



ADAMS COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

— *Your Health. Our Mission.* —

Adams County Health Department Youth and Community Violence Prevention Action Team (VPAT)

Jamie Rodriguez, MPH

Regional Health Connector, Health Equity and Strategic Initiatives Division

1/16/2025

Adams County Landscape

Between 2018-2022, Adams County experienced higher homicide rates than Colorado on average: 7.01 v 5.67 per 100,000

76% of homicides between 2018-2022 involved a firearm

2021 was Adams County's highest rate of homicides in last 2 *decades*

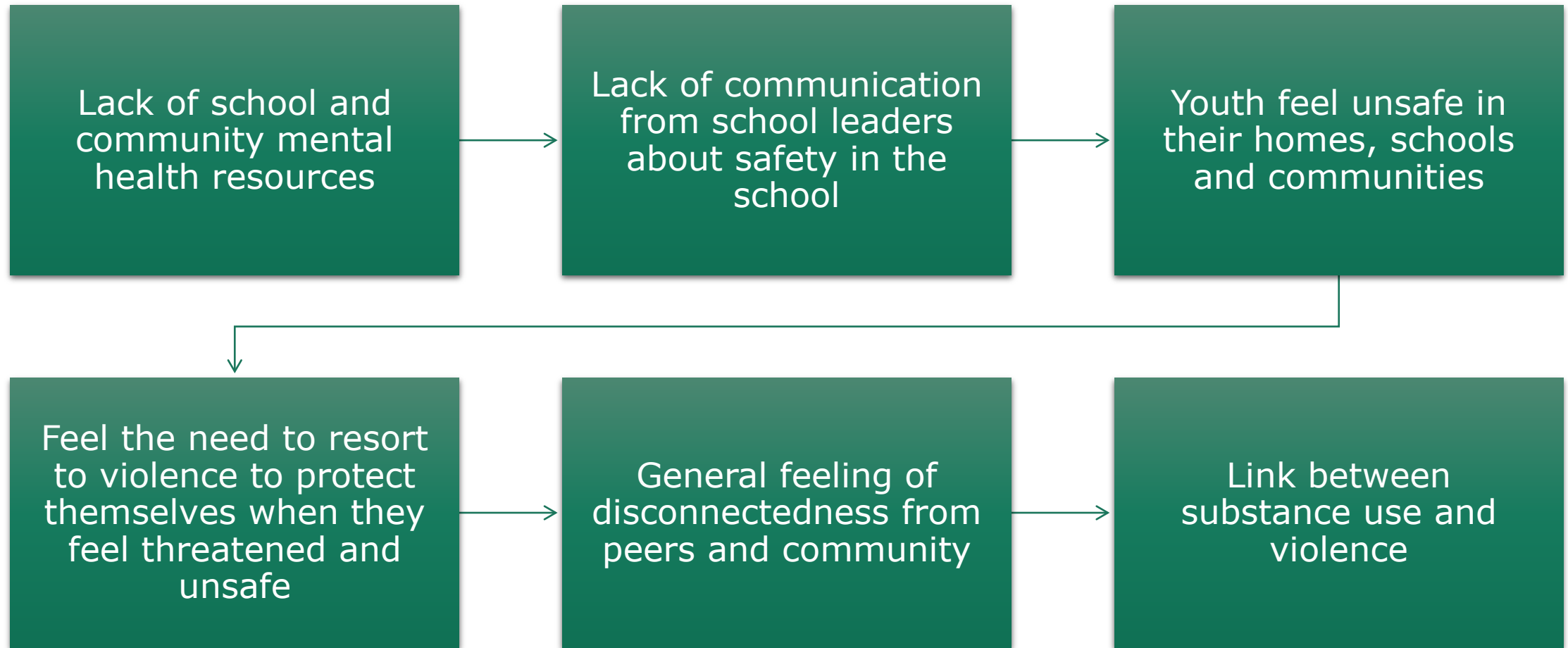
Non-fatal firearm injuries, all causes, increased from 10.1 to 26.6 per 100,000 from 2018-2022



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Youth Perspective



Health Department Positions

Jamie
Rodriguez

- Regional Health Connector

Lina
Stanchev

- Child Fatality Review and Maltreatment Prevention Coordinator

Anthony
Reedy

- Substance Use and Violence Prevention Specialist



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Who is Who in VPAT?



Adams County Health Department:

Levon Hupfer
Jamie Rodriguez
Lina Stanchev
Anthony Reedy
Gabriela Reyes
Callie Preheim
Libby Harrington



Community Partners:

Johnnie Williams (Denver Youth Program)
Ginny McCarthy (Denver Youth Program)
Josh Cochran (Adams 14 School District)



17th District Attorney's Office

Alfonso Lozano (Youth Diversion)
Karen Schweihs (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council)



Adams County Government

McKenna Hynes (Collaborative Management)
Sherronda Appleberry (Deputy Coroner)
Paul Gregory (Undersheriff)



Advisors

Jonathan McMillan (Trailhead Institute)
Beverly Kingston (University of Colorado, Boulder)



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What is VPAT

- Technical assistance grant received from National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Additional support from:
 - National League of Cities
 - Community Justice Action Fund
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Grant period: January 2024-July 2024



1924-2024: A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES



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Grant Deliverables

Complete needs assessment

- Evaluate current state in Adams County

In-person grantee gathering

- Strategic priorities developed

Individual and group-based TA calls

- Learning and support

Action planning

- Developed goals and activities

Sustainability planning

- Long-term actions to keep work moving forward

Strategic Priorities



Build a path for ongoing, comprehensive, and holistic care for individuals and communities



Strengthen supports to help youth and young adults *thrive* through leadership, educational attainment, and employment



Develop a multisector ecosystem focused on a sustained investment in violence prevention over the next 5 years



Strengthen family and community engagement to empower them to take action in their communities and with their government leaders



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Build a path for ongoing, comprehensive, and holistic care for individuals and communities

Compile and Map

Compile and map existing resources for youth and young adults

Identify

Identify existing safe and accessible youth serving spaces, coalitions, and programs

Support

Support Denver Youth with REACH clinic development; support future expansion of HVI programs and REACH clinic into Adams County





Strengthen family and community engagement to empower them to take action in their communities and with their government leaders

Convene and engage youth in listening and feedback sessions

Develop fact sheets and data dashboards to share with youth and community

Utilize community gathering models to engage community and inform leaders



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Strengthen supports to help youth and young adults *thrive* through leadership, educational attainment, and employment

1

Identify and engage youth, young adults, and youth organized groups to participate in VPAT and youth listening sessions

2

Identify spaces with ability to include youth and young adult services, resources, education and supports

3

Identify and engage existing meetings and coalitions that support and engage youth



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Develop multisector ecosystem focused on a sustained investment in violence prevention over the next 5 years



Continue monthly VPAT team meetings-work on implementation of action plan



Invite missing and underrepresented sectors and community members



Include elected officials and high-level decision makers



THE SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO OWNERSHIP



Building a Sustainable Prevention Infrastructure

Prevention and intervention programming targeting areas of highest need

Using implementation science best practices

Evaluation to demonstrate impact

Sustainability



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2025 Planning and Implementation

- Priority communities:
 - South Commerce City
 - Federal Heights
 - North Aurora (support as requested)
- Engage law enforcement
- Youth listening sessions and engagement
- Partnering with Other County Departments
 - Suicide Prevention Month
 - Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - Gun Violence Prevention Activities





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Questions?

Please direct questions or concerns to

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