

Denver Sees an Increase in Homicides Including Youth Homicides in First Half of 2026

The statewide decline in firearm homicides seen between 2023 and 2025 also occurred in Denver. However, data from the Denver Police Department show an increase in homicides in the first half of 2026, 25 such deaths, compared to 18 in the first six months of 2025, a 39% increase. However, Chief of Police Ron Thomas pointed out that the 2026 number was considerably lower than the spike in homicides during and immediately after the Covid pandemic, when 50 people were killed in the first half of 2022.

The homicide increase between the first half of 2025 and the first half of 2026 included a higher number of youth homicides, reversing decreases in youth violence seen in the past two years. Six children were killed in Denver during the first half of 2026, and 11 more were wounded in shootings. In 2025, no children had been killed by July 1 and two were wounded in shootings. Of the 94 homicides and non-fatal shooting victims in the first half of 2026, 17 were children, or 1 in every 5.5 people killed or injured. However, as with Denver homicides in general, youth homicides were lower than during the Covid pandemic. Chief Thomas attributed some of the increase in youth violence to reductions in funding at the city, state, and federal levels.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2026/07/20/denver-violence-2026-homicides-increase-youth-children/?share=icd0hleatmlco0vsv2rr>

More information Colorado's gun violence trends will be available in this year's **Profile of Gun Violence in Colorado** report that will be available this fall.