

Suicide

Facts at a Glance

2012

Suicide

- Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death for all ages in 2010.¹
- There were 38,364 suicides in 2010 in the United States—an average of 105 each day.¹
- Based on data about suicides in 16 National Violent Death Reporting System states in 2009, 33.3% of suicide decedents tested positive for alcohol, 23% for antidepressants, and 20.8% for opiates, including heroin and prescription pain killers.²
- Suicide results in an estimated \$34.6 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.¹

Nonfatal Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior

- Among adults aged ≥18 years in the United States during 2008-2009:³
 - An estimated 8.3 million adults (3.7% of the adult U.S. population) reported having suicidal thoughts in the past year.
 - An estimated 2.2 million adults (1.0% of the adult U.S. population) reported having made suicide plans in the past year.
 - An estimated 1 million adults (0.5% of the U.S. adult population) reported making a suicide attempt in the past year.
- There is one suicide for every 25 attempted suicides.³
- Among young adults ages 15 to 24 years old, there are approximately 100-200 attempts for every completed suicide.⁴
- In a 2011 nationally-representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:⁵
 - 15.8% of students reported that they had seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey;

- 12.8% of students reported that they made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the 12 months preceding the survey;
- 7.8% of students reported that they had attempted suicide one or more times during the 12 months preceding the survey; and
- 2.4% of students reported that they had made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that required medical attention.

Gender Disparities

- Suicide among males is four times higher than among females and represents 79% of all U.S. suicides.¹
- Females are more likely than males to have had suicidal thoughts.³
- Firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide among males (56%).¹
- Poisoning is the most common method of suicide for females (37.4%).¹

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Among American Indians/Alaska Natives aged 15- to 34-years, suicide is the second leading cause of death.¹
- The suicide rate among American Indian/Alaska Native adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 34 (31 per 100,000) is 2.5 times higher than the national average for that age group (12.2 per 100,000).¹
- Of students in grades 9-12, significantly more Hispanic female students (13.5%) reported attempting suicide in the last year than Black, non-Hispanic female students (8.8%) and White, non-Hispanic female students (7.9%).⁵

Suicide Facts at a Glance

Age Group Differences

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among persons aged 15-24 years, the second among persons aged 25-34 years, the fourth among person aged 35-54 years, and the eighth among person 55-64 years.¹
- Among 15- to 24-year olds, suicide accounts for 20% of all deaths annually.¹
- Suicide rates for females are highest among those aged 45-54 (rate 9 per 100,000 population).¹
- Suicide rates for males are highest among those aged 75 and older (rate 36 per 100,000).¹
- The rate of suicide for adults aged 75 years and older was 16.3 per 100,000.¹
- The prevalence of suicidal thoughts, suicide planning, and suicide attempts is significantly higher among young adults aged 18-29 years than among adults aged ≥30 years.³

Nonfatal, Self-Inflicted Injuries*

- In 2011, 487,700 people were treated in emergency departments for self-inflicted injuries.¹
- Nonfatal, self-inflicted injuries result in an estimated \$6.5 billion in combined medical and work loss costs.¹

References

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3. Crosby AE, Han B, Ortega LAG, Parks SE, Gfoerer J. Suicidal thoughts and behaviors among adults aged ≥18 years—United States, 2008-2009. *MMWR Surveillance Summaries* 2011;60(no. 55-13). Available from www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6013a1.htm?s_cid=ss6013a1_e.
4. Goldsmith SK, Pellmar TC, Kleinman AM, Bunney WE, editors. *Reducing suicide: a national imperative*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 2002.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2011. *MMWR, Surveillance Summaries* 2012;61(no. 55-4). Available from www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf

**The term "self-inflicted injuries" refers to suicidal and non-suicidal behaviors such as self-mutilation.*