

Overview: Washington Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention

King County Council

Kate Kelly

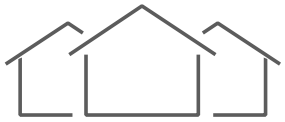
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE OF FIREARM SAFETY AND
VIOLENCE PREVENTION

AUGUST 17, 2022



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



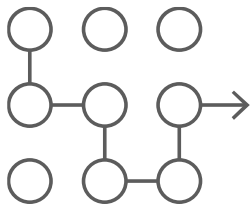
INFRASTRUCTURE



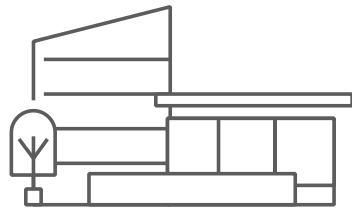
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

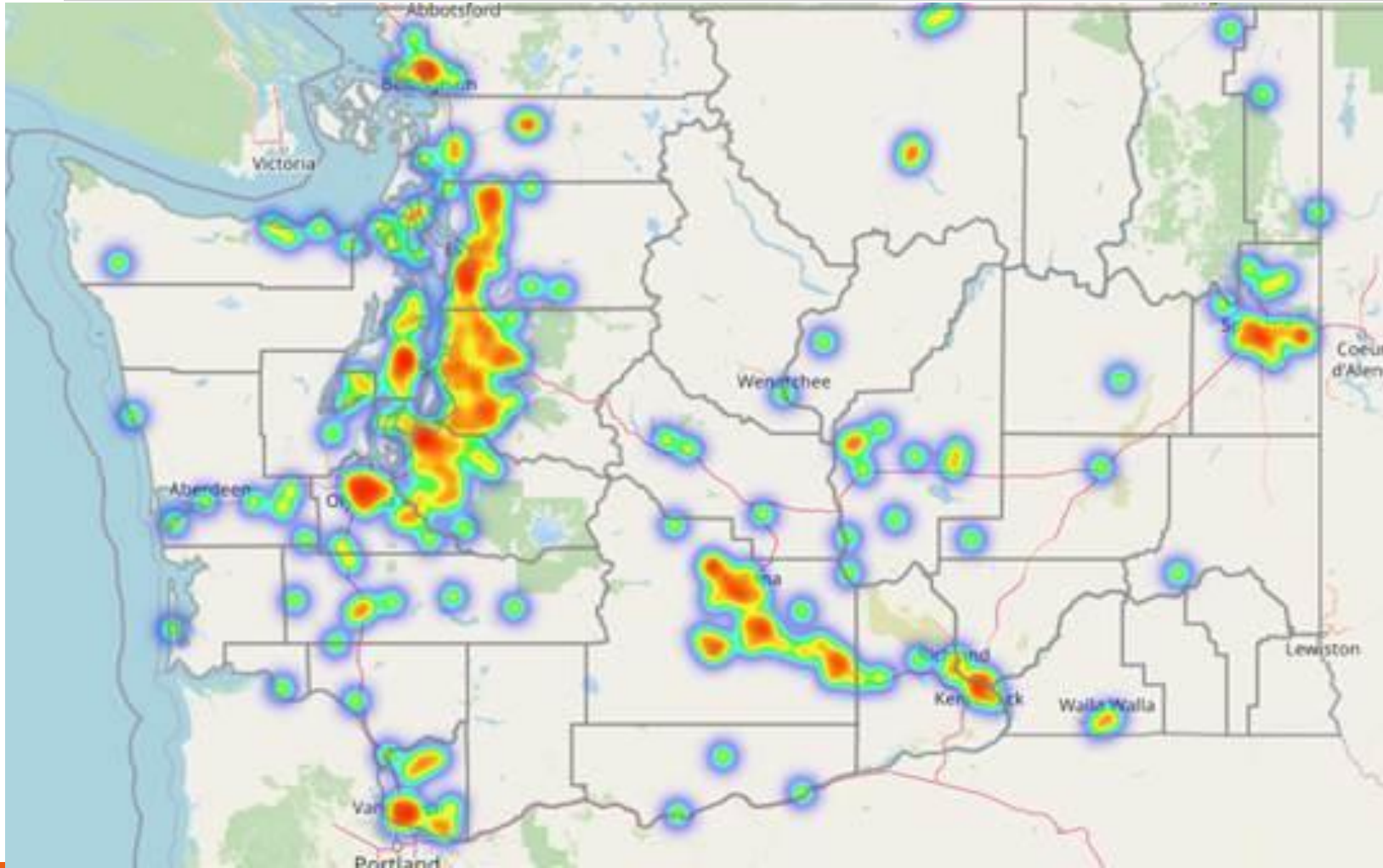


**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Firearms-Related Homicides 2016-2020



Firearm Homicide heat map by residence address from 2016 to 2020.

Source: Washington Dept. of Health, Center for Health Statistics

Washington Firearm Homicides by county of residence from 2016 to 2020. Includes counties with 10+ cases.

Residence county	Number
King	261
Pierce	142
Yakima	109
Snohomish	62
Spokane	42
Clark	41
Thurston	26
Benton	19
Grant	15
Kitsap	14
Cowlitz	12
Grays Harbor	12
Skagit	11
Lewis	10

Source: Washington Dept. of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (last updated September 6, 2021).

Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention – *est. 2020*

“The legislature intends to establish the Washington office of firearm safety and violence prevention to provide statewide leadership, coordination, and technical assistance to promote effective state and local efforts to reduce preventable injuries and deaths from firearm violence.”

Chapter [43.330A](#) RCW (2020)



Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention- roles and responsibilities

Identify and administer state and federal funding for **grants** focused on reducing firearm violence in communities. ~\$8 million SFY23

- \$2,000,000 to Virginia Mason ChiFranciscian to expand their existing Pierce County violence prevention efforts into **south King county** through subcontracts with programs.
- \$600,000 for community-based violence intervention services to individuals identified and referred through the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office shots fired program. **KCPAO social network analysis is a state model.**
- \$1 Million for programs related to removals where a court orders firearm relinquishment. **King County Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit is a national and state model.**
- Also federal funding opportunities.

Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention - roles and responsibilities

- **Training, technical assistance, evaluation and capacity building support to community agencies and organizations.**
 - Commissioned a **landscape analysis** to better understand existing programs, gaps and needs in communities most impacted by firearm violence.
- **Convening and connecting** organizations, agencies, researchers and subject matter experts.
 - Cooperation between King County public health and KCPAO is a model
- **Public awareness and education.**

Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention - roles and responsibilities

- Identify and improve upon available firearm-related data sources, data collection methods, and data-sharing mechanisms.
 - Complete and timely data helps us to understand the problem and to craft effective policies and interventions.
 - OFSVP partnered with the UW Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program to inventory over 30 existing Washington firearms-related data sources in three main categories: health and healthcare, criminal justice, and firearm-related licensing and sales data, and convened the owners and users to identify improvements.

Next Steps

- Continue to grow grant programs and technical support for intervention and prevention efforts, expanding our geographic and demographic reach.
- Facilitate collaboration and information sharing with and among violence prevention and intervention stakeholders and efforts statewide.
- Improve firearm related data collection and sharing.
- Focus on outreach and education.
- Take advantage of emerging federal opportunities.



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