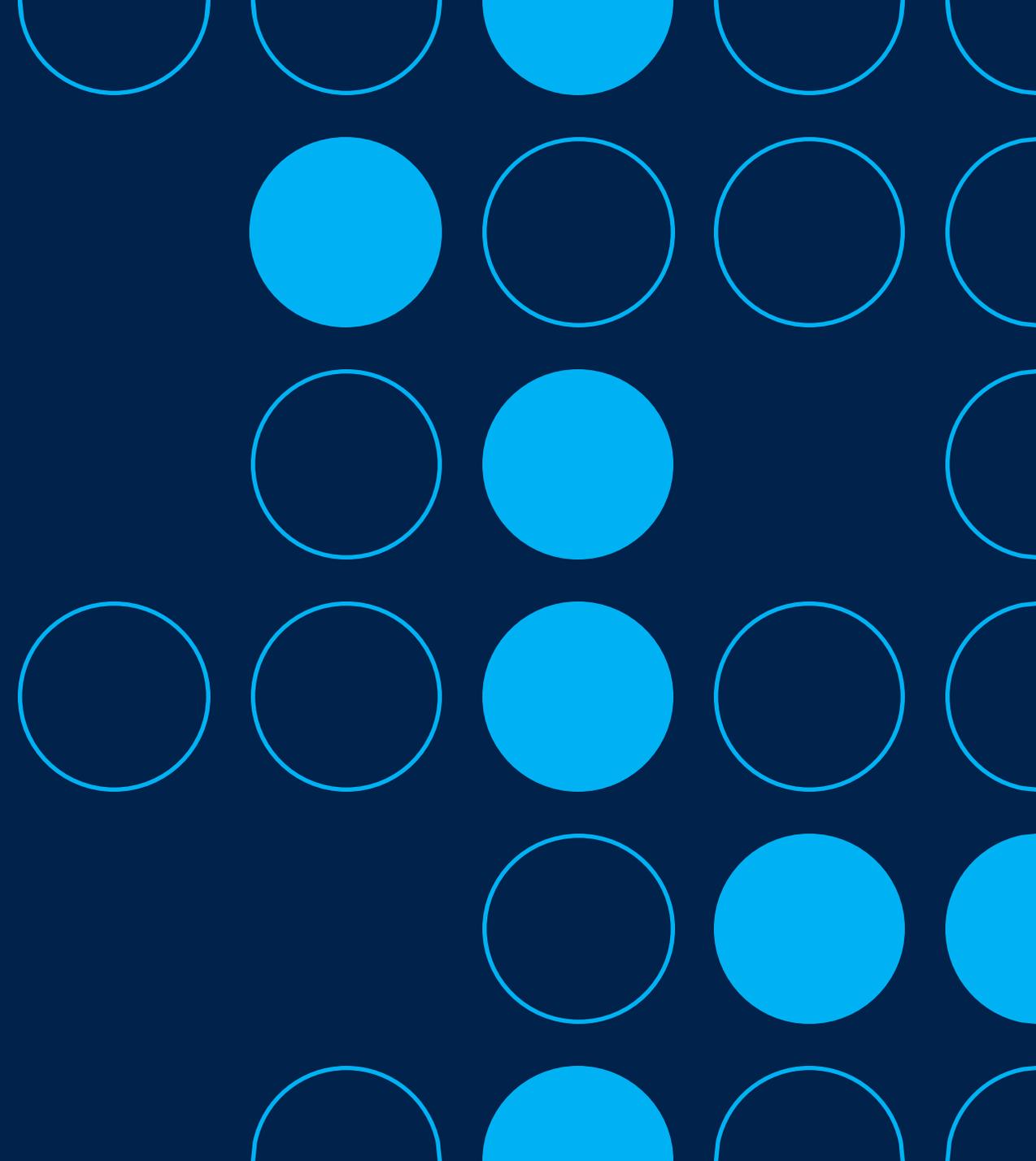


Presentation

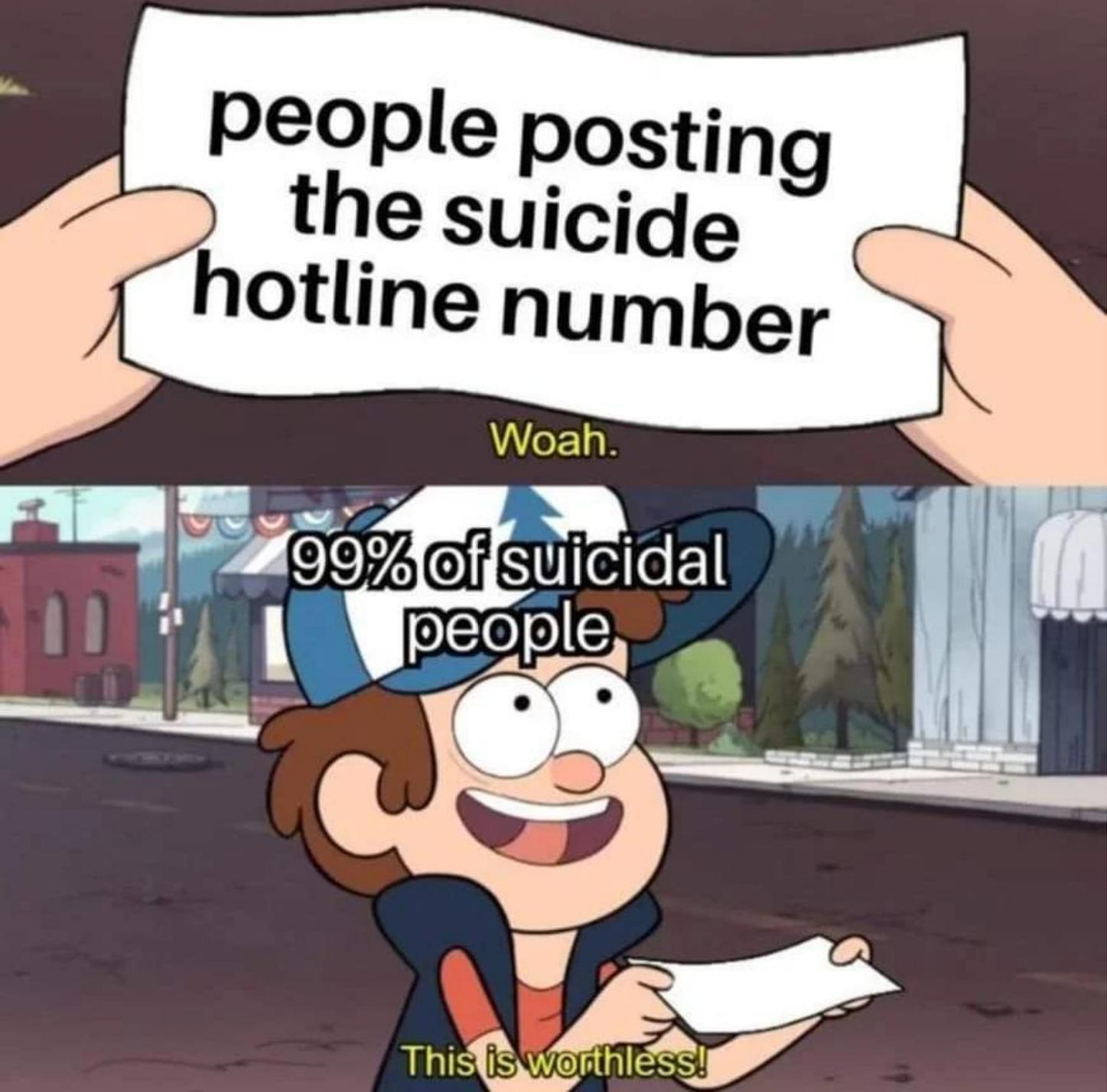
988 and Emergency
Intervention:
Facts, Myths and
Challenges



Speaker:

**Bart Andrew, Ph.D.
Chief Clinical Officer
Behavioral Health Response**





people posting
the suicide
hotline number

Woah.

99% of suicidal
people

This is worthless!

Have you
seen this?

Mememes Have Power Regardless of Truthfulness

“The majority of interviewed follow-up clients (callers to Lifeline) reported that the intervention stopped them from killing themselves (79.6%) and kept them safe (90.6%).”*

*Gould, M.S., Lake, A.M., Galfalvy, H., Kleinman, M., Munfakh, J.L., Wright, J. and McKeon, R. (2018), Follow-up with Callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Evaluation of Callers' Perceptions of Care. *Suicide Life Threat Behav*, 48: 75-86. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12339>

Or
this?



Man Calls a Suicide Prevention Hotline, SWAT Team Shows Up and Kills Him



301 comments

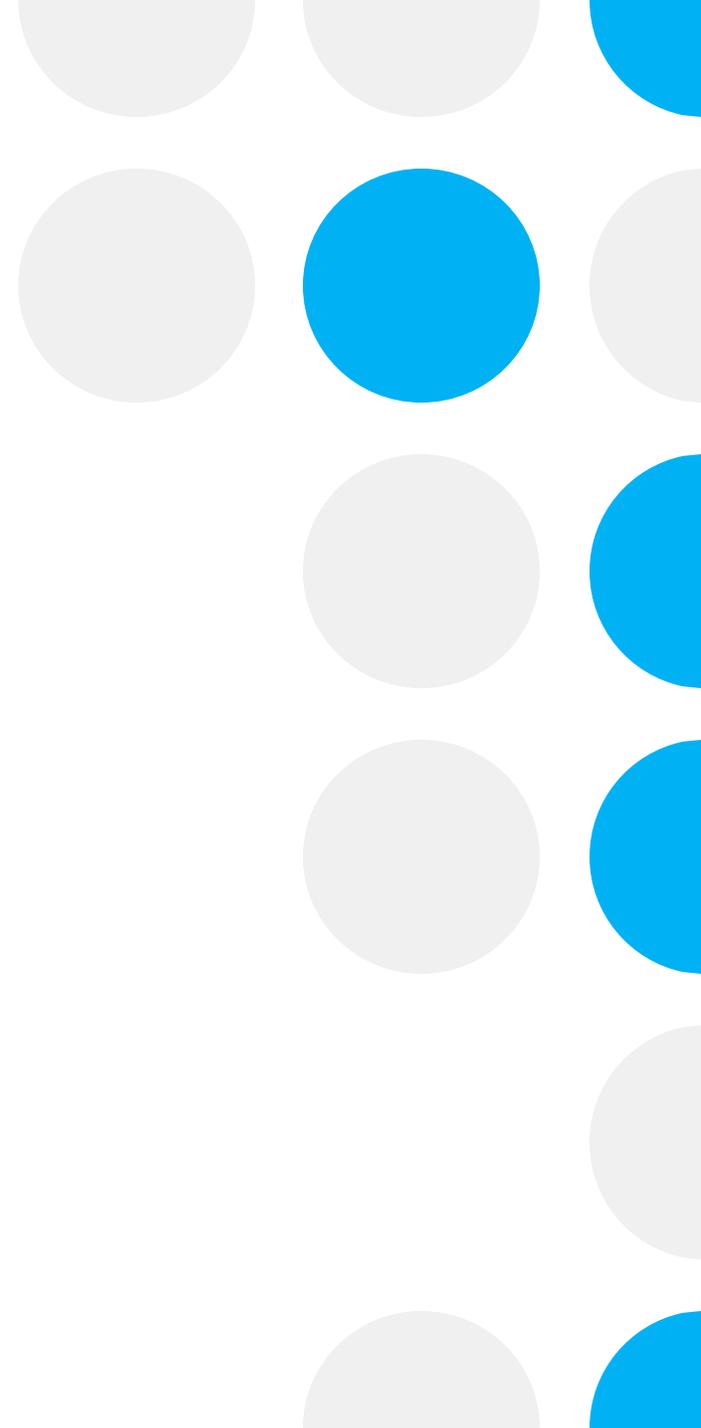


Suicide prevented



Imminent Risk Situations are Inherently Messy

- Incredibly complicated
 - In above case, individual
 - Consumed fifth of whiskey and bottle of pills & was heavily armed
 - Was discovered in car trunk with a gun in his mouth and a rifle by his side
 - Following a 5 hour SWAT team stand off
 - Could (should) this have had a different ending?
 - YES!
 - Should hotline have called for emergency intervention?
 - Still a big YES
-



Current Meme – notes 20% of police fatalities involve persons with mental illness

LIFE KIT

Social media posts warn people not to call 988. Here's what you need to know

Updated August 25, 2022 · 2:03 PM ET ⓘ

Heard on Weekend Edition Saturday

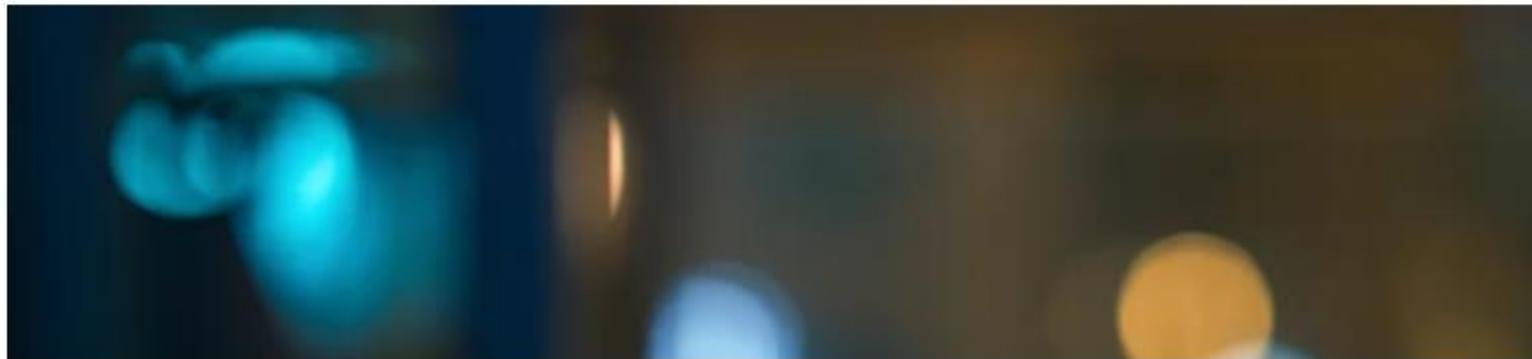
ANERI PATTANI

FROM **KHN**



19-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/08/11/1116769071/social-media-posts-warn-people-not-to-call-988-heres-what-you-need-to-know>

Or
This

“People with actual or assumed mental illnesses die at the hands of police at **high rates**, especially when they’re also people of color, trans people, immigrants and/or members of other marginalized groups,” Krebs said.’ (highlighting mine)

What mental health activists are saying about the 988 suicide hotline



[Sammy Gibbons](#)

NorthJersey.com

Published 4:08 p.m. ET Aug. 4, 2022 | Updated 3:43 p.m. ET Aug. 5, 2022



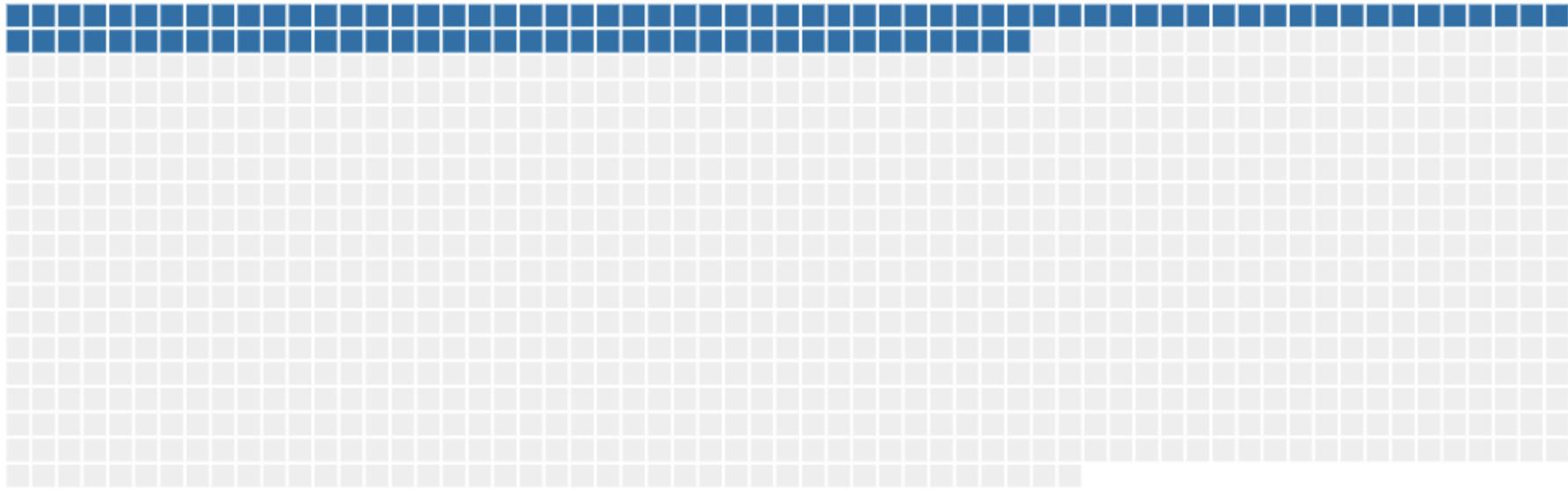
by [link.springer.com](#)

[Shop now](#)

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/08/04/988-suicide-hotline-national-mental-health-activists-issues/10238276002/>

Let's look at 2021 Data – PoliceViolenceReport.Org

101 people were killed after police responded to reports of someone behaving erratically or having a mental health crisis.

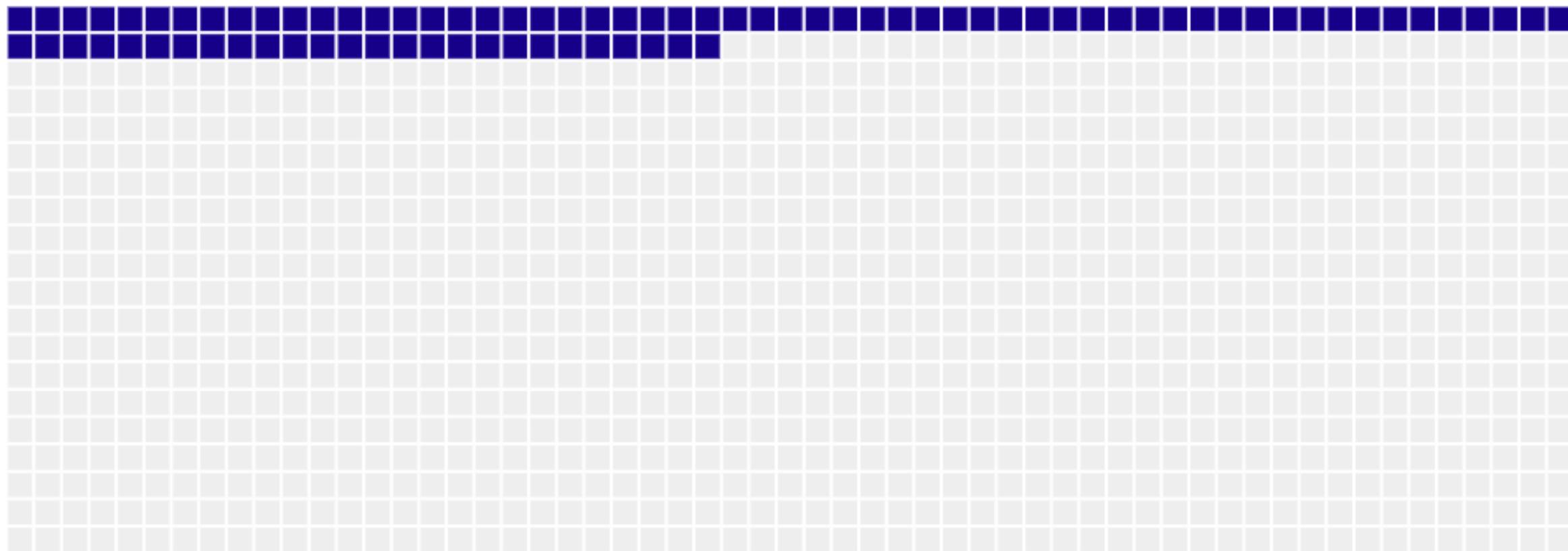


- Mental Health/Welfare Check (101)
- Traffic Stop (115)
- Domestic Disturbance (76)
- Other Non-Violent Offense (218)
- Person with a Weapon (98)
- Other Crimes Against People (65)
- Violent Crime (396)
- None/Unknown (71)



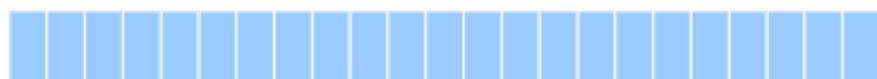


83 people killed by police were **unarmed**.



■ Unarmed (83) ■ Vehicle (51) ■ Knife/sharp object (164) ■ Other object (67) ■ Gun (664)
■ Undetermined (111)

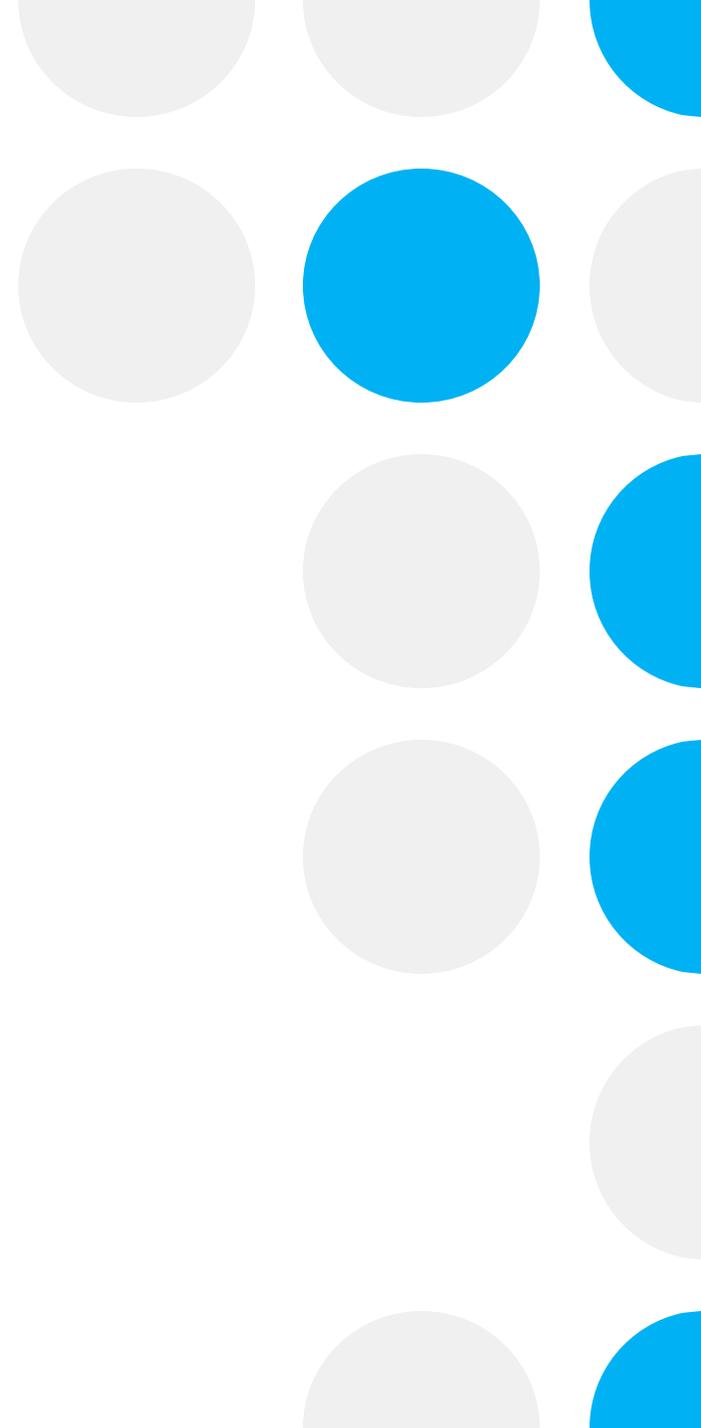
Most **unarmed** people killed by police were **people of color**.



■ Black (31) ■ Hispanic (21) ■ Asian/Pacific Islander (1) ■ White (24) ■ Unknown (6)

Number of 911 Calls and Police Traffic Stops Per Year?

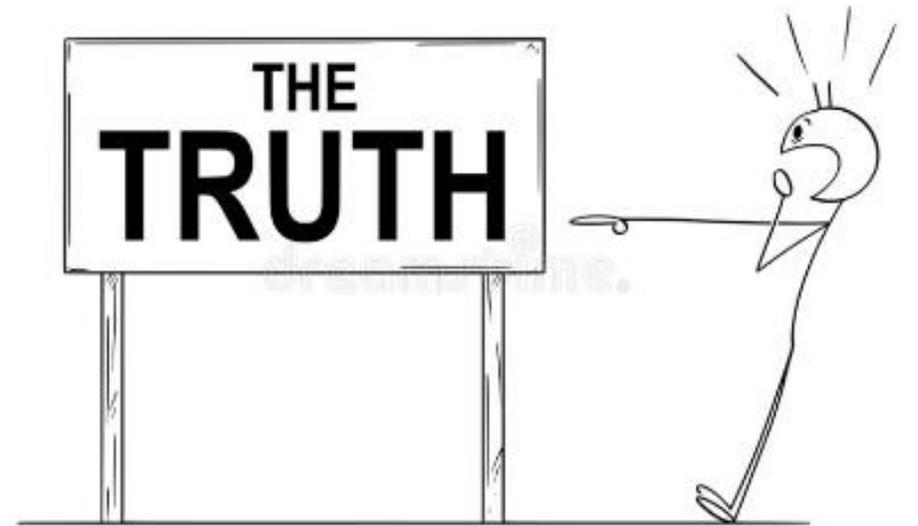
270,000,000



Things That are True

- People of color are disproportionately impacted by police shootings
- Most of these are preventable, all are tragic and cannot be ignored
- **HOWEVER**

The rate of police shootings of unarmed Americans is 83/270,000.000 or .00000031



Use of Emergency Intervention

- Is not risk free – risk on both sides
 - That being said, the risk of a 988 call leading to death of an unarmed American is infinitesimally low
 - Despite this low risk, it is not zero and use of emergency intervention should never be taken lightly.
 - So why do we do it?
-



Reasons for Involuntary Assistance

Anosognosia

Severely impaired judgment

Self-Rescue

- Up to 16% of those who attempt suicide engaged in self-rescue*

Marked Ambivalence

- 85-95% of those who attempt suicide regret decision following attempt and do not go on to die of suicide**

Ethics

Standards of Care

* Wei S, Li H, Hou J, Chen W, Chen X, Qin X. Comparison of the characteristics of suicide attempters with major depressive disorder and those with no psychiatric diagnosis in emergency departments of general hospitals in China. *Ann Gen Psychiatry*. 2017 Dec 1;16:44. doi: 10.1186/s12991-017-0167-x. PMID: 29213296; PMCID: PMC5709840.

**Greenberg, D. F. (1974). Involuntary psychiatric commitments to prevent suicide. *NYU Law Review*, 49(3), 227-269. Retrieved from www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11664554

Liability

“As the act of suicide is nearly impossible to predict, four key elements are often present for a claim of malpractice to be supported. These are (a) the presence of a professional relationship, (b) a violation of the standard of care, (c) the violation resulting in damages or harm, and (d) a direct causal relationship between the practitioner’s omissions and the suicidal act of the client”*

*Alonzo, D. & Gearing, R.E. 2017)Suicide Assessment and Treatment, 2nd Edition
Empirical and Evidence-Based Practices

Improvements Needed

- Informed consent by 988 centers
- Better reporting and fact checking to avoid moral panics – there is a risk to scaring people away from calling 988
- Better training and accountability for law enforcement
- Narrow criteria for use of emergency intervention

