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

### NEW MEXICO, 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Divided into 33 counties covering 121,000 square miles</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>36th most populated state with 2 million residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/ethnicity of state population</td>
<td>38% White non-Hispanic, 3% Black, 48% Hispanic or Latino, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander, 11% American Indian/Alaska Native; 3% two or more races</td>
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<tr>
<td>NVDRS participation</td>
<td>New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System (NMVDRS) joined NVDRS in 2004; first year of data collection in 2005</td>
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### A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN NEW MEXICO

#### MANNER OF DEATH

- **Unintentional Firearm**: <1%
- **Suicide**: 71%
- **Homicide**: 22%
- **Legal Intervention**: 2%
- **Undetermined**: 5%

#### SUICIDE METHOD By Sex

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Suicide Firearm Deaths</th>
<th>Non-Suicide Firearm Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-24 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25-44 yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>45-64 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+ yrs</td>
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* = 1 death per 100,000 males  
= 1 death per 100,000 females

#### TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN NEW MEXICO

- Nearly all (93%) violent deaths occurring in New Mexico in 2013-2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death in New Mexico (N=881, 71%), occurring 3.3 times more often than homicide (N=271, 22%).
- The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to undetermined manner (N=62, 5%), legal intervention (N=29, 2%), and unintentional firearm death (N=<5, <1%).

#### SUICIDE IN NEW MEXICO

- **State rates.** New Mexico’s suicide rate* in 2013-2014 was 21.1/100,000 residents, a 19% increase from 17.8 in 2004-2005 and a 7% increase from 19.7 in 2009-2010.
- **State/U.S. comparison.** The suicide rate in New Mexico was 60% higher than the U.S. suicide rate (13.2) and was the second highest of all NVDRS states.
- **Race/ethnicity.** Suicide victims were 56% White, 34% Hispanic, 6% American Indian/Alaska Native, 1% Black, 1% two or more races, and 1% other or unknown.
- **Sex.** Males accounted for 76% of suicide victims (37.4/100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 24% (11.7/100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 65+ (49.6/100,000). For females, the suicide rate was highest among those ages 45-64 (16.8/100,000).

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*All rates in this profile are occurrence ratios based on the number of resident and non-residents deaths that occurred in the state per 100,000 resident population.

Deaths from Suicide: A Look at 18 States
**SUICIDE METHODS**
- A firearm was used in 53% of suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (26%) and poisoning (17%).
- Use of a firearm was the most common method for males (60%), and poisoning was the most common method for females (39%). Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (37.0/100,000). (See infographic)

**ADDITIONAL SUICIDE DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **Veterans.** Twenty-two percent (22%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 53% of victims ages 65+.
- **Sexual orientation.** Five (5) victims were identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- **Homeless status.** Ten (10) victims were identified as homeless at the time of death.
- **Marital status.** Thirty-one percent (31%) of victims were married, 38% were never married, 23% were divorced, 5% were widowed, and 3% had another or unknown marital status.
- **Education level.** Among victims ages 25+, 31% were a high school or GED graduate, 13% had less than a high school education, 53% had some college or a college degree, and 3% had an unknown education level.

**SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES**
- In 90% of New Mexico’s deaths by suicide, circumstances were documented in the records (N=792).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current depressed mood (54%), relationship problems (43%), current mental health problem (37%), current or past mental health treatment (34%), a recent/imminent crisis (33%), disclosed suicide intent (33%), and history of suicidal thoughts or plans (30%). A suicide note was left in 32% of the incidents.
- The most frequent or notable circumstances by age group are shown in the chart below.

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**SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES BY LIFE STAGE, NEW MEXICO, 2013-2014**

**OLDER ADULT, AGES 65+** (N=154)
- 65%: Physical health problem
- 59%: Current depressed mood
- 45%: Left a suicide note
- 27%: Current mental health problem
- 21%: Current/past mental health treatment
- 9%: Death of friend or family

**MIDDLE AGE, AGES 45-64** (N=272)
- 57%: Current depressed mood
- 39%: Current mental health problem
- 36%: Current/past mental health treatment
- 26%: Alcohol problem
- 25%: Physical health problem
- 24%: Job and/or financial problems

**YOUNG ADULT, AGES 25-44** (N=249)
- 58%: Relationship problems
- 42%: Intimate partner problem
- 41%: Current mental health problem
- 39%: Recent/imminent crisis
- 38%: Current/past mental health treatment
- 34%: Argument
- 27%: Alcohol problem
- 25%: Non-alcohol substance abuse problem
- 21%: Job and/or financial problems

**YOUTH, AGES 10-24** (N=117)
- 62%: Relationship problems
- 41%: Disclosed suicide intent
- 38%: Current/past mental health treatment
- 38%: Intimate partner problem
- 37%: Current mental health problem
- 35%: Recent/imminent crisis
- 30%: Argument
- 28%: Non-alcohol substance abuse problem
- 6%: School problem

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