

COLORADO'S HANDGUN INTERVENTION PROGRAM: AN

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT TO HELP
REDUCE GUNS IN THE HANDS OF
OUR KIDS

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SOME STATS REGARDING DENVER COUNTY

- Population as of the July 2021 was 711,463 per the US Census
- The population make up is as follows:
 - White alone 68%
 - Black 9.9%
 - American Indian/Alaska Native 1.8%
 - Asian alone 4.1%
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone 0.2%
 - Two or more races 3.5%
 - Hispanic or Latino 29%
- Persons in poverty 11.7%

THE HANDGUN INTERVENTION PROGRAM—WHY?

HIP WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO AN INCREASE IN JUVENILE HANDGUN RELATED CASES. HIP IS COMMITTED TO BALANCE COMMUNITY SAFETY WITH YOUTH'S NEEDS THROUGH A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES. WE EMBRACE A CULTURALLY DIVERSE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MODEL BY PROMOTING AND INSPIRING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT.



SOME GUN STATS COURTESY OF THE CITYWIDE IMPACT TEAM OF THE DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT


- 2020 Guns recovered – 1,606
- 2021 Guns recovered – 1,897
- 2022 Guns recovered – 2,217



SPECIFIC CRIMES RELATED TO YOUTH ARRESTS

Statistics courtesy of the Citywide Impact Team of the DPD:

	SIMPLE ASSAULT	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	HOMICIDE	TOTAL ARRESTS w/ Firearm
2020	236	104	192	33	119
2021	222	84	276	13	178
2022	319	67	239	21	239



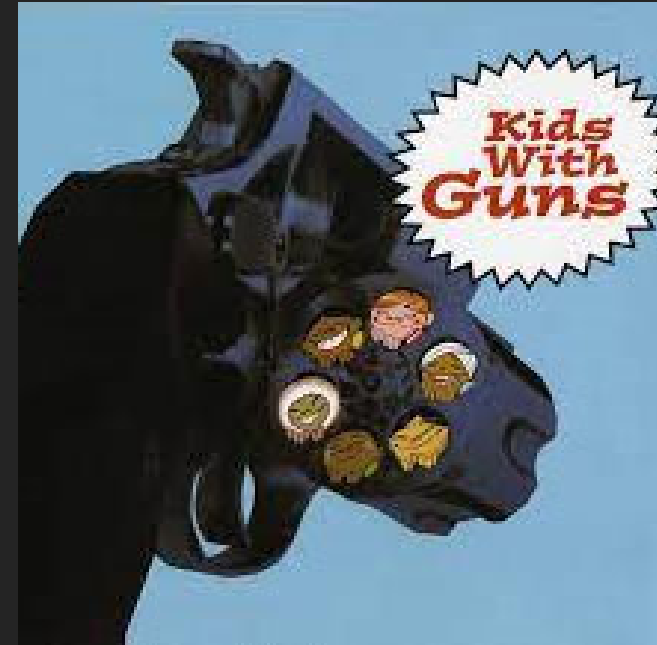
MEET OUR
STAKEHOLDERS:
THE COURT, DA, PD/ADC,
GAL, DHS, AND
PROBATION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado Handgun Intervention Program exists to support Denver youth with a handgun charge and their families in order to address its impact on our community and to reduce handgun recidivism.

WHO?

- Low to medium risk juveniles facing charges of juvenile in possession of a handgun (first offense) are automatically referred to the program by the District Attorney's office.
- Juveniles who do not automatically warrant a HIP offer are staffed in bi-weekly staffings made up of the Court, probation, DA, defense counsel and GAL. Their participation is debated and voted on.



WHAT?

- HIP Court participants are offered a 6-month deferred adjudication in exchange for their guilty plea and agreement to participate in a 6-week program with bi-weekly court appearances that culminates in a special presentation by the juvenile.





HANDGUN INTERVENTION PROGRAM

- Week 1—Community Accountability Board
- Week 2—Learn Your Rights in Colorado (LYRIC)
- Week 3—Victim Impact Panel
- Week 4—Police Officer Presentation
- Week 5—Medical presentation
- Week 6 —Presentations

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY BOARDS (CABS)

- Each juvenile is assigned a community accountability board made up from members of the community that are assigned to work with them throughout the duration of the HIP program. The role of the community members is to offer support, encouragement, and help our kids embrace a crime free lifestyle.
- These are volunteers from the community

LYRIC

Educational program where attorneys from our community present to our youth about their constitutional rights focusing on interaction with law enforcement.



VICTIM IMPACT PANEL

- Survivors share their stories about loved ones affected by gun violence using restorative practices
- One of the most impactful parts of the program according to our kids
- Denver 7 (ABC affiliate) - Colorado mom who forgave son's killer celebrates 10 years of restorative justice.
- Sharletta Evans:
Sharlettacevans@gmail.com
Executive Director Colorado Crime Survivor's Network



POLICE OFFICER PRESENTATION

Members of the Denver Police Department (DPD) speak to the youth about issues of community gun violence from a law enforcement perspective. The goal of this conversation is have an open dialogue between DPD and the community to overcome myths and fears that community members may have.



MEDICAL PRESENTATION

A medical doctor presents to the youth about the consequences of gun violence from a medical perspective. The goal of this session is to show the harm bullets cause to the body but also give some basic first aid to help prevent death.



GOALS PRESENTATION

Each youth share a presentation reflecting on what they learned from the HIP programming and present their vision for future goals. These presentations can be spoken, written or any other creative option.



GOALS PRESENTATION EXAMPLE

Here is an example of a presentation done by one of the program participants, Isreal.

Introduction

Hi my name is israel I am 14 and in the 8th grade I go to astravo online school. something I like to do is listen to music and go to the rec with my friends to play basketball and sometimes football. I enjoy playing video games as well.

What have I learned ? most?

What I have learned from the past couple of weeks of the Hand gun intervention program is

how guns can have a rippling effect on everyone's life especially in the wrong person's hands.

how to use a tourniquet when somebody is shot

what bullets do to the body.

What I will do different next time is not be around guns or people who have them

The changes I will make is to be responsible and to not be involved with anything/person who has one and hopefully get a job

What impacted me the

Victim impact, learning about what had happened with the victims of gun violence had really opened my eyes to how dangerous guns really are and how fast they can change peoples lives. Ms sharletta story stood out to me the most it made me go through the emotions of what it would be like to lose someone so close to me in such a tragic way.

What I will do differently and the changes

What I will do differently next time is not be around guns or people who have them (probably need to think about choosing better friends who have good intentions and future goals)

The changes I will make is to stop and think before I do because a temporary decision can cause a permanent action

Future goals for a positive future

- 1) working at chick fil a because they are known for giving more than \$35 million in college scholarships to their employees.
- 2) is to focus on school and graduate high school.
- 3) is being a real estate agent and to buy my own property to rent out.

EXPECTATION OF THE FAMILIES

- Families are expected to attend bi-weekly court appearances and weekly programming with each of our youth.
- We help them remove any barrier to attendance such as transportation
- Dinner is provided at each of the programming sessions



SOME NUMBERS

- To date there have been 6 cohorts, the 7th is starting April 3, 2023.
 - There were 7 participants in cohort 1
 - 4 in cohort 2
 - 6 in cohort 3
 - 4 in cohort 4
 - 8 in cohort 5
 - 6 in cohort 6
 - 6 in cohort 7
- So far there have been 35 HIP Court participants. We are running state wide court search, NCIC and county court databases every 6 months to check recidivism rates.

A wide-angle photograph of the Denver skyline under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, Central Park is visible with trees in autumn foliage. A large, light-colored building with a red roof and two towers sits on the edge of a lake. The city's skyscrapers, including the prominent 16-story building with a rounded top, are visible in the background. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in a large, blue, striped font.

Questions?

THANK YOU!

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