National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Special Report on Suicide

MARYLAND, 2013-2014

Size
Divided into 24 counties covering 9700 square miles

Population
19th most populated state with 6 million residents

Race/ethnicity of state population
52% White non-Hispanic, 31% Black, 10% Hispanic or Latino, 7% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3% two or more races

NVDRS participation
Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) joined NVDRS in 2002; first year of data collection in 2003

A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN MARYLAND

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System 2013-2014.

MANAGER OF DEATH

LEGAL INTERVENTION 1%

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM <1%

HOMICIDE 22%

SUICIDE 34%

UNDETERMINED 43%

SUICIDE METHOD By Sex

FIREARM 26%

HANGING/SUICIDE 31%

POISONING 31%

SMALL GUN 9%

SWORD 1%

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

SUICIDE AND NON-SUICIDE* FIREARM DEATH RATES By Age and Sex

10-24 YRS 25-44 YRS 45-64 YRS 65+ YRS

SUICIDE FIREARM DEATHS

NON-SUICIDE FIREARM DEATHS

* Non-suicide deaths include homicides, legal interventions, unintentional firearm deaths, and undetermined manner (Intent) deaths that may have resulted from violence.

SUICIDE IN MARYLAND

• State rates. Maryland’s suicide rate* in 2013-2014 was 9.8/100,000 residents, a 14% increase from 8.6 in 2004-2005 and a 5% increase from 9.3 in 2009-2010.

• State/U.S. comparison. The suicide rate in Maryland was 26% lower than the U.S. suicide rate (13.2) and was the third lowest of all NVDRS states.

• Race/ethnicity. Suicide victims were 78% White, 15% Black, 2% Hispanic, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% other/unknown, and 1% two or more races.

• Sex. Males accounted for 78% of suicide victims (18.1/100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 22% (4.8/100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 65+ (25.3/100,000). For females, the suicide rate was highest among those ages 45-64 (6.9/100,000).

TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN MARYLAND

• Fifty-six percent (56%) of violent deaths occurring in Maryland in 2013-2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.

• Suicide was the second most common manner of violent death in Maryland (N=1170, 34%), occurring 1.6 times as often as homicide (N=749, 22%).

• Undetermined deaths were the most common manner of violent death (N=1478, 43%). In Maryland, unlike most states, drug poisoning deaths are classified as deaths of undetermined intent and are included in the MVDRS as violent deaths. The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to legal intervention (N=38, 1%) and unintentional firearm death (N=9, <1%).

Percents in this state profile may not equal 100% due to rounding.

*All rates in this profile are occurrent ratios based on the number of resident and non-residents deaths that occurred in the state per 100,000 resident population.
SUICIDE METHODS
- A firearm was used in 45% of suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (31%), and poisoning (14%).
- Use of a firearm was the most common method for males (51%), and poisoning was the most common method for females (32%). Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (19.0/100,000). (See infographic)

ADDITIONAL SUICIDE DEMOGRAPHICS
- **Veterans.** Eighteen percent (18%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 46% of victims ages 65+.
- **Sexual orientation.** Eighteen (18) victims were identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- **Homeless status.** Nine (9) victims were identified as homeless at the time of death.
- **Marital status.** Thirty-nine percent (39%) of victims were married, 38% were never married, 15% were divorced, 6% were widowed, and 1% had an unknown marital status.
- **Education level.** Among victims ages 25+, 40% were a high school or GED graduate, 12% had less than a high school education, 46% had some college or a college degree, and 2% had an unknown education level.

SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES
- In 93% of Maryland’s deaths by suicide, circumstances were documented in the records (N=1092).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current mental health problem (50%), current depressed mood (37%), current or past mental health treatment (37%), history of suicidal thoughts or plans (35%), relationship problems (33%), and a recent/imminent crisis (29%). A suicide note was left in 34% of the incidents.
- The most frequent or notable circumstances by age group are shown in the chart below.