OKLAHOMA, 2013-2014

Size
Divided into 77 counties covering 68,000 square miles

Population
28th most populated state with 3.9 million residents

Race/ethnicity of state population
67% White non-Hispanic, 8% Black, 10% Hispanic or Latino, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander, 9% American Indian/Alaska Native; 6% two or more races

NVDRS participation
Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS) joined NVDRS in 2003; first year of data collection in 2004

A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN OKLAHOMA

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

TYPES OF VIOLENT DEATHS IN OKLAHOMA
- Nearly all (88%) violent deaths occurring in Oklahoma in 2013-2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death in Oklahoma (N=1404, 66%), occurring three times more often than homicide (N=474, 22%).
- The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to undetermined manner (N=172, 8%), legal intervention (N=47, 2%), and unintentional firearm death (N=29, 1%).

SUICIDE IN OKLAHOMA
- State rates. Oklahoma’s suicide rate* in 2013-2014 was 18.2/100,000, a 22% increase from 14.9 in 2004-2005 and a 10% increase from 16.5 in 2009-2010.
- State/U.S. comparison. The suicide rate in Oklahoma was 38% higher than the U.S. suicide rate (13.2) and was the sixth highest of all NVDRS states.
- Race/ethnicity. Suicide victims were 82% White, 8% American Indian/Alaska Native, 3% Hispanic, 3% Black, 3% two or more races, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and <1% other/unknown.
- Sex. Males accounted for 78% of suicide victims (33.2/100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 22% (9.2/100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 65+ (39.2/100,000). For females, the suicide rate was highest among those ages 45-64 (14.0/100,000).

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

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

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
- Firearms were used in 61% of suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (24%) and poisoning (11%).
- Use of a firearm was the most common method for both males (65%) and females (47%). Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (33.0/100,000). (See infographic)

Additional Suicide Demographics
- Veterans. Twenty percent (20%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 51% of victims ages 65+.
- Sexual orientation. Sixteen (16) victims were identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- Homeless status. Twenty-one (21) victims were identified as homeless at the time of death.
- Marital status. Thirty-three percent (33%) of victims were married, 6% were never married, 26% were divorced, 7% were widowed, 24% were single, not otherwise specified, and 4% had another or unknown marital status.
- Education level. Among victims ages 25+, 43% were a high school or GED graduate, 16% had less than a high school education, 40% had some college or a college degree, and 1% had an unknown education level.

Suicide Circumstances
- In 95% of Oklahoma’s deaths by suicide, circumstances were documented in the records (N=1337).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current mental health problem (43%), relationship problems (41%), current depressed mood (35%), intimate partner problem (33%), and history of suicidal thoughts or plans (30%). A suicide note was left in 36% of the incidents.
- The most frequent or notable circumstances by age group are shown in the chart below.