

HOUSEHOLD FIREARM SAFETY & SECURE STORAGE IN COLORADO 2023

Common Firearm Safety Practices



Prohibiting Unauthorized Access



Conducting Household Safety Checks of Firearms



Receiving Firearm Safety Training



Planning for Temporary Out of Home Storage



Practicing Secure Storage



DEFINING & PROHIBITING UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS

Precautions or safeguards that ensure access only for those who can responsibly handle a firearm.

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

Regularly checking the location(s) where firearm are kept to see if anything is missing, out of place, etc.

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

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



FIREARM SAFETY TRAINING

Courses conducted by trained instructors provide proper education on how to responsibly handle, use, store, and transport firearms.

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.

All data are based on findings from the 2023 Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey.

Suggested citation: University of Colorado School of Medicine Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative. (2024). Household Firearm Safety & Secure Storage in Colorado 2023. <http://www.cofips.org/>



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.



It is recommended that all those in a household - not just the owner of the firearm - be aware of and involved in discussions concerning plans for temporary out-of-home storage, as the owner may be the individual who ends up in a concerning circumstance.

Find storage locations in CO



Difficult times and/or crises are not the only time to consider out-of-home storage. Other reasons include:

- Having children, guests, or tenants staying in your home
- Taking an extended trip/vacation
- Military deployment



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).

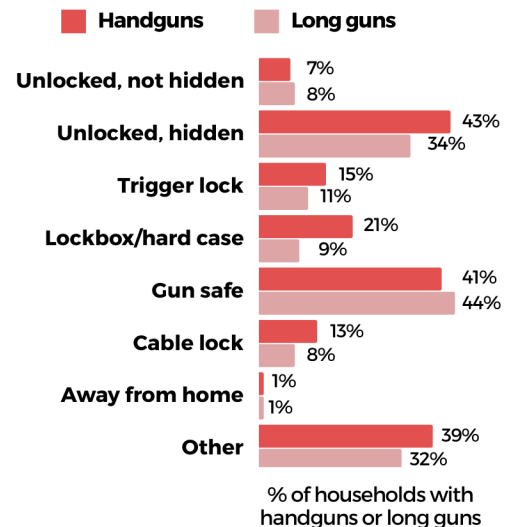
90%



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.

HOW DO COLORADANS STORE THEIR FIREARMS?

Note: respondents were asked to select all that applied, so totals may not equal 100%.



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.

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.



Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



Injury & Violence Prevention Center
colorado school of public health