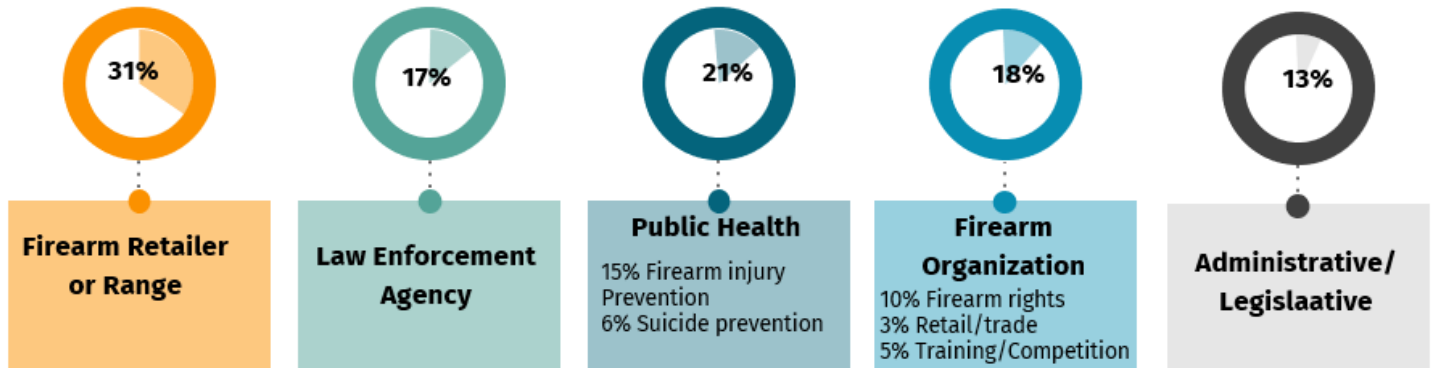


## Results from an Evaluation of Temporary, Voluntary Out-of-Home Storage

**Methods:** We interviewed a total of 100 individuals associated with one or more stakeholder groups: (1) Colorado or Washington State firearm ranges/retailers; (2) Colorado or Washington State LEAs; and (3) relevant state or national organizations



**Results:** Three broad themes related to provision of voluntary, temporary firearm storage were identified:

1. desire to help customers and community
2. liability and legal concerns
3. strategies to address liability and increase storage accessibility

“Well, I think it all comes down to liability. [Storage locations] would definitely need liability protection, and probably some guidelines as to when they can return firearms to somebody...”

“This is essentially one more form of providing first aid to your community.”

“[Storage is] absolutely something that we would do. I just would like some confidence to know that I’m doing it in the right way, that I’m not going to get a legal ramification or even a social, even the newspaper article of this person went in and told them he was going to commit suicide and they gave his guns back to him. I mean, that story alone is devastating.”

**Impact:** Voluntary, temporary, out-of-home firearm storage is recommended for individuals at risk of suicide but has unproven feasibility. In this large qualitative study, there was broad support for the idea, but firearm ranges/retailers and Law Enforcement Agencies face challenges that limit enthusiasm. While the desire to help spurs creative workarounds in individual situations, broader policy change or clarifications are needed for larger-scale uptake.

## Results from a Survey of Firearm Retailers / Ranges on Temporary, Voluntary Out-of-Home Storage

**Methods:** in 2021 we invited all firearm retailers and ranges in Colorado and Washington to complete an online or mailed survey; eligible sites had to have a physical location where they could provide storage.



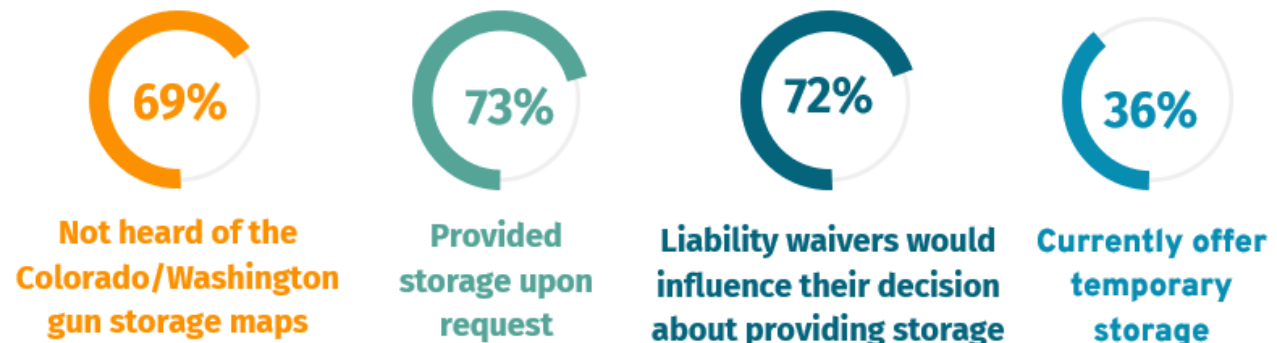
**Gender** 72% Male

**Race/  
Ethnicity** 87% White  
82% not Hispanic

**Role** 56% owner  
18% manager  
20% both,  
6% other

**Number of  
Employees** 74% Fewer than 5  
14% 6-11  
12% 12 or more

**Results:** 137 retailers/ranges completed the survey with a response rate of 25.1%.



**Impact:** Some firearm retailers/ranges are already providing voluntary, temporary out-of-home storage to the firearm owning community. Specific waivers for liability concerns and guidance from regulatory agencies may increase the participation in suicide prevention firearm storage map programs and increase the number of retailers/ranges that are willing to provide storage. Providing out-of-home storage by retailers/ranges is an important component of lethal means safety programs and may decrease the rate of suicide in the communities where such a service is provided and publicized.

**Other resources/Publications:**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Al24KiVFYBA&feature=youtu.be>
2. Betz ME, Rooney LA, Barnard LM, Siry-Bove BJ, Brandspigel S, McCarthy M, Simeon K, Meador L, Rivara FP, Rowhani-Rahbar A, Knoepke CE. Voluntary, temporary, out-of-home firearm storage: A qualitative study of stakeholder views. *Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 2022 Feb 28. doi: 10.1111/sltb.12850. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35224749