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Colorado Targeted Violence Indicators and Risk Factors

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Introduction

This report aims to understand where threat assessment and management training needs are for Colorado K-12, college, and university campuses. The content below summarizes several data sources on risk factors, indicators, and other data that point to targeted violence prevalence and trends.

Threat assessment and management teams are considered best practices for preventing school violence.[1,2] By understanding current targeted violence indicators and risk factor trends, the provision of training can be targeted for communities that may not have had access to training and support opportunities.

Each entry includes a description of the data, justification for its inclusion, and any interpretations or questions that can be reasonably inferred from the information. Wherever possible, visuals are included to reflect trends.

Important Reminder: No assessment of an individual nor analysis of data trends at community or system levels can predict a targeted attack. Targeted violence can happen anywhere at any time. Understanding risk factors, whether at the individual or community level, should not be interpreted as an indicator of where an event is more likely to occur.

All communities need access to the most current and effective measures to prevent a targeted attack; however, resources are always limited, so data, such as the information included below, may help inform the distribution of resources where gaps appear greater.

Key Findings and Recommendations

The Department of Homeland Security and other experts in the targeted violence prevention field have identified many risk factors and indicators of targeted violence. Tracking both indicators and incidents together may inform where to focus efforts when resources are limited.

The factors that were reviewed for trends in this report include the following:
1. Suicide rates by county
2. Public mass shootings by county

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[1] DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships. (2021). DHS Public Awareness Bulletin: Mitigating the Threat of School Violence as the U.S. "Returns to Normal" from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond. https://www.dhs.gov/publication/mitigating-threat-school-violence-us-returns-normal-covid-pandemic-and-beyond

[2] Althari, Ph.D., L., et al. (July 2018). Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model. An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted Violence. United States Secret Service. National Threat Assessment Center.

3. School shootings
4. Colorado targeted attacks
5. School crime and safety indicators
    1. Bullying
    2. Suicide attempts
    3. Suicide plans
    4. Racial discrimination
    5. Avoiding school due to feeling unsafe
    6. Physical fights, and
    7. Sense of belonging
    8. School Emergency Operation Plans and related activities for preventing violence, such as active shooter drills
    9. The availability of mental health providers in schools
    10. Threat assessment data for two Colorado districts
    11. Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE) incidents
    12. DVE internet searches
    13. Hate Groups in Colorado
    14. The availability of targeted violence (or adjacent) services

Key Findings:

For Colorado, as is the case across the nation, the data is mixed and insufficient to paint a complete picture of targeted violence risk factors and indicator trends. Reviewing local data on suicide rates, Healthy Kids, Smart Source, and the School Safety Needs Assessment may inform where to direct resources for targeted violence prevention efforts.

To gain as clear a picture as possible, a heat map incorporating the factors included in this report, minus incidents or indicator categories missing all counties data, was developed to pinpoint where they may be the greatest need for investment in threat assessment and management training (and likely other prevention services).

Nearly all counties (54 out of 64) had at least one factor documented. Meaning that most counties have dealt with some indicator of targeted violence, whether it be a mass shooting or gun violence, high rates of suicide, school safety and crime issues, or activities related to domestic violent extremism. Those with at least three categories made up twenty-seven of the 64 counties. The range of categories documented for any single county was between 1 and 9. Pueblo county was found to have the most categories totaling 9 categories except violence prevention and mental health provider access in schools. Any county with three or more factors is reflected in the heat map below. The more factors per county, the darker the shade of color.

Based on this final heat map, seven counties show the highest amount of indicators and risk factors related to targeted violence, and therefore may benefit from training and other resources related to threat assessment and management, especially when it is known that access to these resources has been minimal or non-existent for a county.
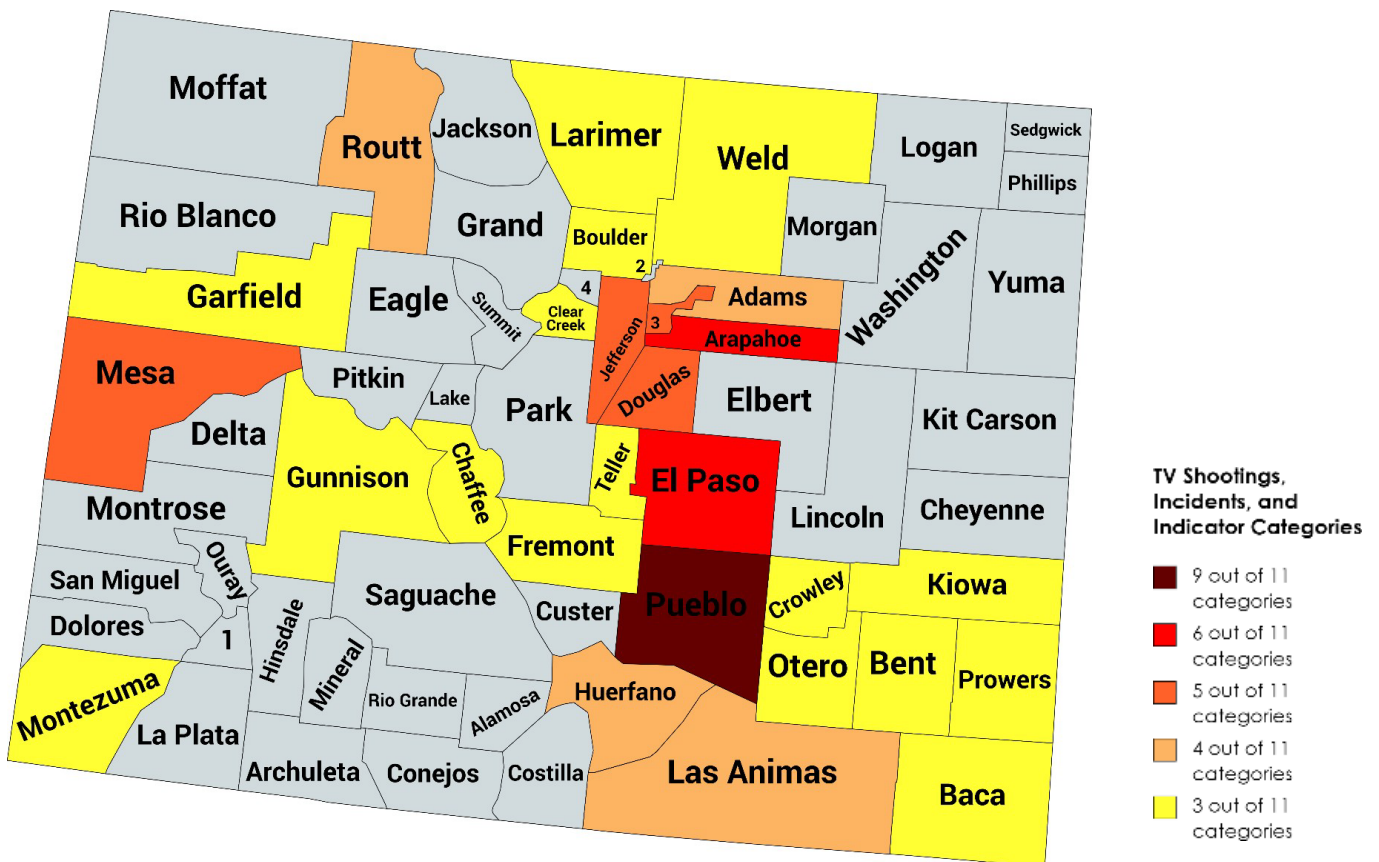1. Pueblo
2. El Paso

3. Arapahoe
4. Denver
5. Jefferson
6. Douglas
7. Mesa

The final heat map of all Targeted Violence categories is included below. A spreadsheet of all categories by county is included in Appendix A.

Combined Targeted Violence Prevention Risk Factors and Indicators

Colorado Heat Map by County
Snapshot March 2023

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment tracking of suicide rates may serve as a model to collect and centralize data on other targeted violence indicators, risks, and protective factors. These metrics can inform statewide planning and focus resources for training, funding, program development, infrastructure, and policy changes.

Tracking indicators informs the nature, extent, and scope of the problem and the development of effective prevention programming. As Colorado expands and strengthens its efforts to

prevent targeted violence, implementation of data collection and information-sharing will be essential to making the best use of resources while gaining more knowledge and establishing evidence for how we prevent future attacks.

Recommendations for Data Tracking:

1. The effort to locate sources for this report has illuminated the need to track gun violence, risk factors, and other indicators statewide. Statewide tracking of other targeted violence indicators, like suicide rates, should be driven by and agreed upon by diverse counties and district stakeholders in order to increase buy-in. Their input should ensure the right data is collected and in a manner that is feasible to them.
2. Underfunded districts may benefit from access to easily manageable infrastructure and systems for data tracking.
3. Data collection and information-sharing practices should be standardized to the extent possible, and implemented in a manner that helps funnel support versus more punitive methods that prevent districts from wanting to collect and share what they learn.
4. A centralized data vortex on targeted violence indicators should be established.
5. More research exploring the correlation between types of violence is needed and can inform opportunities for research, joint prevention, and intervention.
6. The following should be tracked:
   a. Threat assessment cases
   b. Interventions and results
   c. Number and locations of established teams
   d. Number and types of training provided, and to whom.
7. Finally, reports that compile targeted violence factors should be disseminated on a regular basis to inform funding and prevention planning efforts for the State of Colorado.

Methodology

The approach to gathering data for this report is the sourcing of existing data from reports or databases. Indicators that correlate to targeted violence, such as suicide, school safety, and gun violence were reviewed. Where possible local data is included to project where threat assessment and management needs may be most prevalent.

COVID-19 played an outsized role in many facets of daily life for people across the United States and globally. The data collected during this time period is likely an inaccurate depiction of targeted violence and disrupts data trajectories. For example, many students were out of school in 2020, so data on proxy indicators for targeted violence, like disorderly conduct, show a dip for that school year. Therefore, the defined timeframe for data spans the years 2016-2022 to compare data pre-and post-pandemic. In some cases, prior years were available; in others, data going back to 2016 was unavailable.

Table 1

Data Sources

Type of Data	Year	Source
Online Heat Map Domestic Violence Extremism	2022	ADL. H.E.A.T. Map (2022). https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-to-track-hate/heat-map.
Threat Assessment Internal Tracking Database	2020-2023	Urban Public School District. Threat Assessment Data. Accessed September 2022.
Online Colorado Suicide M0rtality Database	2022	Colorado Department of Public Safety. (2022). Suicide Mortality Rate Database. Accessed September 15, 2022.
Online database of SmartSource survey results	2021	Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source. (2021). Smart Source Survey. Colorado School of Public Health. Department of Public Health and Environment. https://cdphe.colorado.gov/prevention-and-wellness/healthy-eating-and-active-living/health/personal-and-family-health/youth. Access March 2023.
Online Dashboard of Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Data	2021	Colorado School of Public Health. (2021). Healthy Kids Colorado Survey: Technical Documentation 2021. Colorado Department of Public Health, Colorado Department of Human services, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Department of Education. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zr9uyWRn5TYYLm2tX12o9QqDseGB3Gw9/view. Accessed March 2023.
Online archive of gun violence incidents	2016-2022	Gun Violence Archive (GVA) (2023). Online archive of gun violence incidents. https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/. Accessed March 2023.
Threat Assessment Internal Tracking Database	2018-2023	Jefferson County Public Schools. Threat Assessment Data. Accessed September 2023.
Online database K-12 School shootings		K-12 School Shooting Database. (2023). https://k12ssdb.org/. Accessed March 2023.
Report	2019	Lehnerz, C. (2019). Colorado School Safety Resource Center Needs Assessment Survey Results: Emergency Operations Plans. October 2019. Compliance and Professional Standards Office.Colorado Department of Public Safety.
Report	2023	Moonshot CVE (2023). Adjacent Violence Prevention Services: State of Colorado.

Report	2023	Moonshot CVE. (2023). February 2023 Online DVE Searches.
Report	2021	National Center for Education Statistics (IES). (2021). Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety. U.S. Department of Education. U.S. Department of Justice. National Center for Education Statistics at IED https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/crime-and-safety.
Colorado Department of Education Database	2019-2022	Schoolview Data Center. (n.d.). Colorado Department of Education (CDE). https://edx.cde.state.co.us/SchoolView/DataCenter/reports.jspx?_adf_ctrl-state=pac20phbp_4&_afrLoop=13658640851607103&_afrWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=11yzt404k9_29. Accessed March 2023.Online
Online Heat Map of Hate Groups	2021	Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). (2021). Hate Groups in Colorado. https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map?state=CO. Accessed January 2023.
Online database of public mass shootings	2016-2022	The Violence Project. (2022). Public Mass Shootings Database https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/public-mass-shootings- database-amasses-details-half-century-us-mass-shootings.Accessed September 2022.
Online Heat Map of Hate Groups	2021	Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). (2021). Hate Groups in Colorado. https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map?state=CO. Accessed January 2023.
Online database of public mass shootings	2016-2022	The Violence Project. (2022). Public Mass Shootings Database https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/public-mass-shootings- database-amasses-details-half-century-us-mass-shootings. Accessed September 2022.

Limitations

This report is not comprehensive of all data sources, nor is local data always representative of all Colorado regions. For example, some regions of Colorado consistently refrain from submitting data or responding to surveys. Furthermore, whether all counties/school districts have a threat assessment team or are tracking data is unknown. In some cases, local data was only accessible because of close relationships or professional roles within certain communities.

Additionally, gun violence data is not tracked for Colleges and Universities. Only one article was found detailing information specific to Colleges.[3] None of the data was specific to Colorado, so trends and indicators specific to colleges and universities in Colorado are not included.

Furthermore, there appears to be a correlation between population and number of incidents. However, when incidents like mass shootings, gun violence, or domestic violent extremism incidents are weighted by both population and density, the picture of risk shifts, yet no pattern emerges. This suggests there are other factors outside of population driving incidents. Data on incidents, indicators, and other variables like political affiliation or access to weapons overtime, will be important to identify and track.

Finally, with a lower base rate, it will always be difficult to draw conclusions about trends. The data compiled is insufficient to conclude threat assessment and management needs outright. However, it can serve as directional and, therefore, informative about where the focus for threat assessment and management training may be most beneficial.

Ultimately, the balance of risk and threat is important, which means we have to look at each individual case and how interventions are impacting each case. This approach is dynamic, and can be informative for prevention overtime, and why threat assessment and management is so critical to preventing targeted violence.

Therefore, we need to continue focusing efforts on establishing threat assessment and management across the state through training and other implementation efforts, while tracking data overtime, and providing interventions in both rural and urban areas until the variables of population and other potential driving factors are more fully understood.

The following summarizes data sources related to trends, risk factors, and targeted violence indicators. Where possible data is presented that highlights information specific to Colorado counties and regions with higher rates. As mentioned, because of data collection and access

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[3] Welding, L. (2023). Shootings at Colleges: U.S. Statistics. Best Colleges.
https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/college-shootings-statistics/#shootings-at-colleges-1966-2022

limitations, the information provided is not conclusive, but provides direction on where training on threat assessment and management may be most needed.

Each entry provides a brief description of the source and data, reasons for including the data, and any inferences that can be made.

Public Mass Shootings: Database

The Violence Project Database houses open-source data collected on public mass shootings from 1966 to the most currently available data.
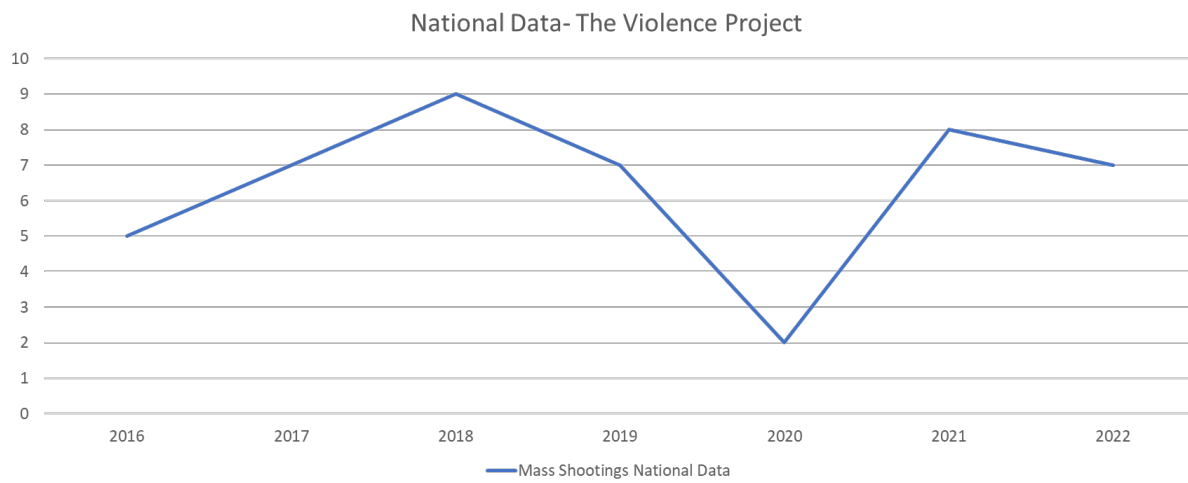
The Violence Project defines Mass Shootings according to the Congressional Research Service definition,"…a multiple homicide incident in which four or more victims are murdered with firearms—not including the offender(s)—within one event, and at least some of the murders occurred in a public location or locations in close geographical proximity (e.g., a workplace, school, restaurant, or other public settings), and the murders are not attributable to any other underlying criminal activity or commonplace circumstance (armed robbery, criminal competition, insurance fraud, argument, or romantic triangle)."[4]

Abstracted from the National Institute of Justice report on Public Mass Shootings (2022), the following highlights the increasing trend of mass shootings.

> *"The project spanned mass shootings over more than 50 years, yet 20% of the 167 mass shootings in that period occurred in the last five years of the study period. More than half occurred after 2000, of which 33% occurred after 2010. The years with the highest number of mass shootings were 2018, with nine, and 1999 and 2017, each with seven. Sixteen of the 20 deadliest mass shootings in modern history (i.e., from 1966 through 2019), occurred between 1999 and 2019, and eight of those sixteen occurred between 2014 and 2019. The death toll has risen sharply, particularly in the last decade. In the 1970s, mass shootings claimed an average of eight lives per year. From 2010 to 2019, the end of the study period, the average was up to 51 deaths per year."*

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[4] National Institute of Justice. (2022). Public Mass Shootings: Database Amasses Details of a Half Century of U.S. Mass Shootings with Firearms, Generating Psychosocial Histories. National Institute of Justice. https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/public-mass-shootings-database-amasses-details-half-century-us-mass-shootings. U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Accessed September 2022

The Violence Project - Mass Shootings Nationwide
Years 2016-2022

National Data- The Violence Project

The data, translated into a line graph above, demonstrates the national upward trend (minus the 2020 pandemic outlier) in mass shootings. Three Colorado mass shootings are documented in the Violence Project Database from 2016 to 2022. In 2021, two shootings occurred, one in Boulder and the other in Denver. The third shooting occurred in 2022 in Colorado Springs. Because mass shootings are rare, it is difficult to use the data on its own to identify trends at a state level. A more helpful indicator for tracking trends may be gun violence.

Gun Violence Archive

The Gun Violence Archive offers a broader definition of mass shootings, "a minimum of four victims shot, either injured or killed, not including any shooter who may also have been killed or injured in the incident." [5]This definition does include drug-related, gang, and domestic violence incidents.

The broader definition results in a more significant number of incidents and presents a more steady incline from 2016 to present, both nationally and locally.

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[5] Gun Violence Archive (GVA) (2023). Online archive of gun violence incidents. https://www.gunviolencearchive.org. Accessed March 2023.

Gun Violence Archive Mass Shootings Nationwide and Colorado
Years 2016-2022
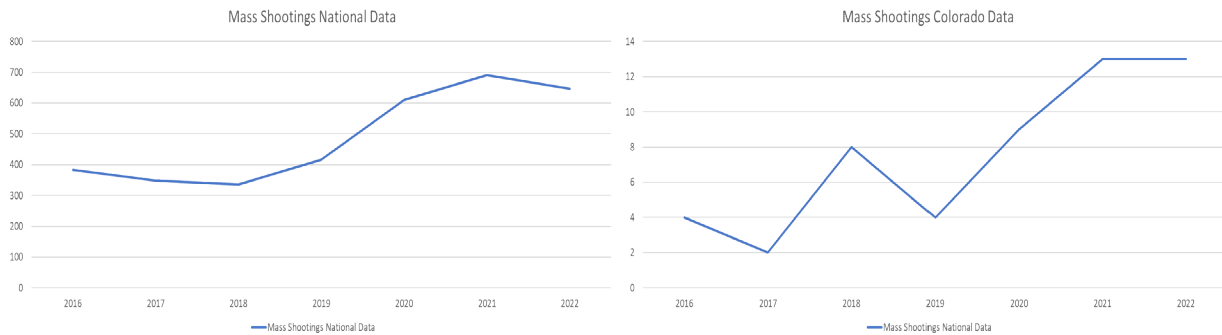
Although commonly used definitions of targeted violence exclude "domestic or gang violence (Mccain Institute, 2023)[6]", a broader definition that includes people wounded over casualties and instances of domestic and gang violence may be a better metric for tracking trends. Whether successful or not, the intent to end as many lives as possible is what experts are working to prevent.

Furthermore, criminal activity is an indicator of post-radicalization violence.[7] Tracking crime, especially violent incidents like mass shootings, may provide upstream data on where to direct threat assessment and management training and support.

The Gun Violence archive shows that gun violence is on the rise. From the years 2016 to 2022, a total of 55 mass shootings took place in the State of Colorado. The incidents are concentrated in only 11 of Colorado's 64 counties. Most counties with documented incidents represent the most densely populated areas. As of the 2020 census, Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe counties are the most densely populated areas per square mile and had the most documented incidents. Jefferson, Boulder, Adams, Douglas, and El Paso are the next most populated areas in Colorado and are considered primarily urban. Pueblo and Mesa include a mixture of urban and rural areas with populations ranging from 48-72 people per square mile. Routt and Conejos were the only counties with majority rural populations with only 6-11 people per square mile.

The cities of Denver, Aurora, and Colorado Springs represent nearly three-quarters (75.54%) of all incidents totaling 41 mass shootings. The number of incidents in rural counties saw an uptick in 2020-2021, but the trend did not continue in 2022.

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[6] McCain Institute. (2023, March 11). Preventing Domestic Terrorism & Targeted Violence | McCain Institute. https://www.mccaininstitute.org/programs/preventing-targeted-violence

[7] Jensen, M.A., Safer-Lichtenstein, A., James, P.A., LaFree, G. (2020). The Link Between Prior Criminal Record and Violent Political Extremism in the United States. In: Weisburd, D., Savona, E.U., Hasisi, B., Calderoni, F. (eds) Understanding Recruitment to Organized Crime and Terrorism. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-36639-1_6

Gun violence Archive
Number of Mass Shootings Per Colorado County/City
Years 2016-2022

Locations	2016 (4 incidents)	2017 (2 incidents)	2018 (8 incidents)	2019 (4 Incidents)	2020 (11 Incidents)	2021 (13 Incidents)	2022 (13 Incidents)
Locations	3 Denver 1 Arvada	1 Littleton (Highlands Ranch) 1 Capulin	Colorado Springs (2) Denver (2) Aurora (2) Thornton Westminster	Denver (2) Littleton (Highlands Ranch) Aurora	Aurora (2) Brighton Denver (5) Commerce City (2) Pueblo	Oak Creek Grand Junction Boulder Colorado Springs (2) Aurora (4) Denver (3) Littleton (Lakewood)	Denver (6) Colorado Springs (5) Aurora (2)

Gun Violence Archive
Colorado Mass Shootings Urban and Rural
Years 2016-2022

Urban versus Rural
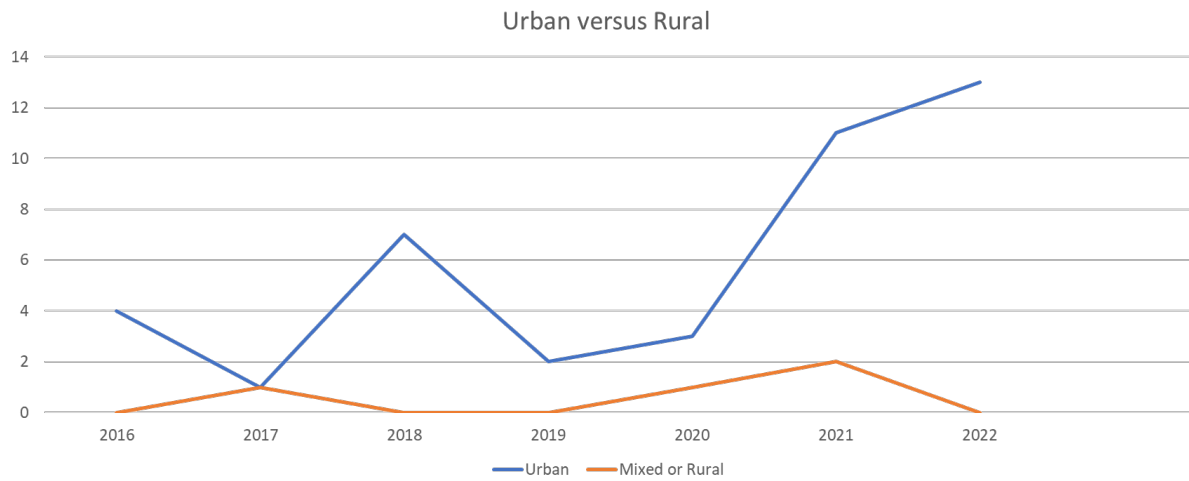
Gun Violence Archive
Colorado Mass Shootings by County
Years 2016-2022
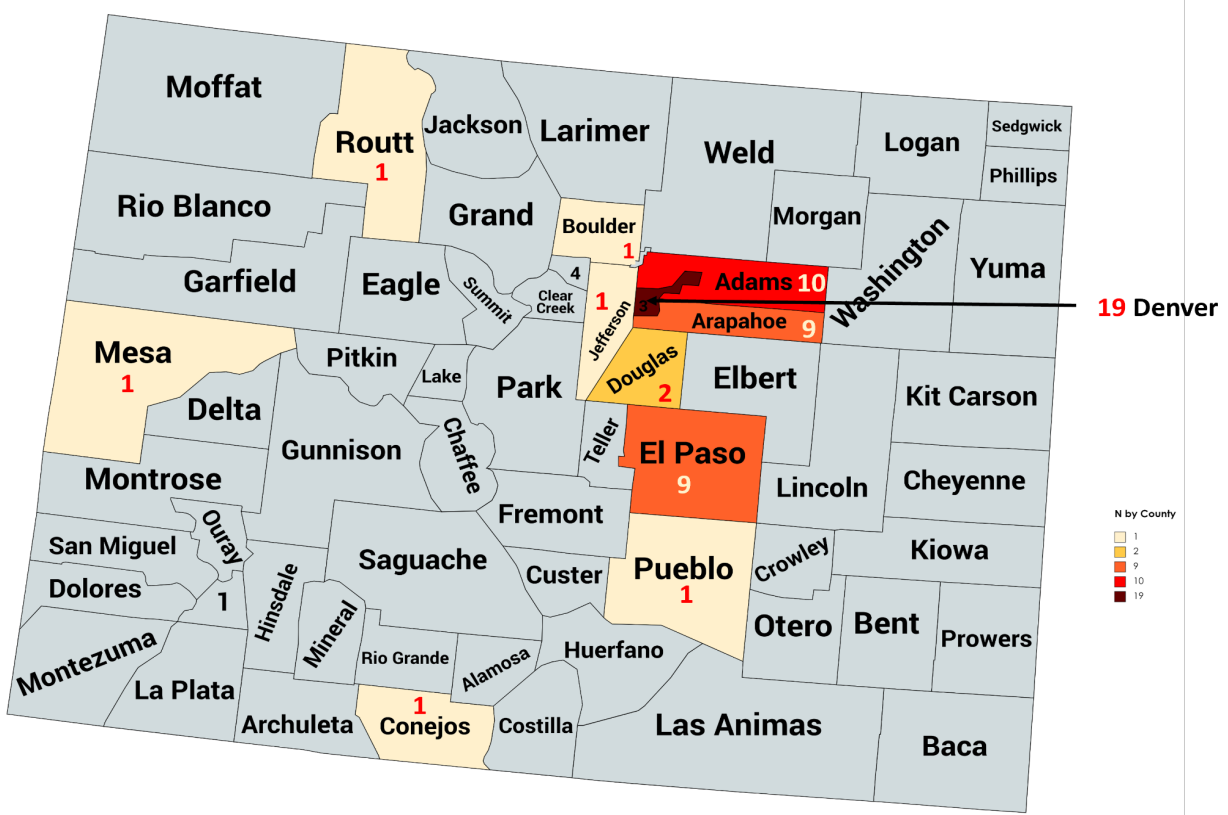
There appears to be some correlation between population and the number of incidents that occur; however, lowest density areas will tend to skew higher because the rate of incidents per capita is high. For example, when weighted for population density, Conejos and Routt counties rise to the top with single incidents. Nonetheless, El Paso rises to third under Conejos and Routt, suggesting the risk may be higher for this county. When weighted for population alone, Conejos and Routt remain at the top, but Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, and El Paso counties quickly follow, which may mean that these primarily urban areas are also at greater risk for further incidents.

Gun Violence Archive
Colorado Mass Shootings by County and Population Density
Years 2016-2022

County/City	Population	Rank by pop	Density per mile	N of Mass Shootings	I/D	Rank by I/D	I/Population	Rank by I/P
Conejos: Capulin	7221	11	6	1	0.1666666667	11	0.0001384849744	11
Routt: Oak Creek	25225	10	11	1	0.09090909091	10	0.0000396432111	10
Denver	750130	2	4903	19	0.0038751785	3	0.00002532894298	9
*Adams: Commerce City, Thornton, Brighton, Aurora	542963	5	2411	10	0.004147656574	4	0.00001841746123	8
*Arapahoe: Aurora	679991	3	852	9	0.0105633803	6	0.00001323546929	7
El Paso: Colorado Springs	762834	1	358	9	0.0251396648	9	0.00001179811073	6
Mesa	158397	9	48	1	0.02083333333	8	0.000006313250882	5
Pueblo	170892	8	72	1	0.01388888889	7	0.000005851648995	4
Douglas: Highlands Ranch	379731	6	452	2	0.004424778761	5	0.000005266886296	3
Boulder	341615	7	471	1	0.002123142251	2	0.000002927271929	2
Jefferson County: Arvada, Lakewood, Westminster	597421	4	782	1	0.001278772379	1	0.000001673861481	1

* Adams and Arapahoe share the same Aurora Police Department

K-12 School Shooting Database

The K-12 School Shooting Database provides national and local data on school shootings in the United States. The database provides data specific to active shooter events, defined as "when a shooter kills or wounded victims during a continuous episode of violence. The incident includes both targeted and random cases".[8]

Accounting for the outlier of 2020, active shooter incidents on school grounds began a decline nationally starting in 2021. However, it will not be clear whether this is a trend for several more years.

Although Colorado data cannot be filtered by active shooter incidents, school shooting incidents followed a similar trajectory, with a decline beginning in 202 (although less significant). (Colorado data includes escalated disputes, indiscriminate shootings, drive-by shootings, accidental suicide, and hostage standoffs)

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[8] K-12 School Shooting Database. (2023). https://k12ssdb.org/. Accessed March 2023.

K-12 School Shooting Database
Active Shooter Incidents Nationwide
Years 2016-2022

K-12 Active Shooter incidents

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mass Shootings	4	6	11	7	1	9	3
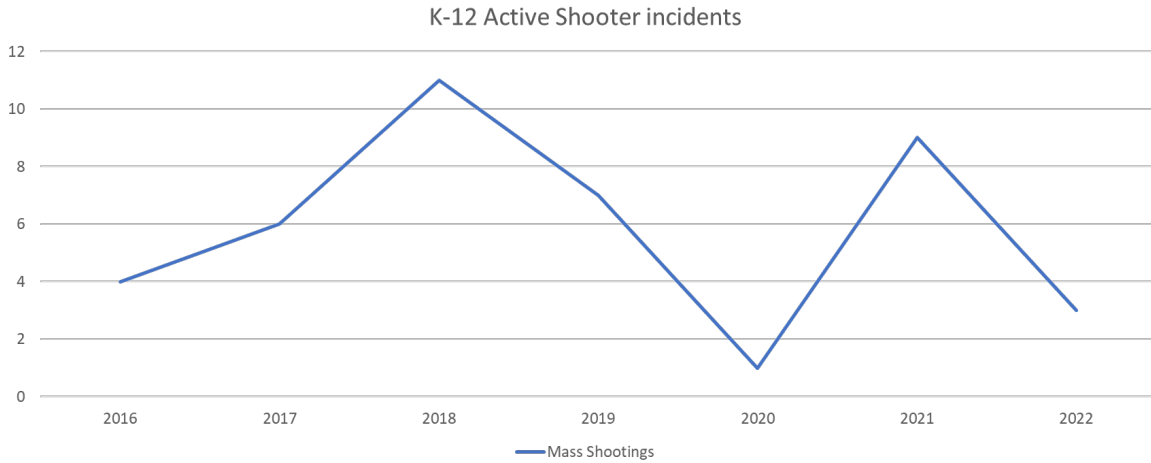
K-12 School Shooting Database
Colorado School Shooting Incidents
Years 2016-2022

Colorado K-12 School Shooting Incidents

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	3	1	1	5	1	5	4
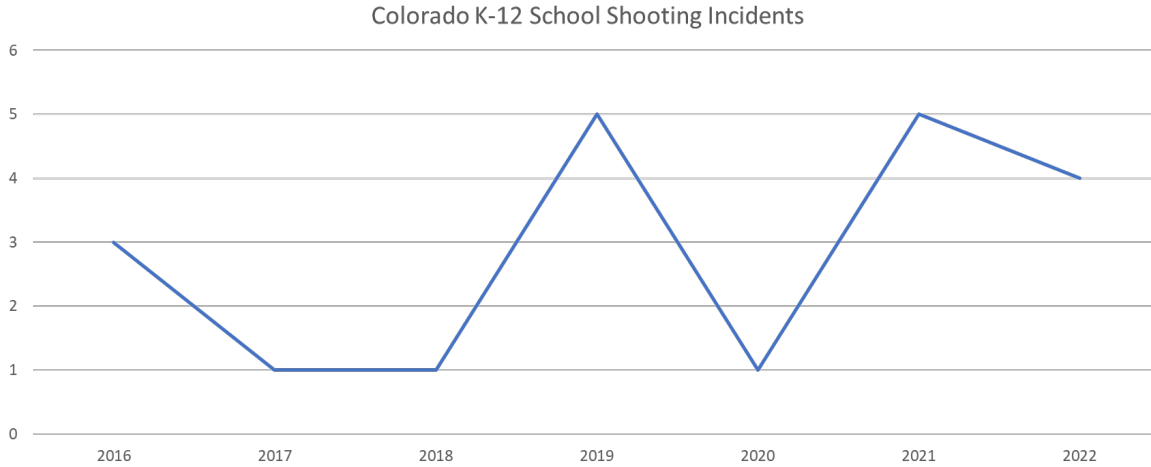
Incidents were largely located in urban areas, with a handful of incidents occurring in more mixed rural and urban counties like Weld, Pueblo, Mesa, and Douglas.

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K-12 School Shooting Database
Colorado School Shooting by Location
Years 2016-2022

	2016 (3)	2017 (1)	2018 (1)	2019 (5)	2020 (1)	2021 (5)	2022 (4)
Location	Berthoud [Weld] High School Grand Junction [Mesa] High School Pueblo High School	Denver High School	Denver Middle School	Sheridan [Denver] High School Colorado Springs [El Paso] Middle School Highlands Ranch [Douglas] K-12 Aurora [Arapahoe] 6-12; High School	Erie (Weld) High School	Aurora [Arapahoe] High School Colorado x2 Springs [El Paso] High School Elementary Arvada [Jefferson] High School Game Denver High School	Highlands Ranch x2 [Douglas] High School Middle School Pueblo Middle School Denver (Elementary)

(n) = number of incidents
[County] If not both city and county

Mass shootings and gun violence are important to track. There is evidence of a contagion effect, and in some cases perpetrators that admire a previous attacker may target populations and settings from prior attacks.[9,10] However, mass shootings are still rare and data sets are small. Relying on indicators and risk factors data is an important element to identifying trends and needs. Furthermore, violence incident data does not capture information on what has been prevented nor does it inform emerging trends. Indicators like suicide or school bullying provide clues as to where to focus interventions to prevent an attack before it occurs.

Suicide Mortality Rate

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

CDPHE tracks suicide rates by county. Data was abstracted from the CDPHE website in September 2022. "These data represent the Age-Adjusted Colorado Census Tract Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Persons for Suicide as the Underlying Cause of Death (2015-2019). Population estimates for the denominator are calculated from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey. These data are from the CDPHE Vital Records Death Dataset and are published annually."[11]

Perpetrators of targeted violence present with both homicidal and suicidal behavioral indicators.[1]According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, suicidal ideation and other mental health challenges are risk factors for targeted violence in schools. Practitioners and research of targeted violence note that perpetrators of targeted violence consider suicide and a

[9] Nicoletti Ph.D, ABPP, J. Camblin Psy. D., A, Green PhD., K., and Dvoskina Psy, D, M. (2023). Review of Colorado Targeted Violence Attacks Between 1993 and March of 2023. Nicoletti-Flater and Associates.
[10]Pescara-Kovach, PhD, L., Raleigh, PhD, M.J (2017). The Contagion Effect as it Relates to Public Mass Shootings and Suicides. The Journal of Campus Behavioral Intervention. 2017:V5.
[11] Colorado Department of Public Safety. (2022). Suicide Mortality Rate Database. Accessed September, 2022.

significant subset of those go on to commit a violent act and end their lives afterward.[12,13,14]

CDPHE Suicide Mortality Rate Database
Colorado School Shooting Incidents
Snapshot September, 2022
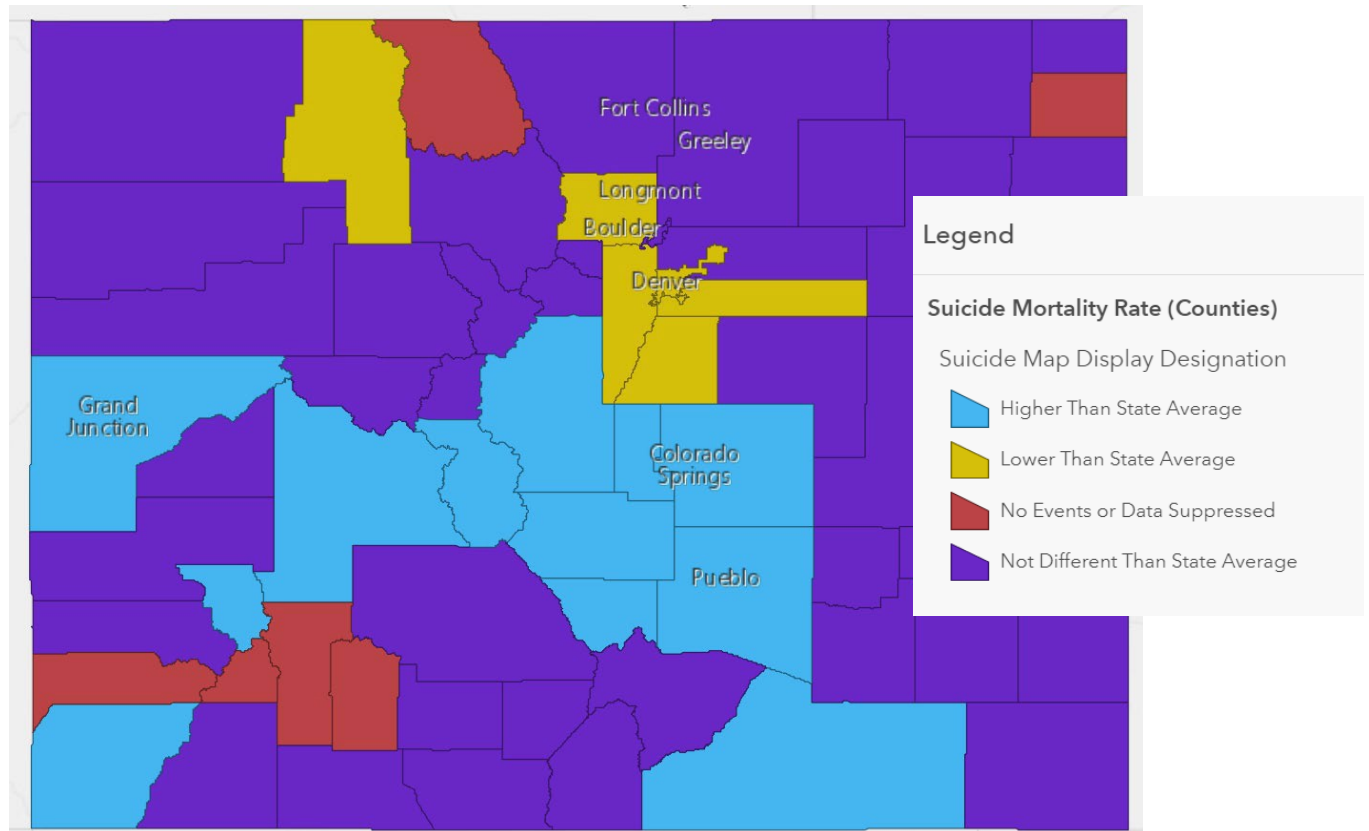
In a 2022 National Institute of Justice report on Mass Shootings, "Suicidality was found to be a strong predictor of perpetration of mass shootings. Of all mass shooters in the Violence Project database, 30% were suicidal before the shooting. An additional 39% were suicidal during the shooting. Those numbers were significantly higher for younger shooters. K-12 students who engaged in mass shootings were found to be suicidal 92% of the time, and college/university students who engaged in mass shootings were suicidal 100% of the time."[3]

Additionally, some research indicates there are shared behavioral indicators between homicide and suicide, including bullying and risk-taking. Connections between partner violence and suicidal ideation have also been made, suggesting correlates across the spectrum of violent perpetrators. "Correlation analysis revealed that perpetrators and victims of physical assault had

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[12] Meloy, J. R., Mohandie, K., Hempel, A., & Shiva, A. (2001). The violent true believer: Homicidal and suicidal states of mind (HASSOM). *Journal of Threat Assessment*, *1*(4), 1-15.
[13] Blair, J. Pete, and Schweit, Katherine W. (2014). A Study of Active Shooter Incidents, 2000 - 2013. Texas State University and Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C. 2014
[14] Meloy, J. R., Hempel, A. G., Gray, B. T., Mohandie, K., Shiva, A., & Richards, T. C. (2004). A comparative analysis of North American adolescent and adult mass murderers. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, *22*(3), 291-309.

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an increased rate of suicidal ideation.[15]

Therefore, areas in Colorado with a higher prevalence of suicidality, especially in school settings, may be a proxy indicator for identifying where more targeted violence prevention support, including threat assessment and management training, is needed. The counties indicating a higher prevalence than the state average include: Las Animas, Pueblo, Custer, Fremont, El Paso, Teller, Park, Chafee, Gunnison, ORay, Montezuma, and Mesa counties.

School Safety

In addition to suicide and gun violence, statistics related to school culture, climate, and safety may also be indicators for threat assessment and management training needs. The following information captures data on targeted violence indicators and risk factors for K-12 schools. No database tracks college or university data either nationally or locally.

[The Department of Homeland Security Brief on Mitigating the Threat of School Violence](#), outlines statistics captured by the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC). In addition to observable psychological symptoms like suicidal ideation or depression, the Brief highlights behavioral factors such as defiance, poor impulse control, and violation of social norms as risk factors of targeted violence. In 91% of cases, school attackers had observable symptoms that fell within these categories. In addition, in 83% of cases, attackers threatened others or communicated interest in an attack, 80% were bullied by classmates, and 63% showed signs of severe depression, sadness, or isolation.[1]

Similarly, [the Institute of Education Sciences reports](#) on school crime and safety indicators yearly.[16] The indicators tracked are as follows:

- Violent Deaths and School Shootings
- Criminal Victimization Experienced by Students
- Student Reports of Bullying Victimization
- Incidents and Discipline Problems Reported by Public Schools
- Gangs and Hate-Related Speech
- Fights, Weapons, and Illegal Substances
- Student Perceptions of School Safety
- Teacher Reports of Victimization and School Order
- Discipline, Safety, and Security Practices
- Mental Health Services Provided by Public Schools
- Postsecondary Campus Safety and Security

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[15] Chan, K.L., Straus, M.A., Brownridge, D.A., Tiwari, A. and Leung, W.C. (2008). Prevalence of Dating Partner Violence and Suicidal Ideation Among Male and Female University Students Worldwide. Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health, 53: 529-537. https://doi-org.aurarialibrary.idm.oclc.org/10.1016/j.jmwh.2008.04.016
[16] National Center for Education Statistics (IES). (2021). Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety. U.S. Department of Education. U.S. Department of Justice. National Center for Education Statistics at IED https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/crime-and-safety

According to the 2021 report, many indicators, such as nonfatal victimization, hate-related speech, crime, and discipline problems, are trending downward nationally. Additionally, the provision of mental health screening and services continues to increase. School shootings with casualties, however, were at their highest since the 2000-2001 report.

Unfortunately, many indicators did not include comparison data, nor was data available at the state level, and data is only available for K-12 schools. Indicators without comparison data include bullying, school fights, alcohol use, illicit drug use, fear of attack (students and teachers), written emergency procedures such as active shooter or natural disaster, and hate crimes.

Institute of Education Sciences
Number of School Shootings with Casualties
Years 2000-2020

Figure 1. Number of school shootings with casualties at public and private elementary and secondary schools: 2000–01 through 2020–21
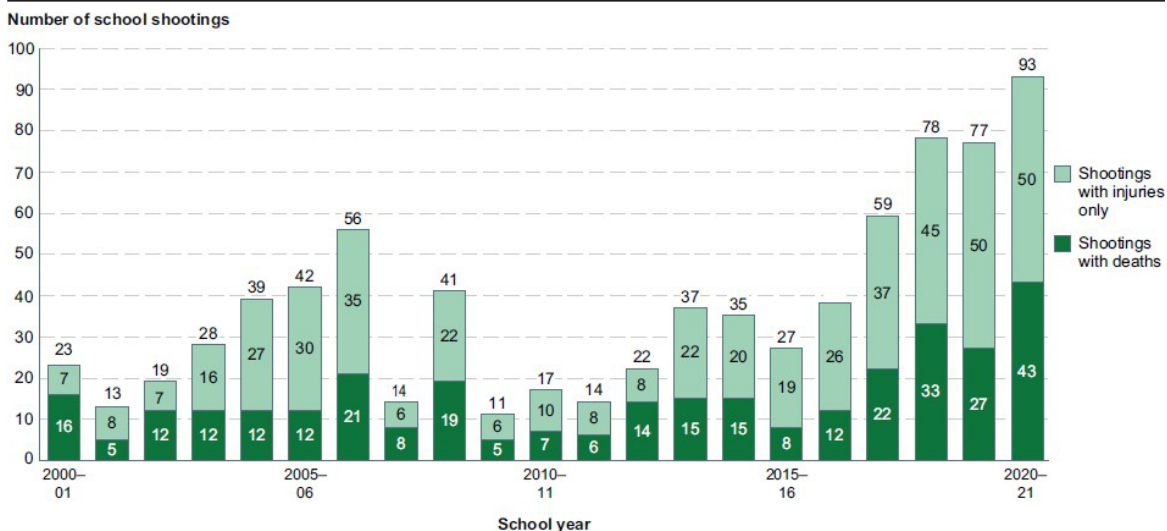
NOTE: "School shootings" include all incidents in which a gun is brandished or fired or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number of victims (including zero), time, day of the week, or reason (e.g., planned attack, accidental, domestic violence, gang-related). All data are reported for the school year, defined as July 1 through June 30. Data in this figure were generated using a database that aims to compile information on school shootings from publicly available sources into a single comprehensive resource. For information on database methodology, see *K–12 School Shooting Database: Research Methodology* (https://www.chds.us/ssdb/resources/uploads/2020/09/CHDS-K12-SSDB-Research-Methods-Sept-2020.pdf). Due to school closures caused by the coronavirus pandemic, caution should be used when comparing 2019–20 and 2020–21 data with data from earlier years. Some data have been revised from previously published figures.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Defense, Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security, K–12 School Shooting Database. Retrieved September 16, 2021, from https://www.chds.us/ssdb/. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2021*, table 228.12.

These factors highlighted by NTAC and National Center for Education provide useful direction on the types of data points to collect at regional, state, and local levels. The indicators may be helpful to identify potential areas of need for threat assessment and management training.

Colorado Schools Data Sources

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center's (CSSRC) mission is to "assist schools and communities in creating safe and positive school environments for Colorado students."[17] CSSRC supports schools and local agencies in the five missions of school safety preparedness: prevention, mitigating, protection, response, and recovery. As part of supporting prevention and

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[17] Colorado School Safety Resource Center (n.d.). https://cssrc.colorado.gov/resources/statistics-research

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mitigation, the resource center links to available statistics and research relevant to Colorado schools.

CSSRC links to research and statistics relevant to the indicators identified by NTAC and the National Center for Education:
- The Colorado Department of Education Data Center
- The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey
- Smart Source
- Colorado School Safety Resource Center Needs Assessment

The Colorado Department of Education Data Center collects data on accountability, performance, students, staff, finance, courses offered, and health.[18] The data is presented for the last three school years of 2019-2022 and shows that the number of incidents and disciplinary actions taken shows a slight uptick, with an expected dip during the pandemic year of 2020.

Colorado Department of Education Data Center
Conduct Incidents and Disciplinary Actions
School Years 2019/2020-2021/2022
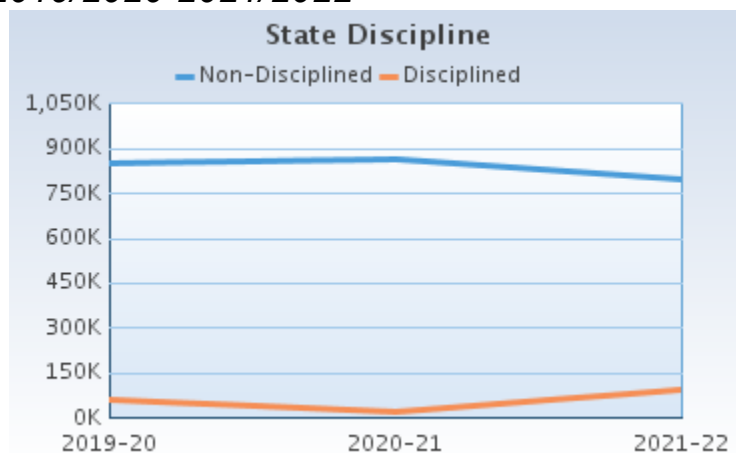
Conduct is defined by local codes of conduct and or state statutes and includes several behaviors. The behaviors that correlate with NTAC of the National Center for Education categories are included below and show an increase between 2019-2020 and 2021-2022, with a dip during 2020.

Third-degree assaults, disorderly conduct, dangerous weapons, destruction of school property, and sexual violence showed increases; however, because the timeframe provided is small and the pandemic year of 2020 is an outlier, it is unclear whether increases are trending.

Colorado Department of Education Data Center
Incidents related to Risk Factors and Indicators of Targeted Violence
School Years 2019/2020-2021/2022

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[18] Schoolview Data Center. (n.d.). Colorado Department of Education (CDE). https://edx.cde.state.co.us/SchoolView/DataCenter/reports.jspx?_adf_ctrl-state=pac20phbp_4&_afrLoop=13658640851607103&_afrWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=11yzt404k9_29 Accessed March 2023.

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Percent increase between schools years 2019/2020 and 2021/2022:

- 3rd Degree Assaults/Disorderly Conduct = 49% increase
- Dangerous Weapons = 115%
- Destruction of school property = 110%
- Sexual violence = 44%

Incident	19-20 #	20-21 #	21-22 #
1st,2nd Degree or Vehicular Assaults	110	66	144
3rd Degree Assaults/Disorderly Conduct	3656	952	5436
Alcohol	623	186	967
Dangerous Weapons	504	309	1086
Destruction of School Property	1026	380	2153
Detrimental Behavior	26773	10082	36293
Disobedient	27262	6701	22827
Drug	1293	429	1969
Marijuana	3017	790	4310
Other Code of Conduct	23497	9216	20084
Other Felony	69	27	116
Robbery	114	39	120
Sexual Violence	36	37	52
Tobacco	2966	1383	5366
Total	90946	30597	100923

Colorado statute SB163 Education Accountability Act requires schools to track health statistics, but metrics are primarily related to physical health. Revision of the statute to include school safety, crime, and mental health categories, like the provision of assessments and treatment, would provide an opportunity to track data valuable to preventing school violence.

Although conduct metrics are included, the data is not aggregated by region, county, or district. Aggregation of the data is beyond this project's scope. However, it would be valuable to group indicators relevant to targeted violence risk factors by county or district to assess threat assessment and management training needs, in future projects.

Overall, the available data at the state level on safety and conduct suggest schools are becoming less safe.

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) is widely-administered across Colorado and surveys the health and well-being of young people, school health policies, and practices related to youth health. The HKCS collects self-reported information from students in public middle and high schools.[19]

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[19] Colorado School of Public Health. (2021). Healthy Kids Colorado Survey: Technical Documentation 2021. Colorado Department of Public Health, Colorado Department of Human services, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Department of Education. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zr9uyWRn5TYYLm2tX12o9QqDseGB3Gw9/view. Access March 2023.

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The survey is administered every two years and captures some indicators correlating with the National Center for Education indicators on school crime and safety. The HKCS dashboard includes metrics on:

1. Students who have ever been bullied on school property
2. Students who have ever been bullied electronically bullied
3. Students who attempted suicide one of more times during the past 12 months
4. Students who made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12
5. Students who were treated badly or unfairly in school because of their race or ethnicity
6. Students who did not go to school one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school
7. Students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months
8. Students who strongly agree that they belong at their school

The Healthy Kids Colorado survey dashboard provides regional maps (organized by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environments 21 health statistics regions). The maps display the results of each health measure. The regions indicating higher rates are included in the matrix below.

Some regions have higher rates on several safety measures. The most prominent is Region 17, which includes Park, Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Teller counties. Region 17 displayed higher rates in six of the eight categories. This region is primarily mountainous, and according to Colorado census statistics, Region 17 ranks as one of the least diverse regions in the state, with all counties comprising 85% or more reporting 'white alone. In addition, none.' of the counties rank as a high-poverty area.

Region 7 (Pueblo County) was the next county to display higher rates on several measures, including students that made a plan to attempt suicide, those treated poorly due to race or ethnicity, those avoiding school due to safety concerns, and physical fights. In addition, according to the Census Bureau, region 7 is one of the more diverse counties and is considered a high-poverty area.

The following is the list of counties with any region that showed higher rates of suicide planning, bullying, physical fights, lack of safety and unfair treatment due to race.
- Park
- Clear Creek
- Gilpin
- Teller
- Pueblo
- Moffatt
- Rio Blanco
- Routt
- Jackson
- Arapahoe

Not all regions are accurately represented. Data were suppressed due to low response rates for regions in the state's northeast corner, along with the San Luis Valley and Mesa County. Notably, data from these areas are suppressed in other reports, such as the CDPHE suicide

data. These areas include higher poverty counties, are less densely populated, and are likely under-resourced.

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey
Risk factors related to targeted violence - highest ranking counties
Most current data 2021

	Region 3 Douglas	Region 6* Kiowa, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Huerfano, Las Animas, Baca	Region 7* Pueblo	Region 9* Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Delores, San Juan native tribal communities	Region 11* Moffatt, Rio Blanco, Routt, Jackson	Region 12 Grand, Summit, Eagle, Pitkin, Garfield mountain communities	Region 14 Adams	Region 15 Arapahoe	Region 17 Park, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Teller mountain communities
1. Bullied on school property in the past 12 months		X			X				X
2. Bullied electronically in the past 12 months									X
3. Attempted suicide in the past 12 months									X
4. Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide in the past 12 months			X						X
5. Treated badly or unfairly in school because of their race or ethnicity *(all regions, except those indicated here, were gray due to low response rates. Data does not likely display an accurate picture.)*	X		X			X	X	X	
6. Did not go to school one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe			X					X	
7. Were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months			X	X	X				X
8. Strongly agree that they belong at their school (regions included that ranked lowest)									X

*Region includes counties identified as possibly high in poverty rates according to 2020 census.

[Colorado Smart Source](#)

Smart source is an inventory of best practices in school health. Data is collected in 10 different domains relevant to student health. Smart Source is a, "building-level survey completed once per school by a team of staff members."[20]

Domain 6: counseling, psychological, and social services and Domain 7: healthy and safe school environments, are relevant to factors identified by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Division of Homeland Security (DHS).

Data is organized by Colorado Department of Education regions. These regions do not correlate with the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey regions.

The percentage of schools represented was compared to the regional distribution of schools in Colorado. Responses were representative, with the exception of the Northeast and Metro regions, which were underrepresented. North Central, Northwest, and Pikes Peak were over-represented. Twenty-five percent of schools and 40% of districts were represented in Smart Source results.[12]

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[20] Colorado Healthy Schools. (2021) Overview of Results. School and Youth Survey Steering and Advisory Committees Summer 2022. Smart Source

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Except for universal screening, most schools participating in the Smart Source survey address components of school safety and mental health that align with national indicators and factors relevant to school safety and the prevention of targeted violence. In addition, most participants indicated they receive training on effective school practices and have established crisis preparedness, response, and recovery plans. The southwest region, which includes Huerfano, Las Animas, Baca, Prowers, Bent, Otero, Kiowa, and Crowley counties, indicted the lowest access to any mental health clinician, with 33% of schools reporting access to a school counselor or full-time school psychologist 1-10 hours a week for 55% of participants.

The student views captured in the Healthy Kids Colorado survey do not correlate with Smart Source reports from school representatives. This discrepancy suggests a gap exists between what is offered to support healthy school culture and climate and how this translates to a student's experience and perception of school culture and climate in practice.

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center Needs Assessment

The Colorado School Safety Resource Center conducted a needs assessment survey to identify schools with implemented Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), including increases in the number of implemented plans at the local level.[22]

Eight hundred and sixty-nine schools were represented from just over half of the school districts in Colorado. Ninety-two percent of counties were represented, with the majority from elementary schools totaling 302. One hundred ninety-three middle schools and 143 high schools responded. No data was provided by county or district.

The survey collected data on targeted violence prevention exercises, including lockdowns, secure perimeter, active shooter drills, and family reunification. The table below displays the number of respondents that conducted exercises and whether they were carried out as a tabletop exercise, drill, or full-scale multi-agency multi-jurisdictional exercise.

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[21] Colorado Healthy Schools Smart Source. (2021). Smart Source Survey. Colorado School of Public Health. Department of Public Health and Environment. https://cdphe.colorado.gov/prevention-and-wellness/healthy-eating-and-active-living/health/personal-and-family-health/youth

[22] Lehnerz, C. (2019). Colorado School Safety Resource Center Needs Assessment Survey Results: Emergency Operations Plans. October 2019. Compliance and Professional Standards Office. Colorado Department of Public Safety. https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/safeschools/CSSRC%20Documents/CSSRCExercised_Emergency_Operations_Plan_Survey_Results_FINAL_10_30_2019.pdf

Colorado School Safety Resource Center Needs Assessment
Emergency Operation Plan Activities Colorado Schools
Snapshot of Results 2019

Types of Exercises

	Table Top TTX	Drills	Full Scale Multi-Agency Multi-Jurisdictional
Fire or Evacuation	304	481	135
Lockdown	358	437	127
Lockout/Secure Perimeter	269	371	83
Shelter	179	266	61
Tornado	150	258	
Active Shooter	245	170	68
Communication	202	139	52
Reunification	198	103	54
Other	52	20	15
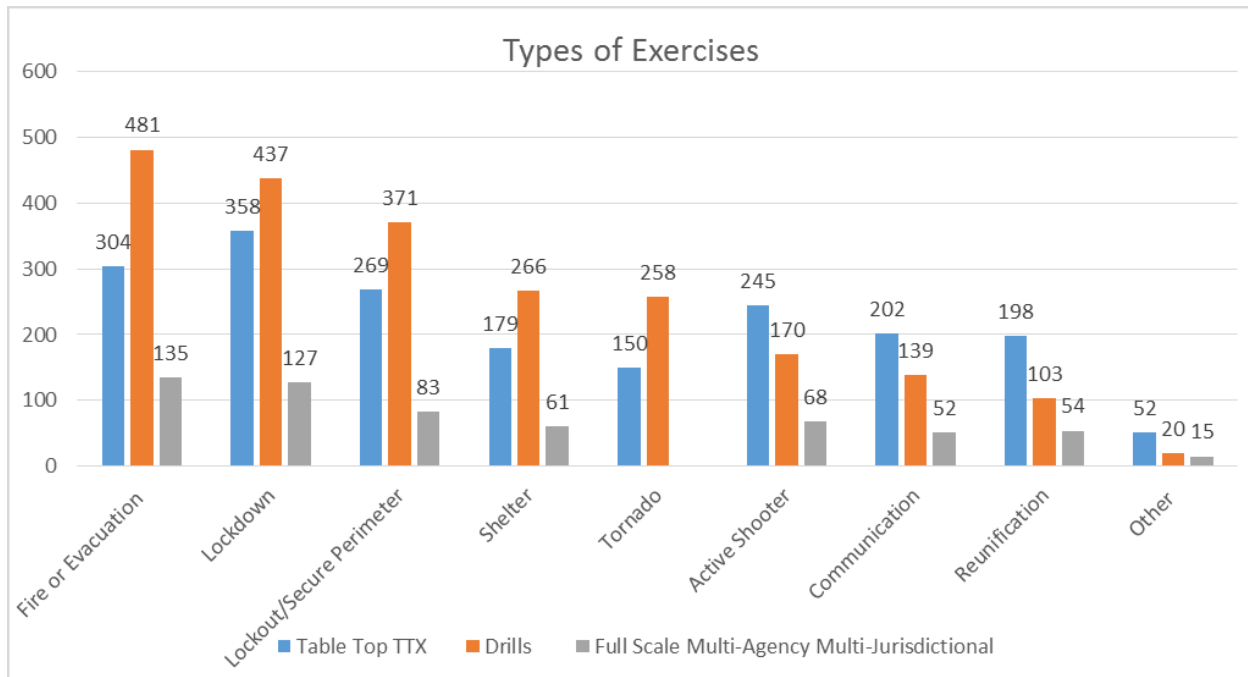
These results indicate the majority of schools that responded to the survey are conducting at least some type of exercises related to lockdowns (80%) and secure perimeter (68%). The schools conducting active shooter exercises drop to 45% for drills.

Participants indicated that local workshops on emergency planning and in-person consultation were the preferred methods of support. The highest needs for assistance relevant to threat assessment and management include:

Assistance with prevention was identified by 452 respondents. The topics include:
1. Assistance with comprehensive school health and psychological services
2. Assistance selecting evidence-based prevention programs
3. Assistance developing a safe school planning team

Assistance with conducting assessments and strategic planning were needs identified by 446 respondents. The topics include:
1. School building and campus physical safety assessments
2. Threat Assessments
3. Suicide assessments and using best practices to address needs-based data

This suggests that, for the schools participating in this study, more support is desired in the areas related to school safety indicators including comprehensive mental health, threat and suicide assessments.

Unfortunately, the data provided is not aggregated by districts, so the areas in need cannot be

pinpointed. In future projects, requesting the raw data and aggregating by district may be beneficial. Alternatively, surveys can include an option to opt-in to share their data on needs to link to preventing targeted violence support available.

The Colorado school data sources included above align with the indicators and factors set forth by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Division of Homeland Security (DHS). In combination, they can inform where threat assessment and management training are needed.

Overall, the Colorado schools represented in SmartSource schools and the School Safety Resource Needs Assessment provide support and resources critical to supporting students' mental, emotional, and social health. In addition, districts have implemented Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) and conducted exercises vital to targeted violence prevention, including lockdowns, perimeter security, and active shooter exercises.

Regardless, most schools indicated an interest in additional support and prioritized needs concerning prevention and assessment. Furthermore, student views obtained from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey suggest there may be gaps or barriers to implementation and carrying out practices effectively, particularly for Pueblo and Teller within the Pikes Peak region and Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Park counties within the Metropolitan region.

The data suggest that the counties noted above may benefit from increased access to threat assessment and management training, mental health services and assessments, suicide prevention, and anti-bullying programs.

Colorado Targeted Attacks and Threat Assessment Data

Two targeted violence cases occurred between 2016-2022 that do not appear in a national database.[8] These cases are important to note as they provide critical information about lessons learned that can be used to prevent future attacks. Furthermore, this report underscores the need to track additional data. Prevention is difficult to prove, by tracking threat assessment cases, a clearer picture would be available about trends and effective tactics used to prevent attacks. The following provides a snapshot of two counties that track data on the number of threat assessments. What is presented demonstrates just how much is being prevented while also highlighting concerning behaviors related to targeted violence are on the rise.

Jefferson County Public Schools
Threat Assessment Percent Increases
School years 2018-2023

The following provides data on the number of threat assessments conducted in Jefferson County Public Schools between 2018-2023.[23]

Jeffco Public Schools have seen an increase in threat assessments ranging from 24-33 percent since 2018 (minus COVID year 2020-2021).

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[23] Jefferson County Public Schools. Threat Assessment Data. Accessed September 2023.

To estimate trends for the current year all previous years were averaged by the 10-month school year before determining the percent increase.

2022 – 2023 8/22 through 9/15/2022

Total Threat Assessments submitted	164
District Level Threat Assessment Meetings	12

31% percent increase from 2021/2022

2021 - 2022

Total Threat Assessments submitted	1253 (125 a month)
District Level Threat Assessment Meetings	192

24% percent increase from 2019-2020

2020-2021   COVID

Total Threat Assessments submitted	445
District Level Threat Assessment Meetings	13

**19% percent decrease from 2019/2020**

2019-2020

Total Threat Assessments submitted	1011 (101 a month)
District Level Threat Assessment Meetings	134

31% percent increase from 2018/2019

2018 - 2019

Total Threat Assessments submitted	767 (76 a month)
District Level Threat Assessment Meetings	76

Jefferson County Public Schools
Threat Assessment Totals
School years 2018-2023
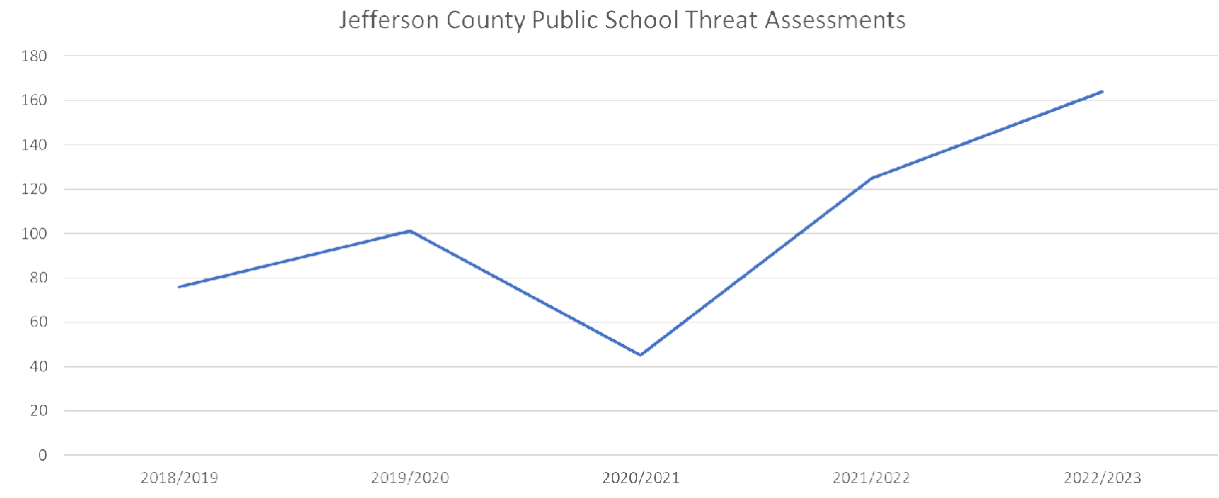
Except for the 2020 pandemic school year, the rate of threat assessments is on a steady incline in Jefferson County.

The reason for this steady increase needs further inquiry. The number of potential threats could be trending upward, or that data may indicate that detectors are better at reporting in Jefferson County schools simply because of targeted violence awareness. Regardless, many threat assessment teams receiving training have indicated a significant increase in concerning behaviors.

Urban County School District
Threat Assessment Percent Increases
School years 2020-2023

The following provides data on the number of threat assessments conducted in the school district 2020-2023/2023 school year.[24]

Since the year 2020-2021 COVID school is not an accurate depiction, the average increase was calculated for 20212022 to 2022/2023. If the current year remains at its current average, the district will have seen a 110% increase in threat assessment cases from the previous year.

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[24] Urban Public Schools. Threat Assessment Data. Accessed September 2022.

Threat Assessments for School Year 2022 - 2023

| | | | | | | | | | Outcome Levels | | | |
Total TA's	Completed	In Progress	Grades K-4	Grades 5-12	RMSP's	DLSP's	General Safety Plans	Full Threat Assessment's	A	B	C	D
101	60	41	20	81	60	0	3	19	4	2	10	10

Out Of Compliance		
Grades K-4	Grades 5-12	Safety Plans
5	26	13

Year Over Year Comparison
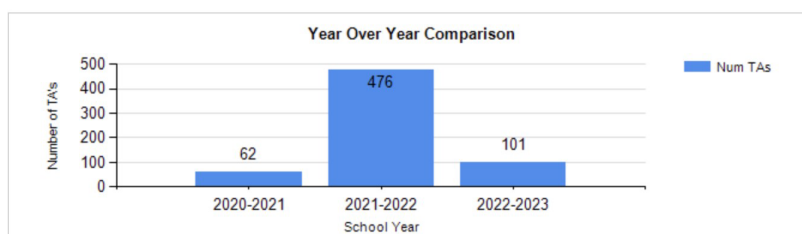
This data aligns with the trend in Jefferson County schools and suggests that cases may be on the rise. The results underscore the need to understand trends for more districts to address Colorado school-targeted violence prevention needs.

Colorado does not track this data statewide. Knowing threat assessment trends across Colorado could inform training needs, funding, program development, infrastructure, and policy changes.

Data of this nature is essential for maintaining the capacity of threat assessment and management teams year to year. Teams likely have not expanded and have shrunk since returning to school post-COVID. One key to effectively assessing and managing cases is the capacity to do so. If the number of threats increases, teams need additional staff, training for that staff, and continuous support to maintain efficacy.

It is recommended that data on threat assessment cases, the number and locations of established teams, the number and types of training provided to teams and bystanders, and intervention and results be tracked Statewide to inform training, funding, program development, infrastructure, and policy change needs.

Domestic Violent Extremism in Colorado

Another component to understanding potential threat assessment and management gaps is the occurrence of hate, extremist, antisemitism, and terrorist (H.E.A.T.) groups and incidents in Colorado. Tracking the location of where hate groups, hate-related internet searches, and hate-related incidents are occurring informs where radicalization, and therefore more prevention efforts may be useful.

ADL H.E.A.T. Map

The ADL H.E.A.T. map provides data on current domestic violent extremism incidents by state.[25] In 2022, 235 incidents were recorded in Colorado. The types of incidents include vandalism, propaganda harassment, assault, and murder. All incidents included white supremacist or antisymmetric ties, even if an ideology was not explicitly called out, including the extremist mass shooting that occurred at Club Q, killing five people and wounding[17].

ADL
Total Colorado H.E.A.T. Incidents Map
Year 2022
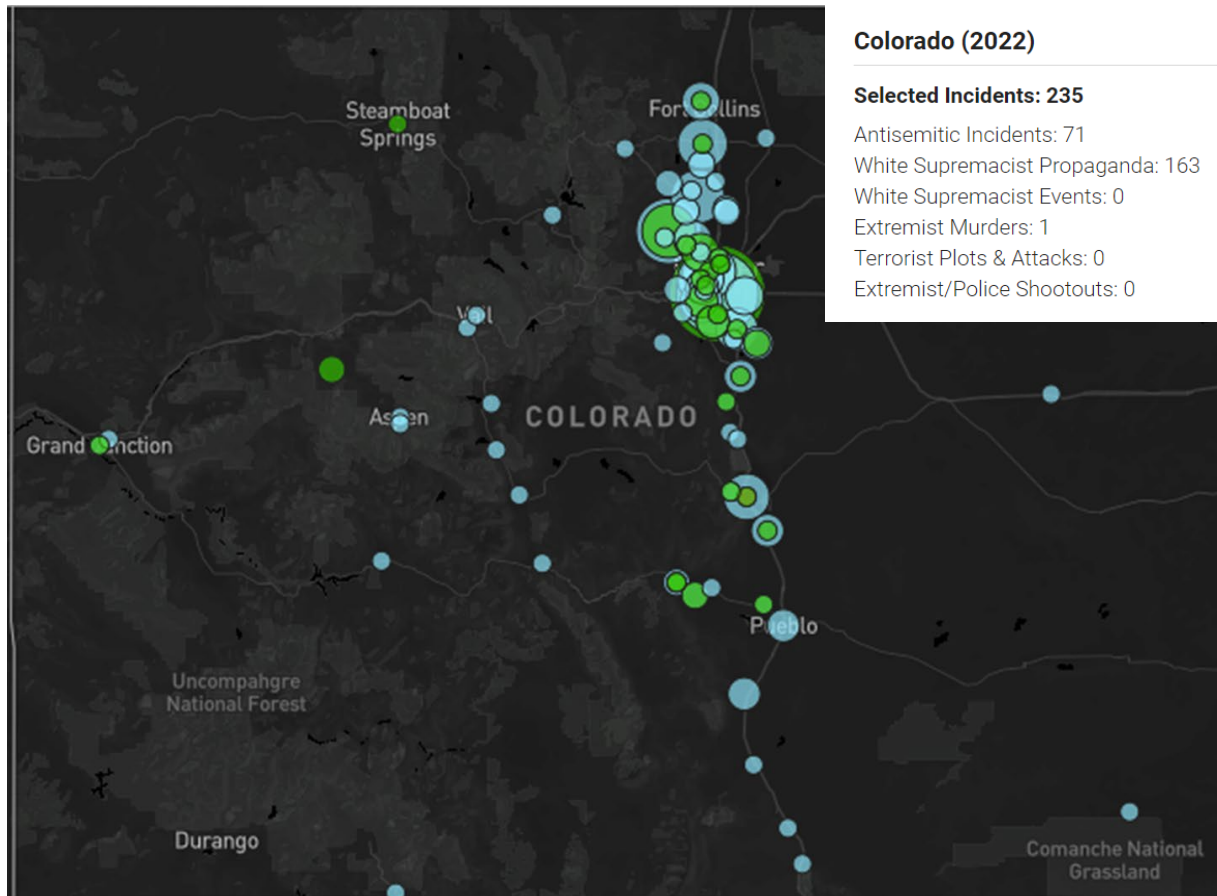
When the number of incidents are weighted by population density or population, lower population areas rise to the top and only Boulder or Weld county appear to stand out in comparison to number of incidents. This suggests that attention to any incident, whether rural or urban, is critical until other driving factors are understood.

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[25] ADL. H.E.A.T. Map (2022). https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-to-track-hate/heat-map. Accessed April 2023.

County	N/Incidents	Rank
Denver	41	1
Boulder	40	2
Jefferson	21	3
El Paso	14	4
Adams	13	5
Arapahoe	12	6
Larimer	11	7
Weld	10	8
Douglas County	7	9
Pueblo	7	10

County	N/Incidents	Weight 1 Incidents/ Density factor)	Rank
Las Animas	2	0.67	1
Kit Carson	1	0.33	2
Huerfano	1	0.25	3
Gunnison	1	0.20	4
Archuletta	2	0.20	5
Fremont	6	0.19	6
Chaffee	3	0.15	7
Weld	10	0.11	8
Grand	1	0.11	9
Pitkin	2	0.11	10

County	N/Incidents	Weight 2 (incidents/population)*1000	Rank
Chaffee	3	0.15017	1
Kit Carson	1	0.14852	2
Huerfano	1	0.14592	3
Archuletta	2	0.14553	4
Las Animas	2	0.14015	5
Lake	1	0.13378	6
Fremont	6	0.12103	7
Boulder	40	0.11709	8
Pitkin	2	0.11480	9
Grand	1	0.08767	10

Moonshot
Online DVE Searches
February 2023

Moonshot data on online searches shows a slightly different picture, with San Miguel emerging as a new county, along with continued representation from Dennver, Boulder, Lake, and Larimer counties.
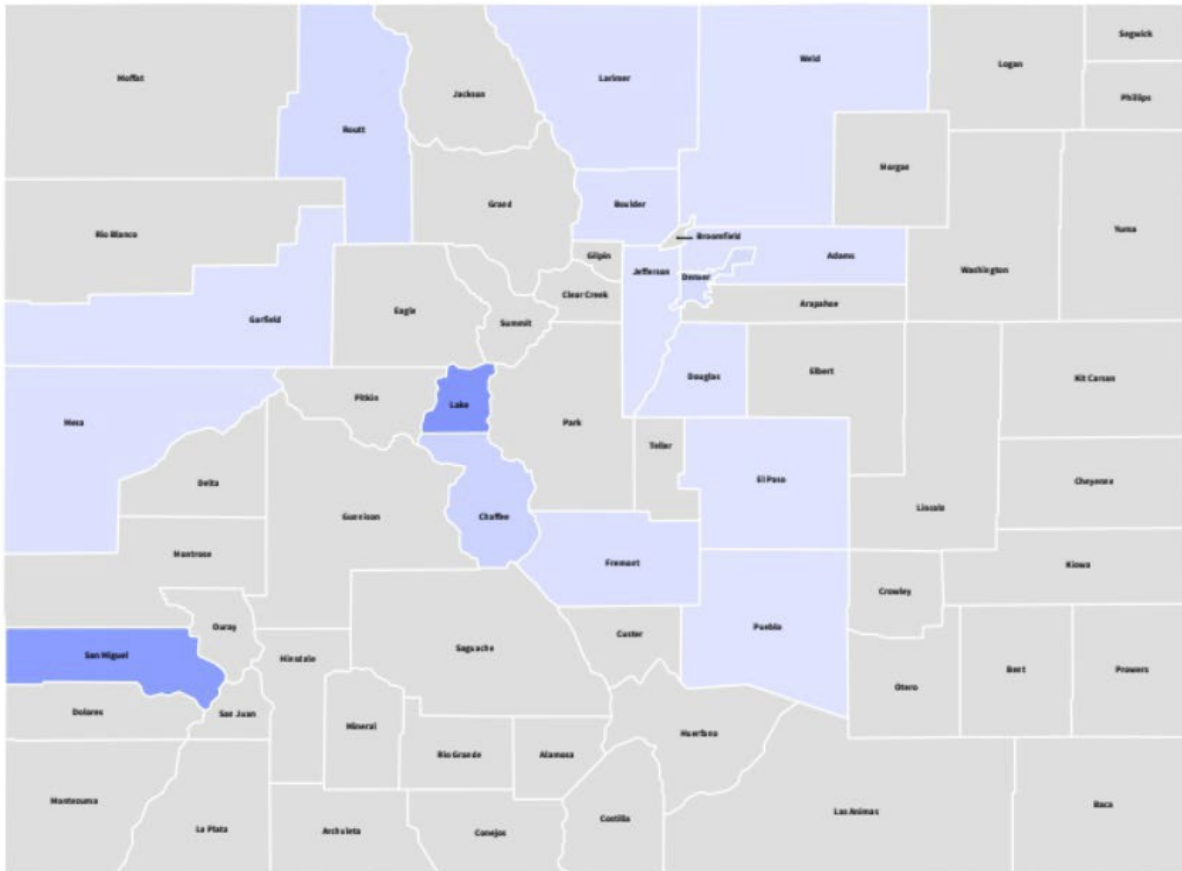
▼ Counties with the highest volume of searches, weighted by population[8]

1. LAKE COUNTY
2. SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
3. DENVER COUNTY
4. LARIMER COUNTY
5. BOULDER COUNTY

7. Baseline is an average of the previous six months of data.
8. No relevant searches for DVE content were identified in counties represented in gray.

Finally, SPLC tracks the number and location of hate groups nationwide and by state. As of 2021, the Southern Poverty Law Center has identified 734 hate groups in the United States and 18 active hate groups in Colorado.[26]

Many of the same counties appear as on previous incident lists (Denver, Jefferson, El Paso, Araphaoe, Pueblo, and Larimer.) Elbert county is a newly represented county in relation to hate related indicators.

SPLC
Hate Groups Located in Colorado
Year 2021

Title	County	Group	Headquarters	Statewide
American Futurist	Denver	Neo-Nazi	Yes	
Asatru Folk Assembly		Neo-Vã¶lkisch		Yes
Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform	Jefferson County	Anti-Immigrant	Yes	
Family Research Institute	El Paso	Anti-LGBTQ	Yes	
Folks Front/Folkish Resistance Movement		Neo-Nazi		Yes
Front Range Active Club		White Nationalist		Yes
Generations	Elbert	Anti-LGBTQ	Yes	
Great Millstone	Denver	General Hate		
Israel United In Christ	Arapahoe	General Hate		
Mass Resistance		Anti-LGBTQ		Yes
Nation of Islam	Denver	Antisemitism		
National Socialist Order		Neo-Nazi	Yes	Yes
Northern Kingdom Prophets	Pueblo	General Hate	Yes	
Patriot Front		White Nationalist		Yes
Proud Boys		General Hate		Yes
Scriptures for America Worldwide Ministries	Larimer	Christian Identity	Yes	
The Pray in Jesus Name Project	El Paso	Anti-LGBTQ	Yes	
Wolves of Vinland		Neo-Vã¶lkisch		Yes

Adjacent Violence Prevention Services

One final element to consider when identifying where to prioritize targeted violence prevention efforts, including threat assessment and management training, is the existence of services that can counteract threats. Adjacent Violence Prevention Services provides a snapshot of the

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[26] Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). (2021). Hate Groups in Colorado. https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map?state=CO. Accessed January 2023.

services available in Colorado that either provide violence prevention services or could be leveraged to provide prevention services. This research aims to identify the existing services and gaps to guide the development and enhancement of prevention measures through informed strategies and investments.[27]

The following is an excerpt from the executive summary's key insights:

- Eight-eight organizations were identified that provide targeted prevention or could be leveraged to provide targeted prevention services.
- Urban counties receive the most services, with 80% of organizations providing services in Urban counties.

According to Moonshot research, the most significant gaps include:

- Secondary violence prevention for at-risk adults
- Primary prevention focused on targeted violence (such as threat assessment and management training)
- Online violence prevention services with specialized roles in addressing the role of social media in perpetuating bigotry, motivating and or perpetuating violence.

The fact that urban counties receive the bulk of services reaffirms that services for rural communities must be prioritized. According to Moonshot research, 23 counties had no access to prevention or adjacent services. However, the findings also indicate that 35% of the organizations identified only offered secondary prevention services.

Threat assessment and management teams are crucial to identifying at-risk individuals and facilitating linkage to prevention services. Therefore, investments in rural areas to build the capacity of threat assessment and management teams, alongside secondary services, should be an essential focus moving forward.

The following map depicts the density of services, weighted by population, offered by county. Counties without any shading would indicate a dearth of targeted violence prevention services, regardless of primary, secondary, or tertiary.

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[27] Moonshot (March 2023). Adjacent Violence Prevention Services: State of Colorado.

Moonshot
Adjacent Violence Prevention Services Available in Colorado
March 2023

Total services offered
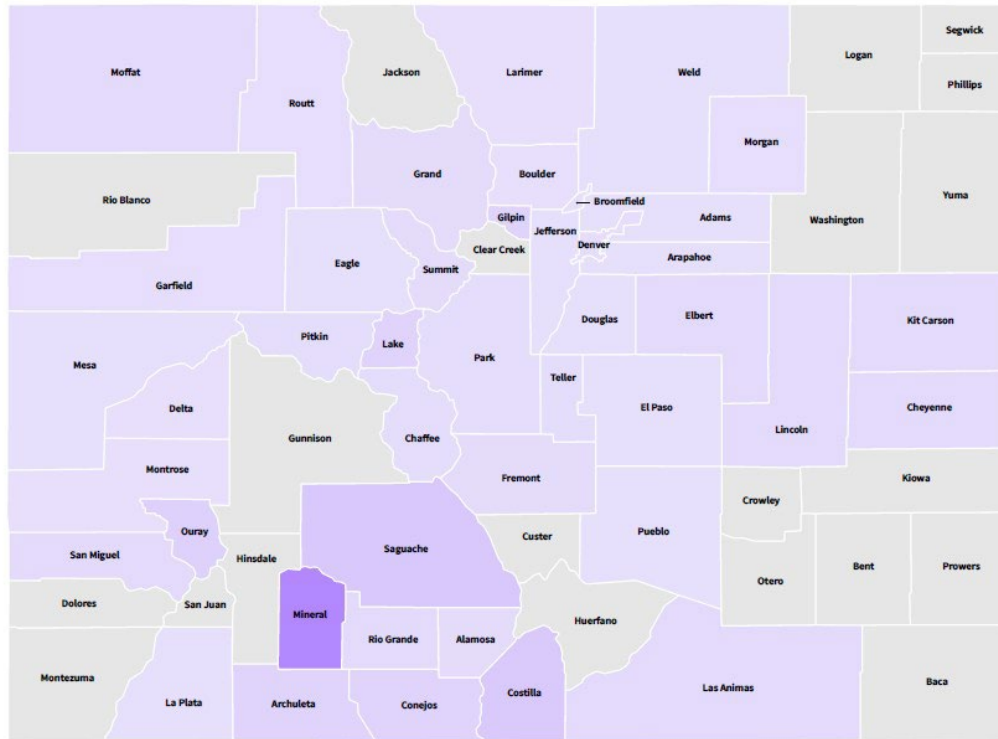
This heat map indicates significant gaps in service availability for the state's Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest corners, along with pockets of rural areas in the western mountain regions, Clear Creek, Jackson, and Rio Blanco.

Continued efforts to build threat assessment and management teams and services they can refer to will improve Colorado's capacity to prevent targeted violence.

References

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Appendix A: All Targeted Violence Categories by County

County	Suicide Mortality Rate	Mass Shootings	School Shootings	School safety/climate: bullying, unsafe, fights, belonging	School suicide attempts/plans	Experience of Racism	DEV Incidents	DVE Searches	Low service availability	Access to School MH	Location of active hate groups	Total per county
Pueblo	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	9
El Paso	1	1	1				1	1			1	6
Arapahoe		1	1	1		1	1				1	6
Denver		1	1				1	1			1	5
Jefferson		1	1				1	1			1	5
Douglas		1	1			1	1	1				5
Mesa	1	1	1				1	1				5
Huerfano				1			1			1	1	4
Las Animas	1			1			1			1		4
Adams		1				1	1	1				4
Routt		1		1			1	1				4
Larimer							1	1			1	3
Baca				1						1	1	3
Bent				1						1	1	3
Crowley				1						1	1	3
Kiowa				1						1	1	3
Otero				1						1	1	3
Prowers				1						1	1	3
Clear Creek				1	1					1		3
Gunnison	1						1			1		3

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County	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	Total
Montezuma	1			1					1	3
Boulder		1					1	1		3
Chaffee	1						1	1		3
Fremont	1						1	1		3
garfield						1	1	1		3
Weld			1				1	1		3
Teller	1			1	1					3
Dolores				1					1	2
Jackson				1					1	2
Rio Blanco				1					1	2
San Juan				1					1	2
Lake							1	1		2
Archuleta				1			1			2
Custer	1							1		2
eagle						1	1			2
Gilpin				1	1					2
grand						1	1			2
Park 1				1	1					2
pitkin						1	1			2
San Miguel								1		1
Conejos		1								1
Kit Carson							1			1
La Plata				1						1
Moffatt				1						1
Ouray	1									1

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											Total
Summitt						1					1
Hinsdale									1		1
Logan									1		1
Philips									1		1
Segwick									1		1
Washington									1		1
Yuma									1		1
Elbert										1	1
Broomfield							1				1

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