embedded in the community it serves, ensuring accessible, compassionate care from staff with shared experiences.



### TOGETHER WE:

- Co-hosted a Reverse Site Visit during which representatives from four existing clinics across the country with similar strategies for intervention, prevention, and multidisciplinary support of communities affected by violence gathered to share best practices. The visit included a half-day community-academic forum, which gathered over 100 community, civic, academic, and healthcare partners to discuss current and prospective local collaborations.

*“In addition to providing a place to meet our families in a holistic way, REACH also provides a place for healthcare providers to embrace fully the core values of being a healer through the unique experience and community voice that the clinic fosters. Together, we all learn how to heal better and do no further harm.”*

**Johnnie Williams**  
Executive Director  
Denver Youth Program

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

Over the past year, FIPI has further solidified its role as a national leader in firearm injury prevention. Through active participation in national coalitions and research initiatives, we continue to help shape the national conversation while fostering collaboration at the highest levels.

- FIPI research was presented across 86 presentations at 45 national conferences
- FIPI faculty and staff provided support and guidance to 15 organizations across 10 states and the District of Columbia
- FIPI faculty contributed to key national efforts including Safe States Alliance’s National Firearm Injury Data Infrastructure Workgroup, Ad Council’s Nationwide Public Awareness and Education Campaign on Youth Gun Violence, Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education’s Advisory Committee, and the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Injury, Violence, and Poisoning Prevention



Five FIPI faculty and leadership members were invited to nonpartisan events hosted by the former White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention



# FRAMING THE FUTURE

As we look ahead, FIPI remains dedicated to supporting the development of academic, clinical, and community leaders who are prepared to navigate the evolving landscape of firearm injury prevention and equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to shape healthier, safer futures for all communities. This year, we expanded our efforts to prepare the next generation of researchers, practitioners, and leaders to drive meaningful change. Through education and mentorship, we are not only strengthening the field but also building a lasting foundation for future prevention efforts.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our efforts include providing guidance, training, and education to a variety of audiences to ensure evidence-based prevention approaches reach the communities, policymakers, and frontline professionals who need it most. This year we also engaged health science students, clinicians, and practitioners with the goal of equipping current and future practitioners with essential skills and knowledge that can be integrated into diverse practice settings.

This year, FIPI's education efforts on the CU Anschutz campus included FIPI faculty-led lectures in clinical education programs, advocacy for incorporating firearm injury prevention content into standard curricula, and training for clinicians within CU Medicine, UC Health, the Veterans Health Administration, and Children's Hospital Colorado.

## BUILDING MULTI-SECTOR FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION LEADERS

In 2024, FIPI launched the **Firearm Injury Prevention Leadership Engagement and Development (FIP-LEAD)** program. FIP-LEAD is designed to equip multi-sector leaders—individuals with formal or informal power within their organizations—with the knowledge and skills needed to drive collaborative, evidence-based, and locally-driven prevention efforts. Grounded in FIPI's core values, the program is built on the belief that we all have a role in preventing firearm injuries in our homes and communities, and that meaningful progress is possible across diverse settings.

We are excited to continue offering FIP-LEAD workshops across Colorado, with ongoing expansion to and adaptation for a wide variety of professional sectors, including K-12 education and local public health agencies, to further build leaders prepared to lead meaningful change in their respective fields.

**FIP-LEAD**

**67** organizations received individualized support including healthcare programs, public health agencies, and community groups

**33** community events attended including gun shows

**842** individualized conversations with event attendees about various firearm injury prevention topics



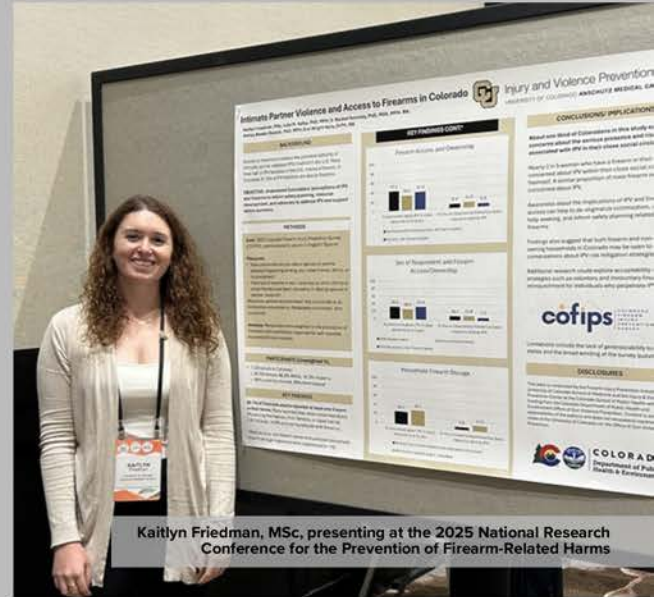
### 100% OF PARTICIPANTS AGREED FIP-LEAD:

- ↑ increased their knowledge of evidence-informed approaches to preventing firearm injury within their professional field
- ↑ increased their confidence in discussing firearms and firearm-related issues with others
- ↑ increased their confidence to be a leader in firearm injury prevention

100% of initial participants **would recommend** to other leaders who want to implement evidence-informed firearm injury prevention interventions

## STUDENT & EARLY CAREER MENTORSHIP

Over the past year, FIPI expanded its infrastructure to facilitate training and mentorship for students and early career researchers. For graduate, post-doctoral, and medical students, this includes partnering with established researchers to conduct high-quality and rigorous academic work — from designing novel trainings to help clinicians screen for firearm injury risk to conducting rigorous research on protective factors within impacted communities. Often, this work is done in collaboration with campus partners, within the context of Mentored Scholarly Activities (MSA) or capstone projects. For our early career faculty, including those we've recently recruited to CU Anschutz, this also involves providing tailored support through our work-in-progress research group, early career research seminar series, and through one-on-one mentorship in K award development.



Kaitlyn Friedman, MSc, presenting at the 2025 National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms



**Megan McCarthy, MPH**  
Master of Public Health program  
Department of Epidemiology  
Colorado School of Public Health

*Recipient, Hoffman Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention Scholarship (2024-2025)*

“ FIPI offered me an incredible practicum and capstone opportunity that allowed me to apply many of the skills I gained in my Master of Public Health program, including program planning, grant submissions, data analysis, and program evaluation. The hands-on experience and ability to work with leaders in the field were invaluable in preparing me for my career after graduation. ”



**Allison Nielsen, MS**  
Doctor of Medicine candidate  
University of Colorado  
School of Medicine

*Recipient, Injury & Violence Prevention Center Student Research Award (Spring 2024)*

“ The mentorship and opportunities I have received through FIPI have been invaluable in my growth as a future physician, researcher, and community member and in building my understanding of the gaps that exist relating to firearm safety and secure firearm storage. ”



**Kerry Plunkett, MPH, CPH**  
Doctor of Philosophy program  
Department of Epidemiology  
Colorado School of Public Health

*Recipient, Hoffman Firearm Injury & Violence Prevention Scholarship (2025-2026)*

“ I have enjoyed learning how FIPI has integrated with community partners across Colorado, and about the variety of research methodologies and public health projects FIPI administers. FIPI's seasoned faculty have also been amazing at supporting me in my coursework and orienting me to the Colorado injury prevention world. ”

# CUTTING EDGE APPROACHES

FIPI continues to push the boundaries of firearm injury prevention research while building CU Anschutz’s reputation for leadership and expertise. Over the past year, we strengthened research infrastructure to support our investigators, disseminated findings, secured new funding, and launched innovative projects that drive real-world impact. By prioritizing interdisciplinary collaboration and accelerating creative dissemination of evidence, FIPI is shaping the national research agenda and advancing bold, forward-thinking solutions.

## EXPANDING OUR FACULTY EXPERTISE

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the next generation of firearm injury prevention researchers and solidifying CU Anschutz as a leader in firearm injury prevention, FIPI recruited and welcomed four new faculty members to campus this year. Our new faculty members bring diverse skill sets, a wealth of knowledge, and innovative ideas to the field, and they are helping to expand the scope of our firearm injury prevention efforts.

### NEWLY-RECRUITED FACULTY:

- ▶ **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



FIPI Affiliate Network gathering



Leslie Barnard, DrPH, MPH, and Stephen Billings, PhD, presenting at national conferences

“

*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**  
Newly Hired Faculty Affiliate  
Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative

”

## GROWING OUR AFFILIATE NETWORK

In addition to hiring new faculty, FIPI advanced our commitments to collaboration, education, and research through the expansion of our affiliate network. This year, FIPI gained 16 new faculty affiliates from across the CU system, giving us a robust multi-disciplinary network of 51 researchers who are engaged in firearm injury prevention work in a variety of spaces.

To facilitate connections between members of the affiliate network, FIPI launched a bimonthly “Learn & Connect” series, focused on shared learning and creating intentional networking opportunities for affiliates. FIPI also initiated research work groups in four key firearm injury prevention topic areas – community violence prevention and intervention, intimate partner violence, policy implementation and evaluation, and secure storage – to facilitate research dialogues and interdisciplinary collaborations among affiliates with shared interests.

## FIREARM INJURY PREVENTION INITIATIVE RESEARCH AWARDS

To advance the research careers of FIPI affiliates and students, FIPI continued its **Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative Research Award** program. Since its inception in early 2024, FIPI has awarded a total of \$57,623 in funds, with two students and five early career investigators receiving funds.

### 2024-2025 AWARDEES

- **Legal Epidemiology & Colorado Firearms Laws: A Vertical Mapping Study**  
PI: Daniel Goldberg, JD
- **Feasibility, Acceptability, and Needs Assessment of a Firearm Injury Prevention Intervention for Families Receiving Child Protective Services in Arapahoe County, CO**  
PIs: Megan McCarthy, MPH & Joe Simonetti, MD, MPH
- **Clinicians' Perspectives on Interventions for Reducing Firearm Injury in At-Risk Patients and Barriers to Implementation**  
PI: Bahroze Rakeen, PhD
- **Optimizing an Intervention to Promote Secure Firearm Storage Practices Among Individuals with PTSD: A Qualitative Investigation of Stakeholder Views**  
PI: Ian Stanley, PhD
- **Mental Health Trajectories of Newly Arrived Pregnant Latinx Immigrants: A Longitudinal Study of Firearm-Related and Traumatic Exposures, Resiliency Factors, and Health Outcomes of Newborns**  
PI: Laura Vargas, PhD

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ADVANCING MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION

This year, FIPI was honored with the **2024 Military Health System Research Symposium Outstanding Research Accomplishment Team Award** for our work using evidence-based approaches to prevent firearm injuries and deaths as well as our demonstrated expertise on suicide prevention in the military.

This prestigious award highlights our commitment to collaborative research and meaningful engagement with military service members and our partners across the US Department of Defense. Our approach includes integrating the voices and experiences of military personnel in every stage of research—from study design to implementation and dissemination—and working closely with stakeholders to advance innovative, practical solutions to protect our nation's service members and their families.

### CONTINUING THE WORK

With funding from Face the Fight, an initiative founded by USAA and supported by a coalition of organizations to help end veteran suicide, FIPI is conducting an evaluation to determine the discount level(s) for firearm locking devices that are most likely to help facilitate behavior change among veterans and military personnel (e.g., acquisition and use of a firearm locking device). Prior research indicates that firearm owners may be more likely to use locking devices if they are offered a discount for the device of their choosing.

As part of this study FIPI has partnered with five firearm businesses in Colorado, which have each been assigned a different discount level. The evaluation involves an investigation of business logs as well as voluntary point-of-sale customer surveys.



Receiving the 2024 Military Health System Research Symposium Outstanding Research Accomplishment Team Award

# BUILDING OUR RESEARCH PORTFOLIO, FOCUSING ON PRACTICE

For FIPI, research is more than generating knowledge—it is a catalyst for action. Our commitment to action-oriented, innovative research ensures that conclusions and strategies we develop are not only evidence-based but also practical and effective for practitioners and the public. Our robust research portfolio is comprised of independent, investigator-led studies which are funded through national, state, and private sources including the US Department of Defense, the National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research, Face the Fight, and the City and County of Denver.

## SAFEHOMESCO



Firearm injuries and overdoses from opioids are leading causes of injury and death among youth in Colorado. In response, the **SafeHomesCO** program was developed to equip county staff conducting in-home visits with Colorado families with the knowledge and resources to promote household safety. The program includes FIPI-led

training on firearm injury and overdose prevention, technical assistance, one-on-one consultations between FIPI experts and county staff to address the unique needs of Colorado families, and no-cost household safety kits for distribution during visits.

SafeHomesCO is currently being piloted across four programs in two Colorado counties, with more than 50 county staff trained to date. An additional 80 staff from these counties are scheduled to be trained in Spring and Summer 2025. In response to growing interest and need, three additional counties will launch the program in Spring 2025.

“

*SafeHomesCO is one of our best examples of prioritizing the translation of research into practice to ensure we are delivering evidence-based preventive efforts to Colorado households that need them most.*

**Joe Simonetti, MD, MPH**

Director of Education & Mentorship  
Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative

”

## COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION WORKING GROUP

This year, FIPI launched a working group to bring together community partners involved in community violence prevention, interruption, and intervention with FIPI researchers. The group seeks to share emerging evidence to support direct service providers, disseminate best practices, and strengthen community-academic partnerships. Representatives from 50 community organizations regularly engage in dialogue on a range of topics, including ERPOs, trauma-informed practices, community member lived experience, and best practices for supporting frontline violence intervention staff.

Throughout the year, the working group grew and maintained strong participation from invited community organizations. Participants report that sessions enhance their professional development, create valuable opportunities for collaboration and networking, and encourage a more unified approach across Denver-metro community violence intervention efforts.



Community Violence Intervention & Prevention Working Group



Led by FIPI, **COFIPS** is an annual, state-representative survey of Coloradans’ perceptions of firearm injury risk and prevention opportunities as well as self-reported firearm access and storage practices. Data on firearm-related harms are limited at the federal and state level, and COFIPS serves to:



**advance our understanding of firearm-related topics**



**inform responsive education and prevention of firearm-related harms**



**monitor trends over time**

FIPI takes pride in sharing COFIPS results with Colorado communities and beyond. COFIPS 2023 has resulted in 15 manuscripts published, under review, or in development and COFIPS 2024 has four planned manuscripts to date. In addition to academic journals, the data is available to Coloradans on the COFIPS.org website and through topic-specific data briefs, webinars, and news coverage.

# PAUSE TO PROTECT

**Pause to Protect (P2P)** is a national program dedicated to promoting firearm safety and injury prevention through an expansive network of firearm ranges and retailers. Recognizing the critical need for suicide prevention among military personnel, P2P partners with firearm businesses near military installations to promote secure storage among service members and their families. By offering flexible participation options - such as distributing discounted locking devices, providing on-site storage, and sharing educational materials - P2P empowers businesses to take easy but impactful steps toward community safety.

First launched near Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, CO, the program has expanded to include 26 businesses near ten military installations, with plans for continued growth. To expand its impact beyond military communities, P2P hosts an online resource hub for businesses nationwide, including tested standard operating procedures, staff guidance, and a national map of businesses offering temporary firearm storage.



Scan or Screenshot



**View COFIPS.org Here**

The annual administration alternates between a state-representative “core survey” conducted during odd-numbered years with adults and a “specialty survey” administered in even-numbered years to specific populations, such as groups at higher risk of firearm injury or groups that support prevention efforts.

In 2024, we administered COFIPS to a representative sample of Colorado law enforcement officers, asking them about their perspectives, needs, and experiences regarding Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) and safe storage laws, and their role in preventing firearm-involved violence.



Scan or Screenshot



**View Pause to Protect Here**

“ More often than not, customers wholeheartedly agree there is effort needed to ensure guns in homes are safe and can’t be mishandled, whether it be with children or adults who are going through tough times. Pause to Protect is a great program that I am proud to be a part of.

**Participating business owner**




Pause to Protect staff at 2025 SHOT Show

# FIPI-LED PUBLICATIONS

-  **Abrams, A. H., Johnson, R. L., Brooks-Russell, A., Betz, M. E., Wright-Kelly, E.** (2025). Racial disparities in concerns and experiences with police-involved shootings among Colorado adults. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 117(1), 36-41.
- Bandel, S. L., Mocerri-Brooks, J., Bond, A. E., Semenza, D., & Anestis, M. D.** (2024). US residents' recognition of proper use of firearm cable locks. *JAMA Network Open*, 7(6), e2415064.
-  **Barnard, L. M., Batta, N., McCarthy, M., Thies, K., Robinson, C., Schultze, M., Betz, M. E., & Knoepke, C. E.** (2024). Implementation of extreme risk protection orders in Colorado from 2020 to 2022: Firearm relinquishment and return and petitioner characteristics. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 44, 102800.
-  **Barnard, L. M., Wright-Kelly, E., Brooks-Russell, A., & Betz, M. E.** (2025). Firearm type and number of people killed in publicly targeted fatal mass shooting events. *JAMA Network Open*, 8(2), e2458085.
- Betz, M. E., Portz, J., Knoepke, C., Ranney, M. L., Fischer, S. M., Peterson, R. A., Johnson, R. L., Omeragic, F., Castaneda, M., Greenway, E., & Matlock, D.** (2024). The effect of the "Safety in Dementia" online tool to assist decision-making for caregivers of persons with dementia and access to firearms: a randomized trial. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 177(12).
- Betz, M. E. & Ranney, M. L.** (2024). Collaboration for firearm injury prevention – asking questions to save lives. *JAMA Network Open*, 7(10), e2441208.
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# From All Angles: Our Continued Commitment

FIPI's second year has been shaped by the expertise, dedication, and shared commitment of our faculty and staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the invaluable support of our funders. Together we have strengthened FIPI's ability to ensure research is translated into meaningful change, support future researchers and practitioners across the field, and amplify the message that everyone has a role in preventing firearm-related harm.

Firearm injury prevention is not the work of one discipline, one organization, or one solution—only by approaching it from all angles can we create a future where our homes and communities are safer. As we look ahead, we do so with a deep sense of responsibility and optimism. This next year we will continue to push the boundaries of research, contribute to real-world solutions, and cultivate new partnerships that bring new perspectives to this critical issue. The challenges ahead are complex, but our collective resolve has never been stronger.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. With your ongoing support, we will continue to advance firearm injury prevention from all angles.

“  
***Firearm injury prevention is not the work of one discipline, one organization, or one solution—only by approaching it from all angles can we create a future where our homes and communities are safer.***  
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Director of Research & Evaluation

**Joe Simonetti, MD, MPH**  
Director of Education & Mentorship



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### RE GUPTA-FITZGERALD

Collaboration &  
Partnerships Coordinator

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FIP-LEAD Manager

### RACHEL JOHNSON, MS

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Program Strategy & Research  
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Graduate Research Assistant

### MATT WETENKAMP

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[firearm.injury@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:firearm.injury@cuanschutz.edu)



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