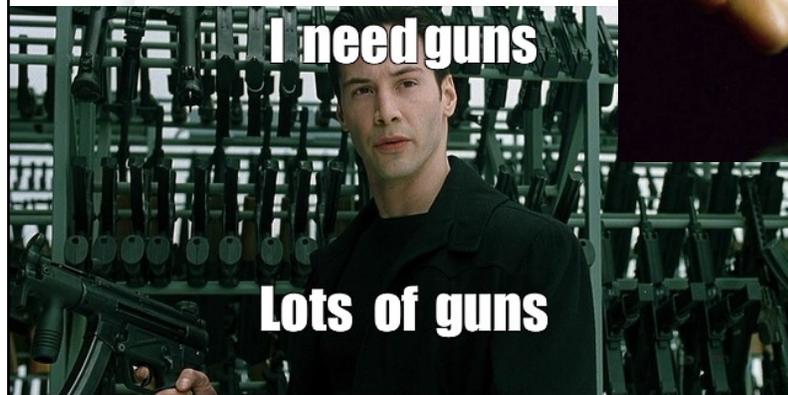


# Guns in a time of Corona



What's relevant to guns, gun safety and suicide prevention in a pandemic beset by fiery, violent protests

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# What is BCI and why does it matter?

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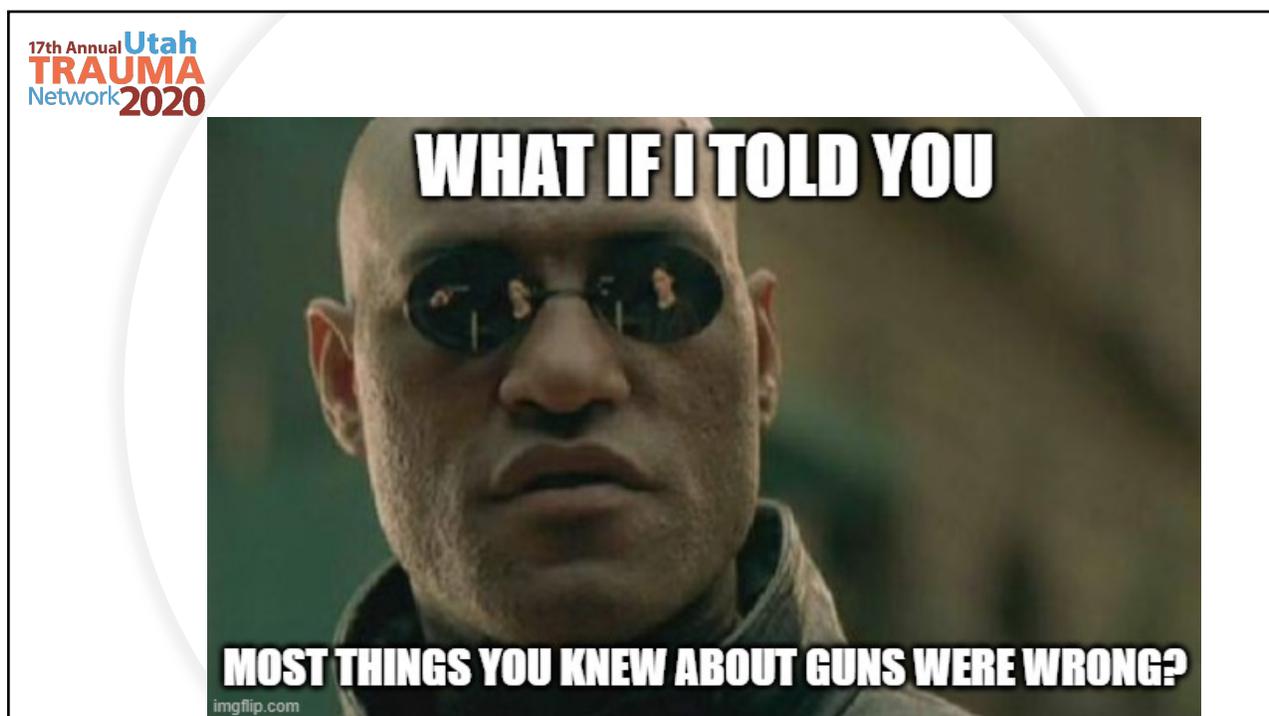
Criminal Identification (BCI)

Featured Services

- Find an Instructor
- Renew Your Permit or Instructor Certification
- Update your Concealed Firearm Permit Address
- Obtain a Copy of Your Criminal History
- Check your Utah Warrants
- Forms and Applications

<https://bci.utah.gov>

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## What did violent crime in U.S. look like before Covid-19?

- Violent crime overall has fallen roughly 15% since 2009

Data Declaration   Download Excel

Years	Violent crime	Murder	Rape <sup>1</sup>	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny-theft	Motor vehicle theft	Arson
2016/2015	+5.3	+5.2	+3.5	+3.2	+6.5	-0.6	-3.4	-0.8	+6.6	-1.1
2017/2016	-0.8	+1.5	-2.4	-2.2	-0.1	-2.9	-6.1	-3.0	+4.1	-3.5
2018/2017	-4.3	-6.7	+0.6	-12.5	-2.0	-7.2	-12.7	-6.3	-3.3	-9.4
2019/2018	-3.1	-3.9	-7.3	-7.4	-0.3	-5.6	-11.1	-4.2	-6.7	-12.5

- <sup>1</sup> The figures shown in the rape column include only those reported by law enforcement agencies that used the revised Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) definition of rape. See the data declaration for further explanation.
- NOTE: In 2018, the UCR Program transitioned from its legacy data collection system to an updated, modern platform during the UCR Technical Refresh, or UCR-TR. This renovation of how UCR collects, verifies, and estimates data may result in differences in UCR data compared with previous years that may be due to technical reasons rather than actual crime occurrences. See the data declaration for further explanation.

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According to the FBI in 2018, firearms were used in 72.7% of murders, 38.5% of robberies and 26.1% of aggravated assaults. Rifles accounted for about 2-3% of the firearm used.

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## U.S. firearm suicides and accidental firearms deaths

Per the CDC as of 2017:

- There were 23,854 suicides by firearm
- An additional 15,919 died by firearm via accidental/unknown means
- For comparison, poisoning—both intentional and accidental—killed 75,354 during the same period.
- Motor vehicle traffic deaths killed 38,659



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## Are mass shootings relevant?

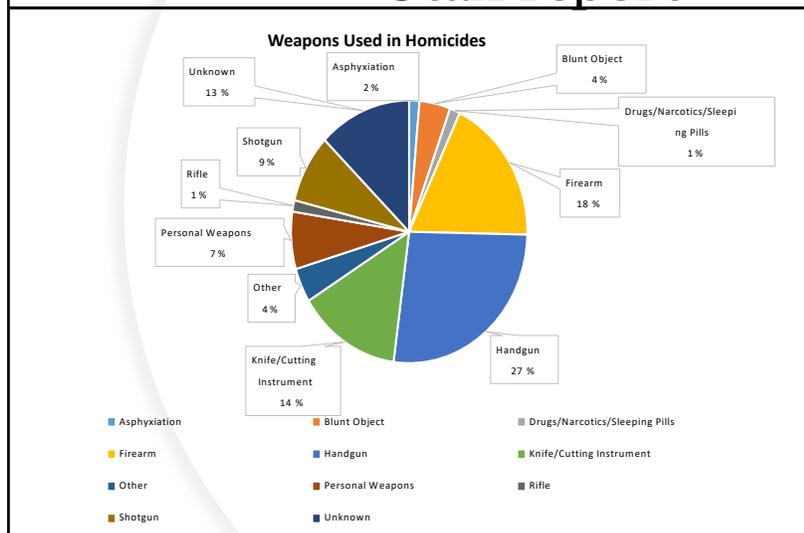
Tragic? Absolutely. Statistically speaking, no. Based on Pew Research, mass shootings accounted for less than two-tenths of 1% of U.S. homicides between 2000 and 2016.

- We often lose sight of the worst issues within violence and become engrossed in items that represent violence.
- In other words, our perception of barbarity is often shaped by exceptionally rare occurrences.



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## Utah Gun Crime Rates, per the 2019 Crime in Utah report

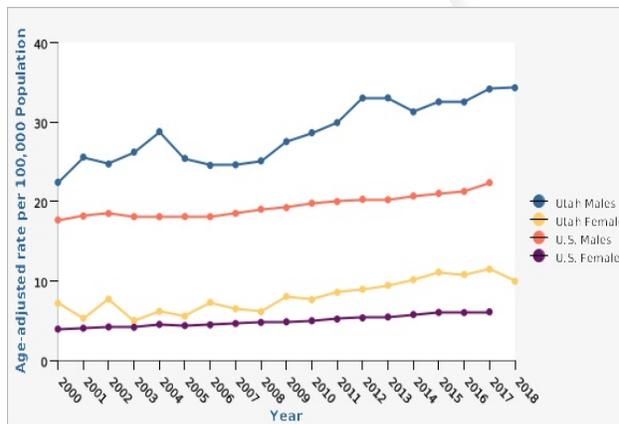


- Utah saw 71 homicides in 2019.
- Of those homicides, 54.93% saw a firearm used in those reported.
- Homicides increased from 2018 by ~11.59%

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## Utah firearm-related suicides

- Suicides outnumber homicides 8 to 1 in Utah
- 85% of firearm deaths Utah were suicides between 2006-2015
- Utah suicides peaked in 2018 and decreased very slightly in 2019.
- We have been averaging roughly 620 suicides per year in Utah



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Then this thing called Covid-19 happened...

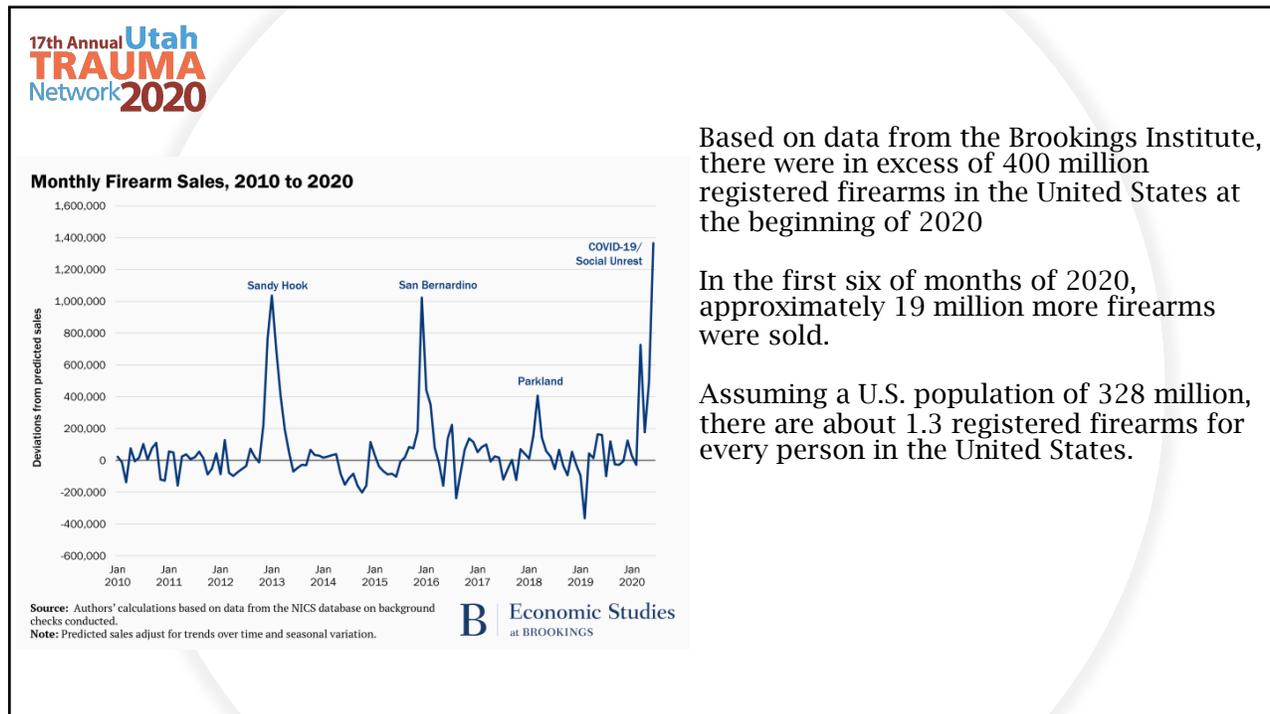


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The Kyle Rittenhouse shooting is a tragic example of nascent gun-related deaths hitched to violent protests.

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Based on data from the Brookings Institute, there were in excess of 400 million registered firearms in the United States at the beginning of 2020

In the first six months of 2020, approximately 19 million more firearms were sold.

Assuming a U.S. population of 328 million, there are about 1.3 registered firearms for every person in the United States.

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## Are gun sales in Utah also increasing?

- Brady firearms regular checks through August of 2020, 114,816.
- Concealed firearm permit gun purchase verifications, 85,394
- For context, the number of regular firearm checks in all of 2019 was less than 100,000.
- This data does not account for private sales.

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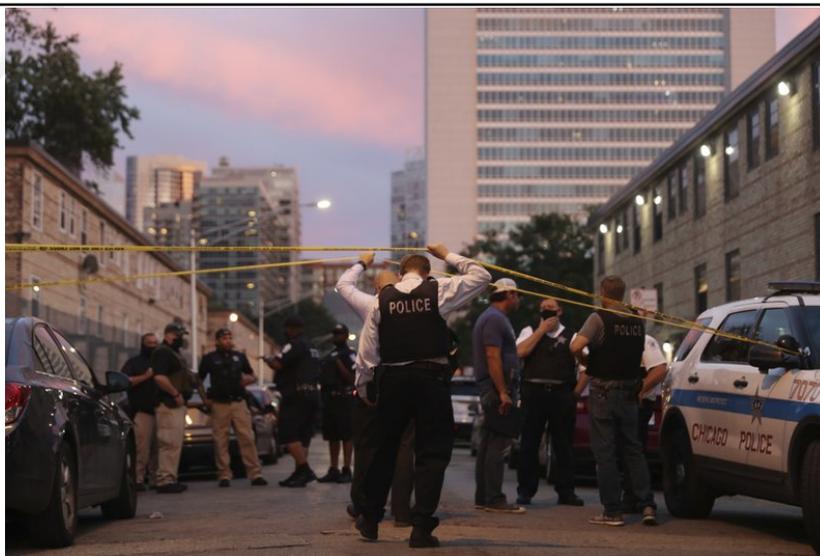
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## What about Utah Concealed Firearm Permits?



- As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, there are 697,369 valid Utah Concealed Firearm Permit (CFP) holders.
- BCI saw 9,721 new CFPs issued in August of 2020—the highest ever for August and most since June of 2016.
- The State of Utah is averaging 13,058 renewal and new CFP applications *per month!*

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Available gun crime data in  
2020

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**GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE 2020**  
Evidence Based Research - since 2013

PUBLISHED DATE: September 14, 2020

<b>Total Number of GV Deaths - ALL Causes<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>29,831</b>	
Homicide/Murder/Unintentional/DGU <sup>1</sup>	12,803	
Suicide <sup>3</sup>	17,028	
<b>Total Number of Injuries<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>26,402</b>	
Mass Shootings <sup>2</sup>	447	
Mass Murders <sup>2</sup>	16	
Number of Children (age 0-11) <sup>1</sup>	Killed	203
	Injured	482
Number of Teens (age 12-17) <sup>1</sup>	Killed	696
	Injured	1,986
Officer Involved Incident <sup>1</sup>	Killed	45
	Officer Killed or Injured	Injured

**CHARTS AND MAPS**

[Share](#)

**GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE** **NUMBER OF DEATHS IN 2020**

January 1 - September 14, 2020 gunviolencearchive.org

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A sizable number of U.S. cities are grappling with outsized increased gun violence during 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic is likely a contributor.

Forbes

**KEY FACTS**

- There have been a total of 777 recorded shootings in New York City from Jan. 1 through the end of July, which is more than NYC had in the calendar year of 2019.
- More than 240 people have been killed, and more than 1,000 shootings have been recorded thus far this year in Philadelphia.
- According to statistics released Saturday by the Chicago Police Department, through the first seven months of 2020, there have been 440 homicides and 2,240 people shot (which accounts for 150 more gun deaths and 760 more shootings in Chicago compared to the same period last year).
- A review of crime statistics among the nation's 50 largest cities by the *Wall Street Journal* found that reported homicides were up 24% this year.

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## Are there any solutions?



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## Recommendations and safety measures



- Focusing on those who visit the hospital with a mental health or substance abuse issue could reach a third of would-be suicides. One message to convey to them is the potential safety advantage of storing household guns away from home or otherwise inaccessibly to the patient until he or she recovers.
- With half of suicide decedents never seen in the hospital in the year before death, other healthcare organizations, places of worship, and community-based groups could extend this message outside the hospital.
- Given the high case fatality rate for firearms, if even a small percentage of Utahns who attempted suicide were prevented access to guns there would likely be far fewer suicide deaths. One method to achieving this is by having loved ones keep firearms and ammunition both locked and inaccessible to those who need help until recovered.

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- The implications of the public safety data for prevention are probably best discussed by a diverse group of policy makers, gun owners, suicide prevention experts, public safety personnel, suicide survivors, clinicians and others to think outside the box and find strategies that work reasonably for all stakeholders.
- Most people who kill themselves would be able to pass a background check. Friends and family therefore may play an important role in urging loved ones in crisis to store their guns away from home or otherwise inaccessibly until the situation improves.
- One in four men who kill themselves with a gun were CFP holders. Utah CFP classes now include a suicide module. Evaluating this effort is important. If effective, expanding to other venues – like gun shows, gun shops, PTA meetings, sportsmen clubs, etc., may help change social norms regarding keeping a gun from a loved one who is struggling in the same way that “friends don’t let friends drive drunk” has lowered drunk driving.

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# Q&A

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