Local Data for Difficult Debates

How Graying and Guns Differ Across Colorado

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ABOUT US

We believe that sound evidence and solid analysis leads to better health policy, and that better health policy leads to healthier Coloradans. That is our work as Colorado’s leading nonprofit and nonpartisan health policy research group. And we are passionate about it.
Key Takeaway

Solving complex health issues requires local information and partners.

Case Study #1: Colorado’s Age Wave

Case Study #2: Firearms
Solving Complex Health Issues Requires Local Information and Partners.
Hot Issues in Health Tackles Complex Problems

- Medicaid managed care
- Behavioral health integration
- Opioids
We Can Define Complex Problems

Issues

What is the problem?

Why do we need to address it?

Solutions

???
Local Data Informs Solutions

Issues

What is the problem?

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Solutions

Local Data
Local Partners Turn Information Into Action

**Issues**
- What is the problem?
- Why do we need to address it?

**Solutions**
- Local partners
- Local data
Case Study #1:
Colorado’s Age Wave
• Colorado has the **third fastest** growing 65+ population in the United States.

• Colorado has the **sixth lowest** percentage of its population over age 65 in the United States.

Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office
Medicaid Spending for Long-Term Services and Supports in Colorado Climbing Steadily

Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Unpaid Caregiving Has a High Price

$3.7 Billion Dollars in 2015

- Foregone Benefits: $202 Million
- Foregone Wages: $2.9 Billion
- Caregiving Expenses: $569 Million
- Health Care Costs: $11 Million
Finding Solutions for Colorado’s Age Wave

Issues

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???
New adviser to Governor John Hickenlooper will focus on aging-related issues

Nearly one out of every five Coloradans will be over the age of 65 in 2040
“There won’t be just one solution because the state is so very different. We have cities, we have the plains, we have the mountains, and they all have different needs.”

Jim Riesberg, Chair of the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging
Local Data Informs Solutions

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Local Data
Aging Index Identifies Counties with Greatest Health Challenges

- Need
- Risk

Aging Index Score
## Factors in the Index

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Index Finds Seniors Most Vulnerable in Southeast Colorado and San Luis Valley

Source: Colorado Health Institute, Aging Vulnerability Index scores.
Using the Aging Vulnerability Index

Colorado Seniors and Their Health: CHI's Aging Vulnerability Index

The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) created this index of health challenges faced by Colorado's seniors (65+) based on risk factors such as poverty and need factors such as self-care limitations or cognitive difficulties. Overall Index scores range from 1.6 in Park County, where seniors are least vulnerable, to 9.2 in Otero County, where they are most vulnerable. The state average is 4.7.
Mesa County

38 percent of seniors live alone.

27 percent of seniors are age 80 and older.

Jefferson County

18 percent of seniors have difficulties walking or climbing stairs.

37 percent of seniors live alone.
Partners Act on Local Data

Issues

What is the problem?
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Solutions

Local partners
Local data
RHCs Connect Partners for Action

PF – Practice Facilitator

CHITA – Clinical Health Information Technology Advisor
Local Information Generates Solutions

**Issues**
- What is the problem?
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**Solutions**
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Case Study #2: Firearms
Growing Number of Firearm Deaths in Colorado

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Rate per 100,000.
Finding Solutions to Reduce Firearm Deaths

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Solutions

???
Death by Gun Violence—A Public Health Crisis

Public Health Approach to the Prevention of Gun Violence
David Hemenway, Ph.D., and Matthew Miller, M.D., M.P.H., Sc.D.

Gun control supporters in the public health field claim that gun violence is an "epidemic," but gun violence is alien to most people's experiences and the nation's murder rate has been cut by more than half since 1991.
Using Local Information to Create Solutions to Firearm Deaths

Issues
- Rates
- Numbers

Solutions
- Local Data
Most Firearm Deaths Are Suicides

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
• One of two deaths by suicide are with a firearm.

• Firearm is the most common method of suicide among all Coloradans age 15 and older.

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Suicide by Firearm Rates Highest in Rural Colorado

Rate of Suicide by Firearm in 2014-2016

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Rates per 100,000.
CDPHE Suicide Dashboard
Local Partners Generate Solutions

**Issues**
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“Suicide prevention is part of gun safety.”

Dick Abramson, president and CEO of the Centennial Gun Club.
Gun Shop Project

GUN OWNERS CAN HELP!

CONCERNED ABOUT A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND?
Putting time and distance between a suicidal person and a gun helps keep them safe. Explore options to temporarily store guns out of the home. You may save a life!

Are they suicidal?
- Depressed, angry, impulsive?
- Going through a relationship breakup, legal trouble, or other setback?
- Using drugs or alcohol more often?
- Withdrawing from things they used to enjoy?
- Talking about being better off dead?
- Losing hope?
- Acting reckless?
- Feeling trapped?

For ways to help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK [8255]

NEWLY ADDED 11TH COMMANDMENT: Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member may be suicidal. Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member is suicidal. When an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal trouble) or a major change in someone’s behavior (like depression, violence, heavy drinking) causes concern, storing guns outside the home for a while may save a life. Family, friends, as well as some shooting clubs, police departments, or gun shops may be able to store guns for you temporarily.*

*To become fully informed about making a temporary gun transfer, review Colorado gun laws, including C.R.S. §18-12-112, or consult an attorney.
Gun Shop Project Is Statewide
Local Information Generates Solutions

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Case Study #2: Firearms