Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO)

Order Counts

Data Set Overview and History

The Department of Justice (DOJ) collects information on gun violence restraining orders (GVRO). Courts and law enforcement agencies utilize the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) to enter data about GVROs into the California Restraining and Protective Order System (CARPOS). DOJ began collecting this data on January 1, 2016 when Assembly Bill (AB) 1014 went into effect. At that time, only immediate family members and officers could petition the court for a GVRO against persons who pose a threat to themselves or others. Through AB 61, the Legislature expanded the list of individuals who could petition the court for a GVRO to include an employer, a coworker, or an employee or teacher of a secondary or postsecondary school. AB 61 went into effect on September 1, 2020. Through AB 2870, the Legislature expanded the list of individuals who could petition the court for a GVRO to include a roommate, an individual who has a dating relationship with the respondent, and an individual who has a child in common with the respondent. AB 2870 was implemented in CARPOS on January 11, 2024.

Statutory Authority

Penal Code section 18115, subdivision (a) requires a court to notify the DOJ when it issues or renews a GVRO. Penal Code section 18115, subdivision (b) requires the court to notify the DOJ when a GVRO has been dissolved or terminated.

Data Characteristics and Known Limitations

1. Emergency Gun Violence Orders (EGV) are obtained pursuant to Penal Code section 18125 and may have a duration of up to 21 days. Temporary Gun Violence Orders (TGV) are obtained pursuant to Penal Code section 18150 and may have a duration of up to 21 days. Gun Violence Orders or Relinquishments of Firearm (OGV) and Gun Violence Orders After Hearings on EPO-002 (HGV) are obtained pursuant to Penal Code section 18170 and may have a duration of 1 to 5 years.

2. All EGV and HGV orders submitted into CARPOS are initiated by law enforcement and do not require a hearing. Typically, law enforcement officers or agencies are on scene when they need to initiate/establish an EGV. All TGV and OGV restraining orders can be issued by a judge at the request of law enforcement, family, employer, coworker, school teacher or employee, roommate, individual in a dating relationship with the respondent, or individual with a child in common with the respondent.

3. All counts in the dataset represent the number of GVROs that meet the criteria for the given year, county, type of order, and type of petitioner indicated in the same row of data.

4. The GVRO database is dynamic or point-in-time, meaning that the counts provided for a given

year are based on a snapshot of the database that was generated on the day the data was extracted from the system. The 2024 dataset was extracted on 2/26/2025.

    a. A "record" is all information entered into CARPOS pertaining to the *most recent* order. The Department has instructed agencies to modify existing records where applicable.

        i. For example, a court creates a record of a TGV order that was issued for an individual on 11/16/2024 and sets it to expire on 12/6/2024. At the court hearing on 12/6/2024, the court issues an OGV to replace the existing TGV. The extraction of the 2024 data on 2/26/2025 would no longer reflect the record as a TGV but only as the OGV.

        ii. However, some entering agencies have created new records for each order modification, leading to duplicates. In the example above, if the court created a new record on 12/6/2024 for the OGV update rather than modifying the existing TGV order, then both records would remain in the database.

5. The accuracy of the information contained in the system is contingent on those who enter the data. Incorrect entries may occur. We have found incorrect entries for a variety of data fields, including but not limited to: name spelling, demographic information, and dates throughout the data.

6. If an agency enters a record in error but does not clear it before the assigned expiration date, the record will remain in the system until the expiration date. After the expiration date, the record will be automatically moved to history and retained in the database for 5 years.

7. Agencies can enter test records into the system. These records do not correspond to actual GVROs that have been issued. Test records that are not deleted before the assigned expiration date and before the date of extraction will be included in the extraction. DOJ reviews any records that clearly indicate "TEST", "INVALID", "RESPONDENT", "RECORD", "ABC", "123", or "DOE" and removes any that are confirmed to be test records from the final counts published in the reports. Test records that do not clearly indicate one of these key words will be included in the counts. Test records that indicate one of the key words but are not confirmed to be test records will be included in the counts.

    a. Examples of clearly indicated test data would be the case number TEST12345, the name Invalid Respondent, or the comment "THIS IS A TEST RECORD" in the Miscellaneous Information field.

    b. An example of test data that is not clearly indicated would a fictitious record containing the name Robert Williams and the case number 22-GV1121 when there was no such order issued.

    c. An example of data that would not be confirmed as test data would be a record containing the name Jane Doe but no test key word in any other field.

Data Element and Values Defined

March 2025

Cell Location	Data Element	Description/Definition	Value
A	Year	Year of the GVRO's start date.	YYYY
B	County	County in which the order was filed.	Alphabetic characters
C	Type	Gun Violence Restraining Order types: EGV, HGV, TGV, or OGV.	3 alphabetic characters
D	Description	Longer descriptor of the GVRO type: EGV= Emergency Gun Violence Order TGV= Temporary Gun Violence Order OGV= Gun Violence Order Or Relinquishment of Firearm Rights HGV = Gun Violence Order After Hearing on EPO-002	Alphanumeric
E	Requestor	Indicates the relationship between the petitioner and respondent.	Numerical Count
F	Count	Number of GVROs of the given type issued in the county during the given year.	Numerical Count