

Utah SIAC Organized Crime Threat Assessment

(May 2024)



Organized Crime

Overview

Crime Stats

Property Crime
Violent Crime
Homicide Rate

Gangs

Street Gang
Gun Crime
Theft Groups

Illicit Drugs

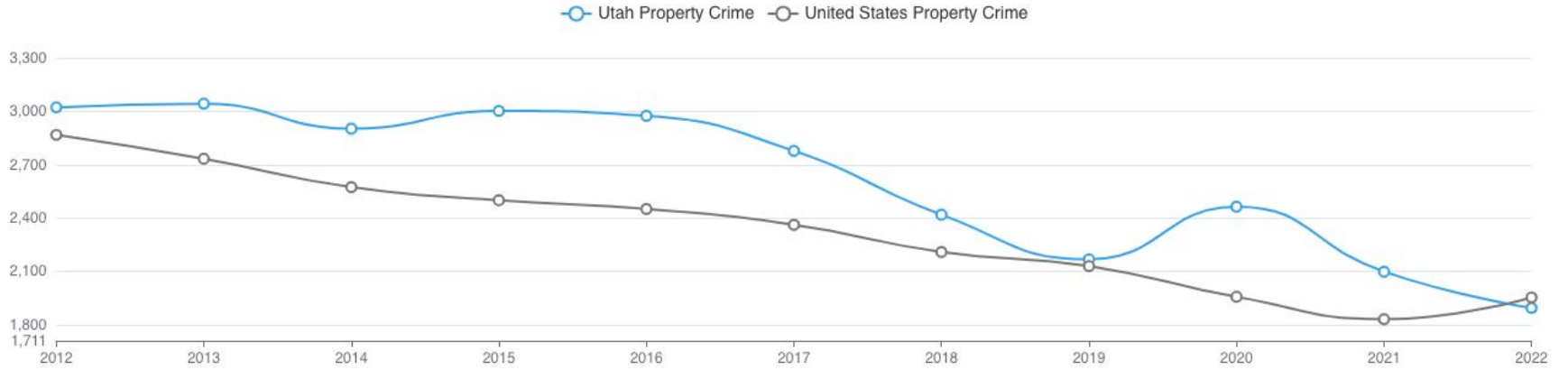
Cartels
Fentanyl
Drug Monitoring

Cyber Crime

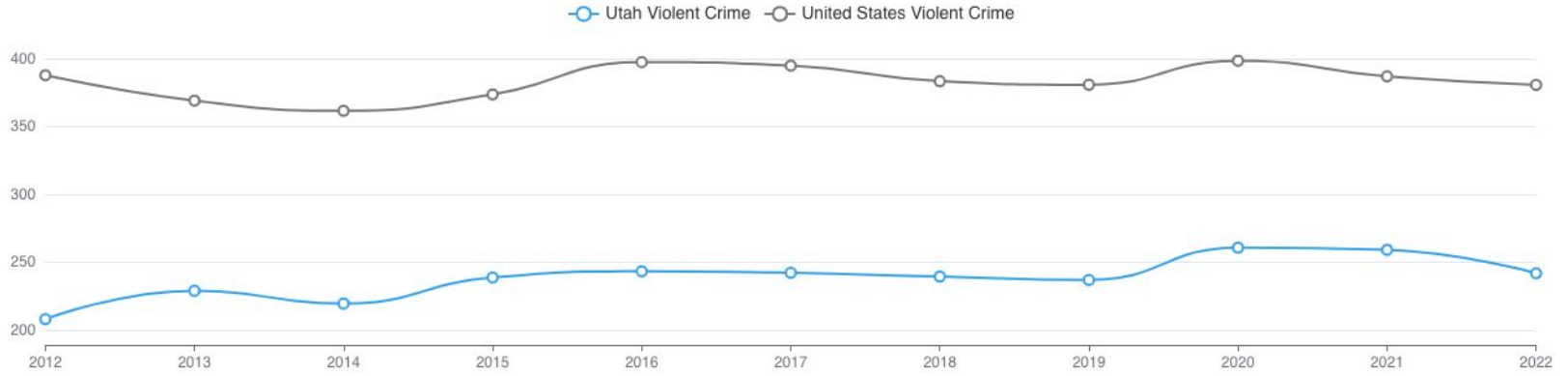
Threat Actors
Activities
Targets
Facilitation Platforms



Rate of Property Crime Offenses by Population

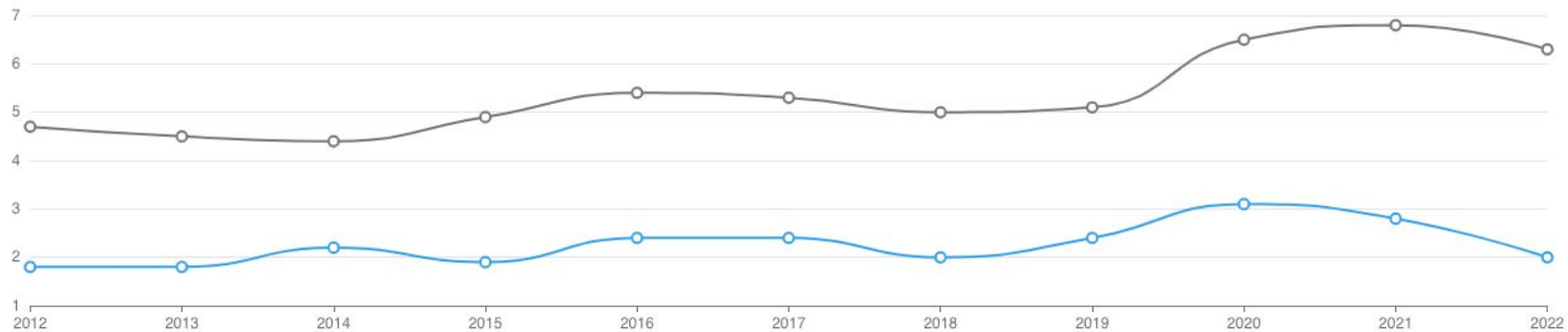


Rate of Violent Crime Offenses by Population



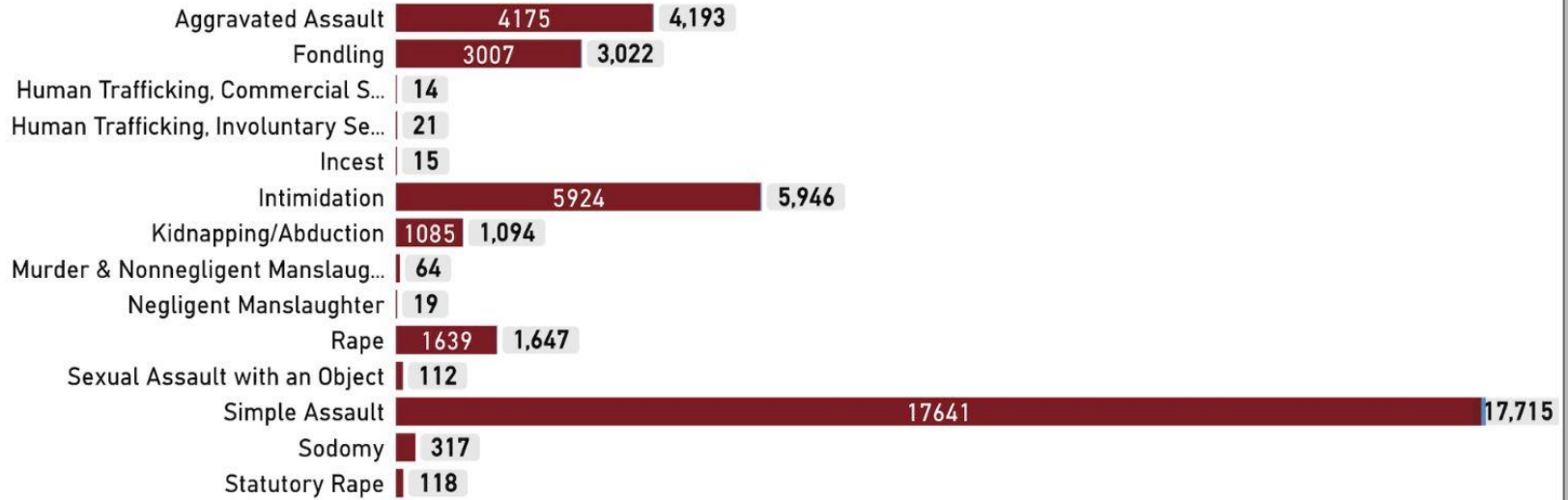
Rate of Homicide Offenses by Population

Utah Homicide United States Homicide



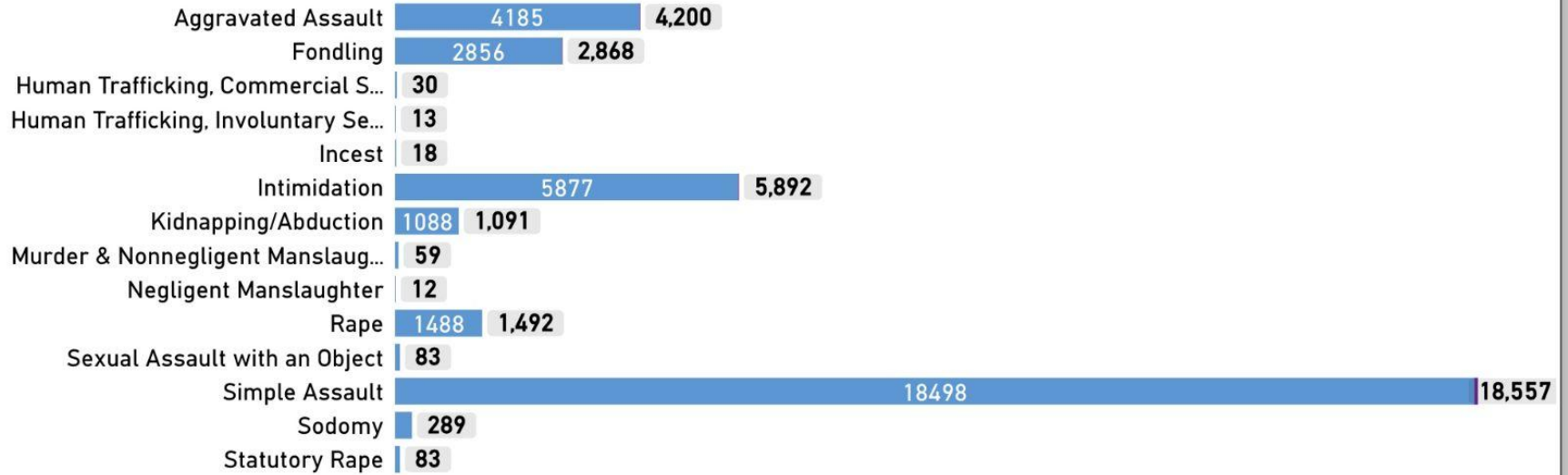
PERSON CRIMES | BY OFFENSE

● 2022



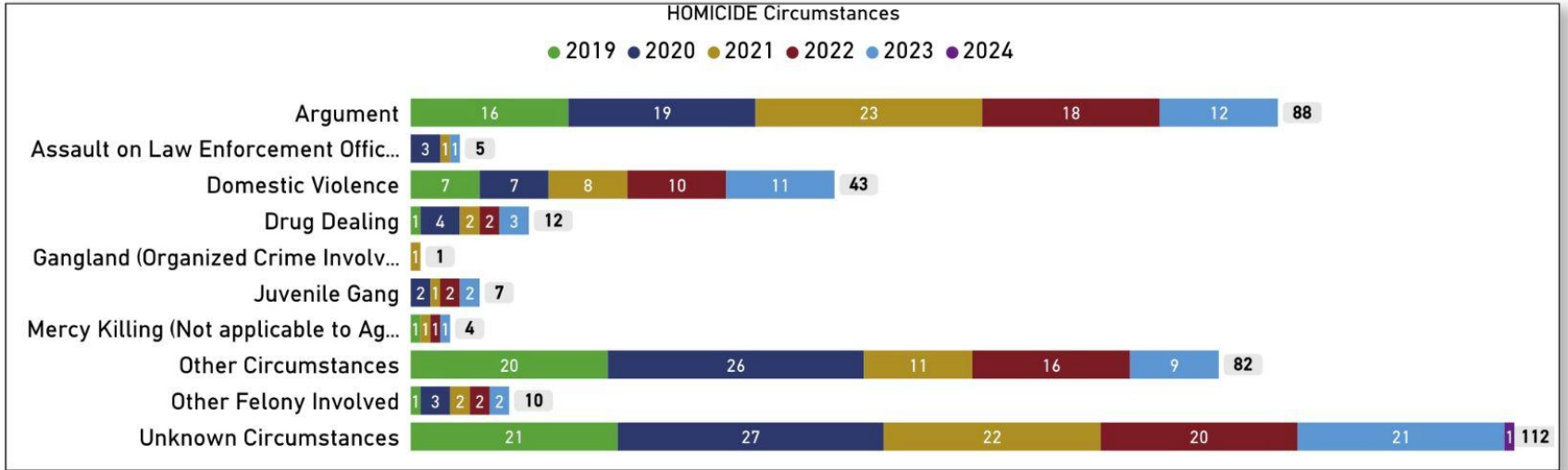
PELLETON CRIMES | BY OFFENSE

● 2023



Homicide

The FBI defines Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter as 'the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.'
Homicide totals in this section do not include Negligent Manslaughter.





Gangs



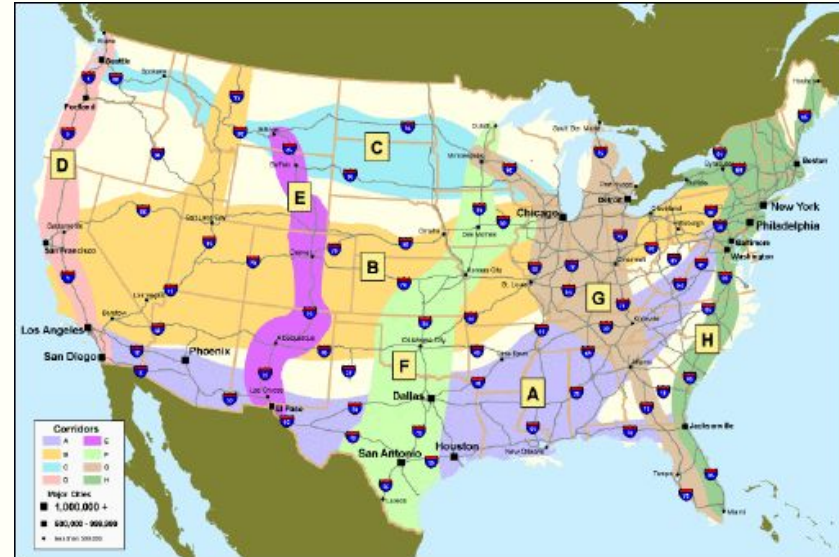
The observed gang threat to Utah is substantial. Gang activity is likely to expand with the urban sprawl of Salt Lake, Utah, and Washington counties. Cities on the border of Salt Lake and Utah Counties that have had very little gang activity will likely see an increase in 2024.

The SIAC assesses with high confidence that the gang threat will remain substantial due to the glamorization of gang culture, the efforts to recruit and expand, the young age of gang members, the effort to gain street credibility, the demand for illicit drugs and firearms.

Organized Crime in Utah



- Street level gang activity (Street, Prison and Outlaw Motorcycle)
 - Primarily US born citizens
 - Refugee and Immigrant Gang recruitment
- Mexican Cartels/TCOs (Drugs, Guns, Humans, etc)
 - Own the Drug Market
- Honduran Drug Distribution Network
 - Operate as main street level distributors in Utah
- South American Theft Groups
 - Travel and leverage vehicle theft, bank card fraud, retail theft, burglary, etc
- Romanian Theft Groups
 - Travel and are focused on retail crime
- Firearms Trafficking
 - Primarily straw purchases by US Citizens
 - Trafficked to Mexico by drug trafficking organizations using same networks



Emerging Transnational Threats - Utah

- Honduran drug traffickers in Utah primarily deal fentanyl, heroin, and crack cocaine.
 - They have grown in prominence in Utah over the past 5 years
- Utah independent, cartel-linked, illicit drug distributors are increasing their use of encrypted messaging apps and social media - making it more difficult to detect their illicit activity
- Drug proceeds are being sent back to Mexico and Honduras via money remitters
- When caught by law enforcement and then deported to their country of origin, funds acquired from their illicit drug sales are available for their use and are beyond the reach of U.S. law enforcement. Unfortunately many quickly return to Utah, crossing the border illegally in the process, many have been deported multiple times
- The increasing level of fentanyl in seized counterfeit “M-30” pills (7/10 are now considered fatal) and the emergence of much stronger synthetic opioids and mixtures



Honduran Drug Trafficker's Operation



Honduran fugitive removed from U.S. for 12th time by Salt Lake City enforcement

Overview of Utah Gangs



GANG MEMBERSHIP

- Approximately 1500 documented gang members
- Actual gang membership:
~ 4500
- Gang membership is associated with a **higher likelihood of violence**
- Expansion of gang activity to southern Salt Lake County and Utah County due to urbanization

OUTLAW
MOTORCYCLE
GANGS

PRISON
GANGS

STREET
GANGS

STREET GANGS

The Big 4:

1. Sureños
2. Norteños
3. Bloods
4. Crips

Other Gang Types:

- Independents
- Folk/People
- White Supremacists
- Pop-Up Gangs

Largest gang in Utah:

- Sureños

Top Threat:

- Most violent gang in Utah:
Sureños



Sureño gang member with violent criminal history among Metro Gang Unit's 10 Most Wanted

STREET GANGS

Criminal Activities:

- Homicides, Drive-By Shootings, Robberies, Drug and Firearm Distribution
- Juveniles are getting “jumped in” as young as **7 years old**
- Majority of gang shooters are between 14-17 years old
- **HB-304 Amendment** now holds juveniles accountable for possessing Glock switches

OUTLAW
MOTORCYCLE
GANGS

PRISON
GANGS

STREET
GANGS



SLCPD arrests 2nd suspected gunman in June 9 gang-related shooting that injured teen, left 50 shell casings behind

By Nancy Van Valkenburg - June 24, 2023



Salt Lake City police investigators on the scene of a late night plaza parking lot shooting near 3292 S. Richmond St., Friday, June 10, 2023. Photo: Gephardt Daily/Patrick Benedict

PRISON GANGS

Gang members make up an estimated 25% of total population

Top Threats:

- **Most Violent:**
Norteños, Sureños, SAC
- **Most Drug Distribution:**
Crips, SAC, Bloods
- **Most Structured/Organized**
Norteños, Sureños
- **Most Influence on Street Gang Counterparts:** Sureños, Crips

OUTLAW
MOTORCYCLE
GANGS

PRISON
GANGS

STREET
GANGS

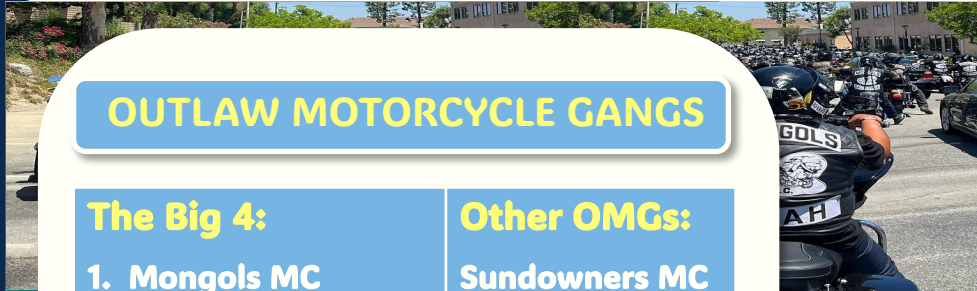
Likely gang-related fight with weapons sends 5 inmates to hospital, triggers lockdown at Utah facilities

by Matthew Jacobson, KUTV | Tue, August 22nd 2023 at 6:55 AM

Updated Tue, August 22nd 2023 at 11:52 AM



Utah prison inmates flown to hospital after 'gang-related flight'



OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

- The Big 4:**
1. Mongols MC
 2. Vagos MC
 3. Bandidos MC
 4. Sons of Silence MC

- Other OMGs:**
- Sundowners MC
 - Chosen Few MC
 - Barons MC
 - Brotherhood
 - Disciples MC

- Largest gang in Utah:**
- Mongols MC
- Top Threat:**
- Rival Gang Violence

OUTLAW
MOTORCYCLE
GANGS

PRISON
GANGS

STREET
GANGS



1 shot, injured by motorcyclist in possible road rage incident on I-15, troopers say

By Cassidy Wixom, KSL.com | Updated - June 5, 2023 at 7:29 p.m. | Posted - June 5, 2023 at 6:56 p.m.

UTAH HIGHWAY PATROL SEARCHING FOR MOTORCYCLIST IN DAVIS COUNTY I-15 SHOOTING

MOST VIEWED

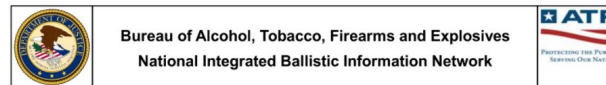
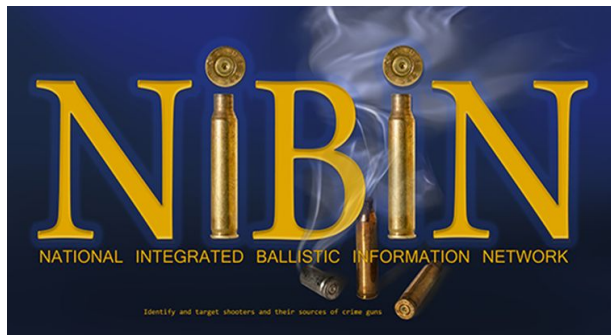
1. Man found shot in Salt Lake City year-old girl arrested

UTAH'S CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER (CGIC)

A STATEWIDE MULTI AGENCY INITIATIVE FOCUSED
ON FIREARMS RELATED VIOLENT CRIME



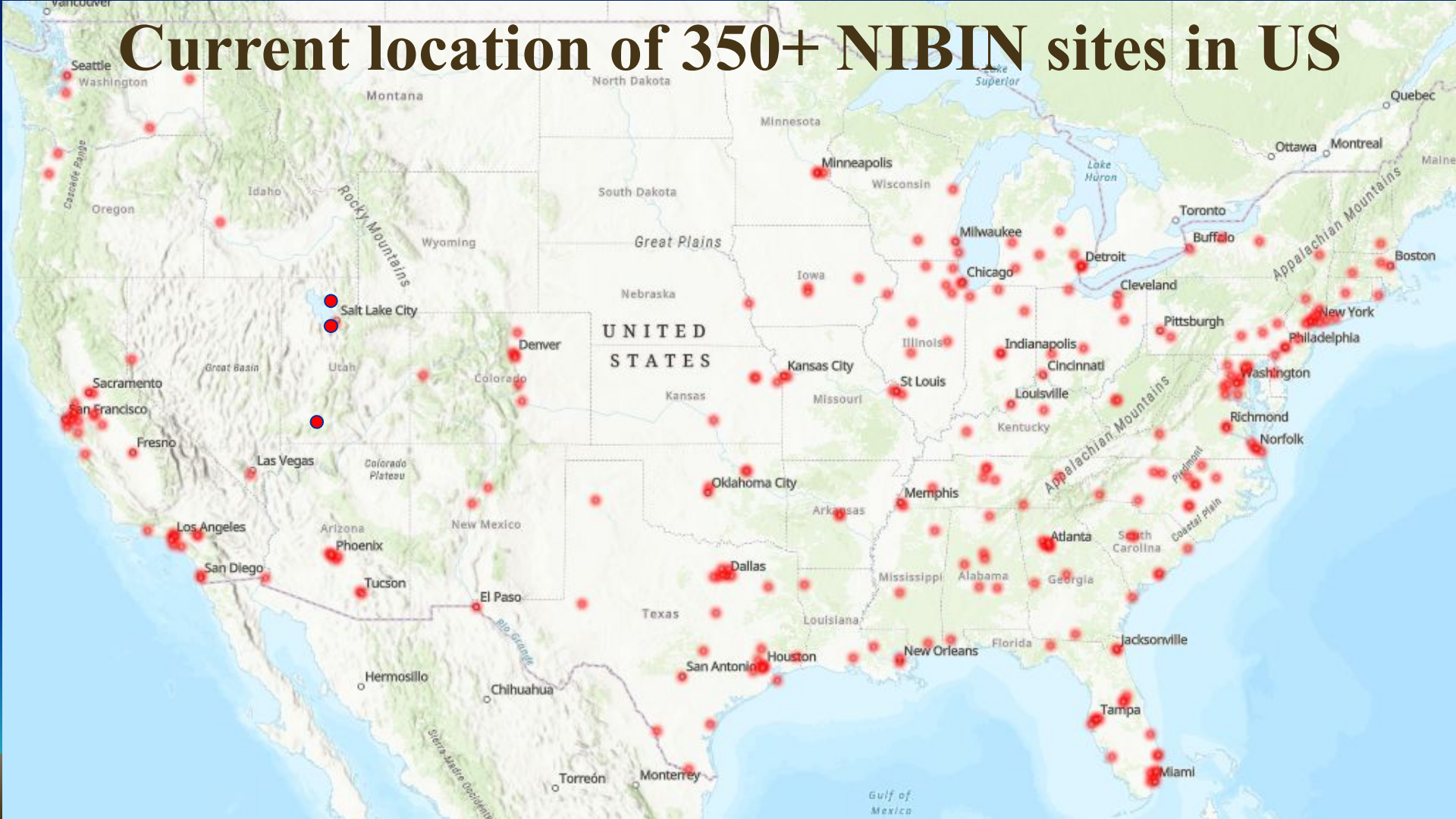
Use of DPS Crime Lab Forensic expertise and Law Enforcement partnerships to identify **active shooters** and their sources of crime guns for *investigation and prosecution*



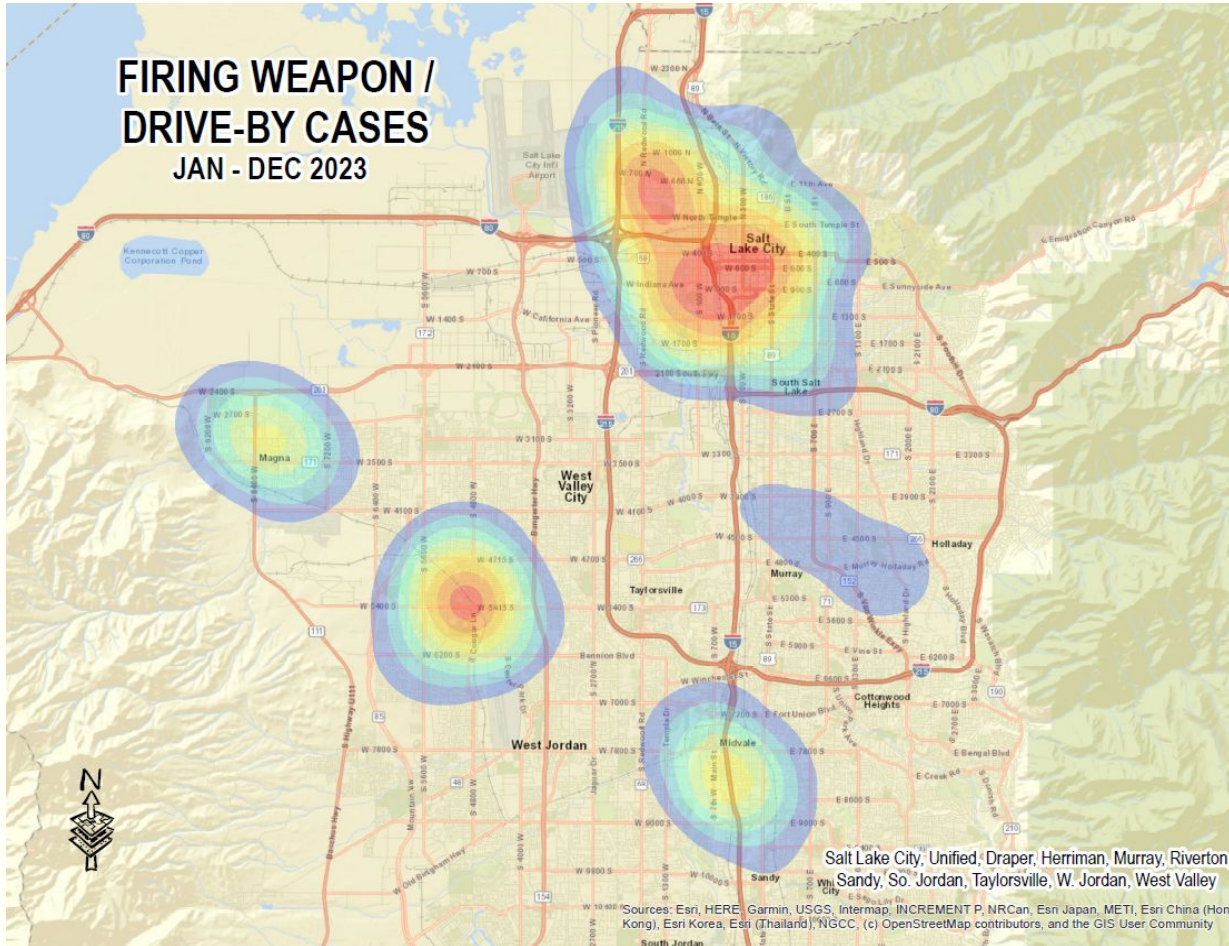
NIBIN LEAD NOTIFICATION

This NIBIN investigative lead was developed through a correlation review of your ballistic evidence by ATF and has not yet been confirmed by microscopic comparison. However, the potential that the same firearm was involved in your investigation is significant enough that investigative follow up is warranted at this time should an investigator choose to pursue it.

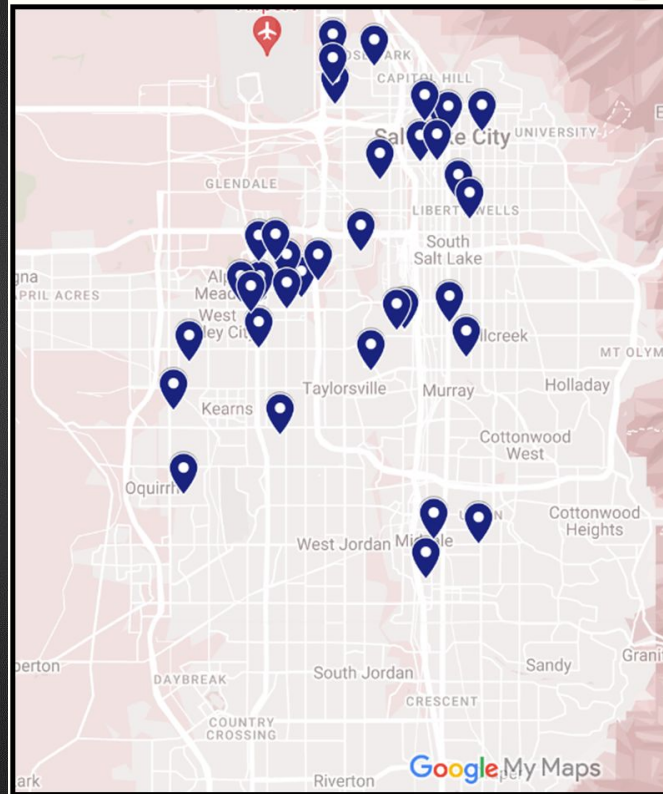
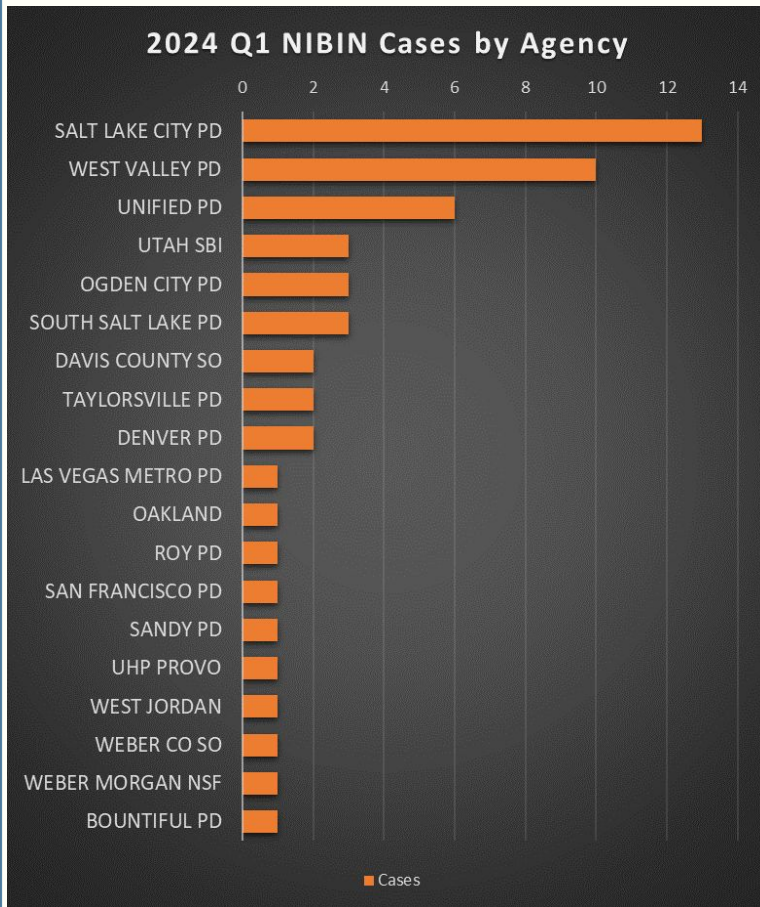
Current location of 350+ NIBIN sites in US



CY 2023 Shootings – Salt Lake County

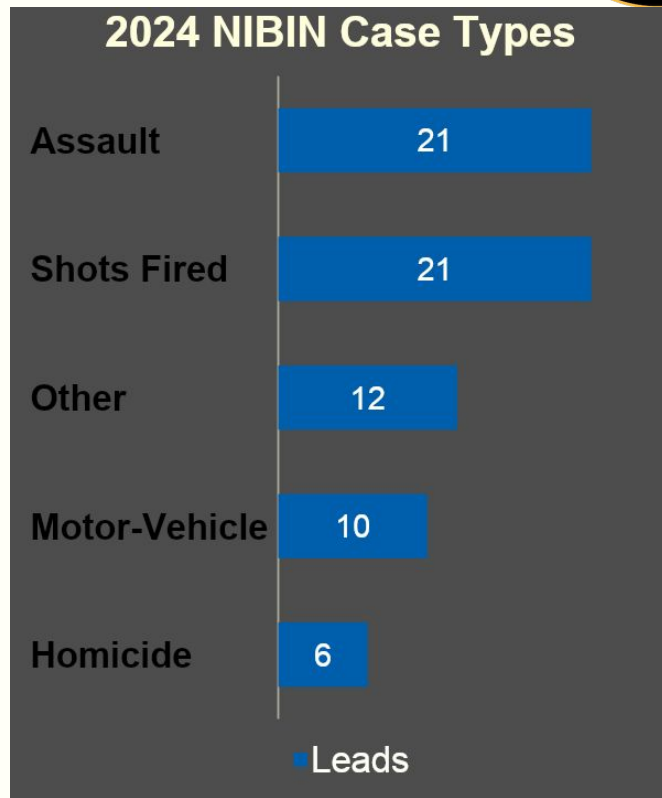


2024 Q1 NIBIN Cases in SL Valley

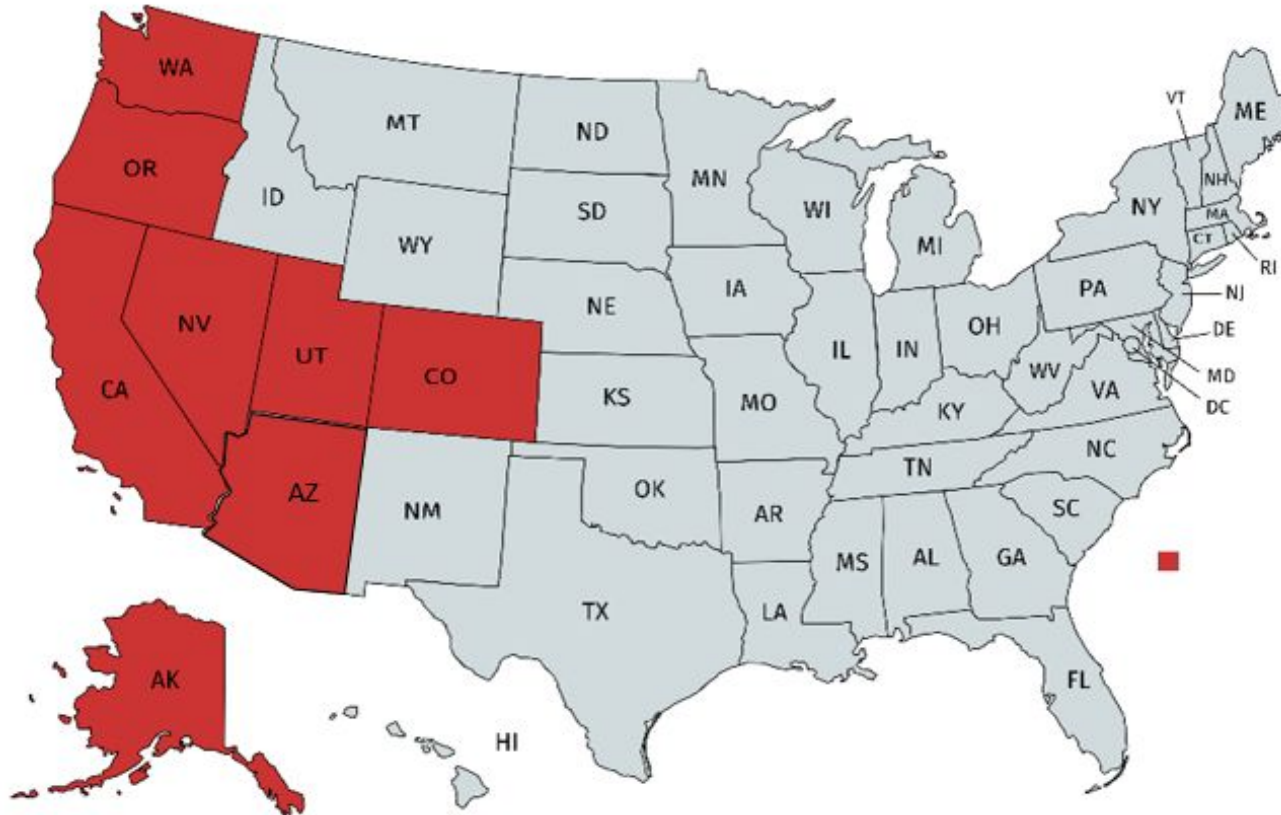


NIBIN Cases - 2024 Year to Date

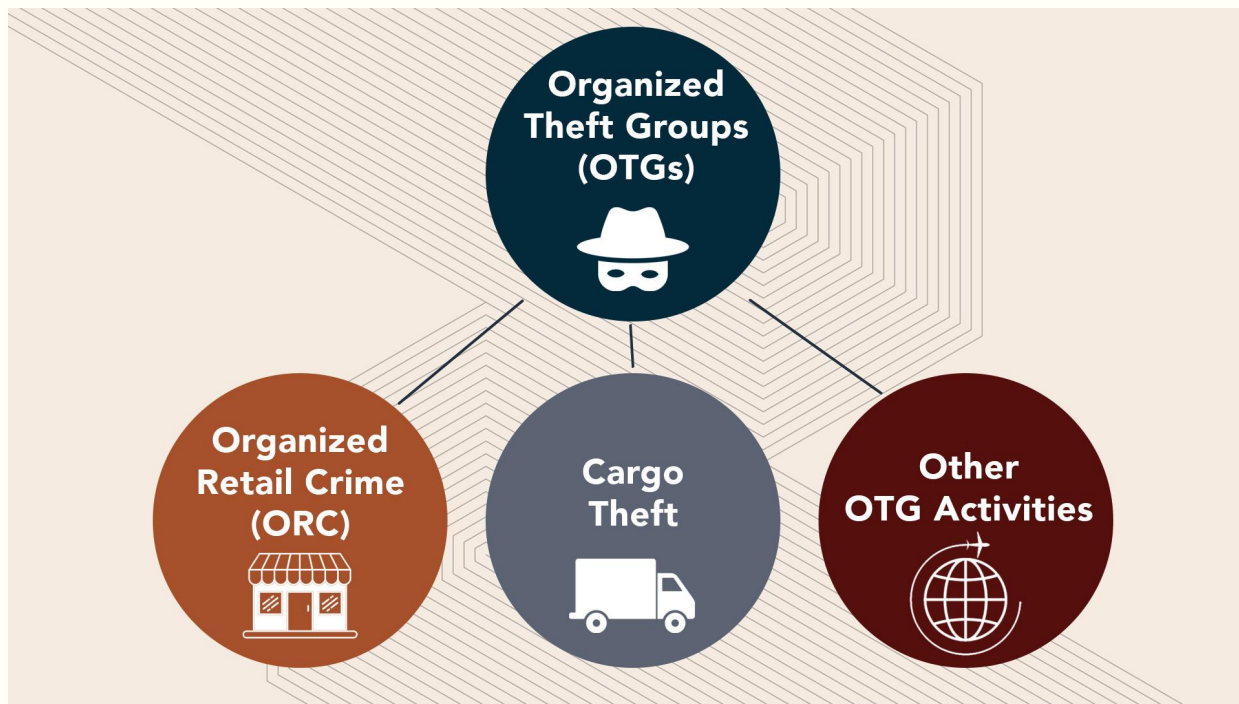
- 37 NIBIN Leads linking 79 Cases
- 35% of the Leads have known Gang involvement. **Sureño gang sets** were most commonly involved
- **1 in 5 suspects was a juvenile** with the youngest 14 years old
- Gangs are using juveniles to commit these firearms related violent crimes
- Gangs are increasingly using firearms stolen from vehicles



Utah's NIBIN Region



Theft Groups



Theft Groups



Theft Groups



Theft Groups



Theft Groups



C.A.S.E. Task Force

The Crimes Against Statewide Economy (C.A.S.E.) Task Force has been in operation since September, 2020. C.A.S.E. was created due to the serious rise in massive retail theft in neighborhood stores across the state. C.A.S.E. is responsible for the following cases as well as supporting local, state, and federal law enforcement partners.

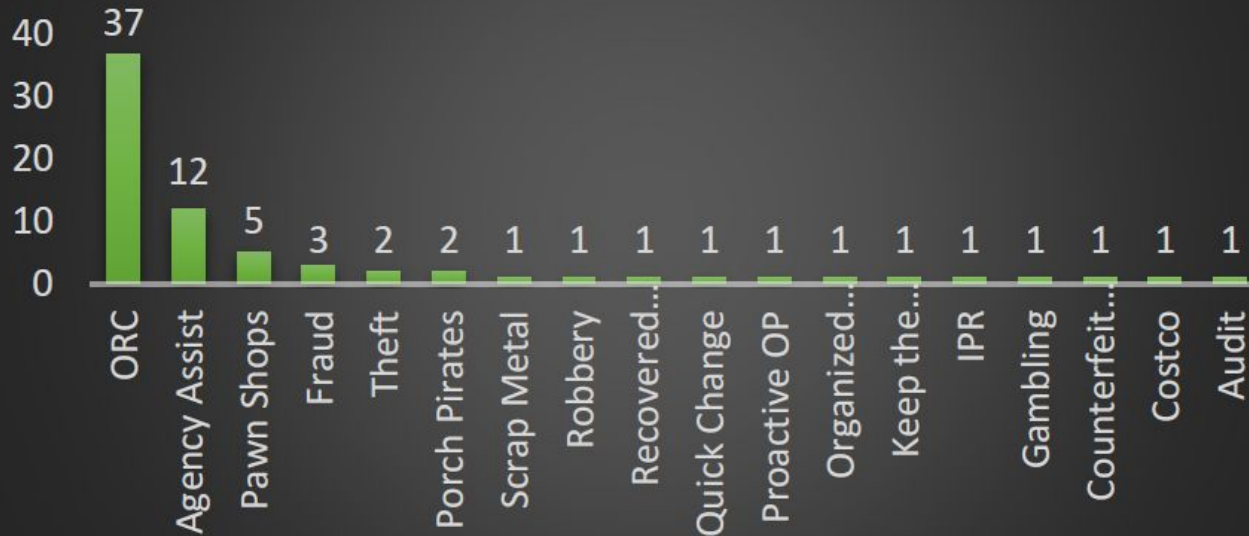
Case Type:

- Organized retail crime
- Counterfeit goods
- Intellectual property rights
- Porch Piracy
- Gambling
- Purchase of stolen goods to be resold online

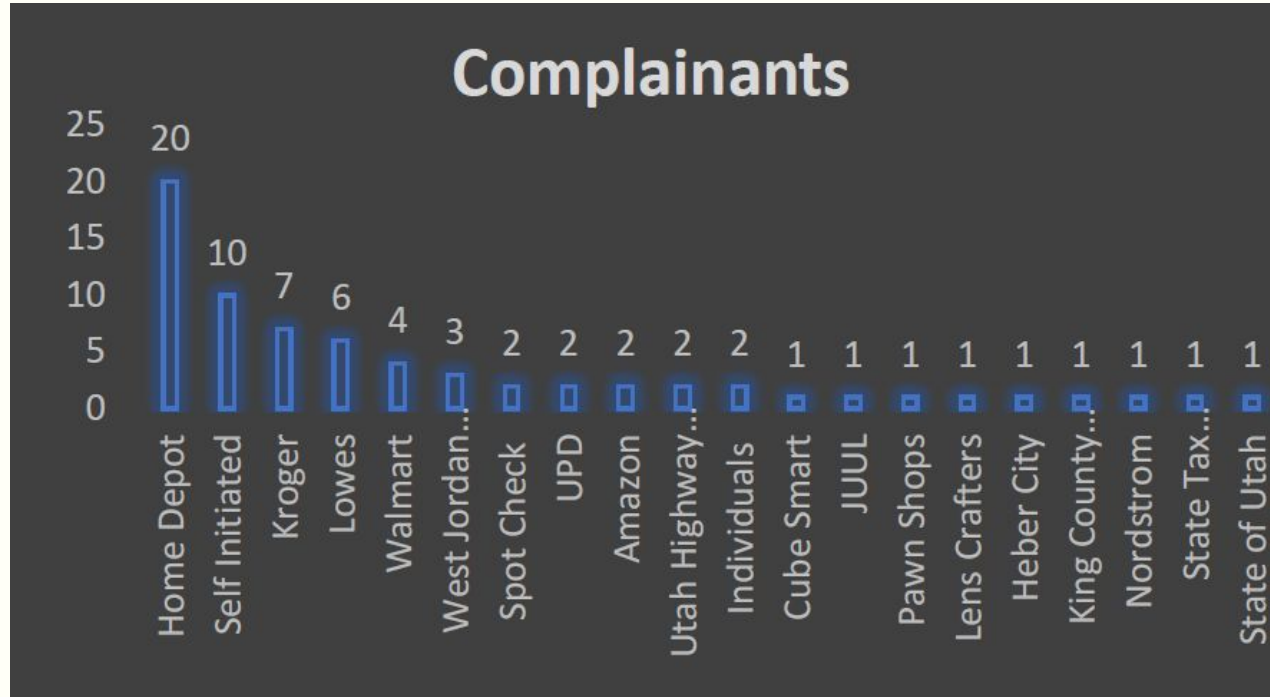
Theft Groups



Case Type Investigated



Theft Groups



Drugs



The observed drug threat to Utah in 2023 is substantial. The availability of potent and harmful substances will continue to increase, which will remain a substantial threat to public health moving forward into 2024.

The SIAC assesses with high confidence that the drug threat will remain substantial due to the prevalence of methamphetamine, the increase in fentanyl and fentanyl-related fatal overdoses, and the demand for drugs that persists within Utah.



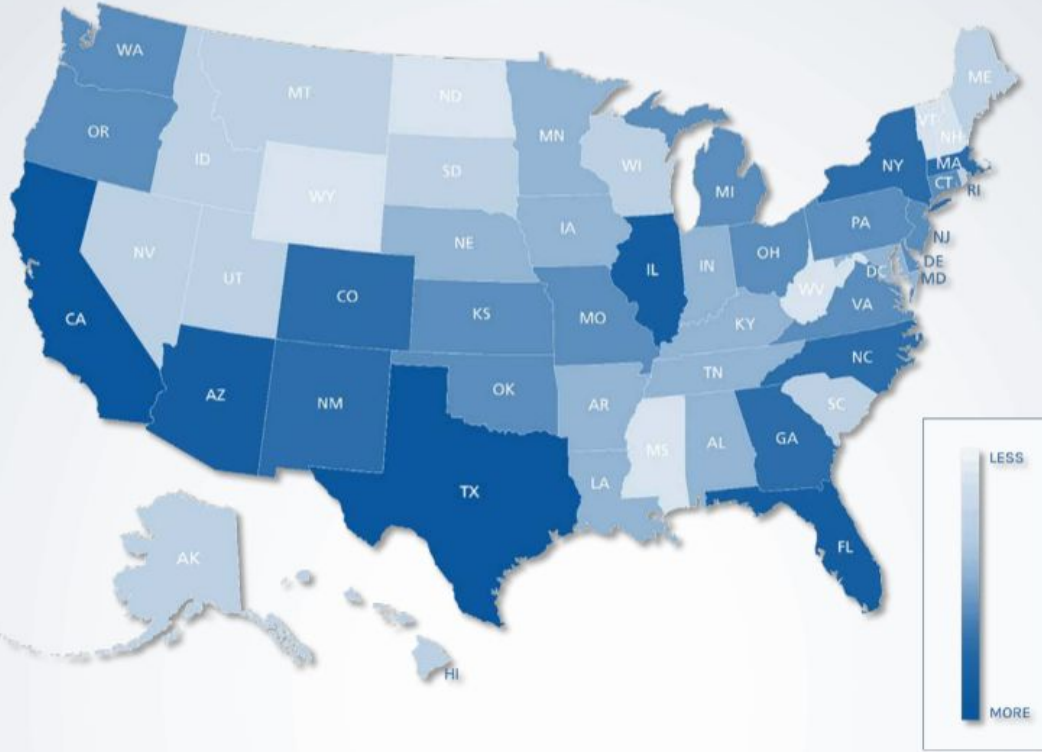
Current Utah Illicit Drug Threats and the Drug Monitoring Initiative

DEA National Drug Threat Assessment

May, 2024



MEXICAN CARTELS IN ALL 50 STATES



- The State of Utah is not immune to the influence of the Mexican Cartels/TCOs
- The Sinaloa Cartel and its distribution networks most impacts Utah
- The Jalisco Cartel, also known as CJNG, has influence here as well
- They constantly fight over and vie for control of lucrative distribution routes from Mexico, across the border and throughout the U.S. as well as throughout the world

Tracking Prices:

One “M-30” Fentanyl Pill in Utah:

2018 - \$25 to \$30

2019 - \$22 to \$25

2020 - \$18 to \$20

2021 - \$10 to \$13

2022 - \$3 to \$5

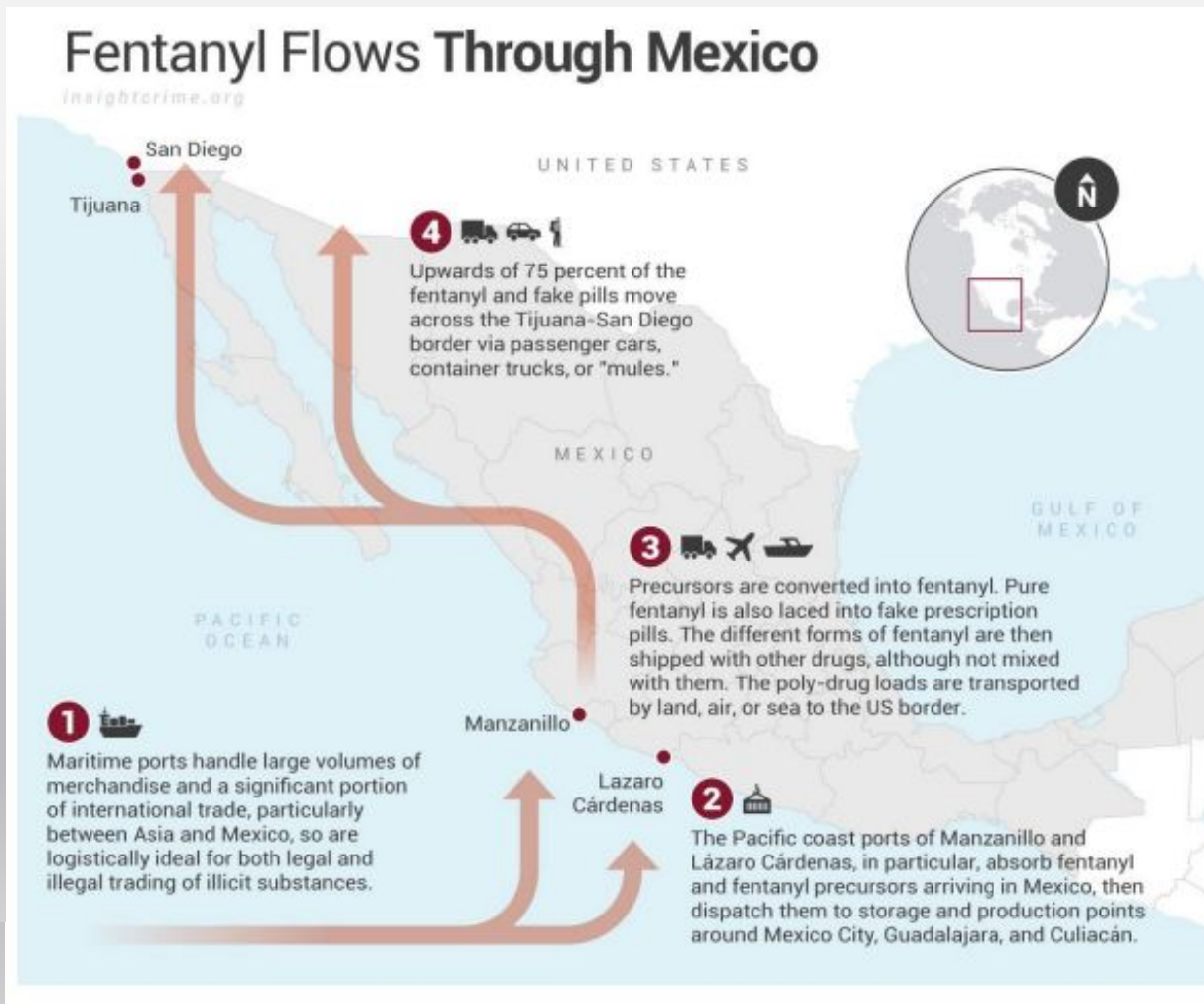
2023 - \$2 to \$3

AZ/SoCal - .25 per pill

Utah LE used to count seizures per pill, now we just weigh them (4500k pills = 1 lb) due to volume seized now

Increase is fentanyl **powder** seizures is a concern – domestic mixing/pressing

Increase in amount of fentanyl per pill



The flow of illicit narcotics from Mexico to US





**Fentanyl created
in outdoor labs**

**UNITED
STATES**

Chicago

NYC

Los Angeles

Phoenix

Atlanta

MEXICO



**Fentanyl pressed
into colorful pills**



“Crossroads of the West” Drug trafficking routes thru Utah:

I-15N - Poly loads from SoCal, NV, AZ

I-70E - Loads going to Denver, Midwest
and East Coast

I-80E - Marijuana and THC carts from
NoCal & Oregon

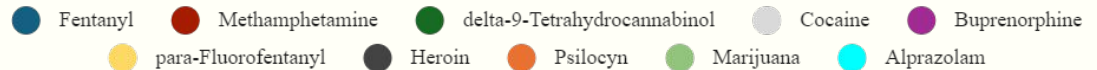
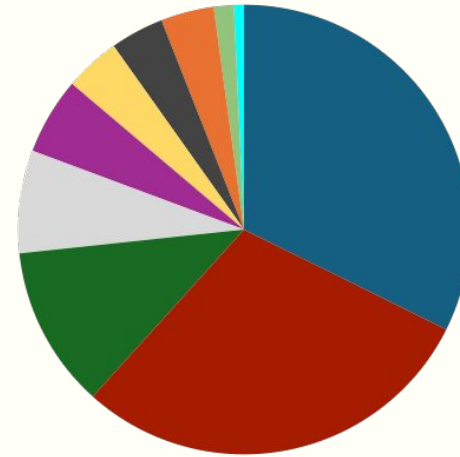
State Highways 191, 50, 89

Utah's "Top 10" Seized Narcotics

Per Submissions to DPS State Laboratory
(January, 1st 2024 - April, 30th 2024)

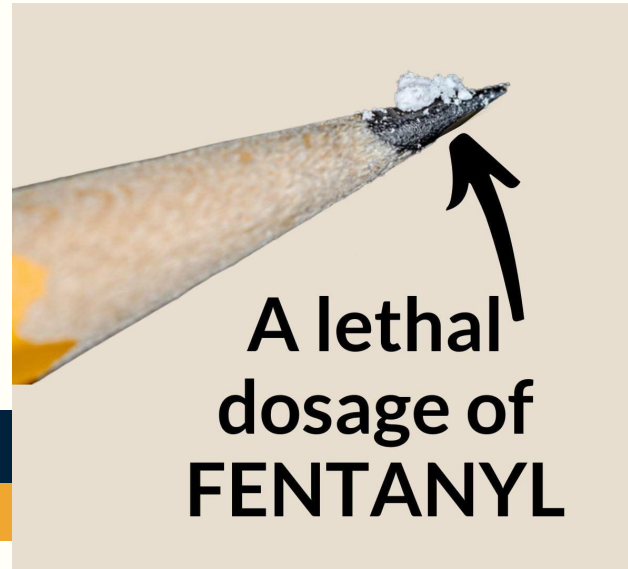
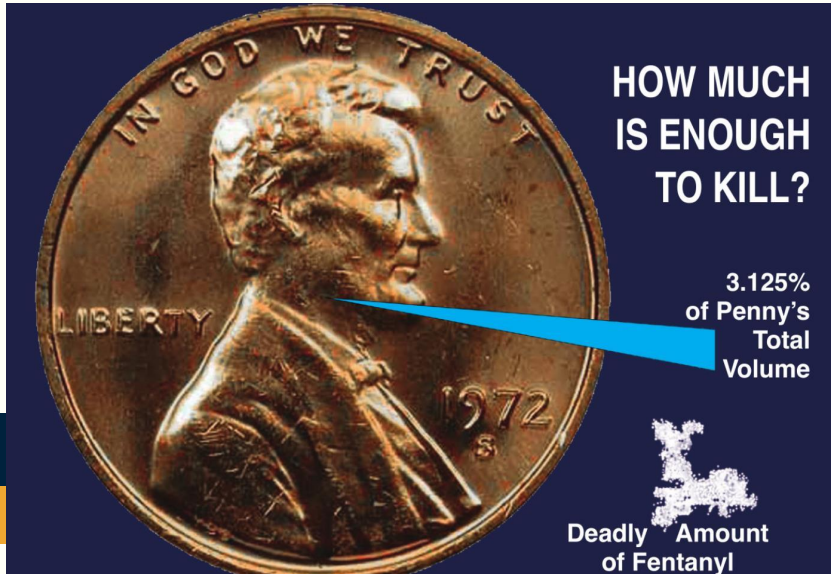


- Fentanyl
- Methamphetamine
- delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol
- Cocaine
- Buprenorphine
- para-Fluorofentanyl
- Heroin
- Psilocyn
- Marijuana
- Alprazolam

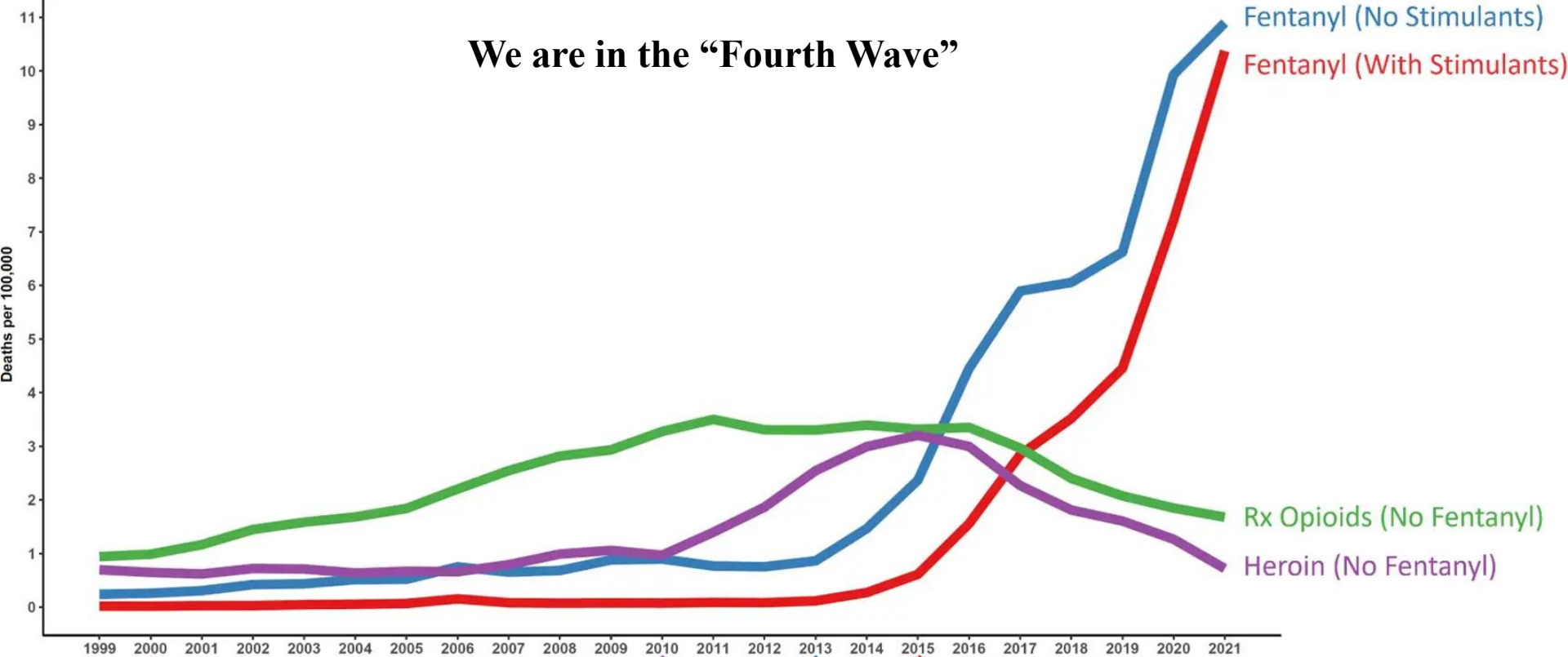


Fentanyl - What is it?

- A powerful **synthetic** opioid 50-100 times stronger than morphine
- Developed originally for pain management in treatment of cancer patients
 - Also used as an anesthetic during surgeries
- Chemical structure can be easily modified (Carfentanil as an example)
- Mexican Cartels are focused on **profit** – **Mother Nature plays no part**
- These cartels focus almost solely on the production of **synthetic** drugs now



We are in the “Fourth Wave”



Wave 1

Rise in Rx Opioids
in Early 2000s

Wave 2

Rise in Heroin w/o
Stimulants in 2010

Wave 3

Rise in Fentanyl w/o
Stimulants in 2013

Wave 4

Rise in Fentanyl with
Stimulants in 2015

Utah's Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI)

A unique Public Safety/Public Health/Community Coalitions
partnership



- Utah Dept of Public Safety – SIAC, UHP, SBI Narcotics
- Utah State Crime Lab (DPS)
- Utah Dept of Health and Human Services
- Rocky Mountain HIDTA Region
- Utah HIDTA Drug Task Forces
- Utah CCJJ Task Forces
- Utah National Guard – Counter Drug and DDRO
- Office of the Medical Examiner
- Utah Poison Control Center
- Utah Coalition of Opioid Overdose Prevention
- Community Outreach Organizations Statewide (22)
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Department of Homeland Security
- Utah Naloxone
- EMS/Fire agencies

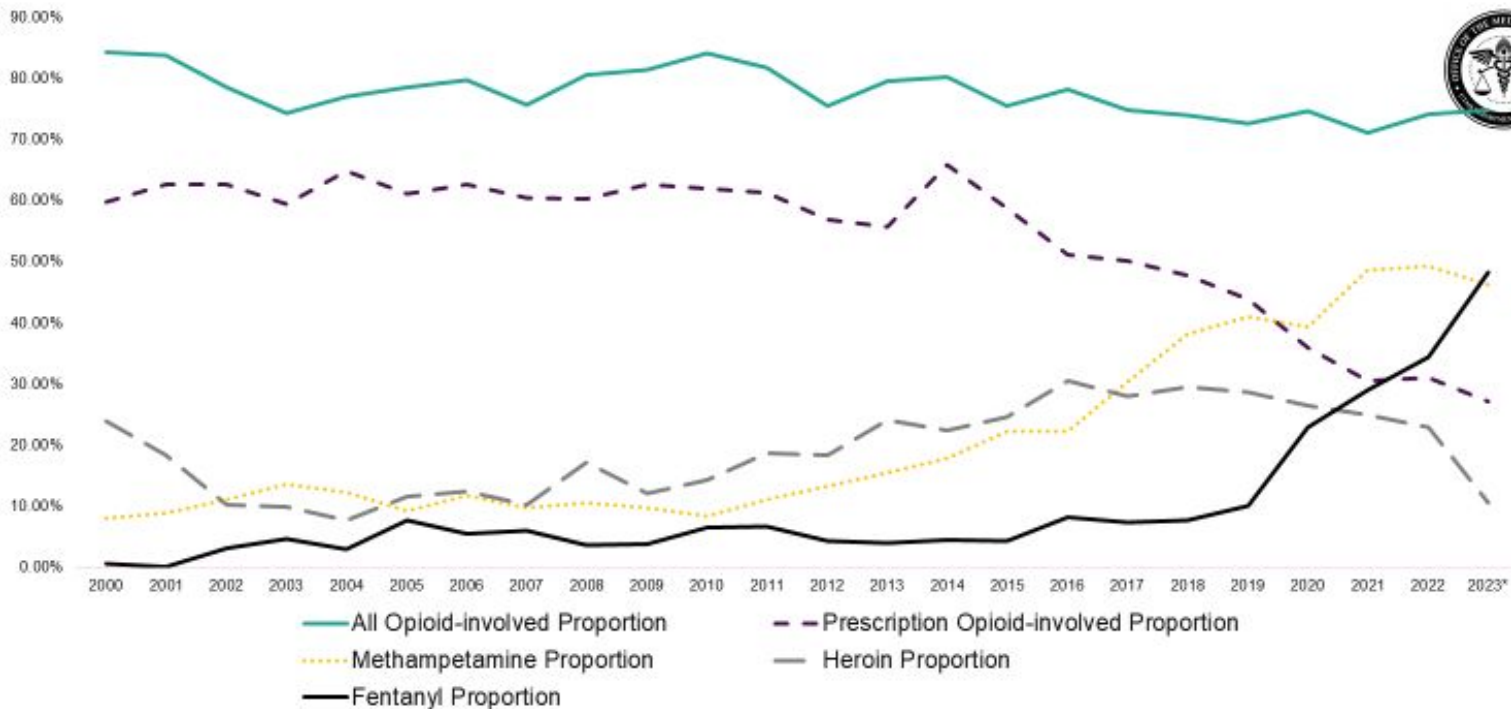


Utah Fatal Overdose Data 2000-2023

Fentanyl involved:

2000 - 1%
2018 - 8%
2022 - 33%
2023 - 50%

Nationally its approx 67% (2022)



Utah Fatal Overdose Data: Select Drugs and Drug Groups of Concern, 2000-2023

*2023 data are preliminary

Emerging Illicit Drug Threats to Utah



- ❑ **Xylazine** – known as “Tranq” on the street, due to being a large animal **tran**quilizer. Prolongs the effects of fentanyl but has severe side effects, including necrosis. Naloxone may have limited effect but should still be administered
- ❑ **Fentanyl-laced** Marijuana (especially THC carts), Cocaine, Heroin and Meth – **Assume Fentanyl is in everything!**
- ❑ Increase in the seizure of **fentanyl powder** and pill press machines at the US/Mex border - indicator of domestic production
- ❑ Presence of **carfentanil** - 100 times stronger than fentanyl

Cyber



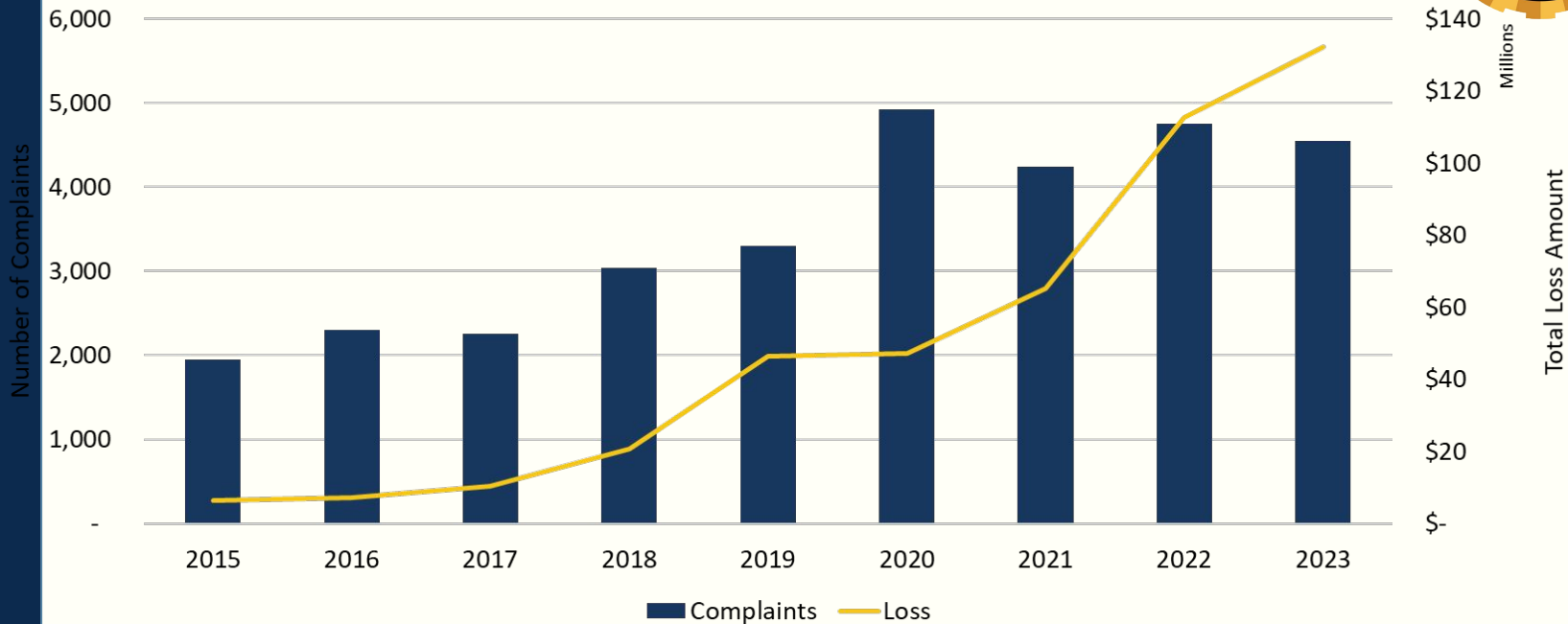
The observed cyber threat to Utah in 2023 is substantial. Private and public sector networks in Utah experienced significant damage due to cyber attacks or the threat of cyber attacks resulting in substantial economic loss.

The SIAC assesses with high confidence cyber threats will continue to increase as the availability of internet, internet-connected devices, sharing platforms, and hacking tools become more readily available.



2022 to 2023
4% Complaint Decrease
17% Victim Loss Increase

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center
Utah Internet Crime Statistics



Threat Actors

Cyber Criminals

- Motivated by money
- Steal directly from victims
- Sell stolen data or tools

Hackers

- Internet activists promoting an agenda
- Skill level/impact varies

Nation State Cyber Actors

- Sophisticated attack methods
- Developed resources
- Cyber espionage
- Furthering intelligence operations

Volt Typhoon targeted emergency management services, per report

Dragos researchers found that the China-sponsored hacking group has been attacking electric utilities since 2023.

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ • FEBRUARY 13, 2024



Killnet DDoS attacks inflicting damage on healthcare: 'This is war'

Jessica Davis February 13, 2023



Threat Activities

Business Email Compromise

Emails appear from trusted source, make legitimate requests, and convince individuals to transfer money.

UT victims lost \$26,231,307 in 2022

Data Breaches

January to September 2023, 46 Utah data breaches reported

Result of extortion & exfiltration

Ransomware

Malware that encrypts your files making must pay a demand for decryption

Healthcare is the most targeted industry

Cryptocurrency

FBI IC3 received 63% increase cryptocurrency scam reports

Victim loss over \$42 million dollars a 288% increase

Preferred payment method for many scams

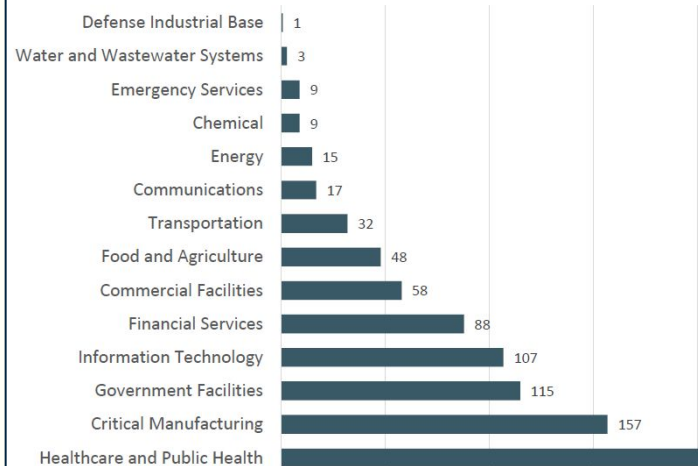


288%
Victim loss



63%
Complains

Infrastructure Sectors Victimized by Ransomware



Targets

- State of Utah
- Utah-based private and public organizations
- Utah citizens
 - Cryptocurrency investors
 - Pig Butchering
 - Election-related personnel
 - Spear-phishing emails
 - Impersonation of government official
 - Nation-state influence operations
 - Critical infrastructure

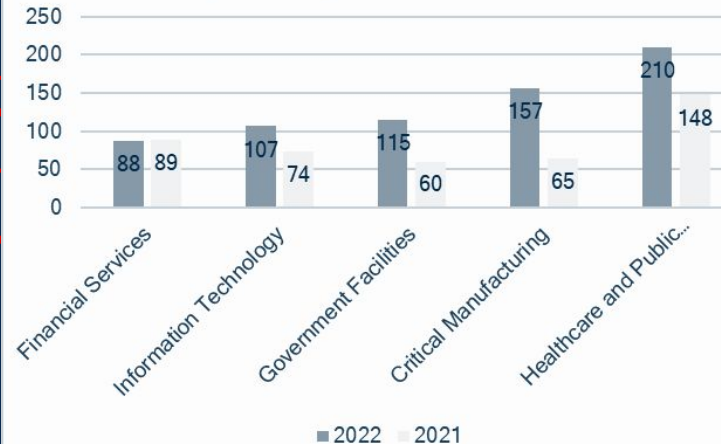
US moves to recover \$2.3 million from "pig butchers" on Binance

By Bill Toulas

March 15, 2024 02:02 PM



Top 5 Targeted Critical Infrastructure



Facilitation Platforms

- Cryptocurrencies
- Dark Web
 - Hacker forums
 - Marketplaces
- Messaging Apps





Image Source: AI World Today



Image Source: Geeks for Geeks

Evolution of the Threat



- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Help detect new threats, bots, and improve endpoint detection
 - Enable cyber criminals to create sophisticated phishing attacks, disinformation campaigns, etc.



Questions

