Common Firearm Safety Practices

- **Prohibiting Unauthorized Access**
  - Precautions or safeguards that ensure access only for those who can responsibly handle a firearm.

- **Conducting Household Safety Checks of Firearms**
  - Regularly checking the location(s) where firearm are kept to see if anything is missing, out of place, etc.

- **Receiving Firearm Safety Training**
  - Courses conducted by trained instructors provide proper education on how to responsibly handle, use, store, and transport firearms.

- **Planning for Temporary Out of Home Storage**
  - Ensuring firearms are securely stored when not in use.

- **Practicing Secure Storage**
  - Ensuring firearms are stored securely to prevent unauthorized access.

**Defining & Prohibiting Unauthorized Access**

- 35% of Colorado firearm owners report themselves as the only household member with authorized access to the firearm(s) in their home.

- 54% of Colorado firearm owners report only their spouses/partners having authorized access in addition to themselves.

**Household Firearm Safety Checks**

- 32% of Colorado firearm owners conduct daily safety checks of their firearms.

- 11% of Colorado firearm owners never conduct safety checks of their firearms.

**Firingarm Safety Training**

- Among Colorado adults who personally own firearms, 3 in 4 have received firearm safety training.

- Among those who live in a home with a firearm but who do not report owning, 1 in 3 have received firearm safety training.

**Protecting Our Homes & Communities**

These common firearm safety practices are components of responsible firearm ownership, and can help prevent:

- Theft and the likelihood stolen firearm(s) be used in criminal activity.

- Unintentional injury and death, especially among young children and older adults.

- Fatal suicide attempts by removing access to a highly lethal method of self-injury.

While these practices should be used by firearm owning households at all times, they are especially important when someone in the home is going through a difficult time and/or crisis.

Regularly revisiting these practices and making temporary adjustments during times of crisis can save lives.

**Half of firearm owners have not fired any of their firearms in the last 12 months.**

Firearm safety experts believe responsible and proficient use of personally-owned firearms - whether for hunting, self-defense, etc. - requires regularly training with them.

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TEMPORARY OUT OF HOME STORAGE
Voluntarily choosing to store firearms away from the home for a short period of time.

Of Colorado adults living in a household with a firearm...

64% report not having a plan for temporary, out-of-home storage in the event that a household member becomes a threat to themselves or others.

26% report having a plan.

10% do not know if their household has a plan.

SECURE STORAGE
Locking your firearm(s) in a location or with a device that prevents unauthorized users from accessing them.

Personal circumstances and motivations for firearm ownership will influence how firearms are stored within a household. Common considerations include:
- When/how often will the firearm(s) be accessed?
- Will locking devices be used? Which device(s)?
- Where will ammunition be stored?

65% of Colorado firearm owners report keeping all of their firearms locked and unloaded.

57% report keeping ammunition in a separate location than their firearm(s).

HOW DO COLORADANS STORE THEIR FIREARMS?
Note: respondents were asked to select all that applied, so totals may not equal 100%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Handguns</th>
<th>Long guns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unlocked, not hidden</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlocked, hidden</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigger lock</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockbox/hard case</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun safe</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable lock</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Away from home</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90% of Colorado firearm owners report using locking devices on at least some firearms, indicating locking devices are common, but not used all of the time and on all devices.

COFIPS is conducted by the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Injury & Violence Prevention Center at the Colorado School of Public Health with funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

The Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey (COFIPS) is a periodic anonymous, online survey that provides state-representative data on a variety of topics related to the impact and prevention of firearm-involved injury and death in Colorado.

Content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the University of Colorado nor the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Office of Gun Violence Prevention.