Tacoma-Pierce County
Board of Health

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Study Session Agenda
June 17, 2026
3 - 5 p.m.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - Auditorium
Hybrid Format with in-person and remote attendance

Dial in: 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 879 2956 5840
Passcode: 593189
Webinar
Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87929565840?pwd=a3FPWHlDckFXSC9EaHdlUnh0U01qdz09

3629 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418
Board of Health Clerk, (253) 649-1502

Board Members
Joe Bushnell
Paul Herrera
Jani Hitchen
Ryan Mello
Dave Olson
Nicholas Rajacich, MD
Sandesh Sadalge
Bryan Yambe

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH
[Andy Rohr, Strengthening Families Assistant Division Director]
[Elizabeth Allen, Behavioral & Emotional Health Program Manager]

IV. CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS
[Chelsey Bell, Health Promotion Coordinator II]

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Gun Violence Prevention

A public health approach

Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health

June 17, 2026

Andy Rohr &
Elizabeth Allen

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Agenda

- Connection to our Strategic Plan.
- National Gun Violence Awareness Month.
- Pierce County data.
- A public health approach.
- Safe storage efforts.
- Youth violence prevention contracts and campaign.
- Conflict resolution trainings.
- What's next.

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2025–2029

Strategic Plan

Vision

Healthy People in Healthy Communities.

Mission

We protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County.

Values

- Equity.
- Integrity.
- Respect.
- Leadership.

Strategic Initiative

Improve health outcomes

Measure C, Strategy 7: Support violence prevention and safety efforts.

- A. Leverage partnerships to improve coordination of and access to youth programming, violence prevention efforts, and safety initiatives.
- B. Increase sense of belonging by promoting social connectedness.

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National Gun Violence Awareness Month

- Raise awareness by partnering with Family Resource Centers.
- Provide lockboxes and safe storage education.
- Engage community with opportunities for conversation and connection.

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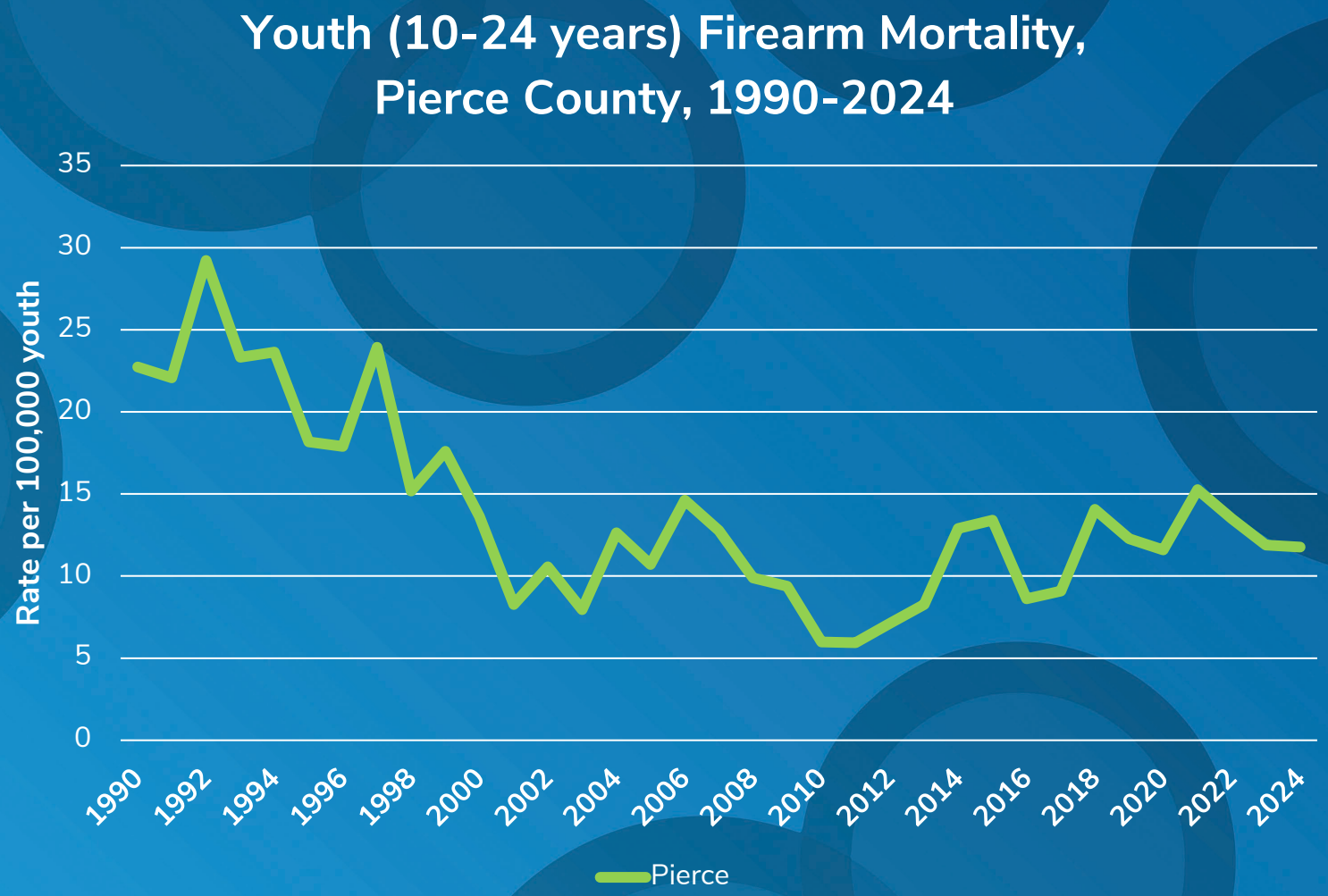
Firearm mortality



- Among people 15-34, second leading cause of death across all causes.
- Among people 35-64, second leading cause of death across injury only causes.

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Community organizing

2024–2025:

- Community gatherings.
- Investment in community organizations.
- Public health campaign development.
- Action planning.

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Youth violence prevention contracts

- Subcontracted with Imagine Justice Project.
- Received 35 applications for $120,000 in funding.
- Funded 19 organizations with grants ranging from $2,000–$12,000.
- Served more than 3,100 youth.

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Emergent goals

- Reduce firearm lethality.
- Improve data collection and sharing.
- Advance policy and systems change.
- Explore regional violence prevention infrastructure.

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Safe storage efforts

We started providing free firearm lockboxes in 2019.

- Distributed more than 1,000 since 2019.
- Ramped up efforts with Tacoma funding in 2024.
- Pierce County expansion in 2026.

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Pierce County expansion

- Last week, Pierce County announced a $300,000 investment to provide:
  - 1,500 biometric lockboxes.
  - Community outreach.
  - Education.

Want to get a lockbox?
Sign up for our email list at
tpchd.org/lockboxinfo

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Youth prevention campaign

Webpage: tpchd.org/choosepeace

"I wish I'd known what would really happen when I did that."

More than 50 people died from gun violence before their 25th birthday.

(From 2019–2023 in Pierce County)

Before you pick up a gun, know what can really happen.

Your choice affects your family, future, and finances.

When you pick up a gun, lots of different things might happen. Many of them could have lifelong costs. Did you know:

- If you carry a gun illegally now, you might lose your legal right to carry one in the future.
- Carrying a gun on school grounds is a mandatory 1-year expulsion under state law in Washington.
- Secure storage laws require adults to secure firearms? That means if you're caught with a gun, the adults in your home can face criminal charges.
- Youth who carry guns are less likely to be eligible for diversion if they commit a crime.

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Conflict resolution trainings

- Launched May 1, 2026.
- 2 cohorts, 12 total trainings.
- Focus on training organizations serving youth.

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Future work

- Continue safe storage efforts throughout county.
- Public health campaign.
- Conflict resolution trainings.
- More outreach throughout county.
- Work with partners to increase education efforts.
- Look for more opportunities to partner and convene.

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Questions?

Andy Rohr
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Elizabeth Allen
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Continuity of Operations (COOP)

Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health

June 17, 2026

Chelsey Bell

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Agenda

- Link to Strategic Plan.
- COOP plan.
  - Highlights.
  - Board of Health roles and responsibilities.
- COOP discussion-based exercise.

2025–2029

Strategic Plan

Vision

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Strategic Initiative

Increase efficiency and effectiveness

Measure D: Increase Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training completion rates for identified public health response leaders from 44% to 80% by 2029.

- Strategy 5: Increase emergency preparedness, response, and resilience.
  - a. Train and prepare staff for emergency response.
  - b. Strengthen and test emergency plans.

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What are continuity of operations (COOP)?

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COOP highlights

- Activation process.
- Notification and reporting.
- Accountability.
- Assessment of infrastructure and impact.
  - Facilities staff are Applied Technology Council (ATC).
  - Trained for post-earthquake evaluation.

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Board of Health roles and responsibilities

- Supervise all matters pertaining to preservation of life and health of people within its jurisdiction (RCW 70.05.060).
- Enforce public health statutes of the state and rules of State Board of Health and Secretary of Health. (RCW 70.05.040)
  - Through Director of Public Health or Health Officer.
- As applicable, sign resolutions after reviewing written record from Director of Public Health for emergency acquisition of resources exceeding $50,000.
- Know line of succession for the Public Health Director and Health Officer positions.

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Operational process

A coordinated process to protect people, account for staff, assess the situation, and ensure continuity of operations.

1. Emergency occurs.
2. Evacuate building.*
3. Complete accountability.
4. Assess building.
5. Reentry decision point.*
    - If no, COOP activation follows ICS.

*Is the answer yes or no.

Snowstorm scenario

- National Weather Service forecasts a major winter storm that will hit in 5 days.
  - Single digit temperatures expected.
  - 8–12 inches of snow forecasted in Pierce County over a 2-day period.
  - Ice concerns are low.
- HVAC system is not working.
  - Complete failure of hardware.
  - We need to replace parts for an emergency fix.
  - Estimated cost is ~$80,000 to fix immediately.
  - Cost will decrease $25,000 if we wait 2 months.

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Discussion questions

- What are the safety concerns?
- What alternative solutions can we implement to address HVAC concerns?
- Would you approve the emergency fix of the HVAC system?
- What are next steps?

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Questions?

Chelsey Bell

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