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

## NEW JERSEY, 2013-2014

**Size**  
Divided into 21 counties covering 7300 square miles

**Population**  
The 11th most populated state with 9 million residents

**Race/ethnicity of state population**  
56% White non-Hispanic, 15% Black, 20% Hispanic or Latino, 10% Asian, 1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2% two or more races

**NVDRS participation**  
New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System (NJVDRS) joined NVDRS in 2002; first year of data collection in 2003

### A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN NEW JERSEY

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

#### TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN NEW JERSEY

- Nearly all (95%) violent deaths occurring in New Jersey in 2013-2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death in New Jersey (N=1512, 62%), occurring 1.9 times more often than homicide (N=786, 32%).
- The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to undetermined manner (N=96, 4%) and legal intervention (N=29, 1%). New Jersey had no unintentional firearm deaths in 2013-2014.

#### SUICIDE IN NEW JERSEY

- **State rates.** New Jersey’s suicide rate* in 2013-2014 was 8.5/100,000, a 23% increase from 6.9 in 2004-2005 and a 10% increase from 7.7 in 2009-2010.
- **State/U.S. comparison.** The suicide rate in New Jersey was 36% lower than the U.S. suicide rate (13.2) and was the lowest of all NVDRS states.
- **Race/ethnicity.** Suicide victims were 78% White, 10% Hispanic, 7% Black, 2% Asian, 1% two or more races, and 2% other or unknown.
- **Sex.** Males accounted for 76% of suicide victims (15.2 per 100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 24% (4.4 per 100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 45-64 (20.4/100,000). For females, the suicide rate was also highest among those ages 45-64 (6.7/100,000).

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*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
- Hanging/strangulation/suffocation was the method used in 43% of suicides, followed by use of a firearm (26%) and poisoning (17%).
- Hanging/strangulation was the most common method for both males (43%) and females (42%). Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (11.0/100,000). (See infographic)

ADDITIONAL SUICIDE DEMOGRAPHICS
- Veterans. Thirteen percent (13%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 37% of victims ages 65+.
- Sexual orientation. Fewer than five 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-five percent (35%) of victims were married, 40% were never married, 18% were divorced, 6% were widowed, and 1% had another or unknown marital status.
- Education level. Among victims ages 25+, 45% were a high school or GED graduate, 10% had less than a high school education, 44% had some college or a college degree, and 1% had an unknown education level.

SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES
- In 84% of New Jersey’s deaths by suicide, circumstances were documented in the records (N=1268).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current mental health problem (48%), history of mental health treatment (46%), a recent/imminent crisis (35%), relationship problems (28%), and current depressed mood (26%). A suicide note was left in 35% of the incidents.
- The most frequent or notable circumstances by age group are shown in the chart below.