

**Supreme Court of Vermont
Office of State Court Administrator**

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TO: Senate and House Committees on Judiciary

FROM: Teri Corsones, State Court Administrator

RE: Report of Act 87 (S.4), An Act Relating to Procedures Involving Firearms

DATE: September 17, 2025

I. LEGISLATION

Section 4 of Act 87 took effect on July 1, 2022 and provides:

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 4062 is added to read: ANNUAL REPORTING; OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

(a) On or before September 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, the Court Administrator, with the assistance of the Agency of Human Services, shall report data on the use of extreme risk protection orders during the previous year to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary.

(b) The reports required by this section shall include the following data for the previous year:

- (1) the number of extreme risk protection order petitions filed and the number of orders issued;
- (2) geographical data indicating the county where the petition was filed; and
- (3) follow-up information describing whether the order was renewed or terminated pursuant to section 4055 of this title and whether the subject of the order was charged with violating it under section 4058 of this title.

(c) The Agency of Human Services shall include in the reports required by

this section an analysis of the impact of extreme risk prevention orders on Vermont suicide rates, including any relevant data relied on or utilized by the Agency for purposes of providing the information required by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 34, An act relating to evaluation of suicide profiles.

II. REPORT

This report is for extreme risk protection orders in fiscal year 2025. However, and as noted below, the Agency of Human Services does not have complete data on deaths by suicide for fiscal year 2025 at this time. This report will be resubmitted if the complete data on deaths by suicide changes the reported data or conclusions set forth in this report.

Numbers of Petitions and Orders.

Pursuant to (b)(1), a total of 28 extreme risk protection order petitions were filed in fiscal year 2025.

Pursuant to (b)(1), a total of 66 decisions on extreme risk protection order petitions were issued in fiscal year 2025. The reason for the higher number of orders than petitions is because most petitions have both a temporary and final order issued, some cases have multiple renewed temporary orders before a final order is issued, and sometimes a final order will be corrected or renewed. A breakdown of all the fiscal year 2025 orders is set forth below.

- 66 extreme risk protection orders in fiscal year 2025:
 - 40 temporary orders granted;
 - 17 final orders granted;
 - 3 temporary orders denied;
 - 5 final orders denied; and
 - 1 final order renewed.

Geographic Information.

Pursuant to (b)(2), the 28 extreme risk protection order petitions from fiscal year 2025 were filed in the following counties:

- 4 petitions in Addison;
- 6 petitions in Bennington;
- 0 petitions in Caledonia;
- 5 petitions in Chittenden;
- 1 petition in Essex;
- 1 petition in Franklin;
- 0 petitions in Grand Isle;
- 2 petitions in Lamoille;
- 0 petitions in Orange;

- 4 petitions in Orleans;
- 2 petitions in Rutland;
- 3 petitions in Washington;
- 0 petitions in Windham; and
- 0 petitions in Windsor.

Renewals, Terminations, and Violations.

Pursuant to (b)(3), no orders were renewed or terminated pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 4055. The Judiciary is not able to determine whether the subjects of the orders were charged with violating an order under 13 V.S.A. § 4058.

Agency of Human Services Observations.

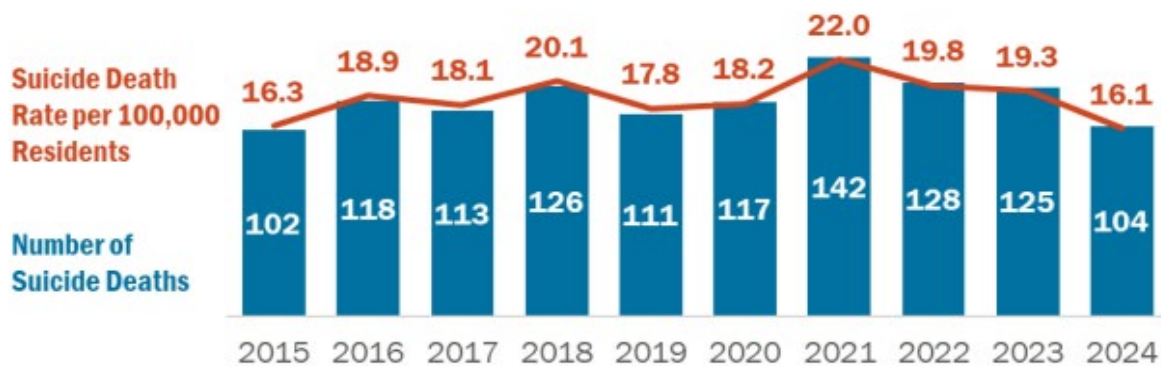
Pursuant to (c), the Vermont Judiciary conferred with the Agency of Human Services on the impact of extreme risk protection orders on Vermont suicide rates. Although it is unknown whether extreme risk protection orders are impacting Vermont’s overall suicide rate, the Agency of Human Services makes the following observations:

1. **Extreme Risk Protection Orders.** At the time of this report, data is available for deaths by suicide¹ through fiscal year 2025, but there are still pending death certificates that are subject to finalization. With the data currently available, none of the respondents in the extreme risk protection petitions included in this report are known to have died by suicide. In addition, of the 28 petitions filed in fiscal year 2025, 13 had temporary and/or final orders granted where, according to the court’s findings, the respondent had “threatened or attempted suicide or serious bodily harm.” Because the temporary and final orders granting relief in connection with those 13 petitions resulted in firearms being removed from the respondent, it is possible that the extreme risk protection orders could have prevented those individuals from attempting suicide or serious bodily harm during the time that firearms were removed.
2. **Overall Suicide Rate in Vermont.** In Vermont, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death overall and the second leading cause of death for people aged 15 to

¹ The Agency of Human Services made a recent change to the methodology for identifying suicide deaths. In previous years, deaths by suicide were defined as cases where the manner of death on the death certificate was listed as “Suicide.” Moving forward, deaths by suicide will be defined as cases where the manner of death is listed as “Suicide” or the underlying cause of death is one of the following ICD-10 codes: X60-X84, Y87.0, or U03. More information about the ICD-10 codes is available through the Center for Disease Control’s National Center for Health Statistics website, available at: [ICD-10-CM | Classification of Diseases, Functioning, and Disability | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/ICD10CM/Classification_of_Diseases_Functioning_and_Disability/).

44.² Suicide death rates in Vermont are higher than the national average.³ The current data indicates that 121 Vermonters died by suicide in fiscal year 2025, none of whom had an extreme risk protection petition filed or order issued during that timeframe. The Agency of Human Services will continue to monitor the impact of extreme risk protection petitions and orders on the overall rate of suicide.

Number and Rate of Deaths by Suicide Among Vermont Residents



Source: Vermont Vital Statistics, 2015-2024. 2024 data are preliminary and subject to change.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about this report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Corsones, State Court Administrator

cc: Jeff Trites, MS, Public Health Analyst, Agency of Human Services

² Vermont Vital Statistics, 2022.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Wonder, available at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.