Over the last decade, the Utah and U.S. firearm-related death rate was relatively the same. However, since 2010, the Utah rate has increased 15.4% compared to an increase of 1.0% in the U.S. (Figure 1) This difference is likely due to the increase in Utah’s suicide rate over the past five years.

Preliminary data show that 330 Utah residents died as a result of a firearm in 2012, an increase of 8.2% from 2011. As of mid-March 2013, 64 Utah residents have died as a result of a firearm this year. The majority of firearm-related deaths in Utah are the result of suicide (Figure 2).

Utah has had a higher prevalence of high school students reporting that they carried a gun at least one day in the past month compared to the U.S. since 2005.

Firearms and Domestic Violence
According to the Domestic Violence Fatalities in Utah report, from 2003-2008:

- One out of three adult homicides in Utah were domestic violence-related, 67.8% were due to firearms.
- One-third of the domestic violence perpetrators committed suicide after committing the homicide, with 93% using a firearm to commit suicide. Of these, 70.4% were perpetrators of interpersonal violence within the past month and 18.5% were diagnosed with a mental illness.

According to one study, firearms were the major weapon type used in intimate partner homicides in the United States. Women who were threatened or assaulted with a gun or other weapon were 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered.

According to National Studies
According to the Harvard School of Public Health:

- High-gun ownership states (WY, SD, AK, WV, MT, AR, MS, ID, ND, AL, KY, WI, LA, TN, UT) have higher firearm suicide rates compared to low-gun ownership states (HI, MA, RI, NJ, CT, NY), even though non-firearm suicides were about equal. (Note that these studies controlled
Our Mission

VIPP is a trusted and comprehensive resource for data and technical assistance related to violence and injury. This information helps promote partnerships and programs to prevent injuries and improve public health.

Firearm Deaths in Utah

for state-level measures of mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, and other factors associated with suicide

• Multiple studies show individuals who died by suicide compared to those who did not were more likely to live in homes with guns.

• Firearm access is a risk factor for suicide for both older (>15 years) and younger adolescents and for both males and females.

Concealed Firearm Permits in Utah

According to the Utah Department of Public Safety:

• Concealed Firearm Permit (CFP) classes provide some familiarization with firearms and explanations and discussions of applicable state and federal laws.

• The CFP application includes ongoing background checks in order to obtain and keep the permit whereas buying a gun only requires passing a background check at the time of purchase.

• Without the CFP application process, concealed gun carriers may not know if they are legally qualified to lawfully conceal a weapon. Applicant must be 21 years of age and show “proof of good character.” Proof of good character is defined whereas the applicant:

  o has not been convicted of a felony;
  o has not been convicted of any crime of violence;
  o has not been convicted of any offense involving the use of alcohol;
  o has not been convicted of any offenses involving the unlawful use of narcotics or other controlled substances;
  o has not been convicted of any offenses involving moral turpitude;
  o has not been convicted of any offense involving domestic violence;
  o has not been adjudicated by a court of a state or of the United States as mentally incompetent, unless the adjudication has been withdrawn or reversed.

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References

1 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1999-2011
5 http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/means-matter/risk/
8 http://publicsafety.utah.gov/bci/CFnewapp.html

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