



Local Data for Difficult Debates

How Graying and Guns Differ Across Colorado

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COLORADO
HEALTH
INSTITUTE

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

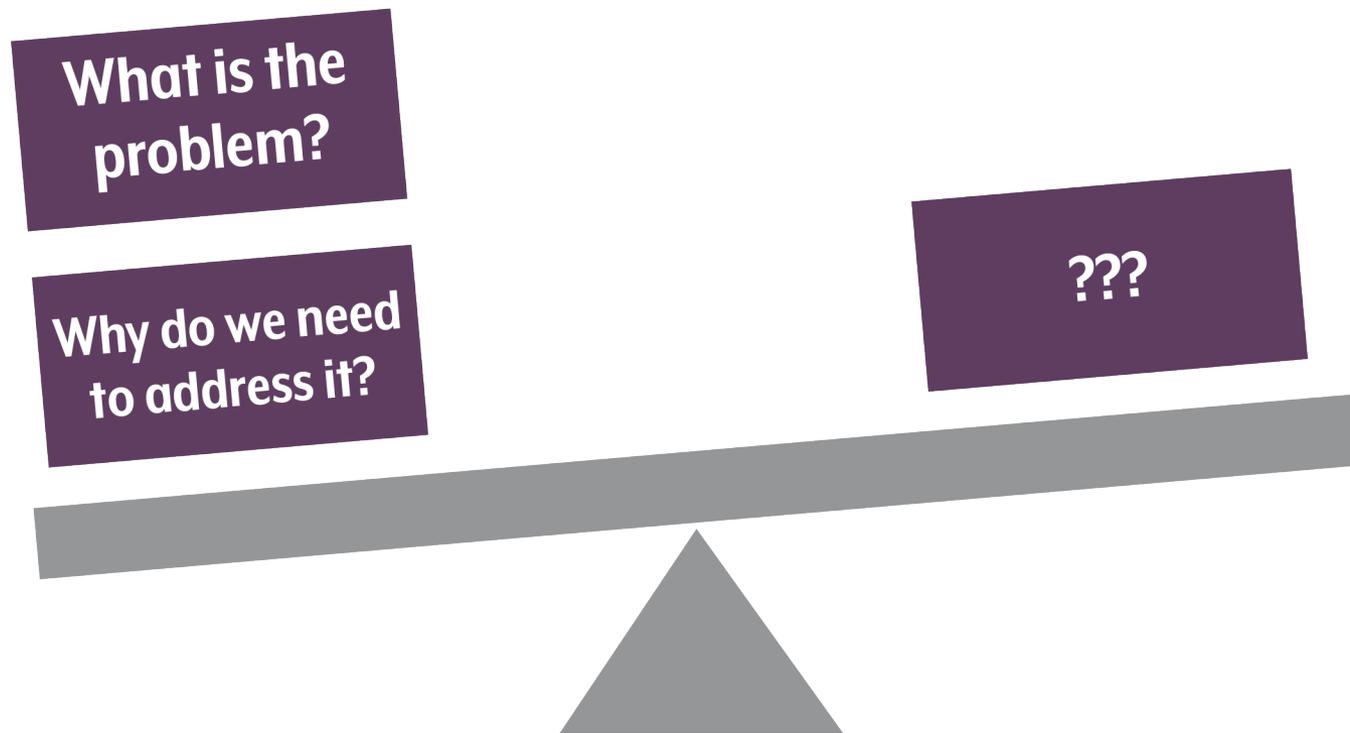


Opioids

We Can Define Complex Problems

Issues

Solutions



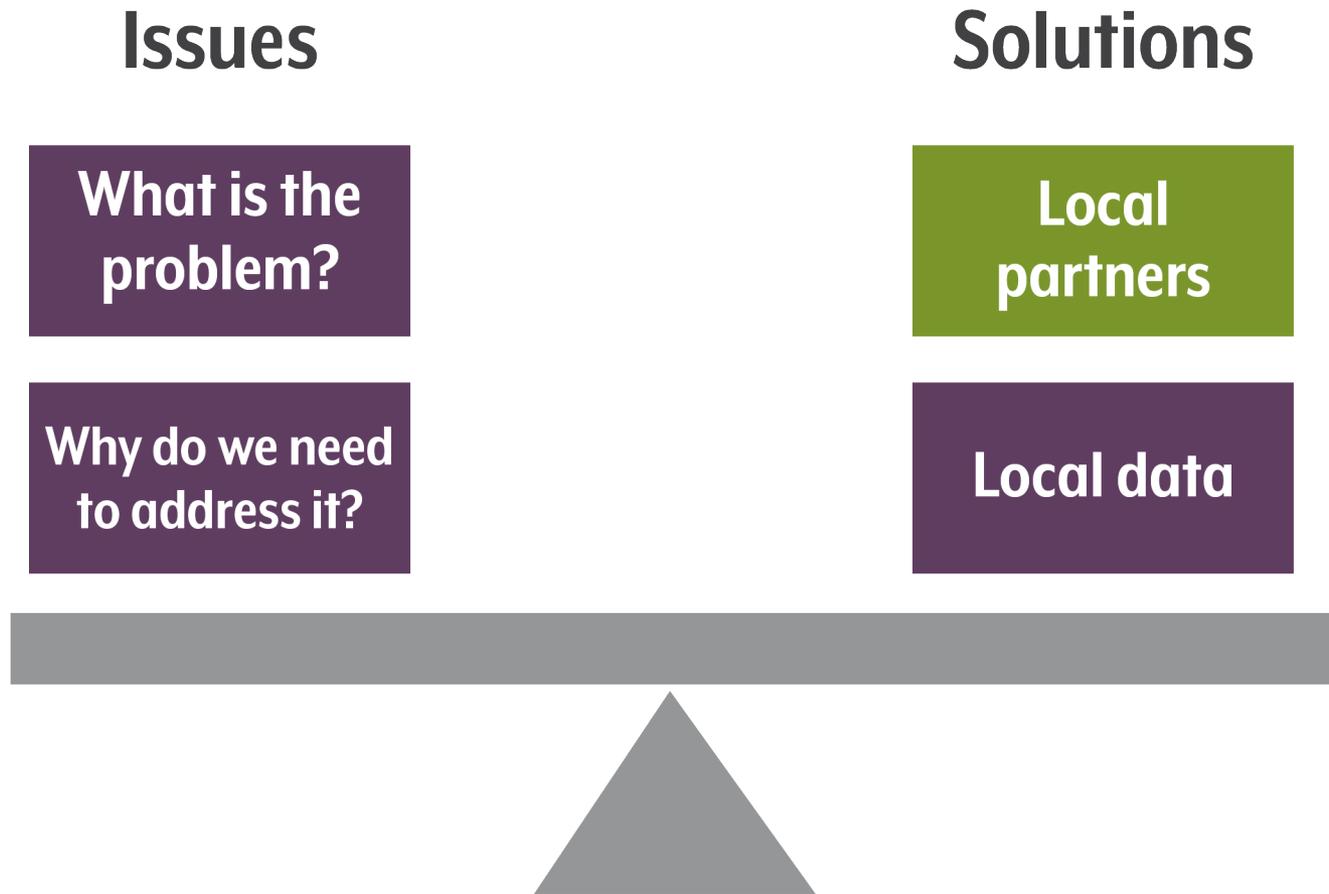
Local Data Informs Solutions

Issues

Solutions



Local Partners Turn Information Into Action





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

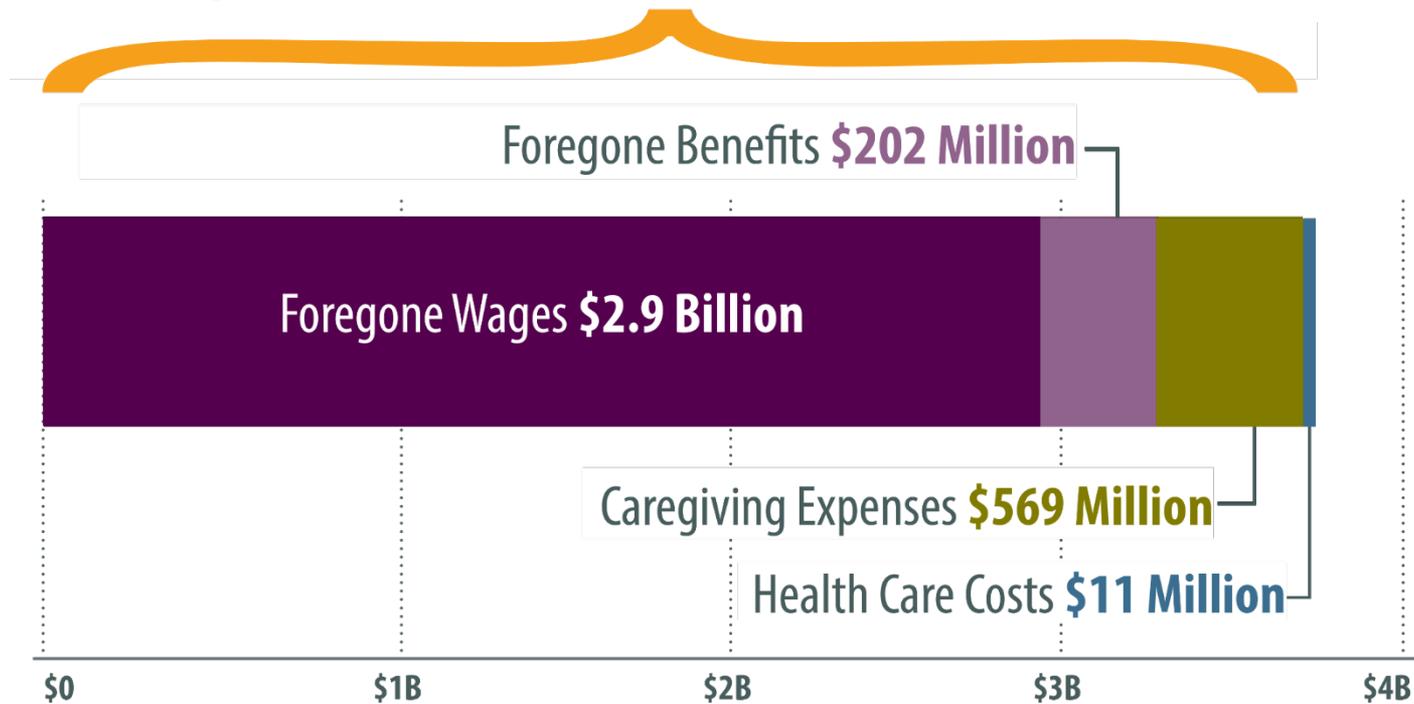


Source: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing



Unpaid Caregiving Has a High Price

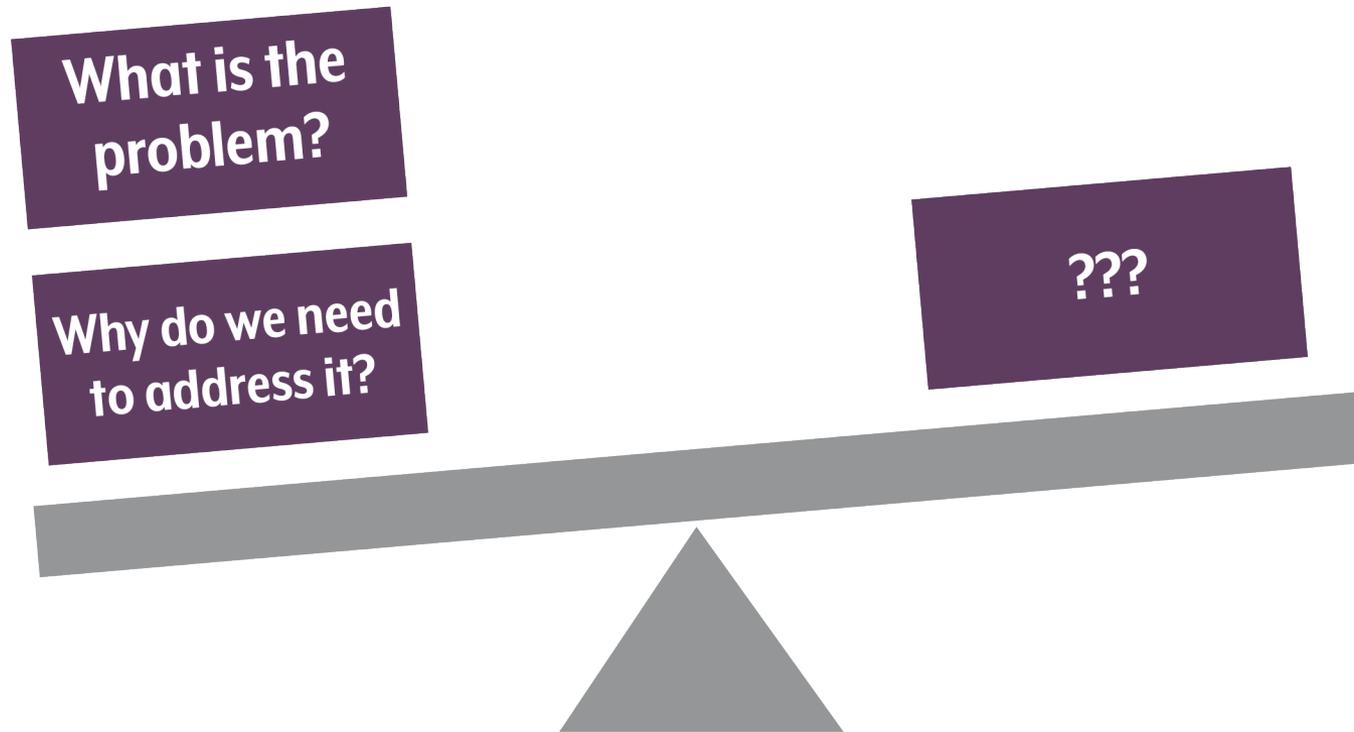
\$3.7 Billion Dollars in 2015



Finding Solutions for Colorado's Age Wave

Issues

Solutions





Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

POLITICS > COLORADO POLITICS

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

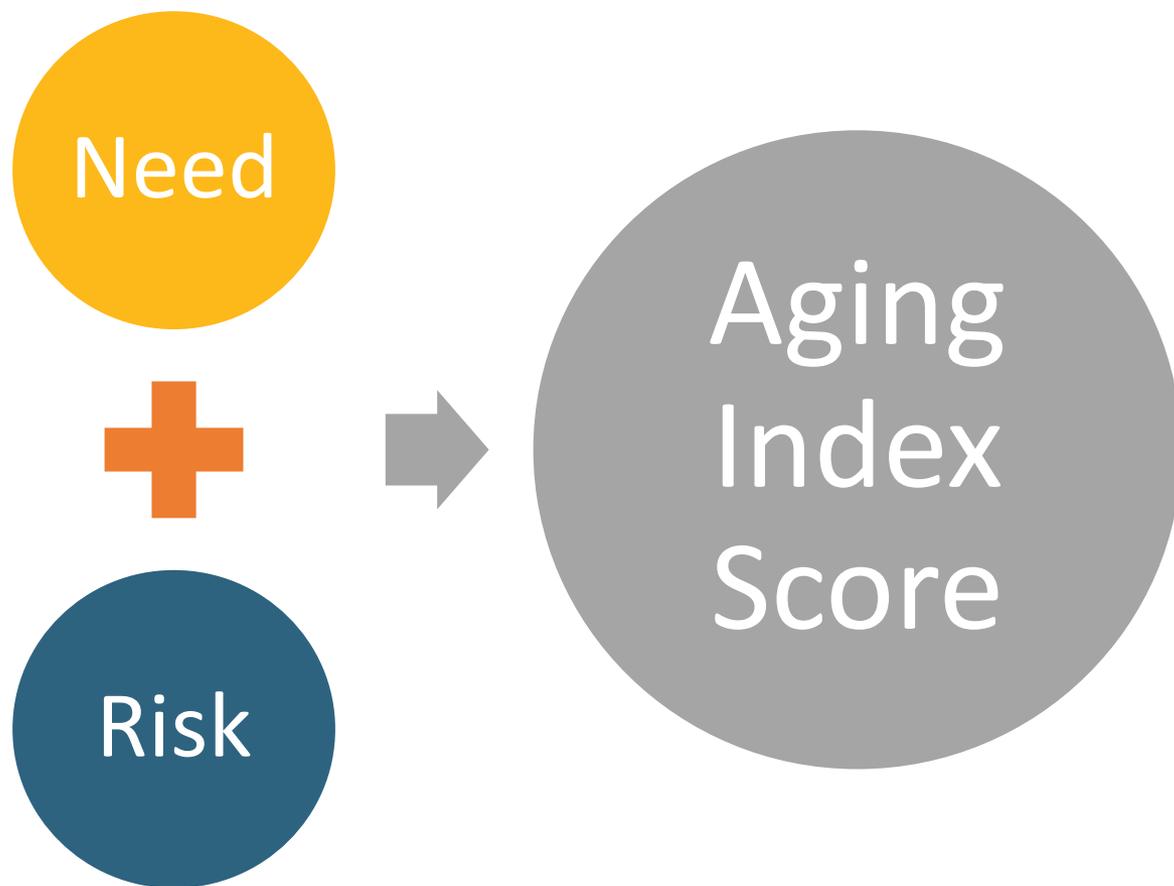
Local Data Informs Solutions

Issues

Solutions



Aging Index Identifies Counties with Greatest Health Challenges



Factors in the Index

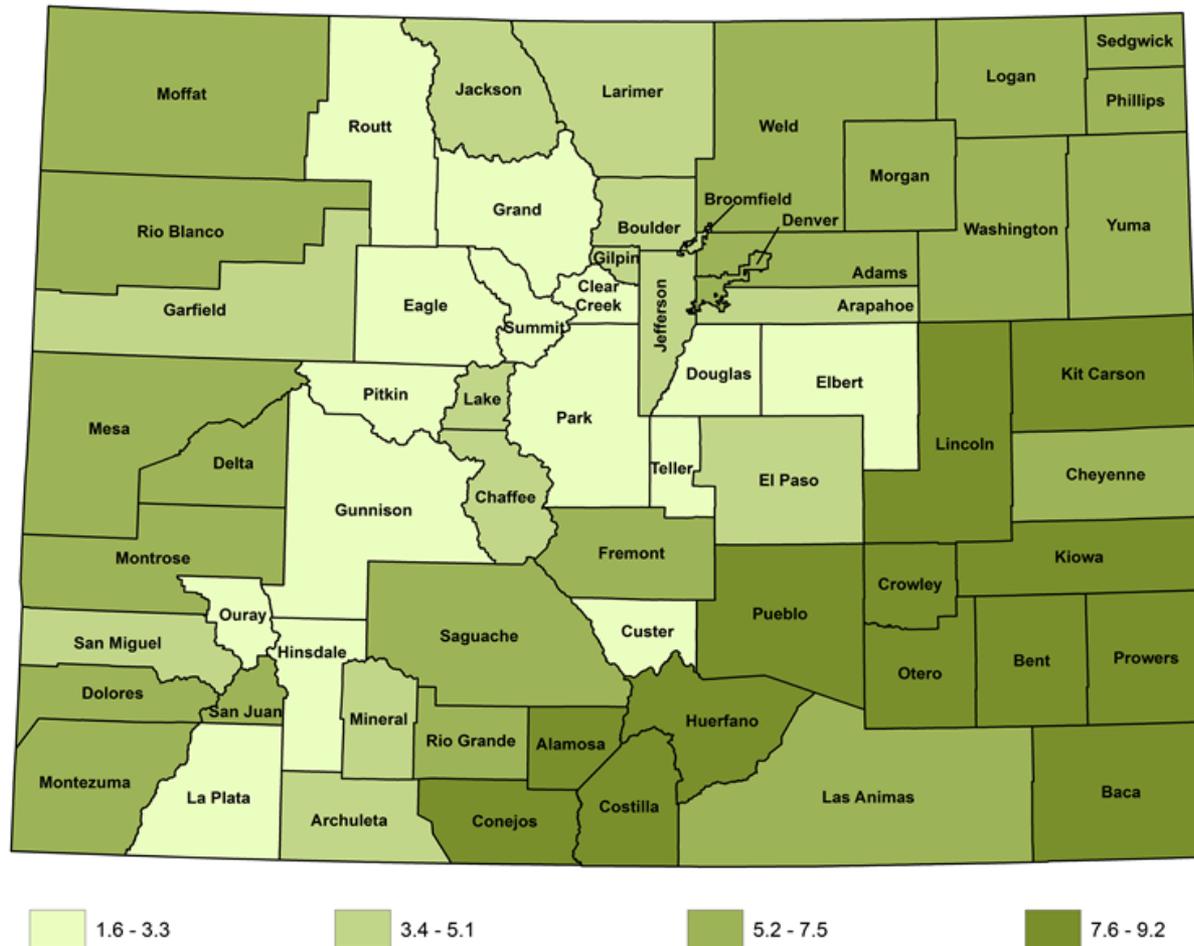
Need

- Cognition
- Hearing
- Independent Living
- Self-Care
- Vision
- Walking and Stairs

Risk

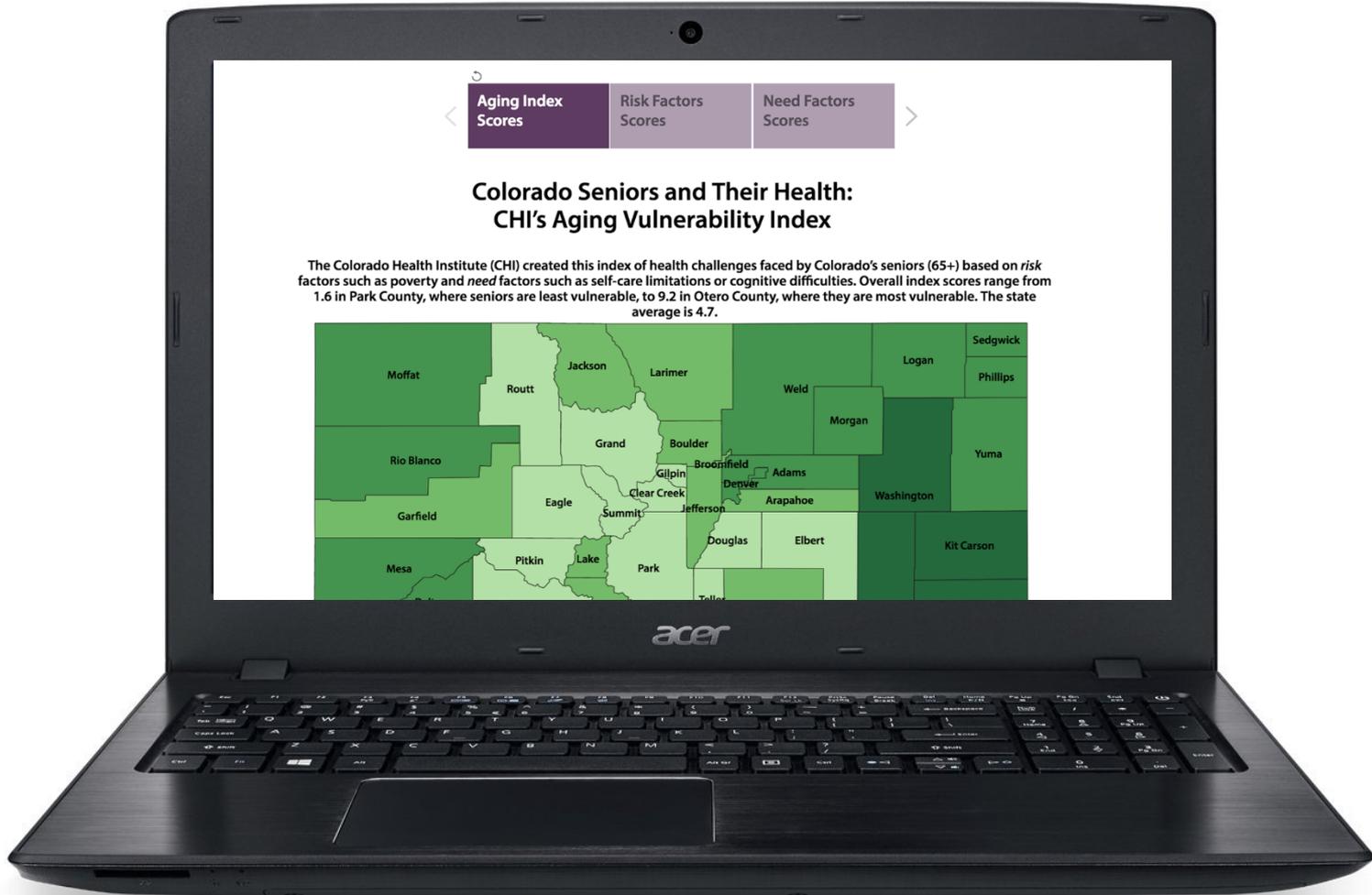
- Age
- Education
- Living Alone
- Income

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



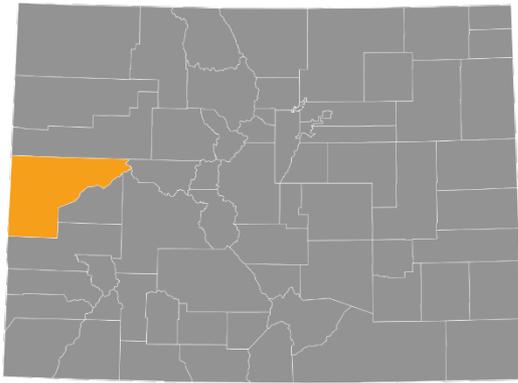
Source: Colorado Health Institute, Aging Vulnerability Index scores.

Using the Aging Vulnerability Index



coloradohealthinstitute.org

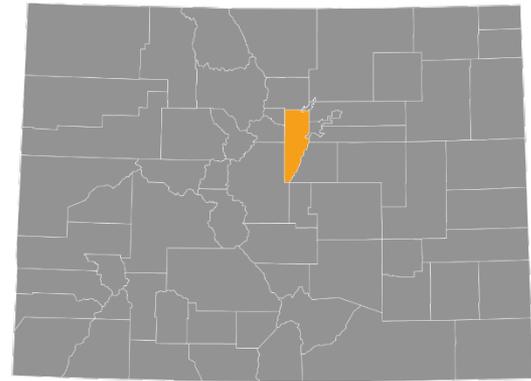




Mesa County

38 percent of seniors live alone.

27 percent of seniors are age 80 and older.

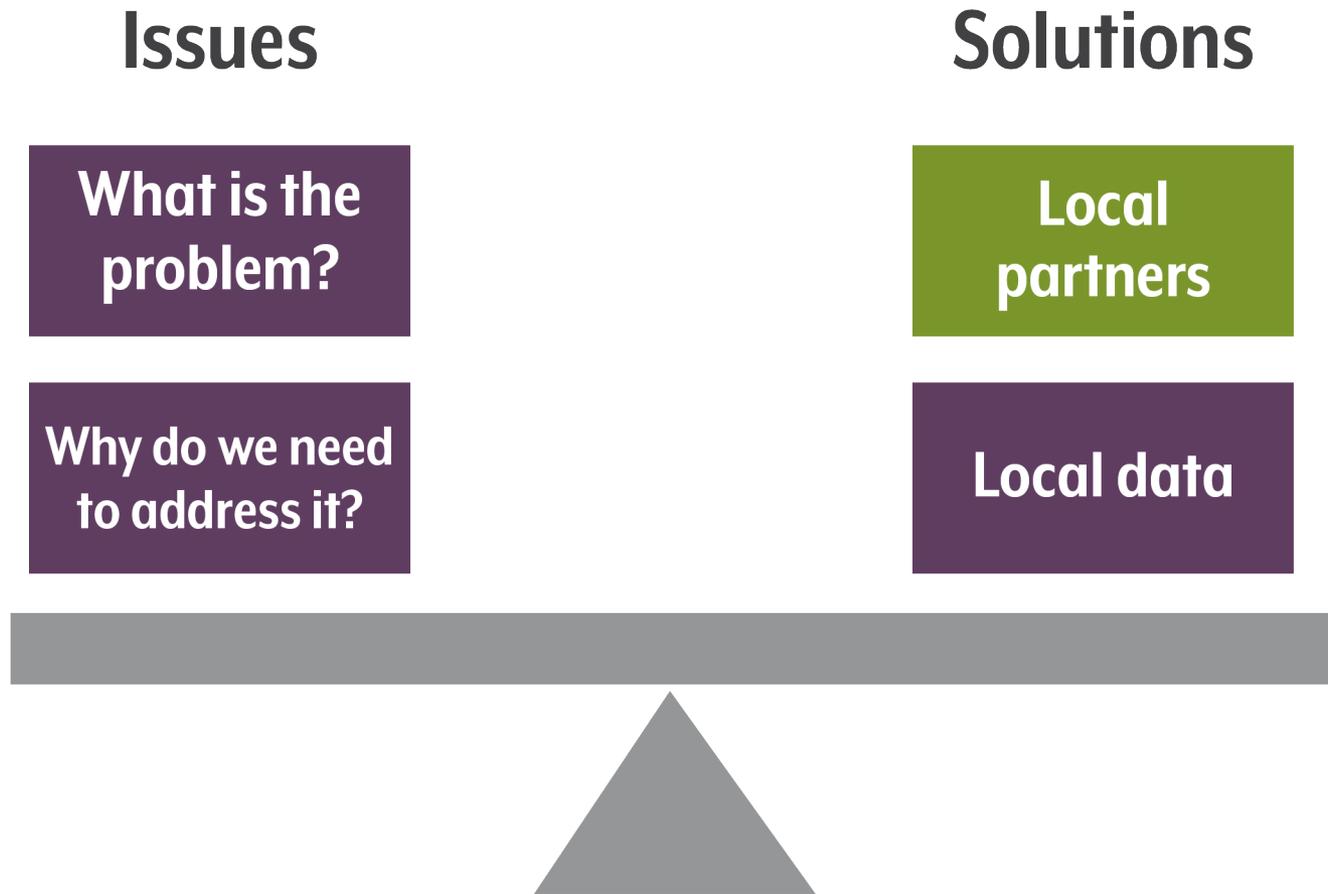


Jefferson County

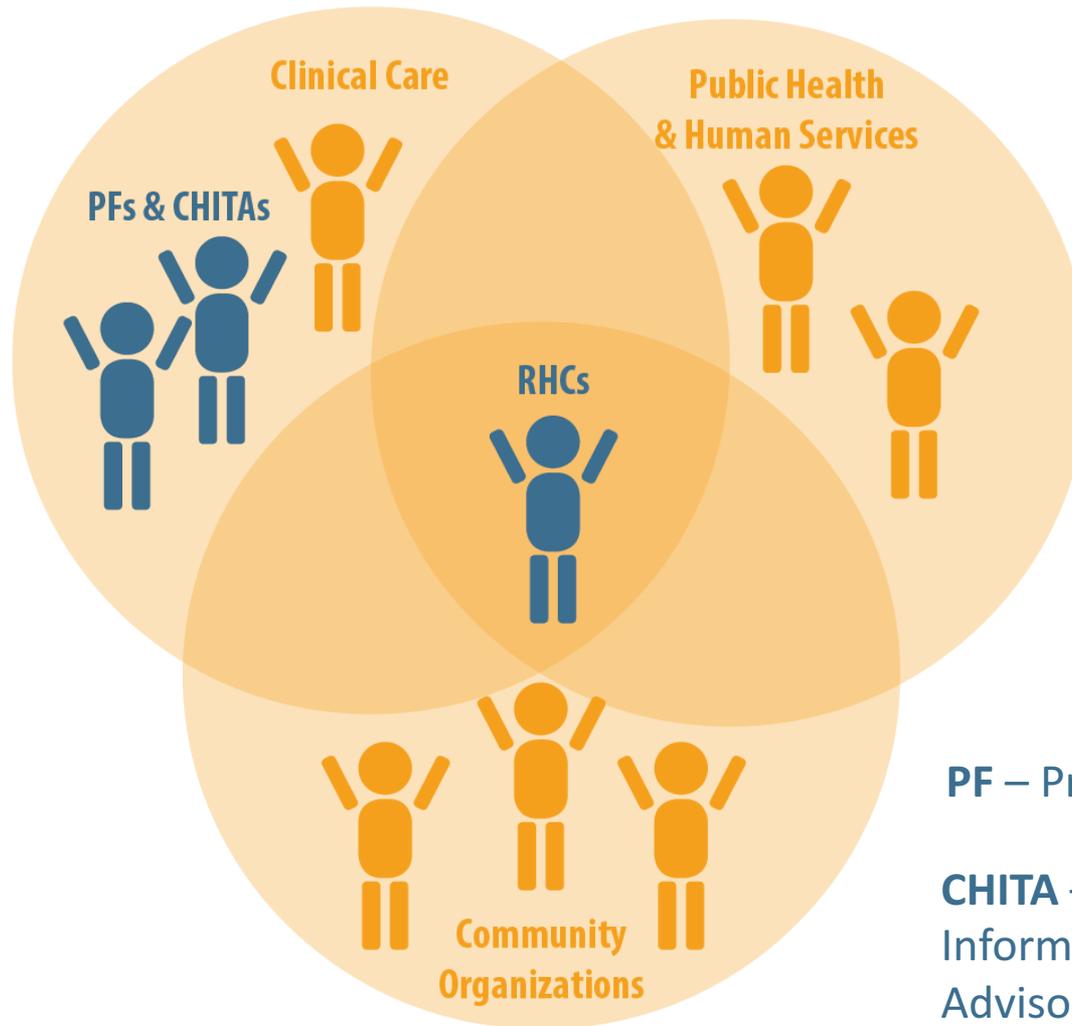
18 percent of seniors have difficulties walking or climbing stairs.

37 percent of seniors live alone.

Partners Act on Local Data



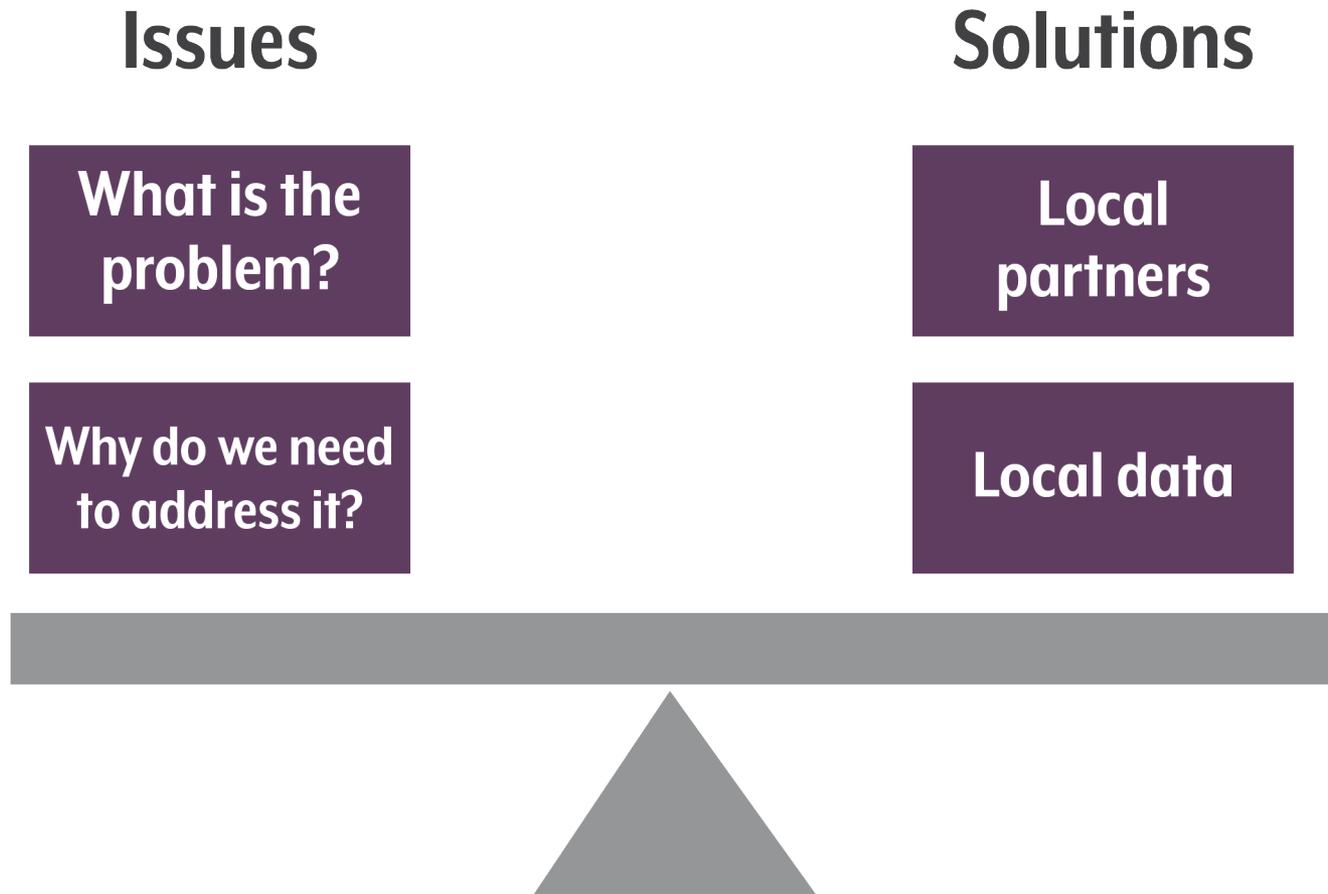
RHCs Connect Partners for Action



PF – Practice Facilitator

CHITA – Clinical Health Information Technology Advisor

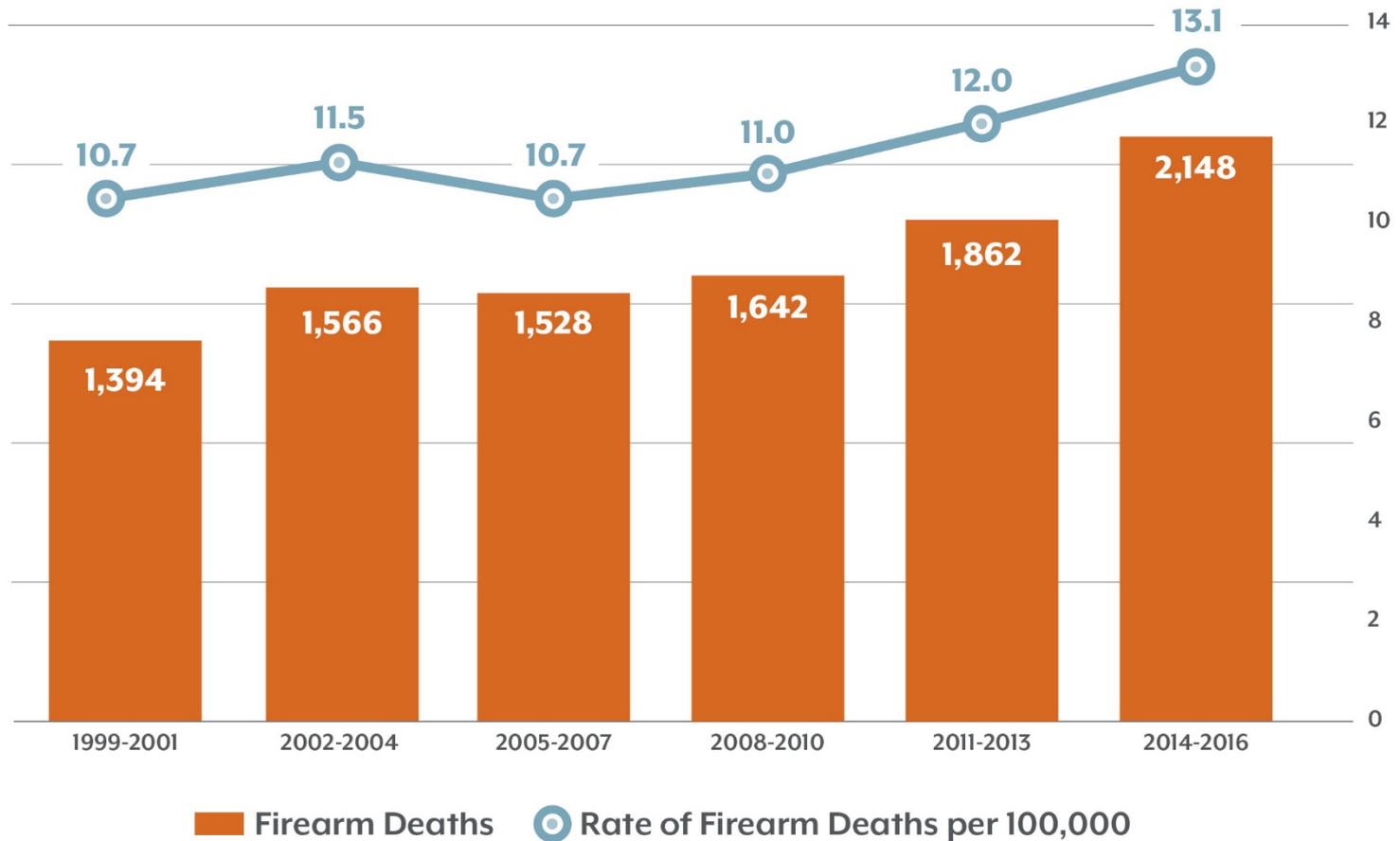
Local Information Generates Solutions





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

Issues

Solutions

What is the problem?

Why do we need to address it?

???

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.**



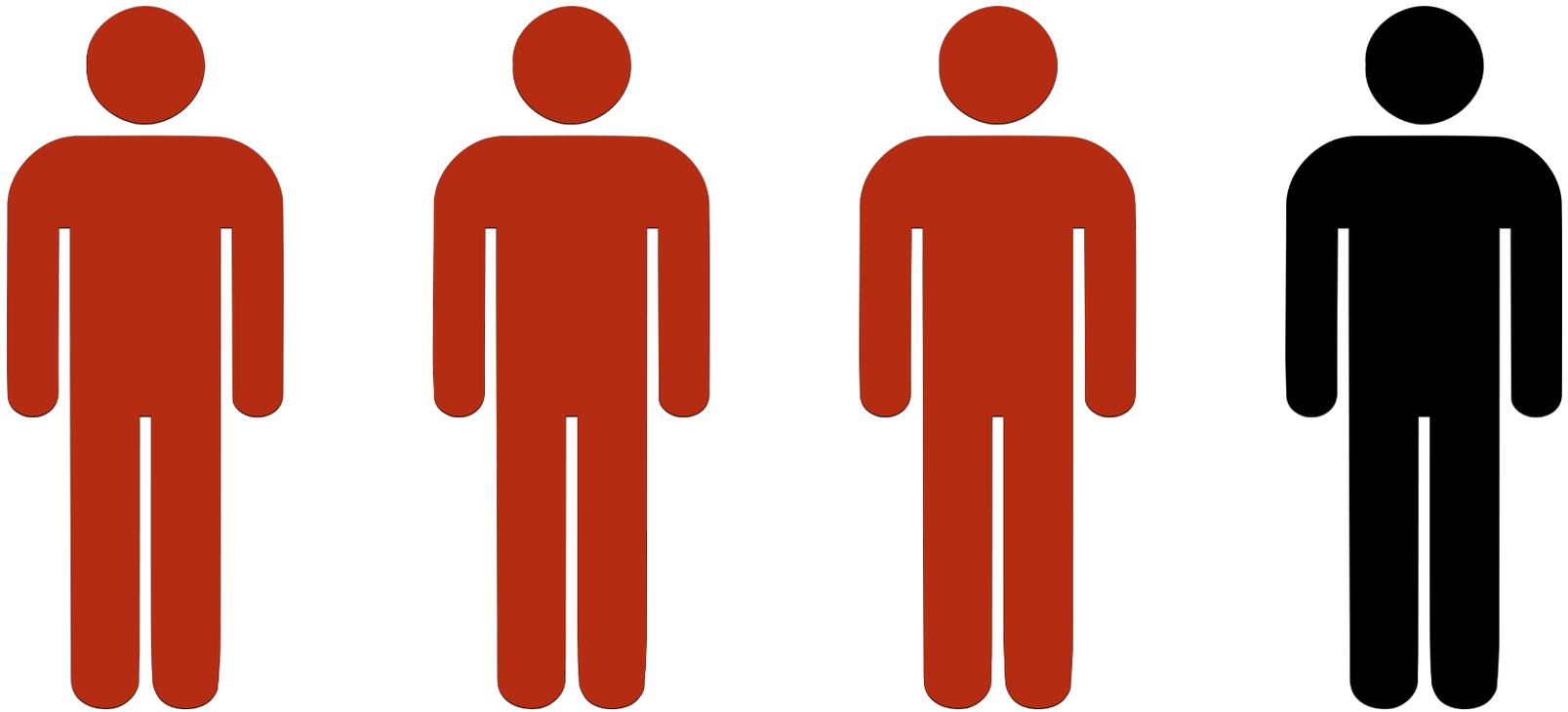
Using Local Information to Create Solutions to Firearm Deaths

Issues

Solutions



Most Firearm Deaths Are Suicides

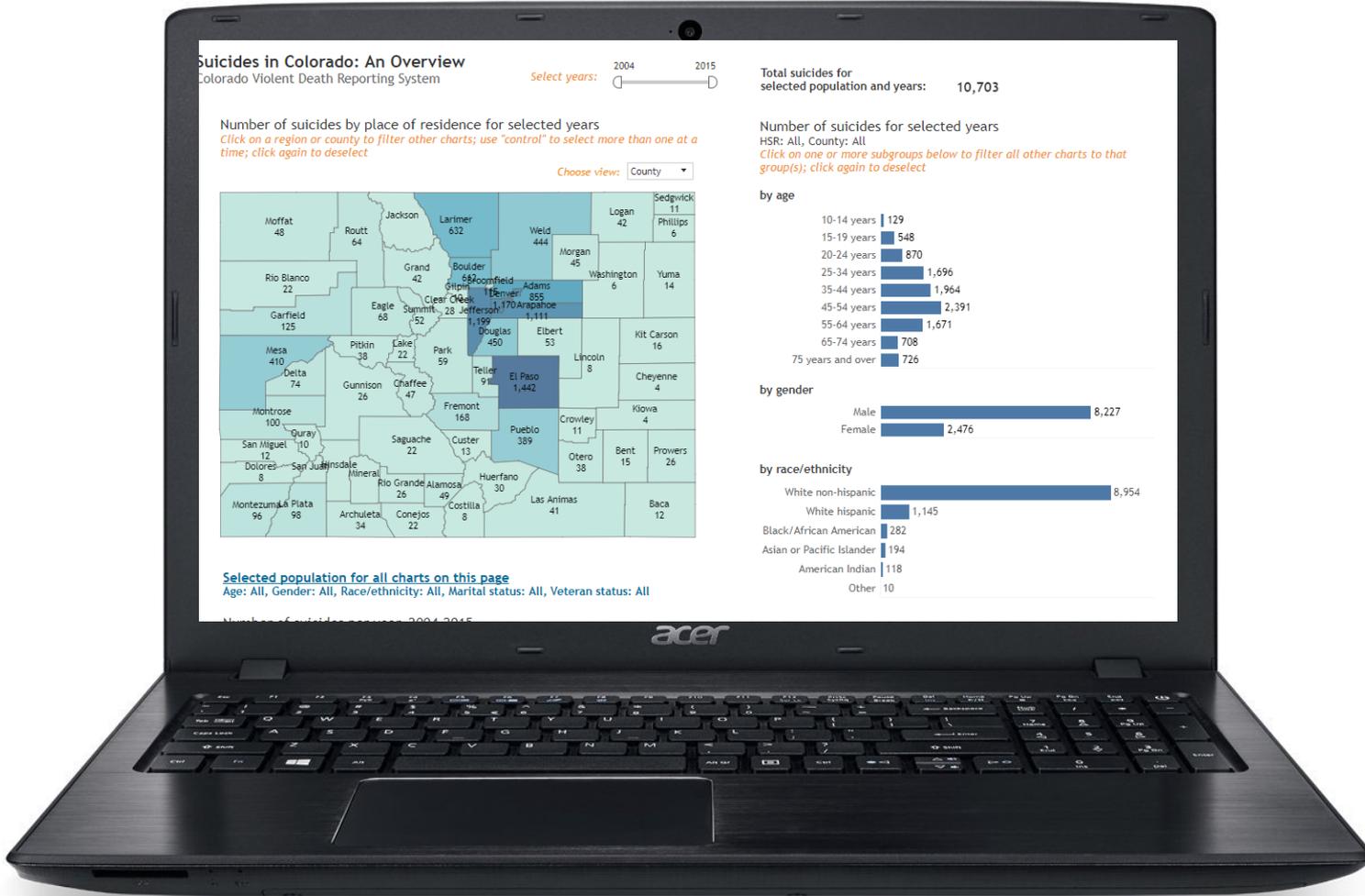


Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- 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



CDPHE Suicide Dashboard



Local Partners Generate Solutions

Issues

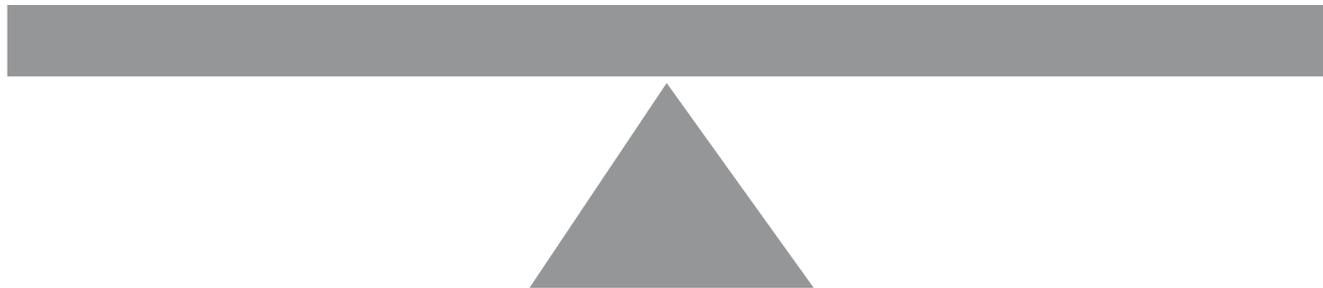
What is the problem?

Why do we need to address it?

Solutions

Local partners

Local data



“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 break-up, 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?

- **SUICIDES IN COLORADO FAR OUTNUMBER HOMICIDES** there are about 4 firearm suicides for every firearm homicide
- **FIREARMS ARE THE LEADING METHOD OF SUICIDE** and are used in half of all suicide deaths
- **ATTEMPTS WITH A GUN ARE GENERALLY MORE DEADLY** than attempts with other methods

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

Adapted from: 



Check out the newly added 11th commandment on the back page 

GUN SAFETY RULES

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.

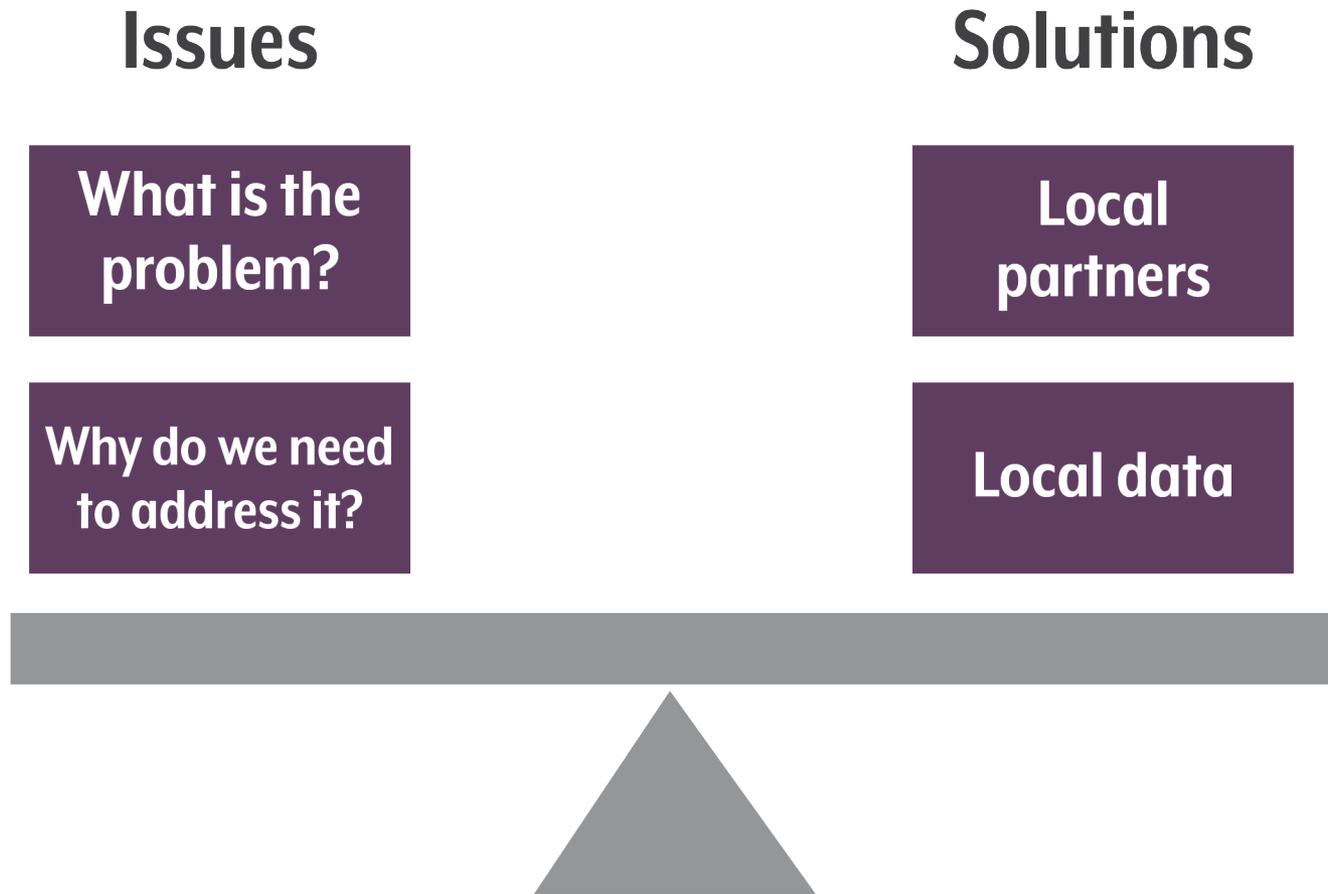


Gun Shop Project Is Statewide



 Counties with Gun Shop Project Locations

Local Information Generates Solutions



Key Takeaway

Solving complex health issues requires local information and partners.

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Case Study #2: Firearms



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