

## PROFILE OF GUN VIOLENCE: In the Nation and Colorado

According to the CDC, almost 40,000 lives were taken in 2017 by gun violence in our country. From shopping centers, movie theaters, parks, churches, synagogues, medical clinics, beauty shops, offices, college campuses, a night club, music festival, high schools, factory and even an elementary school, there isn't a community space that hasn't been desecrated by gun violence. And this figure doesn't include non-fatal firearm injuries which are more than twice the number of deaths.

While mass shootings dominate the headlines, they only tell part of the story. There were 14,542 gun murders and 23,854 suicides in 2017.

Last year, 888 people died by firearm, producing Colorado's highest gun-death rate per 100,000 people (15.6) since 1986. While we need to do everything in our power to prevent homicides and mass killings like Columbine and the Aurora Theater shooting, there's a mostly silent killer in Colorado that generally doesn't make the front pages

- In 2018, 74% of gun fatalities in Colorado in were suicides
- And firearm suicides, the leading means, make up over 50% of all suicides in Colorado.
- Colorado now has one of the highest suicide rates in the country—and there's been a disturbing increase among youth

### COLORADO FIREARM FATALITIES FROM CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)

| YEAR | TOTAL FIREARM DEATHS | HOMICIDE | SUICIDE | LEGAL INTERVENTION | UNINTENTIONAL | Undetermined Intent | TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS (Colorado Dept. of Transportation) |
|------|----------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| 2014 | 647                  | 101      | 527     | 9                  | Less than 3   | 10                  | 486   |
| 2015 | 698                  | 137      | 541     | 11                 | 3             | 6                   | 586   |
| 2016 | 802                  | 158      | 605     | 21                 | 11            | 7                   | 627   |
| 2017 | 778                  | 159      | 591     | 20                 | 3             | 5                   | 672   |
| 2018 | 888                  | 187      | 658     | 28                 | 8             | 7                   | 632   |

You can research firearm and other fatality data in Colorado, based on coroner reports, at <http://www.cohid.dphe.state.co.us/scripts/htmsql.exe/mortalityPub.hspl>

