

EXTREME RISK LAWS SAVE LIVES

Extreme risk laws allow families and law enforcement officers to ask a judge for an extreme risk protection order (ERPO). An ERPO can temporarily prohibit someone from purchasing or possessing a gun if they are at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.

HOW DO WE KNOW THEY SAVE LIVES?



In 2020, the 7 states with the lowest gun death rates all had extreme risk laws.

14 of the 15 states with the highest rates of gun deaths did not. The exception was New Mexico, where an extreme risk law went into effect in May of that year.

Data from the CDC

HOW EXTREME RISK LAWS WORK

Extreme risk laws use a non-criminal process with a court hearing and clearly defined due process protections.

A judge determines whether the person is at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.

If there is risk, the judge may issue an order to remove the person's guns and return them after a set period of time.



EXTREME RISK LAWS AND SUICIDE

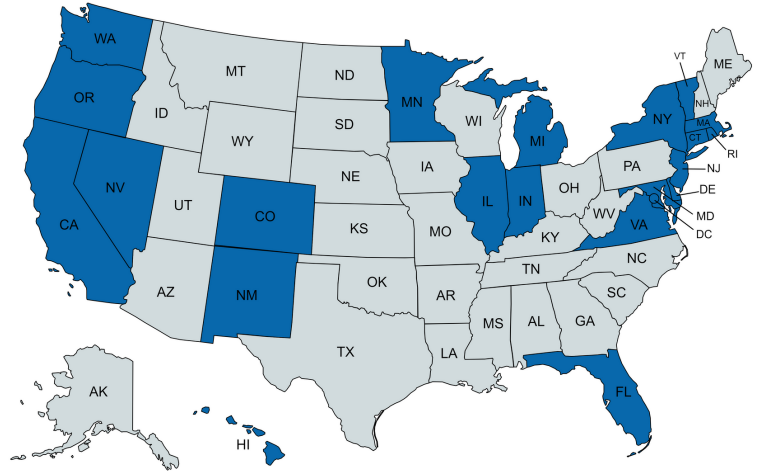
Indiana adopted an extreme risk law in 2004. Over the next ten years, gun suicides in the state decreased by 7.5%.

Connecticut's enforcement of an extreme risk law was associated with a 14% decrease in gun suicides.

Suicide attempts with a gun are fatal 90% of the time. Suicide attempts that do not involve a gun are fatal 4% of the time. Most people who survive a first suicidal act do not die by suicide later, which means temporary gun removal can save a life.



WHO HAS EXTREME RISK LAWS?



states with extreme risk laws
as of February 2024

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EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS AND HOMICIDE

Protection orders have been used to remove guns in situations including:

- credible threats of mass shootings or school shootings
- violent harassment
- domestic violence involving threats with a gun
- homicidal threats

Source Information

“Extreme Risk Laws Save Lives.” Everytown Research & Policy, Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, 17 Aug. 2022, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/extreme-risk-laws-save-lives/>.

“Extreme Risk Laws.” The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, 1 Nov. 2021, <https://efsgv.org/learn/policies/extreme-risk-laws/>.

Tures, John A. “Red Flag Laws Saved 7,300 Americans from Gun Deaths in 2020 Alone – and Could Have Saved 11,400 More.” The Conversation, 21 July 2022, <https://theconversation.com/red-flag-laws-saved-7-300-americans-from-gun-deaths-in-2020-alone-and-could-have-saved-11-400-more-185009>



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