Deaths from Suicide: A Look at 18 States

MICHIGAN, 2014

Size: 83 counties covering 56,000 square miles
Population: 10th most populated state with 9.9 million residents
Race/ethnicity of state population: 76% White non-Hispanic, 14% Black, 5% Hispanic or Latino, 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2% two or more races
NVDRS participation: Michigan Violent Death Reporting System (MiVDRS) joined National Violent Death Reporting System in 2009; first year of data collection in 2010 in limited areas of the state. This report uses only 2014 data from Michigan, as 2014 is the first year Michigan had usable data for the whole state.

A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

MANNER OF DEATH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintentional firearm death</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal intervention</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined manner</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUICIDE METHOD By Sex

- Firearm
- Poisoning
- Choking
- Other

Types may not equal 100% due to rounding.

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

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

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

TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN MICHIGAN

- Nearly all (86%) violent deaths occurring in Michigan in 2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death in Michigan (N=1349, 60%), occurring 2.4 times more often than homicide (N=572, 26%).
- The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to undetermined manner (N=288, 13%), legal intervention (N=19, 1%), and unintentional firearm death (N=6, <1%).

SUICIDE IN MICHIGAN

- **State rates.** Michigan’s suicide rate* in 2014 was 13.6/100,000. Michigan’s suicide rate was not included in the 2004-2005 and 2009-2010 NVDRS reports.
- **State/U.S. comparison.** Michigan’s 2014 suicide rate of 13.6/100,000 was 1.5% higher than the 2014 U.S. suicide rate (13.4).
- **Race/ethnicity.** Suicide victims were 88% White, 7% Black, 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% American Indian/Alaska Native, and 1% two or more races.
- **Sex.** Males accounted for 78% of suicide victims (24.8/100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 22% (6.6/100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 45-64 (28.9/100,000). For females, the suicide rate was also highest among those ages 45-64 (8.6/100,000).

Percentages 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 50% of suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (28%), and poisoning (16%).
- Use of a firearm was the most common method for males (55%), and poisoning was the most common method for females (38%). Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (20.0/100,000). (See infographic)

ADDITIONAL SUICIDE DEMOGRAPHICS
- **Veterans.** Sixteen percent (16%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 41% of victims ages 65+.
- **Sexual orientation.** Seven (7) victims were identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- **Homeless status.** Six (6) victims were identified as homeless at the time of death.
- **Marital status.** Thirty-three percent (33%) of victims were married, 37% were never married, 23% were divorced, 6% were widowed, and 1% had another or unknown marital status.
- **Education level.** Among victims ages 25+, 44% were a high school or GED graduate, 13% had less than a high school education, 42% had some college or a college degree, and 1% had an unknown education level.

SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES
- In 88% of Michigan’s deaths by suicide, circumstances were documented in the records (N=1186).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current mental health problem (45%), relationship problem (32%), intimate partner problem (27%), suicide intent disclosed (25%), and history of suicidal thoughts/plans (24%). 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.