

Firearm Interventions for Youth

JJOC WORKING GROUP

Topics for Discussion

- 1** Utah Data Update
- 2** Research Overview
- 3** Programming
- 4** Potential Language Changes
- 5** Other



Utah Data Update

1

Rep. Lisonbee's HB 304 requires the Courts to submit to CCJJ data on each minor charged in the juvenile court with a firearm-related offense. This data is currently being compiled by the Courts and CCJJ will be ready to report by October 1, 2023.

2

HB 304 also requires USBE to submit to CCJJ for incidents that occurred during the previous school year on arrests of a minor; other law enforcement activities; and disciplinary actions. USBE is working on this.

3

USBE also provide annual reports on Incident and Discipline data on local education agencies. For the 2022 school year, weapons made up 1.3% of all reported incidents. *Weapon types include guns: handgun, shotgun, rifle, or look-alike; knife or other sharp object; other explosive device; other object used as a weapon; and substance used as a weapon*

4

Utah's
DHHS
Dashboard
provides
information
on non-
fatal
firearm
injuries.

Firearm injuries decreased from 2021 to 2022. Males experienced consistently higher firearm rates compared to females, with the highest rates in the 15-24 age group in 2020.

The highest overall firearm injury rate in 2019-2022 was in TriCounty local health district (Daggett, Duchesne, & Uintah Counties) and the highest unintentional firearm injury rate in 2019-2022 was in Southeast Utah local health district (Carbon, Emery, & Grand Counties).

4

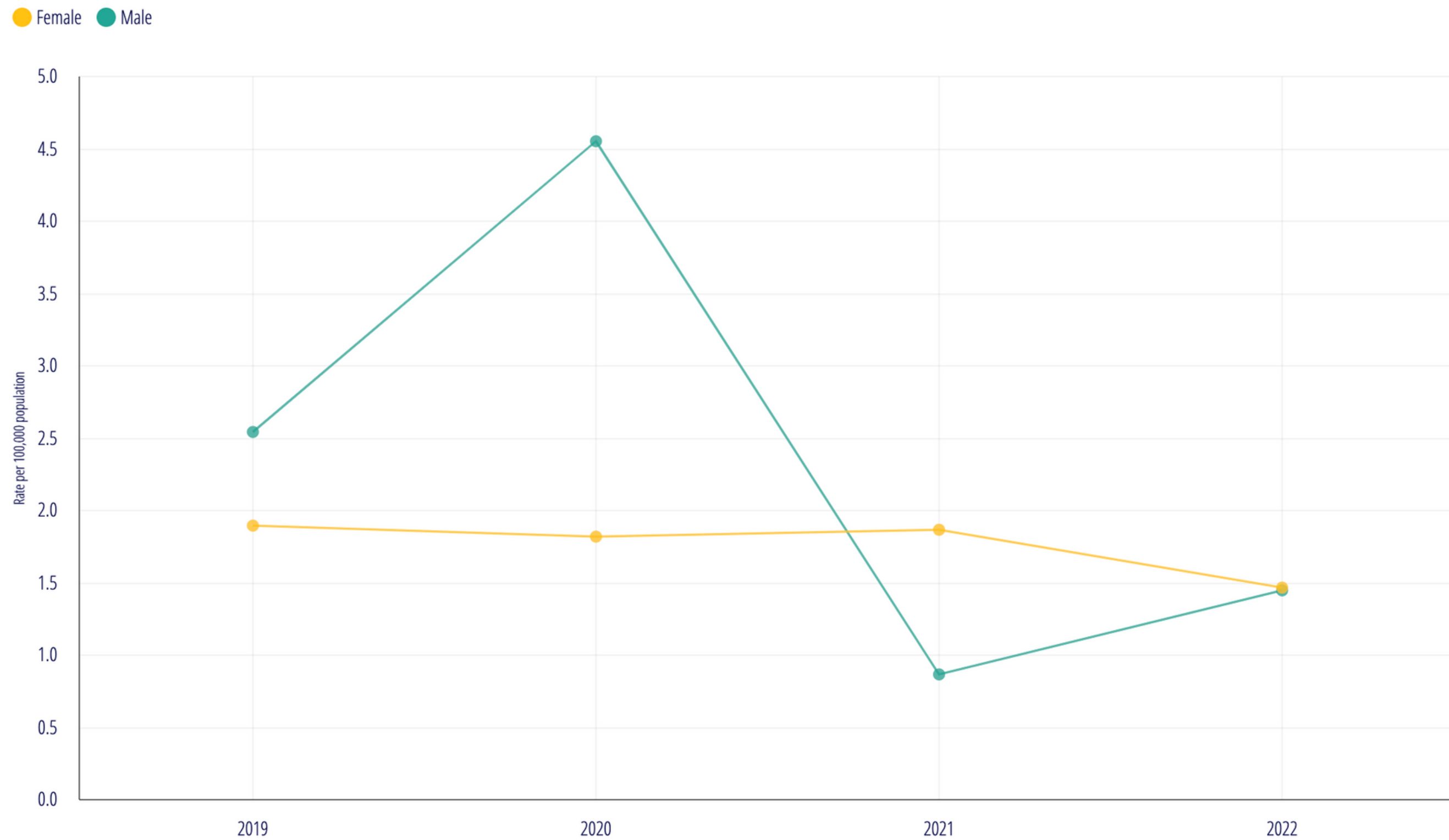
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Age 0-14

- Age
- Age
 - 0-14**
 - 15-24
 - 25-34
 - 35-44
 - 45-54
 - 55+

- Sex
- Sex
 - Female
 - Male

Firearm Injury Rate by Sex



4

Utah's DHHS Dashboard provides information on non-fatal firearm injuries.

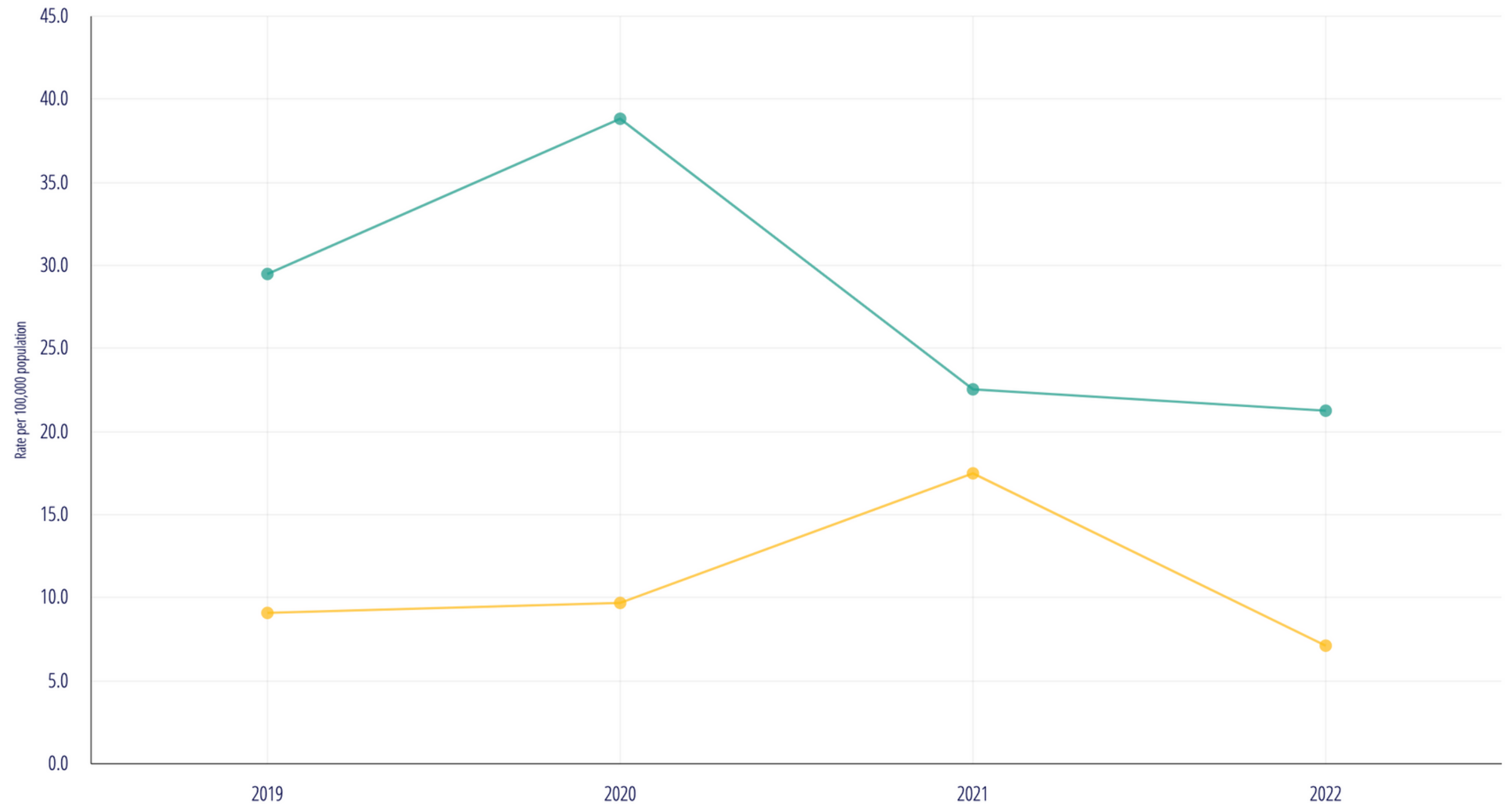
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Firearm Injury Rate by Sex

● Female ● Male



Research Overview

Research on the context of youth gun violence provides information beyond the numbers of deaths including young people's access to and use of guns; the role of drugs and drug dealing; the importance of gun dealers and types of guns; the level of youth gun deaths associated with domestic arguments, suicide, and accidents rather than criminal behavior; the effect of young people's social maladjustment or lack of training in proper gun handling; and the location of reported incidents.

Effective Programming Components

LOCATION

Identify hotspots. Are there specific neighborhoods where rates of gun violence is more prominent? Can utilize data sources to figure out.

PARTNERSHIPS

Programs such as Denver's Probation HIP, Knoxville emphasize partnerships with system and community based stakeholders.

MENTORING

Another key component includes mentoring and relentless outreach from lived experience individuals to youth.

CBT

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy curriculum such as ROCA, are among the most effective strategies to reduce reoffending for youth.



Denver's Handgun Intervention Program

The Handgun Intervention Program (HIP) was formed in response to the rise in teen violence and teens with guns. HIP is a collaboration among prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, the Juvenile Court and community members. The goal of the program is to disrupt the cycle of teen violence by intervening when a teen is caught with a gun before any incident ends in violence. Ultimately, the goal is to provide participants with an opportunity to live a violent-free life.

1

Youth under the age of 18 who are arrested for illegal possession of a gun qualify for the six-week program. The program requires the participation of parents. The program will help pay for child care and transportation so the family can attend sessions together. Community members participate in mentoring the youth.

2

The first weeks of the program are designed to be intensive, with multiple meetings a week with their judge, their probation officer and educational panels. The probation officer is tasked with helping connect youth to mental health services, if needed, and other resources.

3

Over the course of the program, the youth will attend sessions on their rights in police interactions and in court, the dangers of guns and how gun violence affects a community from a public health approach. The participants will also be required to complete community service and create a project that explains their goals for their lives.

4

Participants will also meet with a panel of community advisers and hear from people who've been impacted by gun violence. The "victim impact panel" includes people who have lost loved ones to gun violence as well as people who spent time in prison for violence they committed.