

PROFILE OF GUN VIOLENCE: In the Nation and Colorado (Jan. 2019)

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.

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 2017, over 75% of gun fatalities in Colorado in were suicides
- And firearm suicides, the leading means, make up 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	UNINTENTIONAL	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	LEGAL INTERVENTION	Undetermined Intent	TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS (Not from CDPHE)
2014	649	Less than 3	101	527	9	10	486
2015	698	3	137	541	11	6	586
2016	802	11	158	605	21	7	627
2017	778	3	159	591	20	5	672

*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>

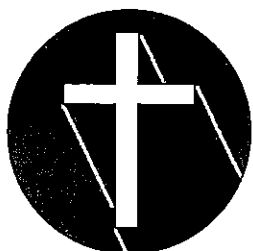
Submitted by Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence
 Contact: alanaks@aol.com

WHO WE ARE

Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) is the only faith-based group in Colorado focused solely on gun violence.



Nearly 40 congregations make up CFCU, all standing fast against the rising tide of gun violence in our communities, united in the search for solutions to the plague of deaths and injuries from improper use of firearms.



Our membership includes Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Unitarian Universalist and non-denominational congregations throughout the metro Denver area, Boulder, and Summit County.



We welcome new congregations at all times.

HOW WE WORK

Our congregational representatives move our mission forward through the work of four Strategic Focus Areas



(SFAs)—each one a mini team of dedicated volunteers focusing on one individual area of emphasis related to the gun violence issue.

The Advocacy Strategic Focus Area works to support legislation that reduces the likelihood of gun injuries or death.

The Action Strategic Focus Area pursues a public health focus and other non-legislative strategies likely to reduce gun deaths and related violence.

The Awareness Strategic Focus Area works to increase public awareness of CFCU by developing and maintaining the organization's website cfcu-co.org and by providing resource materials to member congregations.

The Outreach Strategic Focus Area takes the CFCU story into the community, sharing our goals and progress with potential new members.

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED

From 16 member congregations at our founding in 2014, we've grown to nearly 40 at present.

We helped defeat the opposition's gun bills in 2015, 2016, and 2017. CFCU representatives testified against most of these bills in the Colorado State Senate and House of Representatives.

We developed "Rapid Response Networks" in many of our congregations to mobilize congregational members to communicate with their legislators about gun legislation.



We positioned gun violence as a public health issue by:

- urging local pediatricians to discuss gun safety with parents as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics;
- building working relationships with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Suicide Prevention Commission and the Colorado School of Public Health – Univ. of Colorado;
- encouraging and supporting Denver Public Health's efforts to conduct research and develop strategies for reducing firearm incidents in Denver.

We marched and held silent vigils to support community "reduce gun violence" programs every year since our founding.

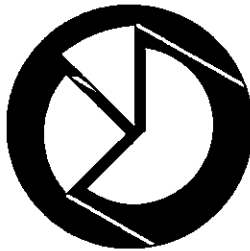
DID YOU KNOW?

Every day in America, more than 300 people are shot. Each of those days, more than 90 die from their wounds, a total of 33,000 gun deaths a year. Another 220+ are shot and survive, leading to 80,000 gun injuries a year. ^{1&2}

Of those who die...

- one-third are murdered ^{1&2}
- two-thirds are suicides by gun ^{1&2}
- seven are children or teens ²

In 2016 in the U.S. there were 384 “mass shootings” (defined as a shooting where four or more people died or were wounded). ³



Gun deaths in Colorado from 2010 to 2015 ⁴

- 3771 people died as a result of firearms
- 79% were suicides, 18% were homicides, and 3% were unintentional, legal intervention, or undetermined intent
- Colorado experienced a 26% increase in firearm deaths in these years. There are now more deaths by firearms than by automobiles.

¹ fivethirtyeight.com/features/gun-deaths

² bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics

³ gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting

⁴ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



CFCU is open to any congregation that sees the need to step forward and help end the violence associated with improper use of firearms.

Member congregations designate one or two representatives to take part in CFCU meetings and work groups, occasionally host meetings, and provide nominal contributions to help defray organization expenses.

To learn more about CFCU, please visit our website:

cfcu-co.org

To initiate a conversation about joining CFCU, or to schedule a presentation on CFCU, please e-mail our Outreach SFA team at:

cfcucolorado@gmail.com

*from Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence's 2013 letter to Congress



**Colorado Faith Communities
United to End Gun Violence**

“While we continue to pray for the families and friends of those who have perished, we must also support our prayers with action.”*



cfcu-co.org