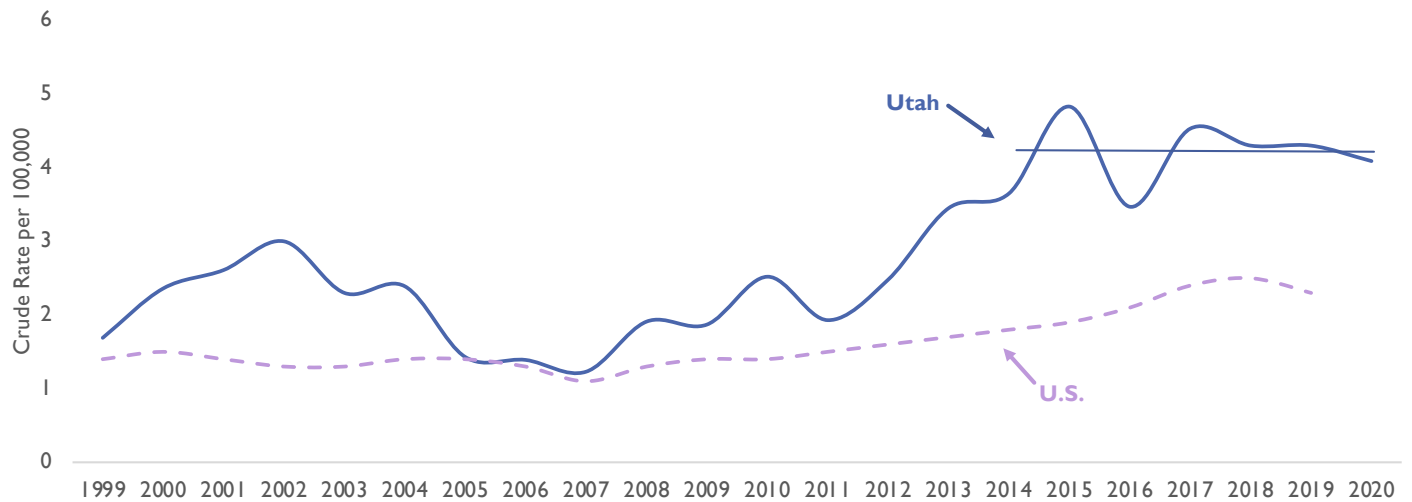

THE UTAH YOUTH SUICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT: A PROGRESS REPORT

MICHAEL J. STALEY, PHD

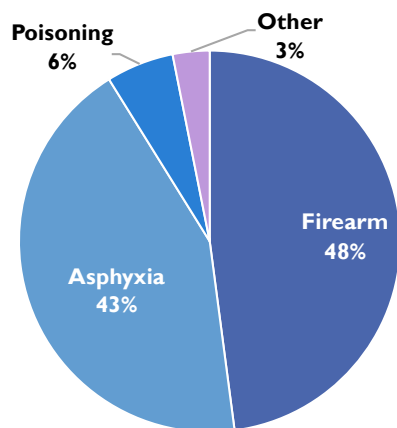
SUICIDE PREVENTION RESEARCH COORDINATOR, UTAH OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER



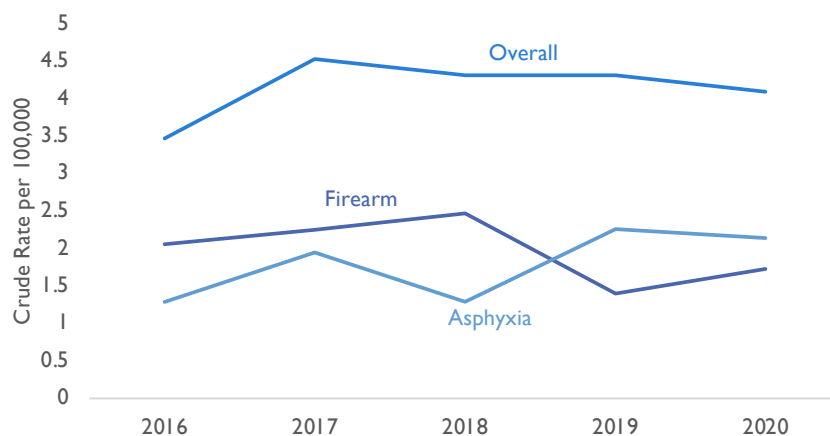
SUICIDE AMONG TEENS IN UTAH IS NO LONGER INCREASING, BUT REMAINS UNACCEPTABLY HIGH



PUTTING TIME AND DISTANCE BETWEEN A TEEN IN CRISIS AND A FIREARM IS A KEY STRATEGY TO SUICIDE PREVENTION



Suicide by Method, 2016 to 2020



Firearm and Asphyxia Suicide by Year, Ages 0 to 17, 2016 to 2020

THE UTAH YOUTH SUICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT (UYSRP) IS DESIGNED TO SHARPEN SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS AMONG TEENS

- *Purpose: To identify key characteristics of teens who died by suicide, the circumstances leading up to their deaths by suicide, and to provide targeted risk and protective factor profiles of decedents.*
- *Goal: To inform and improve youth suicide prevention in Utah. To save lives.*

- **Scope**
 - Individuals who died by suicide;
 - Who were ages 10 to 17, or 18 if enrolled in high school or graduated within three months of the time of their death;
 - Who died between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2019;
 - Who were residents of Utah or who lived in Utah for at least three consecutive months prior to death.

UYSRP IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF TEEN SUICIDE IN THE U.S.

Phase I: Psychological Autopsy

Interviews of parents/guardians, plus at least one, or as many as three friends or other close associates

Phase II: Secondary Data Collection

Using data from:

Utah State Board of Education (USBE)

Health Facilities (HFD) and All Payers' Claims Databases (APCD)

Division of Child and Families Services (DCFS)

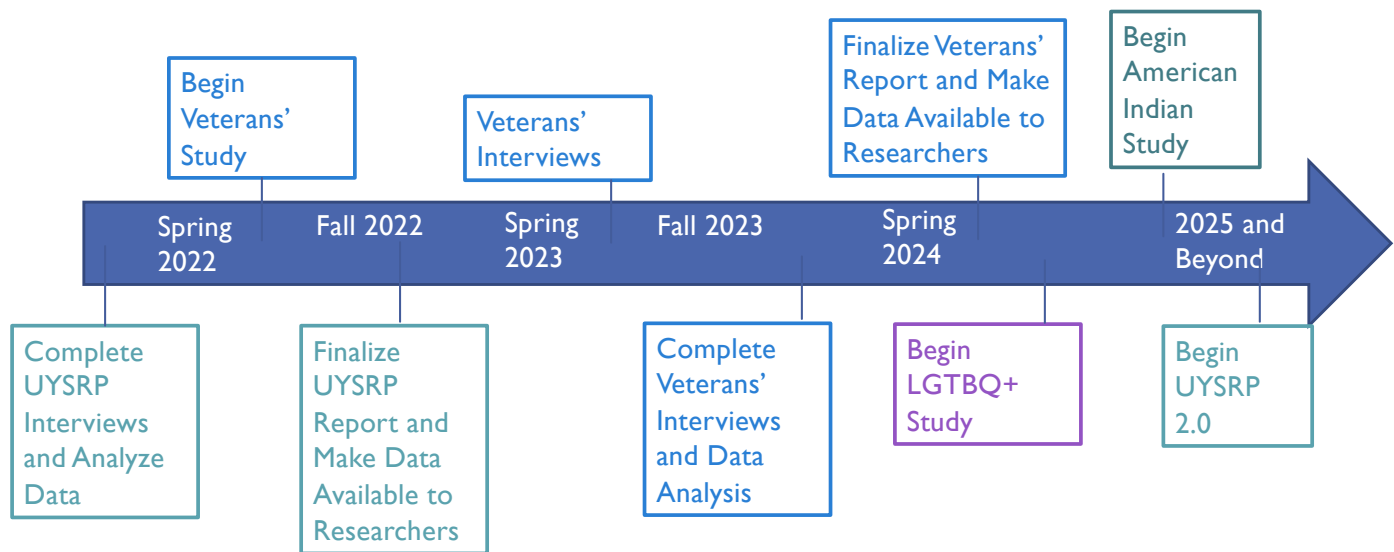
Division of Juvenile Justice (JJJ)

Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD)

COMPONENTS OF PHASE I (INTERVIEWS) OF UYSRP

- Demographic Information
- Avocational Interests
- Media and Technology Exposure
- School Experiences
- Bullying and Cyberbullying
- Traumatic Life Experiences
- Law Enforcement and Correctional History
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Prescription and Illicit Drug Use
 - Alcohol, Tobacco
- Suicide Warning Signs
 - Attempts, Post-Mortem Psychiatric Evaluation
- Parent and Family History

THE OME'S RESEARCH AGENDA ADDRESSES OTHER HIGH RISK GROUPS OF UTAHNS

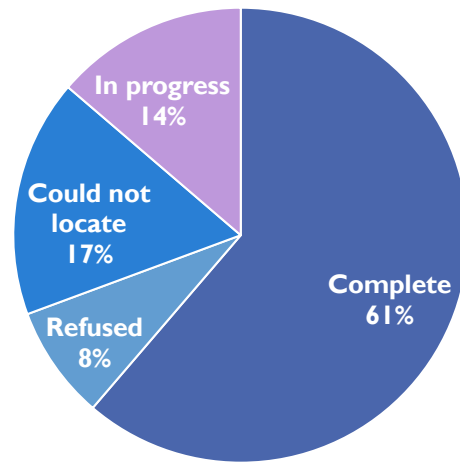


THE OME ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT ALL FAMILIES WHO LOSE SOMEONE TO SUICIDE AND ACCIDENTAL DRUG OVERDOSE

- Sudden and Unexpected Death Surveillance System (SUDSS):
- *Purpose: To improve baseline demographic information and obtain other key circumstantial information related to suicide and accidental or undetermined drug overdose deaths ...*
 - *... and to provide life-saving bereavement and crisis support.*
- *Goal: To monitor trends in suicide and drug overdose mortality and provide timely responses to shifts in trends, suicide contagion and clusters, and groupings of drug overdose deaths.*
- Scope:
 - All Utah residents;
 - Who died by suicide or accidental/undetermined drug overdose.

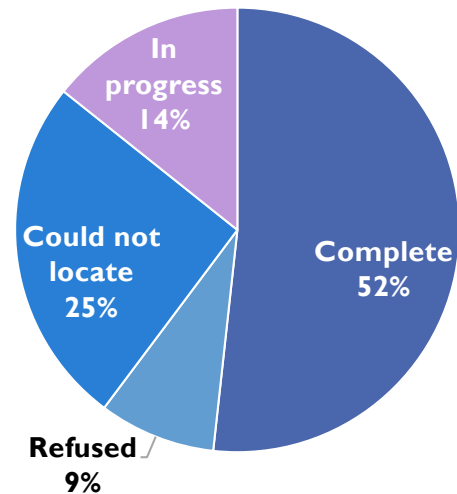
THE OME INTERVIEWED 61% OF ALL SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS FROM A 9 MONTH PERIOD AND CONNECTED FAMILIES TO GRIEF RESOURCES

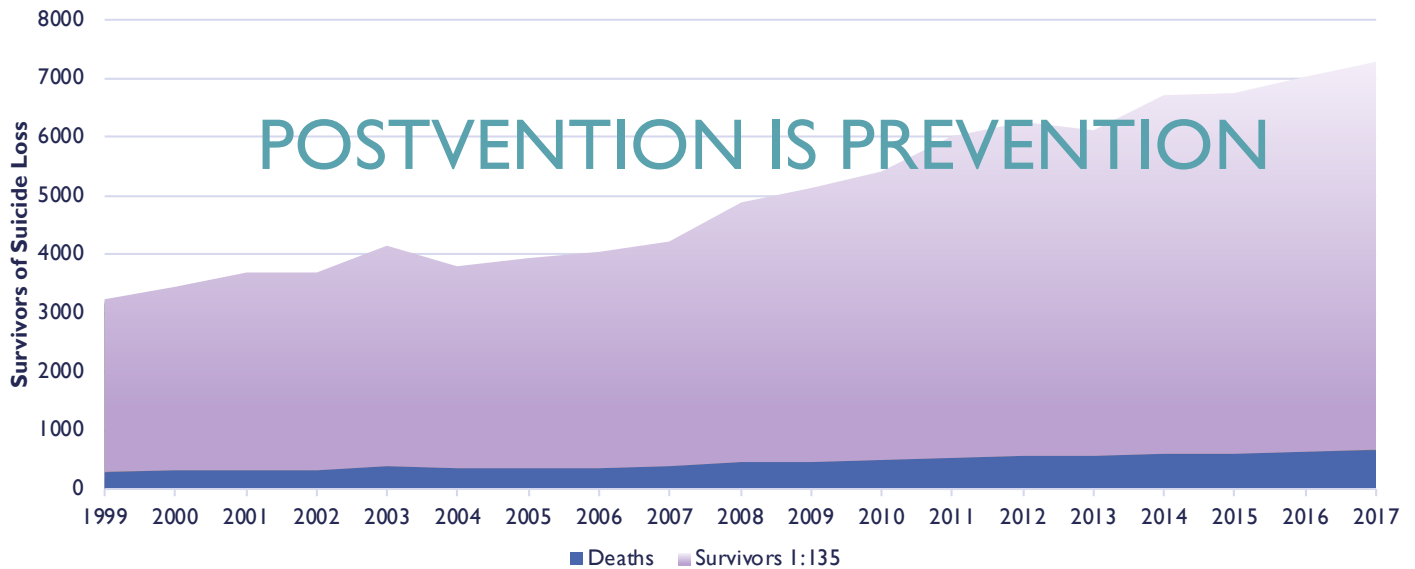
- 532 suicide deaths were identified for SUDSS interviews between August 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021
 - Attempted to reach 479 next of kin
 - Completed 326 interviews
 - 43 next of kin refused to speak to us
 - We could not contact 90 next of kin due to non-working numbers or unreturned messages
 - 73 cases are still in progress



SUDSS HAS A VERY HIGH RESPONSE RATE; LOSS SURVIVORS WANT TO TELL THE STORIES OF THOSE THEY TRAGICALLY LOST

- 259 overdose deaths were identified for SUDSS interviews between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021
 - Attempted to reach 235 next of kin
 - Completed 134 interviews
 - 22 next of kin refused to speak to us
 - We could not contact 66 next of kin due to non-working numbers or unreturned messages
 - 37 cases are still in progress.





Our engagement with survivors of Suicide and Drug overdose Loss IS Suicide and Drug Overdose Prevention

THIS WORK IS BUILT ON THE HARD WORK AND HEARTWORK OF
SUPERB STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

